

Board Approves Teacher Contracts

Budget Publication Held Up Pending Further Study

Big Crowd Attends Public Hearing On School Budget Tuesday Night

The Morrow county school board Tuesday night ordered the publication of the 1959-60 county school budget held up for at least two weeks to allow time for further study and revision. It also instructed the county school superintendent to immediately mail out to school teachers in the county system their new contracts for the next year with specified salaries based on the new salary schedule which had been approved by the board at a previous meeting. The new salary scale calls for an average increase for next year of \$700 per teacher.

The board's action came at a meeting held at the court house immediately following one of the largest and most heated school budget hearings ever held in the county.

The budget was to have been published in this week's Gazette-Times, but because of the apparent feelings of a great majority of those who attended the hearing, the board decided to withhold the budget for further study. This action means that the vote on the proposed budget will also have to be postponed at least two weeks past the date on which it had been planned to hold the election, May 4. The election of seven new county school board members will, however, be held on May 4.

Hearing Gets Stormy
The public hearing on the budget, which was actually only a preliminary hearing because a legal hearing could not be held until after the budget had been published, attracted the largest crowd to attend such an affair in many years. About 175 persons crowded into the court room for the two and one-half hour discussion which brought forth literally hundreds of questions about the operation of the schools and the "whys" of many of the budget items.

The size of the increase in teachers' salaries for the coming year and what many persons seemingly considered an "overload" of administrators in the county, were the two problems that brought forth the most questions, some of them quite pointed. New county school administrator Robert Van Houte conducted the hearing with all members of the county school board and the budget committee taking part.

The new teacher salary scale appeared to be about the most discussed of any of the points. The schedule as proposed by the board would grant an increase of an average of \$700 per teacher per year for next year. (The total cost of instruction, or teacher salaries in the proposed budget was \$486,391, the largest single item in the budget. This will however, probably be reduced some by further board study and action though the new pay scale was ultimately approved by the board later Tuesday night).

Near the close of the hearing those present were asked to vote on whether they would be agreeable to a pay increase of \$100 or \$200 for next year. About 20 persons favored the \$100 raise and another 10 or 15 indicated they favored an increase of \$200. The remainder of those present did not vote, apparently indicating that they did not favor an increase of any kind.

Questions Are Many
During the pay raise discussion it was pointed out that several other school districts in the state had granted raises to teachers for the coming year, and Van Houte cited a few examples of the increases such as \$480 by Eugene, \$675 by the Bethel district near Eugene; \$500 at Creswell; \$500 at Sherman county, and \$400 to \$500 by Cottage Grove. He stated that the scales in those areas were probably higher originally than has been the scale locally, which necessitated the higher figure here to be on an equal basis.

Some of the questions asked included:

"Where will Morrow county stand in relation to the rest of the state with the new pay scale?" The answer was given as among the top 10, including Portland.

"If you would get principals

who would teach a little more you wouldn't need so many teachers."

"What are we getting for our \$700 increase?"

"Has each teacher in the county improved in one year by \$700?"

"Will there be another increase next year?"

"Will the schools be better because of the increase?"

"What will happen if the budget is voted down?" This was answered by the statement that a district is legally required to meet a teacher's contract.

"Can the budget be revised?" This was answered "yes".

The majority of the questions on the wage pattern were answered by the administrator or board members by stating that they feared that if the increase was not granted that it would be impossible to hold present teachers or get new ones to replace them.

The questions concerning the administration in the various schools was answered by saying that this coming year the total administrative staff is being reduced by requiring each administrator to do some teaching.

No questions were ducked by the board or Van Houte who made every effort to explain why they had taken such action, though the apparent general feeling, as indicated by the vote on the teacher pay raise question at the end of the meeting, was that generally most persons did not favor it.

Budget To Be Revised
Following the hearing the board met with the budget committee and ordered the publication of the budget held up until it can be given further study and revision. The teacher salary question was discussed as was the matter of sending out the new teacher contracts which had been prepared under the new salary schedule, and it was voted to order the superintendent to place the contracts in the mail immediately. Board members stated that they felt that if the contracts were held up any longer the county would lose many of its teachers and find new ones extremely hard to get.

