

Milk Price Drops 2 Cents Here But Complaint Heard on Ruling

One Distributor Threatens To Stop Deliveries

Heppner and Morrow county residents Tuesday began paying 2 cents less for a quart of milk as a result of an order by the Oregon Milk Marketing administration following a public hearing held last week in Pendleton on milk prices in the area, but repercussions were also beginning to appear and there is a threat that one local distributor may discontinue service unless another adjustment is made soon.

The reduction came about following the hearing, one of several held in the state, and ties in with a recent nationwide office of price stabilization ruling that the state-set minimums would automatically become the federal ceiling price on milk.

According to information received here, the milk marketing administration ordered a cut-back of one-half cent per quart of 3.5 percent milk, which was about the same as was ordered for most other sections of the state. However, when the directive came out, it called for a maximum of 23 cents per quart. Milk in the Heppner area has been selling for 25 cents per quart.

The difficulty apparently arises from the fact that the milk marketing administration is using a production cost figure arrived at in January, 1948, and according to a local dairyman, the administration claims they have no record of an increase in production cost allowed by it at a later date which brought the retail price of milk to 25c. Under the earlier ruling the retail rate was set at 23 1/2 cents, however the retail cost of milk has been 25 cents in the Heppner area over a year.

As a result of the new order reducing the retail price, James Hager, operator of Hager's Dairy, local distributor for Damascus milk said that "Unless price adjustment is made soon it means Heppner will again have only one milk company products to choose from. The price in Morrow county was rolled back two cents rather than the one-half cent as the milk board would have us believe. To date we have not had a satisfactory explanation of why."

"Damascus Milk company is working on the problem and we hope to be able to get this straightened out so that we can continue to supply Heppner residents wishing it with Damascus products," he said.

Hager only recently began the distribution of Damascus milk which is processed in Portland. Locally produced milk is trucked to the valley where it is processed and returned in paper containers. The other dairy serving the area is Dairy Cooperative, Hermiston, who distribute Mayflower milk products.

Hager pointed out that the new price schedule raised his milk cost from the producer and lowered his retail price by two cents. He said that it was now costing him more to buy his milk than he was getting from it at retail.

Hager, who for many years produce and sold raw milk in Heppner, discontinued this business early this fall and began taking his milk to Portland for processing by large, better equipped processors, and began distributing the Portland labeled Damascus product. The installation of his own equipment for processing and packaging was not economically feasible, he said.

Stories during the past several days in Portland papers tell of other difficulties throughout the state arising from the price roll-back order of the milk administration. The only other area called on to the cut prices two cents was the Coos county section.

HOME ON FURLOUGH

Word has been received that Pfc. Jack Yeager, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Yeager has been given a furlough from Camp Gordon, Georgia and will be home soon to spend the holidays. He has been in training as an Air Force police.

SPECIAL MEETING

Heppner lodge No. 69 AF and AM will have a special meeting Tuesday, Dec. 23 for the conferring of the E A degree.

Santa To Make Second Visit Here Following Free Show Saturday

Santa Claus is scheduled to make his second appearance in Heppner next Saturday when he will come back to pick up the letters left for him in his special mailbox and to help members of the local Elks lodge hand out candy at the free kiddies' show at the Star Theater.

The free show, sponsored by the theater, will start at 2:00 o'clock and Santa sent word that he would be around to talk to the kids at the time the show is over, around 3:30. He said while he was here, he would give the Elks a hand with their candy handout.

Livestockgrowers Elect New Heads

One of the largest crowds ever to attend were in Heppner last Saturday for the fourth annual meeting of the Morrow county Livestock association. Meetings were held at the Elks lodge and the evening banquet at the Legion hall.

New officers elected to head the organization were Don Robinson, president; Raymond French, vice-president; N. C. Anderson, secretary and John Graves, treasurer.

Highlights of the evening meeting, at which 94 persons were present, was the presentation to W. E. "Eb" Hughes of his award as county Cattleman of the Year.

