

'63 Leaves Record Both Good and Bad

(Continued from page 1)

of Ione was recalled by vote at a special election May 6, after which four directors resigned—D. O. Nelson, Robert Sicard, Mrs. Esther Anderson and Dick Wilkinson. At a special election on June 22, four new directors were elected, Howard Cleveland and Ken Batty of Heppner, Irvin Rauch of Lexington and Roy Partlow of Boardman. Milton Morgan of Ione was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Fred Martin. Andy Van Schoelack of Heppner had been elected to replace Ed Dick who did not seek a new term.

Supt. Robert Van Houtte also resigned, and the new board chose Wayne Brubacher of Wallace, Idaho, to succeed him. The conflict on school matters was also evident in the district budget. As initially presented for vote on April 22, it sought \$1,028,000 in general fund expenditures and was defeated, 274 yes to 697 no. It was then revised and reduced to 991,000 and was approved on June 22 by a 2 1/2 to 1 margin.

Great interest was shown in the wheat referendum on the 1964 program here. Local growers voted in favor by the greatest margin of any county, recording a 91% yes vote on May 21, but it was defeated throughout the nation, and growers faced an uncertain future. At year's end there still was no wheat program for the 1964 crop but growers were pressing for action on a voluntary certificate plan in congress.

Despite a cool summer and some rain, the 1963 wheat crop proved to be considerably better than average in most parts of the county.

Morrow County Grain Growers listed earnings at \$114,000 for the 1962 crop year at their annual meeting.

The county budget was held within the 6% limitation for the 1963-64 year with estimated expenditures of \$543,878, but it caused controversy when the figure for the county extension agent was cut at the final budget hearing. Fearing this would mean the loss of one of three county agents, many residents protested and finally raised voluntary fund of \$3400 to assure retention of the three agents. However, this proved to be of no avail after the state proposal was defeated in October and the third agent, Joe Hay, was removed as one of many around the state who lost their jobs when a general curtailment was ordered by the State Board of Higher Education.

On July 18 it was announced that Heppner was classified by the employment service as an "area of substantial unemployment." This brought disagreement from a number of businessmen, but it qualified the area for public works projects under the Public Works Acceleration Administration. Later, a \$70,000 PWAA project was approved for the Heppner district, U. S. Forest Service, to improve Tupper Guard Station and construct roads.

Other items of general interest in the year's news were these: Approval by the Heppner city council of an envelope plan for parking meter violations where in a violator might place 25c in an envelope in lieu of paying a fine. It appeared to be working very successfully.

Noting with memories of horror of the 60th anniversary of the 1903 Heppner flood on June 14.

Retirement of Mrs. Walter (Ruby) Roberts as lone postmaster after 41 years of service and appointment of Mrs. Charles (June) O'Connor to succeed her. Gain in school enrollment to 1184 noted in the county at the start of school September 3, 38 students more than 1962. Appointment of Clarence Rosewall to the Heppner city council to succeed Conley Lanham who resigned to take an extended trip abroad.

Resignation of Milton Biegel as county commissioner and appointment of Walter Hayes, Boardman, to take his place after December 1.

Proposal of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative to buy power systems of Pacific Power in Heppner, Fossil and Condon and exchange other territories with the company to be culminated after the start of the new year. Payment of \$1,492,000 is involved.

Impact of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22 must rank as one of the year's top news stories and the most tragic one. Local residents, like those everywhere, were deeply affected. Many memorial services were held and a day of mourning was observed.

At year's end Al Lamb was elected to the presidency of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber to Commerce for 1964.

There was little activity on the political front because this was a non-election year. Oliver Creswick was appointed justice of the peace to succeed J. O. Hager, justice for many years, who died early in 1963.

