

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES THIRTY YEARS AGO

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

After listening to Mr. Church, of the Idaho Power Co. at the chamber meeting last Monday and after reading the Article in the Heppner Gazette commenting on it I feel that some points that Mr. Church did not bring out should be discussed so as to broaden the general outlook upon the entire subject.

First: He did not mention in any of his figures, the downstream benefit from the storage reservoir of the high dam, which would half the cost. Also, the fact that had the high dam been built with no generators in it the downstream benefits would have been so great that there would have been no need to use steam generation last year and no surcharge for it.

Second: Mr. Church, mentioned the Tax benefits from low dams when it's common knowledge that all taxes on a public utility are added to their rates over and above the 6% they are allowed to make and therefore their customers pay their taxes. Quoting a member of the State Tax Commission at Heppner last spring, who said in his talk before the Morrow County Taxpayers meeting: Why Utilities don't pay taxes; They are gatherers of taxes.

Anyway, speaking of taxes and tax writeoffs, The East Oregonian, which must have a reliable source of information, said in an editorial last fall, That the Idaho Power company had applied for a five year depreciation schedule on two of their three low dams which amounts to a poker player reaching for the pot before the hand is dealt.

Now lets forget about power, it's a by-product of the development of our Natural resources. We may someday make electricity with Atomic energy or by other means, but food and water, never.

I was a member of the water resources committee, representing Morrow County at the state hearing at Arlington this spring and we were complimented on having one of the best reports there. However, all we and all of the other counties talked about was water and the lack of it, yet Hells Canyon Dam is the only dam in Oregon or Washington or

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Word has been received from Oregon State College that the new livestock pest control circular is being printed. The new circular points out that U. S. farmers lose three hundred million dollars annually from livestock insects. The circular is brief, deals with the new insecticides and tells how to avoid this loss. It will be made available to our livestock men as soon as we have a supply here in the office.

Glancing through the last copy of the weekly price cost and weather review circular from Oregon college, we find that congress has set 100 as the benchmark of a fair exchange rate between prices that farmers receive for their products and prices on

the Columbia system that is of a high enough elevation to inundate most farm land in Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties.

To be sure Mr. Church emphasized the point that there wasn't any irrigation proposed out of that reservoir, but who among us is brave enough to offer it to California.

That reservoir is two hundred and fifty feet above the city of Heppner and the top one foot, I am told will hold more water than the bottom fifty feet of the small dam.

So much for water, how about food? Fertilizer. The greatest expense on my ranch last year was fertilizer, eighty five hundred dollars worth of it and it all has to come from Texas, Tennessee and Canada. At least four thousand out of the eighty five hundred was for transportation.

We have here in the Northwest one of the world's greatest deposits of phosphate rock and it can not be manufactured economically with current costing over three mills. The present new high Bonneville rate is about that, Idaho Power would cost about six mills.

Mr. Church made the statement that there wasn't water enough to fill the high dam in the Snake but he failed to point out the fact that the dam once filled, did

items that farmers must buy. This ratio now stands at 90, 4 points below the fair exchange level. With the exception of last October and November when the ratio also stood at 90, the March 15 level marks the lowest ratio since May, 1941. Prices have been below parity for a year and a half now since September 1952. Of the products grown in Oregon, only hogs and apples were on the above parity list on March 15. The price in percent of parity of some major commodities stacked up something like this: eggs 95%, lambs 90%, Oats 89%, wool 88%, turkeys 87%, whole milk 86%, Butterfat 84%, wheat 84%, barley 83%, beef cattle 78%, chickens 77%, and potatoes 85%.

