

Heppner Facts

HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

SERVING ALL OF MORROW COUNTY

City Has Pure Water, Good Sewer System

Among the top municipal improvements in the city of Heppner are the water system, which brings water through the mains to homes and businesses so pure that it does not have to be chlorinated, and the model sewer system.

Three wells supply the city with water. Two are located 12 miles from the city near Willow creek and one of these wells was an artesian well when first drilled in 1930. The third is located three miles above town. Two reservoirs are located just above town and are high enough to give 70 lb. of gravity pressure in the town proper.

The water system is capable of supplying 792,000 gallons in a 24-hour period or 550 gallons per minute. Capacity of the reservoirs is 1,110,000 gallons. Stand-by diesel motors are set up at two wells in case the electric power supply should be cut off for any reason and render the electric motors inoperative. There are approximately 600 water connections in the city.

Last improvement to the system was made in 1959 when six miles of the 12-mile line to the reservoirs were changed from concrete to 8-inch steel pipe.

The water is tested often for purity, but only on the temporary occasions when work was being done on mains in the system was it necessary to chlorinate for purity.

Supply of water has been adequate here, and through the past several years there has been very little restrictions on its use for domestic purposes.

The sewer system was installed in 1952 and covers the entire town. A disposal plant of the digester type is located near Willow creek below town.

Laterals of the system are designed to handle a population of more than twice the present size, and the disposal plant could provide for 2500 persons. If necessary an addition could be built to the plant.

A \$250,000 bond issue during the term of Jess Turner as mayor provided for construction of the system. Remaining indebtedness on the system is just over \$100,000.

Cost of the sewage disposal plant was \$118,000 and original cost of sewer lines was \$132,000.

POPULATION:

1960 census listed the city of Heppner population as 1661.

LOCATION:

Heppner, the county seat of Morrow County, is located in the south-central part of the county at the junction of highways 74 and 207. It has long been an outlet for inland farmers and ranchers, and served as a major stage-coach stop in the early days. The city was incorporated in 1887, and later became the county seat.

ELEVATION:

1955 feet above sea level.

CLIMATE:

Temperatures are moderate and the growing season averages 168 days. The average temperature ranges from high in the 90's in the summer to around zero in the winter. Rainfall averages 13.05 inches.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Heppner is the Morrow county seat, and the county government was established in 1885. The present picturesque native stone court house was built in 1902.

CITY GOVERNMENT:

Incorporated in 1887. Mayor, serving four-year term; six council men serving four-year terms.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Twenty-four hour police protection; radio-equipped patrol car, three man police force.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Well-equipped, efficient volunteer fire department.

ASSESSED VALUATION:

\$1,297,927, assessed at 21 percent of true value, 1960-61 tax roll. Millage for city purposes is 26.8. Bonded debt currently, \$255,000, of which \$126,000 is water improvement and \$129,000 is sewer system.

BUILDING PERMITS:

Calendar year, 1960, \$183,200.

POSTAL RECEIPTS:

For calendar year 1960, \$35,503.16.

BANK DEPOSITS:

First National Bank of Oregon, Heppner branch, as of December 31, 1960, \$5,202,072.99. Bank of Eastern Oregon, branches at Ione, Arlington and Heppner, total deposits as of December 31, 1960, \$4,222,202.88.

NEWSPAPER:

The Heppner Gazette-Times, established in 1883, published weekly Thursdays, paid circulation over 1,400.

LIBRARY-MUSEUM:

A new \$80,000 building dedicated in 1960, one half used as library and one half as museum. Library is supported by city funds and donations and operated by a library board. Museum was a gift to the county and is operated by a museum board.

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Municipal water system supplies ample artesian water from three city owned wells pumped by electrically-driven pumps. Municipal sewer system serves the city. Power and light furnished by Pacific Power & Light Co; telephone service by Pacific Telephone Northwest.

TRANSPORTATION:

Union Pacific shipping point, truck line to Pendleton.

SCHOOLS:

Heppner high school serves Heppner and Lexington, Hardman and Ruggs, employs 16 teachers. Elementary school, 14 teachers. New building being completed, to be used as present as grade school but will be nucleus for a new high school, 8 teachers this fall. Seventh-day Adventist elementary, one teacher.

CHURCHES:

Nine denominations: All Saints' Episcopal church, Church of the Nazarene, St. Patrick's

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78th Year, Number 17

City of Heppner Looms Picturesque in Photo Taken From Air



THIS AERIAL view of the City of Heppner was taken in 1960 by Western Ways, Inc., of Corvallis. It was obtained especially for this issue through the courtesy of Pacific Power and Light Company. The view looks to the northwest with the road to Lexington cutting diagonally to the upper left corner. It includes the new

library-museum, near the center of the picture, but the hospital is just out of view at the right. The school plants are visible at the right center. The new school site is in the open area near the upper left, but ground work had not started when this photo was taken. (Western Ways)



HEAD of the county government is Judge Oscar Peterson whose current term of office runs until January, 1965.

