

Heppner Gazette Times

Copies 10 cents

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, December 23, 1954

71st Year, Number 41

PARK MEASURE APPROVED

Voters OK One-Mill Special Tax Levy To Renovate Site

Heppner voters gave their approval Wednesday to the council proposed plan to build a city park. The vote was close however, with 63 favoring the measure and 55 against it.

The special election was called to find out the feelings of residents on the park question after the council had received an offer from a major oil company to purchase part of the property. The proposal voted on was to levy a one-mill tax for five years to finance removal of all buildings on the land, clean it up, and seed and landscape it. The one-mill levy will bring in slightly over \$6,000 over the five-year period. The levy can not be placed on the tax rolls until 1955-56.

Destined to be removed eventually from the park area are three or more old buildings, one

of which is the former civic center building which the Jay Cees had attempted to remodel over the past four or five years. One end of the building has been repaired and renovated and has been used as a classroom for the Jay Cee-ette sponsored kindergarten. This area will be lost for this purpose when the building is removed, but plans are underway to make room for the kindergarten in a school room, upon completion of the new grade school.

The other buildings have been used for storage at various times and one is currently occupied by Tunison and Wilson, logging contractors, as a shop. Eventually all the buildings will be removed. The area which will be made into a park and playground area is about two blocks long and quite narrow at the north end. It lies between Willow creek and Main street.

Had the voters disapproved the measure, the council members had indicated, unofficially, that the would probably sell the land rather than let it remain in its present unsightly state.

New Social Security Coverage to Effect Farm Workers

Not only are farmers themselves covered by social security beginning next year, but also many additional farm workers will then come under the program.

Starting January 1, 1955, one test only will determine whether an employee on a farm is to be reported under social security. If a farm worker receives as much as \$100 in cash pay during the course of a year working for a farmer, that farmer must report him as an employee under the amended social security program.

During the years of 1951 thru 1954, only regular farm workers those who worked five months or more consecutively with earnings of at least \$50 in a calendar quarter for a farmer were reported under social security. The complex time test for coverage has been dropped and the simple money test will become the only requirement for social security coverage for farm employees.

The farm owner will be certain to record the social security account number of any employee who makes \$100 during a year working for him. That social security number will be necessary in reporting the earnings and the farmer will save himself a great deal of late bother by getting the number as soon as he has paid the employee \$100.

The farm owner will deduct 2% from the earnings of each covered employee and will match that with an additional 2% in making his social security returns to the Director of Internal Revenue. Information on the making of these returns can be obtained from the office of the Director of Internal Revenue.

For further information pertaining to social security, contact the social security district office in La Grande, Oregon.

Kenny Turner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Turner, is home from Oregon State College for the Christmas vacation.



DOOMED—Heppner's old civic center building, the center of considerable controversy over the years, is one of the buildings which will eventually be torn down as a result of Wednesday's election which gave voter approval to a plan to remove all buildings on the north Main street property and make a public park out of the site. One end of the building has been remodeled in recent years and is being used to house the kindergarten classroom. (GT Photo)

LACK OF FUNDS HALTS "RAINMAKERS"; NEED FOR CONTINUATION REVEALED

Operations of the Tri-County Weather Research Inc., have been temporarily suspended. It was revealed this week by Ralph Crum, one, one of the directors of Morrow County Weather Research, a member of the Tri-County organization. Lack of funds, largely on the part of the Morrow county group, was given as the primary reason for the discontinuance of the "rainmaking" operations.

Crum reported that the directors of the Tri-County organization met the first of the week in Condon to discuss the problems involved, and voted to suspend until such time as sufficient funds are raised in Morrow county to bring its contributions up equal to what farmers in Sherman and Gilliam counties have contributed. This is the

fourth year the three counties have contracted for weather modification services, the current and last year's contract is held by Weather Modification Inc., of Redlands, Calif. The company has been operating an area office at Condon. The office will be retained there temporarily, but will not be manned.

Another major point discussed at the Monday meeting was the necessity of keeping some type of a program operating in this area. It was pointed out that because of other rainmaking programs being carried on in adjacent territories, farmers in this section are almost compelled to continue with one, to be assured of getting their share of normal moisture. It was pointed out also, that storms coming through this section of the state are "robbed" of their moisture, for the benefit of the other areas, when no program is in operation here.

Regardless of the need for continuation of the modification program in the Tri-counties, the directors were forced to discontinue the work until sufficient money is obtained locally to finance it. No definite financing plan has yet been developed, it was reported.

SERVICES POSTPONED

Services scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 26 at Vahby Lutheran church have been postponed until January 2 at 11 a. m., it was announced today.

