

Campaign Developing to Get Heppner-Spray Highway Improved; More Bad Reports Are Received

(AN EDITORIAL)

Since last week's stories appeared telling of the nearly impassable condition of the Heppner-Spray highway, this newspaper has received dozens of additional reports concerning the road from residents who are directly effected by its condition. These reports, some of which we will relate below, all tell the same story. They all add materially to the case the residents of this area have to present to the state highway commission that the road must be included in some program of improvement.

Some of the reports we received during the past week told of:

One car being stuck in the road for over four hours.

From Monument comes this: "The mill here is being overhauled but where are the roads to HAUL the lumber over. It seems the roads are a lot worse in the past 10 days since you took those pictures. In fact some traffic has gone around by way of Condon to get to Heppner."

One user of the highway said he barely made it through one section of the road north of the old Blue Mountain ranch on Monday and by last Friday it would have been entirely impassable by car had state highway crews not dumped a few loads of big rock in the worst places.

Other reports told the same story, only the words used to describe the condition varied and many of those words aren't printable.

In addition to complaints, other facts have come to light during the past few days which give added proof of our statement that Heppner business is being hurt by the bad condition of the highway.

No lumber has been hauled over the road for three weeks, and it is reported that the load limit now in effect will be continued until May 1. This will mean that lumber normally hauled from the mill at Monument to the Heppner Pine Mills for processing either will not reach here or it will have to be trucked many miles extra by way of Fossil and Condon. Should that lumber supply be shut off for any length of time a subsequent reduction in employment at Heppner Pine Mills would result.

Local fuel dealers who service customers in the Spray and Kimberly areas are forced to either ignore users' needs or violate load restrictions to take heavy trucks into the John Day river country. No dealer who has spent considerable time and money to develop accounts wants to sit back and let them be lost to the future because he can't serve them now. Neither can he afford to drive half-empty trucks the necessary distance, nor add many miles to his route by taking a round-about road—if that is available.

Regarding lumber, another unpleasant prospect shows itself. It is entirely conceivable that a continued load limitation on the highway and

lack of any future improvement plans by the state highway department, could result in lumber from Monument being sold into the Prineville area. This haul is longer but the road is better and as a result hauling costs could be less. We don't say that such a thing will happen, but it could, and the loss of such a lumber supply to Heppner would most certainly be felt in a subsequent reduction in payroll.

The state highway department has ignored repeated requests over past years from residents in this area saying that not enough traffic was carried on the road to warrant any improvement. Three years ago we were told by a member of the highway commission that only 17 cars a day used the highway, a figure so low as to be nearly ridiculous. Last fall county judge Garnet Barratt wrote a sizzling letter to the highway commission stating that the road was in worse condition than any county road in Morrow county, and asking among other things if any recent traffic count had been made on the road and flatly stated that, "Morrow County's patience regarding action on this highway has ended."

In answer to judge Barratt's letter, state highway engineer R. H. Baldock replied, in part, that the last traffic count was taken in 1952 but that one would be taken soon. Less than two months later a count was taken with these results: Two miles south of Hardman, 100 cars a day; at the Morrow-Wheeler county line 90 cars a day; 0.1 mile north of the John Day highway 140 cars a day. This is not heavy traffic compared with some other state highways, but it is a far cry from the 17 cars previously reported by the commission, and practically double a 1952 count finally admitted by the state of 70, 50 and 60 cars for the same counting locations. Traffic had doubled, or more, in three years, yet no improvement of any kind had been done on the road.

This week, letters will go out from the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce to every member of the state highway commission, pointing out the condition of the highway, asking that some maintenance be done on it immediately and that steps be taken to place the road on a state program for improving and hard-surfacing. The Morrow county court has joined the fight too, and the commission will shortly hear from it. Several interested and effected individuals and businessmen have told us that they are writing letters and copies of these editions of the Gazette Times are going to all members of the state highway commission.

More facts and more letters are needed if residents of Morrow, Grant and Wheeler counties are to get a decent connecting highway over the mountains. If you have legitimate complaints about the road or can show that you are being hurt business-wise because of its condition, your letter to the State Highway Commission, Salem, will help.

