

VOTERS REJECT SCHOOL BOND PLAN

LOSS OF STATE SCHOOL FUNDS SEEN POSSIBLE

State Department Issues Warning That Building Program Imperative

As an aftermath of last Tuesday's special school bond election, the Heppner school board and taxpayers may be faced with another serious problem—that of possibly operating next year under a seriously restricted budget, or of voting a special tax levy to make up for the state basic school support funds which may be withheld because the district has not taken action to provide better school facilities.

The information was given to the Gazette Times Wednesday afternoon by Walter Shold, elementary supervisor of the state department of education. He was contacted by phone at his Salem office.

Mr. Shold said that the Heppner school has been classified as conditionally standard, and that a plan of improvement was due in the state offices by July 1, to bring the schools here up to standard which is necessary if the district is to continue receiving state basic school support funds which last year amounted to \$46,000 and which are estimated at \$50,500 for the 1954-55 school year.

In discussing the necessary improvements to the Heppner schools (largely the elimination of the badly overcrowded classrooms), Mr. Shold said that "We will have to have something more or less concrete, or we must withhold state funds." He continued that the state department understood that the people must act upon an expansion program, but intimated that Tuesday's vote gave indication that apparently no immediate improvement of the district's facilities would be forthcoming. He said that the next distribution date for state funds is in August and that the decision on whether to withhold the funds would be made at that time.

New Census Gives Ione 333 Population

The city of Ione showed a big increase in population in the past four years, a re-enumeration just completed showed. The new population count showed 333 persons living in the town compared with a 1950 census of 262.

The new nose-count was taken with the help of the Secretary of State's office and under the direction of Norman Fries. Local enumerators were Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Mrs. Cleo Drake, Mrs. Merle Baker and Mrs. Echo Palmar.

The town will gain considerably in state tax receipts from the increase.

Air Force Gives Approval For Road Along Bombing Range

The county court this week received word from the Army Engineers that the secretary of the air force has signed an easement which will give the county right-of-way for its planned road along the east end of the Boardman bombing range.

The letter said that the actual papers can't be transferred until the air force has had opportunity to check the entire area for explosive materials.

Judge Garnet Garratt said that the letter gives the county assurance of the project's OK by the air force so that it can go ahead and secure the other rights-of-way necessary for completion of the road which will tie the north and south sections of the county together.

Fire Restrictions Now On in Forests

All National Forest areas within the Umatilla National Forest have been designated by Regional Forester J. Herbert Stone as areas on which smoking while traveling is prohibited because of the fire danger on and after July 1, 1954 and extending to October 31, 1954.

Camp fire permits are not required on the Umatilla forest, but is a requirement that camp fires be built in a safe place, cleared of all burnable material, and that they be completely put out before left even for a short while. Campers are required to have in their possession a shovel, axe and water bucket. All persons using the timbered areas are urged to use care to insure that no fire escapes.

Curtail Program

The effect of the loss of state money, which for next year amounts to nearly 25 percent of the total budget for the district, would undoubtedly result in a serious curtailed educational program here if the withdrawal were continued for any length of time. The only other alternative would be for the school board to ask for a special tax levy in the district to raise an equal amount of funds. Such a levy would have to be nearly 10 mills.

If the educational program were curtailed it would probably be through the elimination of the school lunch program, transportation of students by bus, and possibly the discontinuance of several classes now offered students such as agriculture, band, athletics etc.

When advised of Mr. Shold's statement, board members said today that they have been aware of the possibility that the funds might be withheld, but were strongly in hopes that the bond program would receive the approval of the people, giving the district a definite plan for improving the school's facilities and bringing the school system up to a standard rating.

The members said that they have had no opportunity to study the problem since the election, to know just what steps will be taken to save the funds.

County Wheat Support Price Up

Basic 1954 Morrow county wheat price support rates have been raised four cents a bushel over the previously announced price, it was announced today by Paul Tews, office manager of the local agricultural stabilization and marketing commission.

The new loan rate on No. 1 soft white wheat will be \$2.26 per bushel, Tews said. The increase was made to bring the loan rate up to 90 percent of parity. The rate here is four cents higher than in Umatilla county.

There was no change announced for the loan rate for No. 2 or better barley which remains at \$1.27 per bushel.

Tews said that he has received no further information on the new acreage allotment figures for next year, but said that it is possible that it is being held up pending final action on a congressional bill which could keep local allotment cuts to the national average of 33 percent. Morrow county took a 32 percent cut last year and another reduction of about 12 percent has been proposed.

