

HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, June 19, 1958

Copies 10 Cents

75th Year Number 15

Nearly 70,000 Acres of Grass Lost in Monday's Range Blaze

North End Fire Runs From Boardman to Cecil

A spectacular range fire that covered about 15 square miles in the northern end of the county started on the Boardman bombing range Monday noon. The fire, apparently caused by ammunition demolition, was not brought under control until early Tuesday morning.

Racing over between 50,000 to 70,000 acres of range land from Boardman to the highway from Cecil to Heppner Junction, the blaze was fought by nine fire trucks, army maintenance and private farm bulldozers and equipment. About 100 men were reported working on fire lines over the wide area and small crews were checking spot fires on Tuesday.

No grain was burned in the holocaust, but wheat on the George Miller ranch at Cecil was threatened. All of the Hynd Bros range was wiped out and a few sections used by Dick Wilkinson,

George Rugg, Paul Webb, Campbells and Krebs. The Wilkinson sheep camp, located north of the power lines on Six Mile canyon which was a rough boundary of the blaze at that end was not endangered.

Fire trucks used on the fire all through Monday night included two from Cecil, two from Arlington, one each from Boardman, Irrigon, Ordance, Umatilla and one from the bombing range.

Spectators were drawn to the area which was lit as bright as daylight by the flames. C J D Bauman, county sheriff, and state police directed traffic which jammed the Willow creek highway around 11 pm.

Backfiring was started in the Cecil area between 10 and 11 o'clock at night. The conflagration of heavy sagebrush and grass shot high flames and threw off heat like an inferno.

Main damage from the fire could be caused if strong winds started sand blows, Dick Wilkinson pointed out. Early snows also would eliminate pasturing later in the fall.

The two-way communication system on the Wilkinson ranches proved valuable in gathering men to fight the fire. George Rugg was called from the mountains, Dick Wilkinson was called back from Portland and operations were coordinated by radio.

Women at the Krebs and Hynd ranches furnished coffee, sandwiches, cake and pop to the men during the night.

Later reports told of the flames getting out of control again Tuesday afternoon in the valley below Cecil near the Jack Hynd home. The wind caused the fire to jump the highway and railroad tracks before being finally brought under control by a crew of weary firefighters, some of whom had been on the job for over 24 hours. Damage however, still was confined largely to sheep corrals, well houses and sheep shelter in addition, of course, to the heavy stand of grass.

Loss of life was confined to thousands of kangaroo mice and jackrabbits.

4-H Summer Camp To Be June 26-30 At Herren Creek

In preparation for the annual 4-H summer camp to be held at the Herren Creek 4-H camp ground June 26, through June 30, plans are being made now. Approximately 75 young boys and girls enrolled in 4-H club work along with older 4-H members acting as camp counselors will take part in the four days of camp craft sessions, nature study hikes, camp fires, singing, games, stories, soft ball and other recreation.

Parents, leaders and those interested in 4-H club work will spend Sunday, June 22 with a clean up day in preparation for the camp. Tents will be set up, beds and mattresses moved in and other details taken care of. Pot-luck dinner will be held at noon and anyone interested in the camp is invited to attend.

Valby Church To Install Minister

Rev Verlyn Kraxburger will be the speaker at Valby Lutheran church at 9:30 am Sunday, June 22. Sunday school will follow the service.

Dr S C Siefkes will also be at the service which will be the installation service for Rev John Rydgren, who will serve as regular minister for the Hope Lutheran church in Heppner and Valby church.

The annual picnic of the Valby church and Sunday school will be held Sunday, July 6. All members and friends are welcome.

Mr and Mrs N D Bailey attended the Rose festival in Portland last week.



MRS CLINTON AGEE (Janet Howton) a June graduate of Pacific University at Forest Grove who will teach physical education at the Heppner high school this next year.

Businesses Agree To 3-Day Closing Over The Fourth

Fifty-two businesses in Heppner, Lexington and Ione will be closed over the three-day Fourth of July holiday. It has been announced. Business men have signed an agreement to close during Friday and Saturday, July 4 and 5.

Grocery owners pointed out that final delivery of fresh produce into the area would be made on Thursday and no more deliveries would come in from wholesalers until Monday.

Business that will close include the Heppner Market, Norah's Shop, Wilson's Men's Wear, Morrow County Creamery Turner Van Marter and Bryant, Peterson's Jewelry, Thomson Bros, Connor's dress Shop, Gonty's Heppner Bakery, Gilliam and Bisbee, Heppner Variety, Heppner Hardware and Electric, Herman Howard Barber Shop, Central Market, Central Meat Market, Pacific Power & Light, Heppner Cleaners, Heppner Laundry, Farra's Shoe Service, Lott's Electric, Ambrose Chapin's Barber Shop, Heppner Gazette Times, Case Furniture Co., Heppner Red and White Store, Ruggles Insurance, Way's Electronic Service, Heppner Slaughter House, Court Street Market, Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co., Anderson's Builders Supply, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Lois's Beauty Shop, Jeanne's Shop, Kay's Fountain Lunch, J C Penney Co., Carl F Spaulding, Beauty-Mode Shop and Moyer's Cafe.

