

# Irrigon-Umatilla School Merge Eyed

Seven Irrigon residents, including Harvey Warner, a director of Morrow County School district R-1, appeared before the State Board of Education and Dr. Leon Mincey, state superintendent in Salem Wednesday to recommend that an administrative school district be established to include Umatilla, Irrigon and Boardman.

Also at the meeting were Supt. Robert Van Houte of the Morrow county district; Darrel Reisch, director of special services; and Director Fred Martin.

Mrs. LaVelle Partlow of Irrigon acted as spokesman for the Irrigon group and Warner presented a statement from the citizens. Others included were Mr. and Mrs. Warren McCoy, Howard Gollyhorn, Mrs. Ernest Jorgenson, and Lee Gustafson. Warner said, "At the present time Umatilla and Irrigon are very much in favor of consolidation, but unless this is done very soon, the Morrow County School board will be calling for bids for a building at Boardman."

Director Warner had presented the matter at the school board meeting in Heppner Monday night, and the board discussed it. The three—Van Houte, Reisch and Martin—were assigned to attend the meeting in Salem with the Irrigon delegation. Irrigon sometime ago proposed a merger with Umatilla for consideration. Some of the residents there have expressed displeasure with the school board's decision to relocate Riverside high school in the Boardman area. It is presently located in Boardman.

Warner's statement said, "We believe this decision is in conflict with the State Department of Education and contrary to the recommendations of consulting engineers and the State Department of Planning and Development."

He said that a consolidation of Boardman, Umatilla and Irrigon would result in a high school of 220. Riverside presently has 75, of which 45 come from the Irrigon area and 30 from the Boardman area. Umatilla has 145 students.

Dr. Mincey extended the proposal farther when he suggested that the area consider combining those proposed by Irrigon residents together with Echo and Stanfield to join Hermiston, forming one administrative district of the whole group. He said that he was interested in the reorganization of the area and would send members of his staff to assist.

Van Houte said that he would meet with Ken Stanhope, Umatilla county superintendent, to arrange for a meeting with the Umatilla Rural school board to consider the matter.

Should such a district be formed, including the five towns to join with Hermiston, Hermiston high school enrollment would climb to about 850, roughly equivalent to Pendleton high school, although Pendleton also has a junior high school. Formal proposal towards such a district would have to be initiated by petitions to be filed with the Umatilla Rural School board and the Morrow County School board from those seeking the district. If the boards singly approved, they would then probably meet jointly and, upon agreement, would submit the plan to the State Board for approval. When this was given, and if no remonstrance came from any of the districts involved, the consolidation would be effected.

However, an election would have to be held in any district where a remonstrance is issued and any district voting against the proposal would be omitted.

Van Houte said that he discussed the matter with Stan-

hope early Thursday, and the latter said that Umatilla's master plan called for consolidation of Echo, Stanfield, Umatilla and Hermiston.

## Board Renews Contracts; Acts On Other Matters

Contracts of four administrators were renewed for one year at the regular meeting of the directors of Morrow county school district R-1 Monday night. Included are Ron Daniels, principal at Riverside high; Gene Harryman, principal of lone elementary school; Gene Harryman, principal at lone high; and Darrel Reisch, director of special services. Other administrators previously qualified for three-year contracts and are not up for renewal.

The board considered a number of other matters at the meeting.

Acting on a letter from the City of Heppner, they discussed the matter of drainage and improvements to the extension of Morgan street near the new Heppner-Lexington high school.

The city council at a recent meeting had brought up the matter and councilmen expressed the feeling that it was the school board's responsibility to provide for drainage.

School directors, however, expressed some doubt as to the extent of their responsibility on the matter. A committee was appointed by Chairman Dick Wilkinson, including Mrs. Esther Anderson, Ed Dick, Robert Van Houte, supt. of schools, and himself to investigate the matter.

Van Houte was asked to arrange a meeting with the city, county and school committee participating to determine the responsibility of each.

Marcel Jones presented a request from the PTA asking permission to flood the Heppner tennis courts for use in ice skating in cold weather. The board approved using tennis courts for the district for this purpose provided that advisory boards also approve.

Further discussion centered on the district's policy in regard to married students and their participation in school activities. There was some disagreement among the directors on the matter, particularly over a portion of the policy that left a final decision on participation to the school administrators. It was decided that the administrator would be polled before the next meeting to determine their feelings on the matter.

