

# Heppner Gazette Times

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## Death Thins Ranks Of Heppner's Pioneer Residents

Death during the past week, claimed three well-known long-time residents of Heppner. First to pass away was a native of Heppner, Richard Wells, who died April 29 at the veterans hospital in Portland.

On Sunday death claimed Frank W. (Mike) Roberts and Frank O. Rasmus, both of whom were patients at Pioneer Memorial hospital.

### Richard Wells

Funeral services were held on Saturday, May 1 at the Elks Temple for Richard Wells, 67, who passed away at the veterans hospital in Portland on Thursday. He was a native of Heppner, having been born here, the son of Abe S. and Betty Wells, on March 12, 1887. He had been a rancher and barber, and had operated a barber shop in Heppner continuously since 1906. Mr. Wells lost all of his family except for four brothers in the Heppner flood in 1903.

The Elks lodge of which he was a member, had charge of the services both at the Temple and at the graveside. Pallbearers were Earl Gilliam, Alva Jones, Clarence Bauman, Jim Cowins, John Keyes and E. C. Dougherty.

Survivors are his widow Sibyl, and one brother, Glen Y. Wells of Portland.

Interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

### Frank W. Roberts

Frank W. (Mike) Roberts, 88, passed away Sunday May 2 at Pioneer Memorial hospital following a lingering illness. He had been a resident of Heppner for over 75 years.

Mr. Roberts was born Oct. 16, 1865 in Panora, Iowa and came to Heppner in 1878. He operated several businesses here during his lifetime and built several downtown business buildings including the present Humphreys Drug company building. He was one of the three remaining charter members of the Elks lodge and until his death was the only living charter member who was a past exalted ruler of the lodge.

Services were held Monday afternoon at the Elks Temple and burial was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

He is survived by one son, Dr. Joseph Roberts, Portland, and a daughter, Mrs. Clarence A. Hogan of Minneapolis, Minn.

### Frank O. Rasmus

Funeral services for Frank Otis Rasmus, 73, were held Wednesday afternoon from the Creswick and Seuell Mortuary chapel. He passed away Sunday, May 2 at Pioneer Memorial hospital after a short illness. Rev. Lester D. Boulden officiated.

Mr. Rasmus was born at Silverton, Ore., in September 1880, and had moved to Heppner at an early age. He had been an employee of the city of Heppner for the past 22 years, during most of the recent time as operator of the city pumping plant on upper Willow creek.

He is survived by one brother, J. Orve Rasmus, of Heppner; and two step-sons, Frank and Albert Connor, both of Heppner.

Interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

Creswick and Seuell Mortuary were in charge of all three services.

## Improvement of City Water System Due

The start of a project to improve the city water supply and eliminate low pressures in some sections of town was taken Monday night when the Heppner city council approved a recent survey by the engineering firm of Clark and Groff and ordered the purchase of necessary equipment.

The city will spend initially about \$3,000 to install a pressure pump at the upper end of the new pipeline from the wells and add connecting mains and other equipment at the new reservoir which will double the present volume of water received through the line. New pressure valves and water level controls on the reservoir will aid also in keeping the smaller reservoir on the west hill filled, which has been nearly impossible during the spring and summer months when water use is heavy.

A part of the overall plan also calls for the installation of a new eight inch water main on the east side of town which will add materially to the volume of water which can be made available to residents of that section, and will increase water pressure considerably to homes on the hill fronting on Gilmore street. The planned new main will run from Al-falfa street down Hager street and then north on Gilmore to eventually connect with present large mains at Main and Baltimore. This will give a double circuit for water flow and will eliminate much of the water shortage now experienced by persons living on Gilmore and Court streets.

The laying of the new main will not be undertaken immediately, but the work is expected to start as soon as sufficient funds are available.

## Hospital Open House Wednesday

Next Wednesday, May 12 the residents of Morrow county are invited to visit Pioneer Memorial hospital during an open house being held by the institution in observance of national hospital day. Hours are from 11 a. m. to 4 p. m.

The open house is planned to give citizens an opportunity to visit the modern facility, and John Ernsdorff, administrator, announced that refreshments will be served on the hospital lawn, weather permitting.

