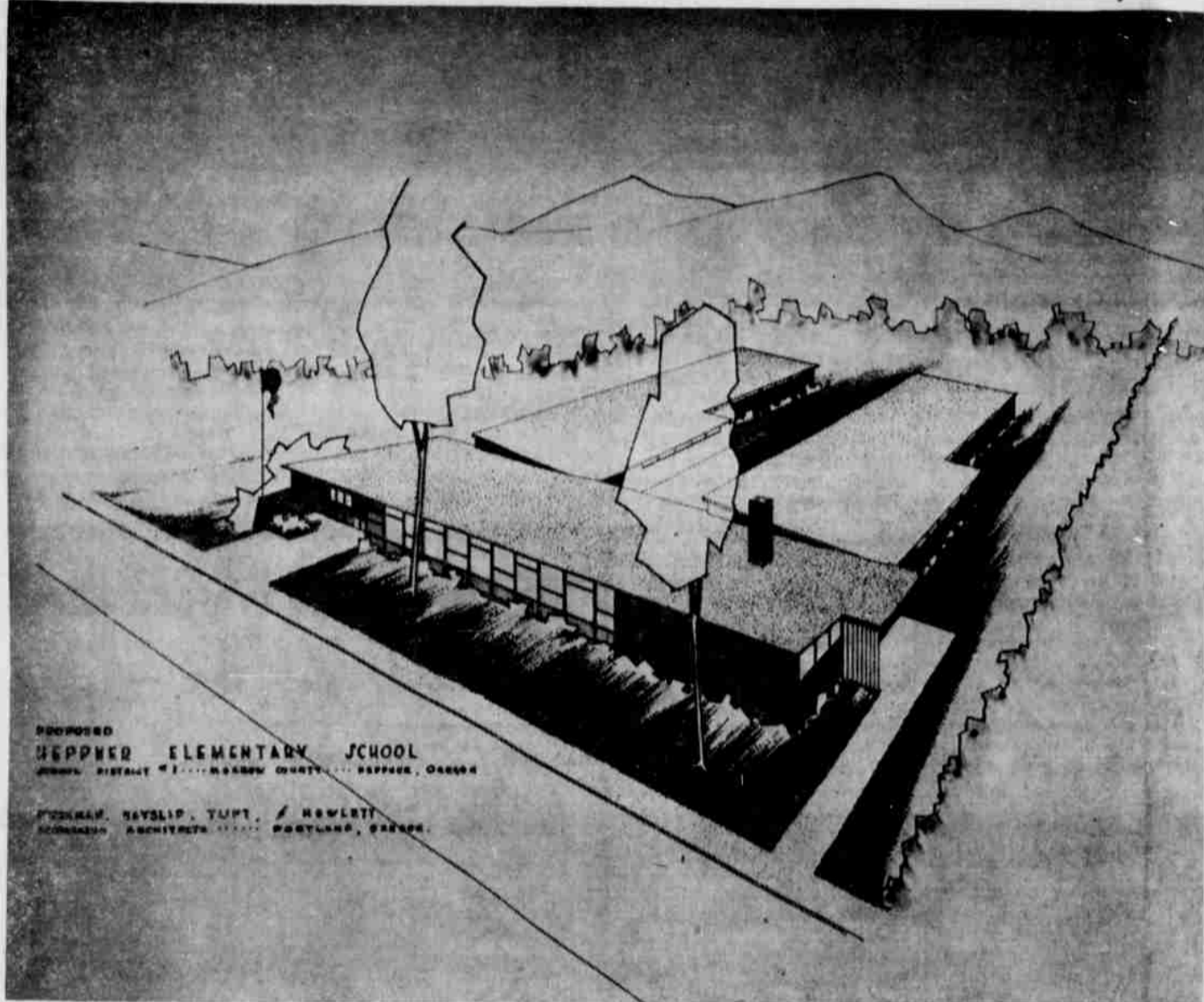


Voters to Decide School Bond Issue Next Tuesday



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING of the planned new Heppner elementary school which will be built immediately if voters approve a requested \$325,000 bond issue at the next Tuesday's special election. The building will face Main street and will be located on land now occupied by Tum-A-Lum Lumber company and that owned by the city for park purposes. Plans call for 10 classrooms in the two rear wings, a library which can be used as an 11th classroom, furnace room and offices will be located in the front section facing the street. The building is

