

County Saddened By Unexpected Death Of Esther Kirmis

Miss Esther Ida Kirmis, 45, county home extension agent who had won a place in the hearts of many Morrow county residents through her work here during the past six years, died unexpectedly early Tuesday morning in St. Vincent's hospital, Portland following surgery Monday.

She had entered the hospital Saturday for the scheduled operation but many of her friends and associates did not realize the seriousness of her condition. The operation was for the removal of a brain tumor.

Death occurred at 1 a.m. Tuesday. Two of her sisters had come from North Dakota to be with her during the operation.

Memorial services will be held at Hope Lutheran church, Heppner, Friday, May 29, at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Kenneth Robinson, pastor, officiating. Arrangements are being made for funeral services in her native town of Lisbon, N. D., in Redeemer Lutheran church.

Miss Kirmis lived in Heppner since June, 1958, when she came to Oregon from North Dakota to accept appointment as Morrow county extension agent by the Oregon State University cooperative extension service. She had planned to be on sabbatical leave for the next fiscal year, starting in June, 1964, to work towards an advanced degree in journalism.

She was born in Lisbon, N. D., December 31, 1918, and was raised on a farm in Island Park township in Ransom county, N. D., and attended State Normal and Industrial School at Ellendale, N. D., earning a teaching certificate there.

From 1937 to 1940 she was rural school teacher in the Island Park school district, and in 1940 she accepted a position as chief clerk with the Ransom county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service with office in Lisbon. There she also worked with N. C. Anderson, now Morrow county agent who at the time was assistant Ransom county agent.

She served at the ASCS there until 1955 when she returned to North Dakota Agricultural College to complete her degree in home economics to meet requirements for home extension work. She had become interested in extension work while working in the Lisbon office.

After receiving her degree from NDAC in May, 1958, she was appointed to the Morrow county staff where she once again worked with N. C. Anderson.

Before graduation she worked briefly as area home agent in North Dakota. In 1963 she received a Moses Foundation scholarship to attend regional extension summer school at Colorado State University.

Miss Kirmis was active in the Lutheran church and had been a member of the Business and Professional Women's club in Lisbon, serving for a time as president. She also held a state office in the BPW for two years.

She was a member of the American Home Economics association, of the Oregon Home Demonstration Agents' association, and of the national Home Demonstration Agents' association.

In Morrow county, her work with home extension units and 4-H clubs was extensive, reaching all parts of the county. She was acquainted in many homes of the county and she took an active part in community affairs, especially those which were related to her extension work.

One project in which she played a leading role was the compiling and publishing of "Yesterday's Morrow," a 71-page booklet on history of Morrow county. Home extension units of the county produced the work with cooperation of the county court. The booklet is in

Van Marter Given 50-Year Pin, Plaque At Frat Ceremony

La Verne Van Marter, Sr., was honored at a banquet given by Phi Delta Theta, national fraternity, as a 50-year member Wednesday, May 20, at the Marcus Whitman Hotel at Walla Walla, Wn.

He was presented a 50-year pin and a wall plaque on the occasion. Van Marter, a graduate of the University of Oregon in 1916, was a member of the fraternity there but Whitman College also has a chapter of the fraternity. He was one of two so honored at the banquet.

Alumni association at Walla Walla sponsored the banquet and the principal speaker was the president of General Electric company, a Whitman college graduate. Some 250 were present.

Attending with Van Marter was his son, La Verne Van Marter, Jr.

continuous demand as a reference on history of the county. The Morrow county home economics committee, headed by Mrs. Weldon Witherrite of Echo, is accepting contributions towards a memorial award being established by the committee in the name of Miss Kirmis to help a student taking home economics.

Survivors include her mother, Mrs. Ida Kirmis, Lisbon, N. D.; brother, Carl of Milnor, N. D.; three sisters, Adelheid Kirmis, Mrs. Gertrude Huether and Mrs. Wallace Shelver, all of Lisbon.



ESTHER KIRMIS

Kinzua Buys US Timber In Big Sale

Kinzua Corporation was successful bidder last week on the largest timber sale in Heppner ranger district of the Umatilla National forest in several years. The company bought 35.3 million board feet of timber, located north of the Ditch Creek guard station, at \$454.973, according to W. S. (Sam) Miller, ranger of the Heppner district.

Included in the sale was 18.5 million feet of Ponderosa pine, 14.8 million feet of Douglas fir and western larch and two million feet of other species.

To reach the site of the sale, Kinzua will improve or construct more than 13 miles of road, starting at Cutsforth park. This going up Coal Mine hill will be made into double lane with a standard logging road proceeding from the end of the 2-way road to the site of the sale, Miller said.

Georgia-Pacific was the only other bidder on the sale.

Fires Start Early In Forest Areas

Drought that has been plaguing farmers in the area is also a foreboding thing to forestry land. Two fires have already broken out in the woods, W. S. (Sam) Miller, district forest ranger reports.

One occurring Wednesday night was on state lands against the forestry district boundary at the headwaters of Wilson Creek, a fork of Rhea Creek. It covered 20 acres of cutover lands and was man-caused. Report today (Thursday) was that it was under control. State crews fought the fire.