A part of the day's program will include a voluntary free chest X-Ray to all interested persons on that day. This part of the program is sponsored by the Morrow county TB and Health association.

## Lone Army Man in Yakima Maneuvers

FORT LEWIS, WASH.—Army Cpl. Billy J. Rietmann, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rietmann, Ione, will move to the Yakima, Wash. firing center in May to participate in Exercise Hill Top with the 44th Infantry Division.

Corporal Rietmann is stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., as a squad leader in Company M of the division's 129th Regiment.

The lone soldier farmed with his father before entering the Army in May 1953.

The installation of the pressure pump on the main feeder line from the wells will raise total water volume from 300 gallons per minute to approximately 600 gallons per minute. The city has ample water from its three wells, but under the present gravity flow system, 300 gallons per minute is the maximum that will come down the line.

### Resolution Presented

The council also accepted a resolution from the Heppner P-TA asking that it donate its park property to the school district for use as part of the planned new elementary school site. The group previously had set a price of \$13,000 for the land.

Following considerable discussion of the request, it was pointed out that the school district has had an appraisal made of the property, and the council agreed to discuss the price with the school board whenever the results of the appraisal are received.

### Ordinance Passed

An ordinance was passed governing the use of parking meters in the city and setting fees for the issuance of special parking permits for delivery trucks etc.

The council also ordered the preparation of a resolution of appreciation for the services the late Frank Rasmus had given to the city. Mr. Rasmus passed away Sunday and he had been an employee of the city for the past 22 years. The resolution was ordered included in the minutes of the meeting.

## Budget Committee For County to Meet Friday, May 14

The county court Wednesday set Friday, May 14 as the date for the meeting of the county budget committee meeting. It will be an all day session and any person interested or having requests should appear at that time, the court said.

The budget committee, which includes John J. Hanna Sr., Heppner; Kenneth Smouse, Ione; and Walter Hayes, Boardman, will meet with the court to prepare the county budget for the coming year. It will then be published and a public hearing will be set following the publication.

## Tax Reappraisal Notices Being Sent

Mrs. Joe Hughes, county assessor, said today that her office is sending out notification cards to all residents who have done any residential or business building remodeling that has necessitated an increase in assessment of more than \$100 or five percent. The cards advise the owners of the new assessment, she said.

Notification is not being given in the case of new construction, but only in the case of remodeling or additions which have been reported to the office and which have been reappraised. She said that in numerous cases when one reappraisal was made, the office has been advised of other such improvements which had not previously been reported to the assessor.

The notification is made to give owners an opportunity to appear before the equalization board if they do not agree with the assessment.

## Mill Back-To-Work Call Given for Monday Morning

Present plans call for the start of work at the Heppner Lumber Company next Monday morning. It was announced today by Orville Smith manager, following a shutdown since last weekend due to the threat of a strike in the IWA-CIO lumber mills of the northwest.

The break in the planned industry-wide strike came late last Saturday afternoon when both the Union and industry representatives asked for an extension of the deadline which had been set for last Monday morning. The local mill was unable to operate this week because it was practically out of logs, and considerable repair work has been undertaken during the shutdown.

Smith said Wednesday that the company hopes to start the logging end of the operation next Monday in the Rock Creek area, and that with the small number of logs on hand, enough for about two days, the plant should be able to operate continually.

Representatives of the union local met with the management early this week and tentatively agreed to return to work under the terms of the old contract. The members of the local must vote approval of the agreement, and it is understood that a meeting was called for Wednesday night. News reports appearing during the past several days have told of numerous locals in the area returning to work under the terms of their former contracts, such as has been proposed here.

Employees here, actually have not lost any pay because of the week's layoff, it was said, as the start of their regular vacation period normally falls on May 1. Many, however, would not normally take their time off at this time.

## Candidates Meeting Set For Monday

A public meeting at which time all candidates for public office have been invited to speak, will be held next Monday evening, May 10 at the court house in Heppner. It is being sponsored by the Morrow county Republican central committee, J. O. Turner, chairman, announced early this week.