planned so that a multi-purpose room and additional classrooms can be added as needed to the north (left) of building. The channel of Willow creek will be moved more than 200 feet east of its present location to give a wide play area to the rear. Architect's plans call for raising the floor level of the plant four feet above street level to prevent any possibility of flood damage or water danger to the students. The building will house approximately the first five grades in the Heppner schools.

Revised Plans Call For Ten Classroom Elementary Building

The voters of school district No. 1 will go to the polls next Tuesday, July 6 to decide the fate of a requested \$325,000 bond issue requested by the school board to finance construction of a new elementary school building for the district.

The election will be held at the Heppner school and the polls will be open from 2 to 8 p. m.

The school, which has been the subject of long discussion and planning both by members of at least two entirely new school boards, as well as by many residents of the district, is planned for the Tum-A-Lum site in downtown Heppner, immediately adjacent to the present school plant. The site was approved several months ago at a special election giving the board the opportunity to go ahead with definite building plans.

Original board discussion centered around a 12 room building with a multipurpose room which could be used for a cafeteria, auditorium and general meeting room, but the cost of such a structure was estimated by architects to run about \$375,000 which the board felt was more than it and taxpayers wished to spend. Revised plans eliminated two of the classrooms and the multipurpose room, but left intact room for a library which can be used as an additional classroom for the present time, reducing the estimated cost to \$250,000 for the building. Purchase of the site, preparing it for use, architects fees and other incidentals will bring the total estimated cost to \$325,000, the amount asked at the special bond election.

The need for the new building and additional classroom space has been obvious for several years, becoming severe during the past school year when three school classes were housed, during part of the year, in local churches. The state board of education has classified the Heppner school as conditionally standard, basing its low rating largely on the badly overcrowded conditions. Should the district fail to meet the

requirements set up by the state, it could lose between \$45,000 and \$50,000 which it receives annually from the state in basic school support funds. Conditionally standard rating is given a school only temporarily to allow it time to make necessary corrections and raise itself to a standard rating. Plans on Display

Several large size drawings of the proposed new school, as well as detailed floor plan sketches of the plant are now on display at the First National bank in Heppner and in several store windows in town. Architects for the project are Freeman, Hayslip, Tuft and Hewlett of Portland, who have prepared specifications for a great number of the schools of the state.

Of interest to most voters is the announcement this week (in a special advertisement elsewhere in this paper) that even with the necessary tax for the proposed bond issue, taxes in the county will be lower than last year. The reduction has come about from a lowering of both the county and city levy and a readjustment of assessed valuation in the county. Even with the bond issue levy (which is planned at about 5 and one-half mills) most taxes will show a sharp reduction in the district. An exact figure for next year is not yet available from the county assessor's office, but the figures used in the school board statement reflect at least minimum reductions. According to reports, the completion of the assessing program for the next fiscal year could show even greater reductions than now reported.

The school board hopes for a heavy vote at the Tuesday election and members have expressed the opinion that the high interest in the new school will bring out one of the biggest special election votes in the history of the district.

Mrs. Harry W. Nelson and three daughters of Portland are visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Parker.

Clean-Up Response Too Good, Pickups Being Continued

Cleanup campaign chairmen of the chamber of commerce said this week that the public's response to their city-wide cleanup campaign last week was so great that volunteer members of the organization were unable to handle all the pickups of refuse in the time allocated.

According to original plans, the group expected to be able to pick up all piles of trash during the week and hoped to finish the job last Sunday, but the response made it impossible for them to get to all sections of the town. They asked residents who have stacked trash on their curbs to be patient another day or two as arrangements are being made for trucks to make more calls today and Friday.