Catholic Church, Assembly of God Church, Christian Church, Hope Lutheran Church, The Methodist Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Seventh-Day Adventist.

HOSPITAL:

Pioneer Memorial hospital, 49 beds, new in 1950; operated by the county; five doctors on the staff.

CIVIC AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce maintains a downtown information center listing housing available and other facts pertinent to newcomers. There is an active Elks Lodge, Masonic Lodge, IOOF lodge, and Soroptimist Club. VETERAN'S ORGANIZATIONS: American Legion post and American Legion Auxiliary.

WELCOME EDITION



NATIVE STONE, quarried in various locations of the county, provided materials for construction of the Morrow County Courthouse, which was built in 1902. This recent view of the venerable building is taken towards the east from a point on May street. A cool picnic park is located behind the building. County seat of Morrow County was first established at Heppner by act of the legislature on February 16, 1885, and funds for the first courthouse, erected that year, were raised by popular subscription. (G-T Photo)



AL LAMB heads Heppner city government as mayor. He is also treasurer of Morrow County Grain Growers.

Wranglers Active As Riding Club; Invite Members

The Morrow County Wranglers, a riding club, sponsors four play days, a trail ride and an overnight ride in the spring. Their cow cutting contest, horse show at the Morrow County Rodeo and cowboy breakfast at the rodeo have become annual affairs.

They have a "Buck Burger" feed in the fall and a Christmas party.

The club has its own arena near Heppner which was improved this summer by the addition of a sprinkling system.

Membership is on an individual or family basis; it is not necessary to own a horse or even to ride one—new members are cordially invited. At present there are 60 family memberships—meetings are at 8 p. m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the club house.

Hunters, Anglers Find Good Sport In Morrow County

There's plenty of action in store for fishermen and hunters in Morrow county, the nimrods having available everything from jackrabbits to elk and the anglers everything from trout to sturgeon.

Prime mule deer hunting is available all through the southern and eastern half of the county. Elk hunting is available in the southern mountain areas.

Upland game birds are found in good number, including ring-necked pheasants, quail, Hungarian partridge and chukar partridge. Good grouse shooting can occupy the hunter in the timbered regions. The entire county is considered good upland game bird country, according to Milt Guymon, State Game Commission.

Waterfowl gunning is also available, especially around the irrigated areas and along the Willow Creek drainage. Canada goose hunting is popular adjacent to the Columbia River section.

Although most creeks are small, the commission stocks Willow and Butter creeks with trout, and occasionally Rhea creek for early season angling. Potamus, Mallory and Wall creeks on the south side of the Umatillas also provide some early season angling. However, most fish in these creeks have migrated back in the John Day system by midsummer.

Prime fishing exists along the Columbia, which includes Chinook salmon and steelhead fishing as these fish move through the area on their upstream migration and warm water game fishing along the back waters of the river. There is a good population of small mouth black bass in many sections of the river all the way along the Morrow county border. Some excellent areas are found around Irrigon and Boardman sections of the river. Large mouth bass are also available in this section of the river.

A fine new trout fishing lake of some 25 acres will soon be ready when Bull Prairie Reservoir is finished. It is located in the headwaters of Wilson Creek in the Umatilla National Forest about 40 miles south of Heppner, towards Spray. Morrison-Knudsen has the construction bid and is now at work on the project.

Morrow County Officials Listed

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

County Judge: Oscar E. Peterson
Commissioners:
E. O. Ferguson, Heppner
Milton A. Biegel, Irrigon
County Clerk: Mrs. Sadie Parrish
County Sheriff: C. J. D. Bauman
County Assessor: Harry Dinges
Justice of the Peace: J. O. Hager, Heppner; R. B. Rand, Boardman

APPOINTED OFFICIALS:

Health Nurse: Velma Glass; assistant, Mrs. Herman Green.
Tax collection: Elvira Irby, Lillian Sweek
Deputy County Clerk: Mrs. Mary Bryant

Deputy Assessor: Rod Thomson
Appraiser: William H. Johnson
Clerical, assessor's office: Lillian Sweek
Custodian: Darrel Hudson

COMMITTEES, ELECTED:

Port Commission:
George Wiese, Boardman
Dewey West, Boardman
John E. Krebs, Cecil
Gar Swanson, Ione
Al Lamb, Heppner

COMMITTEES, APPOINTED:

Hospital Board:
Jack Van Winkle, Heppner
W. C. Rosewall, Heppner
Gar Swanson, Ione
Leta Humphreys, Heppner

Gena Leonard, Lexington
Fair Board:
O. W. Cutsforth, Lexington
Bernard Doherty, Heppner
Al Fetsch, Heppner

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Dick Wilkinson, Heppner
Roy Lindstrom, Ione
Milton Biegel, Irrigon
Art Allen, Boardman
W. C. Rosewall, Heppner

RURAL FIRE DISTRICT:

Andy Van Scholack, Heppner
Frank Anderson, Heppner
O. W. Cutsforth, Lexington
Ralph Crum, Ione
Donald McElligott, Ione

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER:

L. D. Tibbles, D.O., Heppner