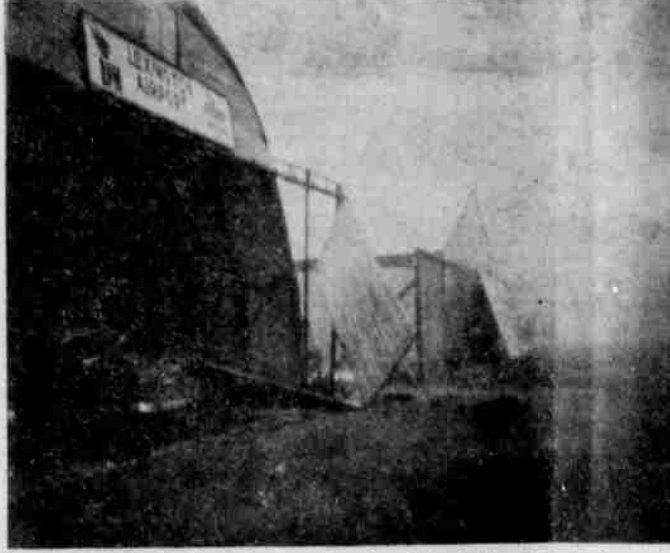


MONDAY WIND BATTERS COUNTY



BLOWN AWAY—This is all that remained of a new sheet metal equipment shed belonging to Lexington Implement Company after Monday's heavy winds completely demolished it. Large pieces of corrugated metal were found a quarter of a mile away. Chimneys, television antennas and windows also fell before the 75 mile gusts.

AIRPORT HANGARS—Between clouds of dust the GT photographer caught this shot of the Lexington airport with hangar doors hanging precariously or standing out nearly at right angles. None of the buildings was blown entirely down. At times the dust was so thick it was impossible to even see the outline of the buildings from the point the picture was taken.

DOWNED TREES kept state highway crews busy. This picture was taken at the Newt O'Harra home in Lexington where several of the large trees in front of the house fell taking with them many feet of fence. At several points along the highway traffic was temporarily stopped because of toppling power poles and low lines. (GT Photos)

Poles, Buildings, Trees Fall Before Gale-Like Winds

Soil Erosion Said Greatest Loss

The biggest "blow" of the winter, and what many long time residents called the worst in recent history, struck Morrow County shortly after daybreak Monday and before it had blown itself out late in the afternoon it left a wide trail of damage to trees, power and telephone lines, buildings and television antennas.

The storm broke over this section of Eastern Oregon shortly after 9 a. m. and by 10 o'clock had knocked out power lines in the entire area resulting in a blackout in Heppner, Lexington and Ione which lasted until 2:15 p. m. Heaviest hit by the big wind was the Ione and Lexington areas where many trees and poles fell before the gusts which were estimated at better than 75 miles per hour. Power and telephone leadins to businesses and homes in Ione were the first to be taken out by flying limbs and one big tree in downtown Ione fell uprooting a section of sidewalk. Dust blown from summerfallow fields was so thick that in many cases driving was hazardous or at times nearly impossible.

As the full force of the gale struck in Lexington, it completely demolished a recently constructed equipment storage shed belonging to Lexington Implement Company and scattered the corrugated aluminum sheets throughout the town. Eyewitnesses said the building seemed almost to explode, with the wind carrying the timbers and sheet metal for hundreds of yards. All that remained were remnants of the walls.

Another victim of the wind was the flagpole at the Lexington school which crashed down on the building. A chimney was blown off the school gymnasium and a garage at the George Irvin home collapsed before the blasts. Other chimneys and numerous small windows were blown in or knocked out by flying debris. Several large trees on the Newt O'Harra ranch at the edge of town fell over into the highway and were later pulled out of the way by state highway crews who patrolled the Willow Creek highway removing trees, rocks and fences.

TV Antennas Fall
Another victim of the blow was the newly erected 105 foot tall Community television antenna at the Lexington airport. It took the blasts for a while, but finally buckled in the middle, following the same pattern as a similar one at Ione and the temporary one at Heppner. Many private antennas at ranches suffered a similar fate.