Jeff Carter, chamber president, said that the results of the drive were very gratifying and that many loads were hauled to the dump by volunteer workers.

Snyder Saddle Shop Sold to Elgin Man

J. E. Snyder announced this week that he has sold his saddle shop to Kenneth Green of Elgin who has now taken over operation of the business and is moving it to a new location on West Willow street in downtown Heppner.

Green, who moved here last week with his wife and four children, is currently remodeling the Lanham building which formerly housed the telephone office, and will be set up for operation within a few days.

Snyder has operated the shop on North Court street since 1944 and prior to that time was associated for many years with Gene Noble in the same business in Heppner.

LIONS INSTALL TONIGHT

New officers of the Heppner Lions club will be installed at a special meeting tonight (Thursday) at O'Donnell's Cafe. The meeting will start at 6:30 and will be open to wives of members.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Turner have had as their guests their twin granddaughters Jo and Jan Allison of Portland.

Heppner Swim Pool Opens Thursday

The Heppner swimming pool was opened to the public today with Stephen Trukositz serving as lifeguard and instructor, Carol Groshens as desk girl and Lance Tibbles, general utility man.

The pool will operate under the same rules and control as last year, council members stated, and since the season is late starting this year, the prices will remain the same as in the past. A small increase had been planned, but will not be put into effect. A family season ticket will cost \$7; season ticket for two \$6; single season ticket \$4. Single admissions will be: adults 50c; high school students 25c and children under 12, 15c.

The pool is open from 1 to 5 every day but Monday and with the coming warmer weather it will remain open evenings from 7 to 9.

The committee is anxious that patrons cooperate with the personnel in charge and hope that the pool is used to the fullest extent.

The council included money in the city budget for filter equipment for the pool, but members expressed doubt that it could be installed and used this season. The city plans to call bids on the equipment as soon as possible but it is expected that it will fall before it can be installed.

SCHOOL BOUNDARY CHANGE REJECTED

The district boundary board Wednesday rejected a petition presented by A. F. Majeske, Mrs. Bertha Hunt and Norris A. Leach asking that sections of their property now included in school district No. 1 be transferred to the Lexington district. The board ruled that geographical and transportation reasons made the transfer impractical. The requested transfer involved 2448 acres with a valuation of \$22,000.

MONDAY HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED HERE

All Heppner stores and offices will remain closed next Monday, July 5 in observance of the national holiday. The state liquor agency will observe the closure as will the post office and all county and federal offices.

Local Conservation District State Top Award Winner

The Heppner soil conservation district has been selected as Oregon's grand award winner in a 1953-1954 national soil conservation competition it was announced at Akron Ohio last week by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. sponsors of the program. Thirty of the state's 46 soil conservation districts were enrolled in the competition.

Newt O'Hara and Kenneth Peck, both of Lexington, will be guests of the sponsors with 98 other winners representing the other 47 states on a vacation trip to Wigwam guest ranch, Litchfield Park, Arizona in December.

O'Hara was selected by the Heppner district as its representative for the Arizona trip and Peck was named the outstanding farmer-cooperator. Rules of the contest provide for one representative of the state's first place district and the outstanding farmer-cooperator selected by the district to make the vacation trip with all expenses paid by the sponsor.

Other members of the Heppner district governing body are Charles Carlson, chairman, of Ione; John J. Wightman, Heppner; Raymond Lundell, Ione and W. E. Hughes, Heppner.

Second place honors for the state were earned by Mid-State soil conservation district, which nominated Frank Tatti, Rt. 1, Box 262, Bend, outstanding farmer-cooperator.

Both first and second place district will receive bronze plaques as permanent symbol of their achievements in soil saving at regional meeting of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts later this year.

Members of the Oregon state judging committee who selected the state's winners are: Robert C. Baum, executive secretary, state soil conservation committee; C. A. Nish, retired farmer, Cannon Beach; D. D. Hill, head, farm crops department, Oregon State College; Harold Towner, state conservationist and Ivan Oakes, executive secretary, Oregon state natural resources committee.

