

# Board Refuses Hardman School Reopening Bid

Hardman residents made a concerted effort at the county school board meeting Monday night to win approval for the reopening of their closed grade school, but the board stood on its previous decision to keep the school closed and transport the students to Heppner. The vote on the question was 5 to 1.

Hardman residents had previously offered to donate the necessary labor to put the building in repair and had asked the budget committee to include \$8475 for its operation next year.

During the discussion, which at times got quite heated, Hardman spokesmen pointed out that the district provides over \$41,000 in taxes to the county, far more than they are asking for operation of the school. They also claimed that roofing and siding repair to the building would be minor, in contrast to the board's statement that extensive repairs would be needed.

Board members pointed to a state department standardiza-

tion report which condemned the building and one stated, "the year of the one room school is past—it can't be justified for its expense or limited educational program." The board also stressed that the quality of education provided in larger classes and individual teachers had much to do with their decision.

A Boardman delegation again asked that their 7th and 8th grade classes be returned to their school (they now are combined at Irrigon), but their request was tabled for the time being until further information on development in the Boardman bombing range area can be obtained.

A report of the Lexington school advisory board was presented by D O Nelson, director from that district. They asked that 5th and 6th grades be returned to Lexington next year; that Pine City area students not attend school outside the county at county expense; and that teachers not be requested, or recommended by the board to be members of the OEA. The board tabled the recommendations for study.

Boardman representatives told the board they wanted their complete school in operation because they feared that when the federal government replaces their school, when it is drowned out by the John Day dam, that they will get only what is occupied.

James M Henderson, board member from Irrigon resigned from the board, and Harvey Warner, Irrigon was appointed to serve until the next election. The resignation of Joe H Stewart, assistant county school superintendent for Heppner, was accepted by the board, and action was taken to fill the position by expanding the duties of Gordon Pratt, high school principal and Hillard Brown, elementary principal. Other supervisory personnel will not be hired.

In policy action, the board voted mileage for budget committee members and against providing budget money for the purchase of band uniforms. The board will meet later this month with attorneys concerning the court suit now pending against the district, but made it plain that they will not dicker over any settlement of the question. They will also hold a hearing in Pine City on Feb 16 concerning the approximately 20 students in that area who are now going to Echo schools.

## Stewart Gets Baker Position

Joe H Stewart, superintendent of the Heppner schools for the past five years, last week resigned his position to accept the post as school superintendent of district R-61 in Baker county.

Stewart will take over his duties in June as superintendent of the second largest school district in Baker county which includes two high schools and five grade schools. He will have high schools at Richland and Halfway, and grade schools at Richland, Halfway, Oxbow, Brownlee and Pine. There are 50 employees in the seven schools.

Stewart came to Heppner in 1956 from Coburg as school superintendent and served in that capacity until the recent school reorganization in the county, when his title was changed to assistant county superintendent. In addition to his school work, he has been active in chamber of commerce activities and the Heppner Christian church.

## Two Ione 4-H'ers Attend State Club Conference at Salem

Mardine Baker and Kenneth Lynn Smouse, both of Ione, returned Saturday evening from attending the annual Oregon 4-H club conference. Chosen as Morrow county delegates, they participated in this "Know Your State Government" conference with boy and girl delegates from all counties throughout Oregon. They were selected as top 4-H club members here.

Members attending the conference gathered at the Marion Hotel conference headquarters for a group dinner Thursday evening, February 4. Conference plans and operations were announced with a get acquainted party following.

The opening conference Friday morning was held at the House of Representatives chamber at the state capitol. During the two day session the groups participated in conferences dealing with the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of Oregon's government. Speakers were Howell Appling, secretary of state; Walter Pearson, president of the senate; Robert Duncan, house speaker; Charles A Sprague, former governor of Oregon; Howard Belton, state treasurer; and chief justice William McAllister of the supreme court.