At the Lexington airport, the wind flapping and tearing at the big metal hangar doors gave the impression that a bombardment was going on. None of the hangars collapsed, but several doors were blown off. No planes suffered any serious damage, however.

Probably the greatest damage in Heppner was inflicted on the Heppner Cleaners where two big plate glass windows collapsed when a supporting strip gave way. No one was injured by the flying glass but Mrs. W. C. Collins was standing beside the window when it began to crack. She moved to a safe distance before it blew in and scattered the glass over the interior of the plant.

Some damage was suffered at the Heppner Pine Mills when the strong gusts buckled one wall of the planer building. Flying boards and small pieces of wood also made it hazardous to be out in the open around the plant. In all three towns the casualty rate on shingles, trees and fences was hardly countable, but as far as is known there were no serious injuries resulting from the storm. Truck drivers who made the run from Pendleton and Hermiston during the height of the blow reported that strong gusts frequently threatened to upset their equipment.

Many Poles Down
No actual count of downed power and phone poles was made, but Pacific Power and Light, REA and Telephone company crews spent the entire day just propping up the leaners to keep lines from tangling and falling onto roads and highways. The entire area was without lights for at least 4 hours and 15 minutes, with many residents remaining dark for longer periods before repair men could make the rounds. Crews were still at work Tuesday and Wednesday completing per-

Continued on Page 8

Heppner Gazette Times

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71st Year, Number 51

MCGG Announces Plan For Payment of Growers Certificates

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Morrow County Grain Growers, it was announced this week by manager Al Lamb that the directors of the organization have voted to begin calling in the oldest outstanding capital reserve (growers) certificates for cash payments. These will be for the 1941 crop and represent that year's profit to the growers.

The first call will be for approximately \$50,000 and will come from the net margin of \$130,000 realized from the 1953 crop year, Lamb said. Present prospects also show that the 1954 margins will exceed \$150,000, and if so, will enable complete liquidation of commercial debts as well as a fair cash distribution to patrons during the 25th anniversary year.

It is also planned to call in the 1945 ownership certificates in June, but it was emphasized that no payments would be made until the end of the fiscal year and the completion of the annual audit.

On April 5, 1930, farmers of the county organized the grain marketing and storage cooperative with approximately \$12,000 as initial capital. The going was rough, for both the farmers and the co-op during the days of light crops and low prices. Fire also destroyed the Heppner elevator and more recently financial mistakes added to the troubles of the cooperative.

In 1952 refinancing was successful and in November of that year Lamb, who had been chief accountant and assistant manager for Blue Lake Packers, Inc., a large fruit and vegetable co-op, took over management of the MCGG. In the years since, margins from its operation have continued to climb and facilities have been improved.

Most recent completion is the addition of an elevator and barge loading facility on the Columbia which now for the first time, gives local growers the benefits of direct water transportation.

The co-op has six other inland elevators with a combined storage capacity of about 2,000,000 bushels and are all located to allow

Court Makes Two Board Appointments

The county court appointed two new members to two county boards to fill vacancies created by the expiration of terms of former members.

Appointed to a three-year term on the county budget board was Newt O'Harra of Lexington. He will serve with John Hanna of Heppner and Walter Hayes of Boardman. The court also announced the date of the budget board meeting as Friday, May 6. O'Harra replaces Kenneth Smouse who finished his term this year.

The other appointment was Lloyd Howton to the county fair board. He replaces Louis Halvorsen and will serve with Willard Baker of Boardman and W. E. Hughes of Heppner.

Dr. and Mrs. Dick O'Shea of Oswego, former residents of Heppner, were here over the weekend to attend the Elks annual.

Grade School Hoop Tournament Opens Here Today

Everything is in readiness for the start this afternoon of the first grade school basketball tournament which is being sponsored by the Heppner school. Eight schools have entered the double elimination tourney.

The first game will be held this afternoon (Thursday) at 2:30 and will pit Arlington against the host team, Heppner. Lexington and Fossil will meet at 3:30, Ione and Boardman at 6:30 and Stanfield and Condon at 7:30 tonight. Progressive games will be played at 6:30 and 7:30 Friday and Saturday nights with the championship contest scheduled for 8:30 Saturday night. The consolation games, at 2:30 and 3:30 Friday with the final consolation game set for 6:30 Saturday evening.

