

Sub-Zero Cold, Winds Hit County

Power Line Work To Start Monday If Weather Breaks

The job of strengthening the Hermiston-Ione power line will start next Monday according to plan, Ed Collison, manager of the Columbia Basin Electric Coop said Wednesday, if some "ifs" don't cause delays. The "ifs" include if the materials arrive in time and if the cold weather moderates by then.

Collison said the necessary materials were shipped a week ago and should be here in time, but they had not showed up yet. He also said that it would be nearly impossible for men to work in sub-zero weather and neither the Coop or Pacific Power and Light, both of whom use the feeder line, would cut off customers, even for short periods, in such weather.

If the materials show up and the weather warms up the line will be cut out of service at about 11 o'clock each night starting next Monday and will be cut back in about 7 in the morning. The cutover will necessitate a short outage of just a few minutes on PP&L lines and not more than 30 minutes each time on REA lines. Outage time will only be what is necessary for switching.

While the line is out of service all customers will be served from the new PP&L substation at Fossil. The line will be cut out at night only, because the Fossil substation is not large enough to carry the full daytime power load in this area. The night load is much smaller.

The line is being strengthened by the addition of armor-rod at all poles because recent tests have shown the three previous breaks in the line were caused from vibration on the wires which caused the lines to snap in the holding shoes on the poles.

It is not known how long the entire job will take, but probably two weeks or longer.

RETURNS FROM PORTLAND HOSPITAL
Charles Barlow, who has been under treatment in a Portland hospital the past several weeks, was returned to Heppner Thursday by ambulance.

I. O. O. F. United Nations Tour Contest Rules Announced

Heppner Oddfellows officers announced Wednesday that the lodge is again sponsoring a United Nations tour this year and that a change in the rules will make all sophomore and junior high school students between the ages of 15 and 17 living in Morrow or Umatilla counties eligible for the contest. In previous years the local contest was limited to Heppner students only.

Topic of the local contest will be "What the United Nations Means to Me", and each school in the area will conduct its own individual contest. The local contests must be completed in time to allow the winners to compete in the finals to be held at Echo March 26.

As presently planned, this year's tour will leave Portland July 8 and will return to there August 4. The winners will spend the week of July 18 to 24 in New York City.

The Heppner lodge also announced that any group or organization in the area who would like to have last year's winner, Sally Palmer speak should contact the lodge.

Sally Palmer won the trip last year, and Jack Sumner was the winner in 1952.

Farm Bureau to Observe Week January 24 to 30

Plans are rolling ahead for Farm Bureau Week in Morrow county and a committee headed by county Bureau president Newt O'Hara and including Frank Anderson, chairman, Roy Martin and Ralph Crum announced that arrangements are complete.

Farm Bureau Sunday will be observed Jan. 24 in some churches and a kick-off dinner will be held Monday evening at the Odd-fellows hall in Lexington for the membership teams and their wives or husbands. The regular county Farm Bureau meeting will be held at Willows Grange hall in Ione Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock and representative Allen Tom will discuss the water situation as it is related to water resources. Members of the Ione band will present special musical numbers, it was announced.

The Morrow county court this week issued a proclamation acknowledging Farm Bureau week which said: "We the county court of Morrow county, recognizing the value of our farmers to our prosperity and the importance of their contributions to the welfare of our communities and our country do proclaim the week of Jan. 24 to 30 to be Farm Bureau Week."

"The Morrow county Farm Bureau has as its avowed purpose the improvement of agricultural conditions in our country. They are constantly working for a high level of production, employment, income and trade; better education, health, conservation and for greater opportunity for individuals to create prosperity. We wish the Farm Bureau every success in the observance of Farm Bureau Week."

Members within the centers in the county are teaming together to invite every farm family to become members in the Bureau for the year. It is expected that this work will be completed during the week.

Newt O'Hara, county Farm Bureau president, again stated the purpose of Farm Bureau Week, saying it is to better acquaint the people of the county with the importance of prosperous agriculture and the efforts of the Bureau to improve those conditions. "We are trying to do a good job of public relations for agriculture," he said.

Conservation Sign-Up Meetings Set Next Week

It has been announced by Miss Cecelia Carty, acting office manager of the local ASM (PMA) office that there will be sign-up meetings his coming week for conservation practices which Morrow county farmers will want to perform in 1954.

The meeting for the Morgan, Eightmile and Ione communities will be held on Thursday, Jan. 28 at the American Legion hall in Ione starting at 9 a. m., and the Lexington and Alpine communities meeting will be on the same day at the Lexington Grange hall starting at 1:30 p. m.

The ASC office urges all farmers interested in performing conservation practices in 1954 to attend these meetings as it will be their opportunity to sign a request for assistance for such practices.

