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House Passes Bill Approving Willow Dam

82nd Year — Number 30

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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Filings on Lands Spur Interest In North End

Some 10,000 acres of land in northeastern Morrow county, which for years has been almost totally ignored, suddenly stirred keen competition this week when it was revealed that a group of 31 persons had filed on 17 sections of Bureau of Land Management land under provisions of the Desert Entry act of 1877.

The group, composed principally from persons of the Portland area and reputedly backed by "millions of dollars," were said to be planning to irrigate the land with the idea of turning it into lush potato and alfalfa plots. Included in the reported plans is the construction of a pellet plant for processing the alfalfa and a potato processing plant.

Their action seemed to thwart plans of another similar proposed development under consideration by a group from Morrow and Umatilla counties and known as the North Morrow County Irrigation Association. This group, which included Rex Ellis of Pendleton, former state senator; Oscar E. Peterson, former Morrow county judge; Maxwell Jones, member of the Boardman Soil and Water Conservation district; Robert Smith, vice chairman of the West Extension Irrigation district; and others, had met last Thursday in Boardman to initiate plans for a feasibility study of irrigating 15,000 acres or more with water from the John Day dam pool.

An engineering firm was consulted, and it had been planned to prepare preliminary estimates on costs.

JUDGE PAUL JONES
Reveals New Development

Judge Reveals Filings

But in a talk at the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce meeting here Monday, County Judge Paul Jones revealed that the other group had filed on the BLM land, which is composed of every other section in the area lying near the Umatilla Ordnance depot and running west from the Umatilla-Morrow line.

In the talk, the judge indicated that there was some controversy over the matter with local interests, and he went to Portland Tuesday to discuss the matter with Russell Getty, state director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Oregonian Wednesday reported that Getty advised the judge that no land would be released until Morrow county presents its plans and zoning regulations and advised him that the county should "move as fast as possible" with zoning regulations. Judge Jones indicated that the development by outside interests might interfere with the county's industrial development in that area.

Judge Jones was not expected back in the county until Thursday night and therefore was not available here for further comment.

Peterson Denies Affiliation

Meanwhile, Judge Peterson reported to the Gazette-Times that he is in no way connected with the Portland interests but was actually working with the group of men of Morrow and Umatilla county. He said that he had filed independently on 320 acres of land which he hoped to develop, and in fact, had been chosen president of the North Morrow County Irrigation association.

Developments this week stirred keen interest across the county and considerable disagreement on the matter, some declaring that local residents were victims of a "land rush" by outside interests and others saying that the county is seeking developments and could profit from the outside capital. Any development, they said, would increase the county's valuation and thereby share in the tax load.

Under the terms of the Desert Entry act each individual may apply for 320 acres of federal land and pay 25 cents per acre filing fee and $1 when the application is approved. It is not necessary to live on the land—only to develop it.

Irrigation Feeder System Eyed

When Judge Jones spoke at the Chamber meeting, he said that he understood the plan of those who had filed on the land was to take water out of the John Day pool "through six-foot pipe and take off with feeder pipes to irrigate the BLM lands with private lands intermingled." He said they had asked for sites on the Columbia for a pellet processing plant and for a complete potato processing plant.

"This is in direct conflict with a plan proposed by some from Morrow and Umatilla counties," he said.

The judge said the county court was confronted with the question of whether it should "protect the local people" and for that reason would go with the commissioners to meet with Getty in Portland Tuesday, which they did.

He said that he felt that the development would be "compatible with industrial development" when he spoke at the Chamber.

Portland Group Mum

The Portland group appeared reticent to reveal their plans, according to press reports. Among those filing for the land were John B. Souther, Portland attorney; Bruce Spaulding, Portland attorney; Thaddeus B. Bruno and Dean H. Bruno, Portland businessmen; Hollis Goodrich, Portland public relations man; W. Burns Hoffman, a construction company official; Mary B. Hoffman, Portrland; Terry D. Loney, a food broker, Portland; Neil C. Judson, Portland; R. Waldo Richmond, farm equipment dealer, Portland; John C. and Mildred E. Busch, Oregon City; John C. Caldwell, attorney, and Elizabeth J. Caldwell, Oregon City.

