

# VOTERS REJECT SCHOOL SITE

## Two to One Majority Against Cason Area; Many Ballots Invalid

Voters of school district No. 1 Tuesday turned thumbs down on the Cason property in northwest Heppner as a site for a new elementary school building and the tally of votes brought what is undoubtedly a record number of invalid ballots. The count was No 207, Yes, 101, and 176 ballots were thrown out because of improper marking. A total of 484 persons went to the polls.

Aside from the fact that the decision set the school board back a considerable time in its plan to get additional classroom facilities, the very large number of void ballots was a most unusual occurrence. The 176 ballots which were declared invalid were thrown out because they were either signed by the voter or marked in a manner thought prohibited by state election laws. Had the defective ballots been counted however, it would not have had any effect on the outcome of the vote as a majority of them also carried a "No" vote in addition to the other markings.

The heavy number of invalid ballots was thought attributable to the influence of what several local attorneys classified as an apparently illegal anonymous letter which was received by many voters Monday. The letter, which urged a vote against the Cason property as a grade school site, also asked for voters to express their opinion on the ballot on where they did wish the school to be located. There is some difference of legal opinion on whether merely expressing an opinion on a ballot voided it, but it was agreed by all that any signed ballot invalidated that vote. In view of the uncertainty on the one point, and the fact that the majority of good ballots did not favor the site, all of the uncertain votes were thrown out by the counting board as long as their inclusion could not change the outcome of the election.

The question of the illegality of the pre-election letter sent to voters comes from a state law governing any election held in the state which provides that it shall be unlawful to circulate any publication relating to an election unless it carries the name and address of the sender and meets other requirements. The letter received by voters was unsigned. As far as is known however, no legal action is planned should the sender or senders be identified.

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Tentative plans call for every home in town to be automatically entered in the contest at its opening and prizes will be awarded to the residents making the poorest showing in sprucing up their grounds. The final winners will be decided by the outcome of a postcard ballot of all city residents.

Rosewall indicated that the idea of letting all residents decide the winner was to keep them all on their toes, figuring that if

someone in a block didn't keep up with the rest, his neighbors might gang up on him and elect him winner of the title.

More than just a title is assured the winners, however, as a lawnmower, hoe, rake, paint and other items have already been donated as prizes.

More complete details and a starting date will be announced later, it was said.

The northern section of the county, where wheat farmers had been complaining because all the storms were bypassing them, came in for its share of the rain the past few days. 1.32 inches had been checked at the Crum Brothers ranch north of Ione and an even heavier amount fell in the Cecil section.

The forest service reported that in the higher elevations, many roads were completely impassable due to soggy conditions.

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The show and the bike taping is part of a Soroptimist sponsored bicycle safety campaign and club officials said that any child who did not get his vehicle scotch-lited Tuesday may bring it to the welfare office in the Case building for free stripping.

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Forty-one students completed their work in the elementary grades and will next year move into the high school.

Chosen class valedictorian was Jay Sumner and Shirley Kononen gave the salutatorian's address. Diplomas were presented by superintendent Leonard Pate.

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Rosary was held Tuesday evening at St. Mary's church.

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Sans Souci Rebekah lodge will hold initiation at its regular meeting Friday, June 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Smith and Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Mahoney spent Tuesday in Portland.

Hilding Bengtson of Medford was here Wednesday to attend the graduation of his daughter Brenda, from the eighth grade.