A request to run an activity bus on the Butter Creek run, which would provide for 7 to 11 students taking part in extracurricular activities, was approved, subject to funds available.

This was in accordance with an earlier policy set by the board.

Good progress was reported on the construction of the Heppner-Lexington High school building. At the time of the meeting all of the new structure was under roof with one layer of paper except for the gym and rough walls were up on most of the building, which will make it possible for the contractor to continue inside work through the colder and more inclement part of the winter.

# Speaker 'Dispels Myth' At Farm-City Dinner

Stimulated by the lively witticisms of Bill Barratt as master of ceremonies, 84 persons enjoyed the annual Farm-City banquet at the Lexington Grange hall Tuesday night, sponsored jointly by the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce and by supervisors of the Heppner Soil Conservation district.

"They heard J. H. Southworth, assistant director of Livestock Industries, State Department of Agriculture, in his words 'dispel a myth'—that 'farmers are slaying away for nothing out of the magnanimity of their hearts.'"

He declared, "Farmers and ranchers are farmers and ranchers because they want to be."

He pointed out three areas where he felt that farm and city people could work cooperatively: 1. In the area of soil and water conservation. 2. In the area of recreation. 3. In stability of markets and stability of production.

Barratt had sounded the key for the guest's address when he said in opening remarks that "even when things are bad in Morrow county, they are fairly good." Later Barratt said facetiously, "There is the farmer's side, the businessman's side, and the trust."

The master of ceremonies called upon Raymond French, chairman of the board of supervisors of the Soil Conservation district

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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10 Cents



DICK RUHL

## Ruhls Take Jet With OSU Team For Liberty Bowl

Residents of Morrow county are more than casually interested in the Liberty Bowl game in which Oregon University football team will play Villanova Saturday in Philadelphia, Pa., because one of its own, Dick Ruhl, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Ruhl of Lexington, will take part in the contest with the Beavers.

Dick and his wife, Suzy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clint McQuarrie of Heppner, boarded the jet plane for the east in Portland Wednesday night to embark on the experience that they looked upon with the greatest of anticipation. It climaxes a wonderful season for Dick in his first year as a back for OSU.

He has felt it a great honor to have the privilege to work in the backfield with the incomparable Terry Baker, who is now receiving the highest honors that can be accorded a college football player. Dick, according to Mr. and Mrs. McQuarrie who visited the Ruhls Monday night and Tuesday, has enjoyed the season immensely and is grateful that he was under the influence of a player of the magnitude of Terry Baker and that he became so well acquainted with him.

The young Mrs. Ruhl is one of six wives who are traveling with the team and will have all the inside thrills of being with the OSU contingent.

The McQuarries brought the Ruhls' infant daughter, Dana Marie, home to stay with them until the football player and his wife return from the Liberty Bowl trip. After the game Saturday, the Ruhls, with the rest of the OSU group, will be honored at a big banquet in Philadelphia and then will take a side trip to New York. The young couple expects to arrive in Heppner Tuesday and will spend the rest of Christmas vacation here. In Philadelphia, they will stay in the Sheraton hotel and in New York they will be at the Astor.

The game will be televised and will be seen here at 10 a. m. over KGW-TV. Members of the family, like other fans in the community, will be strictly unavailable for interruption during the time the game is in progress.

Ruhl has had a highly successful season with the Beavers and has contributed his share in their fine record that resulted in the Liberty Bowl invitation.

The Beavers are pre-game favorites over Villanova, but the eastern team far outweighs the Staters. It was reported that despite the cold wave hitting the east, prospects are for a dry field Saturday. If this is true, it would seem to be in favor of the Oregonians.

## Elks Building Moving Forward

Progress of the Elks building towards planned completion next week is on schedule. Glen Ward of the lodge said Wednesday night. Painters are now working in the club and lodge rooms and it is expected that the renovated quarters will be ready by the time of the Lodge's Christmas party and dance, Saturday, December 22.

Floring is yet to be laid in the lodge room, finishing work needs to be done in the kitchen, and considerable other work is yet to be accomplished, but it appears that the contractors will have just time enough to get the work done.

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## School Christmas Programs Due Tuesday, Wednesday

Christmas programs by elementary and high school music departments in the Heppner and Lexington schools will be presented to the public next week on three successive nights.