Honors Achieved

Countless honors were achieved by Morrow county residents and organizations in 1963, and these are only a few of them:

Hynd Bros. of Cecil named Livestockmen of the year on January 10; Ann Jones was valedictorian and Martha Doherty salutatorian of Heppner High school class of 1963; Louise Pointer was valedictorian and William Akers was salutatorian of Ione High school class of 1963; Joan Healy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Healy, was queen of the Shrine football game August 21; John Porter, ex-Heppner football star, was selected to play in the game; Oliver Creswick received the Chamber of Commerce certificate of recognition at its annual banquet May 13 for his work as chairman of the development committee; Gar Swanson of Ione was named as Conservation Man of the Year June 6; Dr. Ed Schaffitz was chosen by Morrow County CowBelles as Father of the Year; Morrow county's rodeo court won first place among courts in the Portland Rose Festival in early June; the Rev. Charles Knox was chosen Minister of the Year by the state convention of the Oregon Christian churches; Phyllis Nelson was chosen as one of 10 from Oregon to be a delegate to the national Future Homemakers convention in Kansas City; Chris Brown was chosen a member of the national FFA band for the convention also held in Kansas City, and several delegates from the Heppner High chapter attended; Marcia Rands won top honors in the IOOF-sponsored United Nations Pilgrimage and took a trip to the United Nations in New York, leaving July 9; L. L. Gilliam was presented a pin by the Weather Bureau for 30 years service as weather observer in Heppner; the Heppner Soil Conservation district was chosen by the Goodyear company for its grand award in Oregon and two men, Gar Swanson and Raymond French, represented the district at a trip to Goodyear Farms in Arizona in December; Mac Griffith, former Heppnerite, won the all-around cowboy title at the Pendleton Round-Up on September 14; Dick Ruhl brought more athletic recognition for his home county with his exploits as an outstanding member of the Oretam; Judy Sherer of Ione was chosen princess of the Pacific International Livestock exposition in October; Jerry and Eddie Brosnan were named Livestockmen of the Year and presented awards at a joint banquet on November 2, the date being moved ahead from the usual January date; Marcia Rands won local area and semifinal speech contests in Soil Conservation district competition and won third

in the state finals; Milton Morgan was elected president of the Oregon Wheat League December 7; Lt. Dennis E. Swanson was presented the Air Medal for his service in Vietnam; and Herb Ekstrom and sons showed the grand champion junior yearling bull at the Poll-O-Rama, Sacramento, Calif., November 30 to December 2.

Accidents

A number of tragic accidents occurred in 1963, the worst claiming four lives in an auto accident two miles from Ione on January 25. Killed were Mancel Townsends, 18, lone; Mrs. Theresa M. Brosnan, 51, of Portland; her daughter, Theresa A. Brosnan, 9, and her son, John Paul Brosnan, 11. The husband and father, Joe Brosnan, was seriously injured. Leonard Wise, 28, Heppner was killed in an auto accident near Echo June 22.

First drowning in Bull Prairie reservoir claimed the life of Glen Douglas Beith, 17, Hood River, August 2.

One death was attributed to hunting during deer season. Daniel Regis Alexander, 52, Hermiston, died in the Johnson Creek area from a heart attack October 15.

Lewis Allyn, 58, died in an auto accident near Lexington August 9, and Mrs. Norah Klingler, 75, mother of Ken Klingler of Lexington, was killed in an auto accident on Highway 30 on December 13.

Three young men escaped death in a serious auto accident that opened the year 1963 when they collided with a pickup truck near Heppner on the night of December 30, 1962. Seriously injured were Dean Lovgren, 15, and John Privett, 17. Bill Struthers was less seriously hurt. Lovgren underwent long hospitalization and is still confined to a wheel chair. The community greeted him with a homecoming from a Portland hospital when he returned here June 22. He is now attending Heppner High school.

Mel Boyer escaped serious injury June 14 when his airplane "panicked" while spraying weeds on the Wilkinson ranch June 14. The plane was a total loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doherty sustained grave injuries when their car skidded on slick pavement near the Alpine road junction on the highway to Butter Creek December 1, and they remained hospitalized in Heppner at the year's end.