Planning and sponsorship of the series is being done entirely by the grade school students and coaches and tickets are on sale by many students at adult prices of \$1.50 for the entire series.

Local Cattle Bring Top Money

HERMISTON—Floyd Worden and Harold Wright of Heppner received top prices in the fourth annual all-breeds registered sale at the Hermiston livestock auction Friday. Delbert Anson, manager of the sale, reports. Worden received \$125 hd. for six Hereford heifer calves, and Wright received \$160 hd. for a whiteface cow.

Volume of cattle consigned was steady at 410 cattle compared with 412 the previous Friday. The 410 included some 80 registered cattle. Also consigned were 137 hogs compared with 236 and 38 sheep compared with 12.

Quality was generally mediocre but good quality veal was up 30c at a \$23.50 cwt. top. Fat cows and heifers were also of fair quality. Feeder steers were up 30c at a \$20.40 cwt. top, utility cows up 70c at \$13.10 cwt., canner-cutter up 10c at \$11 cwt., shells up 90c at \$8.50 cwt., weaner pigs at \$16 hd. up 50c, and sows up \$1.30 cwt. at \$16.30.

PWR Princeps IV, registered bull calved March 25, 1953, and consigned to Fred Roulet, Elgin, brought top registered bull price of \$320. Other registered tops included a shorthorn bull calf from Cecil Ager, La Grande, \$120 hd.; and ten Angus cows and ten calves from E. P. Snyder, Hermiston, \$175 per pair.

Oregon and Washington packers, feeders and farmers contributed to broad and active demand Friday, farmers in particular buying many registered cows and tocker and feeder animals. Continuing in demand next Friday will be fat cows and heifers.

Others topping the market were Drake and Son, Heppner, one baby calf, \$30 hd.; George Howden, Hermiston, five mixed fat hogs, 1010 lbs., \$18.80 cwt.; Walter Enbysk, Pendleton, six weaner pigs, \$16.00 hd.; Marjorie Orwig, Hermiston, one ewe and two baby lambs at side, \$19.00; Orville Sherlock, Milton-Freewater, one Guernsey cow, 758 lbs., \$11

(Continued on Page 8)



PIONEER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL manager Jack Angel, right, is accepting a check for \$1332 from Jack Bailey, secretary of the Heppner Elks lodge which the organization recently gave to the hospital to pay for the complete equipping of a four-bed children's ward in the newly opened wing at the institution. The check covered the cost of all the equipment necessary for the room. Other donations have been made by the Elks in the past, including a valuable air lock (incubator). The new wing was opened for use Wednesday and within a few hours was half full. Angel reported. (GT Photo)

Over 100 Attend F. F. A. Banquet

Over 100 members, parents and guests attended the F.F.A. banquet Thursday evening, February 25 at the Legion hall.

After the opening ceremonies which were conducted by chapter members, toastmaster John Brosnan introduced Rev. Lester Bouldin who gave the invocation. The welcome address was given by Eddie Brosnan. Steve Green introduced the guests and presentation of awards was made by Llewellyn Robbins.

Projects carried out by 15 members of the F.F.A. chapter included 19 beef, 60 sheep, seven swine and 180 acres in supervised farm programs according to Mike Monahan who reported on chapter activities. Labor incomes from farming programs totalled \$2,378.04 and amounts received in farm, ing by active members totalled \$8,545.00. In addition, members have 14 animals in livestock chains.

L. A. Robbins, chapter advisor and instructor, presented on honorary chapter membership to W. E. Hughes. John Brosnan, who attended the national convention last year in Kansas City, showed a film of the silver anniversary meeting there in 1953.

Much enjoyed were three western songs by Roy Hughes. Dick Phal, guest speaker and member of the Pendleton chapter of F.F.A., presented an excellent picture of the functions of the Future Farmers of America which are the development of leadership, thrift, brotherhood and a love of country life, among others.

