

Only Old-Timers Remember the Devastation in Heppner Sixty Years Ago--June 14, 1903



On the 60th anniversary of the Heppner flood of June 14, 1903, the number of eyewitnesses of the disaster has dwindled, but there are still quite a few old-timers who recall details of the flood as if it had happened yesterday.

The story has been told and retold, but the documentary accounts remain more incredulous than fiction.

At the left is one of the well-known photos which shows the devastation that was Heppner after the great flood. The white building at the left with the steeple is the Methodist church which still stands on the same location. Poplar trees at right mark the approximate location of the channel of Willow Creek.

The picture was taken looking north.

Two stories on the flood contributed by Arthur Raymond Crawford, now of San Jose, Calif., and O. M. Yeager, now of Castle Rock, Wn., are printed on page six of this paper. Both lived here at the time of the flood.

Mr. Yeager is now compiling a Morrow county history which he hopes to have published soon. He also sent a list of those who died in the flood, except for those who remained unidentified, but since it has been published often before, it was not included in this edition. Any who would be interested in seeing it are invited to come to the Gazette-Times office.

Morgan Appointed To School Board

Morrow county's outgoing school board—all but one director of which will leave their positions by July 1—met in a "lame duck" session Monday night to act on routine business and found that it had a fairly busy session with a number of matters to be considered. Some were deferred to the new board—those in cases where policy is involved or decisions that might affect the future operation of the district.

Milton Morgan was appointed by the board to serve as director from the lone area. He had been recommended by the advisory board there and petitions had been circulated for the appointment. Members of the advisory board at the meeting said that nothing had transpired to change this position, and the action was taken in order that Morgan could take a place on the board as soon as he can take the oath of office.

Realizing the difficulty that exists in the interim existing until the new board is elected, the directors sought to act on matters that need attention at once.

They appointed Gordon Pratt as acting superintendent of the district to serve after Supt. Robert Van Houte leaves his post to act on administrative matters until the new board takes further action.

This action will provide someone to whom applicants for teaching and administrative positions may apply in the ensuing few weeks.

The board also instructed the clerk to notify the Oregon Education association placement bureau and the State Department of Education of vacancies existing in order to invite applications.

Contracts for three part time teachers were approved. Mrs. Nancy Leoux will teach English and math at Riverside on 70% time, Mrs. Gladys Hobbs will teach 5th grade at Houghton school on 50% time, and Mrs. Ted Talbot will teach girls' physical education and teach girls' basketball and girls' volleyball on 20% time.

In order to protect \$3000 that had been set aside for the Boardman school site that has

been contracted, the board took \$3000 from its general fund to apply towards an approved \$50,000 payment to The Timber Company. Culmination of the site purchase is not expected before the end of the fiscal year, and this action makes it possible to have the \$3000 available in the bond fund to pay for the site after the year's books are closed.

Don Olscheid, administrator at the Houghton school who has resigned to take a position in St. Helens, urged the board to act on an application of Michael Tollar as his successor at Houghton in order that Tollar might attend summer school if the appointment were made, since school is starting before the new board will meet. The "lame duck" board deferred action to the new board, however, with members stating that it would be improper for them to make the appointment without the approval of the incoming board. Tollar has the unanimous recommendation of the Irrigon advisory board.

Administrator Gene Harryman's request for financial relief for the lone High school student body was also deferred to the new board. He pointed out that \$700 is needed to care for a deficit incurred in getting a new textbook program underway, one which the board had previously approved. Under the plan the student body buys the books and rents them to the students. The heavy cost of the book purchase is not liquidated until rentals have had sufficient time to underwrite the cost, he explained. Directors said that this would be a matter of consideration for the incoming board.

Election boards for the June 22 elections were appointed by the board.

Olscheid, Biehl, Reisch, O'Rourke Resign Positions

Resignations of teachers and administrators cut rather deeply into the Morrow county school system this week. They were announced and accepted at the meeting of the outgoing board of directors Monday night.

Don Olscheid, administrator at A. C. Houghton school, resigned for the past four years, resigned to accept a position as elementary superintendent at St. Helens. Director Harvey Warner moved that the resignation be accepted, but said that he did so with deep regret.

Darrel Reisch, director of special services for the past year and administrator at lone High school for the year prior to that, resigned his position to become high school principal at Home-Idaho, Idaho. He and his family moved Thursday (today) for the new position.

Glenn Biehl, coach at lone High school for the past two years whose football team went to the state B finals in the fall of 1961, resigned to coach basketball and teach at La Grande High school. He is attending Willamette University this summer on a fellowship.

Mrs. Violet Lanham, Heppner High school teacher, asked for a leave of absence for the 1963-64 school year in order to take a tour of Europe. The leave was approved, subject to having a vacancy existing upon her return. Members of the board had good words of commendation for her work in the school here.

Lawrence O'Rourke, Heppner High school Spanish teacher and English teacher, resigned in order to continue his studies.

Resignation of Mahoney and Abrams as attorneys for the school district was accepted. It had been awaiting board action since May 31.

