

Heppner Gazette Times

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U F O SIGHTED WEDNESDAY -

Forest Service Men Watch "Flying Hat" Soar Over

Two Heppner men Wednesday noon got a brief but good look at a fast moving object that Air Force officials call "UFO". Unidentified Flying Object, but what the men graphically described as a flying hat.

The two, Morgan Medlock and Buddy Taylor, both of Heppner, told the Gazette Times last night by phone from their Forest Service post at Bull Prairie guard station, that they sighted the object at 12:10 p. m. Wednesday while they were piling brush about one half mile east of Crawford Spring, nine miles from Bull Prairie. They estimated the object to be about half the size of a forest service Power Wagon truck and said it was traveling at terrific speed. They guessed it to be about 3000 feet high, and said they watched it for about 10 seconds before it disappeared from view.

Medlock said the best description of the object was that it was round, shaped like a hat and was brown in color, similar to dried pine needles. It had no visible means of propulsion, yet

the men said it made a sound similar to a jet plane only with a very noticeable whistle. It traveled in level flight, not rotating or undulating such as many reports in the past have described "flying saucers" as doing. It left no vapor trail of any kind and as it disappeared the men described its sound as a sort of "Plup", similar to the sound of a small bullet shot into the water. It was traveling in a northwesterly direction.

Reported immediately, Medlock and Taylor immediately reported the object to the Madison Butte lookout high in the Blue mountains southeast of Heppner, and their description and information was relayed by radio to the Pendleton office of the Umatilla National Forest. From there the Portland office of the service was advised of the sighting.

The last time flying saucers, or unidentified objects, have been reported in this area was May 6, 1954 when three local men, Al Lovgren, Robert Minek and Elmer Palmer watched a group of nine cross the sky while they were repairing telephone lines on Heppner Flat. Those were described as being extremely large and shaped like inverted dinner plates or saucers—a description not too dissimilar from Medlock's and Taylor's flying hat.

Medlock said that this is the second time in his life he has seen such an unidentified object. The first time was when he was a small boy at his home near Winlock in the Spray area. He said he distinctly remembers the occasion, but cannot now describe the object.

Loss Near \$25,000 in Hay Fire Monday Near Ruggs

Neighbors Help To Control Blaze; Stubble Burns

Fire Monday afternoon completely destroyed three big stacks of baled hay on the Harold Wright ranch at Ruggs with an estimated loss of almost \$25,000. In the stacks were between 800 and 900 tons of new crop hay.



BLAZING AWAY—A portion of two of the three big piles of baled hay which went up in smoke Monday afternoon is shown in this photo. The feed belonged to Harold Wright of Ruggs and in the piles were over 800 tons of bales. Heat from these stacks started fires which burned over some surrounding grassland before being controlled. (GT Photo)

The flames started from a gasoline motor on a hay stacker, and it is surmised that some hay fell onto the exhaust from the motor which flared quickly and within minutes enveloped the pile. Heat from the flames almost immediately spread to the other three stacks and within 20 minutes the entire area was a mass of flames.

The fire jumped the Rhea Creek road which runs just north of the piles and burned to the top of the ridge before being brought under control through the efforts of the Wright haying crew and many neighboring farmers who joined in the fight as soon as the smoke was noticed. Many passersby aided in fighting the fire and kept the flames from running into fields along the road. A bulldozer was used to help stop the spread of the fire along the ridge to keep it out of adjacent wheat fields and to trail the hay piles. The stacks burned for nearly 24 hours before being consumed and a sprinkler irrigation system was laid out around the area to prevent further spread.

The fire started just as the crew was finishing stacking the last of the bales to be placed in that area and Wright stated that in another few minutes they would have been through. He expressed his appreciation to neighbors for their assistance in preventing further loss.

The loss was covered by insurance. The Wright fire was the first big hay fire in this area since a huge stack containing several thousand tons was destroyed two years ago on the Kilkenny ranch on Butter creek.

Late Tuesday afternoon a stubblefield on the Cliff Dougherty ranch near Lexington burned over but immediate efforts by harvesting crews and neighbors kept the fire confined only to stubble. This fire started apparently from a truck exhaust and the combine had just moved out of the field before the flames began.

