

EDITORIAL



Yes, We Have No Sewer Fund!

Decision of the city council to use the sinking fund and a special fund that had been earmarked as a starter for a sewer system fund to retire approximately \$38,000 of water system bonds may be a bit disappointing to advocates of a sewer system, but it appears that under the circumstances it was the wiser course to pursue.

As the sewer fund was set up, out of earnings from slot machines owned by the city, it was a tentative proposition. The money had not been included in the sinking fund, neither had it been officially set aside as a sewer fund. It was being held by the city authorities as a nucleus, or a start, on a sewer fund and it was hoped that enough money might be obtained through this source to pay for the construction of a sewage disposal plant. Leaving the fund not definitely earmarked, either by motion or resolution, made it vulnerable and when this was brought to the attention of the council Monday evening it did not take much persuasion to induce immediate action upon disposal of the money.

It is always a good idea to reduce indebtedness whenever and wherever possible and by cutting the reservoir and water improvement bonds down to a point where they can be cleaned up in two years or so, rather than extend another nineteen or twenty years will strengthen the city's credit materially.

If we are to have a sewer system and have the city's streets improved it will be a matter of taxation regardless of any additional or so-called "easy money" funds. After all, it is the property owner who usually assumes the bill and if enough of the property owners express a willingness to pay for the needed improvements we will get them. It is that type of assurance upon which bonding concerns base their operations.

Should it become legal to run the machines and the city decides to put them into operation, for the benefit of all of the people such action should be taken with a definite purpose—such as building a civic center and improving the city park, for instance.

The People Have Spoken

The people spoke their piece Monday afternoon and the various school budgets of the county were approved. The vote was decisive and showed a willingness on the part of the taxpayers to assume whatever burden is necessary to bring our school system up to the required standards.

Some years back this newspaper advocated construction of one or more grade school buildings as a means of alleviating the overcrowded condition of the Hepner school. Such a move is advisable for other reasons, particularly concerning the first four or five grades, and school officials

are giving this factor some serious thought in their plans for taking the grade school out of the conditionally standard class and making it permanently standard.

Supl. Leonard Pate recently pointed out some of the factors required to raise the grade school standard. First, larger rooms. Present rooms are about one-half the size required for the number of pupils per room. Second, teacher-pupil ratio. Requirements are for not more than twenty-five pupils per teacher and the ratio in the local school is thirty-five. Third, not enough rooms, stemming from teacher-pupil ratio and the fact that there is no known method of stretching the present building enough to meet the amount of additional room needed. Fourth, infirmary: The cot in the girls' rest room could not by any stretch of the imagination meet with the requirement of separate room used as infirmary only, with ample first aid supplies and cot. Fifth, the lawn is pretty, but can't be used for regular playground use, and not nearly large enough, any way. Should have one playground covered over for rainy and stormy days approximately the size of the present playground between the school house and the gymnasium, and another about twice that size not covered, and approximately level. Sixth, lighting. Windows not nearly large enough to give sufficient light, and should be from both sides for correct lighting. Use electric lights most of day, especially in rooms in northwest section, and electric lighting is even sub-standard. Seventh, water supply and sanitation. Ratio approximately one wash bowl and one toilet to every twenty pupils is required. The ratio in the school is about one washbowl to 100 pupils, and there are 12 toilets in all. There is room for three additional washbowls (maybe) and no toilets. Location. School grounds practically surrounded by hazards—creek on one side, busy street on another side, and location is practically under a bad curve on a main traveled highway, used to a large extent by logging trucks. "Imagine, if you please," Mr. Pate says, "the result of a vehicle failing to make that turn at some time when the majority of the children should be playing in the present playground where their equipment is located? IT COULD HAPPEN HERE!"

The point is brought out that to remodel the present school building sufficiently to remedy all of these points would be as costly, or perhaps more so, as the new building, and still would not solve the problem. It is also important to keep in mind that the high school is not the portion of the school that is rated conditionally standard. It is the elementary school that is so rated.

These are good reasons for giving serious thought to the matter of securing property, even, and we might say preferably, if it is located at some other spot in the city for the purpose of

constructing an elementary school building. There is a limit to all things and certainly the Hepner school has reached the limit of expansion in its present bounds. To acquire adjacent land is expensive and too limited for practical development.

It is time the patrons and citizens generally shared some of the problems confronting the school officials. When a better understanding is acquired less difficulty is experienced in finding the answers.

30 YEARS AGO

Hepner Gazette Times, April 24, 1919
Sheriff Shutt announces that it will be the policy of his office to strictly enforce the law against all those who are making it a habit to get drunk and disturb the dignity of the State of Oregon. During the week he has "run in" seven offenders of this sort, and three of these had the pleasure of taking a rest over night in the county jail.

