

Lexington, Outwardly Serene, Bustles with Activity Inside

Lexington is located on the highway between Heppner and Ione in South Morrow county in the heart of the wheat country. As one passes through the town it gives the impression of a quiet small place, but in reality it is really bustling with its various activities.

Peck's Grocery is owned and operated locally, by Mr and Mrs E. E. Peck. This store, which was recently purchased from Don Hatfield, carries frozen foods, groceries of all brands, meats and fresh produce. In connection with this business is the Lexington Post Office which is open 5 full days and a half day on Saturday. There are rental boxes as well as general delivery and several rural routes leave from here weekly. Gene's Chevrolet Station, (Gene Orwick) also is a busy place, and carries all Standard products, and in connection with this business is a body and fender shop run by Fleet Fox.

One of the newer buildings of the town is the parts shop and office of Padberg Machinery. This business carries the dealership for Allis-Chalmers, and Massey-Ferguson machines as well as an order as well as dinners.

extensive shop for all tractor and car repair. This is owned and managed by local people, Oris Padberg and Sons, who all make their home here. The Lexington Oil Co-op is a busy place also serving many residents in South Morrow County with delivery service of petroleum products. They also carry tires, accessories, fuel oil, and general hardware. The head office of Morrow County Grain Growers is also located in Lexington.

Lexington Implement Company, owned and operated by Mervin (Red) Leonard is the International Harvester Dealer for this area. The company deals in all types of International farm machines, farm tractors and trucks. They also are dealers for Calkins and Graham farm equipment, Goodyear Tires and Wade Rain Sprinkler systems, as well as miscellaneous pumps, spraying equipment and hardware. The company maintains a shop for repairs and has a well stocked parts department. Last but not least is the fine Lexington Cafe, which, owned and operated by Joe and Merle Cornelison, is open six days a week and serves short

Lexington is governed by a mayor, Marvin Leonard, and a council of Wilbur Steagall, Adolf Majesko, Roy Campbell, Eldon Padberg, Treasurer, Wm. J. VanWinkle and Recorder Denny McMillan. This group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the new city hall which was built in 1956 and is made of pink tile bricks. This hall is electrically heated, and also houses the city fire engine which is available in only seconds to answer a call. Also it is well noted that Lexington brags a fine water system with a minimum of 80 pounds pressure. The water is pumped from a drilled well to a reservoir, making it possible for a good storage, to be available for every day use as well as emergencies. Also in the city hall are two rooms with rest rooms and is loaned or rented to local concerns for meetings and showers, and is where the city, state, county and national elections are held.

The Lexington school is a modern building which houses the first five grades, while those of higher level and high school students are taken in busses to either Ione or Heppner. These youngsters are picked up and delivered to and from school, where busses then take them to their respective homes. The grounds are well cared for and have a high storm fence for protection of the children while playing and for the grounds. An active Parent-Teacher organization supports the school.

The Lexington Christian church is well attended for both Sunday School each Sunday from 10 A. M. to 11 A. M. and church starting immediately after. There are classes for all ages, and all are most cordially invited to come and worship. In connection with the church is the Women's Fellowship Group which meets the third Thursday of every month, and this group carries out plans for the potluck dinners, missionary work both at home and abroad and cares for the kitchen of the church. Also this group does many other things for the help of the community. The Odd Fellow Lodge and

Rebekahs have a hall which is also used as a community building. It houses a most interesting club, which is Fleet Fox's health club, and consists of weight lifting equipment, a boxing ring and numerous other body building equipment. This started as a hobby for Fox who later saw the enjoyment it would bring to many if made a public club. Many from Heppner attend this, which meets three times a week.

The Rebekah Lodge also holds its regular meeting in this building. This is an active lodge, carries a roll of 60 members, and meets twice a month. In connection with this is a group called the Three Links club, which is also active in community affairs and works for the good of the community as well as the lodge.

The Lexington Garden club meets once a month and has a roll of 15 members.

The Lexington Altar Society meets regularly and has a roll of about 20 active members.

The Lexington Grange meets the second Saturday of every month at their own hall north of Lexington. This is a legislative group, and has many worthwhile committees and reports. This hall is used for many meetings yearly including wheat league, farm bureau and co-op. Also in connection with this group there is the ever active H.E.C. which keeps the hall well equipped with needed things, and is in charge of various dinners throughout the county.

Another very worthwhile group is the Farm Bureau, which carries on projects mainly of interest to the farmers.

A rather recent development is the trailer house park which Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dunbar are developing. There is room for several trailers and they welcome inquiries.

In connection with Lexington is the airport which is run by Gar Leyva. This is listed under Gar Aviation, and here custom spraying, passenger service, and student training is a part of the business. The airport was started in 1944-45 when a group of men headed by Clifford Yarnell and Alonzo Henderson saw the need of an airport. The land was purchased from a Grace Maxwell of California and work started immediately on runways. From then to now it has developed into a fine business, with several hangers, and a home and office constructed of pink tile bricks.

At one time fire destroyed a plane, but that did not most of the building and defeat the interested, who immediately began more construction. At present the runway is 500 feet wide and 3000 feet long, with a cross runway of 500-1600 feet. Also in connection with the regular flying service, there is a commercial licensed glider pilot in attendance. Gar Leyva welcomes anyone who is interested in any of the lines to stop in and see what they have to offer.



ALL SAINTS' Episcopal church in Heppner was destroyed by the flood in 1903 but was rebuilt shortly after. Added a number of years later was the parish hall, visible at the right in this photo. Father C. Bruce Spencer, who now serves the church, came in October, 1958. (G-T Photo)



AMONG the larger churches of the county is the Methodist church of Heppner, which was heavily damaged by the flood of 1903 but restored. Rev. Austin McGhee is present pastor of the church.



MORROW COUNTY has 19 churches representing some 10 different denominations. This is a view of St. Williams Catholic church of Ione. Father Raymond Beard is pastor. (G-T Photo)

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