

# EDITORIAL

## County Roads Suffer

One thing lost sight of more or less, because overshadowed by losses inflicted on grain crops, is the damage done to county roads by the severe summer storms of recent weeks. One has but to attempt to negotiate some of them to realize the amount of maintenance and repair that will be required to place them in safe usable condition, let alone restore them to their former state.

One major county road has suffered extensive damage from storms since the early part of June when a cloudburst ranged over the area from Morgan to Gooseberry. The Ione-Gooseberry highway felt the force of the storm, particularly the unpaved portion south of the Beckner ranch. Hardly had repairs been made when storms of the past few days sent muck, mud and debris raging down the narrow draws fringed by the highway, weakening the grade in numerous spots and making travel hazardous.

Despite severe losses to grain crops in the area served by the highway, there will be a heavy tonnage for the road to carry this summer and fall. Either the road will have to be repaired or the grainraisers will have to take a more circuitous route to the elevators.

It is not the purpose of this article to raise the question of the budget failure. The question now confronting the people of the county is how to keep this and other roads from going to pieces before sufficient funds can be raised to put the road program in high gear once more. It is a matter wherein those who need the roads should look the problem square in the face with a view to doing something constructive. The county court may be able to scrape up enough funds for minor repairs but it is certain there is not enough money to undertake any kind of major repairs or reconstruction at this time. That about eliminates any argument over allocation of funds and at the same time raises the question of how to get the most important work done on available funds (if any) or without funds. There seems but one thing to do and that is for the citizens and the county court to sit down together and talk the road situation over to see if something can't be done.

## No Grain Surplus Here

Fears entertained in some quarters that we are again heading into a grain surplus are not well founded—in Morrow county, at least. Mother Nature has been following a somewhat erratic course during the present season, first upsetting the growing period with a rainless May and then cutting down numerous fields with onslaughts of deadly hail. It is just one of those years!

Losses sustained in the fields here may not

count too heavily in the over all production of the state, or the northwest, but they will have a direct effect on production averages in the county. Some of the heavier producing sections have suffered as a result of the storms and this will add materially to the shortage created by the period of drought.

Crop and hail insurance will soften the blow for those thus protected, while others who did not have protection can only say they took a big chance and lost.

Reports on the damage done by the storm had a tendency to slow up business for a few days but a more thorough survey will reveal actual losses rather than estimated losses and the picture may not be as bad as some of the affected ones thought, at first.

Whatever the over-all loss may be it should convince the grain raisers that it is not good business to take too great a gamble with nature. There may be a chance to cope with man-made disasters but when Mother Nature goes on a rampage there is no stopping her until her wrath is spent.

## A Great State Fair

One of Oregon's greatest state fairs, the 82nd, will open in Salem on Labor day. Approximately \$50,000 in premiums will be offered in the enlarged livestock and agricultural divisions. Over \$100,000 in accumulated funds from the war years, when the grounds were occupied by various military units, have been used to remodel and repair the 167 acres of fairgrounds and the thirteen major buildings, the roofs of which now cover 14 acres.

Last year's fair drew a record attendance of 268,000. All early indications point to the 1947 fair in Salem, September 1 to 7, as the largest since the annual event was originated in 1861 on the banks of the Clackamas river, one and one-half miles north of Oregon City.

Contrast these figures with that first effort, in which the Oregon state agricultural society was the guiding spirit. The original premium list offered \$758 in prizes. Attendance was noted as remarkable when more than 1500 persons crowded the small grounds.

The success of the first fair led the society to call for bids for permanent grounds. Salem received 65 of the 71 votes cast. In its fifth year at Salem in 1866, \$25 was offered to the winner of an oxen plowing match. Prizes of \$10 and \$5 went to the best exhibits of mechanical dentistry. Premiums during the year had risen to \$7500.

Officials of the Oregon State Fair feel confident that this year's fair will display Oregon livestock and agriculture to a winning advantage. Additional parking areas have been utilized to ac-

commodate increasing crowds, while plans have been made to handle more than five thousand head of prize livestock. It is truly a great ex-

# 30 YEARS AGO

From Heppner Gazette Times July 19, 1917

Stewart & McCullough are making considerable improvement to their livery stable on upper Main street. Some new sidewalks are being put in this week.

Elden Robert Gammell, weight 8 1/2 pounds, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gammell on Tuesday, July 17.

Miss Lucille Elder has accepted a position as stenographer in the office of Attorney S. E. Van Vactor.

Jack Hughes and Rush Crabtree, Monument, were in Heppner Tuesday. They report the John Day country is not behind the rest of the state when it comes to extreme hot weather. They report it was 112 degrees on the river this week.

Fred Tash has resigned his position as manager of the Farmer's Union Warehouse company in Heppner. Andy Hayes, who has been in charge of the Heppner Milling Co. warehouse, for several years, has been given the position vacated by Mr. Tash.

Huckleberries will be on the bushes in profusion this year if we are to believe some of our

best known mountaineers.

The death of Wm. E. Leach in this city early last Friday morning marks the passing of one of Lexington's foremost citizens.