The full-day program included numerous speakers from out of the area including Dr. A. G. Beagle, veterinarian in charge; M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the division of animal husbandry of the state department of agriculture; E. R. Jackson, O. S. C. farm crop specialist and Garland H. Taylor, Prairie City, vice-president of the state Cattleman's association.

Several films were shown during the program including some on sheep and wool raising in foreign countries.

A dance concluded the day's program.

Clark Canyon Road Scene of 3 Accidents

The Clark canyon road out of Lexington appeared to be a poor place to drive this week as it was the scene of three accidents within four days.

Russell O'Donnell started it off Saturday night when his car hit a bridge near Lexington. The accident reported stated he apparently fell asleep while driving. He was not injured. Wednesday morning cars driven by W. H. I. Padberg Jr. and Elwynne Peek collided head on at a turn during a heavy snowstorm causing considerable damage to the vehicles, but only minor injuries to the occupants.

Last casualty on the stretch of road was a car driven by Kenneth Klingner of Lexington which hit a train Wednesday evening at the crossing below the Grain Growers' elevators. Klingner was not injured but the car suffered some damage.

F. F. A. Toy Repairing Project to be Made Yearly Program

Gratitude was expressed this week by members of the Heppner Future Farmers of America for the response given their request for old and broken toys to be renovated by the group and distributed to needy children. They also extended thanks to parents and children in several of the lower grades who assisted in renovating and dressing dolls.

James Allen, advisor, said as many of the toys as were needed would be distributed locally and that the rest have been sent to the W. C. T. U. Children's Farm Home near Corvallis.

This is the first year the project has been undertaken, and the F. F. A. stated that they plan to make it a permanent part of their yearly program and ask that old toys be saved during the year for this Christmas work.

EXAMINER DUE

A drivers license examiner from the secretary of state's office will be on duty at the court house on Tuesday, December 23 between the hours of 9:30 and 3:30.

Increases Asked In All Local Telephone Rates

Increases in residential telephone rates ranging from 10c to 75c a month are included in a general repricing application filed by Pacific Telephone Friday with Charles Hedtzel, Oregon Public Utilities Commissioner.

Inflation was cited as the major reason for the application by D. A. Short, manager here.

"Telephone prices have lagged far behind the costs of most things or service," Short said. "The difference between the way we are operating today and the way we can operate with new rates is simply the difference between a hand-to-mouth existence and one which allows for economical planning ahead."

"The public interest requires us to maintain good communications service. To do so we must maintain our ability to attract new capital from investors. Dollars for telephone plant and apparatus do not come from the money customers pay for telephone service. They come from investors and investors are attracted only by the prospect of reasonable earnings."

For the state as a whole, the overall increase will amount to less than 3c a day per telephone or a little over \$320,000 per month. Of this amount the company would net less than half because of the federal income tax.

Proposed monthly increases, not counting the federal excise tax, for major types of service in Heppner are as follows: one-party residence, \$65; two party residence, \$50; four-party residence, \$35; suburban residence, \$35; farmer line residence, \$10; one-party business, \$12.

F. F. A. Boys Gather Christmas Trees

Saturday, December 6, 12 members of the Future Farmers of America and their instructor made their annual tour for Christmas trees. They took three Jeeps and a truck and reported getting many very nice trees.

After cutting the trees, sledding and skiing was enjoyed by the members who reported encountering a wide variety of weather in the mountains.

TRI-COUNTY GROUP GETS LOWER RATE FOR WEATHER RESEARCH

The contract between Tri-County Weather Research and North American Weather Consultants was re-negotiated at a meeting in Condon, Friday. The new contract calls for reduced payments which Directors of the Tri-County Weather research feel that county organizations will be able to meet in each county. The contract calls for a total flat fee of \$22,500.00 which is made in five equal payments throughout the year.

The cloud seeding program will be reduced to ten months, eliminating the months of July and August. No other changes in the services being offered is contemplated. Cloud seeding will be conducted by ground generators and an airplane when ever an opportunity exists. A graduate meteorologist will be stationed in the area through-out the year.

