

Weekend Fires Burn Grassland

Last weekend's hot weather brought Heppner its first major grassfire Sunday and before the flames were controlled between 700 and 800 acres of grass was blackened.

The fire started about 1:30 Sunday afternoon from some weed burning at the northwest edge of town and before it was controlled nearly three and one half hours later, it had denuded most of the hills north of Heppner and traveled east nearly to the Orval Matheny home on Hinton creek. Firemen experienced considerable delay in getting to the blaze because the first three persons to call in the fire failed to stay on the phone long

enough to give firemen the location of the blaze which at that time was not big enough for the smoke to be seen from downtown. The alarm system was "on automatic" which resulted in three separate alarms being sounded before anyone waited long enough for a fireman to answer the phone.

One city truck was later incapacitated when its pump blew up but by that time the fire had traveled so far up the hill that it was impossible for the city equipment to reach it. Much credit was given to the Morrow County Grain Growers Jeep fire truck for its part in controlling the fire. The MCGG equipment was able to travel the rough area where city equipment could not reach and at one time practically had the fire under control when it ran out of water. Several pieces of farm firefighting equipment also aided in the battle.

Heppner fire chief C A Ruggles this week reminded residents that fire danger is great and that a city ordinance prohibits any outside burning without permit. He also stated that no permits of any kind are being granted when the weather is extremely hot or windy.

Another grass and range fire started shortly before noon Monday on the Boardman bombing range but was apparently controlled before it had covered too much area. It was fought by fire departments from Arlington, Boardman, Ordinance and Cecil but the extent of loss has not been reported.

Both the Heppner and the bombing range fires burned over land which was denuded by flames last year. In just one fire last summer over 70,000 acres of the bombing range and adjacent lands was blackened.

Fire Location Vital to Firemen

Heppner firemen this week had just one request to make of persons calling in fire alarms—

"Please stay on the phone until a fireman answers so he can find out the location of the fire."

At the start of Sunday's big grassfire three separate alarms were sounded before the person calling held the line long enough for a fireman to answer. Much of the time the fire alarm sounds automatically when the fire number is dialed, but the phone must be answered by a fireman for the department to know the location of the blaze and it frequently takes a little time for him to reach the phone.

Sunday's fire probably could have been controlled with much less damage had firemen not had to wait several minutes to find its location.



HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, June 25, 1959

Copies 10 Cents

76th Year, Number 16

Second Budget Election Monday

Revised Budget \$25,000 Lower Than Previous

Voters of Morrow county will go to the polls again next Monday, June 29 to express their opinion on the budget for the operation of the county's schools for the coming year. This will be the second time they have voted on the budget, the first one being badly defeated early in May.

The budget on which voters will ballot Monday calls for total general fund expenditures of \$773,693 which reflects a reduction of about \$25,000 below the original budget. Of this amount \$445,286.18 is outside the six percent limitation. The reduction was made by ordering the closure of the Hardman grade school and transportation of the pupils to Heppner; elimination of grades five through eight at Lexington and transportation to Heppner or Ione; and combining of the 7th and 8th grades at Boardman and Irrigon in the Irrigon school.

Since the revised budget was prepared and the date set for the election, residents in many communities complained at hearings and board meetings at the reduced services and facilities, and the board will give voters the option to reinstate all the services pared from the main budget. This will be done at another special election to be held on July 11 calling for a special supplemental school levy of \$24,950.

If both the revised budget and the supplemental levy are approved by the voters the county's school system will operate in the same manner as was planned under the first budget which was defeated.

The election will be held from 2 until 8 p m next Monday and voters will vote by precincts as in a general or primary election, the same as was done at the first election. The polling places will be the school house in each precinct with all four Heppner precincts to ballot at the multi-purpose room of the Heppner grade school.

Mr and Mrs Carey Hastings, Mr and Mrs Frank Connor and Mr and Mrs Tim Rippee were in Hood River visiting at the home of Mr and Mrs Roger Connor and family and also attended the first communion of Maryetta Connor.

Chest X-Rays or TB Tests Required of School Employees

All employees of Morrow county schools are reminded that either a negative chest X-ray or negative tuberculosis skin test is required in order to obtain a school health certificate for the 1959-60 year.

Chest X-rays can be obtained without charge from Pioneer Memorial hospital on the first Wednesday of each month between 7 and 8 p m. Tuberculin skin tests (patch tests are not acceptable) must be obtained from a private physician.

