

County-Wide Fire Control Program Being Developed

Work was started Tuesday night to develop a county-wide plan for fire control in rural areas at a meeting in Heppner of nearly a dozen interested rural residents from all sections of the county.

The group made preliminary plans for an overall fire control program which it was hoped could eventually coordinate all available fire fighting equipment in the southern section of the county. Included in the suggested plan were several phases which will be worked out in the near future including cooperation with the proposed Heppner rural fire district; a listing of all available city and farm equipment that can be used for fire fighting; a division of the county into areas for coordination purposes and the stationing and locating equipment.

A committee from the group that met Tuesday night will meet with the county court early

next month to explain the program and to ask that the county provide money in its next year's budget for the purchase of one or more pieces of fire equipment which would be county owned and could be used anywhere in the county where it was needed. It was felt by those present that surplus fire equipment could be available to the county at a fairly low cost.

The group agreed to support the formation of the Heppner rural fire district, for which petitions are now being circulated, feeling that it will be very valuable to those residents within its area inasmuch as they can receive insurance reductions from such a district. In many other areas of the county, however, operation of an approved fire district is practically impossible because of distances, and it was felt that county equipment which could be used anywhere could be of great value, and still not be particularly expensive.

It was pointed out that if the county did have one or several pieces of fire equipment, that mutual aid agreements could then be worked out with the Heppner rural district (when formed), and the cities of Heppner, Lexington and Ione so that all areas and communities would have available all equipment when and if it was needed. Such an arrangement could meet the requirements of laws and provide all areas with much improved fire protection. Radio equipment might also be obtained through surplus channels, it was stated, to give good communication ties among all city and rural rigs.

It was recommended that coordinators be obtained for each of approximately four sections of the county, and that a questionnaire be sent to all farmers asking them to list what farm-owned equipment is available for fighting. This questionnaire will be sent out shortly from the county agent's office and will also be published in the Gazette-Times.

Heppner fire chief, C A Rugles and assistant chief Robert Penland assured the group that they could expect full cooperation from the Heppner fire department in any program they might develop and said they thought the organized fire departments in the other towns would also be interested in assisting. The Heppner department officers said that when such a plan is developed that all towns as well as the rural areas would receive many benefits by having equipment readily available for any need under legally constituted mutual aid agreements.

The group plans additional work on the plan and a committee consisting of Andy Van Scholack, Frank Anderson, Alec Lindsay, Ralph Crum and Robert Penland will meet with the county court at its next meeting to explain it and ask the county's help in providing equipment.

Heart Sunday to End Campaign

February 22 is Heart Sunday and the climax of the Heart Fund drive in Morrow county. Rev John Rydgren, county chairman announced this week. High school students in all five county towns will collect door to door on that day.

The chairman stated that already hundreds of county residents have helped the drive and that several volunteer collectors such as the Epsilon Sigma Alpha of Ione and workers from Lexington have completed their rural calls.

Many teenagers and adults aided the drive last weekend by attending the King and Queen of Hearts dance in Heppner. Royalty was chosen by election with Heppner high seniors Bob Huffman and Janice Martin being crowned by Heppner mayor W C Collins. The two received certificates from Humphreys Drug Co.

By today most businesses in the county have been contacted and those who have donated will not be contacted on Heart Sunday, Rydgren said.

Nearly everyone in the county has been or will be contacted personally, though it was necessary to reach about 100 by letter and Rydgren expressed the hope that the letters will bring good response. The chairman said that some families are giving at least a dollar for every heart in the family.

Mrs Cosby O'Connor Taken by Death; Rites Held at Ione

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 2 p m at the Ione Community church for Mrs Cosby Ann O'Connor, 74, who passed away, Feb 15 at Pendleton following an illness of nearly two and one-half years. She was a resident of Ione.

Mrs O'Connor was born July 7, 1884 in Virginia, but had made her home in this area for some time. She is survived by one son, C C O'Connor of Ione and two grandchildren.

The Rev Floyd Bailey officiated at the final rites and interment was in the Ione IOOF cemetery. Creswick Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Ten Complete First Aid Course

Ten Heppner P-TA members have completed and passed the American National Red Cross standard course in first aid, the Morrow county chapter announced this week.

They are Merna Lane, Beverly Oleson, Doreen Kretmeyer, Velva G Bechdolt, Edna Morris, Robert Lowe, Ralph Richmond, Don Clark, Oliver Creswick and S R Nagel.

The course was made possible by the Morrow county chapter of the Red Cross. C J D Bauman is first aid chairman and Robert Abrams, instructor.

WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	34	19	.02
Friday	45	27	—
Saturday	48	38	—
Sunday	51	31	.17
Tuesday	35	28	.74
Wednesday	40	25	.04

Moisture for the week 1.08; (total snowfall for week 7 inches); for February 1.37; for the year 3.99 inches.

Chamber Opposes State Tax Plan

The chamber of commerce Monday took a stand in opposition to several points in the state's proposed new tax program recently presented to the legislature by Governor Mark Hatfield and former governor Robert Holmes, and will advise representatives and senators of their position.

The main point objected to in the tax plans was the elimination of exemptions currently allowed for federal income tax paid and interest payments. Several members expressed the opinion that the proposal meant paying a tax on a tax and that if the plan were put into effect that it would do much to deter new industry and development within Oregon.

As a substitute for the governor's proposed money raising measure, the chamber went on record as supporting a California style sales tax which would be applicable to all transactions except the purchase of food for home consumption and a few other necessities.

Copies of the recommendations were to be mailed to legislators. The group watched a film entitled "The Oregon Trail" which told the story of early-day pioneers in Oregon.

Mrs Guy Boyer of John Day and formerly of Heppner visited at the home of Mrs Josie Jones last week. Mrs Boyer was in Heppner to attend the special P-TA Founders Day meeting.

Stanfield Man Named New County School Head

Robert Van Houte, superintendent of schools at Stanfield, has been named the new Morrow county school administrator, the position formerly known as county school superintendent.

The county school board received Van Houte's acceptance of a two year contract for the position at a meeting held February 12 in Irigron.

Van Houte has been in the Stanfield school system for several years and has had 15 years school experience. He holds a masters degree in education.

The administrator, who will replace Jack C Flug who has been county superintendent for five years, will take over his new duties on July 1.

The county board at its meeting also adopted a new teacher salary schedule for the coming year which provides for an overall increase of at least \$500 per year in all salary brackets for county teachers. Under the new schedule the teaching scale in county schools will vary from a minimum starting salary of \$4,300 per year to \$6,650 for a teacher holding a masters degree and having 10 years teaching experience in county schools. The present minimum starting salary, for a teacher with no experience and holding less than a BA degree is \$3,800. Increases are provided for years of experience and the holding of a BA or BS degree, an additional 45 hours earned toward a masters degree, and the holding of a masters degree.

Hundreds Expected For Elks Annual

The Heppner Elks lodge will observe its 62nd anniversary Saturday with an all day program that is expected to attract hundreds of lodge members from this section of the state.

The program will open at 2 p m with a lodge session and Elks ladies card party. Degree work at the lodge meeting will be handled by officers of the Condon and Pendleton lodges. Dinner will be served from 6 to 7:30 at the fair pavilion and two floor shows are scheduled to follow at the Star Theater. Dancing to the music of Wayne McGuffin's orchestra will complete the evening.

Co-chairmen for the anniversary are Bob Flatt and LeRoy Gardner, announced John Hartman, exalted ruler.

Hospital Auxiliary Plans Membership Drive Next Week

The Pioneer Memorial hospital Auxiliary will hold its annual membership drive during the last week in February, it was announced this week of officers of the organization.

Coffee hours will be held and information tables in various public places in Heppner, Lexington and Ione will be available under the sponsorship of the membership committee composed of Miss Leta Humphreys, Mrs Arnold Pieper and Mrs Norman Nelson.

The purpose of the auxiliary as stated in the by-laws is "to promote and advance the welfare of Pioneer Memorial hospital through ways approved by the governing board of the hospital. This shall be accomplished by interpretation of the hospital to the public, through service to the hospital and primarily to nursing home patients, and through fund raising in a manner satisfying to the hospital governing board and in harmony with the planning of the community."

General meetings of the whole body are held quarterly alternating between Heppner, Lexington and Ione, and the executive committee meets monthly.

HOLIDAY MONDAY

Washington's birthday, which falls on Sunday, Feb 22, will be observed Monday as a legal holiday by the post office, state, county and federal offices. There will be no mail delivery or dispatch that day.

Banks and nearly all businesses will be open however.

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EARLY-DAY COUNTY TEACHERS were feted at a special Centennial program last week at the Heppner P-TA. All taught in Morrow county schools in the early 1900's and told of their experiences. They are, front row, from left, Miss Opal Briggs, Mrs Della Corson, Mrs Alfred Troedson, Mrs R B Rice. Back row, Mrs Walter Beckett, Mrs Lee Scrivner, Mrs Guy Boyer, Mrs Anne Smouse, Mrs Mae Campbell, Mrs Sam Turner, and Mrs Edna Turner. (Photo by Vic Krelmeyer)

State Sets Hearing On County School Reorganization

The report of the Morrow county school reorganization committee was filed Monday in Salem with the state department of education and the state board has set Saturday, March 7 at 2 p m as the time for a public hearing on the program. The hearing will be held in the multipurpose room of the Heppner grade school.