Election of School Director Set July 16

The directors of school district No. 1 Tuesday set Friday, July 16, as the date for a special election to pick a director to fill the vacancy by the resignation of the former chairman, Mrs. Stephen Thompson. The polls will be open from 4 to 7 p. m. and the election will be held at the school.

The term of the new director will be one year and so far, only one person, Howard Cleveland, Heppner rancher, has indicated that he will be a candidate for the office.

Ione Man Named Portland Navy CO

Comdr. Arthur W. Bergstrom, USNR, has relieved Comdr. G. F. Welker as commanding officer of the naval reserve surface battalion at the Swan Island navy and marine corps training center, according to Capt. E. L. Lugbill, top officer at the center.

A 36 year old veteran of the South Pacific action in World War II, Comdr. Bergstrom is a native of Ione and a graduate of Grant High school and Reed College in Portland.

He is now in the lumber business, headquarters in Eugene, but maintains his home in Portland.

GRANGE MEETS FRIDAY

Last week it was erroneously announced that the Rhea Creek Grange would meet Friday, July 2. The grange will be next Friday, July 9 with a potluck dinner at the grange hall.

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Harvest Starts; Wheat and Barley Prospects High

Harvest officially got under way Tuesday in Morrow county when D. O. Nelson, Sand Hollow area rancher, hauled the first load of wheat to the North Lexington elevator of the Morrow County Grain Growers. Al Lamb, coop manager announced. Nelson was followed closely by a load of barley from the Ashbeck and Luciano ranch on Butter creek.

Nelson is cutting Elmar variety wheat which has shown a test weight of 60 pounds and indications are that the crop will run about 20 bushels to the acre which is considered a good average for that area.

Lamb said the early shipments of barley had tested good and a heavy crop is indicated from most sections of the county. The last few days of hot weather has done much to bring on the crop.

The cool June weather has slowed the start of harvest for most sections of the county about two weeks later than last year, but several other ranchers in the north section of the wheat belt are expected to start operations within the next day or two.

Lamb said today that his previous predictions that there would be ample storage facilities in the county for all the wheat and barley were being born out by recent developments. He said that continuing heavy shipments of the county stored grain to terminal points has assured plenty of space to handle this year's crops.

Nelson was the first wheat rancher in the county to cut wheat last year.

Three Fires Keep Firemen Busy Over July 4 Weekend

Three fires over the Fourth of July weekend kept Heppner firemen busier than at any time this year, though only one of the blazes caused any great amount of damage.

The first fire was reported on Saturday afternoon when a barn on one of Frank Wilkinson's ranches about 6 miles east of Heppner on Willow creek caught fire. Two local firemen made the run to assist residents of the area keep the blaze from running. The barn was completely destroyed and several acres of grass and grain were burned before the fire was stopped. No estimate of the damage was made. The alarm was not sounded for this call as city trucks cannot leave the city.

Two calls were received Monday, the first to the Thoral Broad residence on Hill street to control a small grass fire, the second to the Allen Hughes residence on May and Chase streets where a blaze resulted from overheated cooking utensils. The fire had been extinguished before the arrival of firemen, but there was a small amount of smoke damage it was reported.

MORE FISH RELEASED

The state game commission released a truck load of legal size fish in Morrow county streams this afternoon.

The location? That's their secret!

MOUNTAIN CAMP BEING DEVELOPED; EFFORTS TO GIVE IT AWAY FUTILE!

Morrow county residents may soon have an attractive forest campsite available for their use, if plans now started continue to develop.

Orville Cutsforth, Lexington rancher, recently purchased about eight and one-half acres of the Herren creek meadows area adjoining his cabin and is rapidly cleaning the area and making plans to install camp tables, fireplaces, rest rooms and other camp conveniences. His problem at the present time is finding someone to give the land to, when his work is completed.

Cutsforth is willing to deed the land to some organization or agency if they will agree to care for it and manage its operation, but so far he has had no takers for his offer.

Cutsforth purchased the land several weeks ago and as soon as he made his plans known he received several offers of assistance

City Street Improvement Project Asked by West-Side Residents



NEW LIONS OFFICERS were installed last Thursday evening at a meeting attended by members and wives. Here outgoing president Lowell Gribble (left) is presenting the new president Al Lamb with the gavel and bell. Bob Vogel, president of the Pendleton Lions club, who was installing officer, watches. Other officers installed at the meeting were Loyal Parker, first vice-pres.; Robert Penland, second vice-pres.; Harlan McCurdy Jr., third vice-pres.; La Verne Van Marter Jr., sec-treas.; John Ernsdorff, tail twister; Bill Ferra, Lion tamer; and Paul Jones, C. J. D. Bauman, Ed Goaty and Pirl Howell, trustees. (GT Photo)

Funeral Services For C. H. Bartholomew To Be Held Friday

Funeral services for Charles Herbert Bartholomew, 76, who died Wednesday in Pendleton, will be held at 10 a. m. Friday at the Echo Methodist church.

