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Ballot on School Consolidation Question Shows Opinion Varied in Three Towns

Explanation Given On Purpose of Vote

First incomplete returns on the school consolidation ballot which was sent out last week to residents in the Heppner, Lexington and Lone school districts by the Lexington P-TA, shows a variety of feeling in the three areas.

The ballot asked residents to vote "yes" or "no" on the question, "do you favor consolidation of Heppner, Lexington and Lone

into one high school." A breakdown of the returns from the three areas showed Heppner was mildly in favor of the idea, Lexington strongly in favor, and Lone strongly against it.

By Wednesday, 49 percent of the 864 questionnaires had been returned for tabulation and they indicated at 266 or 63.4% voted yes, while 151 or 36.0% voted no. There were six votes returned from undetermined areas and these were equally divided, 3 yes and 3 no.

A breakdown of the vote showed the following:

Heppner, 569 ballots sent, 50% return—

Yes, 193 or 67.5%; No 93 or 32.5%

Lexington, 102 ballots sent, 57% return—

Yes, 53 or 91.6%; No 5 or 8.4%

Lone, 193 ballots sent, 37.8% return—

Yes, 20 or 27.4%; No 53 or 72.6%

C J Friedrich, recording secretary for the Lexington P-TA, said that ballots are continuing to come in and that a more complete tabulation will be announced next week. He will be glad to give the current tally, however to anyone who wishes it.

Explanation Given

Regardless of the outcome of the vote, it will have no legally binding effect on the eventual outcome of the present school consolidation and reorganization question, though the vote will give the county school board a good idea of the wishes of residents of the three areas.

There was some misunderstanding in the wording of the ballot which stated that it was being sent out at the request of the county unit school board and the reorganization committee. This was not true, and the Lexington P-TA today made the following statement to clarify the purpose of the vote:

"The Lexington P-TA wishes to make the following statement: The county unit and the reorganization boards had nothing to do with the ballot heading on the poll vote recently solicited by the Lexington P-TA. This vote was taken to ascertain the thinking of the south Morrow county people upon the high school consolidation issue so as to prepare a brief to be presented to these boards."

Another statement was sent out this week to residents in the lone district by lone school superintendent, Dallas Shockey and was prepared through consolidation with Fred Martin, chairman of the county reorganization committee. It stated:

"Your attention is called to the questionnaire which has been sent out by the Lexington P-TA in reference to school consolidation.

"The Lexington P-TA has not been authorized by the Morrow county reorganization committee to circulate such a questionnaire. Any such presentation by the reorganization committee would be required, by law, to include a school location, a transportation plan, and a comparative cost study. These studies are underway but have not been completed.

"A discussion of school consolidation will not be a part of the official February hearings on the formation of a county administrative unit."

It is emphasized that the vote has no legal backing, however it can be useful in future considerations by either the county unit school board or a county administrative board.

Already drafted is a new Murray-Metcalf bill. It calls for \$25 for each school age child in the U S the first year. This would mean an appropriation of \$1.1 billion. In succeeding years the amount would increase to \$50, \$75 and \$100 for each child from 5 to 17 years of age.

Oregon schools would receive \$11,439,850 in the first year of operation under the proposed law. The funds would be allocated to the state educational agencies for use in providing school facilities and raising teachers' salaries.



COW BELLES CHOOSE OFFICERS—Mrs Raymond French, center, was elected president of the Morrow County Cow Belles at the organization's recent annual meeting. Other officers for the coming year are, from left, Mrs Don Robinson, second vice president; Mrs Floyd Jones, third vice president; Mrs Gordon O'Brien, secretary; and Mrs George Rugg, first vice president. Committee heads appointed at the meeting included Mrs Rugg, publicity; Mrs Herb Ekstrom, father of the year; Mrs Bob Brindle, 4-H beef demonstration; and Mrs Jones, beef promotion. (Wilson Photo)

Reorganization Hearings Scheduled For Next Week

Three public hearings will be held next week in Morrow county by the county school reorganization committee on the preliminary comprehensive reorganization plan for the schools of the county.

