

# Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## Fire On The Farm

Various problems concerning agriculture are widely and continuously discussed. But there's one major problem that we don't hear enough about—and its name is fire.

The Department of Agriculture tells us that fire losses on the nation's farms have shown an almost steady increase over the past 18 years. In that span of time, the loss has gone up about two-and-a-half times—from \$64 million in 1940 to \$152 million last year.

Fire is a menace anywhere. It is particularly so on farms. Fire protective facilities are often of limited value, at best, and in many instances are non-existent or virtually so. When fire strikes, especially in the hot dry season, the chance of a total loss is high.

Inflation has brought with it another and related problem. The house or barn or other structure a farmer built 20 years ago will cost twice as much today if it has to be replaced, and perhaps more. That goes for equipment and possessions of practically every kind, large and small. The consequence is that farmers—like most of the rest of us—are under-insured. The average property owner—in and out of agriculture—will be in for a shock if he carefully inventories his possessions, totals their value at today's prices, and compares that with his insurance coverage.

The wise farmer will periodically re-appraise his holdings in the light of changing prices and values. And he will continually practice fire prevention. A little thought, a little common sense, will greatly reduce the hazards.

## Odd Ends . . .

Oregon drivers earned themselves a lot of credit over the Fourth of July weekend when they got through the entire three day holiday without a single traffic death. This writer traveled about 750 miles during that time, a lot of it off the main highways just to keep out of the worst traffic, true, and we didn't see one single instance of careless or "squirreliness" on the whole trip.

If that kind of a record can be made on a weekend such as the Fourth, it looks like we ought to be able to do a little better the rest of the time.

Noticed the other day where a United Nations official estimated that the world's population now is 2½ billion persons and that by the year 2000 there will probably be 6 billion.

That should make for a bright future, it seems to us. If the bugs don't get it all beforehand, maybe we'll find a market for our surplus wheat along about 1985 or 90.

And speaking of varmints, we've been told that other gardeners around this section have been losing some mighty nice tomato and other plants to some real sneaky gophers—the kind that never kicks up mounds or pokes his nose out of the ground.

Our first run-in with these critters was about a month ago when we started losing one tomato plant about every second or third night. At first we accused the neighbors of a little thievery, then apologized when we happened to catch one in the act of pulling our biggest remaining plant down into the ground—we just got there in time to see it disappear. We never could find his run to try poisoning him, and we rather doubt that he would have been dumb enough to get caught on that kind of a trick anyway, for we had a real smart gopher.

When he started working on our tomatoes he started with the largest plant and worked his way through our patch, each night picking out the biggest remaining one. He didn't just work up one row and down another, he jumped around and took the best ones first while letting the smaller one grow up.

Inasmuch as our entire gardening effort was confined to 12 tomato plants which our gopher has now pulled into the ground without a trace, we don't know what he's doing for food. It's been two weeks since he took the last one, but we don't expect him to suffer too much. Any gopher as smart as ours will get along in this world—but, he's not getting any more help from us this year.

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times July 12, 1928

Mr and Mrs Howard of Fort Arthur, Calif are visitors here this week. Mrs Howard is a sister of Pat, Mike and John Healy.

The first grain to reach Heppner for this season was from the farm of Chris Brown who made deliveries at Farmers Elevator Co Warehouse.

Showing at the Star Theater Colleen Moore in Naughty But Nice.

Mr and Mrs Herbert Hynd of Cecil were calling on Mrs Gladys Ely at Morgan on Sunday.

Mrs Josephine Mahoney, who has been working in an abstract office at Eureka, Calif for the past few months arrived home Sunday evening, expecting to spend a few weeks of her summer vacation with her mother, Mrs Henry Howell.

approved conservation practices on reserve land.