A legal notice of the hearing is published elsewhere in today's paper.

The purpose of the hearing is to afford residents of the Morrow county school district, or any other interested person, a chance to be heard with reference to the final comprehensive reorganization plan effecting the county school district as adopted by the county reorganization committee. Basically, the county reorganization committee recommended that the entire county be established as one administrative district. This is very similar to the county unit plan adopted by the voters last November, but the administrative law does provide some safeguards not included in the county unit law.

The March 7 hearing will be conducted by representatives of the state board of education and could possibly be the final step in the county's school reorganization program.



HARRY BAIRD Walla Walla Man To Preach Here

The First Christian church of Heppner is conducting a preaching mission nightly except Saturday at 7:30 from Feb 23 through March 6. Harry Baird, pastor of the Central Christian church of Walla Walla will be the guest speaker.

Mr Baird is recognized throughout the Northwest as an exceptional speaker. He is a native of Oregon and a graduate of Northwest Christian college and holds BD and MA degrees from Butler University.

Special music for the mission will be furnished by the junior and adult choirs and individual members. The public is invited.

FORMER COUNTY TEACHERS TELL P-TA OF OLD-TIME EXPERIENCES

Twelve former (or present) school teachers of Morrow county reminisced at the Heppner P-TA Founders Day program last Wednesday which was based on the Centennial theme.

One of the teachers, Mrs R B Rice of Heppner, served as mistress of ceremonies and introduced the teachers all of whom taught somewhere in the county in the early 1900's. Mrs Rice herself began teaching in 1907 at the Hodson school and district 59. Mrs Della Corson, the senior of the group, taught several years before the turn of the century.

Mrs Edna Turner, one of two still teaching, announced that the current year would be her last, and that it would make 32 years in the profession for her. Mrs Lena Kelly began teaching in 1918 and has the record of 33 years to date.

Another was Mrs Guy Boyer, now of John Day, who recalled of being lost at night in the mountains on horseback and having to dismantle part of a barbed wire fence to return home. Other memories included being a P-TA president in 1924 and having 60 youngsters at one time in a school.

Miss Opal Briggs was wearing her high school graduation gown of China silk which had been made by her mother. She explained that actually she graduated from high school twice because after her graduation in 1907 another year was added to the high school curriculum and she returned to complete her fourth year.

Mrs Mae Campbell recounted days when she taught school six miles from where she lived and how she rode horseback to school and stayed there during the week. Mrs Walter Beckett began teaching in 1903 in Wisconsin and came to Morrow county in 1908. She told how she added \$10 per month to her salary by doing the janitor work at the school. Mrs Sam Turner taught at several schools including Hodson, Blackhorse district 17 and Buttercreek.

Mrs Anne Smouse began teaching near Heppner in 1903 and her salary was \$25 or \$35 a month. She taught at Eightmile Center and later in high school. Mrs Lee Scrivner began teaching in 1914 and taught for three years and she declared that in her opinion the many teachers marrying the farmers improved the country.

Mrs Alfred Troedson came to Oregon from Pennsylvania where she taught for \$26 a month which included \$2 extra for being a normal school graduate. In other business, Miss Marguerite Glavey, P-TA historian, gave a synopsis of local P-TA history since its organization in 1943 and president Ken Keeling displayed a map dating back to 1906 that showed 48 school districts at that time.

ty chairman and much of the work to procure the portable traffic signal light was credited to her.

Mrs Velva Bechdolt, Mrs Oliver Creswick and L E Dick were named to the nominating committee.

Following the program a silver tea was served by the fourth grade room mothers, Mrs Elmer Schmidt, Mrs James Angell, Mrs Kenneth Peck, Mrs Arnold Melby and Mrs Gerry Daggett. Mrs Ed Gonty and Mrs Kemp Dick presided at the table.

Pendleton Woman Dies Here Friday

Mrs Anna M Harthrong, 79, of Pendleton died last Thursday in Pioneer Memorial hospital. She had suffered a heart attack early in the week while she was visiting here at the home of her daughter, Mrs J R Huffman.

Mrs Harthrong was prominent in Pendleton civic affairs for many years having been a court reporter and working in the district attorney's office. She was also prominent in the real estate and insurance business there.

