

Heppner Gazette Times

Copies 10 cents

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, July 29, 1954

71st Year, Number 20

Total County Tax Valuation Shows Drop From Last Year

Total tax valuation of Morrow county property will show a drop of \$666,040 for the 1954-55 year it was revealed today with receipt by the assessor's office of public utility appraisal figures from the state tax commission. Total valuation is \$13,410,340.

Part of the big drop is accounted for in the new utilities figures which are prepared by the state commission as the total for the coming year is \$2,185,394, which reflects a drop of \$187,620 in this category. Another big reduction is found in the personal property classification which this year is assessed at 30 percent of its true cash value as against 55 percent in past years. All real property is assessed at 25 percent of value. Some of the reductions were offset however, by a sizeable increase in the value of timber lands and in the appraisal of considerable new construction and remodeling that had not appeared on the tax rolls in the past.

Even with the reduction in valuation, county taxpayers will enjoy a sizeable reduction in taxes next year, it was pointed out. The overall county levy is expected to be down between seven and seven and one-half mills due to the reduction in the county school tax and the dropping of the special five-mill hospital construction levy. What the exact millage levy will be has not yet been determined, the assessor pointed out.

A breakdown of the total assessment shows the valuation in the following divisions to be: Lands, \$7,694,980; towns, \$1,353,255; personal property, \$2,176,710; public utilities, \$2,285,395.

Farm Bureau To Have Swimming Party

The Morrow County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a swimming party and weiner roast at the lone pool on Saturday August 7, for all members and their families.

Swimming will be from 8:00 to 10:00 p. m. The weiner roast begins at 9:30 p. m.

Jackie Ernsdorff, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ernsdorff, is spending the summer vacation with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tonani of Spokane Washington.

HISTORY OF HOSPITAL AND ITS INCREASED OCCUPANCY TOLD C OF C

With the coming construction of an additional wing on the Pioneer Memorial hospital, chamber of commerce members were told Monday of the need for the addition and also a history of the hospital and its operation by John Ernsdorff, administrator of the institution.

Ernsdorff told the group of the early attempts to get an adequate hospital here and how a small tax levy was started in 1945 to build up a fund for a building. He told of the progress of the plan and how part of the money came from donations, through the development and construction to the dedication of the building in June of 1950.

He pointed out the tremendous increase in use of the hospital since it was opened and gave the following figures on occupancy: 1950 253 patients, 39.3 percent of capacity; 1951 674 patients and



Princess Deanna Steagall

First Princess Dance to Honor Deanna Steagall

Princess Deanna Steagall will be honored this Saturday night at the first of the series of Princess dances leading up to the Morrow county fair and rodeo. The dance will be held at the fair pavilion in Heppner.

Princess Deanna, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Steagall of Lexington, is being sponsored by the Lexington Grange and that organization is also sponsoring her dance Saturday.

Princess Deanna was born in Heppner and attended school here until the 7th grade. She then transferred to St. Joseph's academy in Pendleton where she will be a senior this fall. She is 16

years old, 5 feet 7 and one-half inches tall, has brown hair and brown eyes.

Her school activities include being secretary-treasurer of her junior class and she has been active in 4-H club work for four years with sewing and cooking being her favorite subjects.

Logically, Deanna's main hobby is horseback riding and she doesn't have to take a back seat to anyone when it comes to handling a horse. Her experience comes from a lifetime of riding. She has her own sorrel quarter-horse, Baldy, and she will ride him during the fair and rodeo activities.

Though she puts riding first on her list of hobbies, she enjoys dancing as next best and follows that with cooking and swimming. Reports tell that she is also a good performer in both the latter hobbies.

Duke Warner and his orchestra will again provide the music for Saturday's dance with the admission to be \$1.25 per person.

Case Furniture Adds Piano, Organ Lines

The Case Furniture company announced this week that it has made arrangements to display and sell pianos and organs for the Jack Mulligan Piano and Organ company of Pendleton.

The lines represented will be the Baldwin, Chickering and Wuritzer pianos, Baldwin Electronic organs and the Hammond chord organ. The latter is designed for persons who have had little or no musical training as it can be played with about 30 minutes of instruction.

The instruments are now on display in the store.

Funeral Services For Charles Breshears Held Here Wednesday

Charles Henry Breshears, 82, retired railway worker and assistant Lexington postmaster, a longtime Morrow county resident, died at his home in Lexington Sunday. The son of John and Lucy Breshears, he was born on September 6, 1871 in Louisburgh, Missouri. He was married November 28, 1909 to Emma Wright at Lexington.