## Ione Army Man Receives Promotion

CRALLSHEIM, GERMANY (AHTNC) — Rudolph W Bergstrom, son of Mr and Mrs Erick W Bergstrom, Ione, Ore., recently was promoted to specialist four in Germany, where he is a member of the 4th Armored Division. Specialist Bergstrom, a driver in headquarters company of the division's combat command C in Crallsheim, entered the Army in October 1958, completed basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and arrived overseas last April. The 24-year-old soldier is a 1953 graduate of Ione high school and attended Oregon State College. He was engaged in farming, before entering the Army.

## 500 Named on 1960 County Jury Panel

Elsewhere in today's Gazette-Times is the 1960 jury panel drawn last month by the county court. The 500 persons named on the panel are subject to jury call during the coming year.

# Two-Shift School Basis Seen Near

The Heppner P-TA Wednesday night heard school officials say that the Heppner schools are the ones facing the greatest school problem for classroom space at this time due to increased enrollment, and that next year Heppner grade school students face the possibility of having to attend two-shift classes.

In reporting on a meeting Tuesday of the Heppner building advisory committee, superintendent Joe Stewart said the committee stated six classrooms for next year in the Heppner plant are necessary. Such a proposal was recently vetoed by the county building committee.

The Heppner building committee made three recommendations which will be presented to the school board: 1-Acquire a new site, build a 6 room unit on it for occupancy as soon as possible, the building to be eventually called the Lexington-Heppner high school. 2-Vote a serial levy of not over 10 mills to pay for the construction. 3-As soon as legally free to do so, float a bond to pay for the building program.

Stewart said that no one at the Heppner meeting felt that there should be only one high school in the south end of the county—a suggestion which

# HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, February 11, 1960

76th Year, Number 49

10 Cents



HOSE LINES were taken up ladders and fire escapes to control fire Sunday night which for a time threatened to destroy the 48 room Heppner Hotel. As windows were opened to air out the building, smoke poured from all sides.



HEPPNER DEPARTMENT PUMPER supplied three hose lines for firemen for nearly three hours before Hotel blaze was completely extinguished. City's other truck and firemen worked at the rear of the building.



A SECOND ALARM brought help from Lexington and Ione fire departments during Heppner Hotel fire Sunday night. Here the Ione and Lexington trucks are parked beside a Heppner rig. Their help fortunately was not needed, but had the fire broken into the attic, all available equipment would probably have been used. They stayed on standby until a Heppner truck could be released.

## KINZUA REVEALS PAYROLL AND TAX FIGURES FOR TWO OPERATIONS

Kinzua Corporation last week released payroll and tax figures for its two operations in Wheeler county and in Heppner.

Payroll for 1959 at the Kinzua plant totaled \$2,261,716.53 and these wages were paid to approximately 400 employees.

1959 property taxes paid by the corporation exceeded \$120,000 and the breakdown showed \$77,934 went to Wheeler county, \$39,680 to Morrow, \$2,443 to Gilliam, and \$1,591 to Grant county.

Not included in the above figures is anything for the Heppner plant and operations which were purchased late last year from Heppner Pine Mills. During 1959 the Heppner operations issued a total payroll of \$531,621.81 and paid \$15,422 in property taxes to Morrow county.

Even prior to its acquisition of Heppner Pine Mills, Kinzua was Morrow county's second largest taxpayer inasmuch as a large part of its timber holdings are in the county.

Maurice Brown, Kinzua manager, said early this week in Heppner that the company is currently carrying on a study of waste products at the Heppner mill to see if the installation of a bark and chipper here is feasible. He also reaffirmed a previous statement that Kinzua plans a continued year-around operation of the Heppner mill and that other developments will be studied in the future.

The pastors of the Spokane conference of the Northwestern district of the Lutheran church concluded two days of meetings at Hope Lutheran church Wednesday.

A crisis arose Sunday night when the Hotel Heppner was threatened by a smoky fire, as 50 of the 52 visiting pastors were slated to stay in the hotel. The church office and many members of the Hope Lutheran congregation received calls from residents of all denominations in the area offering emergency housing. Rev John Rydberg, pastor of Hope, reported that he and the pastors in the conference were moved by the community response. In one of the business meetings the conference went on record to publicly thank all who offered to open their homes. Arrangements were made however to house the visitors at the hotel.