First of the holiday programs will be the grade school band and chorus in concert and pagant beginning at 7:30 Tuesday evening, December 18, in the multipurpose room, under the direction of Arnold Melby and Mrs. Ola Mae Groshens, Martha

Peck will be heard in an alto saxophone solo, "Holy City." The band will play the familiar "White Christmas," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Winter Wonderland," and "The Christmas Suite."

Immediately following, vocal students will be heard in a Christmas pageant, "Prince of Peace." A verse choir will narrate, through song and scriptural readings, the story of the birth of Christ, as told in the book of Luke. On the stage, after the professional, will be pantomimed seven Biblical scenes, from the vision of Mary and the angel to the traditional manger and nativity scene. Students from grades five through eight will be dressed in costume and several soloists will be featured.

Assisting Mrs. Groshens with costumes and special stage arrangements are Mrs. Lois Kirk, Mrs. Lena Kelley, Mrs. Inez Erwin, Mrs. Inez Meador, Don Clark, Tom Hughes and Mrs. Frieda Sloum.

The following night, Wednesday, December 19, the classical and semi-classical music concert by the high school band and chorus will be presented in the gymnasium, at 8:00 p. m., under the direction of Mr. Melby.

Soloists will include Tamara Smith on the flute in Schubert's "Ave Maria," a piano solo by Marti Dixon, "Christmas Rhapsody," and a vocal solo by Spencer Sampson, "What Child is This?" A girls trio, Sherron Bunch, Shirley Carlson and Pam Cochell, will sing the carol, "While Shepherds Watch." Band and chorus will be heard in favorite Christmas numbers, closing with a finale by band, faculty and students uniting in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," from the Messiah.

Parents of the children in the four elementary grades in the Lexington school will be offered a "Christmas Present in Song," on Thursday evening, December 20, 7:30 p. m. in the Lexington school auditorium, under the direction of Mrs. Groshens. The program, in seven parts, will feature characters and singers, in costume, in a musical revue of favorite Christmas songs.

Acting as master of ceremonies will be Charles Pointer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Pointer, with special parts being taken by Greg Davidson, Luke Padberg, Barry Munkers, June Ledbetter, Marlene Smith, Becky Doherty, George Steagall and Victor Klinger.

Assisting the director are teachers, Cleo Robinson, Donald Knighton, Fordyce Hills and Lorena Jones.

No admission will be charged for any of the programs.

Mr. O'Donnell urged public support of this campaign in order to insure more and better scouting for children in this area.

Harry O'Donnell has been named chairman of the Boy Scout fund campaign for this area and met with other interested leaders at a kickoff meeting Monday evening.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the funds received in the drive would be used by the Blue Mt. Council for continued service to the Heppner area by the District Scout Executive, Don Wike, and through varied services of the council service center.

It was also stated that plans are now being made to develop a second troop here and also an Explorer Post for high school age young men.

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# Farm Reappraisal Agreement Made

State of Oregon and Morrow county at a meeting Wednesday night, December 5, agreed to share costs of a farm reappraisal program in the county, each paying 50% of the cost. Judge Oscar Peterson and Commissioners E. O. (Gene) Ferguson and Milton Biegel signed for the county and Charles Mack, chairman of the State Tax Commission, signed for the state. It was approved by Assessor Oliver Creswick.

The appraisal of farm property is scheduled to start here as soon as Bill Johnson, appraiser, completes reappraisal of urban property. He said Thursday that he expects this to be done about April 1. When a reappraisal of farm property is concluded in Umatilla county, some help will come from there to assist with the job.

It is expected that the county's share of the cost will approximate \$25,000, which includes Johnson's salary, and it is planned to spread this over three years' budgets, beginning with the 1963-64 fiscal year.

At least two years will be required to complete the job, but staff hopes to have the reappraisal completed in time to go on the 1964-65 tax roll. However, it may not be finished until 1965-66.

Some 100 persons, most of them interested farmers, were present at the 2½-hour meeting in the courthouse last Wednesday night to discuss the reappraisal program and hear an outline of procedure.

Mack pointed out that Morrow county had not had a reappraisal every six years as required by law and said that the state would assist with the program now, but if the work were not started there is a possibility that the Tax Commission would "have to act."

Many farmers participated in the discussion, including Orville Cutsforth, Herb and Jack Hynd, Norman Nelson, Frank Anderson and others. Some expressed the fear that taxes would go up as result of the reappraisal program.

