

FIRES EVERYWHERE ELSE—

# Heppner Area Forests Still Without Blazes

The Heppner Forest Ranger office reported this morning that Wednesday afternoon's thunder storms set two small fires in the district, the first that have been started in this area. Both were in the vicinity of Tamarack Mountain on the John Day slope of the forest.

Both were quickly controlled with the help of Kinzua Corp crews.

A small amount of rain fell during the storm, and additional lightning storms are forecast for today and tomorrow.

Forest fires by the hundreds still dot much of the Umatilla and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, but up till Wednesday afternoon the Heppner ranger district of the Umatilla still had been lucky enough to have been bypassed by dry lightning storms that set off the blazes more than 10 days ago.

More than two thirds of the entire 30 man crew of the Heppner ranger district, 22 men plus district ranger Vic Kreimeyer,

have been called to other districts in the forest to help combat blazes that have blackened thousands of acres of timber and grassland in the Dale, Ukiah, Pendleton and Pomeroy, Washington districts. Over 4000 men are still fighting the largest of the fires, the Anthony Lakes blaze south of Baker and La Grande and about 2000 are mopping up fires in the Umatilla forests.

The Heppner district fire suppression crews were called out of this district Wednesday, July 20 and none of them have yet returned to Heppner. Wives of many of the men still have no knowledge as to the whereabouts of their husbands and most of them probably have worked on several fires during the past week.

A lightning storm Tuesday evening, which again fortunately missed the Heppner district, started another 50 new fires in the Umatilla forest, district clerk Oliver Creswick reported Wednesday morning. About 7 or 8 of those were in the Dale district, which along with Ukiah

had battled many serious fires in recent days. One blaze near the town of Ukiah last weekend destroyed a large amount of range land and timber of property owned by W E Hughes of Heppner. He was able to get his cattle out of the path of the flames, but all grassland was burned.

Kinzua Corporation crews from Heppner, assisted other crews late last week in controlling another blaze west of Ukiah near Kinzua timber stands. Timber crews from both the Heppner and Kinzua operations are on a standby basis to assist the Heppner ranger district in case predicted storms start fires in this area. Only 8 men, including lookouts, are left on duty in the Heppner district of the Forest Service.

**Outlook Not Good**  
The Forest Service weather forecast received here Wednesday morning called for lightning storms again Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and many persons were concerned that one of the storms might start things popping here like others have done in nearly all other districts of the Umatilla forest.

A tornadic-type circular wind storm struck the Willow creek valley area about 6 p m Tuesday bringing a heavy dust storm, but in most sections there was little or no rain.

Extreme caution has been urged on anyone using or traveling in the forest areas of the Blue Mountains. The unusually dry conditions and very low humidity (down to 10 percent at times) makes fire conditions the most hazardous seen in this section of the state in many years.

No major grain or field fires have been reported in the southern part of Morrow county during the past week, but all fire fighting equipment and farm fire suppression rigs are being kept ready at all times.

## Local Hams Aid With Fire Fighting

Two amateur radio Hams from Morrow county have, or still are, assisting with vital communications at the 25,000 acre Anthony Lakes fire near Baker. They are Earl Blake, Heppner, K7CJC, and Gunnar Skoubo, Boardman whose call is K7DSW.

The two were called to help another 20 hams who have been operating emergency radio stations at six locations around the big fire since the middle of last week. Both left here Monday morning and Blake, who is Morrow county emergency radio corp coordinator, returned Wednesday to be available here in case of need in this section of the forest. Skoubo is remaining on in Baker county to assist.

Blake was stationed at Tucker Flat between Anthony Lakes and Baker and Skoubo had been assigned to another station in the same area. The Ham communications network, which is part of the Oregon Emergency Network of Hams, is handling a great amount of communications for the Forest Service and other agencies fighting the fires in Eastern Oregon. Another group of Hams from the Enterprise area are assisting on the fires along the Snake River and Hell's Canyon.

Several of the 20 Hams on the Anthony Lakes blaze live in the Willamette Valley.

## Commercial Teacher Hired for Heppner

County school superintendent Robert Van Houte announced Wednesday that Norman Bonn of San Francisco has been hired to teach commercial and business subjects next year at Heppner high school.

Bonn is a graduate of Stanford University and has taught for 11 years at the Yuba City, Calif high school and Yuba City college.

Four other teaching positions in the county schools still remain to be filled, Van Houte said.

Mrs Fredrick McClintock of Cecil recently returned from a trip east and California to visit relatives. Her daughter Suzanne, who accompanied her, remained in California for the rest of the vacation with her aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Claire Thompson.

## 7 Combines Join To Harvest North Lexington Widow's Wheat Crop



**THIS HARVESTING WAS DONE IN A HURRY**—Just recently a heart attack took the life of Alex Lindsay, on whose farm in the North Lexington area this picture was taken last weekend, and just before harvest started, a son Larry broke his leg. The combination of events pretty well stymied Mrs Lindsay's harvest plans until her brother, W J Doherty, and others moved in with this answer—seven combines working at one time. Three of the machines belonged to the Lindsay ranch. Doherty brought three, of his, and

Padberg Machinery Company of Lexington (who incidentally sold all of the machines) added one more to the collection. The combination of combines cut a swath well over 100 feet wide at every pass around a field and harvested about 350 acres a day. This is thought to be one of the few, if not the only time, that seven combines of the same make ever worked a Morrow county ranch at one time. The sight may not be duplicated in many years.

