

Property Tax Shows 10% Decrease

Total is \$100,000 Less than 1961-62

Property tax millage in Morrow county for 1962-63 will be down on an average of approximately 10 percent around the county and the total county property tax bill for all purposes will be nearly \$100,000 less than for 1961-62, according to figures just released from the office of Oliver Creswick, county assessor. Total taxes for all purposes in 1961-62 were \$1,262,263.85, but for 1962-63 will be \$1,164,703.60.

Substantial drops in levies in all of the county's 17 code areas will be effected, ranging from a minimum decrease of seven mills to a maximum decrease of 19.6. In Heppner, the millage levy will be \$1.4 as compared with 90.0 last year, a drop of 8.6; in Irrigon it will be 6.7 as compared with 79.4 last year, a drop of 14.7; in Lexington it will be 7.0 as compared with 78.3, a drop of 7.9; in Boardman it will be 7.1 as compared with 93.0, a drop of 17.9; and in Ione it will be 7.4 as compared with 85.0, a drop of 7.6.

Total assessed value of the county for 1962-63 shows an increase of \$865,321, climbing to \$17,400,042 as compared with

\$16,534,721 for the previous year.

A principal reason for the gain in the valuation is the public utilities assessment, set by the State Tax Commission. The utilities assessment for 1962-63 is \$2,760,457, nearly double the \$1,424,951 for 1961-62. Greatest contribution to this gain was the assessment of Pacific Gas Transmission pipe line, completed across the county last year, placed on the roll at \$1,375,118. Last year, when the pipeline had not been placed on the roll as a completed project, it was listed as \$55,840. This will make Pacific Gas the largest taxpayer in Morrow county, replacing Kinzua Corporation and Union Pacific in first and second places, respectively.

Real property assessment for 1962-63 shows a decrease of \$494,130, due to two factors: 1. The loss of value of timber from the county rolls in the amount of \$427,190 because of the law taxing timber on a severance basis. 2. Acquisition of property in the Boardman area by the state and federal governments with consequent removal from the rolls.

Within cities, value of real property shows a slight drop—\$249. For 1962-63, the figure is placed at \$2,587,357 as compared with \$2,587,606 for 1961-62. Gain in valuation within cities due to the reappraisal of urban properties is offset by loss of the valuation due to the government purchases of Boardman property.

Personal property shows an increase of \$23,945, climbing from \$2,643,385 in 1961-62 to \$2,667,330 for the 1962-63 fiscal year. A concentration of contractors' road building equipment in the northern part of the county, engaged in highway construction as of January 1, was a factor in the personal property increase.

Assessed value of property in the Boardman area acquired by the Army Corps of Engineers is figured at \$144,580, and sale price of this property totaled \$972,400. However, part of Boardman, still unsold, remains on the rolls.

Contributing to the total tax bill decrease of some \$100,000 are several factors. Tax for county purposes alone is down \$40,719.44, from \$319,120.11 to \$278,400.17. Millage for county purposes will be 16.0 for 1962-63 as compared with 15.3 last year, due mainly to the reduction in the levy for road purposes.

The county taxpayers will also benefit from a drop in levy because of the district R-1 school bond issue that absorbed the previous 3-year levy. The bond issue and interest will require 4.6 mills for the current year as compared with 7.9 required for the serial levy last year. In Irrigon, an old school bond issue of \$5,314 was retired, and in Boardman, only some \$4,000 remains of an old bond issue as compared with the \$13,417.86 paid on the issue last year.

Creswick said that the work on the tax roll will be completed earlier than usual this year and statements may be ready by the middle of September. Summaries to be distributed at that time will give a complete analysis of the roll and taxes for each code area.

Council to Serve Fair Meals Daily

South Morrow County 4-H Club Council voted this year to combine their efforts for one money raising project of the year by opening a 4-H Snack-Shack daily, Tuesday through Thursday, August 21-23, at the county fair. They will open each morning for breakfast at 6:30 a. m. and have lunches and snacks available during the day and evening until all activity is concluded.

A large 10X20 foot movable structure was built to accommodate the portable kitchen which will include a refrigerator, stove, deep freeze, and small appliances, built by Eddie Thorpe and Alex Ulrich.