Hepner will likely have some flying exhibits all her own, if the plans of C. B. Vickers, head machinist at the Universal garage come to a head. Mr. Vickers left for Portland Sunday and after a day or two there will go to Seattle, where he will get together the necessary machinery and other material out of which to construct an airplane. These will be shipped to Hepner and Mr. Vickers will assemble the machines here, and promises to give our citizens some real stunts and thrills in the air.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Newlin this week disposed of the Rice place, on which is situated the big artesian well, to Harry L. Duval for a consideration of \$50,000, and included in the sale all the water rights, both surface and underground.

W. O. Minor, the veteran Shorthorn breeder, who retired from the breeding business some two years ago, finds that he can not stay out. The W. O. Minor Shorthorn Cattle company has been formed, and now has about 30 cows of breeding age. Besides Mr. Minor, the members of the company are R. A. Thompson and Glen Boyer, both of Hepner. Their intention is to go actively into the Shorthorn game again.—Oregon Farmer.

M. O. Bennett and R. H. Baldock, state highway engineers, are in Morrow county this week, establishing the monuments for the beginning and ending of each road upon which money will

Irrigon Soldier Sails for Okinawa

Clarke L. Stephens, second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Stephens of Irrigon, is en route to Okinawa to join the Far East command, according to word received by his parents this week. Clarke recently visited the home folks and left Friday for Eugene to visit a sister and a brother, going from there to Camp Stockman, Calif., where he received his sailing orders.

Clarke is a graduate of Irrigon high school, class of 1946, and at the time of his induction, December 27, was employed on a large wheat farm near Kennewick, Wn. Prior to that he was employed by the Union Pacific railroad and the Umatilla Ordnance depot for three years.

CARD OF THANKS
We wish to thank the kind neighbors and friends who did all they could to put out the fire at our place Thursday, April 14, 1949.

Majo and Homer Hughes and Chas. A. Marquardt.

CARD OF THANKS
I wish by this means to express my deep gratitude to my friends for the cards, messages and flowers sent me during my recent hospitalization. It is such remembrances that make the battle back to health more endurable.

Mrs. G. Hermann.

CARD OF THANKS
I wish to express my thanks to neighbors and friends for their thoughtfulness during my recent illness and hospitalization. The cards and flowers were a great lift and cheered me on to recovery.

Sincerely,
Mrs. John Eubanks.

be appropriated under the bonding proposition.

M. L. Case will soon be ready to occupy his new building and in the meantime is having the second story finished and divided into 14 rooms, each of which is well lighted and will be furnished with heat direct from the furnace he will install in the basement.

Edward Stokes Tyler, aged 10 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Royal E. Tyler, residing south of Lexington, was almost instantly killed at 4:30 o'clock Tuesday after-

noon by being thrown from his saddle and dragged for a distance of a quarter of a mile. The little boy had just returned from school when he was seft on his pony to take the stock to the pasture.

Hepner and Ione will cross bats on the Hepner diamond next Saturday afternoon. (This was a high school game.)

Many residents of Hepner and the county spent Sunday in Walla Walla witnessing the flying circus, an innovation following the recent World War.

The Civic club met yesterday and adopted the dahlia as Hepner's city flower. Thursday, May

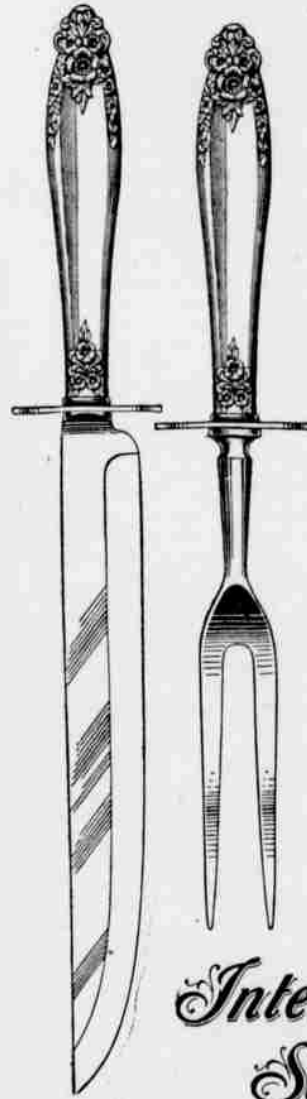


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PETERSON'S JEWELERS

1 is to be dahlia day, and the ladies are requested to meet at the home of Mrs. Van Vactor at 2 p. m. on that day, enjoy a program, and then be presented with dahlia bulbs by Mrs. Ayers, president of the club. The ladies also decided to take up the parking of the fair grounds, and improvements will be made there at once



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Wilson's Men's Wear

Hepner School Music Department presents its Annual Spring Concert

8 o'clock p. m. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 High School Auditorium

Featuring THE THREE BEARS—Comedy sketch, and Contest music to be played at District Competition Fseival April 30 at La Grande.

This program is dedicated to Billy Cochell, beloved former director of the Hepner School Band.

Appearing—40-piece High school band and 50-piece beginners band.

ADMISSION: 50c

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