Funeral services were held Monday at Pendleton. She is survived by her daughter, four grandchildren and two sisters.

Al Bunch Delegate At Farmers Union Meet

The Morrow County Farmers Union met at the home of Mr and Mrs Al Bunch on February 11, with 16 members present. Bunch gave a report of the Farmers Union convention which he and Mrs Bunch attended in Salem last week. He was the voting delegate from the Morrow County Union and was on the policy and action committee at the convention.

Snow Layer On County Deepens During Past Week

Snow, rain, and more snow has been the weather menu during most of the past week in nearly all sections of the county, and, in fact most of Eastern Oregon.

Since Saturday a total of seven inches of snow has fallen on Heppner with considerably heavier falls reported in the higher elevations. Most of the moisture to fall in the area along the Columbia came down in the form of rain.

Rain fell nearly continuously here Monday then by evening turned to snow to cover Heppner and most of the surrounding area with about five and one-half inches by Tuesday morning. In the higher country towards Condon as much as 12 inches has been reported.

Light snow continued to fall in Heppner all day Tuesday and Wednesday to add to the soft, mushy layer which contained nearly a full inch of water in measurements taken at the Heppner weather station. Monday night's snow was extremely heavy and wet and there were a few reports of broken limbs and downed phone and power lines, but there was no general disruption of power or communications.

Roads in all directions were kept plowed, but travel on highway 30 toward Portland was said to be hazardous. Weather forecasts told of more storms on the way and little chance for much of weather change within the next couple of days.

Morrow Bangs Test Leads E Oregon

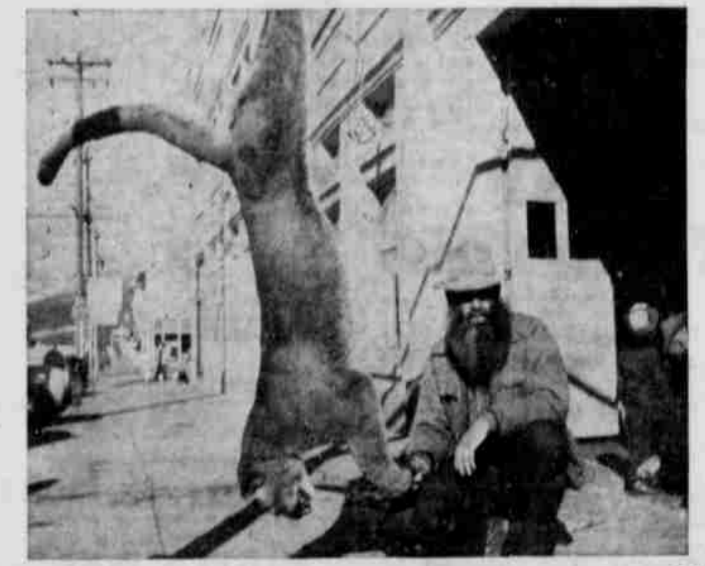
Morrow county, the first one east of the Cascades to achieve a modified certified brucellosis free status, is also the first in eastern Oregon to reach recertification.

The new certificate was recently sent to Salem from Washington, D C, and from there forwarded to the county extension agent at Heppner.

Word from the state department of agriculture and Dr A G Beagle, the federal veterinarian at Salem, gives these testing figures as the basis for recertification: 282 herds with 9,944 cattle of which 14 in 8 herds were reactors.

However, in the last three years, a total of 465 herds with 18,393 cattle were tested. In the three years, 245 reactors were found in 51 herds. Total number of cattle in the reactor herds was 4,624.

In the same three years, Morrow county cattlemen submitted 5,889 calves for vaccination. The calves were from 255 herds. Calfood vaccination in the county has greatly increased from 1956, when only 665 calves in 40 herds were vaccinated. In 1957, 2,724 calves from 111 herds were vaccinated, and last year, 2,500 calves from 104 herds.



BIG COUGAR—Jeff Walker of Heppner is shown with a 162½ pound cougar he bagged last Thursday in the Copple creek area near Scritsmeier's mill. It measured over six feet from tip to tail and was one of the heaviest ever seen in this area. The hair was extremely thick and the cat, which was estimated at from 8 to 10 years old, was in excellent condition. Walker saw the tracks Wednesday evening and began tracking the animal with his four dogs Thursday morning. About five hours and 8 or 9 miles later he brought it down with one shot from a 22 pistol. The cat is shown hanging alongside Gilliam & Bisbee's and in a short time it probably had more pictures taken of itself than most any animal in Heppner's history. (GT Photo)