

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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The Next Step in Our School Reorganization

For over a year the Morrow county school reorganization committee has been plugging along under the laws of the 1957 legislature trying to do a job of reorganizing the entire school system of the county. Its job has been hard, tedious and basically uncomprehensible to a great majority of the people of the county. Last November, at the general election, the people voted to establish the county unit school system in Morrow county and when it was approved, many persons thought that their school reorganization had been taken care of. Such isn't quite the case.

The approval of the county unit school plan was a big step as far as the improvement of our school system was concerned, but there are still things to be done. Primarily the voting in of a county unit school plan brought back into Morrow county about \$1,000,000 in taxable valuation that could NOT be returned to our county schools in any other manner. If nothing else had been accomplished by that vote, it was worth it.

The reorganization board is still working on its overall program of trying to comply with the state law which seeks to make a uniform pattern of school administration throughout the state. In other words, the comprehensive plan the county reorganization board is proposing is to include all of Morrow county in one "administrative" school district—the ultimate under present Oregon law. The county unit law provides for an adjustment of assets and liabilities of the numerous districts in the county, but the "administrative" district plan, which actually is a refinement of the county unit law, provides the greatest possible degree of equalization of financial resources at the local level as can be affected by any type of school reorganization. In other words, the establishment of an "administrative" district composed of all of Morrow county, is the next logical step, and the reorganization board is now in the process of developing that step.

Some of the advantages of a county-wide "administrative" school district is that it would permit the hiring of special teachers to serve the county as a whole—for example the driver training program, which could not be put into effect under the rural school law. Also, it will provide (as recommended by the reorganization board) a county school board of 7 members, chosen from zones which are established on a school census basis which would give more adequate representation. For example of this—Heppner itself, which provides a sizeable percentage of all the school children in the entire county, might have two representatives on the 7-man county board. The determination of this figure would depend on

school census.

The reorganization committee has been doing a great amount of work and study on the school problems in the county—and is still working. During the coming week, this committee will hold three public hearings, Monday at Lone, Wednesday at Heppner, and Thursday at Boardman. The purpose of these hearings is to explain to the people of the county the reasons for the "administrative" district, how it will operate, and why. Following these hearings the committee can advise the state of the steps taken, and the state will then hold a hearing and if given approval, the plan can be put into effect without further elections unless changes of boundary cannot be solved during the hearings.

This next step, the formation of a county-wide "administrative school district" may appear to many persons as a waste of time, but actually it isn't. The laws under which an "administrative" district operates are more complete and offer additional protections than do the county unit law, though from outward appearances the two plans are much the same. Morrow county has already taken the big step in voting the county unit plan, now it has the opportunity to establish itself in the "ultimate" position as far as school reorganization can presently go.

All the county's school problems will be far from solved by the formation of such a school plan, but the groundwork will then be laid for the solving of those problems. There are matters of school relocation, consolidation, transportation, and many more, and the reorganization committee is already tackling some of these and a county board will continue the work.

Actually, Morrow county has faced up to the job of reorganizing its entire school program much quicker than has almost any other county in Oregon and it could well lead the way in showing the others how to get the job done. It's been a lot of hard work for the members of the reorganization board, and they deserve commendation for their efforts.

The next step is the public hearings coming up next week. Everyone who has any interest at all in our schools should attend those hearings to make his desires known and to get a better understanding of what is being done. The purpose of the whole thing is to provide all children with a better education for less money—if such a thing is humanly possible. If that isn't possible, then to at least do a better job for the youngsters in the most economical method that can be devised, and still keep the control of our schools in the hands of the residents of Morrow county.

ODD ENDS...

We wonder how many of our readers noticed that the G-T lost a whole year last week. Through a lapse in proofreading every page of last week's paper was dated January 22, "1958". Guess it didn't make much difference, but we wonder if it will louse up any plans for Oregon's Centennial.

Speaking of the Centennial, Morrow county as a whole has really been dragging its feet in

getting into the swing of things. We still don't have any county organization, but a lot of groups in the various communities have plans under way for observances on our state's birthday, February 14. So far, Heppner hasn't turned a wheel, that we've heard about anyway, except for the efforts of a few individuals in the beard-growing department. Maybe if we can't do anything else, we can come up with some of the finest whiskers in the state. How about a contest?

TO THE EDITOR...

PEN PAL WANTED

(The following letter arrived this week from Nigeria, Africa addressed to "Heppner News Paper, Heppner, Oregon." But, it got here!)

Dear Editor:
I hope this letter will meet you in good condition of health as I am here enjoying the breeze of Nigeria. The reason of my letter is that since a year ago, I have been looking for a pen pal but now I come across your name and address from one of my friend. Therefore I took the opportunity in writing you that you will publish this few lines of words.

