

"Wild" Drivers Due For Special Police Attention

Extra Police to be Used to Control Saturday Night "Squirreling" in Area

A concerted campaign by all local police agencies started last weekend to curb a rising wave of reckless driving, "squirreling" and other traffic offenses in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione areas.

The "get tough" program came about as a result of many complaints by local residents of "squirreling", speeding and reckless driving by numerous drivers (not all young, according to police) which has been occurring particularly on Saturday nights during and following fair and rodeo dances which have been held at the fair pavilion the last three weeks. City and state police and the sheriff's office are cooperating to put a stop to such action before any serious injuries or deaths occur.

Last Saturday night there were two state patrolmen, two city police and sheriff C. J. D. Bauman on traffic patrol which resulted in several arrests being made.

Sheriff Bauman, Heppner police chief Dean Gilman and state police William Labhart emphasized Wednesday that during the past several weeks numerous warnings have been issued because of careless driving, particularly among the younger drivers, but it has become apparent that just warnings are not sufficient. All officers stated that they have been aware of the driving habits of many persons and have been making an effort to stop the recklessness, but it was decided that extra police would be used on Saturday nights to control the traffic. Last Saturday both city officers were on duty and an extra state patrolman was working this area.

Last weekend several arrests were made and both city and state officers said that there were several instances of cars driving up to 70 and 75 miles an hour on north Main street and of others doing over 100 miles an hour before reaching the city limits. Both justice court and municipal judges have indicated that they don't plan to be lenient with offenders.

State police reminded drivers that radar is now being used by the department to check driving speeds throughout the state and warned that a radar car could be used in Heppner at any time.

Temperatures Drop to Comfortable Range

Temperatures in the Heppner area dropped into the more comfortable 80's and low 90's during most of the past week, giving residents some respite from the high 90's and 100 degree heat that had seared the country all the previous week.

Official temperature figures for the past seven days were not available, but most persons did not need a thermometer to know that things had cooled off considerably. Wednesday morning even a few coats and jackets were noticed around town as the mercury dipped to well below 50. Some cloudiness has been forecast for the next few days.

Cases to Be Listed

In cooperation with the police drive to stop the "Saturday night tire-burning spree", the Gazette Times this week starts the publication of all traffic and other cases which are brought before both Justice and Municipal Courts in Heppner. It is felt by police officers and the publisher that such publication of names, offenses and fines, may act as a deterrent to many drivers who are inclined to violate traffic laws.

Cases which have been heard during the past week in both courts are not included in this story but will be found, this week and hereafter, under a "Justice and Municipal Court" heading elsewhere in the paper.

All police officers concurred with Heppner chief Gilman when he said, "We have been trying to reason with drivers in the past to convince them of the danger of this type of driving, but in the future such driving is going to result in arrest."

Ralph J. Craber Found Dead From Self-Inflicted Shot

Ralph J. (Tim) Craber, 63, was found dead early Saturday morning in the back yard of his home in North Heppner, the victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in the head.

The body was discovered by Bill Cunningham, who lives nearby, about 8 a. m. and investigating officers placed the time of his death at between 6 and 7 o'clock that morning. A .22 caliber revolver was found lying between his legs and a note found in the house indicated that despondency was probably the cause of his action. He had recently been hospitalized, but his illness was not considered serious.

Mr. Craber was born September 18, 1892 at Yancton, South Dakota and had lived in this area for 55 years. He had done various types of work and was known as a general handy man and mechanic. He was a veteran of World War I.

Services were held Tuesday, July 31 at the Heppner Christian church with Rev. Charles V. Knox officiating. Interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery with Creswick Mortuary in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Craber is survived by three brothers, J. E. Craber, Heppner; J. O. Craber, Cottage Grove; David Craber, Salem; two sisters, Mrs. Ada Cannon, Heppner; and Mrs. Bessie Cook of Independence, Ore.

Mrs. Eva Hill Dies at Redmond

Word has been received here of the death of Mrs. Eva Hill, a former resident of Heppner. She passed away Tuesday at Redmond while visiting a son.

Funeral services are expected to be held here late this week but definite arrangements have not been made.

NEW POLIO CASES REPORTED IN STATE; USE OF VACCINE URGED ALL ELIGIBLE

COUNTY HAS FIRST CASE

Morrow county's first polio case of the year was reported this week when a 16 year old Irrigon girl was taken to Good Shepherd hospital in Hermiston Sunday suffering from the disease. Her case is reported to be non-paralytic.

