

# Heppner Ranger District Area's Largest "Farm"

(Continued from page 1)

fire prevention campaigns, makes cooperative arrangements with representatives of local, State and other Federal agencies. He is safety officer and is building maintenance and property custodian.

Engineering assistant, David Haddock, supervises and directs all engineering and related activities, including road location and design, construction staking and inspection, contract administration, road and trail maintenance and equipment management.

Business management assistant, Mrs. Herb (Betty) Hamilton, actively directs the district business management activities, is responsible for financial records, typing, clerical work, and business management aspects of resource management and office operations as they are involved in multiple use management activities.

Subordinate to each assistant are several permanent employees and a number of temporary workers. Working under Williamson are R. W. (Bob) Booth, timber management assistant, and Emory L. Clapp, who works on range, recreation, land uses, wildlife and watershed management. C. E. Rouse handles timber sale administration. M. A. Hicks is project forester, and James Hilderbrand, pre-sale work. Others in this section now on the staff are J. P. Rogers, scaler; Gary Garretson, scaler; Ken Keeling, Paul Waggoner, Stuart Smith, John Kersheval, all forestry aides.

Especially active at this time of the year are those in the fire control section, many of whom are on temporary summer duty. Bill Crooke is fireman at Tupper Guard Station. Ray Smith is brush crew foreman, and Jerry Reeves is acting foreman of the fire suppression crew while Foreman Robert Eggers is hospitalized. R. Palzer is maintenance carpenter with Jon Carothers and Melvin Yakel assisting this summer with development at Bull Prairie. Lookouts are Kirby Schwineck of Pasadena, Calif., at Madison Butte, David Creswick of Heppner at Tamarack, and Robert Fettsch of Lexington at Wheeler Point. Fireman at Ditch Creek Guard Station is Richard Stratton and at Bull Prairie Guard Station is Robert Cantonwine. Extra protection men are James Dunbar, Harvey Jim, Chris Burkenbine and Francis Morehouse, stationed at various points in the district. Working under Reeves on the suppression crew are Kenneth Daggett, Roy Mesler, Norman Meyers, James Peckham, and Robert Simons. Working under Smith on the brush crew are Ralph Piper, Ronald Creswick, Terrence Dolan, Donald Kenison, Victor Kucera, Bernard Livingston and David Fitzwater. Working with Haddock on engineering are Marcus Luke, surveying aide, and Charles Bevin, John Cason, Paul Wolff Jr. and Gail Hedde, temporary surveying aides.

Assisting Mrs. Hamilton is Mrs. Paul Jones, clerk, and Pat Mahon, temporary clerk. —And if the men quartered at Tupper Guard Station are consulted about it, two of the most important of all in the Forest Service personnel are the cooks there, Elsa Leathers and Dorothy Bromley, who are sisters. Chuck McLean took the editor on a "show me" trip through the forest district last Friday that was an eye opener. Traveling some 200 miles we visited all three lookout towers, checked methods that had been used in fighting a 3-acre fire at Lovlett Corral, watched demonstrations by the suppression crew, saw the brush crew in action, and enjoyed a steak dinner with the crews at the Tupper Guard Station.

"Instant Readiness" characterizes the crews in the field at this time of year. While men are busy on various activities in the district, all are subject to call in case of fire, and all are ready. The suppression and brush crews are stationed at Tupper

and the crews rotate their days off so that a good sized crew is on hand at all times.

At the same time, none sit around waiting for a fire. They may be making improvements to camp grounds, piling brush, working on roads, doing maintenance work, or practicing making fire trails. But they are busy.

The suppression crew goes through a period of daily physical training exercises, patterned after those of the Montana smoke jumpers, although there are no smoke jumpers here because the district is fairly easily accessible by jeep and pickup.

At Foreman Reeves' whistle, his crew, with fire-resistant shirts and bright fluorescent hard hats, formed into line and trotted out to a spot to give a demonstration of building fire trail.

The crew works as a coordinated team, and making fire trail is back-breaking exhausting work. They can build about 100 ft. of trail per man per hour, 30 inches wide, and this is the most effective way of stopping forest fire in this country where water is scarce.

In the six man crew, four take pulaskis (a hoe blade on one side and axe on the other), a fifth takes a shovel and brings up the rear, while the foreman alternates in supervision and helping out.

Spread some six or eight feet apart, they dig and move swiftly, each succeeding man helping to finish what the man ahead has left undone. The man with the shovel finishes the job, so that not a twig is left to carry the fire across the trail. If a buried log or big root is in the path, it must be cut away or trail dug around it.

The crew moves in precision. At a command of "Move Up!" they move forward and the shovel man takes the lead position in a rotation movement so that all share equally in the work load. At a command, "Reverse!" they start working backward to do a better job when the trail doesn't meet the standards of the foreman's critical eye.