I like your country best especially in the town of Oregon. Please, I beg of with the name of God. Here reads:

I am an African boy of 18 years with black hair, black eyes, brown in complexion. I want pen pal gents, ladies, man or women. I live in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, the chief seat of govern-

From The County Agent's Office

By NELS ANDERSON

For those who might be interested in purchasing bred gilts the Washington Swine Breeders Association have announced their annual spring gilt sale to be held at the Whitman county fair grounds near Colfax on Friday, February 6. Thirty-two bred gilts of the Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Palouse, Poland China and Yorkshire breeds are being offered for sale. Many of the gilts are from progeny tested breeding stock with record of performance. The sale starts at 1:30 P.M. Catalogs are available at this office for those who might wish to look over the offerings.

While we are talking about pigs a number of our Morrow county swine producers will be

ment trade and center. I would also like to have their picture and to exchange gift with them, and those who wants used postage stamps.

God will help you towards the end of the life. Amen.
Adio Junaid,
21, Atiko Street
Lagos, Nigeria
B. W. A.

interested in a meeting which was held last Wednesday night for the purpose of planning a swine testing station in this area.

The meeting was attended by officials from the departments of animal husbandry, both Oregon and Washington State College, meeting with Wheat Commission representatives who have indicated an interest in assisting with such a project. The Wheat Commission's interest stems from the fact that swine are becoming an important livestock enterprise in the area consuming a lot of the surplus feed grains which are produced here. Experiences from the Washington Swine Breeders Association which have conducted such a test over the past two years was discussed. It was agreed that the project would be further discussed and plans drawn up on costs, needed facilities and operations for the proposed station which could be located at the Umatilla branch experiment station near Hermiston.

The testing station would be established to test the progeny of sire groups including growth rate, feed efficiency and back fat on the live hogs. The group

will meet again on February 19 at which time plans, costs and other information will be available for the decision on whether to go ahead with the project at once. If such a testing station is set up it will be invaluable assistance to swine producers who are now trying to make these determinations on their ranches.

Tom Michos, Portland, owner of the old Hughes ranch, a few miles below Heppner on Willow Creek and his tenant, Art Watkins, are feeling pretty good these days. Rightly so, for they have had a stroke of good luck that few people have experienced in this county. Last fall when Mr. Watkins took over the Michos ranch, a new home was started and a deep well dug to replace the shallow well which had provided water for the ranch for many years. Both were becoming discouraged with the prospect for water when Saturday an artesian well was struck at 202 feet. Looking at the stream on Monday of this week, it appeared that there was a minimum of 125 gallons flowing from the well. While the well was being dug only for domestic use, Mr. Michos and Mr. Watkins are busy preparing for a test pumping to determine the amount of water which might be available for irrigation.

A four row windbreak which will consist of Caragana, Russian Olive, Black Locust, and Austrian Pine was laid out at the Paul Brown farm this week. The windbreak which will be planted as soon as seedlings are received from the state forestry nursery will protect the new home completed by the Browns last fall as well as providing shelter for the entire farmstead.

Persons interested in windbreak plantings should contact this office soon for an order blank for seedlings. We would be glad to assist you in laying out your windbreak if help is needed.

This week our office mailed a brochure on the history and accomplishments of the Heppner Soil Conservation District. The printing of this brochure was done by the Empire Machinery Company. Also included in the mailing was a notice of the annual meeting of the district which will be held at the Lexington Grange hall on Tuesday evening, February 3rd. Everyone is invited to attend.

An annual \$20,000 in Brucellosis funds for use in Oregon between now and next July 1 has been authorized by the federal government. This will bring to \$350,000 the total federal money earmarked for the Brucellosis program here during the current fiscal year. With the state monies available, well over a half

million dollars will be expended in Oregon between July 1, 1958 and June 30, 1959 in the stepped up program to certify the entire state.

Morrow county recently completed Brucellosis testing for re-certification as a modified certified area. Wheeler county is the latest county to reach certification with only a few counties left to clean up in the next few months.

Plans have just been completed for a county wide weed control meeting which will be held at the fair pavilion annex on Monday, February 9. The meeting is a result of recommendations from the livestock and farm crops committees of the Planning Conference. They asked that early consideration be given to a stepped up county weed control program with special emphasis on the enforcement of the county district weed law to prevent weed infestations spreading from uncontrolled to controlled areas.

