

Court Upholds School Reorganization Law, Board Action

Valuation of Heppner Fire District Determined

The Heppner rural fire protection district, formed last spring by a unanimous vote of the effected residents, will have a taxable valuation of from \$1,500,000 to \$1,750,000, it was revealed this week by the county assessor's office.

The district, though approved by a vote of the residents within it, has not been put in operation, because it was impossible to get it placed on the tax rolls in time to levy assessment for the 1959-60 tax year. With the valuation now determined, the directors of the district will be in a position to set the date for an election to establish a tax base (necessary under the law) and then can set up a budget and get the district on the rolls for next year.

The directors had hoped to be able to get the district in operation during the present year, but an attorney general's interpretation, stated that a vote to establish a tax base could only be held at a primary or general election, so that ballot will be taken at next May's primary.

The city of Heppner has offered to contract with the rural district to provide fire protection in the district for four mills and the directors were planning such a contract when it was found that they would have no money to work with for another year.

In the meantime the city of Heppner has been providing what protection it could to the district with its present equipment, and will continue to do so until funds are made available next year and new equipment designed for rural fire fighting can be purchased. Rural fire calls should be turned in to the Heppner fire department phone number.

When the district was first formed it was thought that it could automatically be placed on the tax rolls as long as its budget was below the maximum allowed by law, but the changed interpretation of the law caused the delay until the tax base could be voted, and such a base could not be approved until it was known what the district's valuation would be.

The same legal snag has kept the Morrow county port district out of operation, for though it was approved by the voters, it also must have a tax base approved by the voters before any taxes can be levied for its operation. This vote will also be held at the next primary election.

District F F A Speaking Contest to Be Held Saturday

The Blue Mountain district FFA chapters will hold their annual public speaking contest next Saturday, Dec 5 at 1:30 in the multipurpose room of the Heppner grade school. Chapters participating will include Wy' East (Hood River), The Dalles, Sherman County High, Boardman, Hermiston, Stanfield, Pendleton, McEwen (Athena), McLoughlin (Milton-Freewater), and Heppner.

Question judges for the scoring will be Glenn Campbell, Dick Wilkinson and Bill Barratt of Heppner. Official judges for the scoring will be Barton Clark, Heppner; Giles French, Moro; and Larry Schaad, Irrigon.

The public is invited to attend.

Mrs Dorothy Stearns of Seattle spent the weekend at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Tom Hughes.



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"YESTERYEARS OF MORROW"

Book of Morrow County History Is Put On Sale By Extension Units

"Yesteryears of Morrow," a 72 page book on the history of Morrow county went on sale this week as the culmination of one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by county extension units.

Compilation of the attractive and informative book was started in January 1959 as a project lesson of the county extension units, though it was not planned at that time to carry the project quite as far as it went. Inasmuch as 1959 is the state's Centennial year, the groups decided to study county history and historians were appointed in each club to compile a history of its own section of the county.

This was done and the result was mimeographed in the county extension office and was entitled "Know Your Morrow County." The demand for the mimeographed copies was so great that they lasted but a few days so the county advisory committee

sought the assistance of the county court in providing some of the funds to print a revised version. The court agreed to supply about half the money necessary and a committee was ap-

pointed to revise and re-edit the original work. The new 72 page printed book is the result of several months of effort by this group.

The editing committee included

Mrs Norman Nelson, chairman; Mrs Omar Rietmann, Mrs Anne Smouse, Mrs Walter Ruggles and Mrs John Bergstrom. The unit historians who gathered the first draft of the history included: Mrs Nathan Thorpe, Mrs Frank Marlow, Mrs Richard Waymire of the Boardman unit; Mrs Douglas Drake and Mrs Clive Huston, Heppner; Mrs Norman Nelson and Mrs Omar Rietmann, Ione; Mrs Lloyd Berger, Mrs Milton Biegel and Mrs Marguerite Houghton, Irrigon; Mrs W E Hughes and Mrs George Currin, Lena unit; Mrs Anne Smouse and Mrs Ruggles, Lexington; Mrs Marion Finch and Mrs Burl Wattenburger, Pine City unit; Mrs William Rawlins and Mrs Kenneth Batty of the Rhea Creek unit.

In various sections the book tells of the early settlers of the area through 1870; of pioneer life; the development of public services and utilities; of the county's early communities; twentieth century towns; and much other interesting information. It also includes old time maps of the county, a list of all the many school districts that at one time functioned throughout the area and a little on the happenings during the 1959 Centennial year.

The book started out to be about 48 pages in size, but grew as additional information was added, and by the time the editing committee typists (and the printers, too!) were through with it, it turned out to be a much larger job than had been anticipated. All who had any part in its production, however have expressed belief that it is one of the finest ever published in Morrow county, or any other Oregon county for a Centennial project.

At the present time the book is on sale only at the Gazette-Times office for \$1.00 per copy. The county extension units will handle mailing and an additional 10 cents is charged to cover postage expense.

