

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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The County Extension Agents Of Morrow County

By E. R. JACKMAN

This week concludes the history of the Morrow County Extension Agents. The history was prepared shortly after Joe Hay was added to the staff so no mention is made in this article of the work which he is doing which concentrates strongly on projects of the irrigated area of Boardman and Irrigon and responsibility for the entire 4-H club program throughout the county. Home Extension has been precluded as the story of the seven extension agents in home economics that have been employed in Morrow county since the beginning of this program in 1946 would be a separate story in itself.

— N. C. Anderson

By the time Arnold Ebert came, the county extension agent was head over heels in war work. Ebert worked on grain varieties, livestock disease work, soil conservation, and all the other things, but just see the things that he had to work on:

- Neighborhood Leader program.
- Rural fire control.
- Dairy subsidy.
- War bond sales in rural areas.
- Metal salvage programs.
- USDA War Board.
- Draft of farm youth.
- Supplies of scarce materials.
- Civil defense.
- County Nutrition Council.
- Veterans Advisory Committee.
- Farm labor.
- ACP.

And then came Nels Anderson in 1947, an experienced and capable extension worker with a success record in other places. The other men had all been without experience in extension work, or with limited experience. One of his first moves was to help in organizing another soil conservation district in the north end of the county and to help in expanding the Heppner district.

As soon as the war released the needed materials, he lit with both feet on:

1. Use of nitrogen on wheat, pastures, corn, and potatoes.
2. 2, 4-D.
3. Farm tree plantings.
4. Grub control in cattle.
5. Farm buildings.

In 1948 the wheat crop hit 4½ million bushels. Here is an interesting thing. At the start of extension work in 1920, the wheat crop here averaged 16 bushels. It now averages just double that. I am not claiming that the county agents doubled the wheat yields, but the things

they helped work on doubled it. These things are: chemical weed control, fertilizers, better varieties and better machinery.

It has not been due to more rainfall, because aside from the years '34, '35, and '36, rainfall has been no greater here than it had been since records were first kept.

Nels' work has been pretty well concentrated upon the four things above, plus rich doses of 4-H work, cattle improvement, soil conservation and range improvement.

Perhaps it's because my interest lies that way, but I think his work with the most lasting effect will be the encouragement of the grass-alfalfa idea.

It was not popular when he first started to advocate it, but as planting after planting began to show up well on ranches, such as Hughes, Doherty, Alec Lindsay, Cutsforth, Peterson, Wright, and Paul Webb, and as more farmers saw these fields, it really caught on.

Many of the 14,000 acres of soil bank lands are in an alfalfa-grass rotation. Much of the dryland grass seeded now has alfalfa in it, and the persons who laughed at the idea are now following it.

We can't know what the future holds for us — we don't know what the next farm plan will be. It may, though, call for plantings of grass, and if it does, Morrow County has more successful experience with it than any other dryland county I know of—partly due to Nels, and partly to the willingness of Morrow county farmers to try out new ideas.

The home demonstration agent, with women was started in 1946, but that is another story.

30 YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times
May 14, 1931

Nineteen seniors will graduate from Heppner high school Friday evening.

Claude Cox is having a well drilled at the Morrow County Creamery.

Harold Buhman grade school principal, has been retained as supervisor and instructor for the swimming pool.

Finishing touches are being given to the auto cabins erected by Ferguson Motor Company on the corner of May and Chase streets.

Mrs. Carey Hastings, Hardman, was visiting a few days in Lone Rock with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Keene were visitors in the city Saturday from their home on Rhea Creek.

Mrs. Fred Mankin was host to the Women's Topic club at their home Thursday afternoon.

Shearers are busy this week on the John Kilkenny ranch on Hinton Creek.

C. W. McNamer of Heppner was visiting in the Alpine community one day last week.

TO THE EDITOR . . .

Dear Mr. Editor:

Tomorrow, Friday, May 19, the voters of the Morrow County school district will vote on the question of providing funds for a budget to operate the schools during 1961-62.

There still seem to be some unanswered questions concerning the schools and the budget.

First, I would like to compare our budget with other budgets in the state. The cost of the county office is below the state average. State-wide, the cost of this office averages 3.4% while Morrow county's is 3.2%. There are two girls in the district office, one of whom is Clerk of the School Board and is responsible for all of the school district's financial operations. She is doing the work that we previously paid six clerks almost \$10,000 to do under the former school district set-up. She handles the largest payroll in Morrow county and writes approximately 300 checks per month. The salary of the superintendent is one item in the budget and so marked. There is no other money in the budget that could be considered as salary for the superintendent.