The morning meeting will be aimed at the entire weed control program with a discussion on annual weed control recommendations, results of experiments using water and Uran as carriers for 2, 4-D, Simizan and Diuron results. In the afternoon a discussion will be held on newer methods of controlling morning glory and other perennial noxious weeds. The present district law will be reviewed and action taken to improve the existing county weed program now in effect.

Rex Warren and Dean Swan, OSC weed specialists will participate. The Morrow County Farm Bureau, who have been instrumental in getting this meeting scheduled are handling arrangements and advertising.

Breeders of registered beef cattle should be interested in a meeting which will be held at the Redmond Grange hall on the south limits of the city of Redmond on Tuesday, February 3 for the purpose of discussing the possibility of forming a state beef production testing organization. Considerable interest has been shown by Morrow county beef breeders as well as breeders throughout the state for such an organization. The need for such an organization has been stepped up by a number of requests for indexed tested bulls from other states as well as Oregon and Hawaii. In Montana, Beef Cattle Performance Registry Association has been organized for some years, livestock operators have been able to demand as much as a nickel per pound above the going price for calves. There are instances in Oregon where calves sired by production tested bulls have demanded 2 cents a pound premium to a retail buyer. A few of the purebred breeders in Morrow county

ROCK HOUND'S CORNER

By BETTY WAGNER

The Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society met at the Hotel Heppner on January 17 for its first meeting in 1959. In the absence of our president, Hubert Wilson, (who, by the way, is beginning his third term in office with out the consent of the U S Senate), our vice president, Walter Edger, conducted the business meeting, and the club members voted to use the lobby annex of the hotel as its club room every third Saturday night of each month.

Our new program chairman, Randall Peterson, had a very interesting evening planned for us. We traveled extensively and didn't even have to move from our chairs or use our credit cards! Dow Corning Corporation's film "Rubber from Rock" showed how common quartz rock is heated to such a high temperature that it yields 98% pure silicon which, after a special chemical engineering process, is changed from metal to silicone rubber. This rubber has many important and varied uses. Then the film "From Rock Phosphate to Super Phosphate" showed the many and intriguing methods necessary to prepare the rock phosphate for use as a commercial fertilizer.

Our third film took us to the beautiful California desert where we learned much of the importance of borax in our daily lives—even to the boron deficiencies that may occur in our own gardens. "Petrified River" was the last film and it was certainly well worth seeing—breathtaking! One moment we were soaring over the edge of a high Colorado plateau in a small plane and the next we were way down in the canyons between those towering cliff walls with the wings of the plane seemingly trying to reach out and touch them. The pilot would maneuver the plane on its side when the canyons became a little too narrow and somehow we got through. What were we doing? Why, looking for uranium from the air with a scintillator to detect the presence of the metal in the varying strata of the plateaus. From there on the mining and milling processes and peace time applications of uranium were all absorbing.

Our pleasant evening ended with refreshments and now we are all looking forward to our February 21 meeting. Won't you that I have contacted are interested in attending this organization meeting and at least one will accompany me to the meeting. For others who are interested I suggest that you contact this office.



LEGISLATIVE TEMPO

Oregon's Centennial Legislative finished its second week last Friday with 400 bills introduced. Before Valentine's Day it is expected the number will be over 500.

The working pace is far better than in average sessions. Consideration on proposals made by Gov. Holmes in his farewell message have had ample consideration but no action on major suggested reforms.

Governor Hatfield has indicated it will be around Lincoln's birthday before his budget and tax recommendations can be presented to the Legislature.

FASTER LAWMAKING

The Legislature could make sustaining appropriations and adjourn March 1.

When the question of Who's Whose Secretary of State got to the place where State Treasurer Sig Unander said the law would have to be changed before he would write more checks for state government necessities, the legislature took over and made an Oregon record for time required in making a law.

A remedial bill was written, passed by the Senate and House and signed by the governor, within 48 minutes. Unless you refuse to believe in long arithmetic, read on.

The 1957 regular session of the Oregon legislature acted on 1505 bills, resolutions and memorials in 128 days. If the current session has a similar number of acts and disposes of them at the rate established with the remedial bill, it would require only 24 more days, working six days a week, five hours a day, to wind

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come and join us then at 8:00 P.M. in the Hotel Heppner lobby annex.

CARD PARTY

Bridge — Pinochle

Thurs., Jan. 29

8:00 p.m.

Heppner Masonic Hall

75c

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and let Chevy do its own
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Thurs., Fri., Sat., Jan. 29, 30, 31

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PLUS

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Outstanding undersea film.

Sun., Mon., Tues., Feb. 1, 2, 3

Twilight For The Gods

Rock Hudson, Cyd Charisse, Arthur Kennedy, Lelf Erickson. Sunday at 4, 6:15 and 8:30.

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