A fire broke out Saturday in Rains Canyon of the forestry district and covered seven acres before it was extinguished. It was in slash and grass. This fire, too, was man-caused.

Fire closure has been ordered early this year by Governor Mark Hatfield because of the dry conditions, Miller said. It will start as of June 1.

Eye Injury Still Confines Bennett

Don Bennett is still confined at home from an eye injury that he suffered while working for Morrow County Grain Growers on April 21. He was struck in the eye with a nail.

After a period of hospitalization and treatment at St. Mary's hospital, Walla Walla, Wn., Bennett returned home two weeks ago. However, he returns to the hospital periodically for treatment, and indications are that it will be a long time before healing is complete. Apparently rather severe damage was sustained to the inner eye, Mrs. Bennett said.

While hospitalized, the Heppner man lost 25 pounds in 20 days and both eyes were kept covered for an extensive period. It still cannot be determined whether damage will be permanent and total to the eye.

81st Year

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, May 28, 1964.

\$3950 in Scholarships Won By Heppner Class of 1964

Thirty-nine Heppner High school seniors received their diplomas as the first class to graduate from the new high school in commencement ceremonies in the high school gymnasium Wednesday night.

It was an all-student and faculty program, presented before a large crowd that occupied all chairs on the main floor and took much of the available bleacher space.

The class received \$3950 in scholarships and cash awards, being divided among 13 students. Presentation of the awards by Principal Gordon Pratt be-

cause of the number, occupied a large and welcome portion of the program.

Bill Sherman, valedictorian, was announced as winner of the county-district full 4-year tuition scholarship by the State Scholarship Commission and he will use it at the University of Oregon where he will enter as a freshman in the fall. He also received the Elks' \$200 scholarship for boys, the Elks' scholarship award, a \$50 savings bond, and certificates from the Oregon Dads' club for appointment as an Oregon Honors scholar and for leadership.

Jennifer Brindle, salutatorian, received a full tuition and fee scholarship for one year to Eastern Oregon College, the Elks' scholarship for girls of \$200, and a \$100 scholarship from the Band Parents' club, presented by President Howard Pettijohn. Band Director Arnold Melby also announced that she was winner of the John Phillip Sousa award for being the outstanding senior in band, based on dependability, cooperation, musicianship and dedicated service to the school and community.

Marti Dixon, one of the honor students of the class, received the \$500 scholarship from Kinzua Corporation and a \$100 scholarship from the Band Parents.

In memory of the late Mrs. Lucille Weatherford, dedicated mathematics teacher at the school until her death, the Lucille Weatherford Memorial Day scholarship was started this year, offering \$50 scholarship to the one showing the greatest interest in mathematics. Don Majeske received this scholarship.

Other scholarships awarded by the Band Parents' club, each in the amount of \$100, went to Richard Clark and Dick Struckmeier.

A Girls' League award of \$50 was received by Martha Peterson. Selection was made by a committee of eight girls with representatives from each of the four classes.

Two \$50 scholarships for citizenship, one to a boy and one to a girl, were given by the Lone Lions club with Wayne Lamb making the presentations. Phyllis Nelson and Steve Peck won these awards.

Len Ray Schwarz, representing Heppner Masonic lodge No. 69, presented the Masons' first annual scholarship of \$100 to John Cole.

Diana Fullerton received a \$100 award from the Heppner Soroptimists to a college of her choice. She plans to enroll at Blue Mountain College in the fall. The award was presented by Mrs. Helen Sherman.

Pat O'Brien represented the Elks lodge in presenting their awards. In addition to those previously mentioned, Ginny Moore received a \$50 savings bond for leadership. Ginny also was awarded full membership and pin for the National Honorary Society. Principal Pratt said that she had raised her grade point average from 2.6 as a junior to 3.04 as a senior and

(Continued on page 8)

County and City Budgets 'Hold Line'

Both Morrow county and Heppner city budgets are published in section two of this paper, the first of two required publications. Each budget is within the 6% limitation and will require no vote.

Also, in each case, the budgets are pretty much "hold the line" with levies not climbing significantly over those of the current year.

Public hearing date for each of the two taxing districts is the same—June 15.

More complete stories on the budgets will be printed next week.



JOHN COLE won the first annual scholarship of \$100 given by the Masonic lodge of Heppner to an outstanding and deserving senior boy.

John Cole Given \$100 Scholarship At Lodge Dinner

John Cole, graduating senior of Heppner High school and son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cole of Portland, was awarded a college scholarship for \$100 tuition fees at the annual dinner given by Heppner lodge No. 69, AF&AM, last Thursday evening at the Heppner Masonic temple. Len Ray Schwarz, junior warden of the lodge, made the presentation.

The dinner honored the men of the high school faculty and the senior boys. Supt. Wayne Brubacher, Del Norte lodge No. 105, spoke briefly, given the seniors an inspirational sendoff.

Principal Gordon Pratt introduced members of the faculty, and Lee Padberg, president of the senior class, introduced the seniors.

Ray Williamson, master of Heppner lodge, acted as master of ceremonies and Don Turner, lodge secretary, gave a short resume on Masonic history and purpose.