Just recently, the secretary of agriculture, announced that 34 leading authorities on agricultural production and marketing have been invited to serve as consultants in a series of special foreign trade studies about to be undertaken in Europe, Asia and Latin America. The purpose will be to study the possibilities of expanding U. S. agricultural trade with those areas as proposed by President Eisenhower in his farm program recommendations to the congress. They will explore immediate possibilities of expanding international trade in food and fiber. The groups are expected to leave the United States in April and return late in May. This is in line with what our Oregon Wheat Growers League has been asking for some time. Some of the leading authorities selected are men well known in Oregon. Niels Nielsen, Federal State Statistician Agricultural Estimates, with the Agricultural Marketing Service at Portland,

not have to be refilled again, except the draw down for flood control and slack water power generation.

There is one overshadowing fact however in the favor of the low dams and that is they can be built now even if at some later date due to water needs they will have to be drawn out. However it is believed that more than two will never be built.

There are other small streams here in Oregon that the private interests could develop. For instance, the Pelton Dam on the Deschutes, Portland General Electric could have been building this dam if they hadn't tried to set aside the water rights of the irrigation farmers, and the fish and game laws of the state. They also asked permission to rapidly depreciate its costs.

In hoping that this letter may help in clearing up some points in discussion.

I am very sincerely yours,
O. W. Cutsforth.

From Files of the Gazette Times April 17, 1924

The dates of Heppner's Chautauqua have been set for June 30 to July 5th, inclusive. There is some talk, also that Heppner will put on a 4th of July celebration this year.

Roy Neill, sheepman and alfalfa raiser of Big Butter creek was in the city Wednesday from his home near Pine City.

Frank Turner began the shearing season on Saturday last with the flock of Mike Marshal at Castle Rock. Mr. Turner's outfit consists of ten machines and he is working a full crew.

With its issue of Tuesday April 15 the Heppner Herald passed out. The paper had been published here for a period of ten years, being established in April 1914 by Leslie Harlan and under the management of S. A. Pattison as publisher and proprietor for the past seven years.

Laxton McMurray, a business man and rancher of Ione, was here Tuesday to attend to business affairs.

Oregon, is head of the group going to southern Europe. Gordon Boals, Director of Export programs for Millers National Federation at Washington, D. C. will be one of the group going to Asia.

The County Agent's Office has received a fresh supply of poisoned oats for squirrel control. Anyone who is having trouble with squirrels can obtain this bait at the office at cost. It is supplied by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is mixed for best control of this rodent.

Much interest was shown in last week's article concerning the tree seedlings which the Oregon State Board of Forestry had in surplus at the end of its tree shipping season. As a result, several individuals and groups have ordered seedlings that will be sent out. The truck will arrive in Heppner on Thursday, April 15. Those ordering trees were Mrs. Loyd Cooley and Lyle Robertson of Irrigon; Millard Nolan and Burton Peck, Lexington; Donald Peterson of Ione; P. A. Mollahan, Heppner; Alvin Wagonblast, Lexington; and the Ione Garden Club. A total of 900 Caragana, 25 Mulberry, 150 Russian Olive, 100 Chinese Elm, 100 Chinese Arborvitae, 200 Scotch Pine, and 25 black locust, were ordered to be planted as windbreaks.

Last week's 4-H sponsored square dance at Ione, was quite a success even though there were many events going on that evening that gave this event stiff competition. Approximately \$50.00 was cleared which will be used in the International Farm Youth Exchange program which Morrow County 4-H clubs are contributing to. This money will be used as a part of the expenses of Oregon Young men and women who will visit foreign countries this summer to live and work with farm families in a better world understanding.

4-H Clubbers are being called upon to assist in the spring clean-up campaign. They are asked to take the lead at home and spread the news to neighboring farms that now is the time to clean-up and throw out or salvage news papers and magazines, old clothing, rags and mattresses, broken

and discarded furniture. Stored away in attics, closets, and basements and barns and outbuildings, these fast burning things are perfect tender for spreading any spark or flame. Don't give fire a place to start.

