

Heppner Gazette Times

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Farm Buildings Lost in Fire

8 Buildings And Equipment Burn At Padberg Ranch

A fire which started from an unknown cause in or around a shop building, last Saturday completely destroyed eight farm buildings and either damaged or destroyed much equipment on the William H Padberg ranch in Clark's Canyon south of Lexington. No definite estimate of the loss has been made, but it will run into many thousands of dollars, it is estimated.

The fire started about noon in or near a shop building located just south of the house and within a short time strong winds had carried the flames into all the remaining buildings with the exception of the residence which was saved. The only member of the family home at the time was Mr. Padberg, who is 85 years of age, and he suffered a fractured hip when he fell from a pickup when being returned to the fire after having started down Clark's Canyon road after help. He is being treated at Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Fire Seen From Plane

Also noticing the fire shortly after it started was Gar Leyva, operator of Gar Aviation at Lexington, who had flown a spray plane loaded with water to the Van Winkle ranch to aid in putting out a small stubble fire which started shortly before Leyva flew over the burning building and attempted to dump his entire load of water on the fire, but a faulty dump valve refused to operate. He immediately flew back to the Lexington airport and sounded the alarm from there which brought many volunteers to help fight the flames.

Destroyed in the wind-fanned fire were two large barns, one holding a considerable amount of baled hay, the shop building, two granaries, one of which was full of barley and the other partly filled with wheat, and four other chicken houses and out-buildings. Completely destroyed was a wheel tractor and partially burned or damaged past usage during the coming harvest were two large pull combines. One combine had just been completely overhauled and was to have been used the following day to start harvesting. The Padbergs had finished the overhaul job only the night before. The other combine wasn't burned, but was damaged when it was pulled away from the heat. Also lost were innumerable small tools and two big piles of fence posts. Nearly all fences in the immediate area were also destroyed.

Through the efforts of neighbors who supplied and operated two tractors, the fire was kept away from adjacent wheat fields and grass land. Nearly 100 men and women who saw the smoke from as far away as 10 to 15 miles, used wet sacks and shovels to help confine the fire to the immediate area.

The ranch is the Padberg home ranch which was taken up by William H. Padberg in 1897. It is farmed by sons Bill, Buster and W. H. L. "Buck" Padberg.

There was a small amount of insurance on the destroyed property.

The blaze was the second serious fire in this area in recent weeks. On July 11 nearly \$25,000 worth of baled hay was destroyed at the Harold Wright ranch near Ruggs.

Baker Nudges Junior Legion Team 8 to 7, To Play Sunday

The local Junior Legion baseball team dropped a close contest to the Baker Juniors Sunday 8 to 7. It was the local's fifth straight loss but coaches Floyd Sayers and Ernie Drake said the boys are showing marked improvement in their batting and look for a win soon. The Heppner boys hit 8 doubles during the game.

The Juniors will play a return game Sunday at the lone field against Baker, and it is hoped that another game can be arranged for the following weekend with Milton-Freewater. In a previous game, M-F took the local Juniors by a slim one-run margin.



SMOKING REMAINS of eight farm buildings which were destroyed by fire last Saturday noon at the William H. Padberg ranch in Clark's Canyon. The fire apparently started in a shop just behind the garage in the right foreground and quickly spread to the other buildings. Almost hidden in the smoke from one burning barn, left center, are the remains of a tractor and two combines which were either destroyed or damaged. Only buildings left were the small buildings in the left foreground, the garage and house which is out of the picture to the right. (GT Photo)

FAIR PREMIUM LISTS NOW BEING MAILED; EXHIBITORS ENCOURAGED

Premium lists for the Morrow county fair were mailed to the mailing list this week which includes all farm families and others not on the list but who might have made an exhibit at last year's fair, the county agent's office announced today. Additional premium lists are available at the office for those who might have been missed in the mailing, N. C. Anderson said.

Farmers and townspeople alike are urged to be thinking about their exhibits and to get them lined up now so that there will be many in every class to make this year's fair one of the biggest yet.