While some livestock operators have complained recently of a lack of interest by contractors wanting cattle and calves, a recent Meat Animals and Wool Review report from Oregon State college indicates that contracting for Oregon feeder cattle is continuing at a lively pace. Contracts were reported on 3700 head of mostly calves and yearling steers. 2,000 good and choice 375 to 400 pound northeastern Oregon calves were contracted for fall delivery at \$29.50 for steers and \$27.50 for heifers. Another string of 150 choice steer calves in the north central Oregon area turned at \$30 for December delivery. At the Klamath Falls auction last week good steer calves topped at \$26.25 while a few single heifer calves brought up to \$30.75 at Ontario. Reported contracts were written for Oregon yearling feeder steers for fall delivery at from \$25.50 to \$26.

With harvest well along, it will not be long until seeding time. With the large surplus carry over of wheat from last year added to our 1958 bumper crop it is timely to use some quotes from speakers at the 15th annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Crop Improvement Association which was held about six weeks ago at Walla Walla, Washington. Pointed out was the fact that wheat is a major agricultural crop in the Pacific Northwest with approximately 70% going into foreign channels. With this large amount being exported it is well to see what our foreign customers are saying



SPEED LIMITS UNCHANGED  
There will be no change in speed limits in Oregon for a long time if the action taken by the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission maintains.

The commission put the brakes on a motion to adopt the report of its month-old special speed committee, Wednesday.

The study committee of seven had conducted hearings and reviewed questionnaires and recommended:

1. Limit of 20 miles an hour in school areas.
2. Limit of 30 in urban districts.
3. Limit of 60 in all other locations, except that the state speed control board and highway commission could raise or

lower maximum speeds in certain places.

Several portions of the report were challenged by Howard Morgan, publicity utility commissioner, who pointed that "accident statistics alone are not a valid measuring stick of relative merits of fixing speed or basic laws."

He said, "I feel that Oregon's law is educational. There are no citations until an officer believes the driver has done a hazardous thing. We hope for a beneficial effect over a period, but under a fixed limit on such a stretch as the Burns-to-Bend highway we might think the law was stupid when a limit obviously too low was exceeded."

Captain Farley Morgan of the State Police traffic safety division assured the commission "as far as enforcement is concerned we, of the State Police, have no contention with the basic law."

He told the commission that 96 per cent of those arrested for violating the basic speed rule in Oregon are convicted.

**NEW JUSTICE TAKES OFFICE**  
Kenneth J O'Connell, 48, of the University of Oregon law school staff, was sworn in Tuesday as a Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court.  
Gov Robert D Holmes appointed him to succeed Justice Brand, who resigned to accept a teaching position in Florida. Chief Justice William C Perry swore the new justice in. The ceremony was held in the governor's office.  
**HIGH AWARD TO SEN MORSE**  
Two of the nation's top officials  
Continued on page 7

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh  
**Slim's "Pickins"**  
Slim Thomas who owns a used-car lot on the highway proved more than once he can think fast. Last week, for example, a young roofing salesman came in to say he couldn't keep up the payments on a car he'd bought.  
Someone else would have begun to talk about refinancing—or repossession of the car. But Slim looked the fellow up and down and asked him how'd he'd like a part-time job.  
Now Slim's got a new salesman. The new fellow's holding down both jobs and keeps his car too. Everybody's happy.  
From where I sit, our town is lucky in having a fellow like Slim around. He's not only a good judge of a used car, but of character, too. Maybe it's because he understands others—and respects their viewpoints. Slim's one fellow who'd never try to "sell" you out of choosing a glass of beer with your meal, just because he prefers coffee!  
Joe Marsh  
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## From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Four more counties completed bangs testing requirements for certification last month and two counties were certified as modified-brucellosis free areas. Testing was completed in Union, Grant, Benton and Deschutes counties. Multnomah and Washington were the two counties re-certified. With the certification of Union and Grant counties,

Morrow, which was the first range county in the state to become certified, will find it easier to keep herds clean. Sherman and Umatilla counties have been certified for some time and Wheeler is in the progress of becoming certified now. Reports from the State Department of Agriculture is that a test program will be initiated in Gilliam county soon under provisions of the new brucellosis test law which provides that the state shall be tested by 1960. Gilliam and Wallowa counties are the only two that have no program underway.

