

Sewer Income Lags Below Costs, Auditor Tells Council

Heppner's sewer department revenue is not sufficient to cover its operation costs and bond payments, Allan C. Langenwalter, Hermiston certified public accountant, told the city council Monday night after completing the annual city audit.

Langenwalter expressed the opinion that rates for sewer service here are "exceptionally low," causing the department to operate at a substantial deficit.

Two possible solutions were tentatively discussed by the council, one possibility being to raise the monthly sewer fee to users and the other to levy millage for redemption of sewer bonds.

Councilmen discussed some of the pros and cons on the two proposals, some saying that they did not favor additional property taxes that even a mill levy for the purpose would bring.

Mrs. Elaine George, recorder, said that the League of Oregon Cities will soon issue statistics on sewer charges by cities in the state, and the council may use this to compare fees here with others in the state.

Only bonds outstanding against the city are water bonds and sewer bonds. The water bonds are general obligation bonds (paid by tax levy) but the sewer bonds are revenue bonds backed with a general obligation feature, meaning that a tax levy may be imposed for their payment if necessary.

The auditor also recommended that the city combine the water and sewer departments for the purpose of expediting and simplifying record keeping.

He also suggested that steps be taken to "streamline" the city's billing and office procedures in order to save time and work that might be devoted to other duties. In the same connection, he proposed that some of the work duplicated by the treasurer and recorder, such as each keeping a list of checks, be eliminated.

"Adequate control could be maintained with some of this duplication eliminated," he said.

He estimated total cost of re-amending the city's billing and record keeping system to be in the neighborhood of \$600 or \$700.

Arbuckle Course May Open Sunday For Ski Season

Arbuckle Mountain ski course may be open for the season Sunday afternoon, according to announcement by Bob Henry, prime mover behind the operation.

"With luck we should get it going after 1 p.m. Sunday," he told the Chamber of Commerce Monday in a report. With Avery Taylor and Herman Winter, Henry got the ski tow at the course in shape last week-end, and hopes to complete the mechanics of getting the tow ready to go by the coming Sunday afternoon.

There were 12 inches of snow at the top of the course last Sunday, eight inches at the top of the "bunny" run and four inches at the bottom of the course, he said.

"We need two more feet of snow to make the course really good," he said.

Henry also has been working on arrangements for getting a bus to haul loads to the run on Saturdays and is hoping to get enough financial support to cut the price per individual round trip to 50c.

Schedule calls for a grand opening the first week-end in January, and it is expected to have special days on week-ends through the season to cater to other towns with free skiing for those who come from those towns, Henry said. Planned are a Hermiston Day, a Pasco Day, a Pendleton Day, a Condon Day and an Arlington Day.

Races are on the agenda for some time in February. Family season tickets are available at \$60 and individual season tickets may be purchased for \$25. Those who prefer to ski on a daily basis will pay at the rate of \$1.75 per day. The "bunny" tow will not be in operation.

Trailers Talked

In the field of planning and zoning, the council tentatively discussed the matter of trailer courts. Clarence Rosewall, president of the council, acting as chairman in the absence of Mayor Al Lamb, asked for opinion on the handling of trailers, pointing out that a possible influx of population to work on the dam in the future might bring many trailers to the city.

"Should we allow them throughout the town? Should we zone for houses and trailers together? Or should we allow them only in trailer courts?" he asked the council.

Councilman Carl Spaulding expressed his feeling that "trailers belong in trailer courts."

Councilman Haskell Sharrard said that he had done some research into the matter of trailer courts and found that state restrictions make them expensive to install. One installation that he visited in Arlington cost \$1000 per space to set up, he said. This brought up the question of who might be interested in opening such a court here.

Sharrard said that in some instances a contractor on a major project will assist in the establishment of a court.

The discussion reached no conclusion, but the council realized that it faces a potential problem on this matter.

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Editorial

Zip Code System--Help or Hindrance?

By WES SHERMAN, Editor

A full page advertisement scheduled to run in this paper is not in print because engravings of pictures that were a central part of the page failed to arrive through the mail from the engraving firm. They were mailed to allow a day's margin, and a telephone call to the firm Thursday brought the information that the pictures arrived to them a day late. They were processed immediately and are at least a day late on the return trip.

