

Fire Lays Waste to Total of 30,210 Acres



PRINCESS MARLENE FETSCH

Princess Marlene Due As 'Queen for a Night' At Saturday Dance

Princess Marlene Fetsch will be honored at the first princess dance of the 1961 Fair and Rodeo season Saturday night at the fairgrounds pavilion. She is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fetsch, Lexington.

Princess Marlene is a statuesque brunette who has been riding since she was two years old. She is a junior leader of the 4-H Rough Riders' club, a member of the Wranglers Riding club, and has won many events sponsored by that organization. She is also a member of the Oregon Barrel Racing association, and has been flag bearer for the rodeo parades for the past four years.

Princess Marlene is sponsored by the Lexington Grange.

Outdoor activities appeal to this attractive girl. Her slim, trim figure is the result of much riding, swimming and working in the out-of-doors. She takes care of her own animals before going each morning the 20 miles to Heppner high school

Mill at Kinzua Cuts Night Shift

Closing down of the night shift of the Kinzua Corporation sawmill at Kinzua has been announced by the company to become effective July 30. The change does not affect the operations at Heppner in any manner, M. J. O'Donnell, president, said.

While the immediate action of closing down the shift at Kinzua is due to current economic conditions, the one shift operation there will enable Kinzua Corporation to keep its forests in perpetual sustained yield operations, O'Donnell said.

The action was voted at a recent board of directors meeting of the corporation.

"Despite vigorous sales efforts and very severe price cutting, we find ourselves unable to reduce our excessive inventory of lumber," O'Donnell said.

"We want to express our sincere thanks to all of our employees for the fine cooperation we have had from them in past years."

The president added that the local management plans to make every effort to help secure appropriate employment for those who must leave.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ott Now Operate Cafe

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ott have taken over the Wagon Wheel Cafe from Ruth Bass, who had to quit the business due to ill health.

No change in name or operation is planned.

Mrs. Ott has been employed at the cafe for one year. She is now managing the business, with Ott helping out at nights.

HEPPNER

Heppner, Oregon Thursday, July 20, 1961

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Merchants Slate Clearance Sales, Lucky Buck Buys

Free parking? Special buys in 61 business establishments? Yes, it is Lucky Buck Day in Heppner again Saturday, July 22.

Pete McMurtry, Lucky Buck chairman, said that a total of \$55.00 again will be drawn with names of the lucky winners to be read at 2:30 p. m. in the stores of the participating merchants.

Because of summer clearance sales in progress, this Saturday will be an unusually fine Lucky Buck bargain day. Among those who have announced sales are Case Furniture Store, clearance of furniture; Gonty's, annual 2 for 1 shoe sale; Wilson's Men's Wear, summer clearance of women's sportswear; Lott's Electric, clearance of appliances to make room for new stock; Tyco, clearance of used combines.