## Dance Slated For Princess Geraldine



PRINCESS GERALDINE SWAGGART

The third in the series of Morrow County Fair and Rodeo dances will be held Saturday night at the fair pavilion honoring princess Geraldine Swaggart of the Lena Community.

Princess Gerry, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Swaggart, has lived all her 16 years on her parents' wheat and cattle ranch 19 miles northeast of Heppner in the Butter Creek area.

Princess Geraldine is an outdoor girl who has taken an active part in work on the ranch. She has been riding since she was three years old and says she rode with someone holding her on before that. Her summers are spent on horseback for each year she helps with a roundup and cattle drive moving the family herd 30 miles into the mountains. Besides her mother and father, a brother Paul 13, helps with the drive. Last year she spotted trucks on the ranch during harvest and is driving a wheat truck from the ranch to the Morrow County Grain Growers elevator in Heppner.

The petite 5 foot, 2 inch princess does farm chores the year around and takes care of her horses. Amder Doll, a thoroughbred bay mare will be her official horse in the fair and rodeo. She has trained the seven year old mare that was raised on the ranch.

Fair time has always been an exciting time for Princess Geraldine for her family has been active in Morrow County Fair and Rodeo activities as long as she can remember. Her father has been active in the rodeo for over 20 years and recently served on the fair board. Her older sister, Lauraine Swaggart Beardsley, now of Portland, was a princess in 1948 and another sister, Christine Swaggart Buschke, was queen in 1957. Princess Geraldine has ridden in competition and the parade since she was old enough to enter.

She served as pennant bearer for the Wranglers in 1959 and she and her sister Christine each won a belt buckle from the Wranglers for earning the most points in her class in competition in the 1956 rodeo. She was chosen queen of the Ukiah rodeo in 1957 and was a princess in this year's Arlington rodeo.

Though she loves the outdoors, the princess has found time to finish four years in a 4-H sewing club. She is active in sports at school, being a member of the Heppner high school volleyball team and the track team. She has served as cheer leader, is a member of the Pep club, chorus and Future Business Leaders of America.

Following graduation in two years she plans to enter nurse's training.

Music for her dance will be furnished by the Leonnig Family of Heppner.

# HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, July 28, 1960

10 Cents

77th Year, Number 21

## Information on New Families Needed by School Officials

Heppner and county school officials this week asked for information on new families who have moved into the Heppner school attendance area in recent months who will have first grade students in school here this fall.

The information is needed to determine the number of first grade rooms and teachers that will be needed here this fall. A census was taken early this year, but new residents who have moved here since then have not been recorded.

Anyone knowing of such families are asked to call either the county superintendent's office or the Heppner grade school, phone 6-9130 or 6-9248.

## Clock Donated to Heppner Swim Pool; Lessons To Start

A large clock was installed this week at the Heppner swimming pool which should greatly help youngsters get home on time from their daily swim. The clock was the gift of Gene Pierce, manager of the Heppner branch of the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

Lifeguard and instructor Tom Hughes announced this week that the last session of swimming lessons will start Aug 2 for beginners, intermediate and junior lifesaving students. Adult lessons will start the evening of August 2.

Hughes also asked any grade school boys or girls who are interested in races for water ballet to contact him during the first two weeks in August.

## Highlights of Demo Convention Related By Rep. Al Ullman

Rep Al Ullman met with about 40 Morrow county citizens at the Newt O'Harra home in Lexington the evening of July 23. Accompanying Mr Ullman was Ron Ahern of Baker, Ullman's executive assistant. The second district congressman described highlights of the Democratic National convention in Los Angeles and spoke highly of the independence and decisiveness of Senator John Kennedy, the party's presidential nominee.

State Representative Frank Weatherford spoke briefly outlining the value of legislative experience in a legislator.

Prior to the meeting the Congressman and Ron Ahern visited and had dinner at the Al Lamb home in Heppner. They and the Morrow county Democratic chairman discussed campaign strategy and various issues as they effect the people of this county.

Jean and Sue Scritsmeyer of Portland are guests of the Jimmy Prock family.

## Average Size Farm In County Larger, Census Shows

The 1959 Census of Agriculture, conducted in Morrow county last fall, counted 386 farms, according to a preliminary report just issued by the Bureau of the Census. U S Department of Commerce. Total land in farms was 1,109,903 acres. The average size of farm was 2,875.4 acres. The average value of farms (land and buildings) in the county was \$140,842. Five years ago the average size farm in the county was only slightly over 2200 acres and the value of \$74,862.

Of the county's farm operators, 175 owned their farms, 137 owned part of the land and rented additional acreage, and 69 were tenant farmers.