Two Students on OSC Honor Roll

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis—Two students from the Heppner area have been listed on the fall term scholastic honor roll at Oregon State college.

Michael Grant of Heppner, a freshman in engineering, and Elise Bauerfeind of Morgan sophomore in home economics, both received grade averages of 3.5 points or better, on the basis of an "A" equating 4 points.



PRIMARY OCCUPATION of most Heppner kids during the past week has been studding as the three inches of snow and subsequent freezing weather has made wonderful sled runs of west side streets. Here three of the younger children try out West Center street before the older children get out of school and cause a sled traffic problem.



PAPERS BY SLED—common practice among most paper carriers during the past few days has been to deliver by sled as the Oregonian carrier boys are doing. How they worked out who got to ride and who had to pull, the GT photographer didn't find out. (GT Photos)

HEPPNER POLICEMAN'S BELONGINGS BURN ENROUTE TO NEW HOME HERE

The household effects of Heppner's new night marshal had a "hot" time Tuesday afternoon but their owner, George Reed didn't get much of a kick out of it.

While enroute to Heppner, a truck bringing a load of new furniture and household goods caught fire a short distance below Butter Creek Junction Tuesday afternoon, destroying practically all the furnishings and the truck. The only thing salvaged out of the load was an electric range and it was badly damaged.

Reed was moving to a home in Heppner from Umatilla where he formerly lived and the truck was transporting most of his belongings when it caught fire. The cause of the blaze is not definitely known though it was thought possible that a thrown cigarette might have been the cause.

Total loss was estimated between \$500 and \$600.

Another School Board Meeting Set for Tonight

There will be another special meeting of the Heppner school board tonight (Thursday) at 8 p. m. at the school, Mrs. Stephen

MEETING POSTPONED
Tonight's scheduled board meeting has been postponed until next Tuesday night, superintendent H. C. Reed informed the Gazette Times just at press-time.

A. L. Beck and Stewart Tufft, who were to be present to aid the board in making site decisions, reported by phone early this afternoon that their car had gone off the road on the lower Columbia River highway in a driving snowstorm and that they were unable to make the trip to Heppner because of road conditions.

If weather permits they will be here Tuesday.

Sheep Theft Brings Probation Sentence

Bobby D. Weems, Spray and Stanfield, pleaded guilty last week in Judge Hager's justice court to a charge of petty larceny. He was placed on probation for two years and ordered to repay the owner for two sheep he admitted stealing.

Weems was arrested by state police after he had admittedly picked up two sheep belonging to Frank Wilkinson, Heppner, and selling them at the Hermiston Livestock yard.

Among those from Heppner attending the PCA meeting in Pendleton Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Wright, Deb Wright, Mrs. Anne Smouse, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond French and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hiesler.

Mercury Drops to -15, Heavy Snow Cover Protects Fall Wheat

Wednesday's weather in Heppner set a record for the year, for not only did it have the lowest minimum temperature, but also the lowest maximum. The highest official government thermometer registered yesterday was 10 above and Wednesday morning's minimum was 4 below.

An overcast Wednesday night and Thursday kept the mercury above the zero point, though not very far above, as a low of 2 degrees was recorded Thursday morning. Some snow fell in Heppner this morning and weather reports indicated the possibility of more to come.

Just at press time the weather did an about face with temperatures rising from 20 to 28 degrees in an hour's time.

Winter's first snow storm and really cold weather descended on all of Eastern Oregon last week, and blanketing the entire area with from three inches to a foot of snow and the clear weather which followed Tuesday and Wednesday sent thermometers dropping to a three year low. Road conditions in most sections were classified from hazardous to terrible.

Tuesday night and Wednesday saw the temperature drop to a reported low of -15 near Lexington while Ione reported readings of -10 and -12. One spot in Eight-mile and Heppner appeared to be in the "banana belt" with official lows of only -4 degrees.

Heppner also had less snow than most other sections of the county with the government record.

Hermiston Sale Prices Hold Steady

HERMISTON—Cornett Green of Heppner topped the market at the Hermiston livestock auction Friday with a 1520 lb. whiteface bull that sold for \$15.90 cwt., Deibert Anson, manager of the sale, reports.

Volume of cattle consigned was down but a new high for the year was set in stock cows, J. E. Bennett of Hermiston receiving \$157.50 per head on fourteen first-calf Hereford heifers.

Consigned were 368 cattle compared with 526 the previous Friday. 120 hogs compared with 122 and 124 sheep compared with 748. The low sheep consignment resulted in shifting the next sale, Jan. 22. In particular demand will be breeding ewes and fat lambs, with weaner steer calves, short yearlings, in demand on the cattle scene.