The resignation of Supt. Van Houte, which had been tendered several weeks ago, was formally accepted. It is effective July 1, but he will be on vacation after June 15.

Van Houte expressed appreciation for the cooperation and support that he has received from many and for the cooperation received from the board.

The directors who had resigned previously, D. O. Nelson, Mrs. Esther Anderson, Bob Sicard and Dick Wilkinson, went through the formality of presenting their resignations again to make sure that the action was official.

Red Cross Schedules Belated Fund Drive Here

80th Year

Number 15

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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10 Cents

D. C. Trip Spurs Hope For Willow Project

Meetings with the Bureau of the Budget, with Oregon's Congressional delegation, and an appearance before the Rivers and Harbors Congress highlighted the attendance of County Judge Oscar Peterson and Oliver Creswick, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce development committee, in Washington, D. C., last week.

The two went to Washington in the interests of the Willow Creek dam primarily and also in reference to the Columbia River waterfront for the Port of Morrow and for the improvement of the Lexington airport.

They found that they had a busy schedule during the five week days. They spent some time with the deputy director of the Bureau of the Budget, and Judge Peterson spoke on the Willow Creek project. "He was very receptive," the judge said.

They met with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, met the chief of the corps, General Wilson, but made a presentation to General Graham of the Corps on the proposed dam and the river waterfront.

The Morrow delegates read a statement at the Rivers and Harbors Congress, and it was supported also by a statement from Congressman Al Ullman. This was one of many projects presented to the Congress and was in the category of those which had not yet been submitted for official approval.

Peterson and Creswick visited at Ullman's office several times and had luncheon with him, his wife and son. Senator Wayne Morse had a breakfast at which they appeared, and they also met with Congressmen Bob Duncan, Walter Norblad, Edith Green and the office of Senator Maurice Neuberger.

"Duncan was not very hopeful on the Boardman situation," the judge said.

Another appearance was at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on June 6 where the judge presented the program underway on the Boardman site.

The two learned many things on the trip. They were advised to have facts compiled for later presentations on projects sought. The Congressional delegation

stressed the importance of continuing efforts to bring the prospects to successful conclusions and urged that some local representatives be on hand to testify at later meetings.

"If we are persistent in our efforts to see that the Willow Creek project is not stalemated in someone's basket, we stand a very good chance to be included in the omnibus bill next year and should also be included in the appropriations bill," Creswick said. He said that no where did anyone bring any objections to the project.

"It was an education to have a close look at the workings of the government," Creswick said.

Wranglers Plan Overnight Ride

At the last regular meeting of the Wrangler Riding club, plans were made for the overnight ride to Camas Prairie on June 29-30, with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Evans as hosts. Four-H horse clubs are invited to participate, and those planning to go must have the \$300 fee paid for meals to Mrs. Archie Munkers by June 20, and to let her know if transportation is needed.

During the business meeting, presided over by Everett Struckmeier, Fred Mankin was asked to be in charge of siding the club barn on two sides.

Entertainment was provided by Glen Ward who showed a colored film on the "Autumn Birds of Oregon."

Penney's to Open Friday Evenings

J. C. Penney store in Heppner will be open on Friday evenings until 9 p.m. beginning Friday, June 14, Mike Whitesmith, manager, announces. The Friday evening schedule will remain in effect continuously from now on.

It was reported that some other stores in Heppner were also planning to be open on Friday evenings, including Case Furniture store.



BUS FOR 4-H summer school left Monday with 31 delegates from Morrow county bound for a week of college life on the Oregon State University campus. Driver Leonard Munkers (left) and County Agent Joe Hay (right) escorted the delegates.

Absentee Ballots Ready for Elections

Those who will not be in the county on Saturday, June 22, and are otherwise eligible to vote in the Morrow county district school elections may apply now for absentee ballots from the office of Beverly Gunderson, clerk, in the courthouse.

Two elections will be held at the same time, from 2 to 8 p.m., on the Saturday. One will be on the revised school district budget, and the other will be a special election for directors to replace those who have resigned.

Ione Event Nets \$1500 for Church; To Be Held Again

Auction and barbecue sponsored by the Ione Community church at Ione Saturday proved to be a success beyond the sponsors' expectations with some \$1500 netted for the church.

The money will erase a deficit in the church budget at the end of the fiscal year and will provide new Sunday School tables and equipment that have been needed, Mrs. Bob Jepsen said.

Reports were presented by workers Wednesday night and it was found that receipts were \$1952, of which not more than \$450 will go towards expenses. The goods for the community auction were donated, and most of the food for the barbecue was also given to the cause.

Sizeable crowds were on hand throughout the day, and merchandise offered for sale brought generally good prices with Don Wink as the auctioneer. Some 250 persons enjoyed the barbecue dinner at noon with pit-cooked meat prepared by Chels Jack Loyd, Garry Tullis and Fred Nelson.

A popular attraction was the stage coach ride with Buck Lieutnant of Pendleton driving the authentic stage coach, using his well-known team of palominos. Children were waiting at the start of the rides and at the end of the day, some had to be turned away.