However, Assessor Oliver Creswick stressed that it is not valuation which increases taxes but the addition of more services in budgets.

"I would suggest that farmers participate in budget hearings and show more interest in how their tax dollar is being spent," he said. Reappraisal is expected to equalize the tax load in the county for the first time, Creswick said. His prediction is that the tax levy will be reduced about seven mills as a result of reappraisal on the basis of the current tax load.

Robyn Godwin, superintendent of appraisal for the tax commission, discussed three approaches used to arrive at the true value of property for assessment purposes: Market, cost and income. The first—market—is the easiest to apply to this type of property, he said.

Mack declared during the course of the evening that he favored the setting up of a non-partisan committee on a permanent basis to study taxes in the state of Oregon.

The committee could study the tax structure and determine if the burden is unfair to any particular group. If taxes are unfair to any group, something could then be done about it, he suggested.

Mack said he had long advocated an overhaul of the tax system in the state and had made the request to the tax committee of the House of Representatives at the last legislative session. He believes that the request will result in a favorable report to create such a committee.

Purposes of reappraisal is to determine the true market value, Mack declared. The new state law requiring a 25 percent ratio must be based on true cash value for the property tax load to fall equally on property owners.

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IONE'S CARDINALS open their 1962-63 regular basketball season with games at home against Arlington Friday night and Weston Saturday night. Shown with Coach Glenn Biehl (kneeling right) are (back row, from left), Gary Morgan, Bill Klinger, Marv Padberg, Jim Martin, Ron Crabtree, Rollie Ekstrom, Les Madden, Bill Akers, and (kneeling front, from left) Ken Klinger, Steve Lindstrom and Tom Heimbigner. (G-T Photo)

## Teams Face Week-end Games

Both southern Morrow county high school basketball teams, Ione and Heppner, have tasted nothing but victory in the young hoop season to date, the Mustangs with three triumphs and the Cards with a win in the West End E jamboree. But each will have two challenges in the upcoming week.

Ione's five entertainers twice at home on the week-end, playing host to non-league Arlington Friday night and then jumping smack into its league schedule against Weston at lone Saturday night.

Heppner, riding the three-game winning streak, will go to Pilot Rock Friday night for a non-league affair, although Pilot Rock will furnish league opposition later. On Tuesday, the Mustangs will be back on the road for a game at Stanfield. This will be the end of their action until they play hosts at a return game for Stanfield here on Saturday night, December 29, in a holiday encounter.

The Mustangs, on paper, loom as favorites in each of their contests. Their big worries come with the opening of the league season at Moro with Sherman county on January 11.

Coach Glenn Biehl says that he knows little of the Arlington team and does not know what to expect Friday night. Against Weston Saturday night, he knows that his team will have a tough battle.

"They are always tough," he said. "Coach Don Roberts is shrewd. He does a real good job. Even if he had all freshmen he would develop a team in contention before the end of the season."

## Navy, State Talk On Range Terms

Sam Mallicoat, director of the State Department of Planning and Development, together with Rupert Kennedy, met with U. S. Navy officials in Seattle, Wn., Wednesday to work on price negotiations between the state and Navy on the bomb range lands that the Navy will deed to the state, Judge Oscar Peterson said.

The judge and Assessor Oliver Creswick were asked to attend the meeting to help work with the price negotiations, and they intended to fly from Pasco, Wn., to meet Mallicoat and Kennedy at the Seattle airport.

However, when they reached Pasco they learned that their plane was fogbound in Salt Lake City, and they were grounded. The two drove home via Walla Walla to visit the Corps of Army Engineers.

The judge said that the Navy expects to be completely moved to the eastern part of the range within about a week. The county built a road recently through arrangements with the Navy to facilitate the move.

## Lighting Contest Entries Lagging

Only two entries have been received in each of three divisions of the annual Heppner Christmas lighting contest. Sixty dollars in prizes are offered in the contest, split between outdoor residential, indoor residential and business windows.

Business entries have until Saturday at 5 p. m. to register at the Gazette-Times, and residential entries have until Saturday at 5 p. m. to register at the Gazette-Times, and residential entries have until Saturday, Dec. 22, at 5 p. m. to register. The event is sponsored by the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce with an anonymous donor giving the prizes.

Registrations may be made by telephone (676-9228). Mrs. Arnold Melby is chairman of the contest.