Cattle prices were fully steady, with better quality feeder steers and fat cattle as well as stock cows, other cattle of generally lower quality. Hogs were steady to slightly higher, with fat hogs of better quality, other swine of poorer quality. Sheep were too few to set representative prices, and no fat lambs were consigned. Breeding cattle were of high quality, and heifers displayed good flesh.

Demand was broad and very active, with both packers and feeders well represented from Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Others topping the market were E. Eingham, Touchet, Wash., 28 feeder lambs, 2260 lbs., \$14.70 cwt.; Dean Acock, Irrigon 5 young ewes, \$15.25 per hd.; Walter Wyss, Boardman, 6 fat hogs, 1175 lbs., \$27.90 cwt.; Fred Snyder, Irrigon, 2 weaner pigs, \$24.00 per hd.; Don Bellamy, Hermiston, 120 lb. boar, \$23.75 cwt.; Joe Baumgartner, Hermiston, 4 feeder pigs, 505 lbs., \$28.25; O. L. Brooker, Stanfield, 3 sows, 1250 lbs., \$22.20; Ned Roberts, Paterson, Wash., 1 fed Brahma steer, 1140 lbs., \$22.00; Ralph Trow, La Grande, 1 year old Hereford bull, reg., \$210.00 hd.; Guy Miller, Pendleton, 1110 lb. white-face cow, \$14.80; Orval McCormach, Pendleton, 1000 lb. Brahma bull, \$15.50.

Calves: Baby calves 7.50-21.00
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er checking a total of three inches. Progressively down Willow creek more snow fell, with Morgan and Cecil checking from six to eight inches and Arlington receiving close to a foot. The heaviest snowfall was recorded all along the Columbia river.

Mercury Drops Fast
The clearing weather Tuesday brought an abrupt drop in temperatures late in the afternoon when the mercury dropped from around 20 at 4 p. m. to below zero before midnight. Heppner's -4 was the coldest recorded here since Jan. 29 1951 when it equaled the low of that day. Eightmile weather recorder, Leonard Carlson reported -4 and 5 inches of snow which had a water content of one-half inch. At the Sam McMillan ranch north of Ione a -10 was recorded and it was -12 at the Crum Brothers ranch in the same vicinity at midnight Tuesday. Lexington variously reported temperatures from -5 to -15 degrees.

The sub-zero temperatures apparently have done little or no damage to wheat, most farmers reported, as the earlier snowfall was heavy enough to give all the fields a protective cover. There was some wind over the weekend that caused drifting in some localities, but subsequent falls gave a full snow covering.

Driving Hazardous
Road conditions in upper Morrow county generally were fair with the Franklin hill road reported free of snow Wednesday. From Heppner to Ione the highway was clear, as was the Lexington-Buck's Corners highway, but from Ione to Heppner Junction the road was icy and hazardous. The worst highway conditions were reported by state police to be in the Arlington area on Columbia River highway 30 where there was a solid sheet of ice filled with deep chuckholes that were hard on tires and the driver's necks. The entire length of highway 30 from Portland to Pendleton was reported to be ice covered and police warned against any but necessary travel. There were some reports of drifts in the Rock Creek section of the Heppner-Condon highway, early in the storm, but state crews were keeping the road well cleared early this week.

Most County Roads OK
Nearly all county roads were reported passable with the exception of a few in the Ione and Eightmile areas. One connecting road between Eightmile and the Condon highway was drifted in, as was one out of Morgan and a few short stretches north of Ione. Heppner's streets have been a glare of ice the entire week with chains required to navigate most hills. The layer of white stuff brought out every kid and sled in the area, however, and Heppner's west side hill streets have been getting daily workouts from the youngsters.

Long range weather forecasts call for more cloudiness this coming weekend with the possibility of more snow over most of Eastern Oregon.

Water Resources Group Plans Meeting

The Oregon water resources committee, established by the last legislature, will launch a series of public meetings in February to learn the state's water problems.

James C. Moore, Oregon State college extension conservation specialist, who is assisting the committee, says all regions of the state will be covered. The committee was set up to look into needs and uses of water, and to study resources and methods of conservation. It is to report to the legislature in 1955.

Beginning February 15, public meetings are scheduled at Arlington, La Grande, Ontario, Burns and Redmond. During the week of March 1, the committee will visit Klamath Falls, Medford, Roseburg, Coos Bay and Tillamook. Willamette valley meetings will be held later in March.



GIFT TREE—County judge Garnet Barratt is pointing to an enlarged picture of a big Morrow county pine tree which is being presented to him by Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Baker of Kinzua. The presentation of the picture was made during a reception at Kinzua last Wednesday honoring the Bakers who are retiring from service with Kinzua Pine Mills where he has been since 1929. Holding the picture are Mr. and Mrs. Baker and Judge and Mrs. Barratt are admiring it. (Condon Globe-Times Photo)