

County To Begin Tax Reappraisal Program

Cost of Program Split With State Tax Commission

Mrs. Joe Hughes Appointed to Fill Assessor's Post

A complete reappraisal and equalization of all real and personal property in Morrow county will be started immediately by the assessor's office in cooperation with the state tax commission, the county court announced Wednesday during its regular monthly session.

Mrs. Joseph B. Hughes, for eight years a deputy in the county office, was appointed assessor Wednesday by the county court. She will serve until the end of 1954 and will fill the position held by the late W. O. Dix until his resignation about three months ago.

The program, which will take about 18 months to complete, will be done with the aid of two men from the state tax commission and the cost will be born equally by the county and the commission. While the contract for the work has not yet been signed, the court and commission have agreed upon the terms and it will be completed within the next few days, the court indicated. They also said that they were well pleased with the terms which will allow one of the state men to serve as a deputy in the assessor's office and while the entire reappraisal program is being done under the supervision of the state, the ultimate control still remains with the county.

The court said, in making the announcement of the appointment, that Mrs. Hughes was chosen for the position because she was familiar with the office system, an important point at the present time because of the starting of a complete tax reappraisal and equalization program in cooperation with the state tax commission. Mrs. Hughes has been handling the work of the assessor's office alone since Mr. Dix's resignation, but will soon have a deputy to assist her.

The court also said that financially the contract is very favorable in that the necessary funds for the job are available in the present budget and that probably no additional money will be needed to complete the project. While the exact cost is not yet known, it will be far below the \$75,000 which Grant county expended for a similar program. The reason for the low cost for Morrow county, the court said, was because the present system in the office is quite up-to-date and very few changes will have to be made in it. In some other counties it has been necessary to inaugurate an entirely new system which adds considerably to the cost.

The appointment to the office can be only for the remainder of the unexpired term as the office is elective. Several applications for the job had been received by the court, but persons interested in running for the office must now file before March 12, the deadline prior to the May primary elections.

Carter Takes Over As C-C President

New officers of the Heppner-Morrow county chamber of commerce were installed Monday noon at the regular meeting of the organization. Jeff Carter, J. C. Penney manager, took over as new president; Mary Van Stevens as first vice president and Bradley Fancher, second vice president.

The court said that it had requested the reappraisal program from the commission because, though it can be forced on the county eventually, the court felt it would be much to the county's advantage to be able to do it at its own convenience and when the money was available. Members felt that if the county postponed action the state might order it done at a time when an extra tax levy would be required to finance the project.

Installing officer was Frank Turner who recounted a few of the accomplishments of the past year and outlined some of the important projects that must be tackled during the coming year. He emphasized the need for the chamber of commerce and the carrying out of the program for development of the town and the county.

The actual work of reappraising and equalizing levies on all real and personal property will start within a short time, it was said.

New directors also installed were Jack Bedford, John Ernsdorff and La Verne Van Marter.

Story Gets Results, Chest Gets 40 Cents

Before last week's Gazette Times was in the mail, in fact before all the copies were off the press, the Heppner Community Chest reached its quota.

Three From District Get Service Call

Three selectees, Myron Bill, Heppner; Kent Wilhelm, Arlington; and William B. Pendleton, Ione will receive their notices to appear at Condon headquarters of tri-county draft board on January 14 for induction into the armed forces in Portland on the following day.

Robert Ferrell, Chest treasurer was immediately notified, but it was too late to change the story because many papers had already been printed.

The January quota for local board 31 is two registrants. William Pendleton, athletic coach at Ione high school was transferred from local board 71, Duncan, Oklahoma for induction. All three are scheduled for Army basic training at Fort Ord, Calif.

According to reports several more dollars have been received since, so the drive is well ahead of its quota.

New Ione Gymnasium And Swimming Pool Dedication Tuesday

Formal key dedication of Ione's new \$255,000 gymnasium-cafeteria and swimming pool will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12 in the new building, the Ione school board announced this week in extending an invitation to all residents of this section of Morrow county to be present for the special services.

The program for the formal key dedication service, which is to open at 7:30 p. m. will include: Invocation by Rev. Alfred Shirley; Garland Swanson, representing the Ione Memorial Improvement Association, which aided financially in the construction of the pool, will tell the history of the organization and the past plans for expansion. The key will then be passed to Edward Elliott, Portland, state representative of the Oregon Education Association who will give the dedicatory address. Earl McKinney, chairman of the local school board will respond and school superintendent Chester L. Ward will accept the challenge on behalf of the board and the community.