The foreman may grab a shovel whose edges is honed as sharp as a knife to take the lead position and use it to slash and clear the small vegetation.

In some 10 minutes the six man crew made about 100 feet of finished trail. It looked neat and clean but the foreman pointed out a corner that he felt was not up to standard. Twigs and debris left might allow the fire to jump, he said.

Later at Lovlett Corral, McLean pointed out what had been done to quell a lightning-set fire a few days earlier. Trails wove around the boundary of the fire where men had worked feverishly through the night and following day to control it. A scrub pine bore the scars of a lightning strike that was responsible for the blaze. Its bark was torn from top to bottom.

The "scratch" trail that had been hastily dug was there, but another finished trail surrounded it all. Crews in this national forest cannot depend on water, and fighting fire without it is the hard way. Once the fire is brought under control, at least one man is assigned to "cold trail" the fire. He must go on hands and knees around the fire line to feel and make sure that there are no sparks, no roots burning underground that might carry the blaze across and ignite another that could develop into a fire like the Ditch Creek blaze of two years ago.

(To be continued)

## Joseph Whitaker Dies in Idaho

By MARTHA MATTESON  
MONUMENT—Word was received Monday night that Joseph S. Whitaker had passed away that evening in Burley, Ida. He had gone there recently to visit some of his children. He was the father of Mrs. June Hutchison and had made his home here with her for the past few years. He was 76 years of age. Services were held Saturday at Elba, Idaho.

Mrs. Jim Croker took Dianne, Forrest and Sheldon Hutchison to Fondleton last Wednesday to visit their mother, Mrs. June Hutchison, who is a surgery patient there in the St. Anthony hospital.

Mrs. Janet Lewis and daughter Earlena drove to John Day Tuesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Johnson, Mrs. F. Noland and two sons spent Friday on business in Prineville.

Owen Smith and Harold Reynolds spent the past week out of town on duty for the Columbia Power Co-op.

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Matteson and children of Alturas, Calif., are here for their two weeks vacation visiting relatives in Fox and Monument.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lippert and three sons spent the weekend in town from their fence building camp in the mountains. Earl Ridgeway of Redmond and now employed at the mill in Long Creek stopped in to visit Elmer Matteson Sunday evening. They had known each other most of their lives, both being raised in the Heppner area.

Rev. Gary Edson and the Lyle girls returned Sunday after spending the past week at the summer church camp.

## Pomona Approves 3 Resolutions At Saturday Meet

Morrow county Pomona Grange passed three resolutions at its meeting in the Rhea Creek Grange hall Saturday. One favored restoration of the county extension budget to \$11,650; a second asked that urban property be assessed at the approximate level of utility and rural properties for the fiscal year 1963-64; and the third opposed a move to tax the general public for going into forest lands for recreational purposes.

The vote on the extension budget resolution came after considerable debate. The count was 24 in favor of the resolution, three against, and several abstaining.

The resolution pointed out the "changing technology of farming in respect to crop varieties, alternate crops, cultivation methods, livestock production, feeding methods, breed improvement and disease control;" need for technical direction in weed control; importance of the 4-H program; and the home economist on the extension staff. The resolution asked that "all efforts be made to retain three extension agents."

The resolution on taxes is as follows: "Whereas rural property for fiscal year 1963-64 will be assessed at 17.18% of true value; and whereas utility property will be assessed at 19% of true value and urban property near 25%; therefore be it resolved by Morrow County Pomona Grange this 27th day of July, 1963, that urban property be assessed at the approximate level of utility and rural properties for the fiscal year 1963-64. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Morrow County Court and the State Tax Commission."

Resolution on the forest taxes was directed to the attention of the Grange here from the Union County Pomona Grange. It is as follows:

"Whereas there is a move being made by the State and Federal forest services to put a tax on the general public for going into the forest land for recreation purposes; now, therefore, be it resolved by the Union County Pomona Grange this 22nd day of June, 1963, that we go on record as being strongly opposed to a tax or charge of this kind, and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the forest services and to the Pomona Granges of the Eastern counties."

In the approval of the measure here, the Morrow county Grange added that copies of the resolution be sent to the State Grange with a recommendation that it be forwarded to the national Congress.

Alvin Wagenblast, master, presided at the all-day session. Committee reports were given in the morning and the Rhea Creek Grange was host at the potluck luncheon at noon.

A program feature was the showing of colored slides on the Holy Land by Henry Baker.

# County Extension Work Covers Wide Range

(Editor's Note: In view of recent attention focusing on the office of Morrow county extension service, the following is printed as a resume of work done through the office during the last report year, ended September 30, 1962).

Annual report of the Morrow county extension service for the year ended September 30, 1962, is a volume of some 200 typewritten pages together with clipings, pictures, charts and graphs that show an extensive program covering a wide range of activities.