About one-half of the total cost of producing the book was provided by the county court, the remaining will be paid from sales. 1000 copies were printed, but advance orders and early sale indicate that the supply will not last indefinitely.

Practical Nursing Classes to Start Soon in Pendleton

Applications are now being accepted for the new class in practical nurse training, which is scheduled to start in Pendleton, January 4, according to Lennis Nash, director of adult and vocational education with the Pendleton public schools.

This class is a one-year full time training course which qualifies trainees to take the Oregon state examination for licensed practical nurse. It is offered through the adult education program of the Pendleton schools in cooperation with St Anthony hospital and the state vocational department. The program is approved by the Oregon state board of nursing.

The training includes both classroom instruction and clinical on-the-job practices, coordinated by the instructor, Mrs Ella Mae Taylor, R N and under special supervision of regular hospital staff supervisors. The students receive wages during their time in clinical practice.

Women desiring to take the class should make application as soon as possible for purposes of processing, as enrollment will be limited to 18. The minimum age of entrance to the class is 17. Further information may be secured by contacting Mr Nash or the Pendleton schools office at 229 S W 1st, Pendleton. Phone Cretswell 6-6711. Brochures and applications will be mailed upon request.

Student Transfer Declared to be Legal

Actions of the Morrow county administrative school board were upheld, and charges that certain Oregon revised statutes relating to the formation of administrative school districts were unconstitutional, were denied in a memorandum opinion handed down this week by circuit judge William W Wells.

The verdict has the effect of clearing the Morrow county school board of charges filed against it in circuit court by a group of residents of Boardman, Hardman and Lexington.

The complaints charged that the Oregon revised statutes providing for an administrative school district without an election of the legal voters of the districts concerned were unconstitutional, and contended the county unit system voted in by election last year was still in effect and the administrative district was unconstitutional.

Judge Wells' opinion stated: "Except where statutes are inconsistent with this section, district school boards shall have

the entire control of their district public schools and of the teachers employed by the district." It further stated each county school board shall, "Determine the boundaries of the territory to be served by each elementary school in the district which territory shall be known as a subdistrict."

The suits were filed against the school board last August by citizens of Hardman, Boardman and Lexington, and sought to prevent the school board from closing certain schools and classes and transferring some grade school students to other schools.

The complaints came as a result of the board's decision to close the Hardman grade school and to transport those students to Heppner; to eliminate the fifth through the eighth grades at the Lexington grade school and transport those students to either Heppner or Ione, whichever was closest, and to combine the seventh and eighth grade classes in the Boardman grade school with those at the Irrigon grade school. The school board justified its action by stating that the defeat by voters of a special supplemental school levy, left them without the necessary money to continue the schools and classes.

The first overall school budget was defeated earlier in the year, and after a reduced budget was approved, complaints by some residents of some of the reductions caused the board to call for a vote on a supplemental budget which would restore the cuts. This was voted down.

Several other points were brought out in the complaint, but Judge Wells' opinion concluded, "The decision that the complaint does not state facts to constitute a cause for suit makes it necessary to discuss other issues raised by the demurrer." (which was filed by the board's attorneys in answer to the complaint.)

The Judge's opinion was released this week by Robert Abrams of the law firm of Mahoney and Abrams, attorneys for the school board.

Heppner P-TA To Have Fun Night At Wednesday Meeting

The Heppner P-TA will meet Wednesday evening, December 9 at the multipurpose room of the elementary school for a fun night program, announces Dr Robert Pfeiffer, program chairman. He asks that everyone come dressed in slacks to take party in volleyball and relay games. He says "this will give everyone a chance to warm up for a cold winter." The slogan for the evening will be "limber up to keep up with the kids."

Mental health was the topic of the last meeting on November 18 with Mrs Velma Glass showing a film on The Four Faces of Good Mental Health, followed by a talk by Dr Wallace Wolff.

Dr Wolff outlines the contributing factors to emotional distress, gave the causes of mental retardation in children and quoted preventions. "Mental health is a question of degree," he said.

Mrs Marion Huggett, P-TA president, announced that Howard Pettyjohn is replacing Ralph Richmond as P-TA institutional representative to the Cub Scouts.

Mrs E E Gonty, chairman of the ways and means committee, reported that \$133 was raised on the dinner given for the Episcopal church and Mrs Richmond reported 230 paid up members to date.

Study group chairman, Mrs William Labhart, outlined the courses which will be offered for classes beginning in January. These classes are also open to non-members of the P-TA and include a high school English refresher course, volleyball, theater group, beginners typing, public speaking and parliamentary procedure, physical fitness class and discussion groups on children's problems. She asked that everyone interested, who had not already signed up, to please get in touch with her or Mrs Creston Robinson.

EXAMINER COMING

A drivers license examiner will be in Heppner Tuesday, Dec 15 at the court house between 9:30 a m and 3:30 p m.

Mrs Tom Sumner and children of Arlington were at the J C Sumner home also for Thanksgiving.



