

Heppner Gazette Times

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Saturday Storm Fills Many Streets, Buildings With Mud



MUD—The city hall looked more like somebody's garden than it did a business building after Saturday night's flood of mud and water left a silt layer three inches deep throughout the building. This picture, looking from the fire hall back through the garage and shop parts of the building shows the sticky layer on the floors. It couldn't be hosed off, but had to be shoveled out before floors could be washed. The flood came under the big back doors running toward the camera.



MORE MUD—Merle Burkenbine is scooping off the layer of mud which covered his yard and porch Saturday night. This house and yard, one of several on Morgan street to feel the effects of the storm, was directly in the path of the torrent as it washed down off the nearby hill. For a while during the evening the street itself was impassable because of the sticky deposit and deep water. (GT Photos)

Heavy Soil Wash from Field Inundates Two Sections of Heppner

Torrential rain, accompanied by high winds, hit Heppner and most of Morrow county Saturday night, and before the downpour had stopped, less than an hour later, many Heppner streets, buildings, homes and yards were covered with up to three inches of thick goosy mud which the storm washed from the fields west of town.

Hardest hit by the mud bath were Gale, Morgan and Willow streets, though nearly all side streets leading up to the west hill received a generous coating. The Heppner city hall was covered with a layer of mud and water measuring up to three inches deep over the entire floor of the building, and several residences on Morgan street suffered a similar dunking.

The Merle Burkenbine and N. C. Anderson homes on Morgan street were saturated with the mud and water when it washed down a canyon leading onto the street and overran porches and seeped under doors. The basement of the E. J. Dobbie residence was filled with over 18 inches of water and the yards of homes belonging to John Pfeiffer, Claud Cox and others on Morgan street received a generous layer of sticky brown silt.

The city hall suffered the worst of any building when the stream overflowed drainage ditches on Gale street behind the First National Bank building and flooded in the rear door of the building running out through the fire hall and down Willow street where it plugged drains at the corner of Main street. The flood left a deep layer of mud over the entire floor of the building except for a part of the council chambers and the library. City employees were still at work Tuesday scooping out the layer and washing down floors. As soon as possible they planned to start cleaning up Willow street where a curb-deep layer of soft silt made walking and driving hazardous.

The heavy rain cut deep furrows in the cultivated field above town to the west which is owned by Frank E. Parker. The field was seeded to wheat this fall and has no cover crop which accounts for the heavy amount of soil wash. West side streets have received small amounts of mud from the same source twice previously this fall, but never to such an extent as during the Saturday night storm.

Several council members were questioned on what the city might do to remedy the trouble and though all expressed the belief that something must be done in the future, there was little chance to prevent a recurrence this year. A stand of wheat or a heavy cover crop of grass was thought to be about the only answer to the problem. Ditching the lower side of the field was suggested, but some thought that such a ditch would fill with soil too quickly to be of very much value. No official action has been taken by the council.

Saturday's storm, which was general over a big part of the state, brought slightly less than one-half inch of rain, but much

of it fell in a short time. Coming on top of the heavy precipitation which the area has received during the past several months, most soils are practically saturated and unable to hold more moisture.

In Ione the strong wind uprooted at least two trees in the downtown area, one of them fell across the front of a school bus owned by John Eubanks which was parked in front of the White Apartments. It caused considerable damage to the vehicle. Another which stood in front of Briscoe's grocery also fell before the wind.

Francis E. Bailey Dies in Washington

Carl McDaniel and Mrs. Owen Leathers Sr. and Mrs. Harlan Adams of Kinzua left Saturday to attend the funeral of Francis E. Bailey at Arlington, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey had been residents of Morrow county, having owned and operated the Rhea creek grocery, and Easter's Cafe in Heppner. They moved to Washington in 1951. Mr. Bailey had been ill for the past year.

Mrs. Bailey is a sister of Carl McDaniel, Mrs. Leathers and Mrs. Adams.

