

Heppner Gazette Times

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Murder Trial To Open Here Monday Morning

The trial of Mrs. Ann Whitney Ament, charged with second degree murder in the fatal shooting June 4 of Dellmore Lessard, Portland attorney, will open at 9:30 a. m. next Monday, August 29 at the courthouse in Heppner. Circuit judge William W. Wells will hear the case.

Mrs. Ament is being held in the Wasco county jail at The Dalles awaiting trial on charges that she killed the Portland attorney in O'Donnell's Cafe in Heppner the afternoon of June 4, 1955 by shooting him with a 38 calibre revolver. She and Lessard, who was representing Mrs. Ament's ex-husband, had had a discussion about the custody of her son immediately prior to the shooting.

Mrs. Ament will be represented by attorneys Ralph Currin, Pendleton, and John Bassett, Portland. She has pleaded not guilty to the murder charge.

Prosecution will be handled by George Corey of Pendleton, former Umatilla county district attorney, who was appointed special prosecutor by attorney general Robert Y. Thornton early in July after Bradley Fancher, Morrow county district attorney had asked to be relieved of prosecuting the case because he had previously represented Mrs. Ament as an attorney. Corey will be assisted by Wolf D. Von Otterstedt, an assistant attorney general from Thornton's office.

Judge Wells has called for a panel of 60 jurors from which the trial jury will be selected and it is expected that it will take at least one day and probably longer to select the jury.

Kindergarten Sets Registration Sept. 7

Registration for kindergarten classes sponsored by the Heppner Civic League will be held Wednesday, September 7 at 9 a. m. at the civic center building, it was announced this week by officers of the group.

Registration fee is \$10 which must be paid at that time, and a monthly charge of \$6.50, payable at the end of each month is planned. If desired a child may go by the day and pay on that basis.

Mrs. Douglas Drake will again be the teacher and classes will be held in a room in the old Heppner school building which has been made available by the construction of the new elementary building.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Mrs. Jack Loyd, phone 6-9487.

Harold Wright Named Winner Of County Grassman Award



1955 GRASSMAN OF THE YEAR, Harold Wright, Heppner, is shown with his son Kenneth, inspecting some of the lush bunchgrass on his ranch which helped him to win this year's title. (Photo by Tom Wilson)

By Irene Wilson
Conservation and perpetuation of native grasses on land owned by his family since the 1870's and a productive hay and pasture operation has won for Harold Wright, Heppner, the 1955 Morrow County "Grassman of the Year" title. Announcement was made this week by grassman committee members of the Morrow County Farm Bureau, sponsoring organization.

Wright runs a normal herd of 450 Herefords on his headquarters ranch of 1400 acres at Ruggs and 8014 acres located about three miles southwest of Hardman. Pasture lands are given the maximum opportunity for preservation by rotating pastures, feeding hay from bottomland hay fields and leveling bottom land for top hay production, committee members pointed out.

Livestock numbers and forage production are kept in balance by rotation of stock on three large pastures, varying from 1200 to 3000 acres and five smaller pastures of from 200 to 700 acres on the Hardman ranch in the upper country.

Adequate hay reserves are provided by Wright with the production of over 600 tons of hay annually from 150 acres. Normal carryover is 100 tons. Cattle are held in the lower elevations in the spring and fall and moved to the upper pastures for summer range to utilize forage in the proper season.

All bottom lands have been leveled, fertilized, seeded and irrigated for hay and the third crop of alfalfa-grass hayland is used for pasture. Alta Fescue, Tall Oatgrass, Smooth Brome and Intermediate Wheatgrass are used in mixtures with alfalfa. Commercial fertilizer is used in establishing new seedings of hay and pasture and barnyard fertilizer is utilized on alfalfa with a manure spreader. This year 70 acres of wheatland was fertilized on a trial basis.

The normal wheat-summer fallow rotation is followed by Wright on cultivated wheat land but in 1950 he seeded sweet clover and grass on his crop land on a trial basis, pasturing and turning it under as green manure in 1951. His first wheat crop following green manure averaged 40 bushels per acre in 1952 and 35 bushels in 1954. The county average is about 20 bushels per acre.

In addition to developed springs 17 ponds have been constructed and developed to increase movement of cattle over the range. About 40 miles of fence is kept in top shape. Sheep sheds, movable feed racks, hay and machinery barns are outstanding in this mild winter area. Since a gradual switch over a period of years to more cattle and less sheep, Wright has converted some of the sheep sheds for feeding of registered stock and fattening out calves.

Close culling of stock has im-

proved the quality of Wright's herd. It is inoculated and tested for disease prevention and sprayed regularly in the spring and as needed during the fall and winter. Livestock includes 21 registered Hereford bulls, 15 registered heifers, 38 registered sows and a commercial herd of which 25 per cent is eligible for registration. In addition he has 50 Targhee ewes which raised 77 lambs this year.

Wright was one of the first in the county to seed crested wheatgrass, to follow recommended grass mixtures with hay and to establish creeping alfalfa trials. A cooperater in the Heppner Soil Conservation district since 1943, Wright was one of the first to sign and take an active part in it.