Out of town guests at the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Kemble Tellefson, Hermiston and Mr. and Mrs. Clay Ballant, Pendleton. Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Frank Ayers who prepared the banquet and to the Rainbow Girls for serving.

State Income Tax Representative Due

The Oregon State Tax Commission this week announced that a representative of the income tax division will be in Heppner between 3 and 5 p. m. on Monday, March 21 to aid residents in preparation of their state income tax returns.

A representative will also be in Condon on the same day between 8 and 12 a. m.

Rainfall Figures Give Encouragement To County Farmers

Local farmers were feeling much happier this week in that what soil didn't blow away during Monday's storm was much wetter than it was a few days before.

The Heppner weather station recorded a fall of .35 inch on Monday and Tuesday which added considerably to the .74 for the entire month of February. This compared with .62 inch for February 1954. Rainfall here for the period since September 1, 1954 and March 1 has totaled 4.15 inches, Len Gilliam reported.

Leonard Carlson, Gooseberry recorder, checked slightly less rain for the same periods. His check showed only .55 for February and a total of 3.63 between September 1 and March 1, the growing season.

Since Monday afternoon continuing snow flurries have kept the ground white most of the time, though the amount at any one time has not been measurable in most cases.

All School Bands To Give Concert

All of Heppner's school bands will be presented in a special benefit concert next Tuesday evening March 8 under the direction of James Wilson, band instructor. The concert will start at 8 p. m.

Featured will be the high and grade school bands and the beginners' organization, Wilson said. Also to take part in the evening's performance will be the high school dance band. There are more than 100 students in the combined organizations. Admission will be 75 cents for adults, 50 cents for students and children 25 cents.

NO NOON NOISE

The Heppner fire department has discontinued the regular noon test of the city fire siren with the coming warm weather. The usual Monday noon tests will be continued with a full-cycle test of the automatic equipment on the first Monday of each month.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Gribble had as their weekend guests Mr. and Mrs. William Frank of Pendleton. They all attended the Elks annual.

Survey Shows Water Prospects Much Brighter

Snow measurements on the Arbuckle mountain snow course in the mountains south of Heppner showed 38 inches of snow with a water content of 10 inches, according to reading taken Monday, February 28, by Tom Wilson of the Soil Conservation Service.

Measurements taken on the same date a year ago showed 22 inches of snow with a water content of eight and one-half inches. This month's measurement is 87 per cent of the 12 year average of eleven and one-half inches of water content, Wilson said. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson skied about seven miles into the snow course on North Jones prairie.

Not recorded in the above total is another foot of snow which fell Monday night and Tuesday morning in the area. It came on the heels of Monday's heavy wind storm.

New Owners Take Over Central Market

Mrs. Sara McNamer, co-owner of the Central Market and Grocery, this week announced sale of her interest in the business to C. E. McQuarrie of Arlington and Ed Bennett with whom she has been associated in the business. The transaction took effect March 1.

Mrs. McNamer has operated the store since 1944 when her husband, C. W. McNamer died. He had started the grocery and market three years before, but had been in business in Heppner since 1921. Bennett has been in the store since shortly after it was opened.

McQuarrie is well known in Heppner having serviced this area with a bread route for the past 12 years.

Mrs. McNamer plans to retire from active business and announced that she will move to the Willamette View Manor in Portland about April 1.

The new owners announced that they plan no change of name or store policy for the business.

Former Dentist to Reopen Office Here

Dr. Harold S. Huber, recently of Stanfield, announced this week that he will reopen his dentist office in Heppner on March 14. Dr. Huber practiced here for several years until about two years ago when he moved to Stanfield. He will move back into his former office space in the First National Bank building.

Dr. Huber said that he will work full time until July when Dr. Bob Bliss will arrive to open offices recently vacated when Dr. Fred Gronemyer moved to Moses Lake, Wash. After July he plans to keep his office open three days a week.

LEXINGTON P-TA TO MEET MARCH 8

The monthly meeting of the Lexington P-TA will be held at 8:30 Thursday, March 8 at the school auditorium and will be preceded by a spaghetti dinner to be served in the school lunchroom from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. It will be a family dinner and there will be a charge.

The Wheat League film will be shown during the meeting.