

# Wheat, Grass, Equipment Burn Wednesday

Over 3000 Acres  
Blackened by  
Flames in Week

Another in the continuing series of grain and grass fires which have destroyed well over 100,000 acres of grain and range land this summer in Morrow county, Wednesday afternoon claimed 120 acres of standing wheat, an unknown amount of stubble, over 2000 acres of grass and one truck. The area burned was north of Hinton creek, northeast of Heppner.

The lost wheat belonged to Jim Valentine and lay on top of the ridge north of Hinton creek. In addition Valentine lost about 200 acres of stubble and one truck, from which the fire started. An unknown amount of additional stubble fields was also burned and this area was estimated to be twice or three times the amount lost by Valentine.

Before the blaze was stopped it also claimed at least 2000 acres of pasture grass on the John Hanna ranches.

The fire started about 3:30 in the afternoon and before it was controlled it had burned clear to the Heppner-Nye Junction highway at the forks of Hinton creek. Firefighters finally used backfires around some of the Hanna buildings and haystacks to stop the spread of the flames which burned an area roughly two and one-half to three miles square.

Between 200 and 300 firefighters and an uncounted number of tractors, spray rigs, and water-hauling pickups and trucks joined in the fight to stop the fire's spread. One spray plane from the Lexington airport dumped three loads of water on the leading edges of the fire to slow up the spread and aid ground workers. Four combines were working in the area, but all were removed from the path of the fire without damage.

The towering clouds of black smoke attracted help and viewers from many miles and several inquiries came in to the Heppner fire department as to the location of the fire. Many local residents thought it was just behind the hospital.

#### Four Other Fires

Four other fires during the past several days blackened many hundreds more acres of grass and stubble, but the loss in these was comparatively small except for range.

Saturday several hundred acres of grass on the Howard Cleveland ranch south of Willow creek kept firefighters busy for several hours. It was stopped before it reached grain, according to reports.

Monday an unestimated amount of stubble on the Ruhl ranch south of Lexington went up in smoke but that fire also was stopped before it got into standing barley.

Tuesday afternoon the lone fire department aided in stopping a small grassfire on the Delbert Emert ranch occupied by Mrs Ida Coleman. It started from a trash barrel and was stopped before it reached a nearby barn.

Also on Tuesday afternoon a considerable amount of stubble and grass was burned on the W E McMillan and Cutsforth ranches west of Lexington. A wooden cistern cover was destroyed before the fire was stopped.

The continuing hot weather, which has been in the 80's and 90's practically every day for the past three weeks or longer has been the main factor in the numerous fires. Wind however has been light most of the time when the fires occurred. The only heavy winds in recent days came on Sunday when little if any field activity was under way.

## City Voters To Decide on Bonds For Water System

Residents of Heppner will probably be called upon sometime in the coming months to express their desire on whether to bend the city for money with which to complete the installation of approximately six miles of new steel water feeder main from the upper city wells on Willow creek.

The council started action on the project at its Monday night meeting by ordering an engineer's survey to determine cost estimates.

The project has been in the back of council members' minds for several years and it has been known that the new installation would have to be made eventually. What finally brought things to a head was the heavy water consumption during the past two months when the Heppner residents were using all the water the city could get down the old, leaky concrete line and for a time it was feared that it would be necessary to restrict water use when, during one 24 hour period, the water level in the city's big 1,000,000 gallon reservoir dropped two feet despite constant pumping at both wells up to the line's capacity of 720,000 gallons a day. The old concrete line, which constantly requires repair, is also thought to be the source of some minor water contamination which occasionally shows up in water tests. The only answer to the latter problem is either a new line or chlorination of all water, something that most residents object to unless absolutely necessary.

Last year the city laid two miles of steel line near the upper end of the system and at that time obtained an easement from the county for a right-of-way for the line along the new Willow creek road. At the present time, much of the line follows land contours over hills and through fields making it extremely difficult to repair. Another three miles of steel pipe connects the newest city well on the Wilkinson ranch with the city. This line, and a mile of cast iron pipe directly below the upper wells, is in good condition and would not have to be replaced.

The council roughly estimated that replacing the six miles of old line with new steel pipe would cost between \$100,000 and \$120,000, but the engineer's survey will give a more accurate estimate. When the survey is completed, the council indicated that it will put the matter before the voters to see if they will approve a bond issue for the job.

The old concrete line is in such condition that it will stand no pumping pressure, only gravity flow. There is ample water available from the city's wells if it could be gotten into town and city superintendent Vic Groshens estimated that with a new steel line the amount of water available to residents would be nearly doubled.

In other business the council authorized the calling for bids for a new city dump truck and voted to grant Morrow county and Pioneer Memorial hospital the right to connect to the city water mains in case of emergency. At the present time, the hospital and the court house uses water from the county well on the court house grounds and stored in the reservoir on cross hill. Capacity is low and the tie up to the city supply would be for emergency use only, it was stated.