Active in community and farm organizations, Wright is a member. (Continued on page 6)

Fair, Rodeo Plans Taking Shape, New Events Added

Everything is shaping up to make next week's Morrow County Fair and Rodeo one of the best yet. Members of the fair and rodeo committees said this week. Grounds and buildings are in excellent shape and rodeo stock will begin arriving in Heppner next Monday.

Opening day of the fair will be Wednesday, August 31 when all 4-H entries close and some of the judging and contests will start. Closing time for all open class entries is 9 a. m. Thursday, September 1.

With the rodeo converted to a strictly amateur event this year, one of the heaviest registrations of local cowboys ever experienced is expected according to members of the rodeo committee.

Several new events have been added to the rodeo schedule including a Saturday night show which will be held under the new field lights. One go-around of the Morrow county amateur calf roping, a Calgary roping event and others are planned for the night show.

Also added to the program this year will be the Northwest Amateur Bucking contest which was transferred to the Heppner show by the Pendleton Round-Up association. It is expected to draw a large number of the northwest's top amateur cowhands. Top prize for this event will be a Hamley saddle. Winner of the Morrow county amateur calf roping will again receive a K-V Saddlery saddle donated by the Heppner Pine Mills.

Rodeo stock will be furnished by Ed Ring, Wilbur, Washington and it is certain to provide a good show. Reports from the last rodeo where the stock was used told of only 4 cowboys out of 32 who were able to stay on top of the broncs in the bucking competition.

A complete fair and weekend program appears in a big fair board advertisement on page one of section two of this paper.

120 Youngsters Take Swimming Lessons

More than 120 youngsters took part in beginning and intermediate swimming classes at the Heppner pool, instructor Larry Downen revealed this week. The classes have been held during the summer swimming period.

Downen reported that 16 children passed the beginners class and 28 finished the intermediate instruction. In addition 10 adults took advantage of the basic survival swimming classes.

Those to complete beginning swimming were Jerry Hudson, Mike Koenig, Sandra Campbell, Darlene Turner, Bob Irby, Bruce Thomson, Steve Rogers, Robert Carpenter, Lynn Burkenbine, Jean Schmidt, Patty Mahon, Diane Fullerton, Harold Grey, Bill Parsons, Lanny Upton and Larry Heath.

Those to complete the intermediate lessons were Diane McCurdy, Beverly Blake, Sharon Keithley, Julie Pfeiffer, Sharon Lindsay, Sheryl Harris, Shannon Mahoney, Laura Sumner, Jean Collins, Tom Driscoll, Ron Grey, Larry Smith, Homer Huston, Douglas Rogers, Chuck Smallwood, Laddie Dick, Ren Harris, Janice Martin, Carol Groshens, Janie Applegate, Kim Ament, Janice Driscoll, Rodney Flug, Carolyn McDaniel, Tom Green, Susan McQuarrie, Lane Smith and Sara Burnside.

Nickerson Named To State Position

Francis Nickerson, a former resident of Heppner and the son of Mrs. Grace Nickerson, was this week named executive secretary of the state system of higher education committee on high school-college relations. The announcement was made by Dr. Earl L. Pallett, Eugene, committee chairman.

Nickerson succeeds Dr. E. Dean Anderson who has been transferred to a teaching position at Portland State college. The offices of the committee will be transferred from Portland to Eugene.

Nickerson has been teaching at Westfir, Oregon, during the past year.

Part of New School Ready for Occupancy; Registration Called

At least five rooms in the new Heppner elementary school will be ready for occupancy by the opening of school, it was revealed this week, as school officials issued a call for student registration and made plans for the opening of the school year on Tuesday, September 6.

Joe H. Stewart, Heppner school superintendent, said that an inspector for Freeman, Hayslip, Tuft and Hewitt, architects for the new school building, has notified the board that he, Tuft, and a representative of the contracting company will be in Heppner next Tuesday to release at least five rooms for prior occupancy. The board and representatives will check the rooms for completion. It is also believed that there will be more rooms available by the opening of the school, but the completion of the five will accommodate all of the outside rooms with the exception of one basement classroom in the old building. As soon as the rooms are accepted, crews will start moving equipment into them.

Registration Set.
Stewart announced this week

that all high school students are to assemble in the gymnasium-auditorium Friday, September 2 at 9 a. m. for registration. On that same day and time, all first graders will meet in the basement of the new school building and students new to the school system will meet in room six of the old building. Registration for all other students will be held in their individual rooms on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 6.

Busses will make their regular routes at the usual time Friday morning, Sept. 2. Stewart said and will make their return run at 10:30 that morning to return the students to their homes following registration.

No Grade Football
Stewart also announced that football in the elementary grades has been eliminated next year because of the danger involved for younger students and the distance and expense involved in meeting game schedules. The elementary grades will concentrate on basketball and baseball, however, touch tackle and flag football will be played in P. E. classes to teach the fundamentals of football.

