

Exercises Held; Crop Prospects Look Best Since '48

(Pictures on Page Two)
By HELEN SHERMAN

Challenged by its class motto, "Looking Toward New Horizons," the graduating class of Heppner High school was inspired by speakers and atmosphere as it sat with dignity through commencement exercises Tuesday evening, May 29, on the high school gymnasium stage.

Thrills were experienced, too, as many received scholarship awards for outstanding citizenship and scholastic achievements. A new record was set in the total amount of \$6,045 that was made available this year for use of students in furthering their education in college.

Dr. Hester Turner, guest speaker, newly-selected dean of students at Lewis and Clark college, Portland, stirred the class into realization of its independence, as of now, from close school bonds and that now each will be challenged to think independently.

She said each graduate must answer for himself the question, "Who am I, and what must I do now?"

"Your lives will be full of important choices, and it is up to you to choose the best one for you," she said. "We need people who can think independently. America differs from Russia in that we do not want the master plan where all students are channeled into the same 'end product' (scientists). An individual is important here even if he is a 'square'—we develop the corners, instead of trying to cut them off. Learn how to make decisions independently and prepare yourself for change and always be ready to adapt to new situations."

Before the class processed to music by the high school band, yellow tapers were lighted on the platform by junior class representatives, Shannon Mahoney and LeRoy Gardner. The candleabra were banked by tall baskets of yellow chrysanthemums, the class flower. Above the stage hung an aqua-colored foil cloud with "Class of 1962" outlined in yellow chrysanthemums inside. Junior class escorts were Lorraine Leonnig and Dick Spring.

Guests were welcomed by a salutatory speech by Judy Anne Schmidt, and she reminded her classmates of the "hallway of doors we will need to open as we follow the paths leading to success and our ultimate goals. Each of us holds his own keys to the doors leading toward his own horizons."

Mrs. Sam Miller, accompanied by Mrs. C. C. Carmichael, sang a vocal solo, "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes."

Sandra Harshman gave the valedictory address, emphasizing the need for her classmates to follow the "road of individuality, through development of enthusiasm, sincerity, friendliness, sense of values and definite purpose."

Gordon R. Pratt, high school principal, presided over the awarding of leadership and scholastic awards.

Miss Esther Kirms, county extension agent, presented the annual 4-H scholarship to Libby Van Schoelack, a 9-year 4-H club member. The \$200 award is given by the Union Pacific Railroad to one girl in each of the 19 counties which it serves. Through the adult home extension unit, Libby was elected to live in the Azalea House at Oregon State University, where she is training for a career in home economics.

Representing Heppner Elks lodge youth committee, Conley Lanham announced recipients of four scholarships and one leadership award. First place for girls (\$200) went to Sandra Harshman, and second place (\$100) to Judy Schmidt. First place for boys was awarded Kenneth Daggett, and second place to Donald Clark, for the same amounts. Sandra Harshman also won an Elks leadership award of \$50.

Mrs. E. E. Gonty, Soroptimist club president, announced Beverly Blake as winner of its \$100 scholarship award. The high school good citizenship award, enabling her to attend a summer camp of her choice, went to Phyllis Nelson, and from the grade school, Diane Schaffitz received the award.

PTA scholarships were announced by Mrs. L. E. Dick, local president. Tuition scholarships for two girls entering the field of teaching were awarded Linda Van Winkle and Beverly Blake in the amount equal to full tuition and fees at EOC, but usable at any state school. Mrs. Dick also asked members of the class who had been together in the first class of kindergarten in Heppner to stand. There were about 10 graduates who had started kindergarten and gone through all years of school here together.

Arnold Melby, band director, thanked the community for its support of the music scholarship program and announced that Judy Schmidt and Don Clark were awarded \$100 each for use in college entrance. Judy also won the John Phillip Souza award for service in the music department.

An honor certificate for leadership from the University of Oregon was presented Linda Van

Winkle by Mr. Pratt, who presented most of the awards and honors.

The Ione Lions club award, presented for the first time this year, went to Judy Schmidt as outstanding senior girl, and to Eddie Howard as outstanding senior boy.

Fifty dollars will be applied by the club toward the second term of the college of their choice.

An award given annually by the Kinzua Pine Mills of \$500 was divided between two senior boys, Ron Creswick and Donald Clark.

The Future Homemaker award, given for outstanding service in their education in college.