Among the dignitaries attending the conference was pastor Varner of Columbus, Ohio. Mr Varner is connected with the stewardship and finance at the headquarters of the American Lutheran church.

The pastors had all their meals at the churches with meal preparation divided between Hope and Valby. A banquet and communion service was held at Valby Tuesday night. A smorgasbord was prepared by the Hope church on Wednesday.

Rev Rydberg reported the 52 visiting ministers enjoyed and appreciated the efforts made by members of both local congregations during the two day meeting.

John McRoberts of Portland was in Heppner Friday evening on business. Accompanying him from Pendleton was Pat Healy.

# Damage Held Down to \$12,000 In Sunday Night Hotel Fire

Heppner suffered its greatest fire loss in several years Sunday night when flames threatened to destroy the Heppner Hotel. Damage estimated at \$12,000 was caused before the fire was controlled.

The alarm was sounded about 9:30 p m Sunday and responding firemen found smoke coming from all open doors and windows in the building. As soon as hose lines could be laid and pumps put into operation a second alarm was blown to summon aid, and as a precaution both the Lexington and Ione fire departments were called to assist.

The flames started near the top of stairs leading to the basement and before they were controlled they had followed up a rear stair well and walls into the third floor. They broke out into adjacent rooms on both the second and third floors and about six rooms, in addition to hallways and stairs were extensively damaged by fire.

The fire was stopped before it broke through the ceiling of the third floor into an open attic. Firemen were afraid of

such an occurrence and expressed the belief that had the fire gotten into the attic, probably the whole building would have been gutted.

After initial survey of the fire was made and the extent of the flames was determined, department officers decided to sound a second alarm and call for help from Lexington and Ione. Both the neighboring departments sent trucks and men, but the fire had been confined by the time they arrived and they stayed on standby for nearly an hour before returning home.

Firemen were forced to use all available gas and smoke masks to make their way through the building and as windows were opened to ventilate the three story structure smoke poured from all openings, giving the appearance that the fire was spreading throughout the hotel.

About a dozen guests were in the hotel when the fire started, but all left hurriedly and there were no injuries, though one or two firemen became sick from overexposure to smoke.

At the peak of the blaze the two Heppner fire rigs had seven hose lines in play in addition to three building lines. Smoke damage was general throughout the building, but water damage was pretty well confined to the immediate area and to the basement, where the hotel heating system was put out of commission for nearly a day.

Insurance adjusters placed the damage at about \$12,000, nearly all of which was covered by insurance. Faulty wiring was thought to be the cause.

The smoke and sirens attracted a large crowd of onlookers, and several persons who had offices and businesses in the building moved out important records and equipment when it was feared the entire building might be lost.

Some minor smoke damage also occurred in the Heppner Hardware and Electric store, which adjoins the hotel on the south. Smoke seeped into the store and was first noticed coming out of the ventilators at the front of the store. It was not damaged by fire.

To compound the troubles of Mr and Mrs Darrell Shel, owners and operators of the hotel, a convention of about 50 Lutheran ministers were to be housed for three days starting Monday night. All out efforts Monday got rooms in usable condition and nearly all the visitors cared for, even though the smell of smoke was still strong.

Insurance adjusters congratulated the Heppner fire department for its control of the blaze and the Heppner department has expressed its appreciation to Lexington and Ione departments for their assistance.

## Gas Leakage Again Closes Businesses In Ione Block

Stefani's Fine Food, the Standard Oil Company plant and Barnett's Chevron Station at Ione are all closed down and the area roped off while assistant state fire marshals and Standard Oil Company engineers continue their attempts to find the source of gasoline leakage that has been saturating the area for nearly three weeks.

The restaurant had been re-opened some time ago when it was thought the seepage had been stopped, but recent test holes have shown the entire area still saturated with petroleum.

## BEER MISSING

Thomson's Grocery reported to police Monday that the store was broken into probably Sunday night and as far as could be determined, just a half-case of beer was stolen.

Entry was gained by breaking a rear window with a rock.

## DATE WRONG

Last week's G-T story about voter registration deadline set the wrong date as the last day to register for the May primary election. The correct is April 19, not April 9.

