

Fires, Floods Deliver One-Two Blows Here

HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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Fair Gates to Open Tuesday



QUEEN JOAN MOE

Homage to be Paid Queen Joan Moe At Saturday Dance

Pretty Queen Joan, who will reign at the 1961 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, will be honored at her own dance Saturday night at the fair pavilion. The queen will be attended by her court: Princess Sandra Eubanks, Princess Marlene Fetsch, Princess Ronnie Belmsa and Princess Pat Partlow.

Queen Joan, 20, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Moe, Heppner. She is an outstanding horsewoman who has never lived on a ranch but has been riding since she was four and has owned and cared for a horse of her own since she was 12.

The 1961 queen has appeared in the last eight fair and rodeo parades in Heppner, and was a princess in the 1959 queen's court. Queen Joan had many opportunities to prove her riding ability as a member of the 1959 court. She took part in appearances at the Milton-Freewater Pea Festival, the Ukiah Rodeo, the Aqua Capers at Hat Rock, the Umatilla County Fair, and the Sage Riders Rodeo. She rode in the Dress-Up Parade at Pendleton. The most exciting experience, she says, was helping escort the Centennial wagon train across Morrow county from the Umatilla county line to Gilliam county.

A graduate of Heppner high school, Queen Joan at 5 ft. 4 in. is an attractive girl with blue eyes and light brown hair. Her father is plant superintendent at the Heppner branch of Kinzua Corp. She and her mother both love horses and have ridden at every opportunity. They both have horses and are often seen together riding on summer evenings in the town and surrounding area.

Keeping a horse when one lives in town is always a little more difficult than having one on a ranch, and Queen Joan looks forward each spring to the time she can bring her horse in from winter pasture to have her available to ride again.

Her official horse for the rodeo will be "Jet," the black mare she has had for the past five years, and which she rode in

the 1959 appearances.

She has been a member of the 4-H Saddle club and served as junior leader of the group. She is an active member of the Heppner Wranglers and takes part in their contests.

Besides riding, the queen's favorite pastimes are boating and swimming. She is presently employed at the Wagon Wheel Cafe.

Queen Joan is sponsored by the Fair and Rodeo association, who will also sponsor the dance. Music will be provided for the dance by Leonig's orchestra. Festivities will begin at 10 p. m., with a late lunch included in the price of admission.

Club Seeks Group To Serve Luncheon

Would some organization like to serve luncheon at the fair pavilion during the Wranglers Horse Show on Friday, September 17?

This is the question put by the Wranglers who feel that the public would appreciate the service, and at the same time, the sponsoring group would benefit from the proceeds.

Any group interested is asked to contact Lenna Smith, fair secretary, for information.

Car Lights Bring Plane to Safety in Storm

Headlights from three autos brought a private airplane in for a safe landing at the Kinzua Corporation airstrip near the Heppner mill during the big storm Monday evening.

Occupied by a man, his wife and 20-months-old daughter, the Cessna sought refuge at the mill airstrip when the intended destination, the Pendleton airport, was found to be enveloped in a dust storm.

The pilot, Delbert Pratt of Enterprise, found that he could not land at Lexington because it was also socked in. Pendleton airport advised him by radio to try the Kinzua airstrip

Queen's Crowning, Street Dance Set

Queen Joan's coronation will be performed in a ceremony at the corner of Main and Willow streets Saturday night at 8:30. Mike White-Smith, president of the Chamber of Commerce announces.

Festivities accompanying the ceremony will include a street dance starting at 8 p. m. and concluding at 9 with Leonig's orchestra furnishing music. This will precede the Queen's Dance at the fair pavilion.

Outdoor Style Revue "Big Show" of Fair

"Next 4-H Target—the Moon" will be the theme of the first outdoor 4-H Style Revue to be staged before the rodeo grandstand on Wednesday evening, August 23, at 8:00 P. M. according to Esther Kirmis, Morrow county extension agent.

