

Date For City Park Special Election Set For December 22

One-Mill Special Levy Asked For Site Development

The people of Heppner will vote Wednesday, December 22 on whether or not they want a city park. The special election was set by the passage of an enabling ordinance Monday night by the city council.

Highly controversial problem of what to do with the piece of property located on North Main street which is now owned by the city, came to a head about two months ago when the city received an offer from a major oil company to purchase a part of the land for a service station. Before taking action on the proposal the council authorized the Gazette Times to run a straw ballot in an effort to determine the feeling of the general public as to whether they wanted a park or would prefer to have the land sold. The results of the vote were 72 in favor of a park with the necessary tax levy to provide funds for its development, and 12 votes against the plan.

The issue has been further complicated due to the fact that one of the buildings, which it is proposed be removed from the area, is the old civic center building which also houses the Jay Cee-ettes sponsored kindergarten. Some opposition to this move has come from the recently organized Heppner Civic League, a reorgani-

Meeting with the school board Tuesday evening, members of the Kindergarten committee worked out the beginnings of a possible plan for future housing and possible operation of the nursery school which has been carried on for several years by the Jay Cee-ettes.

The women's group is planning to prepare petitions asking the school to either provide space for the kindergarten or possibly take over operation of the program as a school function.

The petitions will be prepared and circulated for signatures in the near future, it was said.

zation of the Jay Cee-ettes, not so much against the idea of making a park of the site, but because of the possible loss of the kindergarten housing. The organization is attempting to work out some plan with the school board to house the nursery school in the soon-to-be constructed grade school building.

One Mill Levy Asked
The ordinance, as passed by the city council Monday, calls for a special one-mill, 5-year tax levy (not a bond issue) to be used for the development, construction and maintenance of a city park on the property. It also calls for the removal of all buildings now located on the land. The special election will be held on Wednesday, December 22 from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. at the city hall.

The newly formed Heppner Civic League is also looking into the cost of completing the remodeling of the old civic center building which has been under lease by the Jay Cees, subject to certain requirements of remodeling.

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Joseph F. Thornburg, Lexington, Dies in Washington Hospital

Funeral services were held on Wednesday at the Creswick and Seuell chapel for Joseph F. Thornburg, 65, who passed away at the Veterans hospital in Walla Walla Saturday night. Rev. Lester Boulden officiated at the services.

Mr. Thornburg was born in Mohawk, Tennessee January 18, 1889 the son of William and Sara Thornburg. He had been a resident of Lexington since 1895 and was custodian of the Lexington school for the past nine years prior to being taken ill. He was a member of the Oddfellows lodge for many years.

He is survived by one sister, Mrs. C. U. Pierson of Walla Walla; two nieces, Mrs. Harold Beck, Heppner; and Mrs. Rose Swift, Kellogg, Idaho, and a nephew, Forrest Thornburg of Lexington. He was preceded in death by his father in 1923; his mother in 1942; three brothers, Bert in 1947, Coy in 1948, and Ernest in 1944.

At the final rites Mrs. Vernon Munkers sang "In the Garden," and "The Sweet Bye and Bye." Pallbearers were Leonard Munkers, Eldon Padberg, Kenneth Klinger, Elwynne Peck, William Van Winkle Jr. and Everett Barlow. Burial was in the L. O. O. F. cemetery in Lexington with the graveside services conducted by the American Legion.

Cars, Cows, Bridge Involved In Wreck

Two cars, a cow and a highway bridge were all involved in traffic accidents over the weekend.

According to police reports the bridge came out of the scrapes with the least damage and the cow was the worst—in fact, she died.

A car owned and driven by Jim E. Lynch, Heppner, suffered considerable damage Sunday morning when it struck a highway bridge about three miles east of Lexington on highway 74. According to police reports, the driver apparently fell asleep at the wheel. He was not injured.

Also on Sunday a car driven by Richard Robison of Heppner was involved in an accident with a cow on the highway just south of Heppner. The car and the cow were the only casualties requiring that she be destroyed. The animal belonged to Marcel Jones.

Storm Drops Only Quarter-Inch Rain

The first December storm hit this area last Sunday night and Monday morning dropped only .26 inch of rain on Heppner but did add much-needed moisture to the totals for the year.

The Heppner weather station reported the .26 rainfall, with other nearby areas reporting as high as one-half inch.

The early week precipitation brought the year's total to an even 11 inches, which is over six inches less than 1953's figure of 17.09 inches.

Sunday and Monday's storm was accompanied by fairly strong winds in most areas.