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MORROW COUNTY Water Resources Committee members who met last week to lay groundwork for planning program in the county. Shown front row, left to right, Dick Wilkinson, secretary; Newt O'Harra, chairman; Allen Tom, state representative from this district; standing: Garland Swanson, chairman of domestic and municipal water committee; P. W. Mahoney, flood control; Dr. L. D. Tibbles, pollution; R. B. Rands, Boardman, executive committee member. Back row, Don Lane, executive secretary of state water resources board and Bill Barratt, irrigation committee chairman. (GT Photo)

New Motel Here Seen Possibility

Heppner may get a new 16 unit motel if plans of a local resident materialize, it was revealed Monday night when the city council received an application for a building permit for the structure from Rufus Piper.

The council rejected the application because plans called for frame construction with stucco exterior which does not in all respects conform with the city fire code which calls for fireproof outer walls on all building constructed within the fire zone. Mr. Piper was not available at the time of this writing, but the Gazette Times was informed that changes in the plans could probably be made so the building will meet code requirements.

The motel, which is planned as a "U" shaped structure containing 16 units, is to be built on the corner of Main and Baltimore streets on property now occupied by the Piper residence. If details can be worked out, construction may start within three months. Cost is estimated at \$25,000.

Permit Granted

The council granted another building permit to William C. Turner for the construction of a residence on south Court street just south of Willow creek. Cost was set at \$15,000.

The council went on record as favoring the formation of an active ground observer corps in Heppner following a talk by Lt. Rose from the Air Force filter center in Bend and Sgt. Robert Coleman of Hermiston. The two explained that there is no active observer post in this area and that the Air Force and civilian defense organization is trying to get one formed here. Lt. Rose said a campaign for volunteer observers will be conducted soon.

Annexation Ordinance Passed

An ordinance calling for the annexation to the city of a strip of property adjacent to the south city limits was given final passage and the date for a hearing was set for May 7 at the city hall. The property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Kane, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Quackenbush and Helen Cox.

Two applications from George Terrill and Walter Farrens for permits to keep chickens were refused because of complaints from nearby residents. The council was asked by Robert Penland, a member of the Heppner fire department, to set up a sinking fund for the future purchase of replacement fire equipment for the city. He stated that one truck was a 1937 model which would in a few years have to be replaced. He asked that the fund be started in next year's budget and be added to each year. The request will be referred to the budget committee.

Park Plan Received

The council spent considerable time reviewing preliminary plans for the landscaping and development of the city park which were received from the landscape architect. Several changes were recommended by the members and the plans were referred back to the architect for revision.

Shirley Kononen Wins FBLA Trophy

Miss Shirley Kononen, Heppner high school senior, will receive the Future Business Leaders of America trophy at the next student body meeting at the school, it was revealed in the current issue of the Hehisch, the school paper.

Dr. E. K. Schaffitz, one of the sponsors of the club, is the donor of the trophy which is given for outstanding club activity during the year. Receiving honorable mention were Edith Morris and Meredith Thomson.

Participants in activities was the basis of the selection and club members named the winner at a recent election.

BARRATT'S RETURN FROM ARIZONA

County Judge and Mrs. Garnet Barratt returned early this week from a three-months trip to Arizona. The trip was planned as a vacation trip, but Judge Barratt took sick in Phoenix and spent over a month in the hospital there.

He is now back at his desk in the courthouse.

CC Told State Losing Business Due to High Income Tax Structure

Oregon's tax structure is running business out of the state, Mrs. Louise Humphrey, executive associate with Oregon Tax Research, told guests at the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce annual banquet last night at the Legion hall.

In elaborating on her statement, Mrs. Humphrey said that representatives of Eastern businesses who come to this area in quest of plant locations, check both Oregon and Washington. The decision to locate in Washington is frequently made on a personal, selfish basis—management prefers to live in a state where they don't have to pay an income tax. She said that Oregon has the highest income tax rate in the nation.

Mrs. Humphrey pointed out that the state's high budget which made necessary this year's 45 percent surtax on incomes was brought on by the people themselves. Between 60 and 70 percent of the total budget was voted by the people. She also said Oregon is the only state where the emergency clause cannot be put on a tax bill by the legislature enabling it to develop a more sound tax structure for the state. She added that 22 percent of the people in the state paid 66 percent of the tax, before surtax, and that 100,000 returns had no tax at all to pay. Mrs. Humphrey was introduced by state representative Allen Tom.