#### To Ask For Bids

Work will be started shortly on the construction of an enclosed burner for the city dump. Materials will be ordered by the city and work will be done by Becket Equipment Co. Fires have been a problem for years at the dump, and during the summer no burning of trash is being done in an effort to save surrounding fields of grain.

#### Building Permits OK'd

Building permits were issued to John Lane, West Willow street, alterations and repairs, \$1000; Martha Van Schoiack, replace sidewalk, \$160.

## Rodeo Reserved Tickets on Sale

Advanced sale of reserved Buckaroo seats for the August 30 and 31 performances of the rodeo will go on sale Saturday, August 9 at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. It was announced today.

The reserved seats are all in the new grandstand on the north side of the rodeo field immediately behind the bucking chutes giving those seat holders an ideal view of the rodeo workings. There are approximately 400 seats in the new stands, all of which will be reserved.

All seats in the south grandstand and bleachers will now be classified as general admission. The reserved seats will cost \$3.00 general admission \$1.75 and students 75c. No seats will be reserved for the Saturday night show with general admission charge being set at \$1.00 and 50 cents. General admission tickets will be available at the gates.

#### WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec
Thursday	89	53	—
Friday	94	55	—
Saturday	94	58	—
Sunday	94	54	T
Monday	80	47	—
Tuesday	78	50	—
Wednesday	88	54	—

Rainfall for July .06; for August, trace; for the year 10.57 inches.

Mrs Jennie Lewis of Clackamas, is visiting at the home of her grandson Eddie Gunderson.

## Hospital Patients To See Coming Rodeo

The executive board of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary met Monday afternoon at the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Plans were made for some of the geriatric patients to see the rodeo this year.

Mrs Kay Ledford, presiding secretary, informed the group of the importance of all visitors to the downstairs patients checking with a registered nurse before taking anything to eat to the patients. "Some patients are diabetic and even too much fresh fruit can cause trouble", said Mrs Ledford.

The next auxiliary meeting will be held Tuesday, September 9 at 2:30 pm at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, instead of the usual first Monday.

# HEPPNER

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## KNOW ANY GOOD NAMES?

### Help of Residents Asked in Finding New City Street Names

The Heppner city council wants the residents of the city to help in the naming and re-naming of several of the city's streets as a part of its current program to renumber all houses and businesses in town.

The discrepancy in several street names, and numerous others that have never been officially named will cause considerable trouble under the new numbering plan, for the council pointed out that it won't do much good to have house numbers if the street doesn't even have a name.

Among those streets which will have to be renamed are one of the city's two Willow streets, one of two Center streets and North street which under the new plan would wind up being North North street which would be somewhat confusing.

Several streets have no formally approved names and the council wants to give them proper titles. Among those are Linden Way (the highway to Lexington which will probably be left with that name inasmuch as most persons accept that name though it has never been made official); the street leading from south Court to Balm fork and the city dump—its only title on maps is "county road"; on the opposite side of Willow creek from "county road" is a well populated street officially known as Race Track street and often called Hager street which should be given an official title, with a little more dignity.

The short street leading from Water street to the Seventh Day Adventist church has no name, though it was platted as Brown street, only to find that another Brown street already exists in the northeast section of town. Several alleys and short stub

streets will also require names as they have houses facing them. The council suggested Monday night that these streets be named "Lanes" or "Ways". It is also planned to rename "A", "D", and "K" streets which, though they now carry official titles are in various parts of town and their alphabetical sequence is entirely out of order.

Members of the council in discussing the renaming suggested that the family names of Pioneer residents might be used but recommended that the name Morrow be eliminated because of its confusion with Morrow

county and the town of Morrow, which often is pronounced the same.

Local residents who have suggestions for new street names are urged to send them either to the Heppner city recorder or to the Gazette-Times and probably at the next council meeting members will select the new names from those offered.

Work on actual installation of the house numbers is expected to start within a short time and it is planned to install street name signs throughout Heppner as money can be obtained from the budget.



ARNOLD MELBY, who has taken over his duties as new band and music instructor in the Heppner schools.

## New Band Instructor Arrives in Heppner; Practice Slated

The Heppner school board this week announced the hiring of Arnold E Melby, 45, as new school band and music instructor. Mr and Mrs Melby and their two children have already moved here from Fossil where he has taught for the past two years.

Mr Melby is a graduate of, or has attended several midwestern and Pacific coast schools including Concordia college, Moorhead, Minn; the University of Idaho, Portland State, Pacific University, the University of Oregon and the Minneapolis School of Music. He has been a member of or directed several college bands and orchestras and was director of band and vocal music in schools at Salem, South Dakota; St Ignatius, Montana; Priest River, Idaho; Myrtle Point, Aloha and Fossil, Oregon. He is a member of the Masonic lodge, Lions club and American Legion.

The new instructor announced that the Heppner band program will start August 11 with the sixth grade to practice at 9 am Monday through Friday and the seventh and eighth grades at 10 o'clock on the same days. High school band practice will start August 18 at 8 pm.

New students who play instruments are invited to attend practice and all college students and adults in the community are invited to come to practice with the band for the rodeo. Melby expressed the hope that he could have a good turnout and could make a good showing for the Shrine All-Star football game and the rodeo.

