

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 6-9228

The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

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Willow Creek Dam Plan Gains Momentum

With the appearance of two officials from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers here Monday, the plan for a dam on Willow Creek above Heppner, which was first studied in 1945, gained some additional momentum locally.

Glen Von Gunten, chief of the planning branch of the district office, pointed out that when first studies were made, the benefit ratio reported was slightly less than 1 to 1 of dollar value. In other words, at that time, the dam, which was considered only for flood control and irrigation, would cost somewhat more than it would benefit.

However, with new concepts—multipurpose use, combining recreation and game and wildlife needs with flood control and irrigation—it is believed that the survey, which is expected to be completed next year, will reveal a much higher ratio on the benefit side.

Also entering the picture are changes that have come about with time over the past 16 years. Values are greater. Land to be irrigated is worth more; the property that would be damaged by flood is now more valuable and there are more buildings that would be in the path of a cloudburst; productivity and potential productivity of the farmlands are higher. All these factors enter in.

Those who have pushed for this dam for years envision great local benefit from it. Flood prevention tops the list. Statistics would indicate that another dam would come some time. Irrigation, recreational benefits, fish and wildlife use all would be included. And the engineers Monday suggested another possibility—supplementing the domestic water supply. In the survey, the city will be consulted about this possibility.

Although it has been a long time since that first study, and it is pretty sure that it will be a long time yet before the project would ever reach actuality, the visiting engineers had nothing to report Monday that would tend to discourage proponents of the dam.

With the allocation to complete the survey virtually assured, and the probability of showing a good benefit ratio under the multipurpose concept in the survey, it would seem that local backers of the dam would have every reason to feel encouraged at this point.

Chaff and Chatter

By WES SHERMAN

FRIENDS of Mike Whitesmith, Chamber of Commerce president, will be glad to hear the encouraging word about his eyes. As many know, Mike is afflicted with a very rare eye malady, called Eale's disease, and it was feared that he would lose his sight. Recently there have been three occasions when he temporarily lost vision in his right eye for short periods of time, these coming suddenly and without warning.

Early this week Mike went to the University of Oregon Medical School hospital to a specialist for a checkup, and the word was encouraging. The report is that he is showing improvement, and that if the condition holds steady with an extended period of time, he will lick it.

So rare is this malady that there are only two cases on the coast, Mike has been told, and he is the "guinea pig" for research on the disease. It is so rare that we couldn't even find it listed in the Encyclopedia Britannica although Mike tells us that there have been books written on it.

SOMEONE who reads this may save a girl in Heppner from being heartbroken. A small black and white terrier was picked up and is in the dog pound, Mrs. C. J. D. Bauman told the Gazette-Times Monday. Dogs have five days in the pound to be claimed, otherwise they must be disposed of.

However, before the terrier was picked up, a little girl presented herself at the office of Ted Smith, city recorder, and inquired about a little black dog. When Ted

heard of the dog in the pound later he tried to learn the identity of the girl, thinking this is the dog she is seeking, but he could not learn her name.

There is still time. Anyone who knows of the little girl who has been searching for the dog, should tell her about this at once, and she can check at the city hall.

WHILE the weather has been warm here with a number of consequences pro and con—the best season yet for the swimming pool, but a record high on use of city water; nice weather for vacations but hard on the wheat crop—there comes a report from Parker's Mill via Mrs. Darrel Vinson, who was in town recently, that it is frosting regularly during nights there. They had frost three times in one week and it was 44 degrees on the morning that she got up to come to town. Maybe winter isn't so far away after all!

WE'VE HEARD some very complimentary reports about the work of cooks who did sterling duty feeding men at the Tupper Guard Station, 39 miles from Heppner, during the height of the big fire. Four sisters and a friend composed what was known as the "Maggie Five." The sisters include Mrs. Dorothy Bailey, Mrs. Owen (Elsie) Leathers Sr., Mrs. Larry (Opal) Cook and Mrs. Victor (Jessie) Lovgren, all of Heppner. Fifth in the group—the friend—was Mrs. Gerald (Betty) Rood, also Heppner. Actually there was a sixth, Mrs. Sam (Debbie) McDaniel of Hardman, a cousin of the sisters, who worked part of the time.

Just how many meals these gals served and just how long they worked is hard to pin down accurately and Mrs. Leathers, who was available by phone at the Tupper station Wednesday night modestly refused to estimate the number. She is still cooking for the helicopter pilots and the radioman there as relief for Mrs. Bailey who is currently on a trip to Washington.

Big thrill came for the cooks when each was taken up for a helicopter ride at the close of the

working day for the flyboys. They thought it was great.

How they came to get the name, "Maggie Five," it seems to be a little mysterious, but Mrs. Leathers said she didn't think much of this name.

AL CASE, who is still in Pioneer Memorial hospital and not feeling very good, told us one day in his furniture store of his old football days at Linfield college. He was reminiscing particularly about his fiery coach, Maurice Pettit, who was grid mentor at the McMinnville school for six years. Al had a good chuckle about some of his experiences with Pettit.