Turner said invitations have been extended to all candidates, either Republican or Democrat, who are running for the offices of county judge, clerk, assessor, commissioner and state representative.

## George Reid Named New Police Chief

The city council Monday appointed George Reid, present night police officer, to the position of acting chief of police to fill the position left unfilled since Rescoe Kelley took a leave of absence nearly three weeks ago. Kelley is currently seeking the office of Umatilla county commissioner.

Also hired on a temporary basis at least for the present, was Thomas J. Walker of McNary, who will serve as night officer. Walker has had considerable police experience, having served as deputy sheriff in Washington for five years, and more recently on the police department at McNary. Both men assumed their new positions Tuesday.

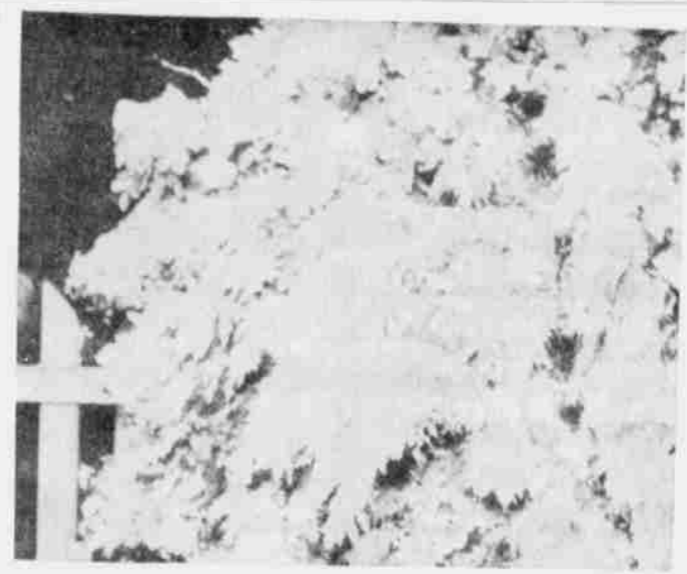
## Heppner Churches to Hold Vacation Bible School May 31-June 5

The Union Vacation Bible school will be held in Heppner from May 31 to June 5, it was announced this week. The Methodist, Christian and Episcopal churches are cooperating to give a graded school.

The beginners, who will consist of next year's kindergarten and first grade students will be held in one church; those now in the first, second and third grades in another; and students in the fourth to sixth grades in the third.

Junior high and high school students will be used as assistants, but it was announced that more teachers are still needed in all departments. Parents are urged to send their children if they are old enough for kindergarten by next year.

The school will be held from 9 to 11:30 each day.



YES, IT'S SNOW!—This snow-laden evergreen shrub in a Heppner yard shows how much of the moisture filled white fluff fell on the area during the last Thursday night's storm—nearly five inches of snow lay on the ground when residents awoke Friday morning. The April 30 storm, one of the latest snow storms in recent years, was general over this section of the state and the heavy moisture content brought much pleasure to farmers who are facing a season of short irrigation water due to lack of mountain snow pack. (GT Photo)

## Clark Not to Run For School Director, Post to be Open

Barton Clark, a member of the Heppner school board, made public Tuesday night a statement that he will not be a candidate for reelection to the board at the school election June 21. Clark indicated that his personal business would not allow him to accept another term.

No one has as yet, indicated their intentions to run for the vacant post, which will be for a three-year term. The announcement was made at the regular board meeting.

The board examined a revised plan of the proposed new elementary school building and received word from the architect that the estimated cost of the 12-room building would be from \$350,000 to \$375,000. This figure would not include the cost of the property or any improvements upon it. Further revision of the plans will be made in the near future and they will be returned to the architects for preparation of further specifications.

No date has yet been set for the special bond election which must be approved by the people before the building can be built. An appraisal of the site property has been made by an outside appraiser, but the figures have not yet been received by the board. As soon as all estimates are in hand, the date of the election and the amount of the bond issue will be determined.

## Two Lexington Girls Named Top Students Of Graduating Class

Miss Beverly Nolan has been selected valedictorian of the Lexington high school graduating class by virtue of attaining the highest scholastic average for her four years of high school work, superintendent James Vanover revealed this week. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Millard Nolan.

