

# Heppner Gazette Times

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## Prospects Dark for White Christmas

### Week's Storms Bring Variety Of Snow, Ice And Warm Rain

#### Quick Thaw Causes High Water And Road Closures In Area

Continued heavy rains and warm winds Wednesday night and Thursday morning brought numerous reports today of washouts and bad road conditions throughout the area.

Early this morning the Heppner-Condon highway was closed due to high water in the Rock creek canyon and more rains in the mountains indicated that the stream would probably continue to rise.

The county court reported this morning that nearly all gravelled county roads are open but many are muddy from field wash. The Willow creek road above Heppner was passable but very sloppy due largely to construction work and some washing.

Fields were beginning to show signs of wash as the rain continued but there have been no reports yet of serious soil loss. Further rains could cause trouble, however.

Thursday's weather reports called for more of the same with Western Oregon bearing the brunt of the storms which will also be felt here.

The prospects that Heppner will have a white Christmas appeared slim today as a warm chinook wind which hit Morrow county early Tuesday continued to melt heavy snowpacks both in the mountains and over the lower lands. However, not even government weathermen would stick their necks out by saying what might happen by the weekend.

The heaviest snow of the season started falling over the entire northeast section of Oregon and eastern Washington early last Sunday morning depositing up to six inches of new snow on the county. The fall was accompanied by a drop in temperature which kept the mercury around 15 to 20 degrees Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The warm break hit the Hardman and other higher elevations Monday, but didn't

#### Monday Holidays To Be Observed Here

All Heppner business houses, county, state and federal offices will be closed Monday, December 26 in observance of the Christmas holidays. The same will hold true the following week as January 2 is observed as a legal holiday.

No mail will be dispatched between Saturday night and Tuesday night and none will be received here on Sunday and Monday.

#### Stockgrowers Set January Meeting

Problems of marketing and the control of livestock diseases will be two major topics of discussion during the annual meeting of the Morrow county Livestock Growers Association to be held January 13 and 14 at the fair pavilion in Heppner.

Plans are now being completed for the two-day meeting, according to Raymond French, association president, who announced that John Graves is chairman for the banquet and Kenneth Peck, head of the entertainment committee. The women of Willows grange at Lone will serve the banquet.

While the program is not yet complete, it was announced that there will be a varied program of interest to every association member.

#### LEAVE FOR HOLIDAYS

Mr. and Mrs. Clem Stockard and family will leave Saturday night by train for Los Angeles to spend the holidays with Mrs. Stockard's mother. They will return after the first of the year.

#### CUB SCOUT PACK MEETING

Cub Scout pack No. 61 will meet Tuesday evening, December 27 at 7:30 p. m. in the multi-purpose room at the new grade school.

hit Heppner until Tuesday noon, and it was Wednesday morning before the chinook finally began to break up the snow and ice pack in the area around Morgan, Cecil and Boardman.

Sunday's snow piled up to 4 and one-half inches at Heppner and even deeper to the north. It put a stop to many persons who had planned trips to the mountains in quest of Christmas trees, including a group of Boy Scouts who annually hold a tree sale. As a result, trees were at a premium in town, many families still on the lookout for extras.

#### Driving Hazardous

The snow and ice in the Heppner, Lexington and Lone area made driving hazardous, but road crews kept all major highways open. In some sections, especially the lower Willow Creek road and on highway 30 below Arlington, freezing rain Monday and Tuesday made travel nearly impossible, according to reports. The Columbia river highway was closed to all except essential traffic at times Monday and Tuesday with several persons reporting that it took 12 hours to make the trip from Portland to Heppner. One truck driver reported it took him 33 hours to make a round trip from Heppner to Portland. A silver thaw in the Cascade Locks section caused the greatest trouble, with strong east winds adding to driver's difficulties.

#### Moisture High

The Heppner weather station recorded 4 and one-half inches of snow on the ground after Sunday's storm and checked in .38 inch of rain. Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning this brings December's precipitation to 2.2 inches (up to Wednesday morning) and the year's total to date to 15.82 inches which is nearly four inches more than fell during all of 1954.