Former Resident Dies in Yakima

Word was received this week of the death on Dec. 9 of Peyton R. Nicholson at Yakima, Wash.

Mr. Nicholson will be remembered in Morrow county as a former farmer in the Elginville and Gooseberry districts.

He is survived by his son, Leo Nicholson of Ellensburg and a grandson, Dean Nicholson of Puyallup, Wash.

"Nativity" Story to Be Aired Thursday

One of the favorite Christmas programs of northwest radio audiences, "The Story of the Nativity" will be presented on Christmas eve by Pacific Power & Light company. It will be the 19th consecutive year in which the company has put on the special program, according to Tom Keenan, district manager. It will be heard over KWRC Pendleton at 7:30 p. m.

Now part of the tradition of the Christmas season, "The Story of the Nativity" tells with beautiful music and reverent narrative of the Star of Bethlehem and the birth of Christ. An all-northwest production. It features the soprano voice of Brunetta Mazzolini, a member of the Portland University faculty who has sung with the San Francisco Opera company and has appeared on the Standard Symphony Hour. Tenor soloist is Walter Miesen. The Duncan Singers and the Owen S. Dunning orchestra complete the cast.

Glen Ward is spending the Christmas holidays at the home of his parents in Haines, Oregon.

WANDERINGS OF THREE SMALL BOYS BRINGS OUT BIG SEARCHING PARTY

Three very small boys, apparently intent on finding out about some of the interesting places to play on the hills not too close to their homes in northwest Heppner, gave their parents, police, dozens of friends and neighbors and even an airplane pilot a bad time for several hours Monday morning.

The three, Ricky Johnston, Gary Ball and Brad White, all four years old and the sons of Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ball and Mr. and Mrs. Vivian White wandered off together in search of greener pastures or whatever little boys search for when they wander. Before they finished their trip, as closely as their itinerary could be pieced together later, they had covered much of the hill area between the west end of Water street and the Heppner Lumber company.

Their parents started looking for them long before noon and finally called in friends and neighbors and local police to aid in the search. They were finally found about 1:30 in the afternoon by Fred Hoskins, who lives near the mill, when the three were discovered exploring the hillside near his home, much to the relief of their parents who feared they might have fallen into rain-swollen Willow creek. The search was aided by Gar Leveson, Lexington pilot, who flew over all nearby hills trying to locate the children.

It is not known whether the three found what they started out after, however there is little doubt but what they found out what little boys get when they get home from such an excursion.

Both Collison and Huffman said that their companies were making every effort to find the cause of the trouble so as to prevent further blackouts.

According to word just received from Mr. E. C. Sammons, chairman of the state savings bond committee, Morrow county has exceeded its 1953 quota of E and H savings bond sales.

Jeff Carter, Morrow county savings bond committee chairman, has received a letter of congratulations from Mr. Sammons, which reads as follows:

"Word has just reached me from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco to the effect that Morrow County received credit for U. S. Treasury Department E and H bond sales in November amounting to \$26,924. The total sales of these bonds in Morrow County for the year thus becomes \$238,682, and brings the county beyond its 1953 quota of \$227,440.

"Heartiest congratulations to you and to the people who have worked with you to bring about this result!

"Perhaps we can best realize the substantial nature of this year's sales increase in Morrow county by comparing the sales figures with those of a year ago. At the end of November 1952, we had sold \$149,596 worth of E and H bonds in Morrow county. Thus this year's sales have almost doubled those of a year ago.

"Please accept my thanks, and those of the U. S. Treasury department, for a most outstanding piece of work. You can well be proud of the fact that Morrow County is among the first 12 in Oregon to achieve its 1953 E and H bond sales quota."

Shoot Set Dec. 27 By Morrow Gun Club

Another merchandise shoot is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 27 at the Morrow county Gun Club, officers announced this week. A good supply of hams, bacon and turkey again awaits top marksmen.