Two trucks loaded with wheat broke through county bridges during the year, one of the Sun Trucking company in Blackhorse canyon near Lexington March 8 and one of Inland Navigation company in the Eightmile district on October 14. No one was hurt in either incident. However, this resulted in a 10-ton load limit being imposed on the county bridges, a matter that brought considerable protest from farmers and truckers.

A grocery truck provided a rather spectacular accident when it overturned near Ione on April 10. No one was hurt in the accident and most of the big load of groceries was salvaged.

Fires

Fires were held to a minimum in the county in 1963. Both forest fires and field fires were held to relatively light losses, although a rash of forest fires broke out late in hunting season.

A ranch house, owned by the Charles Carlsons, was destroyed by fire January 19. They did not live in the house. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Springer were left homeless for a time and lost all of their household goods when fire destroyed their residence at Ruggs May 9. Mr. and Mrs. Wade Bothwell also lost all their belongings when fire gutted their home in Lexington November 19.

Fair and Rodeo

Fine weather smiled on the Morrow county fair, horse show and rodeo this year and all events were declared very successful. Fair and rodeo queen was Sandra Eubanks of Ione and her court was composed of Louise Pointer of Lexington, Shannon Mahoney and Nancy Cleveland of Heppner, and Sharon Donovan of Boardman. Heppner's Soroptimist club won grand sweepstakes in the rodeo parade on August 31. Howard Bryant's Becky Bar was champion performance horse at the Wranglers horse show August 30, and Gene Jordan of Macos, Colo., was Northwest Saddle Bronc cham-

panion at the rodeo, Bill Healy won the Morrow County Amateur calf roping event. A record number of cowboys entered the rodeo.

Sports

It was a better than average year in the county for high school sports. Probably top achievement was lone football team winning its sixth consecutive Umatilla-Morrow B league championship, but it lost in a quarter-final game to Mt. Vernon, 34-13. Heppner tied with Sherman for the Greater Oregon western division basketball championship but lost in a play-off game that decided the right to play Vale for a state title berth. Ione was third in its league in basketball and Heppner's football team finished the '63 season with a record of five wins and three losses.

Of prime sports interest here was the opening of Fiesta Lanes. Many leagues were in full swing at the end of the year with both men and women, as well as juniors, participating.

Weather

Old 1963 was a rather mild year weatherwise. It brought 6.2 inches of snow in January and this was followed by threat of a flood in Heppner on February 7 that caused excitement throughout the city. Damage was not as great as feared, however. Summer was very mild and cool with moisture hampering the grain harvest. Use of the swimming pool fell far below normal. As winter entered the scene in December once more, lowest temperature recorded was seven degrees above zero on December 11.

Deaths

Many deaths of local persons, former residents, and relatives of residents brought sadness. Some of the more prominent residents who died during the year included Justice J. O. Hager on February 23; Mrs. W. W. Weatherford, April 18; Russell O'Donnell, May 20, followed closely by the death of his mother, Mrs. Claire O'Donnell, May 22; Harold Evans, October 10; and Mary Pearl Devine, October 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hills, son Clayton and daughter Creigh, arrived Christmas Eve from their home in Coos Bay to enjoy the holiday season at the home of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harris.

Condon Air Force Paper Rated Best

Newspaper of the 636th Radar Squadron, U. S. Air Force, at Condon, has won first place in the annual Air Defence Command newspaper contest held December 12 at headquarters ADC at Colorado Springs, Colo., it has been announced.

The paper, "The Scope," is published monthly by the squadron and is printed by the Gazette-Times in Heppner.

The Scope was started by Capt. Roland Noel in 1961 and was published regularly after December, 1962, with 2d Lt. Thomas K. Goldie, information officer, in charge. He was assisted by Staff Sergeant Henry Bixler.

After Lt. Goldie left the station in July, 1963, Staff Sergeant James B. Chauncey had the major responsibility for the paper under the direction of 2d Lt. Joseph P. Bigelow, information officer.