Frank W. and Barbara K. Munro, Portland; Martha F. Gilmore, Portland; Virginia B. Troute and Foye Troute, Portland; Nora W. Souther, Portland; Gilbert Fredrickson, Portland; Irvin G. Reinke, associated with Hoffman, and Harriet L. Reinke, both of Portland; L. J. Willis, Portland; William C. Starkey, Jr., and William Starkey, Sr., both Hermiston farmers; Richard M. Edmunds, Milton-Freewater; LaPriel Edmunds, Milton-Freewater; Evelyn and Jack Frisbie of Salem.

These were in addition to Peterson, who said that his filing was independent of the others. Some filed on September 10 and others on September 13.

Taxes Drop $107,641

Property tax payers in Morrow county will receive some good news when they get their 1965-66 statements prior to the October 15 mailing deadline. Total taxes to be collected in the county will be down by $107,641.11 from those of the current year, according to Rod Thomson, assessor.

Amount of the roll for collection for 1964-65 was $1,311,529.04, but the 1965-66 roll will drop to $1,203,956.70. Every code area, except that for the City of Ione, will have a substantial decrease in millage levy. In the City of Ione the levy for city purposes shows a 9.5 mill increase, largely due to a serial levy approved for purchase of a new fire truck, but the total levy even there, when the taxes for county purposes, school district, Port of Morrow and others are included, will be up only 1.1 mills over last year, to 72.4 from 71.3.

Much of the decrease on the county tax bill can be credited to the Property Tax Relief Act of the 1965 State Legislature. The county's share of funds from this source is $98,675, Thomson said, and this amounts to a reduction across the county of 4.3 mills. Even without the relief, however, the county taxes would be down by some $9,000, indicating that the various taxing budgets have not been substantially increased by the taxing agencies.

Farm Field Work Done

Bill Johnson, appraiser, said that field work of the farmland reappraisal has been completed, but new values south of the baseline will not be on the rolls until the tax year 1966-67. However, farms in this part of the county will pay, as they did last year, on the basis of a 50% blanket increase on their assessed value in lieu of the reappraisal figures.

All farmlands north of the baseline will be on the 1965-66 roll, but in many cases, even though the assessed values may be higher, the ranchers will find that the property tax relief will substantially offset higher taxes that they might otherwise have incurred because of reappraisal.

Johnson said that he is now in the process of setting up districts for starting appraisals in the county again to comply with the state law that property must be appraised every six years. Urban property will be reappraised with the six-year cycle being started on property in Irrigon and Boardman, to be followed by Lexington and Ione. Remainder of the districts in the county will follow.

Valuation Climbs

Total valuation of property in Morrow county is set at $23,431,050 for the 1965-66 year as compared with $21,843,694 for 1964-65, an increase of $1,587,356. Much of the gain may be attributable to the farm reappraisal program despite the fact that the southern part of the county's farmlands is not included on the roll. Total real property in the county is valued at $18,014,800 as compared with $16,476,820 for the previous year. Personal property is up some $200,000, climbing to $2,871,840 as compared with $2,676,245 for 1964-65.

Public utilities assessment, fixed by the State Tax Commission, is down by $137,014, dropping to $2,643,350 from the $2,780,364 for the last fiscal year.

The assessor's tax summary, a printed copy of which will accompany each mailed tax statement, shows that the number of horses and mules in the county increased slightly, from 797 to 840, and that cattle numbers climbed about 300—from 31,696 to 31,993. Sheep and goats, swine and poultry continued a downward trend with sheep and goats listed 14,871 (down from 17,001), swine at 104 (down from 197), and poultry at 12,552 down from (12,844).

Tax Bill Broken Down

The county's total tax bill is broken down among the various categories as follows (with last year's figures in parentheses): Taxes for county purposes $269,357.86 ($288,336.76); cities, $37,331.72 ($35,004.08); miscellaneous district taxes, including fire districts, cemetery districts, Blue Mt. Education district, Port of Morrow and Boardman vector control district, $128,746.99 ($130,735.63); special assessments, $35,896.10 ($37,400.75); school district special taxes, $22,450.14 ($24,088.30); School District R-1 bonds and interest, $45,252.13 ($72,084.19); Morrow county school, $664,955.28 ($723,978.02). It is to be noted that the figures for this year are those resulting after the property tax relief from the state has been deducted while last year's figures did not benefit by such relief.

Millage levies for city purposes in Heppner, Ione and Lexington will be up slightly, while those in Irrigon and Boardman will be down. They are as follows (with last year's levies in parentheses): Heppner, 15.5 (13.8), Ione, 25.2 (15.7); Lexington, 5.3 (4.8); Irrigon 8.6 (9.0) and Boardman 16.1 (24.8).

