

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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A RURAL FIRE DISTRICT IS NEEDED

This newspaper has on at least a half-dozen occasions during recent years attempted to explain the value of, and interest residents within a reasonable number of miles of Heppner in forming a rural fire protection district. In practically all instances such efforts have fallen on deaf ears, until this week when three separate rural fires within just a few hours completely destroyed two farm homes and damaged another. No lives were lost, but a lot of property was.

All of a sudden there is a lot of interest in a fire district and we would like to encourage it, and help where we can.

There has been some criticism of the Heppner fire department because it would not take its equipment to a couple of last weekend's blazes (though some of its members did everything they could personally do to help out). This criticism is entirely unjustified and when the excitement of such fires is over, most people realize why such restricting rules are made. First of all, it was not the fire department that refused to go—it was instructed not to leave the city limits by the city council (except in cases of mutual aid, civil defense orders, or when it must chase a fire that started within the city limits). The council in issuing that order some years ago, and advising residents outside of town of such action, is only complying with laws and common sense practice. The people of the city of Heppner have bought and paid for their fire equipment and because they have done so, and it is at all times ready to protect their property, they enjoy a considerably cheaper rate on their fire insurance than do residents living outside the city in an area with no organized fire protection. That saving approaches 50%, which goes a long way toward offsetting the tax they pay for their fire department.

As we have said before, there is a very simple way out of this problem of fighting fire for the residents outside of the city limits of town. They can form a rural fire protection district which will be supported by a small tax levy on all property within the district and after it is organized, equipment purchased and in operation, and the district rated, they can also enjoy a reduction in fire insurance rates. In addition, they can get a lot of peace of mind which can't be valued in dollars and cents.

To start the formation of such a district, petitions must be circulated in the area outlining the proposed district. When the names of 25% or 200 property owners (whichever is less) are obtained they can be presented to the county court who will set a date for a hearing. If no major objections are raised, then an election on the proposal will be set to vote on forming the district and naming directors to run it.

Necessary information to prepare such petitions

is nearly all now in the hands of the Heppner fire department, and has been for some time, which tentatively outlines a proposed district. Much of this information was made available through the efforts of Heppner Pine Mills. This is available to any rural resident of the area who would like to circulate such petitions, and the fire department will be glad to aid in any way it can.

Questions are always asked as to what the cost of such a rural fire district would be. Here are some tentative answers to that:

The state law governing fire districts limits the tax levy (without a special vote of the people involved) to 4 mills. It would probably cost that much for 2 to 4 years until necessary new equipment was paid for, then the cost would probably drop to 2 mills or even less. At the latter point savings on reduced fire insurance rates would practically offset the tax.

Many times people forget that just because a town has fire trucks, it doesn't mean that those trucks would be of much value in the country where there are limited water supplies. Heppner's trucks are designed for short runs where there is a fire hydrant within easy reach. Equipment designed for a rural fire fighting job is much different, though it may look much like a city truck. It must carry its own water, it must be powerful enough to make good time on hilly roads and be able to get around in fields and range land. If residents here do decide to form a fire district, that is the kind of equipment they would have—something that would do the best job for them.

As a temporary, stop-gap measure, the Heppner Pine Mills this week offered the Heppner fire department its own fire truck for use as a rural truck, if the city would house and operate it, which it has already agreed to do. It would be available only for a few months until it was necessary to again take it to the woods. It is far from an ideal rural fire truck, it wasn't designed for that, but the offer was made by the mill with the understanding that there is now a real interest by the residents around Heppner to form a rural district. The Heppner fire department has agreed to man it, when and if a place can be found to house it where it won't freeze and can be readily available.

It is a generous offer by the mill, but it is strictly temporary and the rest of the job must be up to the people living around Heppner. If they will take steps to form a district in the immediate future, the city, the mill and the fire department will do everything they can to help. If not, the situation will be as it has been in the past.

It's up to you who live within six or seven miles of Heppner.

A Look At Our Future

With the start of a new year it is always interesting to see what some of the experts in the field of business, economics, etc., think of the future. Last week this paper carried the well-known Babson forecast for 1959, and today we'd like to look a little farther ahead, in one field, through the eyes of the well-known Kiplinger Washington Letter.