Of course, the coach is now deceased, but Al probably would have been amazed to know, at the time he was talking about the past, that Coach Pettit's daughter is Mrs. Everett Struckmeier, who with her husband operates Hotel Heppner, a half-block up the street from Al's store. She is the former Bernice Pettit. Still don't know if Al has found that out yet.

Report Wednesday night is that he has been pretty uncomfortable. He had the trouble with his leg, caused from accidentally colliding with a chair, then he contracted pneumonia, and now it is feared that he has other complications. He is expected to be confined for a week or 10 days more. Mrs. Alex Thompson, the

Case's daughter, is coming from Portland Saturday to visit him.

THE SHERMAN cat, Muffin, didn't amount to much. She was just "cat" and was a runt from birth. But when we moved no one wanted her, and we had to bring her along. Little Cathy Jo got a great deal of pleasure from her.

The other day we stepped from the G.T. office and saw Muffin in agony in the street, rolling and groveling in the dirt. When we attempted to pick her up, she stiffened and went through some weird gyrations. This continued for some time, and traffic halted, the drivers wondering what was the matter with the little cat.

Human compassion comes to the forefront at a time like this. Few can stand to see an animal, however worthless, suffer. Several offered help. Mr. and Mrs. Pete McMurtry came along and offered to take us to Dr. J. W. Norene, the veterinarian, and so we rolled Muffin in a box and went over. The doctor said it was brain damage, probably having been struck by a car.

A sedative would help, but probably would not mean permanent relief. Only reasonable thing seemed to be to put her out of her misery and this was done.

Trouble was, Muffin had given birth to three kittens the week

before. Dr. Norene suggested that Cathy Jo and brother Jim get a doll baby bottle and use it with the kittens.

"If you need any advice on the formula, let me know," the doctor said as we left. The job of bottle feeding the kittens seems to have fallen to 11-year-old Jim. He was doing a good job the other day, and we told him, "Jim, you're a good boy."

"Well," grumbled he, as he held the tiny bottle in the mouth of the suckling kitten, "I never thought I would be a mother!"

Ned Sweek drove to Portland Saturday to pick up his family after a 3 weeks stay in Portland and Tigard. Their son, Mike, was recuperating from nose surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smith and family formerly of Heppner spent several days visiting the Leroy Gardens, Jack Van Winkles, and L. E. Dicks before returning to their home in Coos

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TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

The National Agricultural Economy is deteriorating so rapidly that if it is allowed to continue it will amount to disaster in all the farming communities by 1963. In defeating the so-called Omnibus Farm bill, did in a large part by the National Farm Bureau, we have lost the only opportunity we ever had to control our surpluses and our prices without cost to the taxpayer. I cannot imagine why the National Farm Bureau went out on a limb and did this. Quoting the East Oregonian, "All of the reasons advanced by the National Farm Bureau are inadequate." Only time will tell their reason for doing so.

Quoting our Wheat League Representative at the last Wheat League meeting at the Lexington Grange hall, said "almost all of the reasons and all of the arguments I've heard against the Omnibus bill are false." Again quoting him at a recent Farmers Union meeting, he said "The Middle State Corn farmers are not going broke by the hundreds, they're taking bankruptcy by the thousands." Quoting the National Grange about the Farm Bureau, "... a more flagrant distortion of facts would be difficult to imagine. The use of unsupported and unfounded but inflammatory generalities in a frantic effort to defeat improvements in farm programs is regrettable." The processors have gone all out to defeat the farm bill. They feel that they cannot let the farmers get control of their own markets. The National Farm Bureau in its own news letter gave itself away as to whom its associates are.

One item announces its new member of the National Food Conference Association spearheaded by the Farm Bureau. The new members are: Corn Products Company, the National Association of Retail Grocers, W. G. Mason, vice president of Quaker Oats is the treasurer and chairman of membership drives.

In place of the Omnibus bill is the proposed Ellender bill which would give us a gross and I mean gross income from wheat according to Wheat League figures of about \$1700.00 per 160 acres of wheat land. Now my local county and school tax is over \$15,000.00. Figure how many quarter sections it would take to pay that.

Several years ago when I was president of the County Farm Bureau, we got directions to go out and defeat the so-called Brannon Plan and like stooges we did it, yet the only part of that plan in operation is the wool plan and no stockman who runs sheep could exist without it.

Former Secretary Benson fought against all controls for farm products except for sugar beets and nothing was ever heard about that. They are the most rigid controlled product in the country and the best product the farmer can grow if he can get an allotment. Could it be, because the U & I Company is of Utah origin?

How can Agriculture exist with 91% of the economy controlled and 9% which is agriculture and the largest customer industry has producing unlimited and below cost? How come (it is said) that the largest lobby against agriculture is the small businessman in his own home town.

O. W. Cutsforth
Dee Ann Angel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Angel of Portland, is visiting this week with Mr. and Mrs. Don Munkers.

WARNING

Burning within the city is prohibited by ordinance except in certain specific cases involving commercial quantities in approved incinerators.

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