Kenneth Smouse Named New Head Of Wheat League

Kenneth Smouse of Ione was named president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League at the league's annual meeting last weekend in Portland. Serving with Smouse will be Kenneth Friday, Wasco, first vice president, and Raphael Raymond Helix, second vice president.

Several major issues were discussed during the three day meeting including the giving of maximum emphasis toward obtaining adoption by congress of the league-sponsored "domestic parity" plan for a two-price wheat system and opposition to the present modernized parity farm price system. The group went on record as favoring minimum rate regulation on all intra state freight shipments, and also reaffirmed the league's stand that a state sales tax may be the only adequate solution to the state's increasing fiscal needs.

Market conditions and selling difficulties in the far eastern wheat market came in for considerable discussion at the meeting as did other problems which tend to put the region's wheat growers in a disadvantageous position in the world market. Storage difficulties during next year were also considered.

Smouse will lead the league, in which he has taken an active part for some time, for the next year.

Lawrence Cochran Claimed by Death

Funeral services for Lawrence J. Cochran who passed away Dec. 6 at Pioneer Memorial hospital, were held Tuesday afternoon at the Creswick and Seuell Mortuary chapel with Rev. John R. Reeves officiating. He was 80 years of age.

Mr. Cochran had been found unconscious in his home a few days earlier apparently from an attack. He never regained consciousness.

He was born February 14, 1864 at Arlington, Oregon, the son of Samuel and Theresa Cochran. He had lived most of his life in this area, though he had resided in Heppner for only about the past 15 years.

No immediate family survives him, only nephews and nieces. Burial was in the Heppner Memorial cemetery.

C. E. Brenner Wins Mail Haul Contract

C. E. Brenner of Ione last week was awarded the contract by the post office department to haul mail between Heppner post office and Arlington. His bid of \$6,580 per year was low for the nine or ten bids entered.

Brenner took over operation of the mail route December 1 and his contract extends until June 30, 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Jody Morrison and children Michael, Cheryl and Mary Jo of Ione were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ferrell.

Recommendations for Library Made by State Librarian

Miss Eliose Ebert, assistant state librarian, Salem, was a visitor at the Heppner public library last week. She spent Wednesday afternoon and Thursday working with the local librarian, Mrs. Ted Smith, checking old and dilapidated books.

Miss Ebert met with the library board Thursday and made several suggestions which the board hopes to be able to carry out over a period of time. Major suggestions included: an average of \$1.50 per capita for libraries, towns with a population of 2,000 should have 6,000 volumes in a library, and the library should be open to the public a minimum of 18 hours a week.

Children are also reminded of the story hour each Saturday with children from 5 to 8 years on the second and fourth Saturdays and from 9 to 13 on the first and third Saturdays.

It was also announced that the following books have been received during the past week: The Galileans, by Slaughter; All That Heaven Allows, Edna and Harry Lee; Clementine, Goodwin and Colt of Cripple Creek, Bialk.

Post Offices Plan Extra Open Hours

Both the Heppner and the Ione post offices will remain open extra hours on the next two Saturdays to accommodate the expected rush of seasonal mail. It was announced this week.

Both the offices will remain open from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. on December 11 and 18 and the Heppner postmaster James Driscoll said that the office here will be open from 3 to 6 p. m. on Sunday, December 19 to receive outgoing packages. No outgoing mail will be sent out of the office on Sunday, but by mailing packages on that day it will take a heavy load off the office on the following Monday and aid in giving earlier distribution of incoming mail.

New Veterinarian Starts Practice Here

Dr. James W. Norene, veterinarian, has opened offices in Heppner in the old McMurdo hospital building on K street. He came here from Grants Pass and Bend, Oregon.

Dr. Norene, a graduate of Washington State College and served for three years in the army. He is married and has one small daughter, his wife being a former Heppner girl, Corabelle Nutting, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Nutting, former Heppner residents.

Dr. Norene has been appointed county veterinarian and assist Dr. George Marugg, federal vet who has been stationed in Heppner for the past year assisting with the Bank's control program in the county. Dr. Norene has been assigned all territory south and east of the highway from Echo, to Lexington, Heppner and Condon. Dr. Marugg will handle the rest of the county.

Dr. Norene will offer facilities for the care and hospitalization of small animals at his office.