Following the services there will be a coffee hour and the annual church meeting at which time a vote will be taken, either in person or by proxy, on whether to join the American Lutheran church in Heppner or to continue as in the past.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SET

The Lutheran Sunday school of Heppner will sponsor a Christmas program this coming Sunday evening, Dec. 26, at 7 p. m. The program will be held in the Heppner SDA church, and will feature a color filmstrip, "O Holy Night". All who attend will join in singing of Christmas carols, and the Sunday school children will present special songs and recitations.

Teachers in charge are Mrs. Ed Collison, Mrs. Al Fetsch, and Mrs. John Hartman. The public is invited to attend.

Three Schools Are Entered, Robbed Over Weekend

Two Morrow county schools and one at Arlington were broken into sometime last Saturday night netting the burglars a total of slightly more than \$550, sheriff C. J. D. Bauman reports.

The Boardman high school suffered the greatest loss, as \$496 taken there. At Lexington the intruders got away with \$62.50, but at Arlington the loot was hardly worth the effort as the cash box in that school contained only 17 cents.

Entry into the Boardman school was made by using a crowbar on the back door. It was found jimmied about 1 p. m. on Sunday by Ray Anderson, school superintendent. He notified William Garner who called state police. The safe, which Anderson said weighed about 450 pounds, was found by state police officer Ralph Pope at 4 p. m. Sunday in the state highway park east of town on highway 730. It had been opened from the bottom.

When Anderson found the jimmied door he went to the school office where he noticed a small cash box lying open which he had closed the night before after removing the receipts of a basketball game which had been put in the safe.

Also discovered Sunday by the janitor was the break in at the Lexington school where a north side door was found open. The safe, bolted to the top of a filing cabinet, had been pried loose and taken into a hall where \$62.50 was removed. Forty-two cents in change was found on the floor of the hall.

State police reported that the Arlington loss included just the 17 cents and a tin money box in which the money had been kept. The sheriff reported that at the present time there are no leads as to the identity of the burglars.

Post Office Mail Handling Heaviest Here Last Monday

The Heppner post office had its biggest jam-up of the Christmas season last Monday when over 80 sacks of incoming parcel post packages was handled here in addition to a heavy load of first class mail. Postmaster James Driscoll revealed.

Driscoll stated that the heavy mail load has dropped off considerably since that time feeling that the big rush is over for this year.

While postal receipts at the local office are not yet complete, Driscoll said that indications are that this year's business will equal or slightly exceed last year. Extra postal clerks, hired to aid with the heavy mail work of the last two weeks, have now been released, he said.

Income Tax Deadlines Listed by Specialist

Many farmers in Oregon are still confused regarding deadlines for their final tax returns, reports Manning Becker, farm management specialist at Oregon State college.

Becker says this is the schedule: Farmers should file their return and pay the tax on or before January 31, 1955. Or they should file an estimate and pay this amount by January 15, 1955, then file their return and pay the balance due by April 15.

If the farmer's business year doesn't start January 1, he may file his return and pay the tax on or before the last day of the first month of the succeeding taxable year. As an alternative, he may file an estimate within 15 days and a return within 3 1/2 months after the end of his business year.

The revision of the law—one of many passed by the last session of Congress—extending the old January 31 date to February 15, becomes effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 1954, explains Becker.

For further information regarding farmers' income tax, the specialist suggests checking with local internal revenue offices.

Gary Connor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Connor, is home from Pacific University for the holidays.

Sharon Becket, who is attending school in Spokane, arrived home Saturday to spend Christmas at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Becket.

Jack Bedford Named New Chamber of Commerce President



JACK BEDFORD, First National Bank manager, who this week was chosen president of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce.

Jack H. Bedford, manager of the Heppner branch of the First National Bank of Portland, Tuesday was named president of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce for 1955. He will take over his duties January 1.

Bedford will be assisted by Phil Blakney, first vice-president; Jack Angel, second vice-president; Bradley Fancher, secretary; and George Warner, treasurer.

The new officers were named Tuesday by the members of the board of directors of the organization, of which they are all members. The new board was elected Monday at the regular weekly chamber meeting.

New Board Members

At the annual election Monday, members named six new members to the 10-man board. They are Jeff Carter, who succeeds himself in a board position and is the outgoing president; Edgar Collison; Al Lamb; Phil Blakney; Newt O'Harra, and Jack Angel. Holdover members are Mrs. Mary Van Stevens, Bradley Fancher, Jack Bedford and La Verne Van Marter Jr.