An attempt to study the teacher question at this meeting was given up as hopeless inasmuch as it was then after midnight and more careful study was required. As a result, it was decided to hold up publication of the budget until it could be studied further with an eye toward substantial reductions. It will probably be published in about two or three weeks.

Building Levy Vote OK'd
The group approved asking the voters for approval of a special building improvement fund of \$130,000 which will be voted on at the same time as the budget, but by a separate ballot. The purpose of this fund would be largely for the construction of additional classrooms at the lone school. This money does not appear in the regular budget and the question was raised as to whether the money could be spent, if it is voted, inasmuch as it is not budgeted as an expenditure. The question was not answered, but the board decided to put it to a vote anyway, feeling that if it were approved, it could be held until next year if necessary.

Before winding up the meeting the board approved the renaming of the combined Boardman and Irrigon high schools. In the future it will be known as Riverside high school, a name approved by the student councils of both schools.

The board set Friday night, April 17 as the time for its next meeting.

WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	72	42	—
Friday	56	33	—
Saturday	69	41	—
Sunday	64	38	—
Monday	66	29	—
Tuesday	52	26	—
Wednesday	56	28	—

Rainfall for the week, none; for April, none; for the year 5.27 inches.



P-TA Home Talent Minstrel Show on Stage Friday

A large enthusiastic cast of local people is now ready to present the P-TA minstrel show, with a variety of comedy, songs, and dances, which is being sponsored for the scholarship and youth activities funds. The show will be put on two nights, Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11, at the Heppner high school auditorium, at 8:00.

Prizes will be awarded lucky and alert members of the audience who spot key words in ads in the program.

Gene Pierce will be the interlocutor. End men are Delmer Jordan, Vic Kreimeyer, Oliver Creswick, Roy Quackenbush, Harold Becket, and Harlan McCurdy, Jr.

Two male quartets are featured: Arnold Melby, Vic Kreimeyer, Joe Stewart, and Gordon Pratt; and Renn Harris, Bob Huffman, Sam Green, and Stuart Gribble. Eddie Thorpe will do a specialty number.

Third graders under the direction of Mrs Kathryn Hoskins will do a picaninny dance.

From Lexington will come a women's quartet, Tess Hatfield, Rena Marquardt, Betty Marquardt, and Lavonne Bloodsworth.

Dee and Barbara Gribble will do a tap dance, and the can can will be performed by Laurel Van Marter, Harriet Hall, Janet Agee, and Betty Gimbel.

Clint Agee and Clarence Johnson as Mr Long and Mr Short. The high school dance band will play from the pit under the supervision of Arnold Melby and the high school chorus will swell the minstrel singers' ranks. Members of the Mothers' Club will also be seen and heard on the stage.

On Friday night only a group of second grade boys and girls will do a square dance under the direction of Mrs Harold Laird.

The show is directed by Gordon Pratt; Mrs Charles Ruggles is accompanist; Mrs Fred Gimbel, general chairman; Mrs Oliver Creswick is costume chairman and Mrs Wallace Wolff is in charge of make-up.

Advertising and programs are being done by Harold Laird, Fred Gimbel, Mrs Jim Hager, and Mrs Ed Dick. Programs are the work of the high school business practice classes under Mrs Roy Kirk. Ticket sales, supervised by Mrs Jim Angell and Mrs Ken Keeling, are the responsibility of a selected group of upper grade children.

The story for the show was organized by Mrs Tom Wilson.

HHS Honor Roll Students Named

The third nine-week honor roll for Heppner high school released this week shows Janice Martin leading the scholars with a perfect 4-point average for the nine weeks.

Honor roll students by classes were:

Seniors: High, Janice Martin, and Renn Harris; low, Ned Clark, Janice Driscoll, Steven Flug, Robert Huffman, Kay Reed, Carolyn McDaniel, Dick Ruhl and Joan Spencer.

