

# HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## The Tum-A-Lum School Site

After many months of study and consideration, and after gathering approximate cost figures on practically all available grade school sites in and around Heppner, the board of school district No. 1, last week voted to recommend to the people that they approve the location known as the Tum-A-Lum site for the new school. Next March 4 (not March 3, as announced last week) the voters of the district will have their say. If it is yes, work can start in earnest on the planning and eventual building of a seriously needed school. If it is no, the board will be back almost to where they were a year or two ago. That is the alternative we all must face.

The choice of the Tum-A-Lum location was a compromise, for board members, both past and present, have had other ideas for a site, and Tum-A-Lum until recently wasn't even considered among them. It offered a reasonably satisfactory solution, that it is hoped, will satisfy residents who have been quite badly divided on where a school should be located.

The Gazette Times has not believed, nor does it at the present time think, that Tum-A-Lum is the best location for a grade school, but we too, are well aware that there are many other persons in the area who don't believe as we do. Our first choice has always been the hospital hill, for we felt that it offered the best possible all-around site available. We still do, but after seeing the cost figures on preparing the area for use we could see that it wasn't economically feasible to consider it any further. When the Cason property was proposed, we took it as the next best, and even though it was turned down decisively at the polls, we still feel it offers more than does the Tum-A-Lum site.

Tum-T-Lum has some notable disadvantages, to our way of thinking. Flood is of course, one of

them, but architects and builders are well agreed that by proper channeling and diking and elevation of the building, this fault can be largely overcome. Having a building located practically in the middle of town, on Heppner's most heavily-traveled street seems to us to offer more of a hazard than anything else. The school lanes crossing that street will require constant patrolling, either on the part of school patrols, local police, or both. The playground area which fronts on the street and the creek as well, must be fenced and patrolled, too.

Just as there are disadvantages, there are also advantages to the Tum-A-Lum site, for it is centrally located, close to, yet separated from the high school. It is close enough that the present gym can be used for the grade pupils, when needed, as can the cafeteria in the present building, a point that has been a major factor in the minds of some of the board members, and residents too.

With all of this, what then is our opinion? We will answer that with a statement we made in this column nearly a year ago—"What we need is a school, not a fight!"

Tum-A-Lum is not our first choice, yet it came about from a compromise among the board members who, regardless of whether or not it may look like it to an outsider who has not watched them work on the problem for some time, are genuinely interested in getting for the children of the district a decent place in which to get an education. We need a new school, and we, too, are willing to compromise some of the points we have felt were important in locating and building it just to see it built as quickly as possible. A good and satisfactory elementary school can be built on the Tum-A-Lum location and our children can have the same educational facilities and advantages that most other children in the state are already getting with the least possible delay. For that reason we will accept the Tum-A-Lum location.

mer, is the first in Morrow county to take advantage of the 1954 ACP practice listed as C-13 in your Handbook. It is the practice providing for leveling irrigable land for more efficient use of irrigation water to prevent erosion. Mr. O'Harra says that adequate land preparation is a basic necessity for any irrigation system. In spite of this, there are many farms in Morrow county which have been receiving irrigation water for years which have not been properly leveled. The maximum financial assistance in Morrow county is 50% of the cost of earth moving, not to exceed \$30 per acre. By special permission, the Morrow County ASC Committee received an increase in this payment which statewide calls for not more than \$20 per acre. The County Committee asked for this increase in payment as they believe that this practice is important in our county. It is essential in order to qualify for the practice and financial assistance that approval be given the project by the local Agricultural Conservation Program Committee before work is started on it.

Every year about this time, we like to remind farmers that rats are a menace and do no good on your farms. This is the time of year that they are multiplying, and if not controlled, sometimes almost take over complete control. I noted signs of them around my barn a week ago and put some Warfarin out to hold down infestation. Just to point out the necessity of rating, we might remind you that one rat eats about 150 pounds of grain per year. Someone has figured out that if this is the case, it costs you as much to keep ten rats as to keep seventeen laying hens. If the seventeen layers could produce 200 eggs, each, which is less than the Oregon average, at 60 cents per dozen it would bring you \$170 for \$150 you can poison those rats then you can feed the grain to your hens and collect the difference of

\$168.50. This is not the only profit you will make; during the time these rats are eating this grain they are contaminating many hundreds of pounds. This, many times, is objectional to livestock and poultry and there is much waste. If it is grain to be sold for human consumption, the Food and Drug Administration will be watching for such contamination.

There are several prepared warfarin mixes on the market. In case that you do not want to use a mixed preparation, you can mix it yourself. The recommended mix is 9 1/2 pounds of cornmeal, 9 1/2 pounds of oatmeal, and one pound of warfarin. Mix together dry, then mix in one pint of fish oil. Place this in a dark rat run in outbuildings in one half to one pound amounts, then watch your rats disappear.

About this time each year, we have many calls at the office in regards to pruning and spraying fruit trees. While there are no significant fruit raisers in the county, it seems that almost everyone has a few trees for home fruit production. Since pruning is a little difficult for the ordinary person, we have arranged to have a pruning demonstration. C. O. Rawlings, extension horticulturist from Oregon State College will put on the demonstration. It will be held on Friday February 26. We plan to have two such demonstrations, one on a new orchard, the other on an old orchard that has not had too much care. The new orchard demonstration will be held at the Harold Dobyns home, near Jordan elevator. It will be held at 10:30 a. m. We have not yet found a place for the afternoon demonstration on an old orchard. We are looking for prospects, especially in the Ione or Lexington area. If anyone has one which they would like to have used for a demonstration, we would be glad to hear of it. There will also be a discussion on the general care of shrubs and ornamentals.

## Annual John Deere Day Here Tuesday

An annual event for farmers of this area, John Deere Day, will be held in the Heppner store of the Empire Machinery company, local John Deere dealer, next Tuesday, store manager Robert Grabil has announced.

The company will serve a free lunch at noon at the store and a special free show will be held at the Star Theater starting at 1:30 for all area farmers and interested persons.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Marshall and daughters, Nancy and Carol were shopping in Pendleton on Saturday.

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## From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Morrow county's forward step in establishing a Bangs disease compulsory test area in 1949 is bearing fruit. In addition to bringing down our Bangs reactors from almost 9% at the beginning of the program to 1.57% in 1953,

neighboring counties have been watching us and are interested in the program. Two weeks ago, Vic Johnson, secretary, and Orville McCormick, treasurer of the Umatilla Cattlemen's Association, spent several hours in the office

discussing our program and getting figures and results to use in Umatilla county. I understand that petitions are now being circulated and that such a program is contemplated there. Only last week a hearing was held in Sherman county for establishing a Bangs compulsory test county. There is interest in other counties in Eastern Oregon it is reported.

Newt O'Harra, Lexington far-

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