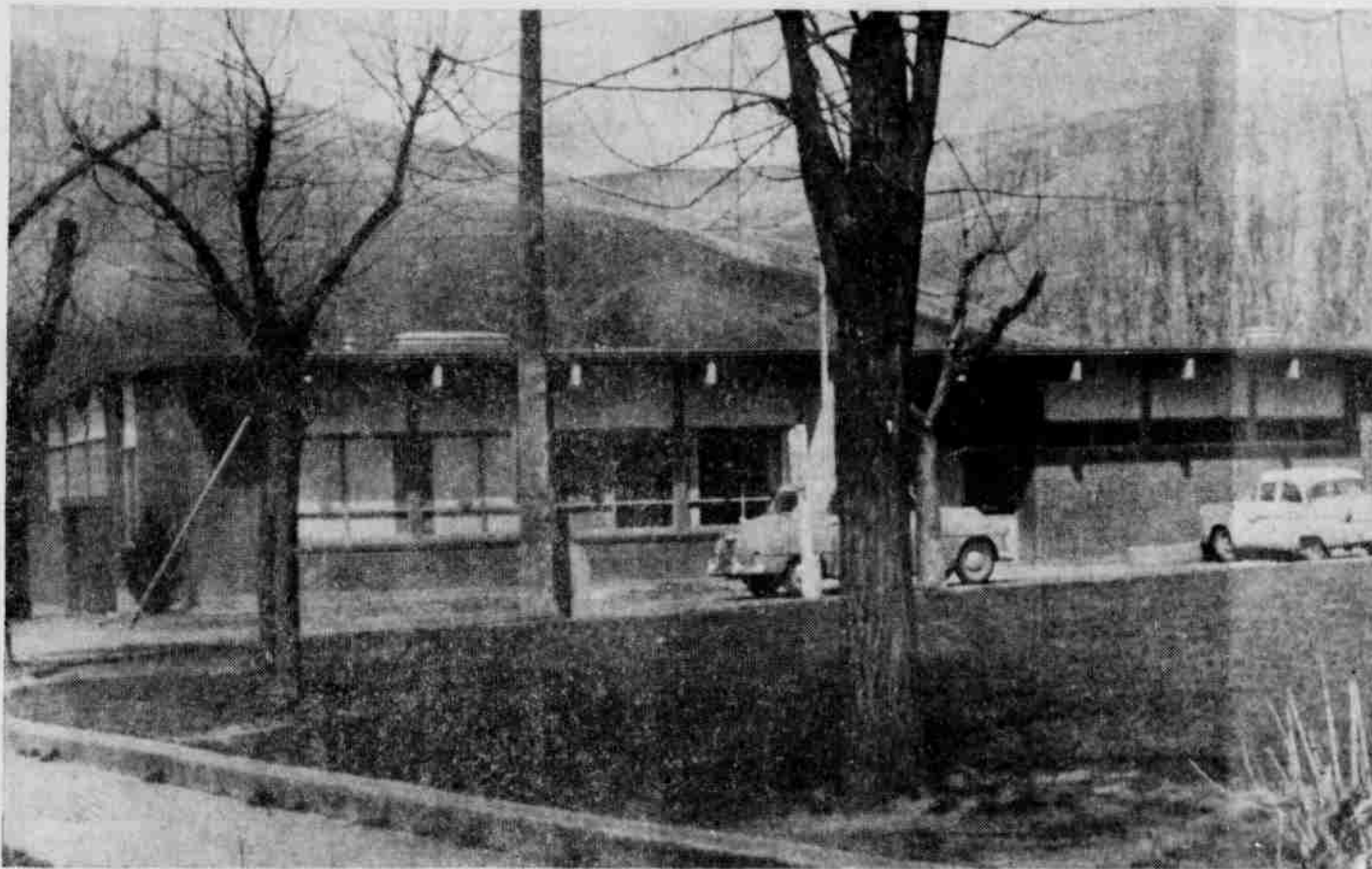


## Grade School Dedication Saturday



NEW HEPPNER GRADE SCHOOL will be dedicated Saturday evening during special ceremonies and open house. The building was completed during the winter, and has been in at least partial use during all of this school year. In the immediate foreground are offices and main entrance. The wing to the left

houses the multipurpose room and the 10 classrooms, which are located on two levels, start at the right and extend on out of the picture to the east. Playground space is behind the building. The ultra-modern plant will be open for inspection to all visitors. (Photo by Irene Wilson)

The formal dedication program and open house of the new Heppner grade school will be held this Saturday night, school board members and officials announced this week.

The new 10-classroom and the multipurpose room building which was accepted by the board from the contractors on March 5 will be dedicated during the evening and the entire new plant will be open for inspection by residents of this area, Heppner school superintendent Joe Stewart said.