At present twelve ground generators and one airplane generator are stationed in, and adjacent to the area which comprises all of Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow Counties. Generators were operating during the recent storms which brought more than one inch of rainfall to most sections.

Complete cooperation has been obtained between all cloud seeding groups operating in the vicinity and every effort is being made to seed the area in accordance with the more scientific methods available, today according to Fritz Watkins, president of the Tri-County group.

The project is being evaluated by three Oregon State College Meteorologists. They are: D. Fred Decker, John Day and Russell Lincoln. Robert Beaumont who evaluated the project for the past two years has been called back into the Navy.

Recent rumors that the operations had been discontinued were false, Watkins said.

Early Morning Fire Causes Considerable Damage to Residence

Fire this Thursday morning caused considerable damage to the home of Hubert Wilson on south Gilmore street before firemen brought it under control.

The blaze, starting from a wood trash burner in the kitchen, had gained considerable headway before it was discovered by Mrs. Wilson who turned in the alarm at 7:45 a. m.

Main damage was confined to the kitchen where an electric range and other appliances were either burned or suffered severely from the heat, smoke and water. Wilson estimated the loss to the furnishings at about \$600 and damage to the house at \$1,000. The residence is owned by the Burnside estate.

The loss is the largest sustained in Heppner in nearly two years.

Five New C of C Directors Named

Five new directors were elected at the regular noon meeting Monday by members of the chamber of Commerce. They are W. C. Rosewall, Harvey Wilhite, Roy Quackenbush, Howard Bryant and Dr. E. K. Schaffitz. They will serve two year terms.

The new board members will take over their duties immediately to fill the vacancies created by expiration of the terms of Loyal Parker, C. J. D. Bauman, P. W. Mahoney, Garnet Barratt and Harvey Wilhite, who succeeds himself.

The board consists of ten members, who serve for two years with half of the number being elected each year. Those continuing in office are Jeff Carter, Leslie Grant, Robert Penland, Wayne West and Mary Van Stevens.

The board will meet soon and select from its membership the new president and vice presidents who will assume office, on January 1.

STEELHEAD REPORTED IN JOHN DAY RIVER

According to reports received at Andressen's Sporting Goods recently, steelhead fishing has been improving on the John Day river with several of the big fish being caught near Kimberly and Monument on flatfish.



WHO SAYS Cats don't take to water! This Cat (erpillar) driven by Terrel Benge went for a swim in Rhea creek last week when a section of bank gave way under it. Benge, who was unhurt, felt the ground slip and climbed off to watch it slide down the bank and tip over, winding up in the position shown in the picture taken by C. A. Ruggles. Neighbors aided in righting the tractor which suffered only minor damage from the spill.

Early Returns From School Poll Show Heavy Vote Favoring Major Expansion

Returns from the post card poll on the desires of voters in the Heppner school district concerning the school expansion program began to come in this week with a heavy majority favoring Plan B which called for construction of a new elementary school, enlarging the gymnasium and remodeling the present school building at a total cost of approximately \$371,000.

The tally of 136 cards returned, out of nearly 900 sent out, showed

22 favoring Plan A; 90 for Plan B; 18 favored just building an elementary school, and 6 voted to make no improvements of any kind.

The questionnaire sent out by the school board explained the plans and designated the cost of plan A, a new elementary school and gymnasium expansion as \$300,000; plan B, which included both the above and an additional \$71,000 for remodeling the present building, and asked the voter to

express his preference. The board has spent many months attempting to arrive at a workable expansion plan for the school system and decided to ask the residents what their desires are, as a guide to the planning.

Architects plans have been prepared for the proposed new grade school building and for the gymnasium extension and the board plans to put the issue to the voters at a special bond election in the near future.