Survivors include his wife, Emma, daughters Marie Steagall, Lexington, Vera Whitlock, Brookings, Helen Crump, Corvallis, and Edwina Richeldefort, The Dalles; a brother Thomas Breshears, of Vancouver, Washington; twenty grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Rosary was held at St. Patrick's church Tuesday Morning and funeral services Wednesday morning with Father Francis McCormack officiating. Interment was at Heppner Masonic cemetery with arrangements in charge of Creswick and Seuell Funeral Home.

Morrow Map Drawing Begins

The first ink tracings of detailed maps of Morrow county will begin this week following the completion of extensive research here by state tax officials, Mrs. Joseph Hughes, county assessor, announced Monday. Clifton Peppell, Robert Irvine, and Jack Doty of the state department completed their surveys of county roads and deed records here last week, she said. Numerous defective deeds were uncovered and it was also reported that a large portion of road right-of-ways have not been removed from the tax rolls.

The maps are being drawn up as part of a contract with the state in the county-wide tax reappraisal program. They will be the first complete maps of the county ever made available, Mrs. Hughes said.

Ron Currin Wins District Farm Contest

Scoring 950 out of a possible 1000 points, Ronald Currin, 1954 Heppner high school graduate, won first place in the FFA Better Farming contest for the Blue Mountain district sponsored by the Oregon Kiwanis clubs. According to Llewellyn L. Robbins, vocational agriculture instructor, Currin scored 125 points more than the second place contestant.

A district committee appointed by the district FFA council visited each chapter representative's farm program and selected three district winners, from whom the first place winner is chosen. As an award, Currin will receive a 14 x 17 transparent print of his supervised farming program for the state fair exhibit.

Contestants were judged on adaptability of program to farm; long-time continuation of program; best use of home situation; interest and financial responsibility; technical knowledge of farming program; complete adequate records; approved practices followed; scope and quality; and profit from vocational agriculture instruction.

ATTENDS BROTHER'S FUNERAL

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Nash and family were in Hood River on Tuesday to attend the funeral services of his brother William Nash, who passed away in that city on July 24.

New School Site Election Still Planned August 14

Plans for a school site election on the presently owned Brock Devine property are continuing, Howard C. Reed, superintendent of schools, announced Monday. School officials are still awaiting word from the attorney general's office concerning the legality of offering a second site when voters have already approved the Tum-A-Lum property, but meanwhile it was decided to go ahead with plans for the August 14 vote.

A Boetj, state building consultant and Stewart Tuft, school architect will be in Heppner Friday to discuss the new site with board members, Reed said.

Stock Sales Show Seasonal Drop

HERMISTON — Fred Fredrickson of Irigon topped the market at the Hermiston livestock auction Friday with a 120 lb. feeder pig going for \$23.75 cwt. Delbert Anson, manager of the sale reports. Mr. Fredrickson also consigned a sow and 8 pigs that sold for a top of \$19.00 for the lot.

Harvest operations gaining momentum cut cattle consignments again. Consigned were 237 cattle compared with 388 the previous Friday and 13 low grade feeder lambs compared with 71 sheep the previous Friday. Hog volume was up somewhat, 112 compared with 75.

Demand was fair, quality considered, among packers and potato feeders, with no farmer buyers present and all consignments made up of very few head each, comprising a cleanup of odds and ends left on the ranches this harvest season. Feeder steers and bulls graded good, other cattle canner-cutter generally off 25 and utility off up to 50c. In strong demand among packers were grain or grass steers or heifers of top quality, with more of these animals needed next Friday.

Dairy cows were generally steady, and feeder steers started 50c higher at \$18.25 but were off 40c at the top of \$19.60. Poorer quality stock cows were down to \$135.00 per pair, off \$12.00 a pair. Fat steers were up 35c to a top of \$17.85 but were not sufficient to test the market. Hogs were off as much as \$2.90 cwt., due to mostly poor quality, both overweight and underweight. Potato feeders are expected to provide good demand for more steers next Friday.

Calves: Baby calves 11.00-22.00 hd.; weaner calves, steer calves 16.75-19.10 cwt.; heifer calves 15.10-17.00 cwt.; veal 15.75-18.75. Steers: Cocker steers 16.75-17.85 cwt.; feeder steers; 18.25-19.60; no fat slaughter steers; fat heifers grass utility, 12.00-14.00 cwt. Cows: Dairy cows 90.00-137.50 hd.; dairy heifers 29.00-38.00 hd.; stock cows 124-135 pr.