PARDON US—The Gazette Times sent out a special photographer to get a picture of the steer that Delbert Emert, Ione, donated to the chamber of commerce field lighting fund drive, and this is the result. Just because the photo took a double exposure doesn't mean that the calf really had two heads and a couple of extra legs, for Mr. Emert raises top quality animals. The one he donated was normal in every respect, regardless of what this picture may show. (Not a GT Photo)

County Road Work Showing Progress

The county court revealed today that the county road crusher finished work at its setting in Clark's Canyon and is now being moved to a new location about three-quarters of a mile south of the Lexington-Heppner highway near the Gene Majeske ranch where it will operate until this spring.

From the former setting, the county road crew has graveled 22 miles of roads in the area, and from the new location they expect to surface approximately another 24 miles of roads stretching from Rhea Creek to Blackhorse.

It was also revealed that construction is progressing rapidly on the new Boardman cutoff road along the east side of the bombing range. Work was started last Wednesday and early this week four miles of the stretch had been opened up with heavy equipment. The road will connect highway 30 just east of Boardman with the Lexington-Hermiston road at the North Lexington elevator, and will shorten the distance between Heppner and Boardman to 43 miles, a reduction of 19 miles from the present route.

The court said that when the county crusher finishes at its new setting it will be moved into the area of the new road and will start graveling the right-of-way. It is expected that the new road will be open to traffic by July 1. When completed it will be the first all-weather road connecting the north and south sections of the county, within the county boundaries.

DEADLINE DATE IN ERROR

Last week's story from the local ASC office calling attention to the deadline for obtaining CCC wheat loans on the 1954 crop, carried the wrong date for deadline. Rather than January 1, 1955, the date should have been January 31, 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Baker have returned from Portland with their son Steve who received treatment for an eye injury.

Rev. and Mrs. John R. Reeves were Pendleton visitors Friday of last week.

TV INTEREST BOOMS AT IONE; HOPES DIM HERE

Signal Strength Near Heppner Reported Poor

Hopes of many Heppner residents that they might soon be viewing television, along with most the rest of the nation took a spurt upward early Monday, then dropped back to their previous low point later in the day following a report from a TV engineer who was checking reception in the area.

Les Austin, of the International Telemeter Corporation of Los Angeles, spoke to the chamber of commerce Monday noon telling them of the intricacies and difficulties of getting good TV reception in some areas and announcing that he was planning to take signal strength readings in various spots around Heppner with the possibility that a usable signal could be received and a means found to "pipe in" reception to residents in town.

The reports on the readings taken Monday afternoon by Austin cooled local hopes, however, as it was found that no present station put sufficient signal into this immediate area to give good reception.

Austin explained that a signal was received at several locations but that the strength was too low to be satisfactory. He blamed the low signal on the high area to the west of Heppner, between the station (KOIN-TV Portland channel 6) and the sites tested. He said that Ione was getting good reception at the antenna site due to the fact that there is nearly 20 miles of low land immediately west of the antenna. The land mass west of Heppner tends to absorb the signal he said.

Austin did hold out good hope that when the new satellite station of KIMA, Yakima, which is being constructed on Horse Heaven hills south of Pasco, is in operation a usable signal would be received here. That station is due to go on the air about December 23, according to latest reports.

Distribution Plan Told

Austin told the chamber of the various methods by which communities such as Heppner can obtain TV reception. At the present time both non-profit coops, and private companies are selling television service in many communities.

Austin is not the first engineer to check for possible locations around Heppner for TV reception, and according to reports another independent check is now underway by another engineer. The results of his findings have not been revealed though it is understood that one or two locations may have possibilities for development.

Mrs. George Named Cemetery Director

Mrs. W. O. George of Heppner was elected to serve a three year term on the board of directors of the Heppner cemetery maintenance district at the annual election held Monday. She received all of the 32 votes cast.

Other directors are Harold Beck and Paul Jones.

Television Coop Formed to Give Ione Reception

A new television distribution company, the Ione Television Coop, was formed early this week and officers of the concern announced Wednesday that work is progressing on building a transmission line from the antenna site south of Ione, into the town.

Officers of the new coop are Denward Bergevin, president; A. A. Stefani, vice-president; Merle Baker, secretary-treasurer. The board members include A. E. Stefani, Delbert Emert, Vic Rietmann and Garry Tullis. The business is organized as a non-profit coop to receive and distribute television reception to the city of Ione and residents of Rhea Creek along the transmission line.

As set up, each subscriber for television service will receive one share in the coop and get one vote. Membership will cost \$185.50 for the hookup charge and the monthly rate will be \$3.85 it was announced.

Estimated cost of the complete installation is about \$14,000. It was said, and as more members join and the cost is paid out charges will be reduced. At the present time there are 22 members in the organization, which will ultimately require about 72 members to obtain sufficient returns to pay off the investment. Officers said Wednesday that the city, Ione, will be completely wired for TV reception so that memberships may be purchased and reception received at any point in town.