Juniors: High, Carol K Anderson and Tom Driscoll; low, Roseann Ayers, Wilma Bothwell, Carolyn Carter, Jean Collins, Clifford Green, Shirley Nash, Mickey Van Scholack.

Sophomores: High, Larry Tibbles; low, Evelyn Tucker, Donald Craber, Dennis Ferguson, Tom Glass, Sandra Jones, Jeanne Schmidt, Barbara Siewert, Kathy Spencer, Cheryl Harris and Bernice Thomson.

Freshmen: High, none; low, Beverly Blake, Donald Clark, Ronald Creswick, Kenneth Daggett, Norma Ferguson, Sandra Harshman, Rose Nash, Judy Schmidt, Mary Shannon, and Libby Van Scholack.

Victor Kreimeyer, Fred Prussing, Glen Ward and Sam Nagel attended the Society of American Foresters in La Grande Friday evening.

HEPPNER

GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, April 9, 1959

Copies 10 Cents

75th Year, Number 5

Boom! Boom! Not Bombs, Just Jets

Senic booms are getting to be a dime a dozen around Heppner, even though they are apparently scaring thousands of persons in San Francisco and Portland.

During recent days there have been 15 to 20 "booms" as fast jets break the sound barrier during maneuvers. And, there will probably be many more such occurrences during the next week or so as the nationwide Civil Defense "Operation Alert" gets under way April 17.

Slaughter Named To Port Board

Paul Slaughter, Irrigon has been elected to serve the 1959-60 term of Warren McCoy as a member of the board of directors of the Port of Morrow. McCoy's resignation from the board was accepted at a meeting of the commission April 2 at Boardman.

A telegram protesting the possible passing of the Chicago water diversion bill in Congress was sent to Representative Al Ullman. This bill if passed, could have a damaging effect on Northwest waters in the future, particularly in the Columbia river basin, according to the belief of the commission.

Budget and millage matters occupied most of the discussion at the meeting. In order to adequately institute port matters and problems of budgets and legal procedure, Robert Abrams, port counsel, recommended that the board of commissioners engage a firm of Portland experts in port matters to help with setting up policies and procedure schedules.

Dewey West and George Wiese recently made a trip to the Port of The Dalles to discuss mutual problems with the manager and secretary of that port. The commissioners hope that enough funds can be built up so that after the John Day pool is formed, industry and grain petroleum and fertilizer distributing facilities can be attracted to Morrow county.

Area Schools Get Good Music Ratings

Morrow county schools made a good showing last Saturday among the 28 schools taking part in the Eastern Oregon music competition held at Eastern Oregon College at La Grande.

Bands received the following ratings: Class C, Heppner, three ratings; Class D, lone a one rating; class E, Heppner, a three rating.

Heppner's mixed chorus received a two rating in class C and the girls chorus received a two rating in class E.



AIRMAN DEXTER MILES, Lexington, is now receiving training at Lackland Air Force base, Texas. He has been in the Air Force about one month. He was a 1958 graduate of Lexington high school.

Forest Service Crew Starts Planting of 60,000 Trees

The Heppner ranger district of the Umatilla National Forest this week employed eight men for a tree planting project in the area. They will be planting about 60,000 trees on cutover areas and the project is expected to require about a month.

The crew is being headquartered at Tupper guard station and will be fed under government mess with Mrs Sam Nagel, timber management assistant, in charge of the project.

During the week of April 27 to May 1 there will be a prism cruising school on the Heppner district with Tupper as the training center. It will be for members of the whole forest and about 15 to 20 are expected to attend.

Stray Dogs Beware, Pound in Operation

Heppner residents were warned this week by the city council that a dog pound, to be operated by the sheriff's office, has been placed in operation, and that city police will cooperate with the sheriff in picking up unlicensed dogs.

Stray animals will be picked up by law enforcement agencies and will be held in the pound for five days. If they are not claimed in that time they will be destroyed.

This A Record?