Kiplinger sees for the future, expanding cities, 40% more homes, and new highways that will change the face of the nation. He sees a population growth for Oregon by 1970 of 631,000 people or a gain of 38%. Here is the Kiplinger December 30 statement in this particular field. We think it is of interest and much of it can well apply to us right here in Morrow county:

Spreading cities, fast-growing highway networks, and a tremendous boost in construction of homes will change the face of the nation in the next decade, according to a report published here by the Kiplinger Washington Editors.

To take on new businesses and enterprises, cities will have to fan out. Suburbs will grow and join other suburbs from adjoining cities, creating new residential and shopping centers between cities.

New houses will be built at the rate of a million and a half a year by the late 60's, a gain of around 40 percent over present totals.

"To relieve growing congestion highway networks will grow faster, but in doing so will

create new congested areas not originally imagined. Commuting distances will be longer so more families will have two cars," the report states.

"Farms will be larger and will utilize more machinery. Many of today's farmers will be tempted by wages from nearby plants, many of them in the farm areas. Some farmers will even move into the cities, become part-time farmers and commute to the farm to oversee it, thus holding two jobs simultaneously," Kiplinger says. "With expansion of the cities, local civic problems will increase. Higher local taxes will be levied to support all the special services needed," predicts Kiplinger. "More police and fire services. Better water supplies, health and sanitation with increased facilities. More electric power. More telephones."

Along with the increase in city size, growth rate of certain states will rise. Alaska will be the fastest growing state with a population increase of 97 percent by 1970. Nevada will increase 92 percent, Arizona, 79 percent, Florida, 65, California, 57, and Delaware, 52 percent.

Other states with population growth with 30 percent or more are Maryland, 45; Utah, 44; Michigan, 43; Colorado and New Mexico, both 42; Oregon, 38; Ohio, 37; Texas, 34; Washington, 33; Indiana, 32; and Connecticut and New Jersey, 30 percent.

The population shift, however, will result in some states losing their present population. A drop of 20 percent is predicted for Arkansas; Mississippi, 6 percent, Oklahoma, 4 percent and Vermont, 1/2 percent.

From The County Agent's Office

By NELS ANDERSON

First thing I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. In the same breath we would add that it is time to make out income taxes. Those who have finished have no doubt made a resolution to do a better job of record keeping in 1959. Many farmers and homemakers use record books which are available here at the office. We have a number to select from which will fit your particular need. For those who have not yet prepared their income tax or are in the process now, we have a copy of the 1959 edition of the Farmer's Tax Guide. The publication is available free at this office. It is written in plain language and explains most of the income tax rules which apply to farmers and those who have tax questions about farming. It should be of assistance to you when you prepare your income tax return for the calendar year, 1958 or fiscal year ending in 1959.

We hope that all of our livestock men who have bulls to trade or sell have contacted Don Robinson, chairman of the Bull Day will be a part of the annual County Livestock Growers Association. This second annual Bull Day will be a part of the annual meeting of the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association. We assure you that there will be something of interest to everyone at the annual meeting on both Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17. We call your attention to the ad in this week's paper and ask that you watch for further publicity and information giving details of the program.

Another event that is scheduled for this month is the Union Pacific agricultural educational car which will be spotted at Heppner on Friday, January 23. This year's program theme is conservation. There will be conservation movies, pictures, displays as well as some illustrated discussions featuring Merrill Overson, superintendent of the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station; E R Jackman, farm crops specialist, Oregon State College; Don Peterson, a past county winner of the Conservation Man of the Year program; Tom Wilson, work unit conservator with the Heppner Soil Conservation District as well as a review of the recommendations for soil conservation made at the 1958 Town and Country Planning Conference which I will present. Mark this date on your calendar as one you will not want to miss.