Slaughter cows: No commercial; utility 11.10-12.35 cwt.; canner-cutter 8.00-9.75 cwt.; shells 6.00-7.10 cwt.

Bulls: 14.75-15.70 cwt. Hogs: Weaner pigs 10.00-17.00 hd.; feeder pigs 21.50-23.75 cwt.; fat hogs 21.75-23.00 cwt.; sows 14.50-16.25; one boar, 14.00 hd.

Sheep: Low grade feeder lambs 12.75-14.60 cwt.; no fat lambs, ewes or bucks.

The Walter and Lawrence Bicket families spent the weekend at Lehman springs.

Kinzua Machinist Suffocated by Fall Into Sawdust Bin

Francis Edwin Ostrander, a machinist at Kinzua Pine Mills died of suffocation last Friday afternoon when he fell into a sawdust bin at the plant at Kinzua. He was brought to Pioneer Memorial hospital but had died before reaching here.

According to reports, Ostrander apparently fell into the bin about 4:30 in the afternoon, just ahead of the change of shifts at the mill, and was not missed until his body came out on the conveyor at the bottom of the bin.

Morrow Ranchers Endorse Allotments

Morrow county wheat ranchers proved to be more strongly in favor of the wheat allotments than the nation-as-a-whole Friday when they voted 321 for and only 6 against the continuation of the program for 1955. Slightly more than 50 percent of the eligible voters turned out here, and Paul Tevis, office manager of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation committee reported this to be a lighter vote than last year.

The national vote tabulation showed 195,801 for the allotments and 71,303 opposed. The margin of 73.3 percent for passage was reportedly a record low.

Local Legion Again Sponsoring Drive

The Heppner American Legion post is again sponsoring a subscription drive in this area to raise funds for the purchase of hospital equipment which can be used free by the residents of this section of the state. This is the second year the post has sponsored the drive, last year purchasing polio packs with their commissions.

This year's plans call for the purchase of a Pneumophore, or portable iron lung for emergency use in cases of polio, heart attack, asphyxiation etc., and it is planned to carry the equipment in the county ambulance.

Representatives are now working in this section and residents are asked to check their credentials before signing for subscriptions. Each one carries a letter signed by three officers of the local Legion.

The drive is of national scope with commissions going to the local post for the equipment purchase.

Experiment Station Field Day Aug. 5

Umatilla branch experiment station at Hermiston will hold its annual field day August 5, starting at 10 a. m. It has been announced by superintendent Carl A. Larson. The station is two miles south of Hermiston on the Hinkle road.

Highlights of the morning field trip include production of field beans and fertilizer trials on hybrid field corn. Hermiston now holds Oregon's all-time field corn yield record of 205 bushels per acre made last year on the basis of the branch station research.

Herman Bierman, county extension agent at Hermiston, will lead a question and answer session between visitors and Oregon State college research workers following a noon potluck lunch on the station lawn. Hermiston chamber of commerce will furnish coffee and lead tea.

Nearly 1000 Acres Burned Over in Sunday Range Fire

Fires continued to plague sections of Morrow county this week with the largest one to date starting about 3:30 Sunday afternoon on the J. O. Turner ranch just north of Swaggart Buttes. Before it was controlled it had burned over about 950 acres of grass and stubble and destroyed 35 acres of wheat.

The fire apparently started on the Turner ranch and then spread into the Ray Dolvin and Sam Turner places before finally being controlled several hours later. Turner said that he and two helpers had burned fire guards around two buildings early Sunday morning thoroughly soaking the surrounding areas and putting the fire out before leaving. Apparently, however, some embers still were shouldering and an afternoon wind fanned them into flames. Sam Turner and Dolvin lost only grass land though it took nearly two hours of hard fighting to keep the flames out of Turner's wheat.

The original fire skipped J. O. Turner's wheat field but while most farmers and helpers were trying to control the blaze over the ridge in the other farms it apparently jumped original lines and got into one 36 acre field. All but about one acre of this was lost, sending up smoke that could be seen for miles.

Other Fires Eother

Last Friday a grass fire broke out at the Joseph Hughes home south of Heppner burning an old 1929 Ford car and a locust tree which had been felled and cut up for fire wood. The flames were discovered by Whitmer Wright who summoned the city marshal and fire chief C. A. Ruggles who succeeded in putting the fire out before it caused further damage.