Most harvest crews in the county are taking extra precautions against fires because of the heavy growth and unusually tall grain and grass.

Morrow Student on U of O Honor Roll

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene—The university's honor roll for spring term totals 311 students. Thirty-seven of these have perfect grade scores of 4.00 or all A grades.

The roll includes all undergraduate students making grade point averages of 3.50 or better, based on not less than 12 term hours. The grade point average is figured with A equaling 4.00, B is 3.00 and C is 2.00.

Little League Ball Turning in High Scores; Double Header Set

Heppner Little League baseball continued to provide ample fun and interest among players and spectators this week as two more games wound up with scores more closely resembling football than baseball.

Monday night's game between the Bluejays and the Clippers was a free-for-all hitting fest that finally wound up 17 to 17. The game was finally called at the end of five innings because both sides were wearing down their players.

Junior Legion Nine Slates Pendleton Sunday at Lone Field

The Heppner-Ione Junior Legion baseball team will play their fourth game of the season Sunday at 2:30 at the Lone field. Their opponent will be the Pendleton squad who rapped the locals 26 to 2 in their last encounter.

The Heppner team has a record of three losses against no wins but last Sunday played their best game of the year against Milton-Freewater finally losing by one run in the 9th inning 5 to 4. Tom Green pitched the entire MF game and Bert Akers of Ione was behind the plate.

Local Elks Head at San Francisco Convention

Mr. and Mrs. William Labhart left Wednesday for San Francisco where they will attend the national convention of Grand Lodge of Elks. Labhart is Exalted Ruler of B.P.O.E. No. 358, Heppner.

While their parents are away, Laurie and Mark will visit at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tetz, in Monmouth. Chris will be at the home of his uncle, Robert Labhart, in Corvallis.

Accident Breaks Leg

Lee "Red" Morgan suffered a broken ankle shortly before noon today in an accident while working on the demolition of the McClintock building in Heppner. He was taken by ambulance to Pioneer Memorial hospital for treatment.

Tress McClintock of Monmouth, former Heppner resident, was in Heppner on business this week.

Cutsforth Named Youth Range Camp County Chairman

Orville Cutsforth of Lexington, has been appointed county chairman of this year's Youth Range Camp committee, according to an announcement from the Pacific Northwest section of the American Society of Range Management.

Cutsforth will head up the local committee which will arrange sponsors and help select boys to attend this year's camp. The camp will be held July 29 through August 3 in the Umatilla National Forest near Heppner.

Four boys, 14 through 18 years of age, will be chosen to go to the camp from Morrow county. Cutsforth says the boys will be selected through plant identification contests, or on the basis of leadership, citizenship, and love of the outdoors.

Each boy chosen to attend the camp will receive a \$25 scholarship to cover transportation and camp costs. Local organizations and individuals in the county are now being solicited by the committee to provide these scholarships.

The camp gives boys a chance to live out of doors for a week and learn more about plant and animal life, according to John Clouston, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, and chairman of the society's youth committee. This year's camp will stress range judging and management, predator control, forestry, and how to live in the great outdoors.

Each Eastern Oregon county, and Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and Josephine counties, are eligible to send boys to this year's camp.

Local Bank Deposits and Loans Show Increase on June 30

A slight drop in deposits and loans were reported Wednesday by the First National bank of Portland when the statewide bank released its June 29 quarterly statement of condition.

Total deposits of \$759,105,488 and loans amounting to \$419,261,810 were revealed by the 74 offices of the bank on the last business day of June. A year ago the bank reported deposits of \$774,376,788 and loans totaled \$426,600,519. C. B. Stephenson, bank president, said.

Figures released by the Heppner branch of First National show that on June 29, 1957, deposits at the branch were \$5,819,409 and loans were \$3,728,582, according to J. H. Bedford, manager.

Released at the same time were comparable totals for the branch for June 30, 1956. On that date, deposits were \$5,357,376 and loans totaled \$3,411,103.