Reports of five new cases of polio in Oregon last week brought a warning from the state board of health Wednesday that the disease may be starting its 1956 seasonal increase.

The department's communicable disease summary for the

week ended last Saturday, which was published today, reported new cases of polio in Baker, Umatilla, Douglas and Washington counties and the city of Portland. The new reports brought the total for this year to 47 cases, 29 of which have been paralytic. The new cases prompted state board of health officials to repeat their plea that all eligible persons in Oregon obtain Salk vaccine from their private physicians "as soon as possible." Everyone up to the age of 30 and all expectant mothers are now eligible for commercial shots.

Although the five cases are well below weekly totals expected during peak periods, the summary credited the new reports as "suggesting that the seasonal increase of this disease may be beginning."

"In all four of the cases reported this week for which vaccination history is currently available", the summary emphasized, "the patient had not been vaccinated". Information on the fifth case was not available.

Dr. Samuel B. Osgood, state epidemiologist, who prepares the weekly report, said that two of the cases were paralytic, one was listed as non-paralytic, and information on the other two was not complete.

He reported that Umatilla county, which has had seven cases so far this year, is the only county in Oregon to report unusual numbers of polio. Four of the Umatilla cases have been paralytic.

Dr. Osgood said that Oregon's polio total so far this year "is little more than half the number reported at this time last year and is about 30 percent below the 1949-1955 medium number of cases for the first 29 weeks of the year". State board of health experts have credited much of the decrease to the success of the new Salk vaccine.

VACCINE CAN BE GIVEN

Dr. A. D. McMurdo, county health officer, said today that in the past when a person had been exposed to polio and globulin had been given it was thought that vaccine could not be administered for at least six weeks.

It has not been determined, Dr. McMurdo said, that in such cases Salk vaccine can be given immediately but in a different arm.

Patricia Wright Featured on TV Program Monday

Television viewers across the nation watched Patricia Wright, queen of the 1956 Morrow county fair and rodeo, and nation's top 4-H club girl, Monday night when she appeared on the Voice of Firestone television and radio program from New York City.

Miss Wright was chosen to represent all the nation's 4-H girls while she was attending the national 4-H camp at Washington, D. C. in June. She appeared on the program with Lisle Cook of Providence, Ia., who was chosen to represent 4-H boys.

She told of her life on a 7,000 acre ranch near Heppner operated by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wright, and explained that she has completed 20 projects in her 10 years as a 4-H member, the chief being her clothing projects. Cook also is a 10-year 4-H member and lives on a 230 acre ranch.

Patricia and her mother left Portland by United Airlines plane Saturday and returned home early this week.

Red Hat Chairman Named For County

Morrow county efforts to improve landowner-sportsmen relations and to provide safer fire-free hunting seasons will be coordinated by Ralph Taylor, Heppner, who has been appointed by Governor Elmo Smith as Morrow county chairman for this year's Red Hat Days campaign.

More than a score of statewide organizations again have joined in sponsoring this educational program which was so successfully launched last year. Red Hat Days will start September 21 and continue throughout the hunting season.

Governor Smith said marked improvement in hunter conduct was observed in 1955. He noted that there were fewer reports of vandalism, fewer hunter-caused fires and fewer fatalities resulting from careless use of firearms.

"Much progress remains to be made," Governor Smith added. "I am convinced that the Red Hat Days program is a sound approach to solving problems created by a small percentage of hunters. I urge all hunters to remember their outdoor obligations when they go afield this fall."

Each of Oregon's 36 counties has a Red Hat chairman. The statewide educational campaign is directed by the Governor's Red Hat Days committee, composed of seven representatives of sponsor groups.

Bradley Fancher and P. W. Mahoney spent five days in John Day last week on business.

Wheat Harvesting Still at Peak

Wheat continued to pour into grain elevators in the county at the rate of close to 140,000 bushels a day as harvesting got under way even in the higher sections of the county.

Grain was still going on the ground at the North Lexington elevator of the Morrow County Grain Growers and at the present time there are about 150,000 bushels in ground storage at that facility. Al Lamb, MCGG manager said Wednesday that the co-op has received no freight cars for the past two days and that the shipping situation is still unsatisfactory. He said that it may be necessary to dump on the ground at Lexington within a couple of days.

Other elevators in the area report that cars have been hard to get but that they have been able to ship all that was necessary.