First National Low Bidder on Sewerage Bonds

The Heppner city council Monday accepted the low bid of the First National Bank of Portland for the purchase of \$250,000 sewer bonds at an average net interest cost to the city of 2.9450 per cent. They will pay \$98,790.9 per \$100. One other bid was received.

The interest rate on both bids was broken down into separate divisions, with First National asking 2 1/2 percent on bonds maturing in 1954 through 1962; 2 3/4 percent on those maturing in 1963 through 1968; and 3 percent on the remainder maturing from 1969 through 1974.

Members of the council expressed the belief that the city received a favorable bid for the bonds and stated that it may be possible to reduce the effective interest rate considerably if the income from the special tax levy and planned sewer use charge is sufficient to retire a part of the issue before maturity. The bonds are written to allow the city to call the high interest bearing notes in an inverse order after a waiting period.

The bonds will be printed shortly and will be in the hands of the low bidder by February 1.

The other bidder was Blyth and Company, Inc. Portland, who offered 98.20 percent of par and an effective net interest rate of 3.418 percent. Their breakdown of interest the schedule showed 2 1/2 percent on bonds maturing in 1954 through 1958; 3 percent on bonds 1959 through 1965; 3 1/4 percent, 1966 through 1969 and 3 3/4 percent, 1970 through 1974.

Work on the sewer system and sewage disposal plant, for which the bonds are being issued, is progressing rapidly as the city had a sinking fund of sufficient size to allow an immediate start on the work without having to wait for the bond sale.

HOT SEAT BRINGS FIREMEN

Heppner firemen were called out at 10:15 last Thursday evening to extinguish a fire in a car parked on Main street belonging to L. H. Case. Minor damage was caused to the front seat upholstery.

CHURCHES PLANNING NUMEROUS CHRISTMAS PLAYS AND PROGRAMS

Special Christmas programs have been arranged by the various Heppner churches. On Sunday, December 21 at 6:30 p. m. at All Saints Episcopal church the play, "Christmas Television Show", written especially for the occasion by Mrs. Stephen Thompson, will be presented with all members of the church school participating. This will be held in the Parish House. Following this, the Young Peoples' Fellowship will present the play "Dust of the Road" under the direction of Mrs. Luola Bengtson. During this play, younger children will be entertained in the church and at its conclusion a Christmas tree and treats will be provided for all

the children.

At the Christian Church a program of special music by the choir and a playlet by the Sunday School department. This will begin at 7:30 p. m. on December 21st. Following the program there will be a Christmas tree and treats for the children in the church parlors.

At the Methodist Church, the intermediate group of the Sunday school will present the play "What Christmas Means" and others in the department will take part in the program with special music and recitations. This is to begin at 7:30 p. m. on the evening of Sunday, December 21 and will be followed by a tree and candy for the children in the social rooms of the church.

School Vacation Periods Scheduled

County school students will start their Christmas vacation at the end of school next Tuesday, in most cases, with Lexington students getting out this Friday.

Vacation period for Heppner, Ione and Hardman schools will be from December 24 to January 5, and at the Lexington school from December 20 to December 29. New Year's day is also a holiday.

Special Christmas programs will take a good share of students time the last few days with the Heppner and Lexington programs scheduled for tonight (Thursday) and the Ione and Hardman programs to be presented Tuesday evening.

Babson Outlook To Appear in GT

The Gazette Times again this year will publish R. W. Babson's Business and Financial Outlook for 1953 in its issue of January 1.

Mr. Babson's 1953 Outlook will contain outstanding forecasts covering such important topics as general business, commodity prices, taxes, trade, labor, inflation, farm outlook, stock market, real estate, politics.

Readers attention is called to this special feature, for it is felt it will be of inestimable value to them.



JOYGIVERS—Some of the toys that have been rebuilt and reconditioned by members of the Heppner F. F. A. chapter are shown here being examined by Ronald Currin, chapter president. The toys were donated by local residents and were repaired by the boys to be given to needy children. (GT Photo)



MORE
SHOPPING DAYS
TO CHRISTMAS