Since the school health certificates must be issued through the local health department before being filed in the county school superintendent's office, all employees are urged to have their X-rays or tuberculin tests before September.

Attack Claims Harry T O'Donnell

Harry T O'Donnell, 74 passed away Sunday afternoon at Pioneer Memorial hospital. He had suffered a severe heart attack early last week and had been under treatment for six days.

Harry Thomas O'Donnell was born September 9, 1884 at Virginia City, Nevada. He came to Heppner 27 years ago and had operated restaurants here until a few days before he was stricken. He was a member of St Patrick's Catholic church and the Heppner Elks lodge.

Rosary was recited Tuesday evening and funeral services were held Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock at St Patrick's church with the Rev Patrick J Gaire officiating. Interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

Mr O'Donnell is survived by his wife Claire, two sons Harry Jr, and Russell and three grandchildren, all of Heppner. He also leaves one brother George of California.

Creswick Mortuary had charge of arrangements.

NOW EMPLOYED AT WELFARE OFFICE

Miss Ann Coleman, who completed a general office operative course June 12 at OTI in Klamath Falls, has been employed by the Morrow county public welfare commission. She will replace Mrs Vern Evans who has resigned effective July 1.

Wheat Allotment Applications Due At ASC Office

The ASC county office is now accepting wheat allotment applications for certain farms, it was announced this week by V R Rietmann, chairman of the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee.

A producer who intends to seed wheat for 1960 on a farm on which no wheat was seeded for harvest as grain in 1957 and for which a 1958 and 1959 allotment was not established, irrespective of whether or not wheat was seeded for harvest as grain in either 1958 or 59, and who desires to be considered for an allotment must make application for an allotment, according to Rietmann.

The application must be made in writing and must be made by July 1. Application forms may be obtained at the local ASC office.

The ASC office also stated that when a commodity is placed under price support in farm storage, the producer should realize that he is mortgaging the contents of an entire bin even though he may borrow on only part of the value. The "ever-normal granary" seal that is placed on the bin should be thoroughly understood and abided by. None of the mortgage commodity should be removed from the bin for any reason without the written consent of the ASC county committee as the seal states, it was stated.

Non-observance of the conditions stated on the seal, when affixed to a bin under price support loan, could result in loss of the privilege of obtaining farm stored loans in the future.

Additional information can be obtained at the ASC office.

First National Records Big Jump In Loans, Deposits

Record high June bank deposits were reported by First National Bank of Oregon when the statewide bank submitted its June 10, statement of condition figures in response to a call by the comptroller of the currency.

Deposits of \$840,804,145 were reported, which topped the previous mid-year mark of \$794,390, 100 set on June 23, 1958. The current figure represents a gain of \$6,315,471 over the March 12, 1959 bank call deposit total, which was a new record for that period.

Loans for the 79 First National offices amounted to \$462, 935, 447, an increase of \$81,346,819 over a year ago and also a new June record. Loans are up \$31, 812,356 since the March call.

The Heppner branch of First National reported June 10 deposits of \$5,758,098 and loans totaling \$4,233,766, according to J H Bedford, manager.

At the same time he released comparable totals for the branch for the June 23, 1958 call for bank statements. On that date, deposits were \$5,156,237 and loans were \$3,629,026.

"The present boom in lumber, construction and other phases of our economy are important factors in this impressive overall bank deposit picture," C B Stephenson, bank president said.

Retail sales of consumer goods continue at a record rate in some areas and bank debits continue to increase, which reflect the vitality of our state's economy," Stephenson added.

Houseguests Wednesday

through Saturday at the home of Mr and Mrs Harry Bongers were Mr and Mrs Ivor Davies of The Dalles. Mr Davies took Phil Blakney's place at the drugstore while Mr and Mrs Blakney and three children were vacationing in Portland.

John and Maryetta Connor of Mr and Mrs Carey Hastings, Mrs Frank Connor and Mrs Max Buschke spent Monday and Tuesday in Portland on business.



TELEPHONE LINEMEN, Bill Black, left, and C K "Chuck" Prinslow, pause to straighten their equipment which is used to put the proper tension on telephone wires being strung south of Heppner. Both men are from Salem. They are working on one of Pacific Telephone's largest rural projects in the state.