Chamber president Phil Blakney gave the welcome and introduced Rev. George R. S. Little, master of ceremonies. The invocation was given by Rev. Patrick J. Galre. The report on the chamber's activities for the year was given by secretary Bradley Fancher.

Awards Given

Certificates of recognition for special activities or accomplishments during the past year were

Heppner Honor Roll Students Listed

The sophomore class had the highest representation on the Heppner high school honor roll for the third nine weeks. They are Joann Brosnan, Tom Currin, Helen Graham, Peggy Applegate, and Jim Morris. Juniors were next with Janet Wright, Jay Sumner, Mary Jo Stewart, and Alice Faye Stewart. Nancy Anderson, Karen Prock and Lance Tibbles were high for the seniors, and Janice Martin, Renn Harris, and Steve Flug for the freshmen.

Those making the low honor roll with a 3.00 or better were Carolyn McDaniel, Susan McQuarrie, Bob Huffman, Shirley Kononen, Francine Francis, Laurel Allstott, Jesse Smallwood, Meredith Thomson, Eddie Groshens, Phyllis Quackenbush, Janice Beamer, Len Ray Schwarz, Judy Collins. The senior class had the largest number of students on this honor roll, and they are Shirley Palmer, Sharon Bryant, Skip Ruhl, Lowell Turner, Edith Morris, Bob Hare, Judy Wright, Nelson Connor, Bob Stevens, and Darrell Blake.

Water Resources Group Seeking Stream Flow Data

Nearly 30 persons attended the first meeting of the newly formed county water resources planning committee last Wednesday at the court house. Newt O'Harra is chairman of the committee.

Various reports were given by committee chairmen and Don Lane, executive secretary of the state water resources board spoke briefly and aided the organization in the formation of water resources plans in the county.

The group voted to seek aid in determining more accurately the amount of flow in streams in the county as one of the first steps it should take. The feeling was that without such information, very little actual planning could be done. At the present time only one stream measuring station is located in the county—it is on Willow creek in Heppner. More accurate information on flow in this and other streams is needed, it was felt.

O'Harra named a committee, consisting of all other committee heads, to formulate a plan to obtain this information.

Reports were given by chairmen of the several committees including Garland Swanson, domestic and municipal water use; Dr. L. D. Tibbles, pollution; Bill Barratt, Irrigation and P. W. Mahoney, flood control.

Another meeting is planned in about 30 days.

Band Club Sets Saturday Carnival

The second band parents club carnival is all set to open its doors to the public Saturday night at 7:30 at the fair pavilion, it was reported today by Bill Cox and LeRoy Gardner, general chairmen for the event.

The carnival which promises to be as good or better than last year's very successful fun night, is planned largely as repeat of the previous performance, it was said. There will be games of all kinds for both young and older kids, fish ponds, shuffleboard contests, and all the other booths normally expected at such an event.

One of the most popular booths at last year's show, the dunking tank, is again scheduled with several well known persons due to hit the water as a result of well-aimed baseballs. There will also be a movie show for the small children.

The carnival is being sponsored by the Heppner band parents club with the chamber of commerce having charge of one booth. Funds derived from this event will be used to complete the band uniform purchases started last year and possibly provide additional needed instruments for the school band. Mrs. Oliver Creswick is president of the club.

IONE P-TA CHANGED

The Ione P-TA will meet at 8 p. m. Tuesday rather than on Wednesday evening due to a conflict with the scheduled band concert.

Harry E. Yarnell Passes Monday

Harry E. Yarnell, 69 years of age, passed away April 2 at the Pioneer Memorial hospital. Death was the result of a stroke suffered February 14.

Harry Ellsworth Yarnell was born April 6, 1886 at Drewsey, Oregon and came to Ione in 1925 from Bickleton, Washington. He had farmed south of Ione since coming to this county. He was married February 22, 1912 to Kathryn Walsh at Bridgeport, Conn.

Mr. Yarnell was a member of Willows Grange and was an ardent hunter and fisherman. He was well known in Morrow county for his ability to locate water wells having located many during the past years.

Surviving are his widow, two sons, Alton H. Yarnell, Ione; and Clifford S. Yarnell of Vancouver, Wash.; one brother, Glenn W. of Yakima; a sister, Gladys Crider, Bickleton, Wash.; three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Rosary was held Tuesday evening and funeral services Wednesday morning, both at St. Williams Catholic church in Ione with Rev. Patrick J. Galre officiating.

