

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Why Not Farm Fire Protection?

Recently a Heppner fire truck and several city firemen made a run of several miles into the country to try to help control a grass and grain fire that threatened to destroy many acres of wheat and numerous buildings. They didn't fight much fire, nor could they have been much help unless the fire had burned into an area where there were buildings. It wasn't because they didn't want to help, it was because the equipment they had to work with wasn't designed to travel over wheat fields and range land. Shortly afterwards the council issued orders to the fire department that there shall be no more distant rural calls answered.

The council's action wasn't taken just to be arbitrary or with any thought that they didn't want to help out a local rancher when he needed help most, it was taken because the council had no other alternative. The city's fire insurance rates are based on the amount of fire equipment and number of firemen available within the city limits and the rating bureau frowns (to put it gently) on taking city equipment any distance out of the city except under mutual aid pacts with other cities or agencies or for civilian defense purposes. Actually the reasoning behind the order is very logical—residents of Heppner pay a tax to provide for and support a fire department, therefore they should have the services of that department at all times for no one can know when every piece of equipment and every man will be badly needed.

Rural residents can and should have their own department, one with equipment designed to work at rural fires (just as city equipment is planned to operate where there are water mains and fire hydrants). Through the formation of a Rural Fire Protection district residents of the Heppner vicinity could provide for themselves the necessary fire protection that many other farm dwellers in the state now have. The city of Heppner we know, will be more than willing to contract with such a district to provide equipment, housing for it, manpower to operate it and a central point for alarm reporting. It is very willing to cooperate, but understandably, it can't foot the bill too!

A rural fire district is simple to form, and when placed in proper operation it can result in a saving of 5 percent on nearly all insurance rates on rural properties. It costs, too, as does any other similar service, but that cost can't be over 4 mills for the first one or two years, and then should drop to around two mills or less after initial equipment purchases. In many cases insurance savings would nearly offset the tax.

If rural residents are interested in forming a rural fire district, the city of Heppner, its fire department and the Gazette Times too, will be more than willing to help for we all believe that a properly formed and operated rural district can give a real and valuable service to its residents at a cost about the same as city residents pay for the same service.

The initiative must come from those who live in the area where such a district could be formed, but we, in town, will be glad to assist. Also, if this paper can answer any questions regarding the formation of operation of a rural fire district either around Heppner or elsewhere, we will be glad to do so.

The New Traffic Safety Plan

If you won't drive safely, you can't drive in Oregon.

That is the slogan under which the secretary of state and law enforcement officers launched a continuing campaign Sunday, to outlaw traffic accidents in Oregon. The drive is based on competent statistics that 90 per cent of all traffic accidents could have been prevented... and that they are the result of a careless, foolish or thoughtless human act. The weapon to be used will be the prompt suspension of the driver license of any person whose record indicates he or she is a bad driver or who is responsible for a traffic accident in which someone is killed or injured.

Last year there were 68,959 accidents in Oregon involving motor vehicles. In 344 of these accidents 290 men, women and children were killed. In 10,170 accidents 15,563 people were injured. Property damage in these crashes reached a staggering \$45,000,000. Although the safety activities of a large number of groups have brought the record of accidents for the first part of 1954 down by 20 per cent from the figure for the same period in 1953, there is still much room for improvement—more lives to be saved—more personal injuries to be prevented—and more unnecessary financial loss to be reduced.

Files of the state show that roughly 15 per cent of Oregon's automobile drivers are in the bad risk class in that they contribute to most of the accidents and violations. The program to be launched by the state to outlaw traffic accidents is to tell this group of motorists: "If you won't drive safely, you can't drive in Oregon."

This new policy on the suspension of drivers licenses will reserve the privilege of driving a car in Oregon to those who will drive without needlessly endangering others. If it can be enforced properly, it should make Oregon streets and highways among the safest in the nation.

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

We would like to remind all of our farm readers that it will soon be "fair-time". The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo is scheduled to start Sept. 2 and continue through the 5th. The North Morrow County Fair at Boardman will be the next week, ending the 9th, 10th, and 11th.

To make a good county fair, every one needs to contribute something. We believe that a county fair is a necessity if agriculture is to advance. Exhibiting your products to compare with your neighbors is bound to cause competition and therefore to make for improvement. We believe that this has been shown each year at our fair as exhibits get better and we hope more numerous. Comparing the 1953 fair with even one of 1947 shows big strides in the improvement of exhibits made. We hope they will make the same progressive strides at the 1954 fair.