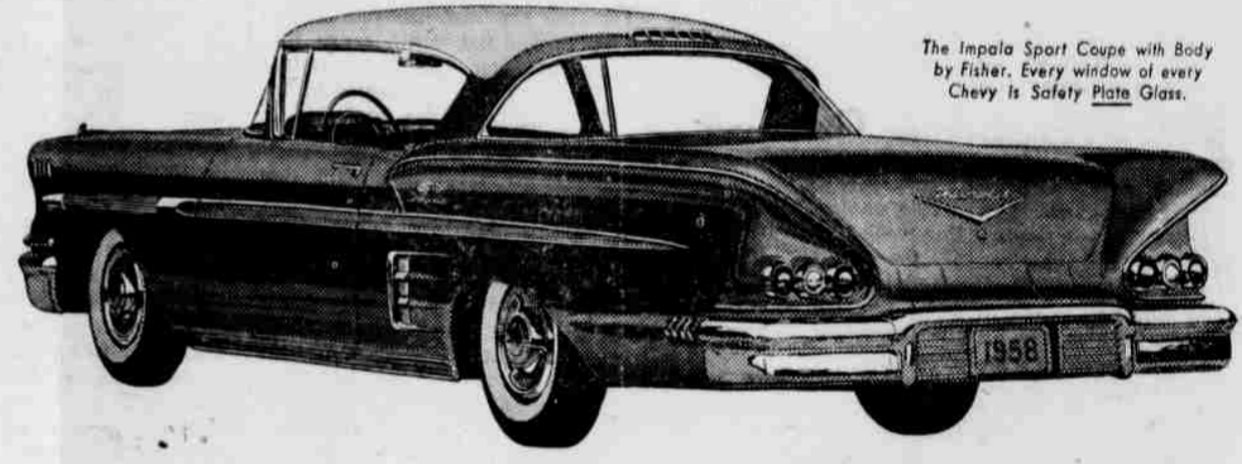
U S prices still average below parity for most commodities grown in Oregon. The June 15 list stacks up like this; apples 100% of parity; hogs 98%; beef cattle and calves each 96%; lambs 82%; wholesale milk 81%; eggs and butterfat each 75%; chickens 71%; oats and wheat each 70%; corn 68%; turkeys and barley each 67%; rye 60% and wool 53% of parity.

This is the last call for registering irrigation wells and claiming a vested water right. Farmers have until August 3 to complete this registration. Persons failing to do so will lose their vested right and any subsequent water right will be dated according to the date that application is made. Only those wells

used for irrigation before August 3, 1955 are eligible for registration. Necessary directions and forms are available from the State Engineers Office in Salem, Oregon.

A new conservation reserve program now set up for next year looks as though it might attract a lot of Morrow county farm participation. Now that harvest is being completed in some parts of the county it might be well to investigate the program so that plans can be made for next year's operations. The general highlight of the tentative program for next year is being publicized now as follows: (1) The national average annual rental payment to participating farmers will be \$13.50 per acre as compared with \$10 per acre in previous years of the program. The tentative average annual payment for 1959 in Oregon is \$16 an acre compared with \$12 an acre under 1956-58 contracts. (2) County and individual farm payment rates may be determined by ASC committees as in past primarily on the basis of relative productivity, rental rates, and agricultural land values. County committees will have more freedom to make individual adjustments than in the past. Those farmers who put all of the eligible crop land into the conservation reserve will be able to earn the maximum regular payment rate for all reserve acres plus an additional 10% for whole farm participation. In addition to the annual rental payment a farmer who participates in the conservation reserve can get a payment covering a substantial part of the cost of establishing

**STAR THEATER**  
Thurs., Fri., Sat., July 10, 11, 12  
**Sing, Boy Sing**  
Tommy Sands, Lily Gentry, Edmond O'Brien. PLUS  
**Courage of Black Beauty**  
Sun., Mon., July 13, 14  
**All Mine To Give**  
Cameron Mitchell, Glynis Johns, Ernest Truex. Sunday at 4, 6:10, 8:20.  
Tues., Wed., July 15, 16  
**Desert Fury**  
Burt Lancaster, John Hodiak, Elizabeth Scott. Family Nights.



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