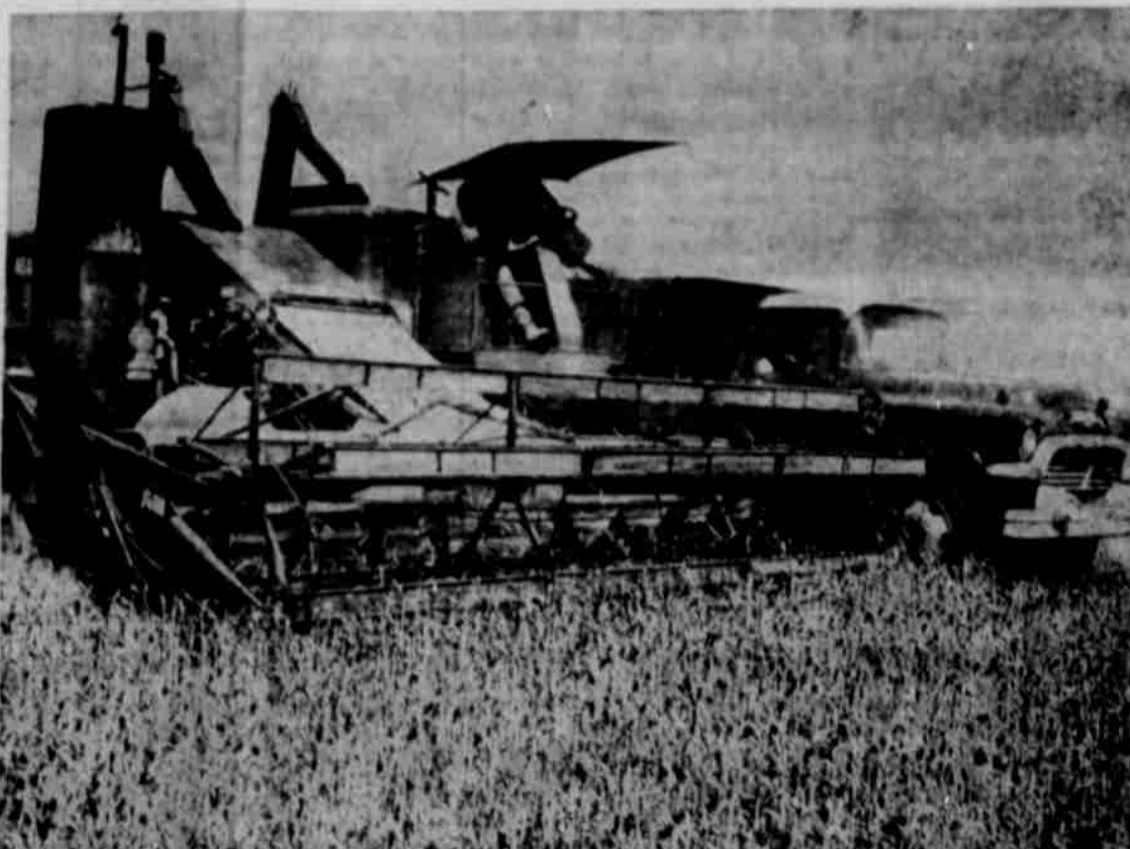
In addition, many others are advertising discounts and bargain tables of special merchandise for Lucky Buck Day. Included are Peterson's Jewelry, Gilliam and Bisbee, Penney's, L. E. Dick, MilLadies, Elma's Apparel, Phil's Pharmacy, Humphreys Rexall Drug.

Another order of the buckskins has been printed in the bright blue, red and black colors for the committee by the Gazette-Times. McMurtry stressed that this was necessary because so few Lucky Bucks were being redeemed but are so unusual and attractive that they are being held as souvenirs.

With \$25 first prize, \$10 second prize, three \$5.00 prizes and five \$1.00 prizes, 10 persons stand to win if they are in one of the stores where the names are read at 2:30 Saturday.

Mrs. Olson Collapses

Mrs. Bill Olson, Lexington, is in Pioneer Memorial hospital after collapsing while at work Saturday night. Mrs. Olson, a cook at the Hotel Grill, worked all night Saturday helping with extra food for firefighters, then continued working Sunday. She collapsed while making sandwiches for the firefighters late Sunday, and was taken to the hospital Monday morning, suffering from exhaustion.



FAMILIAR SCENE throughout Morrow county this week is this picture taken Friday on the Wm. F. Doherty place northeast of Lexington where harvest was in full swing. Running the combine here is Charles Daly and Billy Doherty (not visible) was driving the truck. (G-T Photo)

County Grain Yield Looms Poorest Since 1955 Crop

(Pictures also on page 10)

Grain yield this year in Morrow county seems destined to be the poorest experienced here since 1955, a check through sections of the county where harvest is completed or in progress shows.

Some expect that the yield will be only about half that of an average year, but there is difference of opinion on "average," depending on the length of time considered. The average of the past 15, running about 27 bushels to the acre, is considerably higher than the average previously, which would have been 20 bushels or less to the acre. At the North Lexington elevator of the Morrow County Grain Growers, Bert Corbin said Friday that he checked in 82

truckloads of grain the previous day. At a comparable time in harvest last year, the average was running between 150 and 160 truckloads per day, he said.

Among ranchers interviewed, all in the more northern part of the wheat-growing area, yield is running between 13 and 16 bushels to the acre. One reported that one part of his place was as low as 11 bushels.