The new building, which was completed, except for the swimming pool, at the start of school last fall and is one of the most modern buildings of its type in this section of the state. It is used to house the band and musical departments, shop, gymnasium and kitchen-cafeteria facilities and gives much needed additional space in the school system. The total cost of the building and pool which was built by McCormack Construction company of Pendleton, was \$255,000. Of this amount \$45,000 went for the modern, heated swimming pool. Freeman, Hayslip and Tuftt, Portland architects prepared the plans for the entire project.

Following the formal dedication there will be a band concert, an informal refreshment line and then open house in the new building with students and instructors on hand to show the visitors through the plant.

The building has been in use all of this school year, and the band was moved into the new building last spring prior to its

The school board and school officials emphasized that the program is open to the general public and extend a special invitation to residents of other nearby communities.

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SCHOOL SITES COST FIGURES COMPILED

Purchase and Leveling Expense Shows Wide Variance Among Areas

The presentation of cost figures on five proposed sites for a new grade school gave most school board members and visitors a rough shock Tuesday night and practically eliminated from further consideration the three most discussed locations, the hospital hill, the Dick-George property and the Prock-Devin (also called presently owned) land because of excessive preparation costs.

About two months ago the board ordered superintendent H. C. Reed to obtain purchase prices and estimated excavation and filling costs on most of the various sites that have, at one time or another, been considered by the board. The figures varied from a high of \$308,221.30 for the hospital hill to a low of \$22,500 for the Cox-Anderson site. Figures were also obtained for the Cason property, which previously has been voted down at a special election. The cost there was given as \$23,500.

The figures given included only the cost of buying the property and getting it ready to build on and did not include any amount of the building itself which in the case of a 12 room school, the size determined by the board as necessary, is estimated at \$318,000.

Costs Shown
A complete breakdown on the various sites and the components that go into making up the total cost figures is shown below. By way of explanation, excavation at 30 cents per yard is for dirt, at \$8.00 per yard is for estimated rock. In the case of the Prock-Devin land the purchase price of the Dick-George property is included because of the necessity of having to buy the land to be able to move Hinton creek channel and D street, a requisite for the use of the property. The original cost of this land is also shown in the figures.

In all cases the purchase price listed is the asking price of the present owners and the other figures were estimates by engineers and architects.

Funeral Services For Claud Huston Held Wednesday

Funeral services were held on Wednesday at the Heppner Christian church for Thomas Claud Huston, 77, of Ione who passed away Monday at Pioneer Memorial hospital following an illness of three years. Services were conducted by Rev. Earl L. Soward, pastor.

Mr. Huston was born April 16, 1876 at Harrisburg, Oregon and had lived in the Ione area for 68 years. He is survived by his wife, Etta, Ione; two daughters, Mrs. Gene Dobbs, Heppner; and Mrs. William Rawlins, Ione; one son, Thomas of Ione, and five grandchildren. He also leaves a brother, Clive Huston, Heppner and one sister, Mrs. Leonard Barr of Redmond.

Mr. Huston had been for many years an active member of Rhea Creek Grange.

Burial was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery with Phelps Funeral Home in charge.

Heppner Postal Receipts Show Slight Gain Over 1952

1953 receipts at the Heppner post office continued to show a gain over the previous years, postmaster James Driscoll indicated this week. Final figures showed the local office did \$22,745.10, which is an increase of \$266.90 over 1952.

Driscoll said that in the number of pieces of mail handled during the year dropped approximately 5 percent, but the dollar volume increase was accounted for by rate increases put into effect during the year. The volume of Christmas mail handled during December was practically equal to that of a year ago.

The Heppner office has recorded an increase each year since 1938.

At the Tum-A-Lum site an unknown figure must be added to cover the cost of the purchase of a small amount of land owned by L. E. Bisbee, Gene Noble and A. J. Chaffee which would be necessary to allow moving the channel of Willow creek further to the east. The cost of the Cason site is also included for comparison purposes.

Tum-A-Lum site:
City property \$13,000.00
Tum-A-Lum property 42,000.00
Moving creek channel 2,250.00
Filling old channel 3,000.00
J. C. lease etc. 3,954.27
\$64,204.27

Prock-Devin site:
Cost of property \$ 14,000.00
Excavation, 3,266 yd. @ 8.00 26,128.00
Fill, 12,000 yd. @ 1.00 12,000.00
Adams lot and other moving street 25,000.00
Moving Hinton creek and Dick-George property 5,250.00
33,500.00

Cox-Anderson site:
Anderson property \$10,500.00
Cox property 10,000.00
Preparing site 2,000.00
\$22,500.00