Second, our fixed charges, maintenance and repair, instruction and health service are below the state average. The Morrow County Schools enjoy one of the lowest fire insurance rates in the state.

The amount to be voted by the taxpayers is needed to make possible the school operation next fall. Without a voter-approved budget, no warrants could be written, or money borrowed; the schools could not be open more than part of a year.

The schools are for the benefit of the children of this district, and I urge every voter to consider the welfare of the children, when they go to the polls tomorrow. I urge every voter to vote, so that any decision will truly reflect the feeling of the Morrow county citizens.

L. E. Dick, Jr.
Chairman of Morrow County School Board

Many Veterans Farm, Home Loans Made

Nearly \$20 million went to Oregon veterans in state farm and home loans in the first three months of this year for a new quarterly record, Ernest J. Smith, loan manager for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, reported today. An additional \$10 million has been committed.

Loans in the January-March period went to 1802 World War II and Korean veterans in the amount of \$19,785,200, more than \$4 million over the fourth quarter of 1958, the previous high, Smith said.

Loan applications in the quarter just ended also set a new high for the first quarter of any year, numbering 1733 against 1327 for the same period last year and 1356 in the first quarter of 1959.

Because of the unexpected loan demand, the state veterans' department has advanced the sale of its next \$30,000,000 in self-liquidating loan bonds to April 25, or two months ahead of the original date. This will make \$60,000,000 in bonds issued from the \$135,000,000 authorization voted by the electorate last November.

Funds from the April 25 sale will be received at about the time the money from the first \$30,000,000 issue is loaned out, so there will be no waiting waiting period for loan applicants, Smith said.

Loans currently to veterans are being made at the rate of 1¼ million a week.



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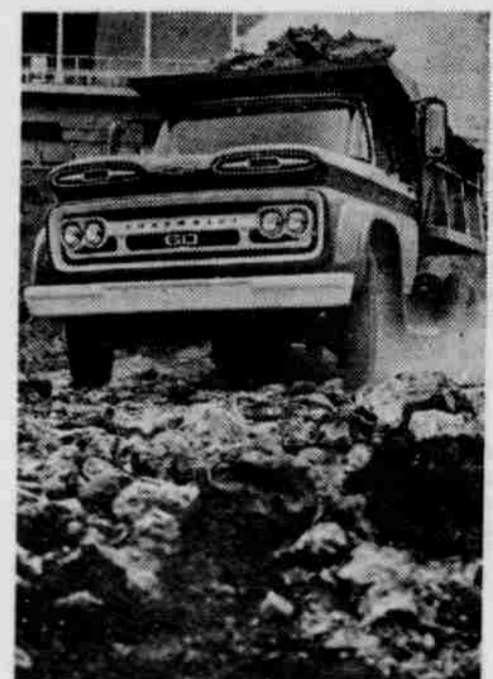
Here to talk up Chevy's big savings roundup is Western star Roy Rogers! "They tell me

it's the best time of all to put your brand on a hard-working, easy-riding I.F.S. truck. You'll find a full corral to pick from—each built and priced to save you plenty."

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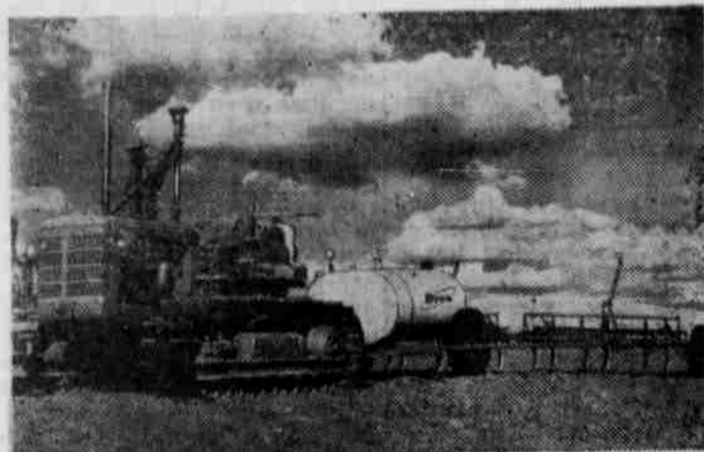
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