The dinner, which served 75, was prepared by the Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Lowell Gribble, worthy matron, was assisted by Mrs. Oliver Creswick, Mrs. Howard Bryant, Mrs. Floyd Worden, Mrs. James Prock, Mrs. Don Turner and Mrs. Charles Stout.

Nine lovely members of Rainbow for Girls handled table service.

This was the first year that the lodge has given the scholarship, and it is planned to make it an annual event.



Big Crowd Expected For Memorial Picnic

Committees are busy this week making plans to greet a large turnout of present residents and those of yesteryears at the annual Morrow County Memorial Day Pioneer Picnic and Reunion, Saturday, May 30, at the county fair pavilion building in Heppner.

Free transportation from downtown Heppner to the fair pavilion for those wishing rides is a new feature this year. Anyone needing a ride is asked to be at the Heppner Hotel between 11:00 and 12:00 a.m. or call either Frank Turner, Ralph Thompson or Mrs. Ed Gonty and transportation can be arranged. Registration will get underway at 10:30 with the Soroptimist club in charge. Rainbow girls will be on hand to greet the people and ladies of the Rebekah lodge will have a cup of coffee ready. At 12 o'clock the same ladies will be ready to serve at the potluck dinner. Main part of the afternoon will be spent in

visiting and renewing acquaintances. A variety of prizes will be awarded. Also helping with arrangements are Judge Oscar Peterson, Heppner, and Henry Peterson, Ione.

Dry Month May Post Low Record

With only .01 of an inch of rain in the month of May to date and only three days left in the month a new record for lack of precipitation is in the offing here, Don Gilliam said Thursday morning after checking through records of his father, Leonard Gilliam, official weather observer.

Driest May on record here was in 1924 when precipitation totaled .03 inch.

District Forest Ranger Sam Miller reported Thursday morning that the Dale District reported that a good rain was falling there, but as of noon it had avoided the Heppner district.

At this point, the lack of moisture for the five months of the year to date has tied the record set in 1924. A total of 3.52 inches was recorded for the first five months of 1924, and at this point for 1964 it stands at exactly 3.52 inches, Gilliam said.

In checking the records compiled since 1910, Gilliam found the following dry years for the 5-month period: 1939 - 3.78; 1935 - 3.79; 1929 - 4.54; 1928 - 3.82; and 1924 - 3.52.

During the first five months of last year, rainfall totaled 8.56 here. The 50-year average for the five months period is 6.29 inches with May averaging 1.29 inches.

April of 1963 recorded 3.78 inches, which topped the total for five months this year.

The drought continues to cast discouragement on prospects for this season's grain crops and is wreaking havoc on range lands. However, some ranchers maintained some optimism despite the lack of moisture, stating that their crops appeared to be surprisingly good in proportion to the lack of rain.

With school out, many families are planning outings for the first holiday week-end of the season. Many more will stay at home and attend the Memorial Day picnic at the fair pavilion.

Heppner Stores, Post Office Set Memorial Closure

Most Heppner stores and businesses will be closed on Saturday, Memorial Day, they have announced. However, some service establishments and others will remain open. A list of those who have announced closure for the day is on page 3 of this section.

Jim Driscoll, Heppner postmaster, said that the post office will be closed all day because of the holiday.

The courthouse will be closed a half-day tomorrow (Friday) in observance of the holiday which falls on a day when the public offices are normally closed—Saturday. This is upon order of Governor Mark Hatfield. Banks will maintain their normal Friday schedule and will be closed Saturday as usual.

Employees of the Gazette-Times will have a holiday Friday because Memorial Day is a normal paid holiday and falls on a non working day this year. However, the office will be open Friday as usual.

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Swim Tickets On Sale by City

Tickets for swimming in the Heppner municipal pool are now on sale for the summer season. Recorder Ted Smith states. Those planning to buy tickets should get them at the city hall before the pool opens.

It is planned to open the pool on either Saturday, June 6, or Sunday, June 7. City Superintendent Vic Groshens states that a city crew has completed caulking and will have painting done soon.

Tom Hughes again will be lifeguard and Sharon Dixon and Beverly Blake will be cashiers at the pool.

First day's swim will be a free day. Cost of tickets is as follows: Season family ticket, \$18; adult season ticket, \$9; high school season, \$8; grade school season, \$4; daily swims—adults, 50c; high school, 25c; children, 15c.

Traffic to Detour Around Bridge

Beginning Monday, the Main street bridge over Willow Creek will be barricaded and traffic will be detoured around the bridge via other streets, Willard Schlegel, for a man for Schrader Construction Co., states.

The company is contractor for the State Highway Commission in building a new bridge over Willow Creek and making alterations to the Hinton Creek bridge.

Schlegel said that one-way traffic would be afforded over the Hinton Creek bridge. The Willow Creek bridge will be closed until new construction is complete—approximately 3 1/2 months, the foreman said.

STATE HIGHWAY Department workmen are shown straightening a curve on the Willow Creek highway (74). The curve, near the Jordan elevator, has been the scene of a number of accidents in years past and the widening of the road should greatly enhance the safety of motorists traveling the route. (G-T Photo)