

Creamery Starts 45th Year in Heppner

April 1, 1960 marked the start of the 45th year for a Heppner business which is unique in all of Eastern Oregon. . . . It is the sole remaining independent creamery east of the Cascade Mountains. It is unique because it still flourishes in an area where dairy cattle have almost become a rarity, and because it is the last independently operated creamery business east of the mountains.

When the Morrow County Creamery Company first began operations on April 1, 1916 there were 33 similar independent creameries producing butter, milk and other dairy products in the eastern part of Oregon. Today, the Heppner creamery which is owned and operated by Mr and Mrs Claude Cox, is the sole remaining non-cooperative business of its type.

When the Morrow county creamery first began operations in 1916, dairying was a common farm operation in this area. It was incorporated, in the beginning, by John Wightman, Charles Thomson and Ira Morgan. Wightman until fairly recently owned and operated the Alfalfa Lawn Dairy, and Morgan was the first buttermaker, and the creamery in its early years made only butter.

The present owner, who has been connected with the business since its beginning, started as the driver for the milk delivery wagon — a job he held down for three years.

A quick look at the history of the business is interesting: It was first located in the old Gilman building (where Economy Market is now located on West Willow street); in 1920 it was moved to the corner of Main and Center streets; and in 1930 was moved to its present location at Chase and Center streets. The present modern creamery building was built at that time by Mr and Mrs Cox who in 1932 bought the controlling stock in the business and became sole owners.

Mr Cox came to Heppner in 1905 from Galaxi, Virginia, and he has devoted almost his entire life to the creamery business (with a few days out, especially in recent years, for fishing and hunting—hobbies which have cost him at least three serious injuries and permanent partial dismemberment).

Pride of Oregon
The products of the Morrow County Creamery Company have long been known by the brand name of "Pride of Oregon" and it is a matter of strict pride among all persons connected



45 YEARS IN CREAMERY—W C (Claude) Cox, owner of Heppner's Morrow County Creamery, this month started his 45th year in the creamery business here. He stands beside his modern delivery truck, which is quite a contrast to one of the original delivery wagons, shown below. (GT Photo)



CREAMERY'S MILK WAGON—Claude Cox, left, and Jim Clabaugh stand beside the Morrow County Creamery milk wagon that was used for home deliveries of fresh milk in 1917. The rig had just been purchased from the Wightman's Alfalfa Lawn Dairy and still carries that name. The house in the background is still standing just off South Court St and is owned by Mr and Mrs Frank Adkins. On the hillside across the creek is the flume that provided water for the old flour mill. Portions of it still remain.

with the firm, that Pride of Oregon products have for years received top cleanliness and quality ratings from state departments concerned with dairy products. The men currently producing the dairy items which are distributed throughout Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties are, in addition to Claude Cox, his son Bill, and grandson David, who helps during the summer school vacation; Durward Tash, who has been butter-maker for 26 years, and Robert

Hopper who is the 'front man' and sees to it that the products are delivered each day to local retailers.

With the decline of dairying in the local area, the creamery has been forced to reach out further for its supply of fresh cream, and now it buys its raw products largely from dairymen in the Spray, Monument and John Day areas, as well as from farmers in Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.

The business adds a sizeable

payroll to the Heppner area, for in 1959 it paid well over \$14,000 in wages to employees, and added another \$300 to local economy in taxes and insurance.

During the winter months, the creamery's owner can usually be found around the plant or out looking over his retail outlets, but with the opening of fishing season, he and Mrs Cox "migrate" to their comfortable cabin in the mountains where every fish for miles around is personally known to both of them—and a lot of them fall prey to their hooks.

After more than 70 years of work, a few fishing and hunting trips should be in order.