The printed summaries will show in detail how the state property tax relief affects each taxing agency.

Assessor Thomson reports that of the tax dollar in Morrow county, 21.85% this year goes for county purposes (including roads), 3.13% goes to cities; 69.53% goes to schools and 5.49% goes to all others. Last year schools took 70.42% while cities took less than this year at 2.75%.

Greatest millage drop in the county will be noticed by those living in the City of Boardman (code area 25-1). Taxes there for 1964-65 were on the basis of 70.4 mills. Without state relief they would have dropped this year to 61.0, but with the relief subtracted, they go down to 56.7 mills.

Future Construction Said Virtually Sure

Approval Wednesday by the House of Representatives of the 1965 Omnibus Rivers and Harbors bill was hailed by Congressman Al Ullman as "virtually assuring authorization and future construction of the Heppner dam on Willow Creek."

Rep. Ullman's office called the Gazette-Times from Washington, D. C., Wednesday afternoon to announce passage of the bill in the House. It previously had been approved in the Senate.

REP. AL ULLMAN
Says Dam Construction 'Virtually Assured'

The Heppner flood control and reclamation project will be constructed by the Corps of Engineers at a cost of $6,690,000. The bill also authorized the creation of the John Day waterfowl management area on the Columbia River at a cost of $706,000 and gave House approval to Ullman's formula for excluding the Messner industrial site in north Morrow county from the proposed refuge area.

The Second District lawmaker recommended that land suitable for waterfowl use be acquired upstream, and that the prime industrial site east of Boardman be reclassified to make it available for possible industrial and port use. The amendment has yet to be approved by the Senate, but Ullman expressed confidence that it will be retained in the bill.

The House also amended the Senate-passed bill to include language authorizing the Grande Ronde-Catherine Creek projects in Ullman's second district. The Union county projects are slated for construction by the Corps of Engineers at a cost of $20,440,000. Three Oregon navigation projects were also given House okeh—Chetco River, Port Orford and Tillamook—at a total cost of $11,000,000.

Hermiston JV's To Meet Heppner Here Saturday

Fresh from two early season victories, Heppner High's football team will take on the junior varsity of A-1 power Hermiston High Saturday night at the Heppner rodeo grounds at 8 p.m.

This will be the second home game for the Mustangs who whacked Pilot Rock, 25 to 7, in their opener here and then shutout Condon High last Friday night at Condon, 31 to 0.

Although the Hermiston jayvees will be composed of underclassmen, the game will find quite a few sophomores on both sides, since the Heppner varsity is well sprinkled with youngsters this year.

Coach Jim Bier of the Hermiston jayvees lists 28 players on his roster with weights running to 190 pounds, making them quite comparable to the Heppner varsity.

Although the game has no counting status, the Heppner eleven would like to make it three in a row before they enter league action the ensuing Friday, October 1, against Wahtonka at The Dalles. Everything counts from then on out until the Pomeroy, Wn., game at the end of the season.

Meanwhile, Ione High's Cardinals swing back into action Friday after a week's layoff. They travel to Weston for a 2:30 p.m. game. While they meet Weston later in the year in league action, this one is a non-counter.

Salvation Army Service Unit Organized Here

To work as the "army behind the Army" a Morrow county service unit of the Salvation Army was organized at a meeting in the Bank of Eastern Oregon conference room last Thursday night.

Lowell Chally, county welfare administrator, was named chairman, Mrs. Betty McDonald was named welfare secretary for the southern part of the county, the Rev. Herman Burg was chosen welfare secretary for the northern part of the county, and Bill Siewert of the Bank of Eastern Oregon was chosen as treasurer.

Purpose of the committee, as explained by Major Lincoln Upton, Portland, divisional secretary of the Salvation Army, is to assist in "meeting the need at point of need." It will aim at meeting local emergency and supplementary welfare needs through its service unit welfare account, assist in financial support and extension of the Army's activities, and to interpret the statewide, regional, national and international work of the Salvation Army to the local community.

For a number of years the Army has conducted a financial drive annually in Morrow county and last year received $600 from county residents, Major Upton said. The service committee will have at its disposal 20% of the funds collected from the county to provide welfare assistance for cases not met through any other agency. These can cover a broad range in general assistance, education, medical, optical and dental, disasters and others.