The council extends thanks and appreciation to Case Furniture, Herman Stroeber, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wright, Frank Hamlin, Columbia Basin Electric Coop., Pacific Power and Light and Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Simmons, for their help in the building and furnishing of the kitchen.

Interior Bill Report Approved

The Senate today (Thursday) approved a conference report on the Interior appropriations bill, Sen. Wayne Morse notified the Gazette-Times by telegram. This action is of particular importance to Oregon because it includes \$2 million approved under the Morse amendment for rehabilitation of western range lands, including the Vale project, \$2 million for forest access roads, and \$800,000 for forest management, the senator said.

Rodeo Queen Dance Slated August 18

Dance for Rodeo Queen Marlene Fetsch will be Saturday night, August 18, in the fair pavilion, Heppner, a change from the previously announced date of August 25. The week earlier date is set to avoid a conflict with the Shrine football game in Pendleton, billed for August 25. The dance date was originally scheduled for August 25 after the committee had been advised that the game would be on August 18.

Another Teacher Resigns Position

Fred Pulicicchio of Minneapolis, Minn., has resigned a position for which he was hired this summer by board of directors of school district R-1, Beverly Gunderson, district clerk, said Monday. He was to teach mathematics in Heppner and shop at Ione.

Shucks! Taint Hot, Hasn't Hit 100 Yet

If you're one of those who has been complaining about the hot weather, maybe the figures released by Leonard L. Gilliam, weather observer, and a reminder of last year will cool you off.

Temperature at his weather station hasn't yet hit 100 degrees this summer, although it came close on July 24 when it registered 99 and has hit 98 twice within the past two weeks. Through Wednesday maximum temperature had topped 90 each day for the past 13 days, ranging from 92 to 99. In all this summer only 15 days have reached or exceeded 90 degrees.

By contrast, in the summer of 1961, 24 days had gone above 90 by August 2 and temperature hit or exceeded 100 on four days—June 17 when it was 105, June 18 at 103, July 13 at 100, and July 14 at 102.

Complete report from Weather Observer Gilliam is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	97	64	—
Friday	92	59	—
Saturday	98	57	—
Sunday	96	57	—
Monday	96	56	—
Tuesday	96	54	—
Wednesday	92	59	—

HEPPNER

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Morrow Wheat Harvest Nears Peak

Average Holds About 30 Bushels

Harvest in Morrow county reached the peak period this week on wheat, and the trend seems to continue with the average holding about 30 bushels, although some growers are below that figure and some above. It still appears that harvest will bring an average of some 10 bushels better than last year but acreage is down and the total yield will be about the same as last year.

Because of the diversion payments, though, the income should well exceed that of last year.

ASC Office Issues Notice to Growers

Growers who received excess notices in the wheat and feed grain diversion programs and have not paid the \$10 for another check to see if they are in compliance must do this immediately if they are to qualify under the programs. Dave McLeod of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office said Thursday.

All farms have been checked once, and 127 notices in excess on wheat have been sent out, he said. Any grower who had not destroyed enough wheat to comply but intended to do so, must pay the \$10 for the second visit, McLeod said. The necessary amount of wheat must have been destroyed by the second visit. In some instances, the grower may be only a few acres short of compliance.

Work will be concluded on the program by the first of the week, and any who wish to qualify must notify the ASC office before that time.

Al Lamb, manager of Morrow County Grain Growers, said that all of the association's elevators are operating and wheat is coming in at about the rate of 50,000 bushels per day. The southern part of the county, always later in getting started, is now going in full swing and the Rugg elevator is receiving wheat.

Pinching has been noticed in some areas and the effect is apparent in grades. Test weight on wheat is lighter than usual and barley weight is down considerably, Lamb said. Hot and dry weather in the late growing season may have been the cause with wheat, he theorized, but barley may have been affected by the thick growth.

Harvest will continue through the next two weeks and maybe even longer in the higher country, Lamb said.

Teachers, Nurses Search for Houses

Need for houses to rent in Heppner is acute at this time, it is apparent from the number of calls seeking places.

Will O'Hara, administrator of the Pioneer Memorial hospital, said Thursday morning that two nurses on his staff are in dire need of houses to rent. Each has a large family and at least one of the houses should have three or four bedrooms.

"They are fine nurses and I don't want to lose them," he said.

