

# HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES THIRTY YEARS AGO

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## Local Politics on a National Scale

Oregon's senator Wayne Morse should have felt right at home Tuesday evening when he spoke before the Democratic national convention. By the time he finished his speech the great convention hall was almost as empty as has been the senate chamber on many occasions when he has expounded. Television certainly does have some genuine value to the voters of Oregon—they were able to see first hand the blank seats that Morse has had to face for the last several years.

It seems to us that the Democrats were a little too oblivious in their inclusion of Morse on their speaker's program. During the Hell's Canyon debate in the senate, top Demos made the statement that the party faithful had to do something for Morse if they were to get him back for another term (such as pass his pet Hell's Canyon dam bill). That didn't work, so they gave him a spot on the national convention program where, we believe, he gave one of the poorest speeches of his career.

If Wayne can't even keep the Democrats interested, we don't see how he can hold much hope for a victory in November.

## Not Much of a Record

The last issue of the Oregon Voter carried a compilation of the vote in Oregon at the primary election. It showed that Morrow county came very close to setting a record in the state for the percentage of voters who got around to cast their ballots. The record is nothing to be proud of.

In May a total of only 1,104 votes out of a total registration of 2,170 bothered to cast their ballots. That is a percentage of only 50.8.

That figure means that Morrow county was the fourth lowest in the entire state in the percentage of voters who voted. Only Wheeler county with 41.4 percent; Crook with 45.3 and Columbia with 49.3 percent of their voters voting were worse than we were.

Top county in the state was Hood River where 68.7 percent voted. The state average in the primaries was 62 percent.

## Evaporation Pans May Help Predict Irrigation Needs

Pans of water set in strategic spots around the countryside may be able to tell farmers when and how much to irrigate if research at Oregon State college continues to pay off.

Paul Riley, OSC agricultural engineer, and Dan Evans, soil scientist, report that the amount of water evaporating from pans during a three-day period gives a good indication of the amount

fertilized summer fallow, preferably close to the road for ease of the various operations that need to be carried out on land that is quite level. The fields where these plots are located are worked and seeded as in ordinary operations.

The only difference in operation would be at harvest time when forty-inch swaths are taken from each of the plots. The plot is approximately one-half acre in size.

William J. Doherty, Sand Hollow farmer, was in the office one day last week to inquire of recommended tillage practices and dry-land grass for seeding at his farm. He is making plans now for seeding 150 acres of Crested wheat and Nomad alfalfa. This will provide additional feed for his herd of cattle which he runs in conjunction with his wheat operations.

While visiting with Mr. Doherty we found that he was very well pleased with Flynn 37 barley grown on his farm this year. His entire acreage of barley yielded over 1900 pounds per acre. One field yielded 2056 pounds. Barley yields are apparently at least double last year's yield with Flynn 37 making some excellent yields from some farmer reports.

Burton Peck called at the office last week with a sample of Japanese Millet which he grew on his farm this year. The particular plants he brought in showed a tremendous growth and would compete well with that type of millet grown in the mid-west where that crop is a popular one. While at the office, Mr. Peck told us that he had read the card mailed recently from this office pleading for grain, grass and hay exhibits at the Morrow county fair. He will have a number of them for exhibit and said that all it took was just a little time and effort on the part of the farmer to make a good exhibit at our Fair. We hope that there are others following his footsteps.

Don't forget that Fair time is growing closer every day. It takes your exhibits and the cooperation of everyone to make good fair better. Why don't you get into the spirit of things this year and bring in an exhibit.

plots, the Raymond Lundell plot was so evident as to nitrogen carry-over that the curiosity was so great to see what the results would be after a year of summer fallow that a quick calculation was made. It was found that 20 pounds of nitrogen applied in the fall of 1953 had carried over and gave an increase of 4.1 bushels per acre compared with the check. Forty pounds of nitrogen gave exactly twice that increase, or 8.2 bushels; 60 pounds of nitrogen gave a 5.3 bushel increase; while 80 pounds gave 4.4. The plots where nitrogen was applied in the spring gave even greater results with the 20 pound plot giving a 4 bushel increase; the 40 pound an 11.5 bushel; the 60 pound a 14.8; and the 80 pound a 14.6 bushel increase. Evidently the spring applied nitrogen was not made available to the growing crop that year, therefore, a greater carry-over for this year's crop. The results of this plot indicate that farmers might be thinking of carry-over and plan their yearly applications of nitrogen accordingly.

With this year's nitrogen plots out of the way it is time now to locate farms for next year's plots. We would appreciate having volunteers. We would like to have plots put out on as many different farms throughout the county as possible to determine nitrogen influences so do not want to go back to the same farm cooperators unless it is absolutely necessary.

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of water a crop uses. And this information, together with knowing a soil's moisture-holding capacity and a knowledge of a particular crop's water needs, could give farmers a simple and accurate method for figuring when and how much irrigation water to apply.

In their research, the scientists found that while evaporation from pans set as far as three miles apart varied considerably from day to day, the average evaporation loss was fairly uniform when measured every three days. Size or shape of the pans didn't seem to matter.

Big obstacle to use of the method is a lack of information on the rate plants draw water from the soil during different stages of maturity. For example, scientists know that corn needs more water at tasseling time than at any other growth period. But the rate of water use at different stages of maturity hasn't been established for most irrigated crops.

When this relationship between water needs and evaporation losses to a plant's stage of growth is known for all the various irrigated crops, deciding when and how much to irrigate may become a simple arithmetic problem. Weather stations could report evaporation losses from strategically located pans of water. Then, knowing the water holding capacity of his soil and the maturity stage of his crop,

a farmer would just need to do a little adding to figure the water losses from the field he's irrigating.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Miller of Portland were guests at the Jack Bedford home Wednesday and Thursday of last week enroute to Mt. Baker.

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## From The County Agent's Office

By John Massie

While Morrow county has been smut treatments, HCB and PCNB, fortunate over the years to be relatively free of wheat smut, there has been years when rather heavy infestations of smut have occurred. A number of farmers have complained this year of more smut than usual. This might be the result of several things, including a gradual build-up of smut spores in the seed wheat and the soil, a particularly good year for smut and the occurrence of newer smuts which attack wheat varieties resistant to older type smut strains. Whatever the reason might be, there are several things that farmers can do to insure themselves against a recurrence of this smut in 1957.

Perhaps the first and most important is that of a good job of seed treatment. With the new

free of smut spores. Where smut has been a problem in a particular variety, it is often times desirable to change varieties on this particularly smutty field.

The last of the wheat fertilizer trial experiments were harvested on Tuesday of this week. The five plots were located on the Harold Beach, John Eubanks, Kenneth Peck, Lawrence Becket and Harold Evans farms this year. All but the Harold Evans's plot was harvested last month. Results will not be available until weighing and cleaning of samples for yield data.

Something new in wheat fertilizer plot experiments was tried this year when a number of the 1953-54 plots were harvested to determine if there was any carry-over to this year's crop. Plots at the Frank Anderson, Frank Parker and Raymond Lundell farms were located in the field and harvested this year. While we do not have the complete results from all of these

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