Ranchers who last year were using two trucks to service their combines in the fields this year are handling it with one truck. At the Wm. Doherty place, son Billy Doherty is doing all the hauling, using two trucks, making the trip to the elevator in one while the other is loaded and awaits his return.

Another rancher, D. O. Nelson, put it another way. "My trucks have to go twice as far this year to get a load," he said.

There is some hope that the county's southern fields, located in higher areas and harvested later, may bring up the average, but this remains to be seen.

Al Lamb, manager of the Morrow County Grain Growers, said that the county will do well to average 20 bushels to the acre in wheat and 30 in barley. "Tonnage of barley's not down much, but it is of poor quality," he said. Both quantity and quality of wheat are down.

Lamb said that some farmers were having poorer yields than others for no apparent reason. "There is no sure pattern," he said. "It is a spotted year."

The poor yield is something of a surprising development. Several said that just a few weeks ago the coming crop looked as if it would be a 30 to 40-bushel crop. That has made harvest all the more disappointing.

Heads were not as well filled as it appeared they would be. County Agent Nels Anderson, who examined some of the grain in Omar wheat fields, pointed out that the kernels are pinched and deformed. Heads that could carry as many as 100 kernels in a good year have as few as 20 kernels this year.

June hot weather is blamed for much of the damage, and adding evidence to the theory that the 100-degree days stunted the grain is the fact that the heads, which should be well above the "flag leaf" of the wheat stalks, are well below these leaves in the fields checked.

Lamb believes that rust figured in the damage. "It laid the wheat open to the sun and heat damage," he said.

Best recent year for yield was in 1959 when the county average was about 34 bushels to the acre.

Another bumper year was in 1948, and there is some difference of opinion whether yield then was above 1959. The yield last year was about 25 bushels to the acre.

The county agent said that a study undertaken a few years ago across the county revealed that a 20-bushel crop is needed for the farmer to break even and show some interest on his investment. However, one contacted Friday said that he believed that in his instance he could break even with a 15-bushel crop but would have nothing left for equipment and other needs.

Lamb said that while the crop is down in Morrow county, reports are that it is even poorer in other sections of the Northwest. At this time, with no carry-over in grains, it appears that the supply may be depleted before next year's crop comes, thus taking care of any surplus situation all in one year.

Accidental Shot Injures Heppner Man

Will Madden, 23, Heppner, shot himself through the leg Tuesday evening while cleaning a gun in his trailer home at Neil's Trailer court, according to his attending physician.

A bullet from the .22 automatic went through a muscle in the left leg about four inches above the knee, entering the upper surface and emerging on the left outer surface of the leg, then imbedding itself in the couch on which he was sitting. The flesh wound was treated by a local doctor and the patient released to return home. He said he thought the gun was empty.

Madden is employed by Jev Wilson & Son as a truck driver delivering crushed rock for the road between Ruggs and Ione.

Musa To Speak

Boardman—Mrs. W. G. Seehafer Morrow County Pomona Grange lecturer, announced that Ben Musa, state senator, will be the guest speaker at the Pomona meeting to be held July 29 at Willows Grange in Ione. The meeting will start at 10 a. m.

WEATHER

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Friday	102	68	—
Saturday	98	59	—
Sunday	96	59	—
Monday	83	49	—
Tuesday	86	51	—
Wednesday	91	53	—
Thursday	92	56	—
Maximum temperature, 102			
Minimum, 49.			



LITTLE LEAGUE All-Stars will represent the Heppner league in area playoffs in The Dalles July 21-22. Front row (from left)—David Gray, Giants; Gary Ball, Giants; Ricky Johnston, Giants; Roger Leonnig, Giants; and Jerry Stefani, Indians. Middle row—Steve Pettyjohn, Braves; Jeff Turner, Indians; David Hall, Braves; Jim Doherty, Braves; Gene Holiker, Indians; and Chris Lovgren, Indians. Back row—Chris Labhart, Braves; Russell Kilkenny, Indians; and Stan Rauch, Indians. Not present for picture was alternate Randy Stillman, Braves.