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Delegation Tells Of Highway Need

A delegation of men from Morrow and Gilliam counties Friday once more brought to the attention of the State Highway Commission the need for an improved highway from Heppner to Highway 30, and this time they were backed by the support of Sam Mallicoat, director of the State Department of Planning and Development.

Meeting at their appointed time with the commission at 11:30 a. m. in Salem were three from Morrow county, Judge Oscar Peterson and Assessor Oliver Creswick, both of Heppner, and Garland Swanson of Ione, together with Leo Barnett of Condon and the Rev. Wilmer Briggs of Arlington, all of whom spoke, together with several others from Gilliam county.

Mallicoat told the commission that the department of planning and development supports a new route from Morgan to Arlington because of the Boeing development.

Creswick summarized points brought out in six resolutions that the Morrow delegation took to the meeting, and the resolutions were turned over to the commission. Judge Peterson acted as leader of the group.

Although the commission made no promises and again pointed out the lack of funds, as well as the great demand for highway projects, cooperation seemed to be "much better," Judge Peterson said.

The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce has made plans to continue being represented at coming commission meetings until some definite improvement of the highway is assured.

Former Residents Hurt in Accident

When Mr. and Mrs. John Graves of Hardman went to Portland last Thursday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilcox, they arrived just after the elderly couple had been involved in a two-car auto accident near Gresham.

Mr. Wilcox, 83, received fractured ribs and is confined to a hospital in Gresham this week. His wife, Ethel, 74, sustained a broken leg but was released from the hospital Friday. Also in the hospital are their daughter, Ed Boosten, Boville, Idaho. He suffered a broken pelvic bone and is confined to the Gresham hospital, and his wife, Eva, received some bruises and was shaken up but has been released.

The accident occurred just after Mr. Wilcox had stopped at a four-way flashing warning signal. A car approached from the side just as Wilcox started up and hit his vehicle broadside. The only occupant of the other vehicle was not injured.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox lived in Lexington for many years.

Becket Recovering After Eye Operation

Harold Becket, owner of Becket Equipment Company, is recovering from an operation performed in the Walla Walla General hospital Tuesday, May 22, when one of his eyes was removed. He is reported to be making good improvement after the delicate and painful operation.

The eye was injured in his shop some years ago and another injury about one year ago aggravated the condition. Mrs. Becket said. At various times he had bits of metal removed from it. Recently ulcers developed, and a specialist said that it would be necessary to remove the eye to save the other one that was being affected by it.

Mrs. Becket said that her husband had been "awfully sick" following the operation, and the strain on his nerves was severe, but he has shown rapid improvement and has been able to spend some time in a limited capacity in his shop.

It is necessary for him to return periodically to the hospital for treatment. He went over Tuesday and expects to go again Monday.

HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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10 Cents

79th Year, Number 13



CONSERVATION MAN of the Year title in Morrow county is shared this year by a father and son operation, Elmer Palmer (right), the father, and Roger Palmer (left), the son, in the Elmer Palmer and Son ranches at Eightmile. The two are pictured in their stubble-mulched summer fallow, and their strip cropping system is visible in the background. (G-T Photo)

Father and Son Team Share Conservation Title

(Pictures also page 3, Sec. 2)

Conservation Man of the Year—one of the foremost honors given annually in Morrow county—is a title shared this year by a father and son combination, Elmer Palmer, the father, and Roger Palmer, the son, who operate as Palmer and Son on their ranches at Eightmile.

Making the selection for the Morrow County Wheatgrowers' association, sponsoring organization, was a committee composed of Paul Tews, Ione, chairman; Bob Rietmann, Ione; Raymond Lundell, Ione; and Vernon Munkers, Lexington, 1961 Conservation Man of the Year in the county.

The Palmers will be presented at the annual meeting of the association, and Tri-County Equipment Company will pay tribute to their achievements in conservation work by awarding them the traditional plaque.

Elmer Palmer, a native of the county, was raised on the old Laurence Palmer ranch northwest of Lexington. He started farming in 1933 on the old Hoon place west of Hardman in 1933, and shortly after he married Muriel Patterson, who was reared in Ione and graduated from Ione High school.

They farmed the Hoon place until they bought the Redding place less than a mile south of the Eightmile post office in the spring of 1944. The original 1240 acres has been expanded until the ranch now consists of 4,330 acres. All of this is under their ownership with the exception of 800 acres which is rented from the Palmer estate. To the old Redding place was added 320 acres, then known as the Battv place, together with 750 acres of grassland, known as the old Harshman place, and a 130-acre ranch near Rock Creek, 12 miles from the home ranch.

