

March Starts Out to Set Record for Wetness

The March rainfall record continued to be buried even deeper under water as the Heppner weather station recorded another .24 inch of moisture this (Thursday) morning to raise the month's total to 1.48 inches.

And still it comes! At pressing time it was still raining, not having slowed up since early morning.

The old saying that "March comes in like a lion," didn't quite hold true in Heppner this year . . . or if it did, was a mighty wet lion.

Rainfall at Heppner during the first six days of March far exceeds the 40-year average for the whole month. Since last Friday nearly every possible form of precipitation has fallen here—rain, snow, hail and even some just-plain-ice, but all of it has been gentle and welcomed with open arms by ranchers, cattlemen and most other persons. Through Wednesday morning the Heppner weather station has recorded a total of 1.24 inches of moisture since the start of the month, and that record has been beaten by most other weather stations in the county. Gooseberry reports 1.60 inches in six days and even areas north of Lexington are enjoying a drenching that has measured as much or more than Heppner received.

The heaviest fall of the week occurred here last Saturday and early Sunday morning when .99 inches was recorded making it one of the heaviest sustained rain storms seen here in many years. The fall was gentle but steady and there have been no reports of any serious washing or erosion. During much of the day here there was a mixture of rain and very wet snow which was

all snow in the higher elevations and added close to a foot to the short snow pack in the mountains.

Wednesday rain fell continuously in Heppner but within a few miles in all directions the moisture came in the form of snow. The ground was white clear to the Columbia, it was reported. Heppner's 1.24 inches for the first six days of March compares with .78 during the whole month last year. The 40-year average is 1.10 and the average rainfall for the past 10 years for the month is only .99 inch.

At Gooseberry March has brought 1.60 inches, February 1.00 and January 1.10. The measurement there since September 17 is 6.54 inches.

Temperatures and precipitation records here for the past week are:

| | Max. | Min. | Prec. |
|-----------|------|------|-------|
| Friday | 53 | 28 | — |
| Saturday | 53 | 36 | .31 |
| Sunday | 47 | 33 | .68 |
| Monday | 52 | 32 | — |
| Tuesday | 46 | 28 | .17 |
| Wednesday | 41 | 31 | .08 |

Services Held Today For Joel Barlow

Joel Barlow, 71, died March 4 at Pioneer Memorial hospital where he had been a patient since October of last year. He had lived in or around Ione for the past 35 years.

Mr. Barlow was born to Jeremiah and Amanda Barlow in a covered wagon in Decatur county, Kansas Nov. 2, 1885 on the way from Missouri to Kansas. He came to Oregon with his parents in 1902 and settled at Ione where they lived until 1919. They then moved to the Willamette valley where his parents passed away.

He returned to Ione in 1925 where he made his home until going to the hospital last fall. His brother Daniel preceded him in death in October, 1956. He had made his home with his nephew Alvin Barlow for the last several years. He is survived by 11 nephews and nine nieces.

Services were held this afternoon (Thursday) at Creswick Mortuary chapel with the Rev. Charles Knox officiating. Interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, . . . Did You Get Counted?

If you drive a car and live in Heppner its 10 to 1 you got counted at least a half-dozen times Tuesday and Wednesday.

Early this week a total of 32 automatic traffic counters made their appearance on numerous city streets—the work of the state highway department. The 24-hour check presumably was made to give the highway department a complete traffic pattern check within the city.

Maple Tree Blooms Herald Spring

Spring must be just around the corner!

The first harbinger of warmer times was noted this week in a big maple tree at the corner of Gale and Water streets. It is in full bloom, the first spring blooms to be reported.

Power System Modernization Set For Entire Area

A major electric service improvement project will soon be started by Pacific Power & Light company which will greatly strengthen the company's transmission and distribution facilities in the Heppner-Jordan-Ione area, according to J. R. Huffman, local manager for the power company.

The plans call for conversion of the Heppner-Jordan transmission line from 22,000 to 69,000 volts and raising of distribution voltage in the Heppner area from 2,400 to 12,500 volts. The overall program, which will be completed in 1958, is necessary to meet the area's fast-growing demand for more electricity.