Mr. Bartholomew is survived by his widow, Mrs. Phebe Bartholomew; one son Oscar F., Salt Lake City; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Sether, Seattle; Mrs. Faye Finch, Echo; Mrs. Lila Myers, of Echo; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He also leaves two brothers, Edwin of White Salmon, Wash., and Fred of Estacada; two sisters, Mrs. Jennie Sailing, Corvallis and Mrs. Eva Dooley, Estacada.

Mr. Bartholomew was born in Elmwood, Ill., Dec. 13, 1877 and had lived in Morrow county for the past 70 years. He will be buried in the Echo cemetery. Folsom Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, Mr. Bartholomew's family requests that contributions be made to the charity of the individual's choice.

Infant Daughter of James Petersons Dies

Word has been received of the death of Mary Faith, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Peterson in The Dalles. She was born July 5.

The Petersons just recently moved to The Dalles from Heppner where Mr. Peterson was connected with the Heppner school.

I. O. O. F. PICNIC SUNDAY

The annual I. O. O. F. picnic will be held Sunday, July 11 at Herren Mill site on Willow creek, everyone is urged to come.

Sgt. Wayne Wilson arrived in Heppner Wednesday to spend a month's furlough from Fort Bragg, with his mother, Mrs. Harold Castor.

Temporary Water Shortage Brings Use Restrictions

The weekend's hot weather, the first of the summer, has caused the Heppner water department considerable worry and numerous residents an equal amount of inconvenience.

Tuesday evening many residents of cemetery hill and those along the higher section of Gilmore street were without water for several hours when water use in towns exceeded the quantity available according to Vic Groshens, water superintendent. The shortage brought a request from the city that all persons use caution in the use of water until an improvement project now under construction can be completed.

Groshens said that the heavy use of water early this week for lawn sprinkling etc., had drawn the water level in the reservoirs down to a dangerously low level which caused a sufficient drop in pressure that residents on higher elevations were without water at times. There is sufficient water available from the city wells, but under the present gravity flow system only a portion of the available water can get through the mains to the city. The city has ordered special pumping equipment to enable it to put the water into the system under pressure, but a few necessary parts have not yet arrived. When the pump is installed it will practically double the amount of water available, Groshens said.

Care Asked in Use

Groshens today asked that all residents on city mains use care in the use of water until the new equipment is installed and he listed the following restrictions which must be imposed:

- Don't irrigate during the heat of the day.
- Don't irrigate all night.
- Don't waste water.
- If the fire alarm sounds, please shut off your water immediately.

Mrs. Maud Casswell Receives Fellowship

Mrs. Maud C. Casswell, county agent, home economics received word that she has been named first choice to receive a national fellowship, the Sara Bradley Tyson memorial fellowship. This fellowship comes from the National Farm and Garden Association, Inc., Washington, D. C. Mrs. Casswell received this fellowship due to her work as leader in home demonstration work, her interest in horticulture and her interest in advanced study in landscape architecture.

Since the fellowship does not restrict the school which Mrs. Casswell may attend, she is considering several schools pending opportunities. She will leave her duties as agent this fall to continue her studies in landscape architecture.

12 Blocks Would Get Curbs and Paving Under Plan

Residents of about 12 blocks on Heppner's west side Monday night presented petitions to the city council asking that curbs and pavement be placed on Gale, Center, Baltimore and Water streets. The improvement work would be done through the formation of an improvement district.

The streets for which the improvements were asked are Gale street from the Willow creek bridge to its south end, Center street from Main to its west end, Baltimore from Main to its west end. Also included was the request for the same work to be done on the short "no-name" street connecting Water street and the Seventh Day Adventist church.

In accepting the petitions the council decided to have all the necessary engineering work done on all streets in the area lying west of Main street with an eye toward more requests in the future for similar work. The engineering will establish grade lines for all curbs and streets and provide proper drainage of the entire area.

The council will set a public hearing on the proposals and if there are no serious remonstrances, will order the formation of an improvement district. The cost of the work will be charged against the property holders, but may be paid under a 10-year plan if the owner so desires.

When the project is completed, it will be one of the largest street improvement developments in Heppner in many years.