# Lexington Youth Killed Saturday Near Hardman

Bernard Phillip Doherty, 14, was killed just before midnight Saturday when the car in which he was riding overturned on the wet highway about four miles north of Hardman. He was the son of Mr and Mrs William J Doherty, Sand Hollow ranchers.

Bernard, who was a freshman at Echo high school, was returning from a dance at Hardman with his older brother Billy at the wheel. Investigating police said the car apparently missed a turn or possible a tire blew out. It overturned pinning Bernard beneath it.

Billy was hospitalized overnight at Heppner with contusions and shock.

Rosary was recited at 7:30 p m Tuesday at Folsom's Funeral chapel in Pendleton and requiem mass was Wednesday at St Mary's church in Pendleton, with Rev Raymond Beard of Heppner officiating. Interment was in the Olney cemetery, Pendleton.

Bernard is survived by his parents, brother William James, Lexington; and maternal grandparents, Mr and Mrs James Daly of Heppner.

# Industrial Park Plans Seen For North Morrow

County Judge Oscar Peterson said today that he just received word that a public information meeting on the bombing range development has been set for Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 p m at the Boardman gym. Governor Mark Hatfield will take part in the discussion.

The Associated Press reports that Governor Mark Hatfield and Morrow county officials reviewed Monday preliminary plans for a 100,000 acre space age industrial park on the Columbia river in Morrow county.

Warne Nunn, executive assistant to the governor, said the main purpose of the Monday meeting was to clear up misunderstandings. He said the principal misunderstanding was that a large missile company has agreed to locate in that area. No agreement has been made yet, he added.

Nunn asserted that the group discussed plans to get access to the area. State officials now are negotiating with the department of defense and the bureau of land management.

Nunn said the proposed park would be used by several space oriented industries, and that it offers the advantage of being flat and with access to river, rail and highway transportation.

County Judge Oscar Peterson, who with members of the county court and the Morrow county port commission, attended the Monday meeting, said Wednesday that the state is now working on a transfer of state lands for the federally owned bombing range area. He said nothing is definite yet, but was told that in addition to defense-aligned industry, inquiries have been received by the state from other industries.

A public information meeting is being planned in the near future. It will be held at Boardman, and Governor Hatfield is expected to take part in explaining what the state is trying to accomplish in the north end of the county.

## Improper Parking To Be Checked

Heppner police warned motorists this week that citations will be issued to those persons who park improperly during the evening hours around Heppner Auto Sales (Ford).

The police said they allow parking in driveways during off-business hours to accommodate show trade, but many are parking clear across the sidewalk and blocking pedestrian traffic. When parking in the area, cars must be stopped at the curb line, chief of police Dean Gilman said.

## WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	54	40	Tr
Friday	55	45	.01
Saturday	57	31	—
Sunday	57	37	.14
Monday	54	35	.21
Tuesday	52	39	—
Wednesday	46	32	.18

Rainfall for the week .54; for February .64; for the year 2.06 inches.

## Week's Storms Bring More Rain

A continuing series of storms, this time the warm and wet type, blew across Morrow county during the past week and added an additional .54 inches of moisture. The better than one-half inch of rain was measured at the Heppner weather station, but most sections of the county received close to that amount.

The Oregon coast and Willamette Valley was battered by two storms Saturday and Monday, both of which also brought fairly strong winds and rain to Eastern Oregon. An additional six or more inches of snow has fallen in the Blue Mountains during the week.

The moisture was generally welcomed by most farmers, except those who are in the middle of lambing and now have to fight muddy pens. A total of over two inches of moisture has fallen in Heppner since the first of the year.

## Some Days You Just Can't Win

Last Saturday evening Edward R Simmons, Rt 1, Heppner had a flat tire on his car while driving down Hardman hill. That alone was enough trouble in the rain and wind.

Simmons got the flat off and the spare partly bolted on the wheel when his luck got even worse. A strong gust of wind blew the car off the jack and it rolled nearly 200 feet over the steep bank.

Net result: \$1000 damage to his 1955 Buick.