Bedford will take over reigns of the organization from Jeff Carter, local J. C. Penney Company manager who has served as president during the current year. He came to Heppner nearly two years ago from Pendleton where he had been connected with the First National in that city for some time. He has served as a director during 1954.

Bedford has announced that he will make known his committee chairmanship appointments soon after the first of the year.

The Heppner-Morrow county chamber, which now boasts a membership of well over 60, and represents all parts of Morrow county, is now completing one of its most active years. Included among its major projects this year was the raising of a \$10,000 fund for lighting the Heppner rodeo field; support of county rodeo development plans; fair and rodeo events included sponsorship of the main parade for which it provides prizes; city Christmas decorations and Santa visits handled by the local merchants committee; co-sponsorship of the annual county picnic during the rodeo and fair week and numerous other activities.

Membership in the organization is open to any resident of the county and the group meets every Monday noon at O'Donnell's cafe.

Knights Templar Hold Christmas Service

Sunday afternoon at the Heppner Masonic hall the Knights Templar held their annual Christmas service which was conducted by eminent commander Enoch Friendly and past eminent commander Shirley Hevel, both of Commandery No. 7 of Pendleton.

The address of welcome was given by J. O. Turner, Rev. John Reeves gave the invocation, the Christmas message was given by Rev. Earl Soward and the benediction by Rev. Lester Boulden.

The Rainbow girls sang carols directed by Oliver Creswick and accompanied by Mrs. Charles Ruggles, Mrs. Lucy Peterson and Oliver Creswick sang solos.

Mrs. C. J. D. Bauman was in charge of the social hour. Mrs. Paul Jones and Mrs. L. D. Tibbles poured, and Mrs. Harold Becket served the cake.

Harold Becket was master of ceremonies.

AT COUNTY MEETING

Six counties were represented at a meeting of the Association of Oregon Counties held in The Dalles last Wednesday. Representing Morrow county were Judge Garnett Barratt and commissioners Ralph Thompson and Russell Miller.

Mrs. Barratt and Mrs. Thompson accompanied their husbands to The Dalles.

Lexington Election Returns Incumbents

The town of Lexington Tuesday re-elected its entire slate of public officials to another term of office at the first regularly scheduled election-by-ballot to be held in at least five years.

Mervin Leonard was returned to his post as mayor by a vote of 29. Two write-in candidates, Adolphe Majeske and Wilbur Steagall received 10 and 4 votes respectively.

For councilmen, Leonard Muners received 37 votes; Wilbur Steagall, 33; Elden Padberg, 35; Don Campbell 33. There were nearly 15 other written votes for these positions.

R. E. Lott won the recorder's position with 36 votes and was trailed by Delpha Jones who received 6 write-in tallies. Don Hatfield polled 35 votes for treasurer with Ted McMillan receiving 8 votes.

Tuesday's election had been postponed from December 7 because notices had not been posted as required by law. It was the first election by ballot held in Lexington for at least five years, city attorney J. J. Nys reported. Previous elections having been held during a town meeting or by oral vote.

All terms are for one year only.

Injuries Minor in 2 Weekend Accidents

Two accidents which occurred over the weekend were reported to the sheriff's office this week. Damage to both cars was listed as extensive but injuries were incurred in only one instance and they were minor.

Robert W. Pechin, Heppner suffered cuts and bruises when the car he was driving went out of control on icy roads near Ruggs Saturday and rolled over. The car was registered to John W. Graves, Hardman.

Early Saturday morning a car driven by Wayne R. Wilson was crowded off the road in the vicinity of Ruggs during a heavy fog. The driver was not injured but the car suffered considerable damage. According to the accident report, the second car did not stop at the scene of the accident.



OLD SANTA proved again last Saturday that he is the world's best drawing card as a crowd of well over 500 children were on hand to welcome him when he arrived in downtown Heppner. Here he is shown taking time out from handing out bags of candy to find out what one young fellow expected for Christmas.



SOME CANDY. YOUNG LADY, Santa asks one of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Angel's two young daughters who had waited patiently to get a chance to talk to him. Along with a young brother, the girls personally gave Santa some inside dope on what they wanted him to leave at their house tomorrow night. (GT Photos)

Mercury Drops to 12 Degrees Sunday

The mercury dipped to 12 degrees in Heppner early Sunday to make it the coldest recorded so far this winter, Leonard Gilliam, local weather observer reported.

All week the temperature has remained in the 20s or below with daytime temperatures staying below the freezing point due to a heavy layer of fog which blanketed the area much of the time.

Except for a very light rainfall early in the month, there has been no precipitation so far in December.