Lone Council Plans New Special Levy

By ECHO PALMATEER

The American Legion Auxiliary meeting was held at the home of Mrs Omar Rietmann Tuesday afternoon, April 5 with Mrs James Barnett as co-hostess. A certificate of appreciation for clothing sent to the Save the Children Federation was received for child welfare work. Plans were made for the child welfare tea. Mrs Ted Palmateer is child welfare chairman. A certificate was also received for donations to Camp White for rehabilitation. Mrs John Eubanks is the chairman of this project. Susan Harts a junior member was reported to be in the Shrine hospital in Portland following a foot operation. Mrs Vester Hams, junior chairman, reported that she took the junior girls on a hike recently. Prizes were received by Mrs Sam Esteb and Mrs Barnett.

The meeting of the city council was held Tuesday evening, April 5. The council members voted to paint the city hall inside and outside. A deed has been received by the city for the city park. The council and officials were invited to attend a League of Oregon Cities meeting in Pendleton, April 29. Since the serial levy of 10 mills expires this year, a new one will be drawn up and voted on at the primary election, May 20. The levy will go toward city improvements.

Mrs Omar Rietmann and Mrs Cecil Thorne were elected delegates to the Rebekah Assembly of Oregon at Eugene May 15 to 19 at a meeting of the Bunchgrass Rebekah lodge Thursday evening of last week. Mrs Adon Hamlett and Mrs Cleo Drake were elected alternates. Mrs Thorne was recommended as district deputy. The lodge voted to give \$5 to the Red Cross and to send \$5 to the Pioneer Memorial hospital to go toward the air conditioner. After the meeting, refreshments were served by Mrs E R Lundell, Mrs Ewing Hynd and Mrs Anna Lindstrom. The study meeting of the Topic club was held at the home of Mrs Verner Troedson Friday afternoon, April 8 with Mrs Garry Tullis and Mrs Echo Palmateer as co-hostesses. At the business meeting conducted by Mrs Norman Nelson, president, members gave suggestions for next year's program. Among them

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were on archeology, on Africa, music, modern art, National parks, flower arrangements, the Pacific Northwest, the European system of schools and other subjects. The roll call was answered by naming a Hawaiian flower. Mrs Palmateer showed slides on Hawaii taken on a trip there two years ago. The May meeting will be held at the Charles Carlson home. The social meeting will be held at the home of Mrs Omar Rietmann, April 23 at 2 P M.

Mrs Tom White and daughters visited her parents, Mr and Mrs Leland Moe in Portland last week.

Mr and Mrs Bill Rietmann and sons spent Sunday in Arlington with relatives.

Mrs Beulah Lundell of Portland visited relatives here for a few days.

Judge Oscar Peterson, who has been a patient in the Emanuel hospital in Portland is staying with his daughter and family. Mr and Mrs Rod Kvistad in Beaverton.

Mr and Mrs Dale Ray returned home last week. Mrs Ray recently underwent an eye operation at the Good Samaritan hospital. They will return this week where she will receive a checkup. They will also visit relatives at Lyle, Wash.

Patients from here in the Pioneer Memorial hospital are Mrs Ellen Riehl and Mrs Herbert Ekstrom.

Mrs Gordon White and daughter, Lona, and son, Charles, attended funeral services for Mrs Dewey West Sr in Arlington Saturday.

Mr and Mrs Harry Spencer of Prineville were recent visitors at the Ernest Helker and the Donald Helker homes.

The Eastern Star Social club met at the Masonic hall Wednesday afternoon of last week and practiced for the district convention in Heppner April 22. Refreshments were served by Mrs Roy Lindstrom.

Mrs John Clerf and children of Kittitas, Wash are visiting her parents, Mr and Mrs Elvin Schaffer in Cecil.

Baptismal services were held at the Community church Sunday morning with Rev Rod MacKenzie officiating assisted by E Markham Baker.

Weekend visitors at the Donald Olmscheid home were Mr and Mrs Joseph Olmscheid of Portland and Mr and Mrs Wayne Olmscheid of Athena.

Mr and Mrs Earl McKinney and son, Allan, of Hermlston were visitors here Sunday.

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HEPPNER STORES

ANNOUNCE

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SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 15-16