Leonard Carlson, weather observer at Gooseberry, reported an even one inch of moisture in the 24 hour period ending Wednesday morning, one half of it in the form of snow. He has checked 2.9 inches during the first 20 days of December and 14.7 inches for the year. Since September 1, 7.80 inches has fallen there. Twelve inches of rain is the 10 year average for that station.

Fairly strong warm winds were blowing in Heppner late Wednesday and rain was continuing to fall but so far there have been reports of only minor cases of washing or heavy runoff. The upper end of Gale street in Heppner received a small amount of mud from the Wednesday night rain and there were a few other reports of slight washing in the fields, but nothing serious. Most land, however, is nearly saturated and any heavy continued rainfall within the next few days before the ground has had a chance to dry out could cause trouble. Willow creek came up rapidly Tuesday night and Wednesday, but no flooding is expected.

#### Social Security Representative Due

Agricultural workers are covered by Social Security beginning in 1955 if they are paid at least \$100 cash wages in a year by any one employer.

A representative of the La Grande Social Security Administration will be in the city hall in Heppner from 9:00 a. m. to noon on Wednesday, December 28, 1955 to interview individuals who have questions pertaining to Social Security and to assist those who wish to make application for their benefits.

#### ICY STREETS CAUSE MONDAY COLLISION

Two cars driven by Pete Andersen and Skip Ruhl collided Monday evening about 10:30 p. m. at the intersection of Center and Gale streets.

The accident was caused by the icy conditions of the streets and considerable damage was done to both cars.



ONLY A PORTION of the more than 600 youngsters who visited Santa last Saturday are shown in this picture. Somewhere in the center of the crowd Santa Nick is busy passing out bags of candy and talking to the boys and girls. This was one year when Santa could have come by sleigh as there was ample snow, however he arrived on a fire truck as he has in past years.



EAGER YOUNGSTERS clambered all over Santa Saturday and for about a half hour he was hard-pressed to keep up with the hundreds of outstretched hands waiting for the candy he brought for every kid. After Santa went on his way for a visit to another town, over 525 of the youngsters traipsed to the Star Theater to attend its annual free children's show. (GT Photos)

### Area Churches Announce Special Christmas Programs

Nearly all churches in Heppner, Lexington and Lone have announced plans for special Christmas services to be held during the next two or three days. With Christmas falling on Sunday, most regular morning services will be held according to schedule with special observances of Christ's birth planned for that time.

Many churches are also planning special Christmas programs for Sunday school classes with some held Friday evening.

At the Heppner Methodist church special Christmas music will be presented at the regular morning service which will also include baptism and reception of new members.

Hope Lutheran church will have a special Christmas eve program at 7:30 and Christmas day services are scheduled at 9:30.

Vaby Lutheran will have a Christmas program at 7:30 Friday evening and regular services Sunday at 11:15.

The Assembly of God church will hold its Christmas program Friday at 7:30 which will include special numbers by Sunday school classes and a birthday cake and refreshments. The regular Sunday morning and evening services will feature special music.

Christmas services at All Saints Episcopal church will begin Saturday at 11:45 p. m. with a sung celebration of the Holy Communion with the Rev. George R. S. Little as the celebrating priest. A low celebration of the Holy Communion will be held at 11 o'clock Christmas morning.

Friday evening the children's Christmas service will be held in the church at 7:30 followed by a party in the parish house. Church school will not be held Christmas day. Wednesday, Dec. 28 there will be Holy Communion at 10 a. m. and 8 p. m. This will be Holy Innocent's day but the feasts of St. Stephen and St. John the Evangelist which fall on Monday and Tuesday will be transferred to this date.

The church of the Nazarene, the Lone Community church and the Lexington Christian church have already held their Sunday school programs, but special observances are planned at the regular Sunday services.

St. Patrick's Catholic church will hold high mass at midnight Saturday with low mass scheduled for 9:30 Sunday morning. Low mass will be read at St. William's in Lone at 8 a. m. Sunday.

#### Grade Students Send Gifts to Pendleton

Students in Mrs. Harold Erwin's 5th and 6th grade room at the Heppner grade school last week sent off 85 separate gift packages for patients at the Pendleton state hospital and children's organizations.