Word has just been received that the Oregon Wheat Growers League executive committee voted to change the dates of the 4-H and FFA fat stock show and sale at The Dalles from May 31, June 1st and 2nd, to one week later, June 7, 8, and 9. The reason for change in dates are for the fact that some schools in the area will not be closed until the fore part of June. Morrow County as it appears now will have many 4-H fat projects shown and sold at this show. Morrow County 4-H club members are doing their share in increasing the hog population which has reached an old time low in Oregon. With the good strong prices that hogs are demanding now, it looks like these club members should come out on top from the financial angle. During the last month, a good many of the gilts which were caught by 4-H club members as pig scramble projects at the 1953 Morrow County Fair have farrowed. Robert Campbell, of the Buttercreek Junction 4-H club, had the distinction of having a gilt with the first litter. She farrowed and saved 10 pigs. Kit George of the South Heppner club has 8 pigs from his gilt. Connie Anderson of the same club has a sow with 10 pigs. While not a scramble pig project, Jerry Anderson has a registered Duroc gilt with 7 pigs. Selection from these litters will be shown at the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo and sold at the 4-H auction sale which will be the event of Friday evening, September 3.

The Feather and Hare club met at the Cecil Hamilton home on March 30 and the meeting was called to order by president, Edna Hoffman. The flag pledge was said and minutes read and it was decided for the members to take turns serving refreshments.

We talked about the diseases of rabbits and chickens. The following members were present: Lorelie Hamilton, Keeny and Victor Rayrollez, Edna and Jimmy Hoffman, Teddy Hoffman was absent.

Jimmy Hoffman, reporter

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4-H Club News

FEATHER AND HARE CLUB, BOARDMAN

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Jimmy Hoffman, reporter

State Traffic Deaths Drop During March

Twenty-one persons died in Oregon traffic collisions during March, a figure substantially below that recorded in February when deaths skyrocketed to 42, Secretary of State Earl T. Newby disclosed Friday.

State traffic safety officials cautioned, however, that the March toll still could go higher if delayed death reports are received or if persons injured later die.

IONE LIVESTOCK CLUB

Ione 4-H Livestock club held their meeting on Sunday, March 21, at the Herman Bletells.

Herb Ekstrom got a line on the livestock that was going to The Dalles. We had a demonstration by Mr. Bletell on Marking Sheep. We also had movies on the care of sheep and lambs, shown by Mrs. Markham Baker.

Our next meeting was called off until the 25th of April, because of Easter, and will be held at the L. L. Howton ranch.

The meeting was dismissed and refreshments were served.

Ivan Akers, reporter

Worst accident of the month occurred in Deschutes county when two cars collided, killing four people. It was the only multiple death accident reported.

Safety men said the March record this year was eight below that of last year and, in view of the February count, "a surprisingly low toll."

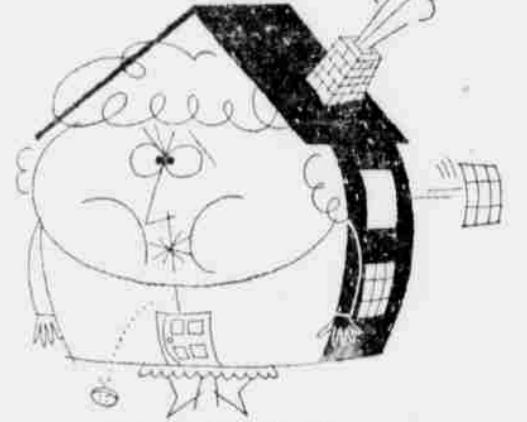
So far this year, 85 persons have died in traffic, two less than the count at the same time last year, but safety men said months carrying the heaviest traffic volume are still ahead. No accurate traffic death picture will begin to take shape until spring and summer records are known.

Continued emphasis on accident prevention efforts throughout the state, and especially those aimed at improving individual driver attitudes, were urged by officials.

Mr. and Mrs. James Healy and daughter Sheila returned Saturday from a weeks trip to Portland.

WATCH for the Cub Scout Carnival coming to Heppner April 30.

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