It shows that work is divided among the three county agents as follows: Esther Kirmis, home extension agent—Adult home economics, 4-H home economics, Great Decisions program, civil defense in the home, safety in the home, staff relations with Soroptimists club, Chamber of Commerce, county extension committee, CowBelles, domestic wheat utilization committee of the Morrow County Wheat Growers' association.

N. C. Anderson, county extension agent, agriculture—All agricultural adult programs in dry land crops, range livestock and weed control with the exception of North end office management, including public relations, personnel, finance and programs coordination, soils and irrigation (South end), staff relationship with Farmers Union, Pomona Grange, Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, secretary of Morrow county Livestockgrowers association, Morrow County Wheat-growers association, Heppner Soil Conservation district, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee.

Joe Hay, county extension agent, 4-H and agriculture—4-H program leadership, entire county; agricultural and associated 4-H projects (entire county), assist with weed control program (entire county), assist with public relations (Chamber of Commerce and Pomona Grange), adult agricultural programs (North Morrow), public relations (North Morrow), including Greenfield Grange, West Extension Irrigation district, secretary of Boardman Soil Conservation district, other civic groups. Office hours include one day per week in North Morrow county.

Days worked by the agents during the year include adult work, 512, and 4-H club work, 343, for a total of 855 days worked.

A summary of general extension service activities for the year follows:

Farm and Home visits—Visits made by the two agricultural agents totaled 704, thirty-eight more than the previous year; for the home agent, 349, an increase of 145. Total farm and home visits were 1053.

Office calls—office calls received by the home agent were 364, by the agent doing primarily 4-H club work, 307; by the agent doing primarily agricultural work, 1,127. Total office calls were 1,798, a total of 208 more than 1961.

Telephone Calls—the home agent received 955 telephone calls; the agent doing primarily youth work, 611; the agent doing primarily agricultural work, 1333, for a total of 2,899.

News articles—The home agent prepared 123 news articles; the agent doing primarily 4-H club work, 20; and the agent doing primarily agricultural work, 313. These include weekly news column of the agricultural agent and home agent. Total news articles published were 456.

Bulletins distributed—Free bulletins covering many subjects in the field of agriculture, home economics and 4-H are in supply at the county office. A total of 9,625 were distributed during the year.

Circular or commodity letters—Three hundred ninety-eight different circular or commodity letters were written during the year, almost evenly divided among the three agents.

Meetings held and attended—in addition to individual contacts, the agents participate in or hold meetings that pertain to the extension program, as well as a wide variety of community affairs. Many contacts are made this way, rendering services and serving developed projects. Training meetings held for local leaders in adult work were 24, with 260 in attendance. For youth, 18 were held, with 169 attending. Other meetings at which agents presented educational information (when counted) totaled 196 meetings for adults with 4790 in attendance. Local leaders in adult work held 60 meetings, attended by 852 persons, while in 4-H work, 213 of these meetings were held with

2,129 attending (not necessarily attended by any of the three agents).

Seventy-eight different men and 58 different women acted as adult leaders in carrying out the county extension work. There were seven home economics extension units, with 175 members. In 4-H club work, 327 boys and girls were enrolled, and 317 completed projects for a 96% completion.

One hundred fifty-one days were spent on extension organization and program planning in order to carry out a balanced program. A total of 140 days was devoted to miscellaneous, which included largely administration, with insects, fire control, range management, rodents, weather, news and rural defense entering into this total. One hundred three days were spent in the field.

The largest number of days spent on any one commodity was the production and marketing of livestock which amounted to 92 days. Eight-eight days were spent on projects and programs in community development, while 85 days were spent in production and marketing of field crops.

There were 28 days spent in child development and human relations; twenty-nine in soil management, fertility, erosion;

24 in food preparation and selection; 25 in clothing selection and care; 23 in planning and management of the farm business; 11 in home grounds improvement; 6 each in home furnishings, forestry, and irrigation; 5 in planning and management in the home, and miscellaneous activities took up the remainder of the time.

## HOSPITAL

Patients admitted to Pioneer Memorial hospital for medical care during the past week are the following: Judy Buschke, Heppner; Charles McLean, Heppner; Leta Ledbetter, Heppner; Don Oster, Heppner; Hazel Marie Schulz, Olex, and J. B. Malcolm, Heppner.

Those dismissed during this same period are: Larry Fraley, The Dalles; Christopher Johnson, Heppner; Laura Lee Oster, Heppner; Paul J. Doherty, Heppner. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Jensen, Heppner, are parents of a son, born Monday, July 29. He weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz., and has been named Michel Nathan.

Matt and Merilee Murray, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Murray, are vacationing in Newberg at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gwinn, and at the beach.



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