

Friday Morning Fire Destroys Home and Contents

Mr and Mrs Glenn Barbour and four children lost their home and a majority of their personal belongings last Friday morning when fire swept the residence on South Gilmore street in Heppner.

Heppner firemen had six lines of water on the flames within minutes after the alarm was turned in and succeeded in saving the shell of the two bedroom house, but nearly all of the interior was gutted.

Mrs Barbour reported the fire started in a bedroom in which one child was sleeping. She rushed the children outside and ran across the street to a neighbor's house to call in the alarm. By the time she returned it was impossible to get back in the front door as flames had spread throughout all but the back corner of the building.

Defective wiring in a ceiling dropper in the bedroom was credited by firemen as causing the flames which spread quickly throughout the wallpapered home. A penny was also found to have been placed under a fuse in the switchbox, though there was no indication as to how long it had been there.

The house is owned by Joe Delameter of Heppner and was damaged at least to the extent of the \$4,000 insurance carried on it. The Barbours lost an estimated \$3,500 in personal possessions and they carried no insurance.

About 8:30 Wednesday morning the Heppner department responded with its rural fire truck to a call from the Heppner Slaughter House near the west city limits of town. A flash fire between the ceiling of the cold storage room and the roof blackened that section of the building but caused little damage. Quick action on the part of the employees of the Standard Oil plant nearby, and others was credited with stopping the spread of the flames which were under control by the time the truck arrived.

The slaughter house call is the first fire answered by the rural truck which was loaned to the city temporarily by Heppner Pine Mills. Cause of this blaze has not been determined.

Centennial Ball at Lone Saturday for Hospital Benefit

The Auxiliary of Pioneer Memorial hospital will sponsor a benefit Centennial ball Saturday, April 4 from 9:30 to 1 at the Lone Legion hall. A grand march will be held with cash prizes awarded for the best Centennial costumes worn by women.

During the evening modern dance music will be provided by Duke Sullivan and his orchestra from Pendleton.

Special acts and entertainment will include dancing by Mr and Mrs Joe Hausler; a Can Can dance by Mary Emert, Brenda Townsend and Linda Hams of Lone; Lexington will provide a barbershop quartet with LaVonne Bloodsworth, Tess Hatfield, Betty Marquardt and Rena June Marquardt. Heppner is featuring a square dance demonstration by the Bruce Lindsays, the Jim Driscolls and the Bill Collins, the Al Fetschs and the Bill Heaths. They will swing out to a quadrille and two square dances.

It is also expected that the County Doctor and the County Sheriff will be available to render needed services.

Mother-Daughter Banquet To Be Friday

There will be a Mother-Daughter banquet at the Methodist church Friday evening, April 3 at 6:00 p m.

It is being prepared and served by the Men's Club of the church and tickets may be obtained at the door.

P-TA Program to Feature Style Revue

The Future Homemakers of America will present their annual style revue next Wednesday night at the April Heppner P-TA meeting.

The high school sewing classes will model the clothes which they have made during the year. Mrs Homer Hager is the club advisor and Mrs C E McQuarrie is April program chairman.

WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	62	39	.32
Friday	54	32	.06
Saturday	55	39	.03
Sunday	53	29	.04
Monday	54	41	.11
Tuesday	56	39	—
Wednesday	66	47	—

Rainfall for the week .56; for March 1.15; for the coming year 5.27 inches.



DON PYLE, new assistant manager of the Heppner branch of the First National Bank of Oregon. He came here from Pendleton. (GT Photo)



JOHN VENARD, former assistant manager of the local branch of First National, who leaves this week to become manager of the bank's branch at Merrill in Southern Oregon. (GT Photo)

Pickup Day For Rummage Planned Next Wednesday

Next Wednesday, April 8, has been designated as main pickup day for rummage, according to Mrs Matt Hughes, chairman. Those having rummage to donate are asked to call Mrs Bill Scott, Jr, 6-5302; Mrs James Johnson, 6-9691; Mrs Howard Pettyjohn, 6-9284; or in Lexington, Mrs Gene Cutsforth, 3-8182. Rummage may also be left at Jack's Chevron Station in Heppner or at Gene's Chevron Station in Lexington.

All rummage received before April 10 will be sorted so that any in need of dry cleaning can be processed by the Heppner cleaners. Other items will be freshened by members of the Civic League. In the many previous rummage sales it has been found that clean clothing, drapes, bedspreads, and similar items are much more saleable and bring much better prices.

The rummage sale will be held Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, in the showroom of the Bruce Motor Co.

Proceeds of the rummage sale will be used to help pay expenses of the kindergarten operated by the Civic League.

A Centennial Year Historical Feature—



SOME OF THE KINGPINS OF EARLY-DAY HEPPNER—This group of pioneers, who stood in front of the old First National Bank to have this photo taken back sometime in the late 1890's, were among the best known residents of this area at that time. They are, from the left, Otis Patterson, early-day editor of the Heppner Gazette; Gene Freeland, who worked in the bank; E M Shutt, who was then Morrow county sheriff; George Conser, cashier and manager of the bank; Alton Basey, town

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Fight Seen Over School Budget

Tuesday Hearing Expected To Attract Many Taxpayers

By ROBERT FENLAND

The following article is written as an interpretive, editorial-type news story about the 1959-60 county school budget. This paper usually makes every effort to keep editorial opinion out of its news columns, but because of the great interest in this problem, this article is being positioned on the front page of today's Gazette-Times as a regular news story. It should be accepted much as an editorial, though the facts presented herein conform to requirements for any news story. Any opinions expressed are those of the writer.

Morrow county's 1959-60 school budget has now been compiled and will be presented to the public next Tuesday, April 7 at a public hearing to be held at the court house starting at 8 p m. Even before it was completed, the fur began to fly in no uncertain manner.