Huffman said work will get under way as soon as possible on the Heppner conversion. The job, he explained, will require the stringing of more than 34,000 feet of new conductor and installation of 116 transformers and 19 new poles. Cost of the project will be about \$46,300.

Included in the improvement will be the installation of a new system of "fuse coordination" which will minimize the effect of line troubles and provide increased service continuity. The new system will "pin-point" the location of any line trouble and automatically isolate that section from the rest of the circuit. Huffman pointed out that the Heppner conversion will take most of the year to complete. Voltage increase on the Heppner-Jordan transmission line is scheduled for 1958.

Special Lenten Services Announced

Each Friday during Lent from March 8 through April 12 noon day prayers will be held at All Saints Episcopal church from 12:10 to 12:25. Following this brief service a light luncheon for about 50c will be served in the parish house for the benefit of business people.

This special service is for the benefit of the entire community and things peculiar to the Episcopal church will not be mentioned.

Local P-TA Meeting Set Back to March 20

The Heppner P-TA meeting regularly scheduled for March 13 has been postponed one week to March 20, it was announced this week. It is expected the state P-TA president will be here and founder's day will be observed.

HEPPNER MILL UNIQUE IN INDUSTRY; OPERATING ON SIX-DAY WORK WEEK

Heppner Pine Mills probably holds a present record that cannot be claimed by any other lumber mill in the entire Pacific Northwest. It is operating on a six-day week while most other mills and plywood plants are cutting to a four-day operation or have closed down entirely.

Since re-opening after the winter shutdown manager Paul Koenig has placed the plant on a Saturday work schedule which he hopes can be retained for about 14 weeks. As a result the employees will receive the equivalent of 21 normal working days wages—approximately the

Vehicle Stop Rule At School Crosswalk To Be Enforced

Heppner police and school officials again asked local drivers to use caution while driving near school grounds and reminded them that a full stop is required at the recently installed cross walk light between the two schools.

Police report that many persons are not observing the stop requirements at the flashing red signal, and warned that traffic citations will be issued to all offenders. The light was installed about a month ago to reduce the traffic hazard to the youngsters who must use the cross-walk.

A full stop for all vehicles is required when the light is in operation during school hours.

World Prayer Day Observance Set

The World Day of Prayer service will be held Friday, March 8 at the Heppner Methodist church at 2 p. m.

The program committee of the Union Missionary group is in charge of the program and each church group will have a part. All Heppner women are urged to attend.

Members of the committee are Mrs. R. B. Rice, Mrs. William Bergstrom, Mrs. Theta Stratton and Mrs. L. D. Boulden.

Heppner Student in Running for State FBLA President

According to a recent announcement made by the state executive committee of the Future Business Leaders of America, Jim Morris, Heppner high school junior, will be one of two candidates for the 1957-1958 state president of FBLA.

About a month ago Jim submitted application for the office of state vice president. Any school was permitted to submit the names of candidates for state offices but the credentials were screened by the state executive committee in a meeting at Corvallis February 16. At this meeting the committee felt that Jim had qualifications which made it justifiable for him to be a candidate for the office of president.

The local chapter will now be busy helping Jim with his campaign which is climaxed at the state convention held in Corvallis April 12-13. The elections are a part of the final day proceedings. Each candidate for a state office is allowed to speak and to present his qualifications through literature and his campaign managers.



BANQUET FARE—Some of the members of the Heppner high school home economics class who last week completely prepared and served a banquet for 100 FFA chapter members and their parents. The first such undertaking the group has tried. Until completion of the new home ec department in the school, facilities and equipment were not available for such a project. The class under the direction of Mrs. Homer Hager includes both girls and boys. Shown here carving the five 20-pound turkeys are, left to right, Connie Anderson, Carole Anderscn, Joann Brosnan, Frances Slocum, Phyllis Quackenbush, Judy Collins, and Peggy Applegate. (GT Photo)

Results of FFA Projects Reported At Annual Banquet

Labor income of \$2,857.75 was realized last year by members of the Heppner chapter of Future Farmers of America it was revealed last Wednesday at the annual parent and son banquet at the Heppner American Legion hall.

Projects of the chapter which has 15 members were listed as supervised farming projects of 17 beef, 23 sheep, 22 swine and 200 acres of grain land. So far there is approximately \$3,237 invested in projects.