They also announced that the lunch room at the club has been turned over to the Sorority Club of Ione who are operating it to raise funds to aid crippled children.

Mrs. Rosetta Sherrard of Arlington is visiting at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Riley Munkers.

Third Power Line Break Brings Search for Cause

The third break in recent weeks in the 69,000 volt power line feeding Morrow and Gilliam county from Hermiston early Monday morning put all the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area into darkness for two and one-half hours and brought a group of Pacific Power and Light and Bonneville engineers to Heppner Wednesday to try to determine the cause of the breaks.

The break, similar to two previous ones on the line, dropped one of the feeder lines about three miles east of the Ione substation and for more than an hour, before the line was cut off, threw the entire system onto single phase. Two prior breaks occurred at the same point and Edgar Collison, Columbia Basin Electric Corp. manager and J. T. Huffman, PP&L manager called the meeting of engineers in an attempt to find out why the line was failing and how it could be repaired.

The line was built by the REA Corp in 1948 and is leased jointly to Bonneville and Pacific Power.

Collison said Tuesday that there is no apparent reason for the breakdown but it is hoped that the engineers will be able to determine the cause and find a remedy for the continuing outages. He also said that it is very probable that the entire line will be rebuilt as the greatly increased power load in this area will shortly require heavier conductors to supply the necessary power. He emphasized, however, that the load the line is now carrying has no connection with the breaks. He said the engineers will attempt to determine whether the present trouble is caused by conductor failure, damage during installation or other reasons.

With the failure of the Hermiston-Ione line, all REA subscribers are out of power and at times it cuts off all PP&L customers in the area. At times when the load is not too heavy, Pacific Power has been able to serve this area from its Dufur substation though recently a transformer breakdown at that point prevented the company from picking up this section from that source.

Both Collison and Huffman said that their companies were making every effort to find the cause of the trouble so as to prevent further blackouts.

Mr. and Mrs. James Wright of Moses Lake, Washington, and Mr. and Mrs. George Whall of Kent, Washington arrived in Heppner today to spend the Christmas holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Whitmer Wright.



SANTA CAME and so did over 500 Morrow county youngsters last Saturday afternoon. He is shown here passing out treats to a few of the hundreds who crowded around him.



FIRST HAND INFORMATION on what he wants Santa to bring him is being given the popular gentleman by Mark Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brown of Heppner. Immediately after Santa's visit, most of the youngsters trooped to the Star Theater for a free Christmas show and another round of treats handed out by members of the Elks lodge. (GT Photos)

Curtailed Mail Service For Area Announced

Heppner, Lexington and Ione residents are soon to feel the effects of curtailed mail service, Heppner postmaster James Driscoll announced Tuesday. Instead of every-day service which the area has had for many years, service will be restricted to six days a week, and on some occasions, only five days.

The new order, just received from the Postal department, calls for new bids on the mail haul between Heppner and Arlington on the basis of six day service, eliminating any delivery on Sunday. National holidays are also excluded in the bid call which can mean that during some weeks of the year mail will be received and picked up only five days a week. The new schedule is to go into effect Jan. 28, 1954, Driscoll said.

The new order will mean that there will be no mail received here between Saturday morning and Monday morning and that any mail not in the postoffice before 6 p. m. Saturday will lay over until Monday night before it leaves the local office. Where a holiday falls on Saturday or Monday, there will be an extra consecutive day without service.

Driscoll said the curtailment in service is general throughout the entire country and is apparently a part of the current government campaign to reduce expenses in the postal department.

George Irl Clary Dies Here Tuesday

George Irl Clary, 68, a resident of Heppner for the past 13 years, died at his home early Tuesday, Dec. 22. He had been in poor health for some time. There will be no funeral services and his body will be sent to Portland for interment in Willamette National cemetery.

Mr. Clary was born in Newtoma, Mo. and moved to this area several years ago. He was a veteran of World War I and a member of the Heppner American Legion.