The youngsters brought the numerous gifts themselves and did all the wrapping and packaging of them. 50 gifts were for hospital patients and 35 were for children, Mrs. Erwin said.



THE CHRISTMAS MAIL RUSH finally got under way at the Heppner post office last weekend. This photo shows Floyd Sayers, left, and Hubert Wilson starting in to sort the mountain of packages that came in Saturday morning. Had the picture been taken Monday morning, the mountain of parcels would have been nearly three times as high, postmaster James Driscoll said. The heavy early-week rush was caused largely by a lack of delivery into Heppner on Sunday which caused a doubling up of shipments which nearly buried the crew until closing time Monday evening. (GT Photo)

### Free Weekend Parking Christmas Gift From City

Heppner's mayor, Mary Van Stevens and the members of the city council will say Merry Christmas to all Heppner shoppers this weekend by extending free parking privileges to everyone Friday and Saturday.

The mayor announced today that all downtown parking meters will be hooded during the two days prior to Christmas and extended an invitation to all residents of the county and to outsiders to park free while doing last minute shopping at local stores.

#### Claude Cox Suffers Concussion in Fall

Claude Cox, owner of the Morrow county creamery, suffered a severe brain concussion and fractured skull Monday morning when he fell on the ice in downtown Heppner.

Cox was taken to Pioneer Memorial hospital where his physician reported today that he is showing continual improvement. He will be hospitalized for at least a week.

He fell while crossing Main street near the intersection of Willow.

#### Christian Church Names New Pastor

The Rev. Charles Knox, presently pastor of the First Christian church at Colfax, Washington, will arrive in Heppner with his family shortly before January 1 to take over new duties as the pastor of the Heppner Christian church. The church has been without the services of a regular pastor since the resignation of Rev. Earl Soward last summer.

Rev. Knox, who is 30 years of age, is a graduate of Northwest Christian College at Eugene in 1950 and since that time has been pastor at Colfax. He is married and has two small children.

The Knox family will make their home on south Main street pending completion of the new church parsonage which is to be constructed on the site of the old parsonage adjoining the church on Gale street. Work is expected to start on the new building in 30 to 60 days.

For the past several months the church has been served by an interim pastor, Rev. Ronald Ingle of Hermiston.

#### BROTHER VISITS SMITHS

Lt. Col. Dwight Miller, Mrs. Miller and daughter Lynn were guests Saturday and Sunday at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smith.

Colonel Miller, formerly of Heppner and Pendleton has just completed a two year tour of duty with the army medical corps in Anchorage, Alaska and plans to resume his practice of dentistry in Pendleton in the near future.

### This Week's Most Useless Story—WINTER'S HERE!

Winter officially arrived at 10:22 this morning but it wasn't any particular surprise to residents of Morrow county who have been receiving winter weather for the past two months.

The county has received more snow and cold weather already this fall than it did during all of last fall and winter combined, according to records. What the coming winter holds for this area is uncertain (our 1956 Almanac hasn't come yet), but if November and early December weather can be used as a guide, January and February can be expected to be stinkers.

### Driver Jumps As Truck Leaves Road

Jerry Clinton, The Dalles, contract log hauler for Heppner Pine Mills, escaped injury Tuesday when he jumped from his loaded truck and trailer just before it left the road and crashed into the canyon from the Shaw creek road on upper Willow creek.

No accident report has yet been filed, but according to reports the truck failed to negotiate a turn on the extremely slippery road and went over the bank. The International truck was badly damaged and had not been removed from the canyon by Wednesday.

Clinton was hauling to the Heppner mill from the company's logging operations on Buckaroo Flats. The accident occurred about half way up Shaw creek grade.

#### Gerald Bergstrom Inducted Into Navy

Gerald Bergstrom, 23, of Heppner was inducted into the U. S. Navy at Portland on December 13 for two years active duty. According to the local board headquarters at Condon, Bergstrom is the first registrant to be drafted into the Navy since the Wheeler, Gilliam and Morrow board was organized in 1948.

Ronald E. Gepner, a former Heppner resident, was inducted into the army in the December quota.

The board also announced new office hours of from 1 to 5 Monday through Friday.

