

# Board Talks of Morgan Street, Eyes Land Purchase

Directors of Morrow county school district R-1 decided at a meeting Monday night at the Lexington school office that they had no source of funds to improve the Morgan street extension to Heppner High school, that they would seek prices on purchase of additional land at the Riverside school site although some directors announced opposition to acquiring more land there, passed on recommendations of advisory committees, and sought to straighten out difficulties encountered in use of the rodeo grounds in Heppner.

These were only a few highlights of a session that covered a wide range of business.

The district was asked to provide curbing and sidewalks on the Morgan street project in order that the city might take advantage of the state highway department's offer to pave the extension to the school under a special program provided for cities under 5000 population where increased travel on a

street causes a problem. Total cost of the improvement is an estimated \$26,000, and a condition of obtaining the state help is that the city or district stand the \$9000 needed for the walk and curbing.

It had been considered that the project might be delayed until the district could see if voters would approve an \$8000 item in the 1966-67 budget for the purpose, but attorney Bob Abrams said that he had contacted the department and was advised that the funds must be committed now or the matter must be dropped.

Neither the City of Heppner nor the school district has such funds in their current budgets for such a purpose, and it was reluctantly decided to let the matter drop despite the recognized hazard that exists on the narrow entrance to the school now. The city has also taken the position that since the walk and curbing is of primary benefit to the school, the district should stand the cost.

Supt. David Potter said that the architect on the Riverside school has repeatedly advised purchasing 16.7 acres of land adjoining the school property at Boardman to round out the 28 acres of school property there. It is the architect's reasoning that the additional acreage would provide for future needs as well as for better layout of athletic fields.

Director Ken Batty moved that the board authorize an investigation of acquiring the site, which would include determining the price sought for the property, and the motion carried.

However, Chairman Irvin Ranch stated that he is opposed to acquiring more land there since it might cost up to \$12,000 in addition to taking the property off the tax rolls. He said the present site is nearly as great as the Heppner High site and said that much of the later site is not presently in use. Director Maxwell Jones said that he could not favor purchasing property that might not be used.

Present property there was purchased for \$100 per acre, but Director Ralph Skoubo of Boardman said that he believed the current property owners of the additional acreage would seek at least \$400 per acre for it.

**Okay Committee Requests**

Directors approved five recommendations of advisory committees. The Jones committee asked \$300 for materials for a storage room 12x16 ft., to be built as a high school shop project. This would eliminate some problems of storing such things as the school lawnmower and other equipment and would also provide educational experiences for the shop students, it was stated. This was approved unanimously.

The Heppner and Lexington committees, meeting jointly, asked that the Lexington committee be abolished and that a Heppner-Lexington advisory committee be formed with four (Continued on page 8)



THESE HEREFORD weaner calves average approximately 500 pounds. Photo was taken just after their separation from cows following a drive in Skinner Creek area. Owner Dick Wilkinson, 1965 Cattleman, stands in background. (Gail McCarty Photo).

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# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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## Grain Growers Note Sharp Income Drop

Sharp decline in annual income, a matter that was expected and predicted last year, was noted by members of the Morrow County Grain Growers at their annual dinner meeting Monday night in the county fair pavilion.

President Paul Jones reported to the group, "We didn't get into the \$100,000 bracket by any means," adding that net income was just over \$6,500. Actual figure as reported by the operating report is \$6,738.95.

"We don't see any great improvement forthcoming in the financial picture," he told the more than 200 attending. "We could foresee such years when this would be a 'break-even' operation. It might even go into

a loss operation next year." He explained that loss of income is due to the fact that the cooperative no longer has government stocks in storage, a development that was pointed out to the members last year as forthcoming.

"Our grain elevators have been empty of grain," he said, but added, "The picture is not as dark as it might be. We paid \$125,000 in profits." (These were from profits earned in previous years.)

He also pointed out that the cooperative owns all its buildings and equipment, debt free, and that its asset to liability ratio runs high.

"We will continue to give the best service we can offer to our members," he said.

Manager Al Lamb, in his report, said, "It is not as rosy as it has been but not as bad as it might be, either. We're dropping from a picture of high in-

## Street Lights Vandals' Targets

Wave of vandalism to street lights in Heppner has been reported by Harley Young, manager of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op.

More and more lights have been broken, and Tuesday night all the lights down Morgan street from the high school were broken, he said.

"We are reasonably certain of the time this was done and of the identity of those who did it," he said. Young said that if this vandalism continues, he will take steps to correct it and file charges against those responsible.

Because of the darkness, a motorist on Morgan street narrowly missed hitting a child there Tuesday night, the manager said.

"We have seen through the blackout in the east how important it is to have our power system functioning," he said, "and it is deplorable that any person should seek to bring on such a condition through vandalism."