He is survived by his widow, Marie Clary; on son, Dr. Irl Clary of Portland; a daughter, Mildred Zubeck of Los Angeles; and three grandchildren. He also has three brothers and sisters still residing in the middle west.

Phelps Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Falling Tree Cuts Power in Ione Area

A big poplar tree, being felled by Donald and Ernest Heliker toppled into a power line at Ione shortly before noon Monday throwing most of the east end of town out of power for three and one-half hours, PP&L officials reported.

The tree started to fall away from the lines, but apparently one root held and brought it around into the wires. Some damage was reported when the 2,300 volt wires crossed 110 volt feeders and burned out switch boxes and at least one radio in nearby homes.

Service was restored by about 3 p. m.

Several areas in Oregon, including the Coos Bay-North Bend-Coquille area have been on a six-day service for some time.

One of the most noticeable effects of the reduced service will be in daily newspaper delivery service, for unless the Portland papers, and others coming into Heppner, establish their own pickup system out of Arlington, there will be no Sunday papers received here. It is understood however that one of the Portland papers has already made arrangements for other methods of delivery.

Full information on the new call for bids on the mail route can be obtained at the Heppner post-office.

Eugene Peterson, County PMA Head Takes Own Life

Eugene Elwood Peterson, 32, secretary of the Morrow county Production and Marketing Administration, was found dead lying beside his car which had been parked on a Kinzua Pine Mills logging road in the mountains south of Hardman. He had taken his own life by inhaling the fumes from the car's exhaust, coroner Oliver Creswick reported.

Peterson's body was found late Saturday afternoon by Arlynn McCoy, a Kinzua employee who was looking for Christmas trees in the area. He was last seen shortly after 5 p. m. Friday in his office in the First National Bank building in Heppner, but he did not return home that evening and the police were notified early Saturday that he was missing. He left no note nor was there any apparent reason for the suicide. He was the father of three small children.

Peterson was born Nov. 19, 1921 in Sioux Falls, S. D. and was an Army veteran of World War II. He came to Heppner in June, 1951 from Ontario, Oregon to take over the PMA position here.

He is survived by his widow, Doris; two small sons, Ronald and Gary and a young daughter, Deborah; a sister, Mrs. Ruth Griffin, a brother Robert Peterson and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Selmer Peterson, all who reside in Ontario, and a grandmother who lives in South Dakota.

Funeral services were held at the Phelps Funeral Home Monday afternoon and the body was sent to Payette, Idaho for interment in the Rosedale Memorial park.

Higher Social Security Rate to Be Effective Jan. 1

The social security tax rate for persons whose work counts toward old-age and survivors insurance is scheduled to increase on the first of January, Vernon A. Welo manager of the La Grande social security office, reminded employers, employees, and self-employed people today.

This scheduled increase in tax contribution is in accordance with the 1950 amendments to the social security law, and was enacted by Congress in anticipation of future obligations of the program.

Employees in jobs covered by the law will have 2 percent instead of the present 1½ percent deducted from their pay beginning with the first of January up to earnings of \$3600 a year; their employers will contribute an equal amount.

The new rates will apply to all taxable wages paid after December 31, 1953, regardless of when earned.

The social security tax for the self-employed is scheduled to increase from the present 2½ percent to 3 percent, for the period commencing January 1, 1954. Since the self-employed whose work is covered by the law pay their tax just once yearly at the time of filing their Federal income tax return, they will pay the present 2½ percent social security tax on their 1953 income that counts toward social security. This will be due not later than March 15, 1954. Their first payments at the increased rate of 3 percent will be due March 15, 1955, for the calendar year 1954.

In the meantime the Internal Revenue Service reports that employers will be furnished late this year with income tax withholding tables an Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) tables reflecting rates applicable next year.

The next scheduled increase, six years from now, in 1960, will be 2½ percent each for employer and employee, and 2½ percent for the self-employed.

Shirlee Smouse arrived home Monday from Portland to spend Christmas with her mother, Mrs. Anne Smouse.