Interment was in the Ione cemetery with Creswick Mortuary in charge.

Farmers Warned Against Farm Truck License Plan Change

Oregon state Farm Bureau representative Howard Fujul warned, at the Morrow county Farm Bureau meeting March 27 at the Garland Swanson home, that farmers should be aware of a movement afoot by other organizations in the state to remove farmers' truck license privilege which would make it necessary for farmers to buy PUC licenses. He said the cost of these would be prohibitive to farmers due to the small amount of use their trucks get.

The group passed resolutions favoring the limiting of the term of advisors to the state board of agriculture to one 4-year term, and favoring a price program for cattle at such a time as the price falls to 10 percent below parity.

Voter Registration Deadline Nears

Deadline for registering to vote in the May primary election is April 17, voters are reminded. If any change in residence has occurred since the last election, a new registration is required.

Mrs. Evonne Gammell of Pendleton was a Heppner visitor over the Easter weekend.

Mountain Snowpack Getting Deeper; Ample Water Seen

Water content of the Arbutle mountain snowpack averages 43 percent above the 27 year average and 9 percent more than last year at this time, according to snow measurements taken on Thursday, March 29, on the Arbutle mountain snow course. Tom Wilson, Soil Conservation service, and Vic Kriemeyer, Forest Service, reported 36 inches of heavy wet snow with a water content of 15.5 inches. Measurements taken last year at this time showed a snow depth of 43 inches with 14.2 inches of water. Comparable measurements in 1954 were 23 inches of snow with 8.9 inches of water and in 1953 snow depth was 42 inches with 17.1 inches of water.

A water content of 10.8 inches is the 27 year average for this time of year according to federal and state cooperative snow survey records. Soils are wet and unfrozen beneath the snow pack, Wilson reported. In addition to the water stored in the snow pack, considerable water has already left the watershed. Streamflow has been high in Willow creek during March, and water has been entering the Columbia river during the past four months.

HHS Paper Named For Two Awards

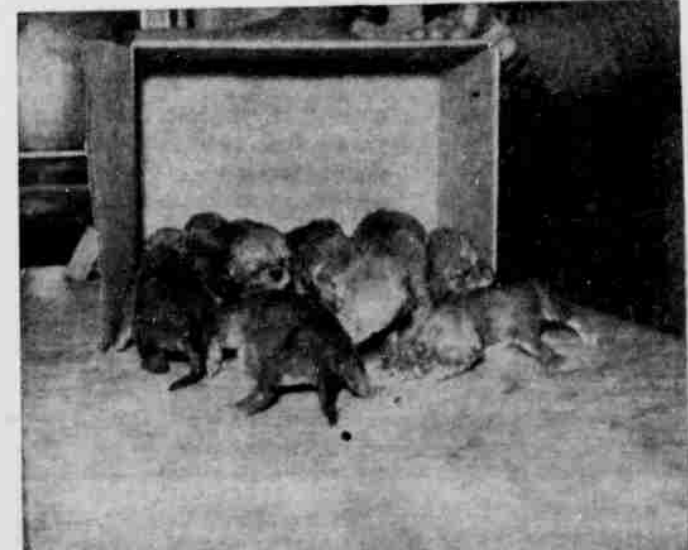
Word was received this week by staff members that the Heppner high school paper has been awarded two recent honors.

The paper was the recipient of a first class honor rating in the National Scholastic Press first semester contest and it won second place honors in the 32nd annual Columbia University scholastic press conference.

The paper's category is for senior high schools with less than 300 students and for a duplicated newspaper.

POMONA GRANGE MEET AT BOARDMAN APRIL 7

Pomona grange will be held at Boardman grange Saturday, April 7 starting at 10 a. m. Dinner will be served at noon and the program will start at 2 p. m. At 8 p. m. the fifth degree will be put on.



SIXTY-SIX DOLLARS worth of coyote pups, all from one litter, were photographed last weekend after they had been turned in to the county clerk Bruce Lindsay for \$6.00 per head bounty. They were caught along with the mother by Charlie Daly and Al Fetsch last Friday on the bombing range. The pups, less than nine days old were put to death shortly after the picture was taken. During the past week an additional 24 pups and four older coyotes have been brought in for bounty. (GT Photo)