The average age of farm operators in the county was 50.1 years. There were 56 farm operators 65 or more years of age.

Of the 386 farms in the county, 292 were commercial farms. Detailed statistics on crops, livestock, equipment, etc, are presented in the preliminary report, with comparable statistics for 1954. Copies of the county report may be obtained for 10 cents each from the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D C.

## Chamber Hears of ASC Office Duties

The operation of many of the Federal agricultural programs in Morrow county was explained to the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday noon by Dave McLeod, manager of the county ASC office, Heppner.

McLeod explained that in addition to administering the various phases of the wheat program, the office is concerned with land leveling, construction of ponds, strip cropping, weed control and others.

He said that the county office had \$3,190,000 in wheat loans in the county in 1959 and that there were 47 conservation reserve contracts now in effect with nine full farms in reserve. He also explained that 13,907 acres of farm land have been put into the soil bank for which owners receive a total of \$163,000 a year. He explained how the government assists with land leveling work and said that in the county 362 acres of farm land were leveled during 1959.

Mr and Mrs Frank Turner and Mr and Mrs Ralph Thompson went to Kimberly for a picnic Sunday.

Mr and Mrs W C Rosewall spent Monday in Walla Walla and Weston checking on the grain harvest.

## Fall From Horse Kills Lyle Van Dusen, Monument Rancher

Lyle Van Dusen, 45 of Monument, died Tuesday morning at Pioneer Memorial hospital from injuries received Monday afternoon when he apparently fell or was thrown from his horse near his ranch at Monument.

According to available information, Van Dusen saw a stray horse go by his ranch about 5 p m Monday so he saddled up his own horse and went after it. A short time later he was found lying unconscious in the road alongside his horse and it was surmised that he either got tangled in a rope or that his saddle slipped throwing him into some rocks. He never regained consciousness and death was caused by a skull fracture.

Lyle Evans Van Dusen was born March 22, 1915 at Modesto, Calif and he had lived in the Monument area for several years. He was a member of the Baptist church and the Monument Grange.

He is survived by his wife Maxine and four children, Kathleen, John, Fred and Ralph, and his parents, Mr and Mrs John Van Dusen, all of Monument. Services will be held Friday at 2 p m at the Monument Community church with Dr Thomas officiating. Interment will be in the Monument cemetery. Creswick Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

## Kinzua Corporation Wins Timber Bid

The Kinzua Corporation, Kinzua, was the successful bidder on 4 million board feet of national forest timber on the Associated No 5 sale, forest supervisor C M Rector announced today.

The sale is located 38 miles south of Heppner. The sale was appraised at \$14.05 for Douglas-fir, \$16.10 for western larch and \$5.35 for white fir. The sale was sold at the appraised price. There was only one bidder present.

Mr and Mrs James Driscoll spent last weekend in Portland. Mr and Mrs Harley Young and children were in The Dalles Friday visiting Mr and Mrs James Peterson.

## Hot Weather Still Holding; Effect Seen on Crop Yield

The weather continued to hold third straight week as temperatures during the past seven days stayed in the high 80's and 90's throughout practically all of Eastern Oregon.

Heppner's official readings didn't get quite as high this week as they did the week before, but they were hot enough for most people. The highest reading here was 99 on Tuesday, which was only four degrees under last week's high of 103. On four of the last seven days Heppner had readings in the 90's, and the lowest maximum came on Saturday when it got only to 85 degrees.

Residents here experienced the warmest night of the summer Tuesday when the minimum was a warm 62 degrees.

**Hard on Crops**  
The continuing hot spell, which hasn't seen a single major break in the heat since July 1, is showing up in the grain harvest. Al Lamb, manager of Morrow County Grain Growers, said Wednesday. He reported the co-op now looks for not over a 25 bushel per acre county wheat average compared with over 33 last year; and that barley will run only about three-quarters of a ton to the acre compared with well over a ton last year.

The quality of wheat is running about up to average, Lamb said, except for certain rye infested fields, but barley quality is not up to normal. Harvesting is completed in many fields in the north Lexington area, but is in full swing in most of the rest of the county.

## WEATHER

	HI	Low
Thursday	95	55
Friday	95	55
Saturday	88	46
Sunday	85	46
Monday	87	52
Tuesday	92	59
Wednesday	99	62

No rainfall for week or July, 8.33 inches for the year.

## BOY! WHAT A GAME THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE

Attention is called to an important event to take place Friday at 6 p m at the Little League ball field in Heppner.

Special preparations for the event include the soliciting of such experts as "Heavy" McCurdy, "Shorty" Munkers, "Skinny" Gimbel and that man-about-town, "Curly" Connor. These experts and others have challenged a group of "Hectic Housewives" to a battle of

the softball in a benefit game to help raise money for lights for the Little League field.

Going for the "Hectic Housewives" will be "Lanky" Labhart, "Cripple" Robinson, and that slugger "Wiggles" Agge with help from many unknown housewives.

The game is a cinch to be one of the funniest ever seen here, and the cause is mighty worthy.