Dick-George site:
George property \$ 25,000.00
Dick property 8,500.00
Excavation for bldg. 10,894 yd. @ 8.00 87,152.00
Excavation of playground 12,090 yd. @ 8.00 96,720.00
\$217,372.00

Hospital site:
10 acres @ \$500.00 \$ 5,000.00
Excavation for bldg. 3000 yd. @ 30 900.00
9712 yd. @ 8.00 77,696.00
Excavation for playground 14,271 yd. @ 30 4,281.30
27,543 yd. @ 8.00 220,344.00
\$308,221.30

Cason site:
Cost of property \$20,500.00
Excavation 3,000.00
\$23,500.00

Special Meeting Set

After a discussion of the various figures the board ordered an appraisal of the properties under consideration and called another meeting for next Tuesday evening at the school. The appraisers have been asked to have their figures prepared by that time so board members will have more definite information on which to base their decisions.

Chance Wilson of Monument Taken by Death January 1

By Fayr Sweek
MONUMENT—Chance Wilson passed away at the John Day Medical Center Friday, Jan. 1 after taking suddenly ill on Christmas day while at work. He was rushed to the clinic in the R. E. A. station wagon driven by Ben Spain.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Williams and children of Echo were spending the day with their parents and they took over the duties of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson at their place of business and rooming house.

Funeral services were held in the Monument Presbyterian Community church Sunday afternoon with the Heppner Elks lodge in charge. Interment was in the Monument cemetery.

Tyler Jackson of Whitmore, Calif., and Mrs. Irene Hanson of Portland were in Monument to be with their mother and attend the final rites.

Mr. Wilson had spent his life in the Monument area and a section of the house in which he had been living during the past years, the master bedroom, is the room he was born in over 70 years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rauch Jr. of Holdman were visiting in Heppner over the weekend.



HEPPNER'S LITTLE MISS 1954, Beverly Diane Holm, who arrived at 7 a. m. January 1, won for herself and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Holm, Heppner a big group of prizes as the first baby to be born in Heppner in 1954. She is shown here with her mother, completely unconcerned about all her winnings, and much more interested in when her next meal was going to be served. (GT Photo)

BEVERLY HOLM, NOW 6 DAYS OLD, WINS LOCAL FIRST BABY CONTEST

A girl, Beverly Diane, who was born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Holm of Heppner at 7 a. m. January 1 was the first baby born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and automatically became the winner of the First Baby contest sponsored by the hospital and many Heppner Merchants who offered valuable prizes to the lucky baby.

Baby Beverly, though she doesn't know much about her winnings yet, and her parents will receive 30 separate prizes offered to the first baby to be born in 1954. They include several cash awards which went into a bank account for her, baby clothes, canned milk, baby food and even a sport shirt for the proud papa.

Beverly is the Holm's first child and the parents were greatly pleased with all the prizes their child received just because she timed her arrival properly. Holm is a teacher at the Heppner high school.

Another girl, Cheri Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Carlson of Ione the evening of December 31, but she arrived a few hours too soon to qualify as the first baby of 1954. Her early arrival did, however, give her parents an income tax exemption for the full year of 1953 which the Holm's lost out on because their daughter waited until the new year to arrive.

Cordon to Help Get Ships For Grain Storage

United States Senator, Guy Cordon has just advised Al Lamb, manager of Morrow County Grain Growers in Heppner, that he has taken up the proposal for use of the mothal fleet at Tongue Point for grain storage purposes, with Commodity Credit officials in Washington.

The telegram was received from the Senator in answer to a series of appeals recently made by Lamb, and others, urging that steps be started at once towards solving of the 1954 grain storage problems. The manager of the grain cooperative pointed out that the 1953 wheat and barley crop carryover falling into the hands of the government, in the Pacific Northwest alone, might run between 75,000,000 and 100,000,000 bushels and if this were the case a major farm disaster was threatening.

Exports of grain are running at their lowest volume in years so little relief appears likely from that direction. While long range plans for crop disposals are being worked out, Lamb had urged the use of idle government owned ships to help tide through the 1954 emergency. He pointed out that considerable work will need to be done in getting the ships ready and therefore it is highly important that preparations be started towards converting the ships be started at once. This plan was used on the east coast during 1953 and is reported to have been highly satisfactory and also a very economical method of storage.

The telegram from Senator Cordon and letters from others in Washington indicate that officials there are now fully aware of the tight storage situation facing this area and are preparing to take all possible steps in their power to alleviate the anticipated difficulty.

Charles Barlow Taken To Portland Hospital

Charles Barlow, county clerk who suffered serious injury and partial paralysis nearly four months ago, was taken to Portland by ambulance Tuesday morning. He will be given special treatment at the Good Samaritan hospital.