The contest is a part of an Air Force-wide competition held each year. Each major air command forwards to Air Force the first place winners of the command contest and a final judging will be held by the Air Force to select the best newspapers serving the major organizations of the Air Force.

Those who picked The Scope as the best at Air Command headquarters were civilians connected with news media and public relations departments of industrial companies. The Scope was in competition with 21 other papers to receive the top award.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sumner and their children are spending the holidays in Heppner visiting friends and relatives. They will return to their home in Corvallis where Mr. Sumner is an instructor in agriculture engineering at Oregon State University.

Mr. Bob Abrams traveled by train during the holiday season to southwest Utah, where she met her mother, Mrs. Sara Morrow, who was motoring from her home in Prescott, Ariz. The two made the trip from Utah to Heppner in Mrs. Morrow's automobile and she is enjoying a short visit at the Abrams home here.

Morris Quits Staff To Return to EOC

Jim Morris, who has worked on news and advertising at the Gazette-Times for the past three months, is leaving the staff this week in order to return to Eastern Oregon College, La Grande, for registration Monday to complete work for a degree.

Prior to going back to college, though, he was scheduled to go to Portland for physical examination Friday for armed service classification.

Morris was employed by the paper with the understanding that he would return to college for the winter term. His assistance helped carry the staff over a busy holiday period, and he will be missed when he leaves.

Farra In Training

E2 James Farra left Thursday to return to Great Lakes, Ill. where he is attending electronic technicians' school at the Navy's Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

Farra has been attending the school for seven months and has five months to go before he completes his training.

He has been in Heppner at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Farra, for the duration of his current leave, which started December 23.

Farra said that there are about 21,000 personnel at the base, including 7,000 men in the training school.

SCHOOL MENUS

Heppner and Lexington January 3-10

FRIDAY—Tomato soup, Tuna sandwiches, salad, oatmeal cookies, fruit and milk.

MONDAY—Hamburger casserole (Mor), spinach, carrot sticks, bread and butter and milk.

TUESDAY—Fried chicken, gravy, pickled beets, buttered corn, bread and butter, milk and fruit.

WEDNESDAY—Navy beans and Ham, fruit salad, cabbage salad, milk and hot rolls and butter.

THURSDAY—Canned meat and gravy, rice, green beans, cake, fruit, carrot sticks, bread and butter and milk.

FRIDAY—Mushroom soup, tuna sandwiches, cheese sticks, cake, fruit, green salad and milk.

Jobless Benefits To Be Increased

SALEM—(Special)—The New Year will bring several changes to Oregon unemployment insurance benefits law.

Firstly, the new law increases the maximum weekly benefit amount from \$40 a week to \$44 a week and the minimum amount from \$15 to \$20.

Secondly, the weekly benefit will now be figured on the basis of 1.25 percent of the claimant's total base year wages, rather than 1/26th of the claimant's highest base year quarter wages.

Since a number of claimants who filed in 1963 will have claims carried over into the new year, the benefits division of the Department of Employment has had to refigure thousands of claims because of these changes in the law.

Of course, those filing claims after the first of the year will automatically have their claims determined under the new law. Under the new law also, the claimant's benefit year, the year in which it is determined he is eligible for benefits, begins on the day he files his claim.

The Employment Department estimates that some 75,000 claims had to be refigured. It is also estimated that the increased benefit amounts will cost some \$500,000 annually depending of course, on the extent of unemployment.

The unemployment insurance trust fund has the best balance its had for a number of years. On December 20 it contained \$72.1 million compared to \$56.1 million a year earlier.

As a consequence, the new law also will give many employers reduced unemployment insurance tax rates beginning January 1, 1964. The rates will vary from 1.8 percent to 2.7 percent depending on their experience rating.

Among out-of-town visitors here for the holidays were A. H. Bergstrom and daughter, Anna Lynn, of Portland. They arrived Christmas day to spend the week-end at the home of Mr. Bergstrom's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Becket.

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