At Ione those closing will include Bristow's Grocery, McCabe's Meat Market, Swanson's Grocery, Richard M Greer Grocery, Omar Rietmann Hardware and Melvin Melena Builder's Supply.

Also signing is Mel Brady who delivers bread to the three towns. Businesses that will remain open include the First National Bank, Phil's Pharmacy, Humphreys Drug Store, Rosewall Motor Co., Fulleton Chevrolet Co., Farley Motor Co., Empire Machinery Co., Ella's Grill, O'Donnell's Cafe and service stations.

Lexington businesses closing will be Hatfield's Grocery, Nichol's Red and White Store, Lexington Oil Co-op and Lexington Cafe.

At Ione those closing will include Bristow's Grocery, McCabe's Meat Market, Swanson's Grocery, Richard M Greer Grocery, Omar Rietmann Hardware and Melvin Melena Builder's Supply.

Former Resident Dies In Mesa, Arizona

George William (Bill) Corbett, former resident of Heppner and the Eightmile area, died June 1 at his home near Apache Junction, Arizona, according to word received here.

Survivors include the widow, Nellie, Mesa, Arizona; a stepson, Maurice Smith, Tacoma, Wash; a stepdaughter, Mrs Helen Sterett, McMinville and nine grandchildren.

Services were held June 4 at the Garden chapel with burial in Mesa.

Republicans Schedule Committee Meeting

The Morrow county Republican central committee will meet Tuesday evening, June 24 at 8 pm at the Robert Penland home in Heppner.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers for the coming year and it is urged that all interested persons plan to attend.

Pine Mills Secretary Receives Promotion

Mrs Jean Mallory, secretary at the Heppner Pine Mills for the past two years, has been promoted to the position of secretary to Maurice Hitchcock, owner and operator of the White Swan Lumber Company. The Heppner mill is affiliated with the White Swan organization.

Mrs Mallory and daughter, Donelle, left Wednesday for White Swan.



BILLY DOHERTY, 16, son of Mr and Mrs W J Doherty, Lexington, was judged grand champion 4-H livestock showman at the Oregon Wheat League-sponsored 4-H and FFA fat stock show and sale at The Dalles last week. Billy won the champion 4-H beef showmanship before competing in the grand champion contest.



MIKE GRAY, 15, son of Mr and Mrs Merritt Gray, Heppner, is shown with his reserve champion Hereford at the Oregon Wheat League fat stock show and sale at The Dalles last week. Mike is a member of the Heppner high school FFA chapter.

Harvesting of County Grain Crop Gets Under Way

Harvesting of Morrow county's 1958 grain crop got under way this week and by Wed. barley was coming in to both the Lexington and North Lexington elevators of the Morrow County Grain Growers. Some cutting was reported north of Ione Monday.

Max Barclay and William Doherty started hauling to the North Lexington elevator Wednesday morning and shortly afterwards barley began coming in to the Lexington elevator from the Adolph Majeske and Duvall ranches.

Elevator operators reported the early barley was of good quality and indications were for a high acreage yield. Wheat harvesting is expected to start in the north areas by July 4 or earlier.

The hot weather of the past few days brought on rapid ripening of all grains and there have been some reports of wheat being hurt by the high temperatures. In some fields the wheat is still partly green and soft and fear was felt that the heat had caused damage, but general indications are that the county as a whole will enjoy one of its largest crops in history.

Al Lamb, Morrow County Grain Growers manager, said Wednesday that the co-op is shipping heavily against government orders from all stations except Ruggs and North Lexington which are already empty. Shipping has also started again from Paterson which was down for a short time because of high water in the Columbia.

Radio System And Generator To Aid Defense

Civil defense operations in Morrow county gained headway last week when the county court approved purchase of a 30 kilowatt standby generator for the Pioneer Memorial hospital and plans were outlined for installing a base station and control cable for radio communications.

The hospital generator has been ordered as a civil defense surplus unit. The present generator is 3 kilowatt. The unit and other civil defense equipment are purchased through the civil defense program under matching funds with federal monies covering 50 percent and state and county funds 25 percent each of total costs.

The communication system for civil defense and law enforcement calls for the laying of 10,000 feet of cable from the courthouse up the hill where the cross is located and south to the hill where the Wilkinson ranch base station is situated. The cable to the county base station will be large enough to include several lines.

A five-year rental has been secured for the base station.

The two-way county communication is expected to include a mobile unit in the county sheriff's car, the county roadmaster's car, the city police car and a car in Boardman at present. A remote control will be installed at the Heppner hotel to receive calls when the sheriff's office is not open.

Officials expressed hope that the system may get in operation within the next one or two months. The cable has been ordered but not yet received.

Also operating from the base station will be a communication system for the Heppner Pine Mills which received its license last week. It expects to go into operation shortly after the Fourth of July and will have radio equipment in three of its six logging trucks, in the crew truck and a unit each for the engineer and jammer.

Al Lamb To Head Democratic Group

Al Lamb was elected chairman of the Morrow County Democratic Central committee Tuesday evening at a meeting at the home of Mr and Mrs Newt O'Harra in Lexington.