While discussing streets the council authorized the calling for bids on sealing and resurfacing many blocks of streets in other sections of town, as a continuation of the resurfacing program started last year. This work will start by August 1.

It was announced that the city has placed \$50,000 of surplus sewer funds in special time deposit with the First National Bank that it may draw interest until 1962 when the first of the city's sewer bonds are callable. The council last month had instructed the finance committee to investigate the best method of investing the fund. The city will receive 2 1/2 percent interest on the money.

Local Bank Deposits Reflect Increase

Quarterly statement of condition figures for the Heppner branch of First National Bank of Portland show that on June 30, 1954 deposits at the branch were \$5,632,990 and loans were \$1,608,334, according to branch manager J. H. Bedford.

Released at the same time were comparable totals for the branch for June 30, 1953. On that date deposits were \$5,370,358 and loans were \$1,811,374.

All-time record high figures for the First National Bank of Portland and its 67 statewide banking offices were revealed by C. B. Stephenson, president of First National. As of June 30, 1954, deposits at First National were \$703,181,710, loans were \$348,881,144, and resources were \$775,744,644.

In releasing the figures, Stephenson reported that all three figures represent large increases over a year ago. Over June 30, 1953, deposits at First National have increased \$151,113,575, loans have increased \$46,586, 651, and resources have increased \$161,189,363.

This is the first mid-year statement of condition issued by First National since the statewide bank purchased its 15 affiliated banks with 18 offices on February 8.

First National's capital funds now total \$60,877,792, exclusive of the reserve for possible loan losses of \$2,534,548, which represents the largest employment of bank capital, in the Pacific Northwest.

Building Program Stymied By 267 to 191 Vote

The voters of school district No. 1 Tuesday decisively turned thumbs down on a proposal to issue \$325,000 in bonds to finance purchase of a new grade school site and build a new elementary school. The vote was 267 no to 191 yes. Nearly 50 percent of the registered voters in the district went to the polls.

The rejection of the bond issue at least temporarily brings to a complete halt any program by the school board to alleviate the seriously crowded conditions in the Heppner schools. The planned new building would have housed the first five or six grades many of which were taught in church basements, inadequate basement rooms in the present building, and temporary quarters during the past year. The board is now faced with the problem of finding outside classroom space for at least an additional two rooms for the large incoming first grade this fall.

The heavy Tuesday vote was taken by some persons as an indication of disapproval of the planned location of the new building, however the site, the so-called Tum-A-Lum property was approved at a special election earlier this year and under school law the local board has authority to acquire and build on only such property as is approved by the people. The issue in last Tuesday's election concerned only the issuance of the bonds however, and had no bearing on the choice of location which was decided at the previous election.

Members of the school board said Wednesday, following their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night, that they were uncertain as to what course of action they would now follow. They did indicate that nothing could be done at least until after July 16, at which time a third member of the board will be elected at a special election to be held then. When questioned as to whether they planned to resubmit the bond issue to the people, the board said that they would have to study the problem further before they could make any decision.

New Lexington School Superintendent Takes Over Position

Lawrence Brent, formerly of Monroe, Oregon, has moved to Lexington and taken over as new superintendent of schools. He replaces James Vanover who resigned at the end of the past school year.

Mr. Brent served in an administrative position in the Monroe schools for the past five and one-half years coming there from Texas and Oklahoma.

He and his wife arrived in Lexington about two weeks ago.

Michigan Woman To Install Incoming Soroptimist Officers

Members of the Heppner Soroptimist club will hold their annual installation of officers at a banquet to be held at the Legion hall Thursday, July 15, at 7 p. m.

Installing officer will be Mrs. Arthur A. Buffon of Dearborn, Mich., who is Assimilation chairman of the American Soroptimist International. Mrs. Buffon is a native of Kildare, Ireland having come to the United States in 1920. She will come to Heppner from the biennial convention of the American Federation of Soroptimist clubs at Banff, Alberta. Mrs. Buffon is a past president of the Dearborn club and has served as area extension chairman for Michigan. She was chosen outstanding "Dearborn Citizen" and the Woman of the Year by her club. She served in the R. A. F. during World War I and she has three sons and one daughter who have served in the U. S. Armed forces.

Heppner Post Office Receipts Show Gain

Postal receipts for the first six months of 1954 at the Heppner post office showed an increase of \$812.97 over the same period last year, postmaster James Driscoll revealed this week. The local office did \$10,886.78 in the six months period just ended against \$10,073.81 in the first six months of last year.

The increase represents that much additional business at the office, Driscoll said, as there have been no major rate increases in the last year.

The office has shown constant gains during the past 10 or more years.