In view of the success of the event, the church decided to stage it again next year.

Bob Jepsen was general chairman of the planning committee, and in all some 50 persons had active parts in the work.

WEATHER

By Leonard Gilliam
Weather report for the past week is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	72	43	—
Friday	73	44	—
Saturday	74	54	—
Sunday	63	47	—
Monday	75	50	—
Tuesday	81	51	—
Wednesday	85	53	—

Father's Day June 16



Stores to Honor Father Saturday

Father is king this week-end with Father's Day coming Sunday, June 16. In his honor, merchants of Heppner are having a Father's Day promotion Saturday.

Those shopping for gifts for father will be given special consideration. Randall Peterson, chairman of the merchants committee, states.

Other special events in the community which may be of interest to dads Saturday are the Little League doubleheader at the league field near the fair pavilion, and the Elk's barbecue and dance, for members and out of town guests, Saturday evening.

Blood Program In Jeopardy; Goal is \$1500

A Morrow County Red Cross drive—three months later than the usual date—will be conducted from June 17 through 27, it is announced by the Rev. Charles Knox who has been appointed by the county Red Cross organization to act as campaign chairman.

It is expected that a door-to-door canvass will be conducted for the campaign which has \$1500 as its goal.

At the time of the regular campaign month of March, no one could be found to head the drive here. One appeal for voluntary donations was made through the paper and \$109 was collected as a result, together with \$99 that was received from Boardman and Irrigon.

Without funds to defray expenses for the local blood program, the county is virtually certain of losing its blood program, and Red Cross blood would no longer be available through Pioneer Memorial hospital, Mrs. Carl Troedson, who has been active in the county's Red Cross program said.

"Many hours of work have already been given by a few people," the Rev. Knox said. "Many more have signified a willingness to combine their efforts with this small group and help."

"Morrow county and you cannot afford to be without the benefits of the Red Cross," he continued. "Have you stood in the hospital corridors and heard the doctor say, 'We have to give blood—now.' Then the laboratory technician replies, 'But we are out of blood.' The family anxiously asks, 'Where can we get it? We will drive for it.' Pendleton is only 70 miles away, but when a life is at stake, that is eternity! Yet this eternity is possible, due to the American Red Cross blood bank, and the facilities for processing blood."

The Red Cross also supports the summer Red Cross swimming lessons, which are available for any young person or adult. Every year the local Red Cross swimming instructors receive advanced training to help with life saving instruction.

Of the funds given locally, almost half stays at home to help with the programs here. Should a disaster come to the area of any type, the national organization would assist without using local funds.

"During the campaign, give and give generously, as this gift may be the gift of life for someone you love dearly," the Rev. Knox said. "Welcome your Red Cross solicitor, and give just as generously as you can."

Cow Elk Shot; Unborn Calf Dies

Dick Graham, Kinzua Corporation forester, Friday discovered a dead cow elk between Thome and Rutabaga Creeks. It had been shot and an unborn calf had been removed and was left beside the mother.

Apparently the wanton hunter had started to butcher the elk but did not complete the job and left the animals on the spot.

The matter was turned over to Jim Gordon, state policeman in investigation, while some local sportsman suggested that person responsible should be nominated for the "meanest man" title.

13-Year-Old Girls Take Plane Trip

A big thrill in their young lives came to Pamela McCabe, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernie McCabe of Heppner and Jenny Smith, also 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Smith of Seattle, Wn., Monday.

The girls boarded an airplane in Pendleton on that day to take a trip by themselves to Seattle. Jenny has been staying in Heppner with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Nash.

They expect to spend about a month at the Smith's summer home on Orcas Island, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and family are former Heppner residents. The McCabes took them to the airport in Pendleton.

Auto Parts Sets Grand Opening In New Location

Grand opening of Heppner Auto Parts in its new location at 234 Main Street, next to Central Market, will be Saturday throughout the day, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. (Pete) McMurtry, owners, announce.

The McMurtrys recently bought the building from Mrs. Jennie Gorkfle of Pendleton and moved their stock from the small building next to the Bank of Eastern Oregon where they have been in business since 1950.

At the new location, they have approximately three times the amount of floor space, and new counters and shelving provide room to display merchandise that formerly could not be seen by customers.

The move was made in fast time when the new quarters were ready with seven men from the National Automotive Parts Association, Portland, assisting with the job. In all, it took 260 man hours for the move, McMurtry said.

At the grand opening, a contest will be open to all persons over 16 years of age with three prizes offered. Those coming to the store will be invited to write down as many brand names as they can see on merchandise in stock. The one with the most will receive a \$43.90 load leveler, combining an overload spring and shock absorber. Second will receive a \$20.50 set of seat belts, and third will get \$10 credit on New Britain tools. The contest will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One feature of the new location is customer parking in the rear, McMurtry said.

The McMurtrys came to Heppner from the Willamette Valley in 1933, and he worked as a mechanic before entering the auto parts business. Associated with them in the store is Charles Starks, who, with Mrs. Starks, are owners of Northwestern Motel.