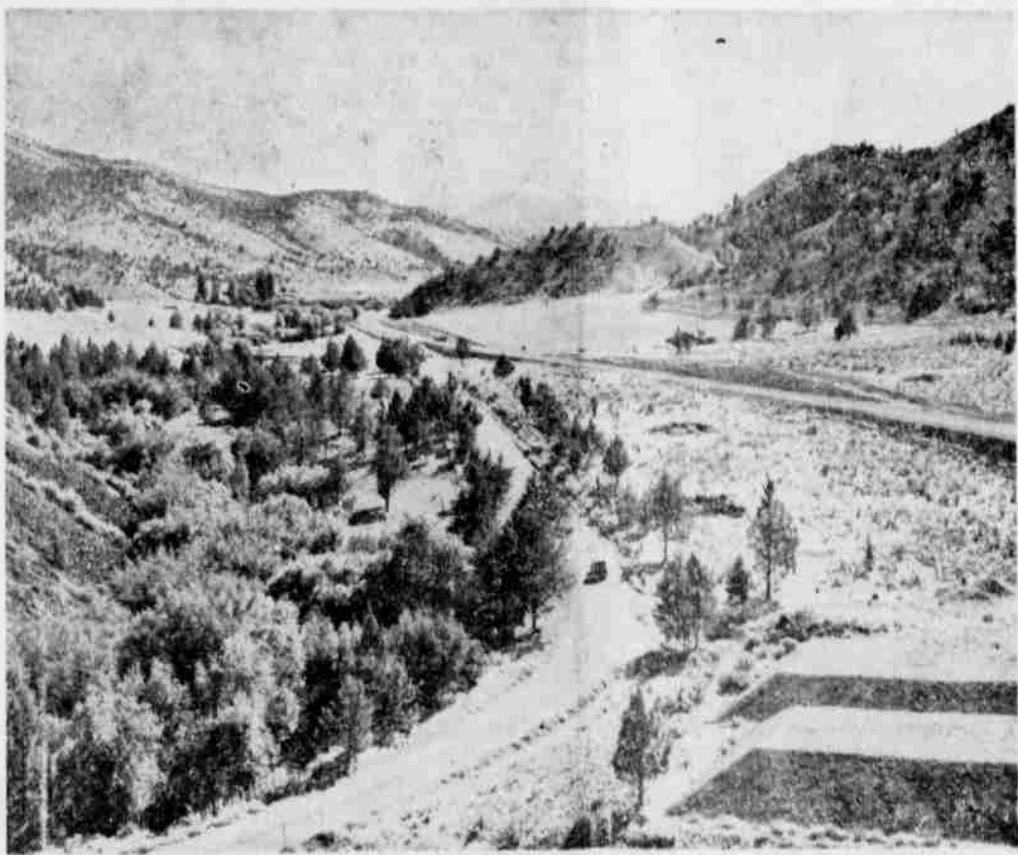
## Heppner Gazette Times

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, May 28, 1953

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70th Year, Number 11

### Old Kinks Ironed Out; Miles Saved



The Jones Ranch-Mitchell paving job in Eastern Oregon on the Ochoco Highway, 22 feet wide, estimated to cost \$821,000, is scheduled for completion August 31, 1953. Old road is in foreground. The new cuts curvature from a total of 1.621 degrees to 404 degrees. (State Highway Commission Photo.)

### "LAZIEST MAN IN TOWN" TO BE THEME OF CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

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### Catherine Doherty Dies in Pendleton

Mrs. Catherine Doherty, 79, who spent most of her life in Morrow county, died Saturday morning, May 23 at Pendleton.

Mrs. Doherty was born in county Donegal, Ireland and came to this country as a young woman in 1890. In 1895 she was married to B. P. Doherty in Pendleton and the couple came to Morrow county as newlyweds to settle on the Sand Hollow ranch now occupied by a son, William J. Doherty.

Mrs. Doherty moved to Pendleton 10 years ago and has made her home there since that time. She is survived by the following children: Mrs. Pat (Frances) Curran, Bernard P. Doherty, Pendleton; Mrs. Charles (Kathryn) Monagle, Heppner; William J. Doherty, Lexington; John E. Doherty, Pendleton; Mrs. Alex (Rosella) Lindsay, Lexington; Lawrence P. and Dorothy Doherty, both of Pendleton. Surviving are 10 grand children and six great grandchildren. Her husband and one daughter, Mrs. Dan C. (Mary) Doherty preceded her in death.

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## Legion Post to Hold Memorial Day Services

The Heppner post of the American Legion will hold its Memorial Day service at the Masonic cemetery Saturday at 10 a. m. The program will be under the direction of post commander, Bill Labhart and past commander, Jack Edmondson.

The main Memorial address will be given by Harold Cohn, Heppner past commander of the local post. Rev. John R. Reeves will give the Invocation and Earl

L. Soward, the Benediction. The men's chorus is scheduled to present some vocal selections and taps will be played by Skip Ruhl.

High point of the Memorial Day service will be the laying of a wreath on the grave of Pfc Gerald A. Settles, the only Heppner serviceman to lose his life in the Korean war.

This is the first time the post has held its services at the cemetery and officers expressed the hope that weather conditions would moderate to allow a good crowd to participate.

In observance of the national holiday, all Heppner stores are planning to remain closed as in past years. Postmaster James Driscoll announced too, that the post office would be closed all day Saturday.

The Legion officers again asked all merchants and residents who have flags, to display them during the day.

## Grass-Fed Cattle Sell at Hermiston

HERMISTON—First large-scale consignment of grass-fed cattle of the season was made Friday at the Hermiston livestock auction, Delbert Anson, manager, reports.

The grass cattle, going to packers, made up about 40 per cent of the fat cattle consigned. Volume of cattle was down, 352 consigned this week compared with 392 last week; hog volume was 196 compared with 140 last week. The anticipated increase in sheep materialized, 347 compared with 66 last week. Market was active, demand good. Hogs and sheep brought higher prices, while bulls and veal dropped and canner-cutter cattle were steady to 50c lower. Demand for feeder cattle continued, with increased consignments but room for more, Anson said. Feeder prices were stronger, steers bringing \$20.00 cwt. compared with \$19.80 last week. Grass cattle prices included: steers \$18.50-\$20.50; heifers, \$18.25-\$19.60; cows, \$14.50-\$15.75.

Calves—Baby calves \$12.29 hd., up \$1 top \$8 lower; weaner calves \$18.75-\$21.10 cwt.; veal \$22.25-25, down \$6-\$4.75; feeder steers \$17.75-\$19.60, steady; fat slaughter steers \$20.40-\$21.80, mostly short fed and grass, down 20c-\$1; fat grass heifers, \$18.25-\$20.50, down \$1.55-\$1.50.

Cows—Dairy cows \$132.50-\$157.50 hd.; up \$47-\$42.50; dairy heifers \$40-\$89 hd.; stock cows, \$145 pair.

Slaughter cows—Commercial \$14.50-\$16.20, down 70c steady; utility, \$13.10-\$14.20, down 65c-\$1; canner-cutter \$11.20-\$13.10, down 30c-\$1.15; shells \$6.25-\$8.50, down \$1.75-\$2.50; bulls \$17.90-\$18.70, down 50c-70c.

Hogs—Weaner pigs \$10-\$16.50 hd., up 50c-down 50c; feeder pigs \$22-\$24.60, down \$1.50-90c; fat hogs \$25.30-\$25.80, up 80c-30c; sows \$21.60-\$23.40, up 25c-\$1.10.

Sheep—Feeder lambs \$16.10-\$17.70; fat lambs \$18.20-\$20.10; ewes \$2.60-\$5; old bucks \$3.75-\$4.

Storms during the past week caused two power failures on Pacific Power and Light company lines, the first due to a falling tree and the second by a lightning strike.

A 42 minute interruption was suffered by residents of Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Condon, Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo early Sunday morning when a tree fell across the 69,000 volt Umatilla Electric Coop line between Hermiston and Ordinance sub-stations. Most residents were not aware of this failure until they found their electric clocks nearly an hour slow on Sunday.

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