Hauling is beginning to slack off in the north Lexington area which is always the first to get into production, but in other sections, cutting is still at its peak.



PRINCESS MAXINE SICARD

Boardman Princess Dance Saturday Night

A popular member of this year's fair and rodeo royal court, Princess Maxine Sicard of Boardman, will be honored at her own dance Saturday night at the Heppner fair pavilion. The dance is being given by her sponsors, the Boardman Tillicum club.

The Boardman princess, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sicard, is the youngest of this year's court but her school accomplishments and outside activities make an impressive list. She is 16 years of age, five feet five and one-half inches tall, has blue eyes and natural curly hair.

Some of her various activities in high school include membership in the pep club, G. A. A., the high school band, girls' chorus, and the student council. She has also served on the carnival committee, as secretary-treasurer of the junior class, news reporter for the Cactus-Script, the high school paper. Next year she will be on the annual staff and has been elected secretary-treasurer of the student body. Even though she has taken part in many organizations and activities, she stands at the top of her class in grades.

AS to the future, Princess Maxine admits a little apprehension. She would like to specialize in some type of research work but the field is still somewhat uncertain.

Her hobbies include riding, raising sheep, collecting stamps and pictures and playing the piano. Her sheep raising, though she says it is a hobby, has proved a profitable one for her for she bought her horse, Sandy, and her own piano with the money she made from her sheep. She also has hopes of adding flying to her list of hobbies, saying she has been up many times and loves it.

Nine-Year-Old Boy Kills Big Owl

Billy Bulger, 9 year old Chehalis, Washington boy who is visiting his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Gilman on the Hynd Bros. Luckman ranch on Freeze-out, proved himself a crack shot with a B-B gun recently when he killed a big owl that had been killing chickens at the ranch.

The night before Billy found the big bird, which had a 54 inch wingspread, it had killed three chickens so he went hunting in earnest. Two shots resulted in shooting both the owl's eyes out.

Saying of the Week—

Classified ad seen in a small town newspaper: "Second-hand tombstone for sale. Wonderful bargain for family named Auchincloss."

About 600 Acres Burned in Year's First Range Fire

The first grass and range fire of the year burned over 400 to 600 acres of grass on Balm Fork east of Heppner Monday afternoon, but the efforts of a sizeable crew of firefighters succeeded in keeping the blaze away from buildings.

The fire started just at noon on the Luke Bibby ranch and before it had been controlled it burned over parts of the Bibby, Ralph Beamer, Howard Cleveland and Wilbur Gourley ranches. It is not known whether the fire started from a truck exhaust or whether a worker dropped a match. It was noticed immediately but it travelled too fast for the crew to keep it from spreading.

Bibby reported that he lost a binder in the fire, but continued efforts prevented the loss of a big stack of hay and a large barn. The barn caught on fire several times, but the men were successful in stopping it while the blazes were still small. Bibby also lost a small amount of shocked grain.

Bibby reported that the county road crew, which was working in the area, as well as many neighbors and men from Heppner joined in the fight which lasted for over four hours. The blaze sent up a big cloud of smoke which attracted considerable attention.

Bibby extended his appreciation to all who helped prevent further spread of the flames.

Hermiston Sale Prices Climb

HERMISTON—Prices bounced upwards at the Hermiston Livestock Commission Co. sale Friday with most grades of cattle and hogs beating last week's prices by from \$.50 to \$1 per hundred-weight.

Grass fat steers hit a high of \$19.70 cwt. to erase last week's season high of \$19.30 cwt. Other good gainers were steer calves, up \$1 to \$17.60 cwt.; veal up \$.60 at \$18.10 cwt.; feeder steers, up \$1.10 at \$18.20 cwt.; grass fat heifers, up \$1 at \$16.90 cwt.; and commercial cows, up \$.50 at \$13.10 cwt.

While prices were climbing the number of consignors fell off to 52. But, hampered by the three Hs of summer (heat, hay and harvesting), they never-the-less put 258 cattle, 44 sheep and 87 hogs on the auction block in a very fast sale, manager Delbert Anson said.

Feed lots are beginning to get in replacements indicating a need for more feeder cattle at next Friday's sale, Anson announced. Packers will need more grass fat cows and steers.