## Ullman to Answer Questions Here On Sunday Visit

Answers to many questions are expected when Congressman Al Ullman meets with Morrow County citizens Sunday night, November 14, at the fair annex in Heppner.

A potluck dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The congressman and his executive assistant, Ron Ahern, will arrive in Heppner Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Amanda Duvall where he will stay until leaving Monday morning.

After the dinner Sunday night Congressman Ullman will report on the legislation adopted by the recent congress and outline his interpretations of its effect on the country as a whole and Morrow county in particular.

The second district representative is proud of his part in obtaining final authorization for construction of the Willow Creek Dam and also of the adoption of the reduced wild life refuge, allowing for industrial and port use of land on the Columbia River that would otherwise have been lost to this county, he reports. He gives credit to County Judge Paul Jones and Planning Chairman Clarence Rowell for the assistance they gave in accomplishing the Columbia River agreement.

Al, as all of his friends know him, will spend Saturday hunting elk in the area south of Heppner with some of his friends with whom he has hunted for several seasons. The dinner meeting is open to the public. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish.

## Stockmen Meet On Saturday; Banquet Slated

Morrow County Livestock Growers will convene in the Elks temple Saturday for their all-day annual meeting, starting with call to order at 10 a.m.

Culminating the day will be the annual Farm-City banquet in the Heppner High school multipurpose room at 6:30, open to the public, with the stock growers, the Heppner County Chamber of Commerce and the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District as co-sponsors.

Tickets for the banquet are on sale at the First National Bank, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Turner, Van Marter and Bryant insurance office and the county agent's office.

Livestockman of the Year and Conservation Man of the Year will be presented at the banquet with Bill Barratt, now of Spokane, as speaker and Harlan McCurdy, Jr., as toastmaster. Leonard Toll will furnish the music.

Barratt will also speak at the Stock Growers' meeting at 2 p.m. on the subject, "The Economy of the Cow Business." Ron Baker will discuss "The Fine Art of Cattle Feeding" at 1:30 and Larry Williams will give a report from the Oregon Cattlemen's association at 11:30.

Other highlights include a talk by Gene Winters, Morrow county agent, at 10:45 on "Electronic Record Keeping" and a report on veterinary programs at 2:45 by Stan McGough.

President Dick Wilkinson is in charge of the meeting, and reports will be given by him, as well as by Secretary Gail McCarty and Treasurer Gerald Swaggart.

Ten committees of the organization will present reports through their chairmen and bring recommendations to the group, including the following: Membership and finance, Ray French; taxation and legislation, Larry Lindsay; production and marketing, Bob Peterson; Bob Van Schoick; disease control, Don McElligott; game, theft and brand, Ron Currin; pasture and range improvement, Frank Anderson; beef promotion, Ned Clark; public lands and forestry, Terry Thompson; and the nominating committee report.

There will be a no-host luncheon at noon, a coffee break through the courtesy of the Bank of Eastern Oregon at 2:30, and a social hour at 5 p.m. through the courtesy of the First National Bank.



MRS. AND MRS. DICK WILKINSON stand beside the sign that greets visitors to their ranch on Willow Creek, near Heppner. Dick has been chosen by a committee of livestock growers as 1965 Cattleman of the Year. (G-T Photo).

## Columbia Basin Meet Wednesday

Annual meeting of the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op will be Wednesday, November 17, in the fair pavilion, Heppner, with Congressman Al Ullman as the principal speaker.

Registration will start at 12:30 and the business session will get underway at 2 p.m., Harley Young, manager, reports. Light refreshments will be served and a motion picture will be shown during the registration period.

Directors will be elected in four zones, one from each. Ernest Lear and Bill Humphrey are nominees for the Condon city director, Walter Jaeger and Orva Dyer are nominees from zone 2 (rural), Virgil West and Charles Welp are nominees from zone 1 (rural), and Walter Wright and Barton Clark are nominees from zone 6 (rural).

## Junior Play Date Moved to Dec. 3-4

Dates for the Heppner High school junior class play, "Annie Get Your Gun," have been changed from November 19 and 20 to Friday and Saturday, December 3 and 4, Mrs. Janet Groves, director, announces.

The change was made because of conflicts on the November dates, among them being the Elks' crab feed on November 20.

Mrs. Groves said that it was necessary to pay a high royalty for the play, and the cast is working hard to assure a large crowd at the presentation.

## Attack Claims John Graves

John W. Graves, 58, prominent Morrow county rancher, died Monday night when he collapsed at the annual meeting of the Morrow County Grain Growers in the county fair pavilion. Death was from a heart seizure.

He was apparently feeling in good health and had been visiting with friends and members of his family seated near him at the table when he suddenly slumped in his chair and lapsed into unconsciousness. Only a few minutes prior he had contributed to discussion on a business matter at the meeting with a comment from the floor.