PUBLIC UTILITY TAX RATIO IN COUNTY REDUCED FOR COMING YEAR

The 1957 utility assessment ratios, announced today by the Oregon State Tax Commission, show a definite easing of the sharp reductions of the past two years. The ratios, assigned by the Commission to the various counties for use on utility property assessments, will continue to be reduced as in the past until the level of locally-assessed property is reached, a Commission spokesman said, but the reduction will be spread out over several years.

Previous Commission policy would have brought about full equalization in a single step this year, but a substitute plan, embodied in House Joint Resolution 24 was proposed and approved by the House. In the closing days of the session, the proposal failed to clear the Senate, but since that time approval of the policy contained in the resolution has been obtained from those in a position to advise the Commission.

The basic purpose of the new plan is to slow the reductions so that a minimum of "unanticipated economic hardships" will result. There is no contention that the equalization should not be made, but the Commission feels that it should be conducted over a longer period of time to allow a minimum disruption of the taxing processes.

To carry out this policy, the Commission this year made adjustments in the relationship of each of the counties so that they will be about the same amount out of line with locally-assessed property. In subsequent years the plan is to reduce the ratios by a definite amount each year. This year the ratios are approximately 120% of the ratios posted by the assessors and used on locally-assessed property. This means utilities will pay 20% more than other classes of property. Each

WEATHER

The Heppner weather station reports:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thurs.	73	42	—
Fri.	79	49	—
Sat.	85	51	—
Sun.	89	53	—
Mon.	88	55	—
Tues.	84	51	—
Wednes.	83	47	—

Rainfall for week, none; for July, .11; for the year, 10.12 inches.

yet. With the exceptional grain, hay and garden crops this year, the county agent said he would expect one of the largest exhibits yet in these divisions. He asked residents to check through the premium book, and list the exhibits which each individual might enter.

Included with the premium book is a list of points to consider if planning to exhibit fruits and vegetables. The list was prepared from interest shown by exhibitors in the past. If a copy of this list is not included in the book mailed out, it also can be obtained from the county agent's office.

In Morrow county the assigned utility ratio for 1957 will be 32 percent, down two percent from last year. The county posted ratio remains at 27 percent.

The ratios show a general reduction of about 5% over last year. Not all counties were reduced; 11 were increased from one to three ration points, while 5 counties stayed the same. Twenty counties showed decreases ranging from 9 points in Gilliam county, 6 points in Jefferson county, 5 points in Baker county down to a 1 point drop for several counties.

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Van Marter Named To State Office

La Verne Van Marter Jr. has been notified by H.L. Blackledge, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of his selection as District Deputy Grand Exalter Ruler for Oregon, Northeast. Van Marter is immediate past Exalter Ruler of Heppner Lodge B.P.O.E. No. 358. He will attend a conference in Salt Lake City on August 24 at which he will take his oath of office, receive his official commission and be instructed in his official duties.

Chest X-Ray Date Changed for August

The regular free chest X-ray sponsored by the Morrow County TB and Health Association, and given the first Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Memorial hospital, has been changed for the month of August to the second Wednesday, August 14.

WIRES CAUSE ALARM

The Heppner fire department was called to the Ted Smith home on North Court street Tuesday afternoon when lead-in power wires shorted in tree limbs and flared. Damage was confined to the wires.

\$100 Prize Awaits Top Cake Baker Local Fair Contest

Once again it is time to start thinking about entering the Oregon Wheat Growers League cake baking contest at the Morrow county fair, August 27, 28, 29 30. Anyone can enter—mom, dad, and youngsters, too—if they can bake a light tender yellow butter-type cake.

The 1957 contest is open to all yellow cakes made with a solid type fat and whole eggs. An all-American cake, it's one that can be dressed up or down and is excellent for family and party dessert. Contest cakes should be frosted, although frostings and fillings are only judged as accessories to the cake.

Premiums include \$5 for first place, \$3 for second and \$2 for third place cake. All first place winners will be expected to enter the state bake-off which will be held in Pendleton, December 5 6 and 7, at the annual meeting of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. The "state bake-off" winner will take \$100 home to do with as he or she wishes.