Mrs Clarence Rosewall is the vice chairman; Mrs Paul Brown, secretary; L E Ruhl, treasurer and O'Harra, congressional committeeman.

Plans and organization for the coming campaign were discussed at the meeting.

Mr and Mrs H C Wood of Portland are visiting in Heppner this week.

Weekend guests of Mr and Mrs Henry Hoppold were his brother-in-law and sister, Mr and Mrs Hank Hall and the Hall's daughter, Mrs Diane Zimmerman of Oakland, California.

Foreign Students From U of O Visit In County

Four foreign students at the University of Oregon are visiting and working in the Ione, Lexington and Heppner areas this summer.

Guest at the home of Mr and Mrs Milton Morgan, Ione is Peter Giacomini, 20 of Rome, Italy who entered his junior year last fall at the University and will graduate next spring in political science. On his return to Italy he will study further for a degree in his own country.

Miss Lena Graslund of Sweden will arrive this week for a vacation at the home of Mr and Mrs Don Heliker, Ione. Miss Graslund was a freshman last year and is studying liberal arts.

Miss Lei Uemura of Hilo Hawaii arrived last week at the home of Dr and Mrs Wallace Wolf in Heppner where she will be employed for the remainder of the summer. Miss Uemura entered her freshman year at the University last fall and will continue there next year in liberal arts.

Guest at the home of Mr and Mrs Orville Cutsforth, Lexington, is Miss Johanna Segers, an exchange student from The Hague, The Netherlands. A freshman last year, Miss Segers is majoring in psychology and will return to her homeland in July to continue her studies at the University of Leiden. Mr and Mrs Cutsforth were the first in the area to entertain foreign students in their home when they invited a Japanese student to their ranch last summer.

Funeral Services For Ralph R Justus Will Be Friday

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm at Folsom's Funeral chapel in Pendleton for Ralph R Justus, 65, who died Tuesday in Walla Walla.

Mr Justus was born July 8, 1892 near Heppner and had lived here all his life until about three years ago when he and his wife moved to Pendleton.

He was a member of the Heppner Masonic lodge, Ruth chapter OES and the Heppner Elks lodge. His wife, Hilda, survives him. Rev M B Ketcham will officiate at the service and interment will be in Olney cemetery at Pendleton.

STUDENTS HOME FROM SCHOOL

Among students who arrived home from Oregon colleges this week are Lance Tibbles, Mary Jo and Alice Faye Stewart, Don Casteel and Sharon Cutsforth, University of Oregon; Shirley Thomson and Jim Hayes, Oregon State college and David Cox and Wayne Soward, Eastern Oregon College of Education.

Jay Sumner will remain for summer school at OSC and Janet Wright will return from OSC following 4-H summer school where she is working as a student advisor.

Tommy Gonty is visiting his brother and sister-in-law, Mr and Mrs Raymond Gonty at Renton, Wash for two weeks.

WEATHER

	HI	Low	Prec.
Thursday	73	50	.01
Friday	72	52	.07
Saturday	75	47	—
Sunday	79	55	—
Monday	82	52	—
Tuesday	87	54	—
Wednesday	91	60	—

Rainfall for the week .08, for June .95, for the year 10.19 inches.

Second Fire in Month Hits Farm Near Boardman

By MARY LEE MARLOW

The Boardman city fire truck was called out for the second time in less than a week Monday morning to put out a fire on the farm of Lloyd Keller, three miles east of town. Keller was burning some dead trees that he had cut down and the fire spread to the desert adjoining his place. While he was trying to stop that the fire got to his haystack and to a truck load of hay by it. Mrs Nathan Thorpe who lives across the road from Keller, called the fire department and men from town and neighbors responded to the call.

The truck and haystack were destroyed and about 25 acres of desert burned. Just four weeks ago Monday, Keller's house burned to the ground while he was away from home. Wednesday of last week the fire truck was called to put out a fire at the home of Charles Nickerson in town. Nickerson had been burning grass around the place earlier, and wasn't home when the house caught. The building, owned by Mrs Mary Healy, was completely gutted by the fire.

Daily Vacation Bible school at Community church ended last Friday, and pupils presented their program that evening. Theme of the school was "Exploring God's Wonders." Pupils recited memory verses and sang songs learned. Their handwork was exhibited in the church basement. Total enrollment was 59, with an average attendance of 54. 19 children received certificates for perfect attendance and six received certificates for missing only one day.

Mrs Russell Miller entertained a group of girls at her home Saturday in honor of her daughter Patty's 12th birthday. She was assisted by her daughter, Mrs Harold Baker, and Mrs Ronald Haas. Present were Toni Taylor, Patti Partlow, Dorothy Rash, Eileen Ely, Brenda Billings, Diana Malone, Irene Potts, Lydia Hodges, Beatrice Rio, and Roberta Phillips, the latter from The Dalles, Ronda Haas, and Ronnie and Randy Baker.

The Tillicum club met at the home of Mrs Ronald Haas Tuesday evening of last week to install officers. Mrs Dewey West, retiring president, was installed.

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