Beverly has attended the Lexington schools since the fifth grade and was a leader of her class throughout the eight years. She was selected as the outstanding school citizen her junior year and received the Beech citizenship award. In March she was awarded a \$200 scholarship for winning the Elks scholarship contest in Morrow county.

Salutatorian honors go to Betty Messenger who also boasts a high scholastic attainment. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Truman Messenger and all her schooling, elementary and high school, has been at the Lexington schools.

Both girls have been active in many student activities. Their plans for the future are still indefinite.

## Two Friends Meet Here After 50 Years

Ben Buschke, one of Heppner's oldest residents, last Saturday had a visit with another "youngster", Edward C. Pease, 94 of The Dalles, whom he had not seen since 1904. Both men thought the other was dead.

Mr. Pease recently learned that Buschke was still living and made the trip to Heppner to visit and to talk over old times. They had become acquainted in the 1890s when Buschke lived in The Dalles. Mr. Pease at that time was a wool shipper. Mr. Buschke plans to go to The Dalles in the near future to catch up on some of the 50 years of news that he has missed.

## Homemakers Meet Attracts Over 200

Some 200 women of Morrow county gathered at the Fair Pavilion in Heppner Wednesday for the Homemakers Festival.

The main speaker of the day was Miss Viola Hansen, State Agent, Home Economics, at Oregon State College in Corvallis. She spoke on Why We Should Be Concerned About the Refugees in Europe, and she told of some of her experiences while working with the displaced persons in Europe. She explained the difference between a refugee and a displaced person, and said "they are in need and we need to help them". Most of this work is done through the churches. God is one thing that all Christian people have in common, regardless of nationality.

There were exhibits by extension units of Rhea Creek, Boardman, Heppner, Pine City, Ione, Irigon, Heppner Mother's Club, Lexington, Lena, County Committee, Mrs. E. M. Baker and Mrs. Norman Nelson, delegates to the Triennial conference and by N. C. Anderson, Morrow county agent. During the morning session Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Nelson showed slides and movies and gave a report on their trip to the Triennial conference in Canada.

Mrs. W. A. Ruggles was toastmistress at the luncheon, which was prepared and served by the women of the Rhea Creek grange. During the afternoon, besides the main speaker, there was a style revue and musical numbers by Larry Rietmann, Malcolm McKinney, Dick Ekstrom, Lawrence Jones, Dennis Swanson and Sam Barnett all from Ione. They were introduced by Gene Rietmann and did a bottle act consisting of She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain, Oh Suzanna, Bring Back My Bonny and Merry Widow Waltz, Dennis Swanson and Larry Rietmann then sang several numbers and played the Saxophone and trumpet, accompanied on the piano by Gene Rietmann.

The county committee is Mrs. Earl Blake, chairman; Mrs. William Garner, vice chairman; Mrs. Ray Drake, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Lester Cox, Mrs. Ben Anderson, Mrs. Lloyd Berger and Mrs. Omar Rietmann.

There was group singing both in the morning and afternoon and the Lexington Garden club gave a surprise feature and the Irigon group furnished a musical pantomime.

## Ron Baker Named to High College Office

It was recently announced in the Daily Evergreen, Washington State College daily paper, that Ron Baker, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Markham Baker of Ione, has been elected president of the Associated Students of the College of Agriculture at WSC. Baker is a junior at WSC majoring in animal husbandry.

He was also recently announced a candidate for membership in Phi Kappa Phi, WSC honor society which includes in its membership graduate students, alumni, faculty and undergraduates. Initiation will be held May 20.

### P-TA MEET WEDNESDAY

The Heppner P-TA will meet at 8 p. m. Wednesday, May 12 at the school with Mrs. Jack Van Winkle in charge of the program which will include a fashion review by the school home economics class. Hostesses will be Mrs. Loyd Burkenbine and Mrs. Bill Barratt.

## Carryover Snow Pack Gone; Area Rainfall Lower

Had it not snowed last Thursday night, Tom Wilson, Heppner Soil Conservationist, would have had exactly nothing to report for his trouble in taking a snow reading at the Arbuckle snow course Friday, May 1. Even with the late April fall, irrigation water prospects were not bright for the summer months.