Wednesday morning Heppner firemen were called to the city dump to control a grass fire that had started from the burning dump. It burned over several acres of grass but firemen succeeded in stopping its progress just before it got into standing fields of wheat on the south and east. It was discovered by Herman Green, city garbage collector who tried to control it himself, then drove to town to summon aid. The lack of any wind prevented a serious loss.

A week ago nearly 200 acres of grass and wheat was burned on the Bill McClintock ranch near the Condon highway in the first serious field fire of the year.

Grass Fire Threatens Lone Home Wed.

A grass fire Wednesday noon for a time threatened the George Ely home on Second street in Lone but was extinguished by the lone fire department before it caused much damage.

The blaze burned into a shed on the property, but did not completely destroy it. It apparently started from sparks from a trash fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sumner and Mr. Art Wickland of Arlington were visitors in Heppner Saturday afternoon.

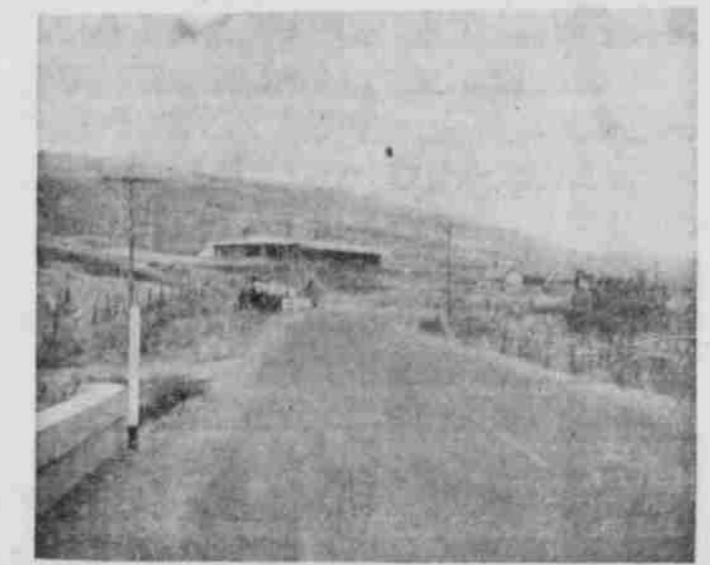
Mr. and Mrs. Al Bunch and family were visiting in Heppner last weekend from Parkdale, Oregon.

Mrs. Paul Brown was a patient at St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton last week.

Heppner's "Death Trap" Corner--Why Have So Many Accidents Occurred There?



DEATH TRAP corner is shown in this photo of the highway turn on which there have been 18 fatal or serious accidents in seven years. Photographer was looking south, the direction of travel of all the cars involved in accidents. The bridge abutment is located about 150 feet past the end of the turn.



LOOKING BACK toward Heppner along the route traveled by the cars involved in accidents at the spot. The bridge abutment can be seen at the lower left marked by the white post. Nearly all cars have left the road before entirely completing the turn and have been unable to regain the road in time to miss the bridge.

Investigation Fails to Show Any Single Cause for Numerous Wrecks

By Mrs. Bradley Fancher

An increasing number of local residents are using the name "death trap" in referring to the deceptive curve and concrete bridge abutment on highway 207 south of Heppner which took the life of Bill Wickland and injured five others last week. Since October 1947, 15 separate accidents have occurred in the 150 foot stretch between the curve and the small bridge which spans the creek, claiming three lives.

After the serious crash in May 1953 in which Price Greenup and Jack Hartman were killed, the state highway department erected two large scotch-lite "SLOW" and "CURVE" signs in addition to two scotch-lite bars by the concrete abutments themselves.

The measures apparently did little to eliminate the danger of the "death trap."

Since the Wickland accident last week an additional post and two scotch-lite barricades have been placed on the far right-hand side of the curve, but there is a question as to whether or not they too will fail to eliminate the serious hazard.

In reviewing the 18 accidents that have occurred at this spot, the concrete abutment itself would not seem to be the "cause of the death trap." In about 50 percent of the mishaps, the cars never reach the abutment. The accidents ALL involved south-bound traffic and ALL the cars left the right hand edge of the road. (Continued on Page 8)



THE BRIDGE--this is the corner of the bridge into which most cars have crashed. It is of the same design and distance from the road as many others on the road. (GT Photos)