There are three registered hereof chains in the chapter. Larry Fetsch received the Cutsforth chain, Ned Clark the Harshman chain and Jackie Struthers the Sears chain. They give the boys a good start on raising registered stock. Through the cooperation of the county court and the fair board the chapter this year has started a feedlot to be used for livestock feeding programs of the chapter and for individuals who don't have a place for their supervised farming projects. Much work had to be done to get the lot into shape and the chapter members have cooperatively purchased four tons of hay and six tons of grain for use at the lot.

Larry Fetsch is chapter president and acted as master of ceremonies at the banquet which was put on by the Heppner high school home economics class under the direction of Mrs. Homer Hager. L. L. Robbins is the chapter advisor.

New 15-Unit Motel Open For Business

The new 15-unit Northwestern Motel located on the corner of Main and Baltimore streets opened last week, the third such business to be started in Heppner in recent years.

The U-shaped concrete block structure is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Piper and offers strictly modern facilities to travelers. There are 13 one-bedroom and two two-bedroom units in the building in addition to the manager's quarters. No formal open house is planned, but the general public is welcome to look over the building at any time, the Pipers stated.

Mineral Society Studies Formations

The Morrow county Gem and Mineral society met Feb. 19 at the John Newman home where the group continued its study of rock formations. It was announced that mineral shows will be held at Eugene April 13 and 14 and at Sweet Home March 16 and 17.

Mrs. C. M. Wagner showed a film on Canadian wild life.

IONE P-TA TO SPONSOR MINSTREL SHOW MARCH 15

A minstrel show, the Condon Cotton-Picking Minstrels, will be presented Friday evening, March 15 at the Ione school cafeteria starting at 8:30. The program is being sponsored by the Ione P-TA.

METHODIST YOUTH AT DISTRICT MEETING

Those going to the district Methodist Youth Fellowship at The Dalles Friday, Saturday and Sunday were Carol Kay Anderson, Janice Martin, Susan McQuarrie, Celia Boulden and Renn Harris. They were accompanied by Mrs. Lester Boulden.

City Park Fund Receives Donation From Former Club

The Heppner city park fund was the beneficiary of a donation of \$77.58, the gift of the now defunct Heppner Lions club. The money was accepted by the city council Monday night.

Former officers of the club, which disbanded more than a year ago, had given the city a check for \$92.58 about a week ago, the balance in the club's treasury when it disbanded, but after the presentation was made the club received a bill for \$15 which it had not known was outstanding. The council accepted the money and agreed to pay the one bill—the balance of the money to be used for improvement of the park.

Immediate graveling of the block-long street leading from Water street to the Seventh Day Adventist church was ordered by the council Monday when it was advised that an agreement had been reached among property owners and money was available for the improvement. The street previously had been curbed and it had been originally planned to ask for paving, but sufficient funds were not available to hard-top the block.

The council received one bid from Glen Smith for the purchase of a triangular piece of city-owned land in lot 28, block 11, Mt. Vernon addition. The bid was for \$50 and the council accepted the offer.

An application for a class A package beer license was approved for Central Market and Grocery. The council also ordered an application be filed for state aid, under a special fund, for the paving of south Court street from the court house to join with a former state-aid job about three blocks south. The request is for 1958 funds.

Gasoline Ordinance Read

An ordinance governing the storing of gasoline or other similarly inflammable liquids in amounts over five gallons was passed to its third reading. It will be considered again for final passage in April. The ordinance also prohibits the dumping of gasoline into any type storage tank from vehicles or combination of vehicles having more than 1200 gallons capacity. Present bulk gasoline plants now operating within the city limits are exempt under the ordinance.

The council instructed the city recorder to contact the owner of the old unoccupied Moyer building on Water street and request its removal as a fire and health hazard. It also issued instructions that TV pole guy wires be adequately marked to eliminate the danger of persons walking or running into them, discussed the keeping of livestock within the city limits without a city permit and instructed the recorder to advise several property owners of dangerous sidewalk conditions which should be corrected.

Extension Unit Sets Two-Day Meeting

The Heppner extension unit will meet Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 a. m. and Wednesday, March 13 at 1:15 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Al Fetsch.