League Stars Point for Playoffs

Little League Managers Howard Pettyjohn and Art Stefani have been practicing the league All-Stars for the past week in preparation for the up-coming area playoffs in The Dalles Friday and Saturday.

The Heppner All-Stars will play at 6:00 p. m. P.S.T. on Fri-

day with the two other teams meeting at 8:00 p. m. The winners will square off at 8:00 p. m. Saturday, and the losers will play the top half of the double-header on Saturday at 6:00 p. m.

The players, managers, and parents will leave Heppner at 1:00 p. m. Friday from the Mu-

seum to give the boys time for a meal and rest and a chance to work out on the field before game time. The players are to meet at the municipal hall in The Dalles at 3:30 to sign in and receive instructions. Boys whose parents are unable to attend will stay with L. L. boys in The Dalles Friday night.

Late Report Says Blaze Is Contained

Hundreds Called To Battle Flames; Force Cut To 250

The greatest fire to hit the Heppner area since at least 1928 has laid waste to a total of 30,210 acres as of Thursday.

Starting in the Heppner District of the Umatilla National Forest Friday night, the Ditch Creek fire took 7,480 acres before jumping the north fork of the John Day into state protected land.

Here it consumed 22,730 acres before being brought under control Wednesday night.

State Forestry personnel succeeded in building a fire line around the south bulge at that time.

Fast moving flames brought out hundreds of men and equipment from all over the Northwest to fight the blaze. Grass and timber on range and forest land was consumed.

Starting as one of 21 fires set by lightning Friday night, the Ditch Creek fire fast became an uncontrolled inferno. Saturday a call for fighters was issued and they started arriving Saturday night.

From then until late Monday a continuing stream of men and supplies went through Heppner on the way to the big blaze.

Two other fires of the 21 also were stubborn. The Sunflower Flat fire burned until 220 acres were covered, and the one at the Thorn Spring consumed 1700 acres. Both were brought under control Monday morning and fighters were released for the big blaze on Ditch Creek.

Jumped John Day Sunday night the flames jumped the John Day north fork into state protected land. Running south in rimrock country through deep draws and rough terrain, fighters found it impossible to use either a great amount of machinery, planes, or men in this area. The blaze was controlled with firelines on the east and west, but could not be contained in the south until Wednesday night.

Under adverse conditions with 20 to 25 mile per hour winds and 12 to 14 per cent humidity, the rangeland in the south disappeared under the advancing flames. When brought under control the fire had laid waste 22,730 acres of state protected land. No monetary estimate of the damage has been made.

In the Heppner district of the National Forest, the fire, which is still called the Ditch Creek fire, although it extended far from Ditch creek soon after it started, took in 7,480 acres. The perimeter around the demolished area is 15 miles.

A rough estimate of 3 million board feet of timber lost was given Thursday by Gene O'Keefe of the education and information office, U. S. Forest Service, Portland.

Permanent Damage Seen "Watershed damage is an intangible thing which cannot be measured in dollars and cents," O'Keefe said. Permanent injury to winter range for wildlife will result with many deer and elk migrating to other ranges.

From a high of 840 men fighting fire Monday and Tuesday, only 250 were reported still on the fire lines. The fire is in the mopping up stages, with only a few snags and logs left burning in the Heppner district section. O'Keefe said Thursday morning that 100 men, all local people, will be the only ones on the Ditch Creek fire Friday, with 25 on the other two.

Wright T. Mallery, supervisor of the Umatilla National Forest, Pendleton, reported from the area Wednesday that plans for rehabilitation of the area are already in progress. The Forest Service will plant grass and trees on steep ground to cut down on erosion and to hold the soil.

In fighting the blaze a new system was used which the Forest service reported proved very effective. Two helicopters from the Evergreen Flying Service, McMinnville, that were equipped with tanks for spraying crops, were loaded with water and detergent and used to hover over hot spots in the mopping up stages. This is the first time such use had been made of helicopters and those on the fire were enthusiastic about the results. Helicopters were also used to transfer men and supplies on the fire line and to bring the injured (Continued on Page 6)