Girls enrolled in the "Charmingly Yours," "Teen Wise Clothing," "Fun and Sun," "Better Dress" and Clothing V 4-H projects will model the garments they have made this year. Earlier in the day they will model their dresses before the clothing judges, Mrs. Russell McKennon and Mrs. Kenneth Waud, for ribbon placing.

The committee working to make this outdoor spectacle a success include: Mr. and Mrs. William Rawlins, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rea, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Snider, all of Ione.

Parade of Pets To Be Fair Feature

County youngsters will again have an opportunity to show their pets off at the second Pet Show to be held in conjunction with the county fair. New this year will be parade of pets to be held in the judging arena at 11:30 Thursday morning.

The Pet Show is open to all children of the county between the years of 5-14. Each entrant will receive a ribbon.

The show is under the direction of Mrs. W. W. Weatherford, who said bantam chickens are to be included as pets this year, not in poultry exhibits. Any type pet is welcome. All should be leashed or caged, and since cats are especially hard to manage with the number of dogs entered, it has been suggested that they be brought in well closed cages.

The animals are to be entered at 10 a. m. and it was pointed out if the day is warm it is advisable to provide the pet with a drinking pan for water.

Nurse Says Flooded Wells Need Testing

County Health Nurse Velma Glass reports instructions for cleaning wells and water sample bottles may be obtained at Barnett Chevron Station in Ione.

All wells should be tested after being flooded, Mrs. Glass stressed.

Fun, Color, Excitement Are Offered

There will be excitement, color, and high hopes when the gates open Tuesday for the annual Morrow County Fair at the Heppner fairgrounds at 9:00 a. m., according to the fair committee chairman, Mrs. Walter Wright.

Outstanding events of the fair include an outdoor style Revue, 4-H pig scramble, 4-H livestock auction sale and 4-H saddle horse show.

"We expect to have more exhibits than ever," Mrs. Wright said, "both in 4-H, FFA, and open class."

Outstanding events have been scheduled for each day of the fair. Open class entries will be received Tuesday, August 22. All 4-H and FFA entries are to be at the fairgrounds by 11 a. m. Other entries will be received throughout the day.

At 1:30 p. m., 4-H and FFA members will test their ability at judging livestock in the 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest. This is a keenly anticipated event for members with livestock projects as the top livestock judges are selected as a judging team to go to the state fair at Salem to judge in the livestock judging contests there. Tuesday evening will be International Farm Youth Exchange night in the fair pavilion. Information on the IFYE night is in another story in this paper.

FFA livestock will be judged Wednesday morning at 8:30. At 9:00, 4-H members will have their livestock judged, starting with swine, then beef, dairy and sheep. The swine are being judged first so that the judging can be completed in the cooler part of the day. At 9:00 also judging will begin in fruits, vegetables, hay, crops, and all home economics exhibits.

Wednesday afternoon as soon as the 4-H livestock judging is completed, 4-H members are asked to be ready to go immediately into the 4-H livestock showmanship contest. This contest is designed to test the ability of 4-H members in showing their animals.

The ever popular Style Revue will be held outdoors this year to accommodate the crowds. It will take place Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. More information on the outdoor Style Revue is in another story in this paper.

Open class livestock will be judged in the judging area at the same time the Style Revue is being held.

Thursday, August 24, will be a busy day at the fair, Mrs. Wright said. Starting at 9:00 a. m., the 4-H livestock showmanship contest will continue. This is expected to be completed by about 11:30 with the all-around champion livestock showmanship contest to follow at 1:00 p. m. This will allow time for contestants to do last minute grooming on their animals.

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Ione Suffers Heavy Damage From Deluge; Heppner Hit

Flash flood struck Ione Tuesday evening, causing its residents to evacuate and bringing severe property damage, in the second of two freakish storms that converged on southern Morrow county at about the same time of day on consecutive evenings. The Heppner area took the brunt on the night before.

Old-timers at Ione, surveying the water and debris that covered the streets, declared that it was the worst since the 1903 disaster when the town suffered damage in the wake of the devastating flood at Heppner.