NEW PHONE LINE TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO HARDMAN AREA

Construction crews are nearing the mid-way point in Pacific Telephone's \$113,500 project to provide rural telephone service in the area south of Heppner to Hardman, according to manager Dallas Short.

Work on the improvement has turned into the toughest encountered by telephone crews. Dogging holes for nearly 300 telephone poles required 500 pounds of blasting powder. Cost of the dynamite work alone ran nearly \$4,000. Telephone employees did the digging and clean-out of holes after blasting was completed by a Portland contractor.

The project involves the placing of 54,000 feet of aerial cable, 320 telephone poles, 180 anchors and 170 miles of telephone wire. The company plans to make joint use of 315 R E A power poles also, Short said.

When the work is complete, about 43 families in the area will be able to secure better telephone service, and future

A Centennial Year Historical Feature



HEPPNER'S FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE—This is one of the few remaining pictures of the first school ever built in Heppner. It used to stand on Gale street approximately where the Heppner Clinic building is now located. This photo is the property of Mrs Elsie Lacy Elger, Portland, who at one time lived in Blackhorse and was a teacher in the school. It was taken about

1890. Two years later, in the spring of 1892 fire destroyed the building and classes were moved to the Methodist church to finish the year. Later in 1892 the next school, still known as the "old school", was built on what is now known as hospital hill and it was occupied until about 1913.

Water Rate Jump Due July 1

Heppner water users will pay \$1.00 more a month for their water starting with the July 1 billing as a result of a new rate schedule approved this week by the city council.

The raise in minimum rates will be used along with a special levy to retire the \$140,000 bond issue which was voted to improve the city's water feed line.

The only change in the present schedule is in the minimum charge which for city residential users will now be \$2.50. The minimum for commercial hook-ups will be \$3.00 and for out of town residents the rate will be \$3.50. All classifications have been increased \$1.00.

Only the minimum rates have been raised under the new ordinance, all other schedules for larger amounts over the minimum will remain the same. Even with the new schedule, the council pointed out that the city's water rates are still below those charged in many other communities.

Work on the new water line is expected to start sometime next week. The contractor, Everett Den Herder of Medford, has already moved in equipment and the first shipment of pipe is expected to arrive about July 1.

Cow Belles Plan Brand Placemats

Officers of the Morrow county Cow Belles today urged all members of the Morrow County Livestock Growers association who wish to have their brands and names on the planned placemats to send in their names and \$1.00 to Mrs Floyd Jones.

The Cow Belles are planning to have printed several thousand placemats which will publicize the use of beef and will carry the names and brands of paid up members of the county livestock association. Each member who wishes his name brand to be on the placemats will be charged \$1.00 to help defray costs.

June Graduate of EOC Named On Honor Roll

Mrs Jean Marie Graham Damon, who graduated from Eastern Oregon College, the first of the month, was named on the spring term honor roll at the college.

Mrs Damon's parents, Mr and Mrs Claude Graham, were in La Grande for the graduation exercises.



McNARY PRINCESS—Miss Linda Rae Heimburger of Ione is one of the princesses for the McNary Acqua-Capers to be held over the Fourth of July above McNary dam. She is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Heimburger. (Lyons Photo)

L T "Monk" Coffman Dies at Cecil; Rites Here Tuesday

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 10:30 a m at Creswick Mortuary chapel for L T "Monk" Coffman, who died suddenly Sunday at his home in Cecil. He was 69 years of age.

Loren Thomas Coffman was born November 22, 1889 in Stanfield and lived nearly all his life in the Columbia basin area. In the early part of the century he was noted as being one of the best mule "skinners" in this part of the country and for many years worked on the Weatherford ranch near Arlington where he drove a 16 mule team hauling wheat from the ranch to Arlington.

Mr Coffman is survived by his wife Elizabeth, Cecil; a son Jack of Vancouver, Wash and one daughter Nona. He also leaves three sisters, Myrtle Beard, McMinnville; Thelma Ray, Hayward, Calif; and Bessie Endicott, Portland; one brother, Orville William, Elks National Home in Virginia.

Services were conducted by the Rev Charles Knox and graveside rites were held at the Odd-fellows cemetery in The Dalles Tuesday afternoon.

WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	77	48	—
Friday	83	54	—
Saturday	90	59	—
Sunday	90	53	—
Monday	85	45	—
Tuesday	82	54	—
Wednesday	81	55	.11

Rainfall for the week, .11; for June, .88; for the year, 7.50 inches.