Rhea Creek Road Oiling Contract Awarded by State

The state highway commission at its meeting last Wednesday in Portland accepted the low bid of \$63,660 submitted by the Rogers Construction company of Portland for the construction and surfacing of 7.77 mile of the Rhea creek road from Jordan to the mouth of Keek canyon. The bid was referred to highway engineers with power to award.

The funds for the project will come from federal, state and county moneys. Work is expected to start within a short time.

C of C Hears Safety Talk by Sgt. Snyder

Sgt. H. C. Snyder of the state police who is stationed at Arlington spoke at the chamber of commerce meeting Monday noon on the need of safe driving and of the value of safety campaigns and education.

Sgt. Snyder said that Oregon is carrying on a very effective educational program through the efforts of the Highway Lifesavers committee and he said that the general public is beginning to appreciate the efforts.

Snyder also said that the high school driver training program carried on in many state schools is one of the most important phases of driver education.

The group heard a report from the recreation and wildlife committee that Orville Cutsforth has purchased about 8 1/2 acres of the Herren creek meadow and is now cleaning the area and plans extensive improvements that it may serve for general recreational use. He is removing many trees and plans construction of fireplaces and tables. It was also announced that he plans to give the property to some organization or group if they will agree to keep it open for general use. So far he has had no takers, it was said.

Gilliam Voters Reject Hospital Plan

Gilliam county voters at a special election last Friday turned down a special levy of \$115,000 for the construction of a hospital at Condon. The vote was 352 no to 299 yes.

Local Flying Saucer Story Gets Nationwide Radio Publicity

The story published in the Gazette Times several weeks ago about the sighting of a group of unidentified flying objects by three local men has attracted considerable interest throughout the nation.

The story was picked up by Frank Edwards of the Mutual Broadcasting Company and aired recently on his network radio program which resulted in the paper receiving several requests from Midwest and Eastern U. S. residents for copies of the paper carrying the account. According to reports numerous individuals and organizations in and around Chicago are keeping a close account of all reported sightings.

The three local men, Al Lovgren, Robert Minck and Elmer Palmer watched nine of the objects cross the sky south of Heppner at noon on May 6.

Legion, Auxiliary Install Officers

Kemp Dick and Mrs. Elwin Hughes were installed Saturday night as commander and Auxiliary president respectively at a joint installation ceremonies of the Heppner American Legion post and the Auxiliary. Willard McMillan, Athena, district 6 commander was the Legion installing officer assisted by past local commanders, and Mrs. Lynn Boches, district 6 Auxiliary president, of Milton-Freewater was installing officer for the Auxiliary.

Other new Legion officers installed include Floyd Sayers, first vice-commander; Phil Blakney, second vice-commander; Glenn Ward, Adjutant; Don Frederickson, assistant adjutant; Alex Thompson, finance officer; C. J. D. Bauman, service officer; Donald Frederickson, chaplain; Lyle Cox, sgt.-at-arms; William Labhart, historian; junior pat, commander, Forrest Thornburg. Other Auxiliary officers are Mrs. John Hartman, first vice-president; Mrs. Jack Bailey, second vice president; Mrs. John Marshall, secretary; Mrs. Richard Meador, treasurer; Mrs. Alex Thompson, historian; Mrs. Walter Edger, chaplain; Mrs. Creston Robinson, sgt.-at-arms; Mrs. Donald Beltenbrock, junior past president.

Following the installation Miss Darlene Richmond of Hermiston entertained with dancing and aerobic acts and the program concluded with a dance with the music furnished by Duke Warner, Al Hult, Dewey Robinson and Carl Spaulding, commander of The Dalles post.

Salesman Loses Car, Merchandise to Fire

A heavily loaded Cadillac sedan owned by Clarence Phoenix of Portland, a representative of Trans-Pacific Merchandise Company, caught fire last Thursday evening on the Lexington-Hermiston highway about a mile north of the North Lexington elevator. It was completely destroyed.