Water poured into business buildings, bringing a thick layer of silt and muck, up to four inches deep. Basements were filled, and water on Main street

ranged up to two feet deep. Near the city hall, which was also flooded, the water was much deeper.

Coming at 5:45 p. m. the storm struck at about the same time of day that Heppner was hit the previous day (Monday), but the start was different.

Lightning strikes hitting dry stubble and grass fields set many fires around Heppner, Hardman, Ruggs and Eight Mile after 5 p. m. Monday, and as Fire Chief Charles Ruggles expressed it, "The whole countryside seemed to be on fire."

Dense smoke billowed up on the south, west and east sides of Heppner as ranchers battled blazes that hit their places. Suddenly, however, the skies opened

and in the space of some 10 or 15 minutes, 64 inch of rain fell, dousing the fires and bringing flood conditions.

Chief Ruggles said that 12 men of the fire department were on duty at the height of the emergency. The rural truck was dispatched to the Jim Valentine place where three fires were in progress. Morgan Connor and Herman Green took it there. The blazes there, swept by high winds, raced over some 400 acres. One came within 10 feet of a grain and stock shed, and another whipped through a corral so fast that it never charred the fence posts, although it slicked out grass and weeds in the corral.

Another fire was reported by fireman Jim Devine on the Howard Pettyjohn place and the Jeep was taken there by Herman and Don Stroeber.

Chief Ruggles' log shows a call at 4:50 from Mrs. Harold Wright who reported three fires south of them. Mrs. A. C. Bechtolt at Hardman reported "fires all around" them.

Another report said that buildings at Ruggs were jeopardized by fire. Ralph Beamer reported two fires across from his house, and Lonnie Edmondson said there was a fire near his place.

From Kinzua Lumber Company came the report of fire on the hill south of the mill on the Wightman land. Still another report told of fire near the new school, and Mrs. Paul Warren said fire was "right above" their house, northwest of the golf course.

Chief Ruggles said that it became so bad that he held equipment here waiting for a call that might report buildings on fire.

A lightning strike hit a pile of posts of Ellis Pettyjohn's and burned them.

Fires from lightning strikes were so prevalent in the Heppner area that no record of all of them is possible. Chief Ruggles reported that in a 40-minute period preceding the 5:45 p. m. cloudburst, his office received between 30 and 40 calls for help from people who had fire to fight.

The Jim Valentines were driven from their home, which was surrounded by burning fields. When they returned after the downpour they found the sides washed away from a roadway to their home which had just been paved last week.

In the same area, Ron Hague-wood reported seeing 11 fires start from lightning strikes within a few minutes.

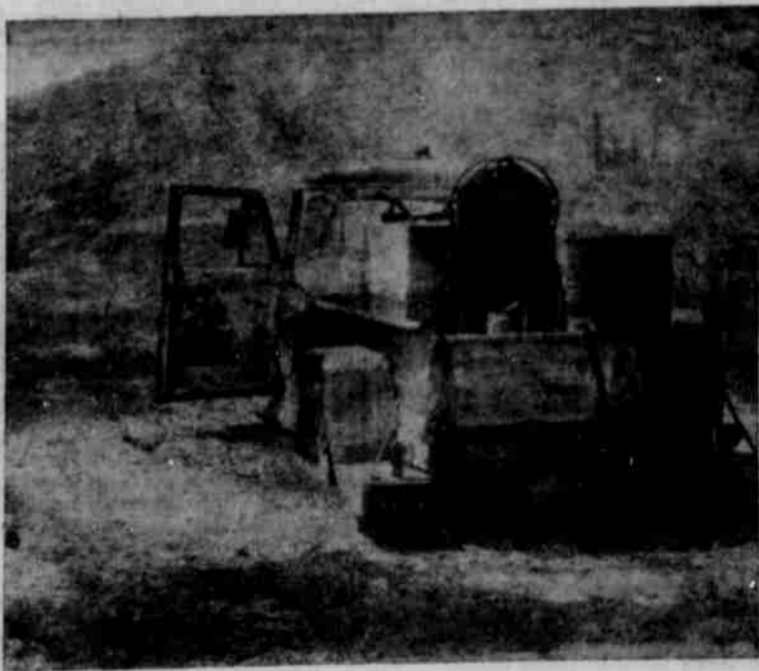
Lightning struck in a field across the road from the D. Cox home in the Black Horse area 4 miles north of town just as the family was sitting down to dinner. Another bolt hit close by. The fire was coming on the high wind so fast that the family ran to the car and drove up the road "to watch it burn" because they were sure their home was going up in flames and they did not have time to save anything. It didn't, the downpour quickly put out the fire, but it also washed out fences and took the top off the summer fallowed fields.