FIRST COPIES OF HISTORY—J R Huffman, right, had the honor of purchasing the first copy of the book of county history, "Yesteryears of Morrow", compiled and published by the county extension units. He accepted delivery of his copy at the Gazette-Times print shop before the entire job was completed. Handing him his book is Mrs John Bergstrom, one of the members of the book's editing committee, and watching is Miss Esther Kirmis, county extension agent. (GT Photo)

EXTRA POST OFFICE HOURS PLANNED DURING CHRISTMAS

Extended window service for the Christmas service will start December 12 at the Heppner post office, it was announced today by James H Driscoll, postmaster.

The holiday season hours for 8:30 a m to 6:00 p m including Saturday, Dec 12 and Dec 19, and on Sunday, Dec 20 mail will be received for distribution, but there will be no evening dispatch, Driscoll announced. The extended hours will continue through Dec 23.

Patrons are urged to present out of town mail separate from

local mail as an aid to postal clerks during the rush season. By "out of town mail" is meant mail with anything other than a Heppner address. Labels for bundles of Christmas cards or letters are available free at the post office and local stationery stores.

Christmas cards not sealed may be sent for three cents to any place in the United States. No writing is permitted in an unsealed card at the three cent rate (except when addressed for delivery in Heppner.) Christmas cards, if sealed, and leaving the delivery district of Heppner must carry four cents postage.

Patrons are urged to carefully pack, wrap and tie all parcels, and the postal department reminds mailers that a broken present is a bitter disappointment to the addressee.

It is anticipated that December 17, 18 and 19 will be the heaviest days for mailing at the local office. However, Driscoll hopes that most patrons will have their parcels well on their way before those dates.

Many Students Home For Thanksgiving

Among those home from colleges for the Thanksgiving holiday were Doug Gribble, Renn Harris, Joan Spencer, Williamat University; Dick Ruhl, Boise JC; Susan McQuarrie, Janice Beamer, Janice Martin, Gail Cox, Jimmy Hayes, Shirley Kononen, Mr and Mrs Dick Kononen, Oregon State College; Lance Tibbles, Judie Brannon, University of Oregon; Bob Huffman, Whitman; Bob Mahoney, Marilyn Calvin, Bill Hughes, Pacific University; Judy Collins, Business College in Portland; Jim Morris, Burke Gentry, Eastern Oregon College; Ned Clark, Linfield College; Darrell Blake, Portland State; Janice Driscoll, Links Business College, Boise; Bob Bryant, OIT, Klamath Falls.

WEATHER

	Hi	Low
Wednesday	67	33
Thursday	52	19
Friday	48	17
Saturday	44	22
Sunday	50	26
Monday	50	27
Tuesday	45	24
Wednesday	36	22

Rainfall for the week, none; for November .45; for the year 10.40 inches.

Riverside Hi Host To Opening Hoop Jamboree

By NEAL PENLAND

Heppner High's Mustangs open the 1959-60 basketball campaign Friday night on the Riverside, of Boardman, court against the Umatilla Vikings in the last game of the annual opening hoop jamboree. Other games that night will be Riverside vs Echo and Ione and Stanfield.

Thirty-four boys have turned out for practice so far but coach Clint Agee states, "The first 10 spots are still wide open." He also said he would like to see some more boys turn out.

The schedule for the season is:

- Dec 4—Jamboree at Boardman.
- Dec 11—Moro at Heppner
- Dec 15—Ione at Heppner
- Dec 18—Helix at Helix
- Jan 8—Echo at Heppner
- Jan 9—Elgin at Elgin
- Jan 15—Stanfield at Stanfield
- Jan 16—Pilot Rock at PR
- Jan 22—Riverside at Heppner
- Jan 23—Elgin at Heppner
- Jan 29—Umatilla at Heppner
- Jan 30—Echo at Echo
- Feb 5—Stanfield at Heppner
- Feb 6—Union at Union
- Feb 9—Ione at Heppner
- Feb 12—Riverside at Riverside
- Feb 13—Mac-HI at M-F
- Feb 19—Umatilla at Umatilla
- Feb 20—Union at Heppner
- Feb 26—Moro at Moro
- Feb 27—Ione at Ione

Final Call Issued By Elks for Hides

The Heppner Elks lodge today issued a final appeal to hunters for deer, elk, (or cow!) hides which are used by the lodge for its veterans' program. They are wanted by December 13 when the year's collection will be shipped to the tanners.

Several hundred hides have already been turned in this year, but anyone having any kind of hide to donate can leave it at any service station in Heppner, Lexington or Ione, or at the lodge in Heppner.

FARMERS UNION TO MEET TUESDAY

The Morrow county Farmers Union will meet Tuesday, Dec 8 at 8 p m at the Max Barclay ranch.

NAME MISSED

Carol K Anderson's name was omitted from a recent story about the Heppner high school honor roll. She should have been included on the high honor roll list.

Mr and Mrs Gordon Pratt were in Pendleton Friday evening to visit friends.