We frequently receive ques-

tions concerning various cost factors in pork production. Most of the inquiries have to do with feed practices and this is certainly justifiable since feed is by far the largest single item in the cost of production. Feed represents five eighths of the total cost, and is about 4 1/2 times greater than labor, the second largest item, and several times greater than all the other cost items combined. A consolidated report of many farms during the 1957-58 growing period involving several thousand head of swine indicates that for feed the cost is \$2.24 per head at birth (which includes the sow's feeds) and at the end of the suckling period \$1.85 and at the end of the fattening period \$15.22 for a total of \$19.31. Labor is the next big item costing \$4.17; sanitation, medication and vaccination \$3.18; repairs .55; depreciation \$1.35; interest on investment, \$1.06; miscellaneous .57 with a total of \$30.19 as the cost of production of each pig. For those who sell pigs at weaning, cost might be calculated by combining the at-birth (which includes the sow's feeds) and suckling costs. These costs are for pigs weaned at 6 weeks of age or approximately 25 pounds. When you combine the two periods feed makes up 41.7% of the cost. For calculations on feeder pigs, cost of \$15.22 for the fattening period must be studied. Here feed makes up 74.6% of the cost.

Kansas State College states that 33 inches of rain falling in Eastern Kansas—"8 inches was used by plants, one-half inch went into deep soil, three inches ran off, and 2 1/2 inches was lost by evaporation." From this it is apparent that one of our best bets for more available water is to save more of what we get.

New project material has recently been made available for boys and girls who might like to join a new club made available to Oregon only last year. The new project is 4-H Fisherman. One hundred twenty nine boys and 20 girls were enrolled last year. It is expected that there will be a big increase in the 1959 club year. The 4-H Fisherman is the first of a series of wildlife conservation projects. Projects on guns, archery, hunting and possibly other phases of wildlife will be developed. Other wildlife conservation projects now available include the 4-H pheasant raising project for which the Oregon State Game Commission provides settings of pheasant eggs to boys and girls who will hatch them and raise

Car Insurance Rate Changes Told

Revised automobile insurance rates for Oregon were announced Wednesday by two rating organizations, effective January 7.

The National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters issued revised rates for automobile liability insurance and the National Automobile Underwriters Association for automobile material damage insurance. They announced the rate changes on behalf of their member and subscriber companies.

The rate revisions are based on a review of the latest available experience for the state of Oregon, coupled with a change in the rating formula which results in allocating a larger share of the premium dollar to the payment of claims, the rating organizations said.

Rate changes vary from territory within the state, according to the record of losses experienced by insured cars in each territory. Thus if insureds in one territory have a better record than another territory, they pay lower rates.

The National Bureau said the liability rate changes result in an average statewide increase of about 2 1/2 percent. The rate for Morrow county for basic limits (non-business family car with no young male operators—protection up to \$5,000 bodily injury for one person and up to \$10,000 for more than one person, and

up to \$5,000 for property damage) is now \$43.00. This is an increase of \$4.00.

The rate for the same coverage for a Portland resident went up only \$1.00, but the rate, however, is much higher at \$75. The rates for the Morrow county area are among the cheapest in the state.

For cars owned or principally operated by young males, rate increases range from \$3.00 to \$14.00.

The National Automobile Underwriters association said the average statewide rate level change for material damage coverages represents a reduction of over 4 1/2 percent.

Material damage rates vary not only by territory and risk classification, but also by the initial value of the car.

"For example," the UAUA said, "the new rates mean that the combined full comprehensive and \$50 deductible collision premiums on a new popular priced family car with no male drivers under 25 years of age in Morrow county will decrease from \$96.00 to \$88.00.

USE GAZETTE TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS



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HEPPNER, OREGON

Lexington News

Tuesday evening, Mrs Jim Peck entertained with a birthday dinner honoring her husband Jim's birthday. Those present were: Mr and Mrs Roice Fullerton of Heppner and Martha Peck of Parkdale.

On Saturday night, Mr and Mrs Jim Peck entertained Mr and Mrs M V Nolan and children, Vern and Phyllis at dinner.



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Sun., Mon., Tues., Jan. 11, 12, 13

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, Burl Ives, Jack Carson, Judith Anderson. Sunday at 4, 6:10, 8:20.