

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Fields That Are Gone Forever . . .

Friday night's flood scare in Heppner was a grim reminder to residents that, "It can still happen here." The pattern was the same as in previous floods, many old timers were quick to recount, but luckily the amount of water was not quite enough to cause serious damage in town—just a good scare.

Farmers who are trying to make their living from the fields along Balm Fork, however, did not fare so well, for many of them have lost land which can never be replaced, to say nothing of crops which they had planned on harvesting later this year.

Longtime residents here who have lived through such outbursts of the fickle weather, know without even bothering to look, what shape many of the fields which stretch for several miles along Balm canyon look like today. They know the force of the water has washed away entire fields leaving nothing but a boulder patch that for years, won't grow any more than a fair crop of weeds. Some ranchers lost little more than a few fences and minor amounts of valuable topsoil, but all have a very healthy respect for the power of water when it starts dropping out of the sky in bucketsfull

and gathering in narrow canyons.

Conservation practices of any kinds are uppermost in the minds of many residents of this county, especially with Conservation Week coming up in three days, but no amount of conservation can save the land that happens to be right under the clouds that dump tons of water in a matter of minutes. When that happens, sagebrush, trees and nearly everything growing, bows before the onslaught.

To those persons who have never seen firsthand what an Eastern Oregon cloudburst, or as it is known here, a "waterspout," can do we suggest they take a trip up Balm Fork sometime within the next few days. It won't be quite like seeing the head of water coming down the canyon at you (we experienced that for the first time Friday night and didn't particularly care for it) but the visible record of what damage can be inflicted in a few minutes is there to view. It's well worth the short trip.

As a thought, wouldn't a dam at the mouth of Balm Fork have been handy last week? It would not have helped the farmers above much, but it certainly would have been an aid to the peace of mind down here in town. Just thinking won't build much of a dam, though!

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the Files of the Gazette Times, May 19, 1927

The annual commencement exercises of Heppner high school will be held Friday evening. Those receiving diplomas are Mary Ritchie, Tom Wells, Marvin Wightman, Grace Buschke, Marjorie Clark, Mae Groshens, Laura Williams, Louise Thomson, Ruth Furlong, Merle Becket, Freda Akers, Ethel Moore, Eugene Doherty, Reta Crawford, Anna Wightman, Ethel Hughes, Majorie French, Orrin Bisbee and Joy Erwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Latourell, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shively, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bowker and Dr. A. D. McMurdo were visitors in Yakima, Wash., Sunday.

As part of the program of oiling the Heppner-Ione section of the Oregon-Washington highway, Main street in Heppner has received its first baptism of the black fluid this week.

Vernice and Margaret Crawford were calling in Morgan Friday.

Miss Frances Parker arrived in Heppner Monday from Joseph for a visit at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Parker.

Mrs. Henry B. Gorgor entertained the Twilight quintette at dinner on Sunday at the Gorgor home near Lexington. This orchestra, composed of people who live in that vicinity, has furnished music for many dances in Morrow county during the past season.

May 25. Kenneth will also be heard in an interview over radio station KWRC Pendleton at 7:00 a.m., May 22.

Congratulations to Burton Peck on being chosen Morrow county winner Conservation Man of the Year for 1957. His strip cropping and related conservation practices established over the years won for him and his son, Jim the same honor that has gone to three of his close neighbors, Paul Brown, Al Bunch and Kenneth Peck.

We again remind our readers of the public field day for the beef feeding trials at Milton May 23. The program is scheduled to start at the Band M feedlots near Milton at 9:30 a.m. Comparisons of different rations and results of hormone implants using stilbestrol and Synovex will be seen. Anyone who might like to ride with me to the field day is invited to do so.

A seeding of a new hybrid silage sorghum, the first in Oregon was made at the Delbert Emert farm near Ione on Monday of last week. Twenty acres was seeded at the rate of 11 lbs. per acre. The new hybrid sorghum has yielded as high as 43 tons per acre in seedings made in

Washington. It has a relatively short growing period and with favorably warm weather will be ready for harvest in 75 to 85 days. The seeding will supplement alfalfa in filling the Emert trench silo.

Kansas, the nation's leading wheat state, has recently approved a law establishing a levy on grower wheat marketing. The levy, effective June 1 will be 1/5 of a cent a bushel. Funds raised will be used toward improving wheat consumption and development of the wheat industry in that state. Kansas is the third state with grower levies to be used for promotion. Oregon was the first to have such a levy which is 1/2 cent a bushel. Nebraska is levying a 1/4 cent per bushel for promotional purposes.

Recently we had word from Victor W. Johnson, Umatilla county extension agent regarding pea vines available in that county. Lawrence Pinkerton, box 291, Athena will give a reliable farmer or feeder the pea vines from 800 acres of peas for processing providing the man getting the pea vines will stack the vines for 100 acres for Pinkerton. The vines are to be stacked in the field. This sounds like a good deal for anyone who has the time and equipment to keep them hauled away from the viner. Anyone interested should contact Pinkerton.

For those who have been ask-

ing about Pot O' Gold sweet corn, seed is now available in Heppner. The Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware company have recently located a source of seed to provide the increasing demand. Those who have not tried this new sweet corn variety should put in a few rows for comparison to the variety they have been growing.