No Objections Heard At Hearing on Rural Fire District

No one appeared before the county court Wednesday at a public hearing on the formation of the Heppner rural fire protection district, with the result that the court accepted the boundaries of the district as outlined in the petitions and will order an election to be held in the near future.

The proposed district encompasses an area roughly enclosing Heppner within a seven and one-half mile circle, or about 15 minutes maximum running time from Heppner for fire equipment. Qualified voters in the area, excluding those within the city limits of Heppner will vote on the formation of the district and the election of five directors to operate it.

The court will set the date of the election within a short time and it will probably be held early in May.

Mrs Lawrence Palmer of Lexington is a patient in St Anthony's hospital in Pendleton.

Annual C of C Banquet Slated

Local history and pioneer residents of Morrow county will be the theme of the program at the annual banquet of the chamber of commerce which will be held Monday, April 13 at the Heppner Legion hall. Elmer Schmidt, banquet chairman, announced this week. It will be in keeping with the state's Centennial observance.

Speakers will be former county judge Garnet Barratt and David Hynd, both long-time residents of the county.

Another important part of the program will be the drawing for the repayment of another \$1,000 in rodeo field lighting fund bonds. With this year's payment, more than one-half of the total cost of the lighting system will have been repaid.

The dinner will start at 7 o'clock and a short social hour is planned from 6:30 to 7:00. Tickets will be on sale shortly for \$2.00 per plate.

March Snow Gain Brightens Area Water Prospects

Snow depth and water content of the Arbuckle mountain snowpack increased during March almost to the 15 year average. Measurements taken Monday, March 30, by Tom Wilson, Soil Conservation Service, showed 29 inches of snow with 10.5 inches of water. This is 97 percent of the average water content of 10.8 inches for this time of year according to federal and state cooperative snow survey records.

Last year's snow survey at the end of March measured a snow depth of 35 inches with 14.7 inches of water. Records for 1957 show only 19 inches of snow with 7.8 inches of water, and in 1956 snow depth was 36 inches with 15.5 inches of water.

Water supply forecasts are made by the Soil Conservation Service from data secured by snow survey measurements. These forecasts will be made public at a series of water meetings sponsored jointly by the SCS, Oregon agricultural experiment station, Oregon Extension service and other cooperators. The meeting for the Heppner-Umatilla-Walla Walla area will be held Tuesday, April 7, at 7:30 p m in the Umatilla Electric Cooperative building at Hermiston. Manes Barton and W T Frost, SCS forecasters from Portland, will present the data.

Pomona to Meet Saturday at Lex

Morrow county Pomona Grange will meet April 4 at the Lexington Grange hall and will begin promptly at 10:30 a m. All granges of the county have been urged to have a good representation at the meeting which will be very important.

The Umatilla county Pomona officers will be guests as will Henry Hendrickson, state deputy who will give a talk on community service.

The proposed county school budget will be presented and explained as part of the program.

\$16,000; \$4,000. Last year: \$1,300; \$7,225; none, for a total increase of about \$12,000.

Now, The Offsets

On the surface the above budget looks like somebody went overboard in providing education for our youngsters, but lets look at some of the reasons and at the credit side of the ledger.

By returning to the county school system the areas which have in past years been included in other schools—Echo, Arlington and another small joint district with Gilliam county—(by virtue of those areas being a part of school districts in other counties and our tax monies paid to those districts) we will have quite a few more children in our county schools in the coming year. Cecil area children will next year come to Lone rather than going to Arlington; and children in the section of the county near Pine City and Butter Creek Junction who have been going to Echo to school, and their folks paying taxes to the Echo district, are now part of our schools. The latter youngsters will probably mostly still go to Echo, but their tax money will come to Morrow county and we will pay tuition for them. This means there is a net increase in taxable school valuation to Morrow county (for next year) of about \$1,233,000. And also an increase in cost in our budget for tuition of \$14,000. This will bring in to our school system roughly \$55,000 which we didn't have before, which will offset part of the budget increase.

Next year we will eliminate two high schools, Irrigon and Lexington, with a resultant saving of 5 teachers (4 in Lexington and 1 in Irrigon). Even with this reduction, there will have to be, according to school officials' figures, a net increase of 1 teacher in the county because Heppner will have to have 3 more teachers than it has this year; Lone will need 2 more (addition of Cecil students) and 1 more in the Lexington grade school. Except for Lone, though partly true there, too) the increases are due to the additional students who will be entering school next year largely as a result of our increasing birth rate. (For Example: Heppner this spring graduates 26 seniors and next fall will have 70 in first grade).

Where is the Increase?

A little study of the above figures will show that the greatest increase in the overall budget for schools will come in Item II of the budget—instruction. This increase is being asked because the county school board this spring authorized an average increase of \$700 per year per teacher for next year. School officials say this increase was necessary if Morrow county schools are to keep pace with schools in other Oregon districts on the wage pattern. Opponents of the new budget claim the teacher salary increase is excessive and possibly should have been made over a period of two or three years, rather than all at one time. Objection is also being made to the fact that there will still be men on the school staffs with superintendent's status and pay scale, even though much of the budgeting and administrative duties of the individual schools has supposedly been transferred to the county school administrator's (or superintendent's) office. School officials counter this argument by pointing out that present staff contracts must be honored, and that this coming year is definitely a transition year for Morrow county schools—which makes it extremely difficult to foresee exactly what costs and requirements may be. They also claim that administration in individual schools is being reduced by requiring administrative personnel to teach some (or more) classes next year.

In reality, the basic question in the whole school budget problem is this as we see it: "Have (Continued on Page 8)