Men near him carried him to an adjoining room, and a doctor present attended him, but death apparently was almost instantaneous.

Mr. Graves had undergone surgery about two months ago for removal of his gall bladder, and members of his family said that he had been feeling "better than ever" since his convalescence. He had suffered a heart attack some six years ago.

## Livestock Health Class Announced

Evening Division of Blue Mountain Community College has announced Wednesday, November 17, as the starting date for a course on Livestock Health. The class will meet in the Heppner High School on Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. for ten weeks. Dr. Stanley McGough will instruct the course which deals with animal nutrition, disease prevention, parasite control and effective husbandry.

David Raynolds, evening school director at Blue Mountain Community College, will be available to discuss other course offerings with interested persons at Heppner High School on the evening of November 17. Jack Grossnickle, principal of Heppner Elementary school, cooperates with Blue Mountain Community College to accept course requests.

## CowBelles Postpone

The annual luncheon and business meeting of the Morrow County CowBelles, which had been set for Friday noon, November 12, has been postponed until a later date, according to Mrs. Ewing Hynd. Another date will be announced for election of officers for the coming year.

# Dick Wilkinson Cattleman of Year

Dick Wilkinson, who was born in 1921 on the ranch that he now operates on Willow Creek near Heppner, has been chosen as 1965 Cattleman of the Year by a committee of the Morrow County Livestock Growers.

He and his wife, Virginia, will be presented with the honor Saturday night at the annual Farm-City banquet in the Heppner High school multipurpose room. The dinner starts at 6:30.

It's too bad the story of the Wilkinson's ranch cannot be told in a color movie film for it presents beautiful scenes in a resplendent setting at this autumn time. The home place nestles below rolling hills, and surrounding trees show the effects of Mother Nature's fall paintbrush. Cattle graze in fine grass pasture and the rippling creek meanders the length of the valley. China pheasants, protected near the home, add their bright color and a note of tranquility.

**All Property Deeded**

All of the some 25,000 acres in their ranch are deeded property, either owned or leased. Virtually all is tied together so that no long cattle drives are required, and a herd can almost literally travel to the mountains from the home place by moving from pasture to pasture. There are some 30 pastures on the place.

The Wilkinson ranch extends into the mountains up Willow creek as far as Cutsforth park, but another branch reaches up Skinner creek "to the top." The latter was acquired in a land exchange when Wilkinson land on the present Boeing industrial site was acquired by the State property was available and Wilkinson asked that this be purchased to tie into his operation. Recent acquisitions also carry the operation across the hills from Willow Creek from the "home place" to Hinton creek.

His cattle herd consists of 35 bulls, 600 cows, and 125 coming 2-year-old heifers. Wilkinson plans to pick up some 100 heifer calves for replacement this fall.

These cattle are primarily Hereford breeding with only a few Hereford-Angus crosses. Recently six Shorthorn bull calves and 10 registered Shorthorn heifers were purchased from David Tozier of Ellensburg, Wn. He plans to cross these with some of his Herefords in the hope of increasing milk production in some of his beef cows. This is on the theory that a heavier milking cow produces a heavier calf, and his business is selling calves by the pound.

**Calling Program Rigorous**

Wilkinson carries a pretty rigorous culling program on his cow herd. Any cow that doesn't produce a calf isn't given a second chance. She is automatically sent to market. Dick points out that it costs as much to keep

## Christmas Event Set December 3-4

Christmas Opening in Heppner will be December 3 and 4. Bob Henry, merchants committee chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, announced Monday following a survey of merchants in town.

A majority voted for that weekend rather than the weekend following Thanksgiving, he said.

It is planned to have the window guessing contest again, as well as Santa Claus, treats for the children, bargains for shoppers, free parking on Saturday, and Christmas lighting in place.



MRS. SAM (RUBY) STEERS, who works for Miladies, was attired in this dress, more than 50 years old, during Crazy Days, Friday and Saturday. Her bonnet, an upside down flower basket, is symbolic as she points to the sign, "Peggy's Newest Hats." The dress was made by her husband's grandmother, Mrs. Al (Priscilla) Steers, who died 52 years ago. The cotton calico shows infinite care and expert needlework. (G-T Photo).

## Crazy Days Brings Good Crowds Here

Crazy Days proved to be a very enjoyable and successful event in Heppner Friday and Saturday, Bob Henry, chairman of the merchants committee, reported.

He said that he had checked with participating stores and most of them were quite enthusiastic about the results, some saying it surpassed the Sidewalk Bazaar in fun and interest.

Staff of J. C. Penney Co. was judged winners of a \$5 prize given for the most fitting costumes. They were dressed as Indians. An impartial judge made the choice.

Few of the prizes were claimed from the numbers printed in the paper, although many attempted to match theirs to those posted.

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