Construction of the \$258,000 building was started just over a year ago by Simonton and Steele, Portland building contractors, and work was rushed during much of last year to make some of the classrooms available at the start of school last September. Since January all the classrooms have been in use even while the final finishing touches were being added, so great was the need for classroom space in the Heppner school system.

The program, scheduled to start at 8 p. m., will include music by the Heppner high school band,

invocation by Rev. Willis Geyer, greetings by L. E. Dick, Jr. school board chairman; Mrs. Mary Stevens, mayor of Heppner; and the county school superintendent, of the schoolhouse planning, for Jack Flug, A. L. Beck, director the state department of education will give the main address, which will be followed by musical selections by grade school students, an explanation of the building tour by elementary principal Clarence Johnson, and benediction by Rev. George R. S. Little.

All rooms in the building will contain special exhibits prepared by the students.

**Long Planning Required**  
The dedication of the new education plant climaxes a long series of events leading up to the actual start of construction of the building. Three sites were voted on before the final decision on the location was made. One other site was approved, but a bond issue for construction of a building on the location was rejected. In all, five special elections were held in the district before the final go-ahead was given

the board by the voters who finally approved a \$290,000 bond issue in 1954.

The building is of concrete, frame and brick veneer construction and contains a total of 23,850 square feet of space. Actual construction cost was \$10.84 per square foot, well under the cost of similar type buildings constructed elsewhere in recent years. The two-level plan for the classroom end of the school aided the holding down costs and took full advantage of the land area available. Architects were Freeman, Hayslip, Tufts and Hewlett of Portland.

The first six grades are now housed in the new building with 276 students registered in the 10 rooms. Clarence Johnson is elementary principal.

Considerable landscaping and completion of the playground area to the north of the school remains to be done, though the building itself is entirely finished. Plans are now being developed for the leveling and preparation of the playground area which may call for the culverting and covering over

of a section of Hinton creek. The district owns some property on the north side of the stream which will be available for play use if this plan is used. Much of this work will be done this summer. It has previously been announced that a group of scotch pipers under the direction of David M. Steele, one of the contractors, would be present for the dedication, however previous engagements will prevent them taking part in the program it was revealed.

## Commencement Set For May 22

Heppner high school commencement ceremonies have been set for Tuesday, May 22 at 8 p. m. It was revealed this week by school officials. Dr. Frank Bennett, president of Eastern Oregon College of Education will speak at the exercises.

Baccalaureate services will be May 20 at 8 p. m. in the Christian church with Rev. Charles Knox delivering the baccalaureate sermon.

Grade school graduation exercises will be Wednesday, April 23 at 8 p. m., it was also revealed.

## Services Friday For Mrs. Wick, 73

Funeral services for Margaret Virginia Wick, 73, will be held Friday, April 13 at 2 p. m. at the Congregational church in Condon. She passed away Wednesday at Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Mrs. Wick was born August 14, 1883 at Pittsburg, Pa. and had been a resident of Gilliam county for 61 years.

Survivors are one son Lester Wick, Lonerock; three daughters, Mrs. Alfred Lovgren, Heppner; Mrs. Walter Hayes, Boardman; Mrs. Louis LeTrace, Echo; three sisters, Georgia and Jenny Kellogg, both of Condon, and Mrs. Lilly Oatman, Portland; Three brothers, Bud Perry, Walla Walla; Trayton Bradfield, Hermiston; Charles Bradfield, Alsea; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rev. Stuart Goude will officiate at the services with Pythian Sisters in charge of graveside rites at the Lonerock cemetery.

## Pickup Loses Four Wheels to Thief

The sheriff's office this week is investigating the theft of all four wheels and tires from a pickup truck belonging to Sid Zinter of Eightmile.

The theft occurred late last week from the vehicle which was parked near the Zinter cabin located off the Heppner-Spray highway. Two days later the cabin was entered and a considerable amount of groceries, some clothes and a few tools were taken, sheriff C. J. D. Bauman reported.

## Wednesday Dust Cloud Leaves Layer of Dirt

Just whose real estate settled down over Morrow county and most of the Columbia basin Wednesday nobody seems to know for certain, but the thick cloud of choking dust that blanketed out the sun for most of the day gave Oregonians a taste of what Los Angeles residents suffer through regularly.

The dust pall hit this area early Wednesday and in a short time left a layer of silt on everything. At times visibility was reduced to one-quarter mile or less. By sundown, however, the cloud had drifted on.

According to reports the dust was probably a combination of silt from a storm in the Central Washington area and a mass of air from the southwest which had picked up dirt from Nevada, Utah and Idaho. Practically no wind accompanied the cloud in this section giving it more the appearance of a heavy fog—except that it felt much different.

The storm came on the fourth consecutive day of genuine spring weather which brought the mercury up into the high 60s and 70s. A rising barometer indicated Thursday that fair weather might continue.