Historically, deposit totals are at their low point each June, but the present two per cent decline reflects a combination of heavy consumer buying, the slowdown in Oregon's forest products industries and large corporate tax payments to the government, the bank president said.

A free fried chicken dinner will be served at the Boardman city park at noon. Everyone is invited to attend.

Heppner Boy Now in Shrine Hospital

David Lee Cox, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Cox of Heppner entered the Shrine hospital in Portland June 29 and underwent surgery July 1. His treatment will require that he stay in the hospital at least until September 1.

David likes to receive mail and he may be sent cards, candy or cookies, or anything that can be shared with others in his ward, his mother stated.

Heavy Crop Seen From Reports on Early Harvesting

Wheat and barley in ever-increasing quantities continued to roll into elevators this week as harvesting was well under way in all sections of the county.

Heaviest hauling currently is to the North Lexington elevator of the Morrow County Grain Growers where about 30,000 bushels of wheat and barley a day is now being received. The Lexington elevator of the co-op is now handling about 15,000 bushels per day with the other stations getting smaller amounts. Even the Ruggs elevator is starting to get its first barley and wheat will start coming in there within a short time.

Al Lamb, Grain Growers manager, said Wednesday that test weight of both barley and wheat is good, but that none of the present crop has yet been graded under the new grading regulations which are more severe than in past years.

Barley yield appears to be running about a ton to the acre on the average and the early wheat is showing at least a 30 bushel average giving indications that the county is now harvesting one of its biggest crops in some years.

The average is expected to climb as fields in the higher elevations which normally are heavier producers, begin to come in.

Some pinching has been reported from spotty sections in the north end of the county's wheat growing area, but the increased number of grains per head is said to be more than offsetting any loss due to damage.

The Morrow County Grain Growers said Wednesday that it is storing most of the barley and shipping a great quantity of wheat for terminal storage. At the present time the co-op is running five trucks during the day and six at night hauling to the Hogue-Warner docks at Paterson Ferry, and it is planned to add two more trucks next week to handle the incoming crop.

In addition to the quantity of grain that is going out by truck and water, a considerable amount is also being shipped by rail, and it is expected that daily train service will be needed in about a week.

Hunters and Anglers To Meet July 15

The Morrow County Hunters and Anglers will hold a meeting Monday, July 15, at 8 p.m. at the court house, it was announced today by officers. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss tentative hunting regulations for the coming season.

A wildlife movie is scheduled following the business.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Robbins and family left Tuesday for some fishing in Canada after spending a few days in Ontario, Oregon.

New Bank to Open Soon In Temporary Quarters

Work started Wednesday on the demolition of the McClintock building on Main street to make way for the construction of a new building to house the Heppner branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon. Cimmiyotti and Sons of Arlington is tearing down the old structure.

At the same time E. R. Morton, manager for the recently chartered bank, who arrived in Heppner

early this week to oversee the operations, announced that space has been obtained in Empire Machinery Co., immediately south of the new building site, and that the bank will open temporary quarters there within 30 to 45 days to offer its services to residents of this area.

Officials of the bank, which has its main office at Arlington and now operates under the name of Gilliam County Bank, recently announced that they hope to have the new building completed and open for business sometime in September. The building will be of modern design, with dimensions of 30 by 60 feet and will include a large customer parking area alongside.

At the time the new bank received state and federal approval, it was revealed that capital would be increased to \$120,000, with \$80,000 surplus and \$40,000 undivided profits. Approval for the sale of the additional stock was recently granted and it is now being subscribed, it was said. At the present time there are five directors on the bank board, but four additional directors will be named from stockholders in Morrow county.



HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW—108 foot red and white steel tower near Eightmile which is being used by telephone company engineers for experimental purposes. It will be dismantled within a few days. See story. (GT Photo)

Area Towers Used For Experiments

Microwave relay towers which have been erected during the past week in two locations near Heppner by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph engineering crews has caused much comment and speculation among local residents, but they won't have to worry about them for long, Telephone officials said this week.

The towers are being used for testing experimental locations for long distance phone service between Portland and Pendleton and will probably be dismantled and moved to other spots within a couple of weeks.