Plight is the same or worse in the case of schools. Beverly Gunderson, clerk of district R-1, said that several incoming teachers are hard-pressed to find places and that five houses will be needed to accommodate them.

Other newcomers have been seeking places with little success.

Anyone with information on houses available, or which may be available in the next two or three weeks is asked to call O'Hara, Mrs. Gunderson, or leave the information at the Gazette-Times office.



PRINCESS JACQUIE BRINDLE

Jacquie's Dance Scheduled Next

Next to be honored at a dance in the fair pavilion, Heppner, is Princess Jacquie Brindle of the 1962 Morrow county Fair and Rodeo court. Her dance will be Saturday night, starting at 10 p.m. with Leonnig's orchestra furnishing the music.

Representing the Lena community on the court, Princess Jacquie is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brindle, and the family lives 14 miles from Heppner on Hinton creek. She is a senior at Heppner High school.

An honor student in high school, Princess Jacquie has a wide range of interest and student activities. She is an accomplished rider and rodeo to school in Enterprise before the family moved here seven years ago. In the fair and rodeo events she will ride her Appaloosa colt, "Kitten."

In 4-H for five years, Princess Jacquie has taken part in foraging, livestock, sewing and riding clubs and has held offices

in each. In Future Homemakers of America she has been degree chairman for two years and was treasurer of the Heppner High chapter last year. Princess Jacquie also was a delegate to the state FFA convention.

On the honor roll consistently during her first three years of high school, Jacquie is a member of the National Honor Society. She is also a member of the Girls' Athletic association and of the Girls' league. She has held offices as treasurer of the freshman and junior classes and has been active in Pep club.

Interested in church activities, the princess is a singer in the choir of St. Patrick's Catholic church, Heppner.

This is the third of the princess dances, the previous ones honoring Princess Dianna Pettyjohn of Ione and Princess Irene Potts of Boardman. Kickoff dance was held prior to the princess dances, and all have been unusually well attended.

Queen Coronation Set for August 18

Coronation of her majesty Queen Marlene I of the 1962 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo will be done with appropriate ceremonies on Saturday evening, August 18, at the main downtown corner in Heppner, Bert Huff, chairman of the coronation committee, announces.

Mayor Al Lamb will crown the queen, and Don Turner will be master of ceremonies. Leonnig's orchestra will play, and other entertainment will be provided.

Rodeo Parade Offers Prizes Totalling \$475

Prizes totalling \$475 will be offered to winners in 25 divisions of the 1962 Rodeo Parade which will be Saturday, September 1, at 10 a.m. in downtown Heppner, the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce has announced.

Randall Peterson, chairman of judging and prizes for the parade, has released a complete list and asks the public to plan now for entries, as well as to encourage entries from elsewhere.

Largest prize offered is \$50 sweepstakes for the best float from three categories: juvenile organization, adult organization, and business floats (commercial).

New categories this year are these: Best float from out of county, boats, old cars, and surveys, all in adult division; and bicycle and tricycle in the division for juveniles.

Complete list of prizes follows: Sweepstakes, \$50 (best entry of juvenile organization, adult organization, and commercial floats).

Juvenile organization, first \$25, second \$15, third \$10.

Adult organization, first \$25, second \$15, third \$10.

Business floats (commercial), first \$25, second \$15, third \$10.

Best float out of county, first, \$15, second \$10.

Riding clubs, first \$35, second \$20.

Bands, first \$15, second \$10.

Boats (new category this year), \$7.50 first, \$5 second.

Old cars (new category), first \$10, second \$7.50.

Surreys (new category), first \$7, second \$3.50.

Individual awards—Best family group mounted, \$7.50; best mounted cowgirl, \$7.50; best mounted cowboy, \$7.50; oldest cowboy, \$5; oldest cowgirl, \$5; best comic, \$10.

Total prizes in the adult division are \$388.

In the juvenile division are the following:

Children's floats, first \$7.50, second \$5, third \$3.50.

Riding clubs, first \$7, second \$3.

Bicycle division (new category), first \$7.50, second \$5.

Tricycle division (new category), first \$5, second \$3.50.

Pet entry, first \$7.50, second \$5, third \$3.50.

Best juvenile cowboy costume, first \$5, second \$3.50.