The major said that in the first six months of this year as a part of its state and national service, the Army provided 163 days care for unwed mothers from Morrow county in its White Shield Home, Portland. This was at a cost of $857, considerably above the amount collected from the county last year.

As organized, county committee members will report any cases of emergency need that come to their attention to the chairman or a welfare secretary.

Members of the local committee are Rev. Bill Alsup, Mrs. Herman Burg, Deputy Sheriff Phillip Goodall of Irrigon, Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman, County Judge Paul Jones, County Agent Eugene Winters, Wes Sherman and County School Supt. David Potter, in addition to the officers.

Also attending the meeting were Major Minnie Parsons, who has completed a financial compaign in the county except for solicitation by mail in rural areas, and Wendell P. Temple, field representative, both from the Army's divisional headquarters in Portland.

Hearing Tests Set For County Schools

Audiometric testing in Morrow county schools will be done on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 28 and 29, according to an announcement received by Mrs. Lowell Chally, county health nurse. As part of the hearing conversation program under the direction of the Oregon State Board of Health, a qualified audiometrist will test the hearing acuity of kindergarten, first, third, fifth and seventh grades, as well as referrals from any other grade made by teachers or the nurse.

Hearing testing will be conducted in Heppner schools on Tuesday, September 28, and at Ione, Boardman, and Irrigon schools on Wednesday, September 29.

Punt, Pass, Kick Clinic Scheduled

Football clinic for boys 8 through 13 years of age to give them instruction for the forthcoming "Punt, Pass and Kick" competition will be Saturday, September 25, at Ione and Heppner High school football fields, starting at 2 p.m., according to Dave Barnett, sales manager for Heppner Auto Sales, which annually sponsors the event.

All boys of these ages are invited to come to the Ione field or the Heppner rodeo grounds for the instruction. Coaches will be on hand to show them how to punt, pass and kick.

The actual competition will be on Saturday, October 9, and registration will remain open until October 8. Parents are asked to come in to Heppner Auto Sales with their boys to sign up for the event.

Registrations are being taken now, Barnett states.

Many fine prizes are offered to the competitors in each year of age bracket. The local winner will compete for state and area prizes. Major winners will get a trip to Washington, D. C., and to the annual National Football League Play-off Bowl game in Miami, Fla.

This will be the third consecutive year that the local firm has sponsored the Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

Organizing Date Set For Senior Citizens Club

The Soroptimist Club of Heppner invites all citizens of south Morrow County interested in a social organization for senior citizens (50 years and over) to attend a meeting on Wednesday evening, October 13, at 8:00 p.m. at the old Case Building (formerly Ron's Flower Shop) on Main Street.

Mrs. Olyn Hodge and Mrs. John Jackson, Hermiston, will be present to advise and answer questions. Mrs. Hodge was organizer and Mrs. Jackson is secretary of the Golden Age Club in Hermiston.

The Soroptimists hope that every organization in South Morrow county will have a representative at this meeting, also, to promote understanding of purpose and aims of the new organization.

Many other communities have social clubs for their senior citizens. Members of such clubs get a great deal of pleasure, as well as adding much to their communities. The county has many fine and talented senior citizens. It is hoped that these people will organize themselves for their own enjoyment and the enjoyment of the entire community.

Hearings Slated On LCL Shipments

Three hearings will be held in October on the Union Pacific Railroad's plan to discontinue less- than-carload service in Oregon, Jonel C. Hill, Oregon Public Utility Commissioner, announces.

The plan, under suspension by Hill since July 22, would eliminate all shipments of less than 4000 pounds on the UP system.

Hearings are scheduled as follows: Monday, October 11, 10 a.m. room 441, State Office Building, 1400 S. W. 5th Avenue, Portland; Wednesday, October 13, 10 a.m., circuit court room, Gilliam county courthouse, Condon; and Thursday, October 14, 9:30 a.m., jury room, Union county courthouse, La Grande. Two days have been reserved for the Portland and La Grande hearings if that amount of time is necessary.

The Union Pacific almost simultaneously filed its plan to abandon LCL service, with state commissions in Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, and with the Interstate Commerce Commission. Oregon was the only state to suspend the plan, which has been in effect in the other areas along the system since August 1.

The railroad claims the cutback in service is necessary if it is to arrest losses connected with the handling of such freight.