Cake should be entered at the woods department by 10 a. m. Wednesday August 28 at the Morrow county fair.

Heart Attack Strikes Barratt

County Judge Garnet Barratt was taken to Pioneer Memorial hospital Wednesday morning after having suffered a heart attack while at work at his office in the court house.

Physicians attending Judge Barratt said his condition is considered critical but that it will take several days of tests to be able to determine definitely the seriousness of the attack. Judge Barratt suffered a previous attack over one and one-half years ago and was hospitalized for several weeks.

Guest Preacher Due at All Saints'

Guest preacher at All Saints' Episcopal church Sunday will be the Rev. Father F. C. Benson Bellis, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal church at Long Beach Calif. He is the former dean of the Cathedral of Manila, Philippine Islands.

Mr. Bellis and the Rev. R. S. Little rector of All Saints' are presently attending a church conference near Portland.

Heppner Navy Man In Flight Training

PENSACOLA, Fla. (FHTNC)—Navy Ensign Donald E. Blake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Blake of Heppner, Ore., is undergoing instrument, formation and night flight training at Corey Field Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

Before advancing to this last stage of basic training, students complete the precision-acrobatic phase of flying.

Upon completion of basic training they are assigned to anti-submarine or patrol planes for advanced training.

Oregon Youth to Gather Here for Week Range Camp

Organizations interested in 4-H club work will sponsor four boys to the 1957 Youth Range camp which will be held next week at the Tupper Guard station in the Blue mountains.

Bruce Rigby, Ione; Bill Parsons and Billy Doherty, Lexington, and Billy Monagle, Heppner will attend the camp on scholarships provided by the Morrow County Livestock Growers association, Morrow County Farm Bureau, Heppner Soil Conservation district and the Morrow county 4-H club council.

The boys, who must be 14 years of age or older, were selected on the basis of leadership, citizenship and love of outdoors. Boys from Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and Josephine and all eastern region counties will be represented.

At camp, boys will study range and soil judging, plant identification, ranch organization management and predator control. There will be time for supervised swimming, softball and other sports and for sessions on photography and camping. Outdoor manners sportsmanship and woodsmanship will also be featured.

The camp is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest section of the American Society of Range Management and will run July 29 through August 3. This is the first time the camp has been held in Morrow county.

New Transmission Line to Serve Local Co-operative

Bonneville Power Administration today announced opening of bids for clearing and construction of the 26-mile Big Eddy-De Moss 115,000 volt transmission line with an apparent low bid of \$217,836 submitted by Key Construction Company Tacoma Wash.

Energization of the line and a 15,000 kilovolt-ampere substation with two feeder positions at De Moss, Oregon in May 1958, will provide power for Sherman and Gilliam counties in North Central Oregon served by the Wasco Electric Cooperative, the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, and Pacific Power and Light Company.

Specifications call for clearing a 100-foot secured right-of-way and construction of H-frame and single wood pole structures, together with some steel river crossing towers and stringing of conductor and overhead ground wires.

The successful contractor will have 260 days to complete the project.

Other bids include Tyece Construction Company and Lee Hoffman, Seattle, Washington \$244,137 (combined bid); R. C. Hughes Company, Spokane, Washington \$231,089; Montgomery Electric Company, Portland, Oregon, \$237,608; Sierra Electric Company, Portland, Oregon \$248,735; and W. L. Ridge Construction Company, Spokane, Washington, \$255,835.

TOWN SOFTBALL TEAM TO PLAY AIR BASE

The Heppner town softball team will play a Condon Air Base team tonight (Thursday) at 6:30 on the rodeo field.



PRINCESS BARBARA STEAGALL

Rodeo Dance to Honor Lexington Princess

The first of the 1957 Morrow county fair and rodeo princesses will be honored Saturday night when Barbara Steagall, 16 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Steagall of Lexington will be the guest of honor. The dance is being given by the Lexington Grange, Princess Barbara's sponsor.