Phoenix, who had spent the day in Heppner servicing accounts here, said that the fire apparently started from a flat tire which became overheated and burst into flames. Before he was able to extinguish the blaze it ignited the gas tank, sending the entire vehicle into a mass of flames. In addition to the loss of the car, Phoenix lost numerous articles of clothing and over \$1,000 in sample merchandise.

Two local firemen and sheriff C. J. D. Bauman made the long run to the scene of the fire but were unable to do more than cool the machine off sufficiently that it could be towed off the road. Bauman took the owner on to Hermiston to catch a train back to Portland.

County Budget Receives Approval

The Morrow county budget calling for expenditures of \$499,103 for the next fiscal year was approved by the county court Wednesday morning following a public hearing held at the court house. There were no objections presented.

The budget is up only slightly from last year when the total county expenses were set at \$495,125. The total tax levy for county purposes will be 113.112, the remainder to be raised from receipts other than taxes. It was turned over to the assessor for inclusion on the coming tax rolls. L. Adams, and Manuel Easter.

County Taxes and Valuation to Show Drop Next Year

Tax millage in Morrow county is expected to show a considerable reduction for next year, the county assessor Mrs. Joe Hughes, announced this week. Assessed valuation of the county is also expected to show a slight drop, though when final figures are compiled it could remain approximately the same as last year.

The greatest difference that taxpayers will note on next year's tax statement is the reduction in ratio percentage of tax assessed on personal property, the assessor said. In the past all personal property tax has been charged at a 55 percent ratio (55 percent of the cash value), next year this assessment will be reduced to 30 percent. The ratio on real property will remain the same as in the past, which has been 25 percent.

The reduction in the personal property category has come about as part of the current reappraisal and equalization program which is aimed at spreading the tax load more evenly.

Assessment figures just completed by the office, show an increase in the value of real property in the county. The total for next year is \$9,076,250 which compares with \$8,705,620 for 1953-54. Personal property values showed a sharp reduction from \$3,021,765 for 1953-54 to \$2,178,160 for the coming year. The total assessed valuation of the county, not including public utility figures which are supplied by the state tax commission and have not yet been received by the local assessor, will be \$11,224,945 which compares with \$11,700,760 for last year.

Public utility assessments are expected to show an increase over last year which will probably bring the final county total up to about even with last year. The public utility values on last year's roll amounted to \$2,373,014, which was down several hundred thousand dollars from the previous year.

Levy to Drop

Mrs. Hughes said Wednesday that while the assessment figures were completed the breakdown into the millage levy would not be completed for some time yet, however from all budget indications it is expected to show a decided drop due largely to the elimination of the 5 mill special hospital construction levy and a reduction in the general school levy of about 3 mills. This reduction, coupled with the lowered personal property ratio will reflect a sizeable lowering of taxes on many statements this fall.

Much of the change of ratios and increases in certain property classifications has come out of the current reappraisal program being carried on with the cooperation of the state tax commission.

Wyman Is Named Local Farm Chemical Service Distributor

Agri-Chem Inc. of Athena has announced the appointment of Lester Wyman of Heppner as Brea Aqua Ammonia service distributor for Morrow, Gilliam and parts of Umatilla counties. He will offer complete facilities, equipment and service for scientific crop building with nitrogen. Brea Aqua Ammonia, which is called a new low-cost nitrogen fertilizer, is manufactured by Brea Chemicals, Inc., a subsidiary of the Union Oil Company of California. Agri-Chem company has its distributorship for this area of the state.

Wyman said the company plans an extensive advertising campaign to announce the new product which is applied in a water solution.

Carl Linn Wins New Mail Haul Contract

Carl P. Linn of Ione has been awarded the contract to haul the mail between Heppner and Arlington, it was announced this week by Heppner postmaster James Driscoll. He will start operation of the route on July 1 under terms of the contract which calls for the same frequency of service as under the former contract which was held by Orville Gentry.

Linn's bid of \$5,680 was the lowest among the six bids received by the post office department. Others who submitted bids were Orville Gentry, Robert and Vernon Flatt, J. B. Way, Forrest L. Adams, and Manuel Easter.