## Van Marter New Elks Ruler

La Verne Van Marter Jr. was installed as exalted ruler of the Elks lodge last Thursday night at special installation ceremonies. He takes over as top officer of the lodge from Milton Morgan Jr. of Ione.

Other new officers include Alton H. Yarnell, Ione, leading knight; William Labhart, loyal knight; John Hartman, lecturing knight; Jack Bailey, secretary; H. D. McCurdy Jr., treasurer; R. B. Ferguson, trustee; and Lowell Gribble, tiler.

Appointive officers named by Van Marter include Delmar Jordan, esquire; Everett Keithley, chaplain; and Glenn Ward, inner guard.

## Heppner Students Win Speech Awards

Darrell Blake, Heppner high school speech student won a gold cup for first place in panel speaking at the district speech festival in La Grande April 5 and 6.

Five other students competing qualified for a place in the state speech meet at Corvallis April 12 and 13. They are: second place, Meredith Thomson in persuasive and Wayne Soward, in impromptu; third place, James Monahan in panel; Lance Tibbles in extemporaneous; and James and Wayne Soward in debate. Fourth place; Darrell Blake in after-dinner speaking. Alternates in their divisions were Meredith Thomson in poetry; and George Little in serious.

## LEGION PARTY CHANGED

The Heppner American Legion meeting and anniversary party announced last week for Saturday, April 14 has been postponed until a later date, due to conflicts, it was announced this week.



AWARD WINNERS—winners of certificates of recognition for community progress during the past year, which were presented at last week's chamber of commerce annual banquet are, left to right, Lowell Gribble, P-TA president, who accepted for the school board; mayor Mrs. Mary Van Stevens; Paul Koenig, manager of Heppner Pine Mills; W. C. Rosewall; and Jack Angel, who accepted for the board of Pioneer Memorial hospital. Not present when picture was taken was James Farley, who received award for adding new auto display room and shop to business district. Second from right is Phil Bickney, chamber president, who made the presentations. (Photo by Schaffits)

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE TUESDAY

County residents were reminded again today by county clerk Bruce Lindsay that next Tuesday, April 17 is the last day to register to vote in the May 18 primary election.

The clerk's office will remain open until 8 p. m. next Tuesday to accept late registrations and residents of Lexington, Ione, Boardman and Irigoin may register with the registrar in each town.

Unless properly registered, persons will be unable to vote in May.

## Rummage Needed For Civic League Sale

Residents of this area having rummage to contribute to the Heppner Civic League rummage sale April 20 and 21 are asked to contact Mrs. Jack Loyd or Mrs. Marvin Smith as soon as possible. The deadline for cleaning garments has been set for Monday and the women will pickup rummage this weekend if called.

According to co-chairmen Mrs. Jack Van Winkle and Mrs. M. O. Storro, donations of rummage to date have been very slow. All items from clothing to furniture are acceptable. Rummage may also be left at Jack's Chevron station.

Members of the organization will launder and press cotton items and clothing needing cleaning will be sent to the Heppner Cleaners. Sorting is scheduled for Monday evening with Mrs. Paul Koenig in charge.

The semi-annual event is a benefit for the local kindergarten.

## 1000 Acres Strip-Cropping Added in Heppner District

Over 1000 acres of wind and strip crop farming were established in the Heppner Soil Conservation district in March, according to a report made by Tom Wilson of the soil conservation service at a meeting of the district supervisors Tuesday night in the bank building.

The new acreage, with an additional 1000 acres planned in April, brings the district total of strip farming to approximately 8000 acres. A total of 320 acres of wind strip farming was established on the D. O. Nelson ranch, in Lexington and 689 acres of contour strip cropping on the ranches of Don Peterson, Ione; Walter Ruggles, Burton Peck and Vernon Munkers, Lexington. Strip cropping planned for April will be on the ranches of Harold Peck Rhea Creek; Elmer Palmer and son and Fred Mankin and Paul Heinrichs, Eightmile.

Technical assistance for leveling and developing the playground of the new Heppner grade school was approved by the supervisors and plans made for observance of soil stewardship Sunday in all churches May 6. Plans for purchasing a new drill for district use was tabled until results of seeding trials were observed by supervisors.

The March progress reports showed 39,936 acres of conservation soil surveys completed bringing the total to 800,198 acres; grass-legume seedings made on 265 acres and brush eradication on 30 acres.

Attending the session were Raymond French, Raymond Lundell, John Wightman, Don Peterson, Douglas Price, Roy Tabor and Wilson.

## Requests Made For Improvement of Spray Highway

Letters went out to members of the state highway commission and highway engineers last week from the chamber of commerce and numerous individuals asking that immediate action be taken to repair the Heppner-Spray highway and also place it on a program for paving.