### 1955 Basketball Champs to Play Here December 29

Local basketball fans will get a chance to watch the state's 1955 basketball champions perform on the local floor when Heppner meets Knappa high school in a non-league encounter December 29. It will be the first trip here for the Knappa squad.

The Loggers will be led by big 6 foot 6 inch Bob "Pudgy" Hunt and they will be slight favorites over the Mustangs. They are undefeated this season except for one loss in the Astoria jamboree. It will be the only game played here during the holidays.

### Chamber Picks New Board; President To Be Named Soon

Seven new chamber of commerce directors were chosen at the annual election of the organization Monday and the full board will meet within the next two weeks to name a new president to serve during 1956.

Elected for two-year terms were Jack Bailey, Jack Angel, Jack Flug, James J. Farley and Bradley Fancher. Chosen for one-year terms were Dick Brunner and Dr. Wallace H. Wolff. Carry-over members of the board are Phil Blakney, Newt O'Hara and Al Lamb.

According to the by-laws of the chamber, the membership elects the board of directors who name the president from the membership of the board. Officers who have served during the past year include Jack Bedford, manager of the First National Bank, president; Phil Blakney, vice-president; Bradley Fancher, secretary and J. H. Huffman, treasurer.

The chamber is completing a very successful year having carried on numerous civic projects including several programs to raise money for repayment of the rodeo field lighting bonds, the purchase and installation of Christmas decorations, sponsored Santa's visit last Saturday; aided with numerous projects during the fair and rodeo and many other activities.

The membership now totals over 60 persons and it is open to any resident of the county.

At Monday's meeting, Mrs. Velma Glass, county health nurse, explained the duties of her office and told of many of the accomplishments since she took over the position early this year.

Meetings are held each Monday noon, but none will be held until January 9 because of the coming holidays.

### Al Lamb Named State Co-op Head

Al Lamb, manager of the Morrow County Grain Growers, was elected president of the Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon at the organization's annual meeting held last week in Portland. Lamb replaces Harry Rohe, Portland, manager of the Oregon Poultry Producers Association.

Lamb has served as vice-president of the council for the past two years. It is composed of about 95 percent of the agricultural co-ops of the state.

Other officers elected for the coming year include Walter Steele, manager of the Polk county Farmers Co-op, Rickreall, vice-president; Paul Carpenter, Corvallis, reelected secretary; and Mary Holthouse, Corvallis, reelected treasurer.

Mr. and Mrs. Roice Fullerton have as their guest, her mother, Mrs. G. O. Baragar of Los Angeles, California.

### Lindstroms and Cutsforths Return From World Trip

Two Morrow county couples, Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn Lindstrom of Lone and Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Cutsforth, Lexington, returned during the past week from a round-the-world trip during which they covered over 40,000 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindstrom arrived in Pendleton last Thursday, and the Cutsforths on Sunday.

The two couples were part of a group of 28 persons who left Los Angeles on September 10 on a chartered plane which took them to the near east, Asia, Africa, across Europe and back home via New York. They were gone 100 days and covered approximately 36,000 miles by air, 3,500 by car and 2,000 by train. Included on their itinerary were 27 days in the Holy Land.

### Heppner and Lone Seniors Hear About State Schools

Francis Nickerson, son of Mrs. Grace Nickerson visited his mother here on Thursday last week, after speaking to the seniors of Lone and Heppner high school on educational and living facilities available at Oregon institutions of higher learning.

Nickerson, executive secretary of the state system of higher education, travels throughout the state to acquaint prospective college students with the programs of study available at the various schools.

#### RHEA CREEK TO HAVE DANCE

The Rhea Creek grange will hold a dance Friday, December 30 at the grange hall.

The dance was originally scheduled for December 17 but was postponed due to weather conditions.



CLUB TREASURY GROWS by \$25 as Miss Shirley Kononen, president of the Future Business Leaders of America, a Heppner high school organization, accepts a check for \$25 from Dr. E. K. Schaffitz, one of the sponsors of the group. The check being presented by Dr. Schaffitz is from the chamber of commerce for the job done by club members in tying streamer boughs used for Heppner street decorations. The group also packaged the Candy Santa Claus gave to the youngsters during his visit here last Saturday. The club has also undertaken many other projects since its formation a year ago. (GT Photo)