The March project is Embossing thin metals and the leaders are Mrs. William Heath and Mrs. Riley Munkers. They will have supplies for making the pictures and they may be purchased at the meeting. The cost will probably run between \$1.00 and \$2.00 each.

Each person is asked to bring a sack lunch on Tuesday and the hostess will serve beverage and dessert for a small charge.

Lyle Jensen Pledged To PU Honorary

Pacific University—Lyle Jensen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Nash of Heppner, has been initiated into Pi Delta Epsilon, national journalism honorary on the campus of Pacific university.

Jensen is a sophomore journalism major and a graduate of Heppner high school where he was active in school publications and sports. He is presently assistant sports editor of the college newspaper.

MEETING DATE CHANGED

The Rhea Creek grange meeting date has been changed from March 15 to the 20th it was announced today. There will be a potluck dinner at 6 p. m.

Mountain Snow Pack Far Short Of Normal Average

Water content of the snow pack on Arbuckle mountain snow course is 48 percent below the fifteen year average and 62 percent less than last year at this time according to snow measurements taken Thursday by Tom Wilson of the Soil Conservation Service.

An average of 11 inches of snow with water content of 5.8 inches was reported compared to 51 inches with 15.2 inches of water last year at this time. A water content of 11.2 inches is the 15 year average for this time of year according to records of federal and state cooperative surveys.

Comparable measurements in 1955 were 38 inches of snow with 10.1 inches of water and in 1954 snow depth was 22 inches with 8.4 inches of water. Soils are frozen beneath the snow but unfrozen in the bare spots. Snow has completely disappeared from lower elevations except for drifts on north slopes, Wilson said.

Two days after the measurement was taken a heavy snow fell in the mountains, and considerably more has been added in the last few days, but none of this recent fall was taken into account in the above figures.

Out of City Firefighting Ban Reaffirmed

The Heppner city council Monday night reiterated its stand of the past two or more years that residents or businesses outside the city limits cannot expect to receive fire protection from the Heppner fire department.

The matter came to the front at the Monday council meeting during discussion on providing fire protection for residents in the recently annexed area lying along the Heppner-Condon highway. Some parts of this section can now be reached from existing hydrants and a small water supply is available to all, but fire hydrant quantities are short at the upper end of the area. It was pointed out however, that Heppner fire trucks carry their own water in sufficient amount to handle nearly any blaze and in that section would be close to hydrants for refilling if necessary.

Fire protection by city trucks to areas outside the city limits

has been banned for some time and the council again pointed out to such residents that fire codes and equipment requirements for town would not allow sending trucks outside town to fight fires. The council explained that taxes paid by city residents provided the department equipment and supported its operating and maintenance costs. Should a truck be out of town when it was needed for a blaze within the city limits, the council would be in a position of being negligent in its operation of the fire department, it was said.

A member of the fire department also pointed out to the council members that city equipment is not designed to fight fires where water mains are not immediately available. Special type equipment is used in rural areas which is much different from that owned by Heppner.

Aid Method Seen
The council was told that a

system of rural fire protection districts is in operation in many parts of the state and members agreed that if residents of the area within a few miles of town were interested in forming such a district the city would be quite willing to contract to provide adequate protection in the area. If such a district were formed, and a contract made with Heppner, the city would buy a truck designed to operate in rural areas and provide manpower for it. With such a district and protection residents there could receive the benefit of lowered fire insurance rates. The cost of providing protection in a rural fire district was roughly estimated at between two and four mills until equipment was paid for. The maximum millage allowed by law in a rural fire protection district, without a special vote of the people, is four mills, and often insurance premium reductions offset a good portion of the

tax cost. The council pointed out that it is allowed to take city equipment outside of town only in cases where it has mutual aid agreements such as with the local mill or with other towns in the area who can supply help to Heppner if needed in case of a major fire. It could also be called upon to aid other cities under the state conflagration act which has never yet been invoked since its passage a few years ago. Among those areas which are adjacent to town but still outside the city limits are homes on Hinton creek above the fair grounds, homes and businesses along the Heppner-Arlington highway and further out the Condon highway. None of these can be provided with fire protection, the council explained, unless they wish to join in the formation of a rural fire protection district.