While this is fresh in your mind, take a look around to see what you have that would make a good exhibit. Besides helping to make a good fair you will also have the satisfaction of knowing how it compared with the exhibits made by your neighbor. We are always short grain and hay exhibits. This should not be the case, since they account for the biggest agricultural income in the county. In comparison to livestock, hand goods, and needle work, our hay and grain exhibits should fill several tables. We are wondering why we can't have more in '54.

While we are talking about

son departed early Tuesday morning on a trip to Portland and Grays Harbor and Puget Sound points.

W. Claude Cox and family departed on Tuesday for Lehman Springs where they will enjoy an outing of ten days or two weeks.

All the wool on the Heppner market, with the exception of some very small lots, has been cleaned up.

Jack McCullough, Emil Groschen, and Paul Hisler returned on Friday from a trip to the Greenhorns. While there they called on Dan Stalter at the mine of the Heppner Mining Company.

Sheriff McDuffee and District Attorney Notson went to Boardman Friday morning on a case involving larceny in a dwelling.

It brings to mind my visit at the Multnomah County Fair at Gresham last Saturday afternoon. A lot of good ideas were picked up from the fair that might be used to our advantage another year. However, in looking over the exhibits, I felt quite proud of our Morrow county farmers for the quality and number that they exhibit in comparison to a large county like Multnomah. I was especially disappointed in the fruit and vegetable classes as Morrow county has during the past few years, exhibited as large if not larger than was evident at the Gresham Fair. This surprises me since the fruit and berries of that area as well as the vegetable growing there has always impressed me. I think our women too far surpass the home economics exhibits that were displayed there. Their flower and hobby exhibits were their big attraction. It does a person well to get away and see some of the neighboring fairs for ideas and appreciation of their own show. Why don't you plan to visit a neighboring fair this year. I am sure that it will either make you appreciate the fair that we have or give you ideas that will help to improve your fair for another year.

The cooperative grasshopper control program started on August 9th was completed the 17th. Five thousand two hundred and twenty-three gallons of spray were applied by air over that many acres during the flying time of the 6 mornings that applications were made. Approximately 2 and 1/2 ounces of Aldrin per acre was used as the insecticide.

Spraying was made on those ranches where infestations were heavy and ranchers asked for control program. Those having grasshoppers sprayed were: Gerald Swaggart, Don Greenup, George Curran, W. W. Weatherford, Randall Martin, Hynd Bros., Dallas Craber, E. J. Blake, Eb Hughes, Raymond French, Barratt Ranches, Don Robinson, Paul Webb, Frank Wilkinson, Bob Van Scholack, Jack Glavey, Paul Hisler, Ambrose Chapin, E. C. Dougherty, Luke Bibby, A. G. Edmondson, Charles Osmin, Peter Lennon, Alton Osmin, Ralph Beamer, Harold Wright, Walter Wright, Ray Wright, John Kenney and Raymond Ferguson.

Inspection made showed an excellent kill where spray was applied and where grasshoppers had moved into sprayed areas. Since the spraying consisted of

canyons and bottoms where the green feed is found, there are necessarily many grasshoppers on the range and in unsprayed areas that will be a menace for another year. A thorough survey of kills has not yet been made but will be conducted this week-end. Checking some of the canyons where spraying was made on August 9, kills with the count of 150 grasshoppers per square yard was found in several localities. Cooperating in the program were the farmers who provided the cost of airplane application, the Bureau of Entomology who provided the Aldrin insecticide and Morrow county who furnished the diesel.

Harvest of the experimental fertilizer plots which were located in all the soil type and rain fall areas in Morrow County, was completed last Friday with the harvesting of one located at the Kenneth Batty ranch at Hardman. Results of the plots in the northern section of our wheat land have been released. Yields are now being calculated from the remaining plots. With harvest Continued on page 7

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THIRTY YEARS AGO

From Files of the Gazette Times August 21, 1924

turned on Wednesday from Wal-lowa lake, having spent the week-end at that beautiful mountain retreat.

daughter Miss Opal Briggs, Mrs. Inda Bothis and Millard F. French departed Wednesday for an outing.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Anderson re-

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Briggs and

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Fergu-

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