The hearings are scheduled for Monday, Feb 2 at 8 p m at the lone school cafeteria; Wednesday, Feb 4 at 8 o'clock at the Heppner grade school multipurpose room; and Thursday, Feb 5 at 8 o'clock at the Boardman high school.

Explanation of the proposed reorganization of the county into a county administrative school district will be given and any resident of the county or any affected district in an adjacent county will be heard with reference to changes proposed by the plan.

Legislation on Education Aids is Compiled by P-TA

Of interest to local P-TA members and school patrons is a current series of broadcasts on the progressive legislation affecting schools during the present session of the Oregon legislature.

The series, "The legislature and your schools," will cover both public elementary and secondary education and higher education. Oregon Education Association executive secretary Cecil Posey will provide the commentary and the programs will include interviews with legislators and other observers.

Among the stations to carry the programs are KEX Portland at 7:45 to 8 p m Wednesdays. Dates on other stations will be announced later.

"Oregon Education" reported the following NEA plan for legislation in the 86th congress.

"Massive federal financial assistance to schools, far more extensive than the recently passed national defense education act and broader in scope, will be the NEA's major legislative goal in the first session of the 86th congress.

The NEA's goal, its methods and the local and state association effort required to attain the objective were outlined last month to education representatives of 46 states, including Oregon. They met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for passage of a sharpened-up Murray-Metcalf measure. A nearly identical bill came close to passage in the last congress.

"Real federal support of education is imperative if Oregon's school system is not to deteriorate," declared Posey following the Chicago meeting.

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Week's Rainfall Brings January Average Way Up

Tuesday brought the heaviest rain of the new year to the county and the entire past week was by far the wettest of the winter. It rained on six of the last seven days, according to the Heppner weather station report.

Tuesday's storm, which was general throughout most of Eastern Oregon dropped .80 inch of moisture on Heppner, and other weather stations in the county reported as much as one inch during the day. The temperature was warm until late afternoon when a few flakes of wet snow fell here, but did not stick. Rainfall has totaled 1.15 inches at Heppner in the past seven days and brings the January total to 2.40 inches, considerably above normal for the month.

There were a few reports of high water in isolated places from the Tuesday storm but as far as is known, there was no great amount of field erosion or washing.

Practically none of the precipitation fell as snow in the mountains which are practically bare of any snow cover except in the highest elevations.

Gun Club Shoot Nets Dimes Drive \$275

The annual March of Dimes benefit merchandise shoot held last Sunday at the Morrow County Gun Club netted the drive \$275. It was reported this week.

It was one of the most profitable benefit events held this year in the county.

Predators Kill Stock in County

The U S fish and wildlife service reports that stock and game losses to predators between Oct 5 and Dec 27 in Morrow county amounted to 5 sheep, 4 chickens and one turkey. Coyotes or bobcats accounted for all the losses.

Carl McDaniel, federal trapper for this area reported that during the past 29 days a total of 426 predators have been killed by hunters in Oregon. Taken were 286 coyotes, 143 bobcats, 7 bear and 50 fox. In addition 56 porcupines, 25 skunks, 100 racoon, and 32 badgers were taken.

EXAMINER COMING

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner on Tuesday, Feb 10 at the court house between 9:30 a m and 3:30 p m.

Fred Crump, Former Morrow Resident, Dies at Seattle

Word has been received of the death, January 23 in Seattle of Fred Crump, 73, following an illness of about two weeks.

Mr Crump was born November 20, 1885 in Morrow county. His parents homesteaded in the Sand Hollow area and lived there for many years.

He is survived by his widow, Claudia of Seattle; a sister, Lula Wheeler of Port Angeles, Washington, five nephews and four nieces.

Funeral services were held in Seattle where he had made his home for several years.

Polio Decline is Noted in Oregon

Only 26 cases of paralytic polio were reported in Oregon during 1958, far below the 345 cases listed as median during the past six-year period, according to provisional figures released recently by the state board of health.

An additional 14 cases of non-paralytic or unspecified polio brought Oregon's total 1958 case load to 40, compared to 146 for the median period.