Much Remodeling Done
A great amount of remodeling and redecorating has been done in the school plant during the summer it was revealed. Among the major improvements made was the installation of new showers and shower rooms in the gymnasium, new stairs, treads and the installation of considerable floor and wall tile in the gym building.

Seven rooms in the main building have been repainted as have all halls and floors. New library facilities have also been built.

All schools in the county, except for Irrigon, will start classes on Tuesday, September 6, the county school superintendent's office said today. Irrigon will open on Monday, August 29 primarily because its band has at least seven engagements within the next short time and it was felt that it would be easier to arrange practice sessions if school was being held.

Dr. Wolff to Resume Practice Here Soon

Dr. and Mrs. Wallace Wolff and children expect to arrive in Heppner about September 1, according to word received here last week. They arrived in New York on July 26, from Puerto Rico where he has been stationed with the Army. From there they went to Wisconsin where they visited relatives.

Dr. Wolff left Heppner about two years ago when he was called into the service. He plans to resume his practice here in the near future.

James Hall, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Portland is at the Heppner Branch for two weeks, during the absence of Robert Ferrell, who is on vacation.

COON SAYS HE'LL DEBATE DAM BILL HERE EVEN IF NEUBERGER WON'T COME

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 24 — Representative Sam Coon (R. Ore) said today he has accepted invitations from 19 Oregon communities to debate with Senator Neuberger on the John Day bill. He said that it is his intention, "to appear at each of these cities, even though my challenger, in these debates, has failed to accept several of the invitations."

"When I agreed to these debates," Coon continued, "it was with the idea in mind, that the John Day bill is so important, it should be discussed, fully and completely, at every possible place. I told the people in my district I would debate this bill at every city, town and crossroad, which offered me an invitation to appear. I mean to keep that promise."

In a statement, released from his office, Coon said firm arrangements had been made for debates at Hood River, The Dalles, Pendleton, La Grange, Baker, Ontario, Burns, Lakeview, Klamath Falls and Bend.

"In addition," said the Oregon Congressman, "I have accepted invitations from Fossil, Moro, Prineville, Madras, Condon, Ar-

lington, Heppner, Enterprise and John Day."

"The people in these towns," he added, "have just as much right as anyone to hear the arguments on this bill. I intend to give them the facts on the John Day proposal even though Senator Neuberger, who challenged me to these debates, decides not to show up." Coon added that he was not surprised at Neuberger's attitude of indifference toward Eastern Oregon. "Even when he was in the Oregon State Legislature," said Coon, "he had very little respect for the wishes of the people east of the mountains."

Coon's John Day bill, H.R. 5789, provides for advance sale of power from the John Day Dam in order to obtain funds to expedite construction of the Columbia River project, which will at all times be owned and controlled by the Federal Government.

Preliminary hearings were held on the bill shortly before Congress adjourned. Chairman Clifford Davis, (D. Tenn.) of the subcommittee on Flood Control of the House Public Works Committee has said that hearings on the bill will be continued early in the next session.



ROYAL COURT—Queen Carol Ann Wiglesworth (center) and her court at coronation ceremonies last Saturday night. Queen Carol was crowned with her white Stetson hat by chamber president Jack Bedford and the girls were presented with corsages by Mary Van Stevens, mayor of Heppner. Shown with the queen are princesses Carolyn Crabtree, Betty Olmstead, Marilyn Munkers and Sharon Rill.



A KISS FOR A QUEEN—Here Morrow County Fair and Rodeo queen Carol Ann Wiglesworth gets the official kiss of office from chamber of commerce president Jack Bedford at the conclusion of coronation ceremonies held Saturday night in downtown Heppner. (GT Photos)

Father McCormack To Be Transferred North Morrow 4-H Fair Set Friday

The Most Rev. Francis P. Leipzig, Bishop of Baker, has announced that the Rev. Francis McCormack, pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic church in Heppner, has been transferred to Ontario, Oregon where he will be pastor of the Blessed Sacrament church. He will take up his new duties September 1.

Replacing Rev. McCormack will be the Rev. Patrick J. Gaire who has been serving at the Ontario parish. He will not arrive in Heppner until early October and until that time the parish will be served by Rev. Matthew Crotty, Baker, vicar-general and chancellor of the diocese.

Father McCormack has served the Heppner and Ione churches since April, 1940, coming here the same year the new St. Patrick's church was constructed. During his tenure, he aided in the building of the Ione church, which was completed in 1949.

North Morrow 4-H Fair Set Friday

Final plans for the North Morrow 4-H fair which will be held in Boardman on Friday, August 26, were completed last week at a meeting of the 4-H council held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hamilton. The 4-H part of the fair will be held ahead of the regular North Morrow fair in order to give club members a chance to go to the state fair, if they are eligible. The regular fair will be held September 8, 9 and 10.

The fair will be held in the large fair building instead of the 4-H building, it was said. Cooking demonstrations will start at 9 a. m. and at 1 p. m. Judging of the poultry and rabbits will be held followed by livestock judging. Home economics judging will start at 2:30 and the style revue at 3:30 p. m.