Wilson found that the Thursday night snowfall, which dropped from four to five inches of the white stuff on all of this section of Morrow county, had left the same amount in the higher elevations. There was however, no carryover pack, with the exception of a few small drifts in the shaded places. Wilson reported that the water content of the thin layer he did find averaged about 30 percent.

Snow course measurements have not been taken in May in previous years, but because of the very light mountain pack this year it was decided to check it at this time. Wilson did find lots of moisture in the area, with all streams running, but the prospects of a continued runoff were poor due to lack of any snow cover.

### Rainfall Down

Weather records here showed the April 30 snowfall in Heppner totaled nearly five inches with a moisture content of 48 inch which brought the month's total to 97 inch and gave the area a total of only 3.87 inches since January 1. This is only about one-half of the amount recorded during the same period in 1953 when 6.24 inches was recorded.

Temperatures late last week dropped well below freezing with several points in this area showing readings in the low 20s, but as far as is known no particular damage resulted except a few isolated home fruit trees. The cold weather at that time however, caused considerable crop loss to peas and fruits in the Mill-Town-Freewater and Athena areas, it was reported.

Though the rainfall in the county is down for most year, most wheat farmers report this year's crop is doing very well. The precipitation which has come since the first of the year has been very well spread, with no exceptionally warm weather or strong winds to dry out the soil.

## Outdoor School Band Concert Set Sunday Afternoon at Park

The combined Heppner grade and high school bands will present a public band concert next Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the courthouse park. James Wilson, director announces.

The group, which includes the grade, beginners and high school bands, as well as the high school dance band will play a varied program of music including three selections by the grade school band; three by the dance band; two by the beginners band and six by the high school organization. In addition there will be several ensemble selections.

The music program in the Heppner schools has made much progress during the past year under Wilson's direction and the concert is planned to give the public the opportunity to hear the accomplishments of the students. There will be no charge.

## Vanover to Move To Reedsport

James Vanover, superintendent of the Lexington schools for the past two years, announced this week that he has tendered his resignation from the position and has accepted the post of vice principal of the Union high school at Reedsport, Ore.

Vanover will assume his duties at Reedsport in July and will move his family to the Oregon coast town shortly after the end of the present school year.

Prior to going to Lexington, he taught in the Heppner school system.

### JUVENILES APPREHENDED

Two juveniles have been taken into custody by the sheriff's office following their reported confession of breaking into the Boardman Hardware store April 22. A 22 rifle with scope, shells and a small amount of other merchandise was taken.

They will appear before the juvenile judge in the near future.

## KICKOFF DANCE ON JULY 24 WILL OPEN FAIR AND RODEO PROGRAM

The opening of the round of activities prior to the Morrow county Fair and Rodeo will start Saturday, July 24 with a Kick-off dance, it was announced last week following a meeting of the rodeo committee. The Queen's dance on August 27 will be the last of the series of weekly events prior to the opening of the fair and rodeo.

The other dances scheduled will be the Lexington grange princess dance on July 31; Willows grange princess dance, Aug. 7; Rhea Creek grange princess dance, Aug. 14; and the Lena community princess dance at the fair pavilion on Aug. 21. The fair dances will be on two nights again this year, Sept. 3 and 4. Jack Van Winkle will again serve as chairman of the dance committee.

The royalty dances will honor Queen Grace Miller of Boardman and princesses Janet Howton, of Ione; Deanna Steagall, Lexington; Patsy Wright, Rhea Creek; and Christine Swaggart of Lena.

### FIREMEN TO DRILL

The regular meeting and drill of the Heppner fire department is called for 7:30 Monday, May 10.

Mrs. Dale S. Baker of West Lafayette, Indiana, was visiting with her mother, Mrs. John Brosnan last week.



REV. ROBERT A. UPHOFF, pastor of the Central United Protestant church at Richland, Wash., who will be the Commencement speaker at Ione high school graduation exercises to be held Wednesday evening, May 26 at the school cafeteria. Rev. Uphoff came to the coast in 1950 from the midwest where he received his education and started his pastorate.