The market:
CATTLE: Baby calves, 4.50 to 16.00 per head; steer calves, 16.10 to 17.60 cwt.; heifer calves, 14.10 to 15.90 cwt.; veal, 16.10 to 18.10 cwt.; stocker steers, 15.50 to 17.10 cwt.; grass fat steers, 18.50 to 19.70 cwt.; grass fat heifers, 14.30 to 16.90 cwt.; dairy cows, 87.50 to 109.00 per head; stocker cows with calves at side, 94.00 to 115 per pair; commercial cows, 11.75 to 13.10 cwt.; canners and cutters, 7.75 to 9.20 cwt.; shells, 5.25 to 7.10 cwt.; bulls, 12.50 to 13.90 cwt.; and utility grades, 10.50 to 11.90 cwt.

HOGS: Weaner pigs, 7 to 10 per head; feeder pigs, 14.20 to 15.70 cwt.; fat hogs, 16.50 to 17.40 cwt.; boars, 3.50 to 8.00 cwt.; and sows, 11.50 to 15.30 cwt.

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FLOOD CONTROL AND IRRIGATION BENEFITS SEEN—

Willow Creek Dam Claimed Area's Foremost Need

If residents of this section of Morrow county are interested in the development of an irrigation and flood control dam on Willow creek, now is the time to start planning such a project. J. O. Turner, member of the Morrow county water resources committee, told the chamber of commerce Monday noon.

Turner said the recent series of flash floods in this section of Oregon have pointed to the need for flood control protection here and also told the group that there are a potential 6,000 acres of crop land that could benefit materially from irrigation which could be obtained from such a dam.

Back in 1948 the United States Army Engineers surveyed the water resource needs of the county and recommended in its

famous 308 report that a 90 foot dam be built on Willow creek just above Heppner at the confluence of Willow creek and Balm Forks. That report has been approved by Congress, as were many other projects in the northwest, but lack of local interest has held back any further planning of promotion of the project.

Turner said that the state water resources board is very interested in the flood control and water needs of this area and has suggested that local interests make an effort to develop a plan which could be presented to the engineers for future consideration. The state board suggested, through its field engineer Quentin Bowman, that Morrow county farmers and other interested

residents, take steps to develop a program for such a dam which would show the Engineers that the area was desirous of getting help for a flood control and irrigation project, and that they were in agreement as to what type of a plan they would prefer. Survey Suggested

Turner told the chamber that original plans called for a 90 foot concrete dam to be located just above Heppner which would cost (estimated at that time) \$3,000,000. Revised thinking on such a project has suggested an earth fill dam, with ample spillway facilities to handle flash-flood water, located at the same place which would back water about a mile up both Willow creek and Balm fork. Such a dam would be cheaper to build and

yet would provide the same protection and irrigation benefits. If such a plan could be agreed upon by local residents and approved by the engineers, farmers on approximately 6,000 acres of bottom land the length of Willow creek would be in a position to receive an ample supply of irrigation water the year around at a reasonable cost.

Turner said the first step would be to ask for a resurvey of the entire plan by the engineers with the idea that it would then be possible to determine what ranchers would have to pay for the irrigation water and efforts could be made to sign up water contracts among the land owners effected. Turner said he had been told that it could be possible that such

a program could be developed which would require local residents of the Willow creek area to put up only a relatively few thousand dollars in actual cash. The cost of the remainder of the project would be paid out as irrigation benefits accrue over the years, as is done in other irrigation areas such as Boardman, Irrigon, West Umatilla and many others.

Turner said the most important thing at the present time is that a definite interest must be shown by local residents in getting a workable plan developed. He continued that the county water resources committee has placed such a plan at the top of its list of vital projects and urged that the chamber take action to develop interest among the many

people in this area who would be affected.

Following Turner's talk, Orville Cutsforth, Lexington rancher, told how the water table in the entire county was dropping alarmingly because there is no large body of water in the entire area to replenish the underground water supply. He said that a sizeable pool of water in the upper elevations of the county could do much to elevate that situation and cited several examples of where such bodies of water have raised the water table in surrounding areas bringing dry wells back into production.

It was also pointed out that the recreational value of such a reservoir would be immeasurable. Turner prefaced his remarks

by saying that the first discussion and planning of Grand Coulee dam started in 1918, yet it was 1933 before actual construction was started. He emphasized that water is this area's most important problem and if a solution is to be found before many residents suffer greatly from the lack (or overabundance) of it, a start must be made now to find the solution.

Newt O'Harra, chairman of the county water resources planning committee, said that a meeting of that group would be held early in September at which time state water resources board engineers would be present. He urged local interested parties to be present at the meeting, the exact date of which will be announced later.