Dr Samuel B Osgood, state epidemiologist, attributed most of the decline in paralytic polio to widespread use of Salk vaccine. He warned, however, that too few persons in Oregon have the recommended three-shot protection to prevent at least scattered outbreaks.

Soil District Annual Meet Set

"Stubble Mulch Farming in the Columbia Basin" will be discussed by Verle Kaiser, agronomist, Soil Conservation Service, Spokane, at the annual meeting of the Heppner Soil Conservation District Tuesday, Feb 3, at 7:30 p m at the Lexington Grange hall, district supervisors have announced.

In addition a short business meeting of the Lexington Blow Control District to elect two directors will be held after the general meeting.

Included on the Conservation District program will be a brief progress and financial report, statement of conservation objectives in the district for 1959, a film, "Mountain Water" and refreshments.

Supervisors of the Heppner district, which covers 1,330,660 acres, are Raymond French, Heppner, chairman; Don Peterson, lone, vice chairman; Raymond Lundell, lone, treasurer; N C Anderson, secretary; John Wightman, Heppner and Alvin Wagenblast, Lexington.

Directors whose terms expire on the Lexington Blow board are: Kenneth Smouse and Fred Nelson, both of lone.

Other members of the board are: Roy Martin and Robert Killenny, Lexington.

Lexington Area Early History is Noted

By MRS H V SMOUSE

From the Oregon Centennial's slogan "Know Your Oregon," the Morrow county home extension service chose for the theme of January home extension unit meetings, "Know Your Morrow County."

Previous to the January meetings, members of the various units in the county wrote the history of their town or community. These were collected, printed and bound in pamphlet form by the home extension service.

The Lexington unit wrote the story of Lexington and adjacent country, its early settlement, by whom, how town was named, its schools, churches, businesses, etc.

The presentation of this story of Lexington was given at the unit meeting held at the home of Mrs W A Ruggles on January 21 and conducted by her.

The pamphlets on "Know Your Morrow County" were presented to the 26 members and visitors present.

This was followed by various members and visitors adding to the story bits of history they knew or had heard from parents or pioneers of old days and old times.

Mrs Roy Campbell told of the early school in Lexington, having a picture of it taken in 1890. It was located on the lot north of the present Barnett house on the highway. A one room school house with an enrollment at one time of 108 pupils and one teacher.

She also told of the formation in 1892 of the Social Ridge school by C N Peck, Jos Eskelson and William Campbell. School opened in 1893 with 14 pupils, taught by F E Miller whose salary was \$30.00 per month.

Mrs R B Rice reported on schools northeast of Lexington, the Devine, Strawberry, Hodson, Black Horse and Alpine schools, the later one being taught at one time by Mrs Clary, assisted by Miss Rosela Daugherty, now

Look, Ma-No Pump!



ARTESIAN WELL—approximately 125 gallons of water a minute is flowing from this well brought in last weekend on the Tom Michos ranch between Heppner and Lexington. It is the first artesian to be brought in in this immediate area in many years. The well is located alongside the new house which will soon be occupied by Mr and Mrs Art Watkins and the water started to flow at 202 feet. A piece of stovepipe is being used to lead the flow of water from the 8-inch casing and it is flowing about one-third full. (GT Photo)

Lexington Youth Wins Honor at Portland University

Larry Lindsay, son of Mr and Mrs Alex Lindsay and a senior at Portland University was selected as the University's "legislative intern" with the opportunity of spending a week in Salem under the guidance of any legislator he would choose.

Larry had hoped to serve under Senator Yturri of Ontario as he considers him the outstanding legislator of the Oregon Senate. A letter from Senator Yturri stated that he would be glad to give Larry all the help and instruction possible during his stay at Salem. Larry, with one of his instructors, will also attend a two day seminar at the legislature during the first week of February.

Lindsay has maintained a four point average throughout his college course at Portland University. He likewise maintained such an average in high school during his four years at St Joseph Academy, Pendleton. Here he was outstanding in debate and other speech activities winning three first places in state "B" speech tournaments.