Princess Barbara, five feet six inches, is the tallest member of this year's all-blond court. She will be a junior at the Lexington high school next year.

Princesses are becoming a tradition in the Steagall family as Barbara is the third daughter to be accorded the honor. Her sister Deanna was a rodeo princess in 1954 and only last year another sister, Pat was a member of the royal court.

She is a member of the Wranglers riding club and consistently places high in competitive events held by the club. Logically, she lists riding as her favorite pastime.

Native Hollander Tells of Country

Harry Bongers, new administrator of Pioneer Memorial hospital and a native of the Netherlands, Monday noon spoke to the chamber of commerce on his native country.

Bongers told how much of Holland lies below sea level and how the country is diked and drained, to provide additional badly needed farm land. He told of the big storm of 1953 which breached the dikes and inundated a large area of coastal lands and how the dikes were repaired and the sea water pumped out to allow farming again in the flooded areas.

He explained that Holland has one-fourth the land area of the state of Oregon, yet supports over 8,000,000 people.

time. During the school year Princess Barbara is active in extra-curricular events and is a member of the Girls Athletic Association. She is excellent help at home and she has been active in 4-H club work having had four years of cooking and sewing.

For her dance, which will be held at the fair pavilion in Heppner the Lexington Grange has signed Jay Purdom and his Blue-Jay Boys, a well known TV radio and recording orchestra from Spokane. Dancing is scheduled from 9:30 to 2:00 o'clock.

Other princesses on the court will be honored at their own dances on subsequent weekends.

Registration Date Set For Kindergarten

The Heppner Civic League met Monday evening at All States Episcopal parish house and it was announced that kindergarten registration will be on Friday, September 6 at the kindergarten room in the school.

Fees will be \$10 registration and \$6 a month if the child attends more than 13 days; if attendance is less than that the charge is 50c per day. Mrs. Roy Tabor will be the teacher again this year.

During the meeting two new members to the kindergarten board were elected, Mrs. Gordon Pratt for a two year term, replacing Mrs. Jack Angel and Mrs. Larry Downen for a three year term replacing Mrs. William Sowell.

Bids will be asked for from local plumbers for putting in a rest room in connection with the kindergarten room. This improvement is to be financed by the Civic League.

Mrs. Pratt was appointed chairman of the committee to prepare a float to enter in the rodeo parade.

60 Bushel Wheat Being Harvested Near Ione



HEAVY YIELD of certified Omar and Burt wheat is being harvested by these two combines on the Bergevin ranch south of Ione. This field of Omar stands more than waist high and is averaging 60 bushels per acre. (GT Photo)

Reports continue to come in of exceptionally heavy wheat yields as harvesting gets into full swing in all sections of Morrow county. The Morrow County Grain Growers Wednesday reported that it is now receiving about 125,000 bushels per day at all elevators and that peak hauling is now under way at the Lexington, Ione and McNab stations.

One of the heaviest confirmed yields reported this year on a large field is on the Bergevin ranch south of Ione. Denward Bergevin, operator, who has one of the largest fields of certified wheat in the county, is now harvesting Omar and Burt wheat on two fields. The Omar has averaged 60 bushels per acre with nearly half of the 233 acres harvested, and a 257 acre field of certified Burt is running 56 bushels to the acre. The Omar has tested at 61 and one-half pounds. Bergevin reported that the

grain is so heavy that he is forced to combine in low gear, well throttled down, and is covering only about three-quarters of a mile per hour.

Other ranches in the same area have reported yields between 40 and 50 bushels per acre.

The MCGG reported that indications still hold that former forecasts of 30 to 35 bushels per acre will be the county-wide wheat yield, with barley expected to run at least a ton to the acre.

MCGG manager Al Lamb said that they still expect to be able to handle the grain without difficulty. The co-op is shipping heavily and reports an ample supply of railway cars to meet needs.

Mr. and Mrs. John Karlik of Portland visited one day last week at the home of Mrs. Clara Gertson. Mrs. Karlik is Mrs. Gertson's daughter.