Reception Good

Very good reception is being received at the antenna site, reports Les Austin, television engineer, who represents the International Telemeter Corporation, and who has done most of the checking and engineering work on the new system. KOIN-TV, of Portland, channel 6 gives good reception now, and Austin said that as soon as the KIMA satellite station near Pasco goes on the air, on channel 19 it is expected to provide even better signals. He said the latter station should provide first class reception.

Bergevin said Wednesday that the new distribution line will be monitored at his home, the first location on the line, in about three weeks. He said that the coop expects to have service available in Ione in about two and one-half months.

Headquarters for the new concern are in the Archer-Daniels office in Ione.

Two Local Cattle Champions at Sale

A bull exhibited by Floyd Worden of Heppner was judged the grand champion at the second annual Round-Up polled Hereford sale last week in Pendleton.

Another local animal, a bull shown by Don Robinson of Kirk and Robinson was judged reserve champion as was a female shown by Roy Robinson of Mt. Vernon. Sixty of the animals consigned were sold by auctioneer Si Williams.

Water Use Development, Willow Creek Flood Control Needs Told in Report

The annual report of the Upper Columbia Basin Commission of Oregon, which was released Wednesday, touches on many of the major problems confronting agriculture in this section of the state. A portion of the summary and recommendations are given below, followed by a report on flood control needs in the Willow Creek basin and a summary of irrigation and pumping needs in north Morrow county and adjacent areas. Space requirements have necessitated eliminating much of the entire report covering this area, but the major points are given here.

PENDLETON — (Special) — There's a wealth of potential and partially developed projects in Eastern Oregon for harnessing water for irrigation, flood control

and power, according to the Upper Columbia River Basin Commission's annual report, submitted to Governor Paul L. Patterson and Oregon legislature.

But the commission found that development of water resources of the entire area is being handicapped by a lack of planning aid from the state level. And lack of funds for completion of surveys by the U. S. army corps of engineers and by the U. S. bureau of reclamation is holding up several projects, it was reported.

The report indicates in many cases local opinion on the desirability or form of projects needed has not crystallized and the commission found a need for assistance in developing and bringing together information for local and regional studies.

The commission report said the

state could help this development along by:

1. Broadening provisions of state law relating to bonds of irrigation and drainage districts as proper investment for public and trust funds. It was felt this might provide the stimulus needed for investment of private funds in irrigation development.

2. Providing technical aid on engineering and other matters for small irrigation projects, through the office of the State Engineer.

3. Providing more uniform watermaster service. It was recommended that legislation be enacted to make watermasters state employees, either on a direct or cooperative payment basis with counties. Under the present system, watermasters are appointed by the state and paid by the counties.

The report noted that many deservingly proposed irrigation projects in Oregon are facing repayment difficulties that could be "quickly solved" if enabling legislation were passed by congress for general application of a basin-wide repayment principle—meaning assignment of power revenue benefits for repayment of a share of irrigation development costs.

Willow Creek-Heppner Flood Control

"Practically the entire population and improvements in Willow Creek basin, including the towns of Heppner, Lexington and Ione, five small villages, and a considerable rural area, lie in hazardous locations and are in constant danger of partial destruction in summer months."

This statement comes from the

annual report of the Upper Columbia River Basin of Oregon, submitted Dec. 1 to Paul L. Patterson and the 1955 Oregon legislature.

Five major floods have occurred in the basin since 1882. The most destructive was in 1903, when 251 lives were lost. The most recent serious flood occurred in 1934, with about ten minor floods during intervening years.

The Army Corps of Engineers developed a plan included in a 1948 report for combined flood control and irrigation by construction of a dam on Willow Creek immediately above Heppner and just below the junction with Balm fork, its principal tributary.

Cost of the project was estimated at \$5,022,000 on the basis of 1948 price levels, of which

more than four million dollars would be for the dam and spillway. Annual flood-control benefits from reduction of damages were estimated at \$207,400, exclusive of benefits from prevention of hazards to lives.

Some local opinion has been expressed that a more practical and valuable long-range solution to the flood problem would be reforestation of upper Willow Creek and its tributaries with smaller and relatively inexpensive dams on this creek and its tributaries.

Neither the 1948 report recommendation nor a 1945 report on Willow Creek alone, which has not been submitted to congress, has been acted upon.

"Further studies will be required to bring those recommendations (Continued on page 6)