The current "Car Stacking" craze which has been sweeping the country's high schools and colleges during the past few weeks, reared its head in Heppner early this week.

Not to be outdone, 23 Heppner high school students Monday crammed themselves into a Nash Metropolitan owned by Doug Gribble. Three of the 23 got into the trunk, the rest were at least partly inside.

Council Orders Sale Of \$140,000 Bonds

The Heppner city council Monday night approved an ordinance calling for the sale of \$140,000 in water bonds and this week issued a call for bids on the purchase of the bonds.

The money will be used to re-new about six miles of the city's water feeder line down Willow creek.

Heppner voters recently approved the issuance of \$160,000 in bonds to finance the needed project, but subsequent paring of costs by the council reduced the amount needed to \$140,000 and members expressed the hope that the work can be done for even less than that figure. The bonds will be paid off over a 15 year period with money to come from a special tax levy and an increase in water rates. Laying of the new pipeline will be completed by early summer.

In other business the council approved granting a deed to the city-county museum commission for sufficient property on the city park to locate the planned new combination county museum and city library building. The museum commission now has received more than \$30,000 in gifts for the structure and is preparing plans for the building.

Grass Fire Flares; Burn Permits Needed

Heppner firemen responded to a general alarm shortly after noon Sunday to control a grass and trash fire which had gotten out of hand on the bank of Willow creek across from the city park. The fire burned over several lots and slightly damaged a garage on the Faye Prock property on Elder street before it was controlled.

Heppner fire chief C A Ruggles advised residents this week that the fire season is in effect April 1 and that city ordinance prohibits any burning without permit from the fire department.

TWO DOGS FOUND TO BE KILLERS OF 14 SHEEP DURING PAST WEEK

The capture of two dogs late Wednesday cleared up the mystery of who "shot" 14 of Stephen Thompson's sheep and lambs Sunday and Wednesday.

Sunday afternoon it was reported that four of Thompson's sheep had been found dead in a pasture alongside the Willow creek road directly across from his house. Upon investigation by police and the owner, it appeared that the animals had been shot in the head with a large caliber rifle and the Morrow County Livestock Growers Assn immediately offered a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest of the persons involved.

Wednesday another 10 ewes

Building permits were granted to the following: Oscar Peterson, new residence at 295 N Court St, \$8,000; Victor Groshens, 455 S Chase, alterations, \$250; Edgar Albert, 225 Baltimore, alterations \$500; Richfield Station, new storage structure, \$300.

County History Banquet Theme

An interesting program in keeping with Oregon's Centennial year will be featured at the annual banquet of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce next Monday evening at the Heppner Legion hall.

History will be the subject of the two main speakers, former county judge Garnet Barratt and David Hynd, a long-time county resident.

Another important part of the program will be the drawing for the repayment of another \$1000 in rodeo field lighting fund bonds. Repayment of the interest-free bonds is made by lot, and with this year's payment more than half of the bonds will be redeemed.

Banquet chairman stated this week that a short social hour will start at 6:30 and will be followed by the banquet at 7. It is open to the public and tickets are now on sale at \$2.00 per plate.

Flu Epidemic Takes Toll of HHS Students

The annual flu bug caught up with the Heppner high school this week taking its toll of students.

Tuesday there were 38 on the sick list, and by Wednesday morning another four had gone home to bed.

One or two cases of measles were included in the total.

A Centennial Year Historical Feature—



AN EARLY-DAY LEXINGTON CELEBRATION—This is a photo of a 4th of July celebration held in Lexington by the G A R in about 1887, making it one of the oldest pictures this newspaper has yet found. The photo was sent in by O M Yeager, Castle Rock, Wn, a former Heppner resident. It was given to him by Mrs Lila Adams, daughter of A J Hicks, one time editor of the

Heppner Gazette and the Heppner Times. The only identifiable person is the boy on the horse at the extreme left who was thought to be the late Ray McAllister. In those days the Grand Army of the Republic was responsible for many of the county's gatherings.