Through the 20 years that we have dealt with this firm their service has always been extremely prompt. A publisher could count on receiving his engravings within a three day period.

Since the advent of the zip code system, we believe there has been a noticeable deterioration in mail service. First class mail service that formerly took three days is now taking five. We do not feel this can be attributed to the Christmas rush, since it has been happening frequently during the past several months. The local post office reports that mail has been running light to date for this season.

This instance means to us a frantic last minute re-make of the entire paper with loss of time, loss of revenue, and a desperate effort to get the paper out on time. News pictures, too, have not arrived and the paper must go to press without them.

Recently we pointed out that we have experienced more difficulty from subscribers receiving their papers on time this year than we have in the rest of our entire newspaper experience. Complaints have been frequent, although the paper has never failed to leave here on time. One reader in western Oregon said that the paper, which normally arrived on Saturdays, is now reaching her as late as Tuesday. A letter printed in this paper about two weeks ago reported the experience of another who was getting her paper late consistently, and she made the comment that she did not feel the postal department felt delivery of the paper was important.

A livestock commission company in Hermiston which runs a market report on our classified page each week had to resort to the telephone to get results of his Tuesday sale to us before Thursday. He experimented by sending duplicate letters from Hinkle, one bound east and one bound west. They both arrived here, some 60 miles away, the third day (Thursday) after they were mailed (Tuesday). He tried again this week with the same result. The same man told us that recently a very important letter was mailed to him on November 18 from Pasco. It arrived in Hermiston November 22.

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New Rule Added To Light Contest

Mrs. Avon Melby, chairman of the Christmas Lighting Contest for the Chamber of Commerce, announced this week that to be eligible for prizes those taking part must agree to



"Inside we've got to use candle-light or we'll blow a fuse!"

leave the lights on and decorations up through New Years Day. In the contest, announced last week, three prizes are given for the best residential lighting and decorations, including a \$25 first prize, \$15 second and \$10 third. In addition a \$10 prize will be given for the best interior residential window display. A certificate of commendation will be awarded to the best commercial window entry.

Entries may be taken until noon on December 23. They will be received at the Gazette-Times office either in person or by telephone.

Ski Style Show Set Tuesday Eve

All ski enthusiasts of the area are invited to attend a style show of ski togs to be presented Tuesday evening, December 14, at 8 p.m. in the Episcopal parish hall. At that time Jerry Campbell of Pendleton will have four or five models present to show proper attire for skiing as well as equipment needed in the sport.

Bob Henry will also talk to the group on plans for the operation of Arbuckle Mountain ski course this winter and discuss the possibility of obtaining a bus to make Saturday runs to the mountain, possible cost of ticket and routing of the bus. Those who are interested in skiing at Arbuckle this winter are urged to be present since they will find the meeting of particular interest.

WEATHER
By LEONARD GILLIAM

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	59	31	—
Friday	64	35	—
Saturday	49	36	.01
Sunday	58	31	.01
Monday	64	34	—
Tuesday	51	32	.03
Wednesday	47	34	—

Santa Claus Due Back Saturday

"Santa Claus shall return!" This is the word from Bob Henry, chairman of the merchants committee of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce. The man in the long white beard and red suit will visit with kiddies from 2 to 4 p.m. at the community Christmas tree near the main downtown corner in Heppner, Henry states.

23 Prizes Given At Christmas Opening Saturday

Twenty-three prizes were given to winners in the annual Heppner Christmas Opening window guessing contest Saturday at the conclusion of a day which found hundreds circulating from store to store. List of the winners, together with the prizes and the firms giving them may be found on page six of this section.

Parking space was at a premium in the afternoon Saturday as the crowds of children and adults came to town to join the fun. Santa Claus was surrounded by a mass of young humanity at the corner of Main and Willow but escaped being smothered by remaining on his perch on the fire truck that brought him to the spot.