Mrs. Earl L. Soward and Mrs. Robert Walker took Mrs. Barlow to Portland Tuesday to be with her husband.

Dr. L. D. Tibbles Takes Office as New Heppner Mayor

Council Presented Many New Problems

A former Heppner city councilman and a former mayor swapped chairs Monday night as Dr. L. D. Tibbles was sworn in as the new mayor of Heppner and after taking the oath of office immediately appointed his predecessor, J. O. Turner as a councilman to fill the vacancy created by his elevation to the mayor's position. Turner had resigned, effective the first of the year, and the council appointed Dr. Tibbles to the post.

The new mayor and the council were immediately faced with a series of difficulties, some of which still remain unsolved, including the discharge of one member of the police force, the problem of mud on the city streets and a disagreement between the city recorder, Harry Tamblin and the water department clerk, Mrs. Charles Gornilton, over their duties.

On the recommendation of the police committee the council discharged Jack Perry as night marshal because of non-performance of duty, and before the evening was over instructed police chief Roscoe Kelly to hire George A. Reed of Umatilla to fill the position. Reed had previously served on the Umatilla police department.

The disagreement between recorder Tamblin and Mrs. Gornilton arose over the handling of water department money and office procedure with both parties telling the council that they couldn't continue to work with the other under the present set-up. The council arrived at no definite decision in the problem but several members expressed the belief that the city should hire one person to handle the two jobs. Both jobs are currently classified as part time jobs. A special meeting of the council will probably be called later this week, mayor Tibbles said, to settle the question.

The problem of mud washing down on city streets and in the buildings from the hill west of town was discussed at length with Frank Parker, owner of the land, who was present at the meeting. Several plans to control the mud flow were talked and the public property committee was instructed to meet with Parker in an effort to find some method of stopping the flow that will be agreeable to both parties. Ditching the entire lower side of the field, planting it to grass or strip-cropping were suggested as possible alternatives. Parker said he was willing to talk the matter over with the city to see if some kind of a solution could be found. The land is now in wheat and recent heavy rains washed thick layers of mud from the field into several sections of town.

Garbage Control Set
The council passed a new garbage disposal ordinance which will regulate the storage, disposal, burning and hauling of garbage and other trash in the city. The ordinance prohibits the burning of garbage or trash, with the exception of leaves and cut grass, regulates the number of pickups of the garbage collector and sets the time the city dump will be open for public use. Primary purpose of the ordinance is to stop the burning of garbage and refuse, a practice which has brought the council numerous complaints in recent months.

The group also ordered another survey to determine if any additional street lights are needed. Several new ones were added recently.

Door Prize is Real McCoy

Innovating a new custom at chamber of commerce meetings, the program committee last Monday gave a door prize which was won by Heppner school superintendent H. C. Reed. The door prize was a door.

Mrs. H. O. Ely, Longtime Resident, Taken by Death

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Minnie Ida Ely Tuesday at 2 p. m. at the Ione Community church with Rev. Alfred Shirley, pastor officiating. She died at her home Jan. 2.

Minnie Ida Palmateer was born at Garfield, Clackamas county, Oregon June 5, 1881 and was 72 years of age at the time of her death. She moved with her parents, the late William and Phoebe Palmateer, to Morgan in 1898 where she resided until 1952 when she moved to Ione.

In 1902 she was married to Hiram O. Ely, who survives her and they were the parents of five children, four of whom survive. They are Franklin of Morgan, Elvin of Boardman, Mrs. Edith Matthews and Mrs. Margaret Akers of Ione. One sister survives her, Mrs. Mattie Morgan of Portland as do 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Palbearers, all nephews of Mrs. Ely, were Lloyd Morgan, Ted Palmateer, John Eubanks, Francis Ely, Pete Cannon and David Ely. Soloists were Mrs. Walter Roberts and Mrs. Paul Pettyjohn who were accompanied by Mrs. Cleo Drake.

On June 15, 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Ely observed their 50th wedding anniversary. She was a member of Bunchgrass Rebekah lodge and of Willows Grange.

Bunchgrass Rebekah lodge were in charge of the graveside services.

Interment was in the Morgan cemetery with Phelps Funeral Home in charge.

FIRE MEETING CALLED

The first of a series of special training meetings for members of the Heppner fire department will be held next Monday night at 7:30, fire chief, C. A. Ruggles reminded members today.

LEX P-TA TO MEET

The Lexington P-TA will hold its regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 8 p. m. at the school.

Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Tibbles and sons Lance and Larry, returned Monday from a two weeks holiday spent in California.