James Robert Brown died Monday as a result of an accident. About three weeks ago he was seized above the knee by a vicious jack. The bones of the leg were crushed before the animal's hold could be released. His leg was amputated in an effort to save his life.

An unofficial report coming from Portland states that Morrow county will be required to give 41 men as its quota in the conscript army.

The newspaper men of the state held their annual editorial convention last Friday and Saturday in Pendleton. They boarded a special train Saturday night and spent the next day at Wallowa lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blackman of San Francisco are the house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Cohn. Mr. Blackman was a pioneer merchant here and one time state senator from this district.

J. H. G. Ewing of Cecil was married on July 9 to Miss Helen Hackensmith of Albany.



## SNELL AT GOVERNOR'S MEET

Governor and Mrs. Earl Snell started on a motor trip Thursday morning which took them to Salt Lake City where the governor is attending the annual governor's conference on governmental affairs. The governors of 46 of the 48 states and the governors of two territories attended the convales which also honored the centennial of the state of Utah.

Governor Thomas E. Dewey presided at the Monday round table session and Secretary of State George C. Marshall spoke at the Monday evening banquet. Major problems at the session were taxation, education and veterans' affairs. Three members of the house ways and means committee and three members of the senate finance committee were present to confer with the state executives: Senators Byrd of Va., Hawkes of N. J. and Martin of Pa. and representatives Kean of N. J., Mills of Arkansas and Beel of N. Y.

The official meetings were confined to discussions of international and intra-state problems, but informal party caucuses were frequent and furious as this is the last big huddle the

governors will have before the 1948 election. Governor Snell expects to return to Oregon about July 24. In the absence of the governor President of the Senate Marshall E. Carnett is acting governor.

## FOREST APPROPRIATIONS UP

The one item we know of in the agricultural budget that has been increased is the boost from the \$765,000, which the Oregon forest department received in 1946 to the \$863,500 which the department will get in 1947. These funds are made available through the Clark-McNary act and were presented by a former deputy state forester of Oregon, H. J. Eberly, now doing special investigation work for the federal forestry department here in Oregon.

The state of Oregon was never so well prepared to cope with forest fire hazards. So well that the fire demons seem to be cowed. State Forester Neils Rogers has nearly 500 fire fighters in the field with five crews of 40 men each at five strategic points, in Washington, Benton, Douglas, Marion and Jackson counties. These crews are equipped for rapid transportation to major fires. Forty other district headquarters with smaller crews are interspersed for grouping in emergency.

## FIRST MILLION EASIEST

Veterans' home and farm loans from the state reached the \$1,000,000 mark this week. The borrower who put the finishing count on the initial million were Glenn A. Nelson of Portland, who with the aid of his father,

has worked spare time for the last year building his home. His loan is for \$5000 which he will use to repay his parents.

## STATE APPOINTMENTS

H. G. Maison was this week reappointed as superintendent of the department of state police, for a four year term. He is the second person to hold the position since the creation of the department in 1931 when Charles P. Pray was named by Governor Julius Meier. Superintendent Pray retired June 1, 1946 and Governor Snell appointed Maison as his successor.

Other appointments made by Governor Snell this week were members of the newly enacted state board of livestock auction markets: Albert Julian of Lyons, representing Western Livestock association; Arthur P. Ireland of Forest Grove, representing Oregon Dairyman's association; H. I. Stearns of Prineville, representing Oregon Saddle and Horse Raisers' association; Ben Hudson of Albany, representing Auction Yard Owners' association, and Frank Wink of The Dalles, representing Auction Yard Owners' association. The governor also appointed Dr. Fred W. Lange of Salem as a member of the veterinary medical examining board.

Rex Putnam, superintendent of public instruction, this week announced the appointment of Clifford E. Robinson of Albany as director of secondary education and Elizabeth Rader of Monmouth as elementary supervisor. Both appointments, in the state department of education, were made necessary by the enactment of the basic school support fund program.

## INTERIM GROUP MEETS

Representative Ralph Moore of Coos Bay was elected president of the Oregon legislature's highway interim committee at the meeting of that group here last Saturday to determine Oregon's highway needs and problems. Senator Ernest Fatland of Condon was elected secretary. The committee will work with the League of Oregon Cities and the County Judges' association with research by the Automotive Safety Foundation of Washington, D. C.

## A TRIBUTE

Editor, Heppner Gazette Times: We of the Forest Service wish to extend our most sincere sympathy to the bereaved parents, relatives, and friends of Gladwin Hudson. It is not for us to decide or try to understand the will of God, other than "Thy will be done." "Gladly" departed from this earthly existence while in the services of his country. His cheerful presence will be greatly missed by all of us who have known and worked with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed LeTrace and Mrs. Orain Wright returned Monday from Weiser, Idaho, where they visited Mrs. John Routsou, who is seriously ill. Mrs. Robert Lowe and Mrs. Emma Evans are helping take care of her.

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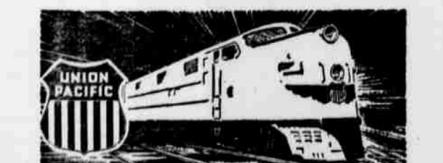


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