He gave out his supply of candy until it was exhausted. It appeared that some youngsters managed to get more than one bag while others were disappointed by not receiving any, although Randall Peterson, Chamber of Commerce president, rushed to the store for a supplementary supply. This too, was soon gone.

Merchants reported brisk business in most instances. Some felt that most of those competing in the guessing contest were children, but the list of winners shows a good proportion of adults. The contest is open to both children and adults, but the kids proved equally as good at guessing as their elders.

Booster Buttons On Sale at Game

Heppner Booster Buttons will be on sale at a booth at the high school gymnasium prior to and during the Pilot Rock game Saturday night, it is announced. All Heppner sports fans are invited to buy and wear the buttons to back the team. Proceeds from the sale of the buttons will go to promoting all Heppner school activities.

Tall Rockets Coming For First Home Tilt

In taking on Pilot Rock in the home opener Saturday night here, Heppner High's basketball team will face an outfit that shows nine of its 11-member traveling squad reaching 6 feet in height or over. The Mustangs will play a



GENE HELIKER, 5-8 guard for the Heppner Mustangs, will be in action when the home basketball season opens here Saturday night. He led Heppner scoring against Enterprise there last Saturday night.

Cardinals Plunge Into Loop Play

With only the amboree at Umatilla behind them in the way of pre-season action, Coach Gene Docketer's lone High Cardinals plunge into Morrow-Umatilla B league action Friday night at Pilot Rock, meeting the Rockets there in the conference opener.

The Cards can put an all-veteran five on the floor and may have Mark Halvorsen, hurt in football season, back for limited action. He is just now getting over the broken finger that he suffered in the other sport. Pilot Rock, which last year was in the A-2 class, dropped into the B ranks this year. The team may lack scoring punch seen in last year's five now that Rich Mikel is gone, but the boys are big and tall and some of the 1964-65 team is back as a nucleus for this year's club.

This is the only game for Ione this week, but next Friday, December 17, they will come home to be host to their Morrow county rival, Riverside, in a league game.

doubleheader with the Rockets, the Jayvee game starting at 6:30 and the varsity contest to follow.

The Rockets have had some of their offense from last season, having lost big Rich Mikel who is now going great guns for Eastern Oregon College. But despite a rather poor showing in their opening jamboree Friday night, the Rockets have the potential to give the veteran Mustangs a rugged tussle.

Before meeting Pilot Rock, the Mustangs will travel to Walla Walla Friday night to face DeSales in another non-league affair.

Last year a Heppner-Pilot Rock game had considerably more importance because both were contenders in the Greater Oregon league. This year, however, the Rockets have dropped back to B status and are in the Morrow-Umatilla B league. Therefore, Saturday night's contest is strictly non-counting except for prestige and as a test of the strengths of the teams in their continuing good rivalry.

Of the 11 on Coach Mas Wat-anabe's traveling squad, four have previous varsity experience. Topping the list is Terry Anderson, 6-4 center-forward, who is back as a senior after two years action on the varsity. Mike McMahon, another tall hooper at 6-3, is also a senior center-forward. He has had one year of varsity experience. Two others with a year of action behind them stand an even 6-0, Jack Miller, senior guard, and Duke Chapman, sophomore forward.

Five other six footers join these tall firs: Ron Bond, 6-0 sophomore forward; James O'Brien, 6-3 junior center; Gene Harrison, 6-3 junior center-forward; Joe Harrison, 6-0 senior guard-forward; and David Standley, 6-0 junior forward. Two 5-10 "shorties" complete the squad: Jim Wright, junior guard; and Glenn Black, also a junior guard.

Since Coach Bob Clough's tallest man is Mac Hoskins at 6-2, the Rockets will have a definite height advantage in the opener but they won't have Mikel, around whom the team was built last year.

Of Coach Clough's probable starters only Hoskins, David Clark and Jim Jacobs, both 6-0, hit the 6 foot bracket, Hoskins taking the center spot and Jacobs and Clark going as forwards. Jim Doherty, guard, is 5-10 and Gene Heliker, his running mate, is a diminutive 5-8. Among the other seven on the Heppner traveling squad, four attain 6 feet or more, including Tim Driscoll, forward, 6'3/4".