This honor recalls an editorial in the East Oregonian at the time his team won state honors in debate. "Perhaps there are some future public office holders in the making on that team."

2nd Coffee Day Due For March of Dimes

The March of Dimes "coffee day" held last Saturday at Winn-Dee's Snack Shop was so successful that the operator, Mr and Mrs Winn Crist, are going to do it all over again next Saturday.

Containers for the March of Dimes were placed on all tables and patrons dropped their coffee money there rather than into the cash register. No tally has been made, but the idea was declared very profitable to the drive.

Insurance Agency Plans Open House

Mrs Adon Hamlett, owner of Swanson & Hamlett Insurance, lone, will hold an open house for her new office at the Hamlett home on 3rd and B streets Wednesday, Feb 4 from 2 to 5 p m. The agency recently moved into the remodeled quarters from a downtown location.

The agency handles General of America and other lines of insurance and is pay station for PP&L and lone TV.

Country Fair Planned to Note State's Birthday

In observance of the Oregon Centennial, the Lexington P-TA will sponsor a celebration on February 14 with an old country fair theme, it was announced this week by Mrs Ellwynne Peck, P-TA president.

The celebration will be held at the Lexington IOOF hall and booths will be sponsored by organizations throughout the county. There will be contests for the best costumes for men and women, and high and grade school students. There will also be a basket social and old time dancing.

The affair will start at 6:30 in the evening.

Mothers to March Friday Night

More than 35 Heppner women have volunteered to march Friday night during the Mother's March on Polio, one of the final events of the month for the March of Dimes.

Co-chairmen for the Mother's March are Mrs Elmer Schmidt and Mrs N C Anderson.

The volunteer Mother's March workers will make the rounds of Heppner between 7 and 8 o'clock to pick up contributions to the fund. Residents who wish to make a contribution are asked to leave their porch light on to indicate that they wish to help. The workers will not make a general canvass, but will stop only where the light is burning.

Earlier this week a coffee hour was held at Mrs Anderson's for the volunteer marchers; and on Monday a dime-a-dip luncheon was held by Mrs Schmidt with proceeds going to the March of Dimes.

The drive officially ends Saturday night.

Eluta Campfire Girls To Give Programs

The Eluta Campfire Girls will present a program for their parents on Sunday, Feb 1 at 3:00 p m in the basement of the Methodist church.

Monday evening the girls will be guests of the Heppner Mother's club, who sponsor this Campfire group.

Both programs are part of the requirements to qualify them for the Wood Gatherer's rank.

Mrs Alec Lindsay.

Mrs Roy Dolven described the early days of Ben and Mrs Swaggart homesteading on the then called Penland Buttes, but now called Swaggart Buttes.

Mrs Harry Dinges showed a map she had made of early day roads, comparing them and their location with the present highways.

Mrs Burton Peck had a paper written by her husband, of his recollections on the historical steps required in binding together seven quarter sections of raw sagebrush land in Clark Canyon, upon which Kenneth Peck won the title of State conservation man of the year in 1956. Some of these recollections will be included in the supplement to the story of Lexington, which is now being collected and written.

Many old pictures of pioneers, schools, picnics and gatherings of all kinds were brought and displayed. Of interest to many was a copy of one of Lexington's

early day weekly newspapers, the Lexington Blade, published in 1890. The paper was brought by Mrs Orris Padberg.

A skit, depicting the activities of early day homemakers, of churning butter, sewing strips of rags together to be woven into rugs and carpets, of quilting bees, setting hens and raising chickens, together with some of the local gossip was given by Mrs J A Troedson and Mrs H V Smouse, dressed in old time dresses, long aprons and sunbonnets.

After a short business meeting conducted by Mrs Frank Schrage, a Dutch auction of white elephants was held. The proceeds to be used for the Lexington unit's part in the Morrow County home extension service's donation for the national home demonstration meeting to be held in Portland this fall.

Refreshments of homemade cookies with tea and coffee were served by the hostesses, Mrs W A Ruggles and Mrs H V Smouse.