Morrow county 4-H members are putting the show touches to animals they will exhibit at the Wheat League sponsored Fat Stock show and sale which will be held at The Dalles, June 2, 3, 4 and 5. Approximately the same number of livestock will be exhibited this year as in the past three or four years with the exception of pigs. There are no pigs being fattened for the show this year. Those who will exhibit beef at the show this year will be William Ril and Gary Van Blokland of the Rhea Creek livestock club, Connie and Jerry Anderson of the Hoof and Horn livestock club; Billy Doherty of the Butter Creek Junction 4-H livestock club; Kenneth Smouse, Kenneth Nelson and Roland Ekstrom of the Ione livestock club; Karl Beach, Carol Ann Palmer and Russell Dolven of the Lexington Livestock club.

Those planning to exhibit fat lambs are Mitchel Ashbeck, David Proudfoot and Phyllis Nelson of the Butter Creek Junction Livestock club; Dennis Doherty, Jim Martin, Tom Martin, Janet

Palmer and Karl Beach of the Livestock club; Kenneth Nelson of the Ione Livestock club and David, Douglas, Connie and Jerry Anderson of the Hoof and Horn Livestock club. Livestock will be entered on June 2 with the program opening Monday morning, June 3. Livestock weighing and judging contests will take up the first day. On Tuesday, June 4 sheep, swine and beef will be judged with a banquet and entertainment scheduled for the evening. The last day, June 5 will be set aside for showmanship, judging contests and the auction sale of sheep and swine for the afternoon and the beef sale in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Parrish and family of Lake Grove visited last weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parrish. Also visiting the Parrishes were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fletcher of Ukiah.

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TO THE EDITOR . . .

TO THE EDITOR—This writer, a native of Heppner and an old-timer of the county, was made very sad this morning on the hearing of a passing era of the old timers.

This morning, coming on a newscast over radio station KGW was this announcement: "The old Perkins Hotel has been ordered by the city of Portland, to close its doors unless it cleans up." I wonder how many people now living in Heppner, or the county, remember that old hotel in Portland, with its golden calf standing as a landmark in the high tower of the building. This golden calf could be seen for many blocks around, and was placed there by the management in respect to the stockmen of Morrow county, and possibly Umatilla county.

In those far off days, when the Heppner Matlocks were the owners of the famous old hotel, whenever anyone from the county went to Portland, the old saying was "If you wait long enough at the Perkins hotel, you can always see and visit with ANY ONE from Heppner or the county."

At that time, our own beloved Leslie Matlock was the popular and genial host of the old hotel. You could always see and talk to him in the lounge there. The Old Timers of Heppner and the county

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Plans were made this week by the Morrow County Wheatgrowers association for their annual spring meeting. It will be held on June 7 at Lexington grange hall. The program, with progress reports from all committee chairmen, will include a discussion of the new revised grain standards which go into effect on June 15. Raphael Raymond, president Oregon Wheat Growers League, who is presently in the far east, will report on the outlook of wheat marketing in Japan and related countries. Public Law 480, which it has been reported will not be renewed after its present term expires, has been responsible for moving an excess of surplus wheat from the Northwest. Those attending the spring meeting will have an opportunity to get first hand information on observations made by the wheat team on possible continuance of markets for wheat in the countries who have been getting our wheat under Public Law 480. The discussion of wheat grade standards will be of interest to growers, especially in regards to the reduction of foreign material allowed. The reduction from 1 per cent to 1/2 per cent in the No. 1 grade and from 2 to 1 per cent in the No. 2 grade will be of particular im-

portance where volunteer rye is a problem. Because of the tightening up of these standards it may be worthwhile for growers to spend some time in roguing rye from their fields, other revisions will be explained at this meeting.

Those attending the Tuesday evening executive committee meeting were Vernon Munkers, president, Morrow County Wheatgrowers association; Max Barclay, chairman and Kenneth Turner, vice chairman, Federal agricultural programs committee; Tad Miller, chairman, production and land use committee; E. M. Baker, vice chairman, taxation and legislation committee; Mrs. Vernon Munkers, chairman, domestic wheat utilization committee; Al Haslebocker, county agent-at-large training in Morrow county and N. C. Anderson.

Everyone is invited to see the TV program over the Pasco station Monday evening May 20. The program, Salute to Farmers, coming on at 7:15 p.m. will feature Kenneth Peck as state winner Conversation Man of the Year, tying into State Conservation Week May 20-26 and the field day at his farm on Saturday,

always spoke of the "Perkins" as their second home in Portland. Anyone from Heppner who needed a little money for various reasons (like this writer one winter) could always get what they needed from Leslie.

After the Matlocks gave up control of the Perkins, and Heppner's Phil Metchan went to the Imperial, the Perkins began to slip into oblivion and as far as Heppner is concerned the hotel ceased to exist many years ago. But how we did love the old place then and I know the few old-timers still living will have many fond memories of the golden calf days in Portland.

My "History of Morrow County" has finally gone to the Oregon Historical Society for their final review before going to the publishers. Morrow county folks have been very patient about this book, but ill health the past few years has been a big hindrance in finishing the book, but I hope this time it will be all right.
O. M. YEAGER,
Castle Rock, Wash.

News
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