The tallest tower, 150 feet, is located north of Heppner atop a high point at the upper end of Blackhorse canyon. The other is on top of a ridge southeast of Eightmile and is 108 feet high.

County Budget Gets Court OK

The county court Monday accepted the budget for the county for the coming fiscal year following the public hearing at which there was no objection filed.

Only two minor changes were made by the court in the budget published last month. The general road fund was increased \$10,000 to \$203,000 because of additional anticipated receipts during the year which were not known at the time the budget committee prepared the figures. Also the Bangs disease control fund was reduced by \$800 due to additional responsibility being taken over by the state.

The total budget was well within the six percent limitation.

Morrow County Picnic Slated at Portland

The annual Morrow county picnic will be held in Portland's Laurelhurst park, N. E. 39th and Ankeny, on Sunday, July 28. It was announced this week. Coffee will be provided for all visitors.

Morrow Sends Two Delegates on UN Pilgrimage

Miss Joann Brosnan, Heppner high school junior and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brosnan, land on the first leg of her trip land on the first leg of her trip to New York as a delegate on the United Nations Youth Pilgrimage sponsored by the Odd Fellows lodges.

Morrow county this year was the home of two of the 16 delegates chosen to make the annual tour. The other contest winner who will make the trip is Warren Inskeep of Irrigon.

Miss Brosnan and Inskeep, along with the other Oregon delegates, met Wednesday night in Portland for a banquet and to receive their instructions, and left this morning (Thursday) for Spokane where they will join other delegates from Washington and British Columbia. The group will make the trip across the continent by chartered bus.

The pilgrimage, now in its eighth year, will take the young men and women to New York City where they will spend nearly a week observing the operations of the United Nations. Their trip both ways is planned to give them opportunity to view many of the country's most historic and scenic spots.

Miss Brosnan, who won her chance to make the trip by competing against other students in this district, has been very active in school and other activities. She was a delegate to Girls' State and was elected to the office of state librarian; she was student body treasurer, president of the Heppner chapter of Future Homemakers of America, and the National Honor Society; she is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, the Pep club and the Girls Athletic association; she was football homecoming princess and junior class secretary, in addition to receiving several other school honors.

Miss Brosnan will return to Heppner early in August and will tell local groups and organizations of her experiences.

WEATHER

The Heppner weather station reports:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	77	45	—
Friday	87	55	—
Saturday	92	51	—
Sunday	76	43	—
Monday	74	45	—
Tuesday	87	49	—
Wednesday	81	51	—

No rainfall during week nor so far for July; 10.01 inches for the year.

Closure of Hardman Post Office Due Soon

Heppner post master James Driscoll received word today that the Hardman post office will be closed on August 31, but will be made a rural station to handle the sale of stamps and money orders.

A story out of Washington, D. C. last week announced that the Hardman postoffice would be among six small offices in Oregon to be closed in the near future. Heppner postmaster James Driscoll, said this week that he had understood a closure was slated, but has not yet received

any official word. When the office is closed Hardman area residents will be served by star route from Heppner, Driscoll said.

The Hardman office is one of the oldest in Morrow county, having been established in 1881 with Dave Hardman as the first postmaster, according to a compilation of post offices in Morrow and Grant counties made in 1954 by William H. McNeal of The Dalles. The office has operated continuously since that time with the exception of a short period between September 1943 to April

1946.

Though the Hardman post office is one of the oldest in the county, there are several which were in existence prior to its opening in 1881. The first office was at Cecil's (not Cecil) and was established in 1867. It was located on the stage stop between The Dalles and Salt Lake and James Rast was its first postmaster. The office had a short life, being closed in 1870.

The Heppner office was opened as Heppner in 1873 with Henry Heppner as first postmaster. One year earlier a post office was

opened here under the name Butter Creek with George Stansbury as the postmaster, but the name was changed in 1873. Other old timers in the county included Ione, 1884; and Salineville, which was the predecessor to Lexington, opened in the same year, and Lena which was established in 1873.

In all, there have been 35 post offices in Morrow county at one time or another, though that figure has dwindled to seven, still counting Hardman. The last to be closed was the Morgan office over two years ago.