An acknowledgement of the chamber's letter was received yesterday from the commission secretary H. B. Glaisyer stating that members would be advised of the improvement request.

Reports this week tell of considerable maintenance work having been done on the road during the past week by highway crews, though there are still several bad spots remaining. Load limits are still in effect on the road, as they are on the Condon and Hinton creek highways, but a state highway district engineer was in the area Tuesday inspecting the roads and will report his recommendations to the highway commission. The result of his inspection is not known, but it is thought that the load limits probably will be lifted within the next week or so.

The chamber of commerce letter to the commission said, in part:

"The Heppner-Spray road, particularly that section of the road between the mouth of Chapin creek and where the said road intersects with the John Day highway near Spray, is in such a deplorable condition as to be practically impassible. Load limits are in effect, which have practically stopped all truck traffic on the said road and is adversely affecting the economy of this county, particularly the city of Heppner, as well as the economy of Monument and other points in Grant county.

"This road was constructed approximately 30 years ago and has never been improved to any degree in the section heretofore mentioned.

"It is the belief of the Chamber of Commerce of this city that the traffic count on this road would be materially increased if the road was put in proper condition—and made a modern highway. At the present time, due to the deplorable condition of the road, the mill at Monument which normally hauls its lumber, rough green, over the said road to Heppner for dry kilning, planing and finishing, is at a complete shutdown adversely affecting the economy of that town, as well as causing unemployment in the local plant here. The petroleum dealers of this area who serve the Spray and Monument areas are unable to haul their products over said road. A number of farmers who have brought equipment to be repaired in this section are unable to return the equipment to their ranches in Monument, Spray area due to the fact that this road is impassible.

"During the last two fiscal years the state highway commission has not expended any funds for any new road construction in Morrow county except on highway 30. We believe that we are entitled to have a share of the road funds budgeted for improvements to the existing state highways in this county; therefore, we request the state highway commission take immediate steps to repair this road so that it can be put in condition for normal traffic and that contracts be let for the improvement of this section of the Heppner-Spray road between the mouth of Chapin creek and its intersection with the John Day highway with view of having the same hard surfaced and brought up to standard of other state secondary highways."

## Broken Pole Causes Power Outage Sunday

A broken power pole on a PP&L line just west of Heppner caused a power outage varying from one and one-half to seven hours early Sunday when a pickup truck driven by Louis Sayers, Heppner, left the road and it broke off the pole. The accident happened at 5:15 a. m.

In the accident report Sayers said a pilot's helmet fell to the floor of the truck and as he reached to pick it up the vehicle left the road.

Lexington was without power for about one and one-half hours with some users between there and Heppner being off until shortly after noon.



VALBY LUTHERAN CHURCH, which will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding next Sunday, looks much the same as it did when the building was dedicated October 24, 1897. This picture was taken at the time of the dedication nearly 59 years ago. Many descendants of the founders still live in the area and worship at the church.

## Valby Lutheran Church to Observe 70th Anniversary of Founding Sunday

In April 1886 a group of pioneer Swedish people who had settled around the community known as Gooseberry in Morrow county asked Dr. Erik Norelius, president of the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran church to conduct their first worship service. This initial worship and holy communion service was held at the home of Charles Anderson on Palm Sunday.

This year, in fact next Sunday, April 15, the church will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding.

The following day, April 19, 1886, a second worship service was conducted, this time at the home of John Johnson. According to the "memoirs" of Dr. Norelius after services and a noon meal, the pioneer group went out, sat

on the woodpile and there organized Valby Lutheran church with the following charter members: Charles Anderson, Andrew Carlson, Nils Magnus Peterson, Olaf Bergstrom, Oliver Pearson, Andrew Anderson, John Peterson and John Janson. Erik Bergstrom, Aaron Peterson, Paul Andrew Lovgren, Paul, Swen and Johannes Tradsen, F. A. Lundell and A. Charleston were also among the early formative group.

Pastor Norelius remained in the community for two days and then continued his peripatetic preaching ministry. Pastor Peter Carlson visited the congregation in November 1886 and again in May, 1887. Pastor J. W. Skans made his first journey to Valby on Oct. 2, 1887 and on this occasion resolutions were passed to

have the congregation incorporated which was done early in 1888.

In 1896 the congregation elected a building committee and on Oct. 24, 1897 the building was dedicated. The historical record indicates that this was one of the first church buildings erected in Morrow county and is possibly one of the earliest remaining churches.

Although the church never had a full-time resident pastor, it has fostered its Lutheran heritage to the present day when its present church board for 1956 has as honorary deacons, Erik Bergstrom, brother of charter member Olaf Bergstrom; and Ernest Lundell, son of F. A. Lundell, charter member. As trustees, Oscar (Continued on page 6)