Son Roger has ranched with his father since his graduation

from Heppner High school in 1954. He married the former Shirley Peck and they have four children.

The Palmers established their first strip cropping in 1949 when a long sloping field on the original ranch was eroding too much to suit Elmer. Permanent grass strips were established at this time, and they were later plowed up to establish an alternate summer fallow grain system to protect their wheat and barley allotment base.

Success of this strip cropping led to contour striping of another steep field on the home place. Because of a great loss of soil from the Palmer Estate cropland of 600 acres, 380 acres were established in strip cropping this spring. Five diversion ditches also will break up the erosion pattern on this ranch, leading the water into grassed waterways. These diversion ditches were used to set the contour for strips.

All fallow is stubble-mulched this year, made by double discing for the first operation, going over it with a Graham-Hoeme plow with points. It will be followed by the skew treader to even out the straw, then another working with the Graham-Hoeme with shovels, and finally rod weeded. Initial operation was done with a lightweight tandem disc so that stubble was not destroyed but early growth was.

Forty acres in the 750 acres of grassland on the old Harshman place were cleared of sagebrush with the noble blade which destroyed competition so that native grasses would do well.

On the Rock Creek ranch the cropland was seeded to pubescent wheatgrass, nomad and lark alfalfa, a part of the soil bank program. Heavy infestations of sagebrush have been eradicated by use of a brush beater, the patches then plowed up and cropped to grain before

seedling to permanent grasses.

Three springs have been developed for livestock water to make for good distribution of stock. The ranch is divided into three different pastures which allows for deferring and rotating. The Palmers have also developed some dryland seeding of alfalfa on wasteland area above their home, and this is used as a part of their hay supply for 80 head of cattle which they run on their ranch.

When visited to interview them concerning the Conservation Man honor, Elmer and Muriel were in the process of moving into their fine new home. "We got tired of trying to keep the floor in the old house from sagging and realized that we were putting a lot of money into it," Elmer said, "and so we decided to build a new house."

Elmer did much of the inside work himself, and the couple is already enjoying life in their new home. Mrs. Palmer's modern kitchen shows the progressive spirit of the family.

Roger and his family live in a home they built on the place, close to the old family home, when he and Shirley were married. View from both father's and son's homes overlook a vast area of farmland, alternating bright green and brown from growing crop and summer fallow at this time of year, with mountain peaks looming up on the distant horizon.

League Farm Team Practice Call Out

Bud Marshall, farm team manager of the Little League organization, announces a call to all boys between the ages of eight and 12 who are not playing Little League baseball to report for farm team practice at the league field Saturday morning at 9:00 a. m.

Swimmers Requested To Buy Tickets Now For Coming Season

City crews are getting the municipal swimming pool in shape for the coming summer season, and it is tentatively planned to open the pool on Saturday, June 9, depending on whether it can be made ready by that time, Recorder Ted Smith said Thursday.

All who plan to use the pool are urged to buy tickets at the city hall now. A family season ticket sells for \$18. Season ticket for an individual adult is \$9, for a high school student \$6, and for a grade school student \$4. For daily swims without a season ticket an adult is charged 50c, high school student 25c and grade school pupil 15c.

Tickets should be purchased at the city hall and not at the pool, Smith said. At this time city crews are painting the pool, and they expect to have the work done Monday. At least two days drying time is required, after which other work must be completed prior to the opening.

It is expected that the opening day, whenever it is, will be a "free" day to start the season off with a bang, the city recorder said.

Port, Rural Fire Budgets Printed

Printed in this paper are budgets for 1962-63 and notices of budget meetings for the port of Morrow and the Heppner Rural Fire Protection district. Second printing of the Port of Morrow budget will be on June 7 and second printing of the fire district budget will be on June 14 to meet legal requirements.

Budget hearing for the Port of Morrow is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, at 8 p. m. in the Morrow county courthouse, Heppner, and hearing for the fire district budget will be Monday, June 25, in the fair building annex, Heppner, also at 8 p. m.

Total expenditures of all funds in the port budget, including general and port facilities, are estimated in the port budget at \$66,604. Estimated receipts and cash balances are listed at \$41,354. Tax levy for the year, all within the six per cent limitation, is placed at \$28,100.

The fire district budget calls for total expenditures of \$6,095, and tax levy of \$6,245, including \$150 estimated in taxes that will not be received by the end of the fiscal year. The total is within the six per cent limitation.

Fire district budget is printed on page two, this section; and Port of Morrow budget is on page four, section two.