Two of Cornett Green's year-

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THIS IS the shambles of No. 3 fairway at Willow Creek Golf course, left by the Monday flood. Debris and muck cover the fairway for almost its entire length. (G-T Photo)



THREE MEN, Bert Corbin, Ralph Richmond and Elwyn Hughes, were on this Morrow County Grain Growers fire truck when it was surrounded by flames and started burning Saturday on the Frank Anderson ranch. The men had to run through burning grass to escape, and the truck was abandoned to the flames. Purchased new in 1959, the Jeep was insured but equipment was only partially covered. (Charles Ruggles Photo)

Fire Fighting Rig Lost in Blaze; 3 Men Run to Safety, But 2 Hurt

Fast moving flames surrounded and consumed the fire fighting truck owned by Morrow County Grain Growers about noon Saturday. The rig was being used to fight a grass fire which apparently was man-made, starting along the roadway of highway 207, two miles south of the Ruggs Junction. Loss was estimated at between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Approximately 150 acres of good pasture grass also burned. The fire was first reported at 9 a. m. It started in Porcupine canyon, then advanced up a smaller unnamed canyon, creating a widely separated twin prong of advancing flames.

Local ranchers came from Hardman, the immediate area, and as far away as the lower Eight Mile area, 50 to 60 in all. Three Heppner volunteer firefighters took a small pickup out to help. Equipment registered in the newly appointed Morrow County Rural Fire District, a volunteer organization, was used on the flames.

Gar Aviation at Lexington was called when those on the fireline found they would not be able to stop the advance of the fire. Gregg Leyva, 20, filled the 100-gallon tank of his airplane and dumped detergent in hard-to-

reach spots on the fire. Those fighting the fire said this is what made it possible to control the blaze.

Burned along with the MCGG pickup, which was equipped with power pumps and a 125 gallon water tank, were a radio, fire hose and power saw used in fire-fighting.

The flames spread so quickly that those on the truck were unable to use their equipment and had to run through burning grass to escape.

In getting away from the blazing fire rig two were injured, Ralph Richmond and Bert Corbin, both of Heppner. Corbin fell over a bank he could not see in the flames and was brought to Pioneer Memorial hospital where x-rays showed he did not have any broken bones but had suffered extensive bruises. Richmond suffered a sprained ankle. William Rill, Heppner, also suffered a sprained ankle fighting the fire at another location.

Frank Anderson, Heppner rancher who is coordinator of the county fire district for the area, was owner of the pasture which burned. He was out of town but neighbors piled in and did the job of fighting the blaze.

The fire was under control by about 1:30 p. m.

No Disaster Relief Available for Flood

W. I. O'Harra, Morrow county disaster chairman, said Wednesday that R. Busch of the American Red Cross came from Portland Wednesday and surveyed the scene of the Ione flood. After checking, Busch said that he had not found anything that made this appear to be in the nature of a disaster and therefore, it would not qualify for aid from the Red Cross.

The Pendleton office of the Red Cross called and offered any aid that it could give, O'Harra said.

Miss Kay Wren, head of the Red Cross disaster branch in Yakima, Wn., announced Wednesday morning that since there had not been serious home damage in Ione, no aid will be available from national Red Cross. Aid is not given either to commercial businesses where there has been flood damage, she said.

However, the thoughts toward relief came only from outside agencies. Mayor Charles O'Connor had previously made it clear that Ione residents were not seeking disaster relief and said they could "take care of themselves."