Best juvenile cowgirl costume, first \$5, second \$3.50.

Youngest cowgirl, \$3.50; youngest cowboy \$3.50.

Total prizes for children are \$87.

It was decided to discontinue giving a silver dollar to each child in the parade this year, and to add that money to the prize list in the hope of attracting better entries. The rodeo board approved giving \$100 for prizes, and the remainder will be paid by the Chamber of Commerce, coming from a special solicitation being conducted by

County Gets Extension on Farm Reappraisal

Reappraisal of Morrow county farm property should be completed within the next three years, according to a tentative agreement reached between county officials and the State Tax Commission at a meeting in the county courthouse Wednesday afternoon.

This extended the deadline at least two years from that which had been set in a recent letter from the commission that stated the work must be completed by the tax year 1963-64.

At the meeting Charles H. Mack, chairman of the state commission, said that the state would share cost of the program and expressed satisfaction with the reappraisal program now underway in the county on urban property.

The meeting was arranged when county officials were concerned about complying with the order in view of the fact that no funds for farm reappraisal had been provided in the 1962-63 budget and the assessor's office does not have the existing manpower to do the job. Notification had been received after the county budget for the

year had been approved.

In going over the matter at the meeting Wednesday, Commissioner Mack allayed some of this anxiety when he said, "The commission is going to be reasonable" and pointed out that it is trying to assist counties in understanding the total problem and getting the work done.

Reviews of the county valuations by the commission, acting in its capacity as a state board of equalization, showed that assessment ratios on farm properties in five counties—Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco and Umatilla—are too low, Mack said, all well below 25%.

In Morrow county the 1962 ratio on land outside corporate limits was figured at 20% bringing the total county ratio down to 21.2, far below the posted ratio of 25%.

As to the time element, he declared, "I feel that we can justifiably ride along two or three years—as long as there is movement." He said, however, that he does not believe the commission "would look kindly" over extending the reappraisal over a five or six year period.

It was pointed out that Bill Johnson, who is now working on reappraisal of urban property in the county, will be completed on this phase by late spring of next year, and he will then be ready to go to work on farm property.

Estimates are that the total farm reappraisal job, including bringing maps up to date, computing summaries and doing the field work, will take five "man years." The tax commission representatives said that they would be able to furnish some help to the county after work in Umatilla county is completed next spring.

The county and state officials reached agreement that the work will start on farm lands here when Johnson is through with valuations in towns and the state can furnish help after the Umatilla work is finished. This will mean that the county will not need to search for a source of funds for the job during the 1962-63 fiscal year but must provide for its share of the cost in the next two or three years. The county's share of the cost is tentatively set at \$20,000.

Assessor Creswick, who presided at the meeting, said, "I do not feel we are dragging our heels so far as equalization is concerned." He pointed out that the county is doing the work with limited funds and help.

Other tax commission representatives present to give technical information and answer questions were Commissioner Paul Liniger, Robyn Godwin, supervisor of appraisal; Harry Loggan, director of the valuation division; and Ted Cady, supervisor of ratios. They explained a study of sales of property which was used as a factor in computing the assessment ratios and pointed out that sales at inflated prices were not included in the computations. They told of needs in the way of maps, photos and a soil survey in conducting the farm reappraisal program here.

Judge Oscar Peterson said that he felt the need for stressing the benefits of the reappraisal program to the public, and Mack replied that farmers would be invited to come in for consultation after reappraisal facts were compiled to go over the

figures and give their opinions. Benefits cited by Creswick for the reappraisal program included: 1. Achieve greater equality of values in the county and iron out inequities. 2. Present a truer picture to budgeting bodies on values they have to work with. 3. Increase the valuation of the county. 4. Present lower tax millage rate.

Mack said that the commission needed assurance from the county court and budget committee that the work would be undertaken by the county. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed by all parties that the commission would set up procedures for the reappraisal program to present to the county and then the two bodies would meet to work out plans, costs and time schedule.

Others attending the meeting were Rod Thomson, deputy assessor; County Commissioner Milton Biegel; Dewey West and Henry Baker, members of the county budget committee; and Gene Pierce, member of the county board of equalization; Sadie Parrish, county clerk; and Robert Abrams, district attorney.