McNary Golfers To Visit Sunday

Golfers from McNary will be guests of the Willow Creek Golf club Sunday with men starting to tee off at 9 a. m. and the women at 10 a. m., Clint McQuarrie, local club president, announces.

Some 20 men and 10 women from the visiting course are expected, and the local club would like to have as many of its members present to greet them as possible. Prizes will be awarded for various events during the play. Men will play 18 holes and the women will play nine.

6th Graders Report on Willow Watershed

Talks on the Willow Creek watershed and its far-reaching importance in Morrow county were given, not by a learned scientist nor a prominent government official, but by four sixth grade Heppner school children at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday.

The four, taught by Mrs. Harold (Inez) Erwin, gave facts learned in the science project undertaken by their class and which was climaxed by a field trip to the upper watershed of the creek recently.

Mrs. Erwin introduced the children and told of the organization, planning and preparation involved in the project. She said that she assumed the role of "learner" on the field trip and "instructors" were Ralph Richards of the Soil Conservation of

May Rains Give Boost On Growth

Outlook for the grain crop in Morrow county at this time is the best that it has been since the 1948 season, County Agent Nels Anderson said Tuesday after touring various areas of the county with Howard Cushman, extension soils specialist.

"I don't remember when the prospects looked better unless it was in 1948," he said. Unusually heavy precipitation for May, together with moderate temperature, has contributed to the favorable conditions.

"We found the summer fallow full of moisture," Anderson said. "If not another drop of rain comes between now and harvest, there will be enough."

May Rainfall Posts New Record Locally

With a total of 3.27 inches of rain recorded, the month of May has posted a new record for precipitation in Heppner, Leonard L. Gilliam, weather observer, said Thursday. Only twice before, since records have been kept, has the rainfall topped three inches in May—in 1912 with 3.15 and in 1925 with 3.17.

Total rainfall for the year to date is listed at 7.12 inches. The current week's report shows .36 inch of rain, coming last Thursday and Friday. With the 1.73 of last week, the total for the two weeks exceeded two inches.

Report for the week: (Leonard Gilliam, observer)

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Thursday	54	44	.33
Friday	57	45	.03
Saturday	66	42	—
Sunday	74	53	—
Monday	67	43	—
Tuesday	64	36	—
Wednesday	64	38	—

However, with some five or six weeks still to go before harvest starts in July, there are still some question marks standing in the way of a bumper crop. One of the foremost of these is the possibility that weather may turn hot. Hail storms, too, could wreak damage to the wheat and barley.

The county agent said that spring seeded grain has still "quite a ways to go yet," but added that harvest in Morrow county seems to come at about the same time regardless of the season and when the crop was seeded. The start comes in the north end of the county shortly after July 4. However, it could be as late as July 15 in some places in the northern part of the county with the southern ranches harvesting later as usual.

At this time there seems to be no evidence of rust, Anderson said. Some warm weather—but not unusually hot—could make the crop grow even more rapidly than it has been in the past few weeks.

Rain of last week brought from 1.25 to 1.50 inches in various places around the county and contributed to one of the heaviest month's precipitations for May that has ever been recorded here, Anderson said. Some ranchers report more than 3½ inches of rain in the month.

Part of the barley crop is headed out and wheat is getting ready to head out, the county agent reported.

Bechtel Brothers Awarded Contract

Bechtel Bros. of La Grande was awarded a contract for construction of the addition to the A. C. Houghton school, Irrigon, after bids were opened last Thursday by Morrow County School District Board of directors. The low bid was \$135,287 for the project which will include a library, cafeteria, two classrooms and an office.

Six bids were received on the project, and the low bid was considered by the board to be quite favorable. Bechtel Bros. constructed Unit-A school in Heppner last year.

Construction is scheduled to start early in June and completion is anticipated by the end of October. The addition will be wood frame with brick veneer.

Heppner Auto Sales received a contract from the board for furnishing two school buses, one a 66-passenger bus and the other a 24-passenger. The larger bus is scheduled for use at Irrigon and Boardman, and the smaller one will be used at Ione. It is hoped to have the buses ready for use by the time school starts in the fall.

Wrangler Ride Set For Dougherty Ranch

The fourth and final play day ride for the Wranglers club will be held at the Jerry Dougherty ranch Sunday, June 3. All riders who wish to ride from Heppner to the Dougherty ranch are asked to meet at the fairground barns at 9:30 a. m. Sunday morning, according to the chairman, Rod Murray.