## Dodgers Cinch Second Half Little League Title

The Dodgers cinched the second half of play in the Willow Creek Little League Thursday by beating the Braves 19 to 7. They will play the Giants next week to determine the championship of the summer's play.

Monday the Braves snapped out of their slump to defeat the Indians 10-5 in a very well played game and on Tuesday the Dodgers tangled with the Giants to come out on top with a 12 to 1 score.

Wednesday night the Dodgers wind up their second half of play with a game against the Indians and the Giants and Braves will close out the season tonight.

The All-Stars will play in Pendleton Friday evening at 7 o'clock against a Little League team there. They will also play Condon soon in a return game.

The farm teams closed their play for the summer with a game Tuesday between the Tigers and the Yankees. The Yankees won 3-2.

League standings, now complete except for the games Wednesday and tonight are for the last half:

	Wins	Losses
Dodgers	7	7
Giants	3	5
Braves	3	5
Indians	3	5

## Finnish Girl to Be IFYE Guest at Morrow County Ranch

Miss Marja Virkkala, 29, IFYE exchange student from Rantakoski Kaustinen, Finland, will arrive in Morrow county around September 2nd to be the guest of the E M Baker family of Lone. Marja will be the third IFYE student to live in Morrow county. In 1953 two young men from Ecuador and Syria were hosted by the E M Baker and Lloyd Howton families of Lone.

The International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) is an extension program activity dedicated to better understanding among the rural people of the world. Under the program, young farm people are exchanged between the United States and over 50 countries to live and work with farm families—learning their hosts' "way of life" by living it. Begun in 1948, the exchange is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

In the United States no government funds are used to finance the IFYE exchanges. Each state extension service that participates in the project agrees to underwrite at least \$800 of the cost of each two-way exchange—that is, sending a delegate out of the United States and receiving a foreign youth exchange. State contributions are raised primarily by local 4-H clubs, farm organizations, service clubs, local business firms and individuals. The rest of the budget is contributed by foundations, industries and persons interested in rural and international understanding.

Marja is the only girl in a farm family of five which range in ages from herself, the eldest, to a young brother of nine. She can read some English and is of the Lutheran faith. She has completed primary training in her education and has attended a home economics school. She came to Oregon on August 3rd and will visit with another Oregon family before she arrives in Morrow county. Prior to this she has been living with host families in New Jersey.

## Princess Karen to be Honored Saturday



PRINCESS KAREN VALENTINE

The final princess dance of the 1958 pre-fair and rodeo activities will be held Saturday night at the fair pavilion in Heppner. It will be for Miss Karen Valentine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jim Valentine of Rhea creek, who is being sponsored on the royal court by the Rhea Creek Grange.

Princess Karen is 18 years of age, is five feet, five and one-half inches tall, weighs 127 pounds and has brown hair and blue eyes. She graduated last June from Heppner high school and has announced plans to attend Kinman Business college in Spokane this fall. She was born in Heppner, then moved to Echo where she lived until about four years ago and she has four sisters, Kay, 21, Linda, 13, Tanna, 10 and Kim 8 years old.

During her high school years she took part in numerous extracurricular activities including serving as treasurer of the Future Homemakers of America, secretary of the Girls Athletic Association and Pep club president. She played volleyball, tennis and in the school band and pep band. She was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and enjoyed her membership in the Wranglers

Riding club. Like most of the rest of the 1958 court, Princess Karen chooses horseback riding and swimming as her favorite sports.

Playing for Karen's dance will be Rod Esselstyn and his orchestra from Pendleton.

The final dance in the pre-fair week series will be the Queen's dance which will be held at the fair pavilion Saturday, August 16.

## Saturday Accident Causes no Injuries

A car driven by Jerry Buschke of Heppner struck a bank on Court street just north of the intersection of May street Saturday night and overturned in the street causing about \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. Neither Buschke or his passenger Miss Judy Collins were injured in the accident.

The accident report stated that it appeared that the car's power steering failed to work as he rounded the corner. The accident was investigated by state police who later filed a complaint against Buschke for violation of the basic rule.

## Renn Harris to Attend Workshop At Eugene

Renn Harris, Heppner high school student body president for the coming year, will leave Sunday for the University of Oregon at Eugene, where he will take part in a workshop program for student leaders August 10-15.

Following this conference he will attend another designed for editors of school papers and yearbooks. Harris will be editor of the Mustang annual this next year. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll and this summer participated in the JSSSI program for students interested in science.

## ADULT BEGINNERS SWIM LESSONS SET

Another class of swimming instruction for adult beginners will start Monday, August 11, Mrs Tom Hughes, instructor has announced.



NO MORE PORTLAND—Mrs Dean Gilman is removing the word "Portland" from the window sign at the Heppner branch of the (now) First National Bank of Oregon. The statewide banking organization last Friday changed its name to be more in keeping with its growing activities in the state. Watching the operation is manager Jack Bedford. (GT Photo)