(Continued on page 8)



BOB JEPSEN of Ione was elected first vice president of the Oregon Wheat League at its meeting last week in Bendleton. (Story page 1, section 2)

Holiday Mail Schedule Starts Next Monday

Heppner post office will extend hours of window service on Saturday, December 18, until 5:00 p.m., it is announced by James H. Driscoll, postmaster.

From December 13, to December 23 inclusive, the parcel post and stamp window will remain open until 6:00 p.m. The money order window will close at the usual time, 5:00 p.m., with extended service for this purpose confined to the afternoon of Saturday, December 18.

Mail will be received and distributed on two Sundays, December 12 and December 19. The general delivery window will be open from 10:00 a.m. to noon on these dates for parcel distribution, and patrons are urged to pick up their mail and parcels during those hours if possible. There is no evening dispatch of mail on these Sundays, as the Star Route driver returns immediately after completion of his trip to Kinzua.

All patrons are again urged to present their mail in bundles for "Out of Town," that is other than Heppner delivery area, and "Local," with appropriate labels on top of each bundle. Labels will be made available to designate each. These labels will be placed in each postal box, in a supply box near the letter drop, and also distributed to stationery stores where they may be picked up when cards are purchased. Please secure bundles with string or strong rubber bands prior to placing in bundle drop or handing to window clerk.

The Christmas card rate is four cents for an unsealed card—with no written message. This can weigh up to two ounces. If sealed, or a written message is enclosed, the rate is five cents per ounce for all destinations outside the city limits.

"Please feel free to call on any postal personnel for additional information if required," Driscoll points out.

The Herdman Rural Station and Lexington Rural Station will operate on similar schedules with the exception of the Sunday window service schedule. There is no extra mail service to Hardman on the Sundays involved.

School Vacation To Be Ten Days

Christmas vacation for those attending Morrow county schools will begin after the dismissal on Thursday, December 23, and will continue until classes resume on Monday, January 3, at the regular time.

Community Groups Combine Efforts For Ione Festival

Organizations in the Ione community are combining efforts this week to stage the 5th annual Fall Festival to delight both young and old alike. Location has been changed this year to the Ione Grade school gymnasium.

The festival will start with the serving of a full course ham dinner from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Members of Beta Omega sorority are preparing the dinner.

Proceeds of the dinner will go towards a water softener at Pioneer Memorial hospital. A total of \$1900 is needed for this project which the sorority has undertaken to sponsor, and members are hoping for a large crowd at the dinner to help swell the fund. At the present time, the fund drive is just underway with \$125 on hand from a fruit cake sale previously held by the sorority.

The dinner will be \$1.75 per plate for adults, 75c for school children to 12 years, and preschool children free. A large variety of booths will open at 2:00 p.m. to assure a full afternoon of entertainment. Bazaar items will be available, suitable for Christmas giving.

Adding interest for everyone will be the door prizes which will be given each one-half hour throughout the afternoon. The winning ticket holder must be present to receive the prize.

All residents in the area are invited to attend and enjoy the afternoon.

Gilliam & Bisbee Sale To Start Friday Morning

Auction sale that will dispose of the stock and many of the fixtures of Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware, one of Heppner's oldest businesses, will start at 10 a.m. Friday with Donald Kennedy of Portland as auctioneer.

As announced last week, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Buschke, owners, are using this method to close the store and quit business.

Buschke has been in the business since February, 1955, and Mrs. Buschke bought the interest of John Key in January, 1958, to make it a husband and wife partnership.

Frank Gilliam and a man named Coffey started the firm of Gilliam and Coffey in 1887, and a few years later Timothy Bisbee took Coffey's place in the firm, according to information from Earl Gilliam.

Sons of Gilliam and Bisbee came into the firm beginning about 1900 with Lou Bisbee, still a resident of Heppner, entering the business about that time. Leonard Gilliam came in sometime later and Clinton Gilliam followed about 1907. Earl Gilliam joined the firm around 1909.

(Continued on page 8)