Boyd Elected Head Of Minister's Group

Elder Elwood Boyd of the Seventh-day Adventist church was elected as the new president of the South Morrow Ministerial Association at its monthly meeting last week, replacing Rev. Melvin Dixon. Other officers are Rev. Don McCarty, vice-president, and Rev. Al Boschee, secretary-treasurer.

Plans were discussed for coming youth rallys and for the presentation of special Christian films in the community, as well as initial plans for the community Thanksgiving service.

High Percentage of Heppner Grads Enter College

About 78 per cent of last year's class of 65 graduates from Heppner High school will be enrolled in colleges or taking advanced business or vocational training, according to reports from parents and school administration. Several left early for rush week at state colleges, but the majority took up campus residence over the week-end or early this week.

Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande will claim the majority of freshmen from this area. Enrolled will be Anita Groves, Thomas Green, Sherrill McDonald, Don Munkers, Bruce Thomson, Annamarie Brindle, Ronald Jones, Karen McCurdy, Stuart Dick, Tony Doherty, Jill Cline, Tamara Smith, Judy Smith and David Rands.

Returning, or entering by transfer, to EOC, will be Jennifer Brindle, Doug Dubuque, Ginny Moore, Ken Wright, Marcia Rands, Lawrence Green, Jeanne Collins, Leroy Gardner and Bruce Moyer.

Several will enjoy the new facilities of Blue Mountain Community college in Pendleton. Enrolling for their freshman year are Paul Swaggart, Dale Van Blokland, David Hanna, Dan McQuarrie, Ronald Becket, Frank Osmin, Terryl Greenup, Cecil Berry, Mitchell Ashbeck, Nancy Cleveland and Kip Morris.

Several will enroll as freshmen at Oregon State University. Included are Michael Sweek, Margaret Marks, Wayne Evans, John Wagenblast, Chris Brown, Eric Anderson and Lee Daggett. Shannon Mahoney and Leann Joynes will be juniors at OSU this year, and John Cason will enter his senior year.

Entering as freshmen at the University of Oregon are Jean Siewert, Jean Stockard and Carl Bauman. Returning for their second year there are Dick Potter, Bill Sherman, Ginny Lou Turner and Ray Nichols; juniors are Dick Smith, Laura Lee Sumner, Bill Cox and Ann Jones. Linda Van Winkle will enter her senior year.

Dean Robinson will enter Treasure Valley Community college, Ontario; Mike Warren will be at Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City; Richard Hatley, Washington State University, Pullman; Larry Heath, Central Oregon Community college, Bend; Greg Pierce, Clatsop College, Astoria; Barbara Blake Herbison, Oregon College of Education, Monmouth; Bruce Spencer, Southwestern Community College, Coos Bay.

Mary Cox and Patti Collins will enter training at Pacific Business College, Portland; Cheryl Bellenbrock and Sharon Hams will enroll at Beau Monde College of Beauty, Portland, and Frances McLeod at Pacific College of Beauty.

Several expect to enter military training, including John Pfeiffer, U. S. Coast Guard; Tom Laird and Gary Struthers.

George Van Scholack will be a college bank trainee at the First National Bank in Condon.

Traveling east to Asbury college in Wilmore, Ky., are Marti and Sharon Dixon for their sophomore and senior years, respectively.

Other college students include Dick Struckmeier, Northwest Christian college, Eugene; Steve Peck, University of Idaho, Moscow; Dale Vance, Yakima Valley college; Don Majeske and John Cleveland, Pacific University, Forest Grove; Shan Applegate, Carroll College, Helena, Mont.; Martha Doherty, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wn.; Lee Padberg, Columbia Basin College, Pasco; Pam Wilkinson Bostwick, Arizona State University; Gayle Cox, a senior at Portland State college.

Bill Monagle will take post graduate work at Washington State University, and Robert Huffman will take advanced training at the University of Oregon Dental school, Portland.

Melvin J. Harnett is a senior at Clark College, Vancouver, Wn., in medical training.

Skating Rink Sets Opening Friday

Morrow County Roller Rink will open for the season Friday night, September 24, Glen Ward and D. E. (Shorty) Hudson, operators, announce. Skating will be in the fair pavilion on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 until 10 o'clock and on Sundays from 2 until 5 p.m.

This will be the third season that they have operated the rink. Trey have shoe skate rentals and offer concessions of candy, pop, and other snacks.