

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Most Important Events of 1965

With old 1965 about to retire into history, this is the time to view in retrospect the happenings of the past year.

What were the most significant events in Morrow county in the year? Opinion would vary on this, of course, but one list of the 10 most important news stories might be as follows:

- 1. Authorization of the Willow Creek project by Congress.** This culminated a long list of preliminary steps prior to actual appropriation and construction. If the needed irrigation district is formed soon, by this time next year the construction date of the dam should become pretty definite.
- 2. Floods and flood repairs.** First of the bad floods of last winter came in 1964 (December 23), but three more were to follow, one in late January and two of the waterspout variety in July and August. Damage done by the floods was heavy. Making repairs to roads, aided by the state and federal government, has been a continuing task for the county through the year.
- 3. Filings on North Morrow BLM lands.** A sudden surge of interest on developing North Morrow Bureau of Land Management lands for agricultural purposes under irrigation stirred the imagination on prospects for a sizable development for the future. Competition between the so-called "Portland group" and the local persons interested in forming the North Morrow county Irrigation District added interest to the continuing story. County officials took a position favoring private development as opposed to a Bureau of Reclamation project. Year's end sees the matter yet to point in a clearcut direction with many problems and conflicts to be solved.
- 4. Move of the City of Boardman.** With construction of the John Day dam moving towards completion, the move of the City of Boardman to its new site has been a story of significance through the year. As 1966 opens, sparkling new businesses are in operation on the new townsite with more to come. Other stories in relation to the impending rise of the dam reservoir were also of significance, including the controversy over the industrial sites as opposed to the areas set aside for wildlife on the waterfront. This was settled to the county's satisfaction after a delegation headed by County Judge Paul Jones went to Washington, D. C., with the result that some of the land that had been designated for wildlife refuge was restored for industrial use. Move of the City of Arlington, beset by controversy, also had some local effects although Arlington is located in Umatilla county.
- 5. Controversy over Riverside School location.** Related to the changes going on in the north end of the county was the controversy over location of the new Riverside High school. The school board changed a previous decision, which had been to locate the school between Irrigon and Boardman, and decided to locate it in the Boardman townsite. This switch was bitterly opposed by Irrigon residents who sought an injunction against the school board, but the injunction was denied, and steps towards construction at Boardman are now moving forward.
- 6. Decrease in taxes in Morrow county.** A happy story for taxpayers was the one that taxes dropped some 9 per cent in Morrow county with most budgets of taxing agencies "holding the line" while assessed valuation climbed. Morrow was one of the few counties in the state able to achieve a property tax reduction even with some state relief. School district budget, often a source of controversy in years past, was approved by an overwhelming margin on the first try in 1965.
- 7. Heppner Basketball team goes to state tournament.** A particularly thrilling development on the sports scene was the accomplishment of the Heppner High basketball team, dubbed the "Cinderella" team, in winning the district tournament and going to the state. Although it didn't win a game in the state tournament, it set some records to its credit in bowing out, and Heppner won the sportsmanship trophy at the Coos Bay A-2 tournament.
- 8. Fair and rodeo topped special events.** On the county's calendar of special events for the year, the fair and rodeo again proved to be tops and both were outstanding successes in 1965. Their color and excitement, together with preliminary events, brought keen interest during late summer. Queen Judy Sherer and her court were acclaimed for their fine work as reigning royalty.
- 9. Passage of the county road serial levy.** Passage of the county's road serial levy, 590 to 157, after it had gone down to defeat in late 1964 was a story of significance. Floods provided some impetus in influencing the affirmative for the \$125,000 annual levy.
- 10. Announcement of \$2,369,000 gas pumping station at Ione.** Announcement that Pacific Gas Transmission company will construct the gas pumping station at Ione if approval is granted by the Federal Power Commission was another story of importance to the county. While this will bring no large work force nor maintenance staff, it will add considerably to the tax utility assessment when completed and will contribute substantial tax payments to the county.

Of course, there were more stories of significance. Announcement just last week that Mrs. Amanda Duvall will give a new ambulance to the hospital was received with gratitude. Move of the school district office to Lexington was an important step on the school front. The county and city moving forward on planning and zoning are of significance. Annual harvest of grain, beset with weather troubles, was among the most important stories on the farm front. Increase of annual farm income to \$10,268,000, up 10 per cent from 1964, was another encouraging report. Closing of Gilliam and Bisbee, probably the oldest mercantile business in Heppner, brought some pangs and seemed to mark the end of an era here. Deaths of prominent citizens saddened the county periodically through the year.

The year 1965 was a year of spade work and movement towards the future. It is interesting to note how the top news stories were tied together in their relation to development for the future. Certainly the principal focus in the county during the year was on the north end because of the important changes taking place there. Sharing this attention was the progress towards the Willow Creek dam and developments underway in the southern part of the county.

While there was some bad and sad news in the county, it was fortunate that 1965 was not marred by major crimes. Accidents were rather infrequent, and this county contributed only lightly to the record setting total of auto deaths in the state.

Despite complications, controversy and some conflicts, the year was one of steady progress for the county as it prepares for a blossoming role in industry and agriculture in the future.

As we look towards 1966, we can safely predict that some of these plans will reach culmination before the New Year closes and the charts will be drawn more definitely for others.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

SOME EXPERT is quoted as saying that floods of the magnitude Oregon experienced in December, 1964, can be expected on the average of only once every 200 years. Thus, with the January flood and the two rather severe waterspouts we experienced in Morrow county during the summer of 1965, we should now be taken care of for at least the next 400 years.

But probably we better proceed towards getting the Willow Creek dam—just in case.

For a while this week folks in the valley probably thought they were going to have a rip snortin' wettin' down dilly, combining the Columbus Day windstorm of a few years ago with the floods of last winter. A few of these experiences have made them pretty skittish, for which no one can blame them.

Coming back from the heavy rains of Portland Monday and the heavy snows of the Columbia Gorge, it seemed kind of nice to hit a little dust storm in progress around Heppner.

BOB HENRY, manager of the James Cash Penny store here, sneaked off to Sandpoint, Idaho, for a week's vacation right here in the height of the winter. You might well know what he is doing there—skiing. He dropped us a note Monday, saying that the snow there is 2 1/2 ft. deep.

"The trip up Christmas day wasn't bad," he wrote. "Only saw eight cars in the ditch. Spent yesterday at Schweitzer Basin ski area. It was a real eye opener of what big ski areas do. There are two rope tows, two T-bars, a chair lift and a long tow line at all of them. The chair lift line was about 400 people long but only a 25 minute wait at \$4 per head. The ski lodge was about the size of our old high school, a 3-story affair, and absolutely jammed. I would say the parking area where we parked was about five blocks from the lodge, four rows of cars angle-parked solid up to the lodge.

"If you want an honest comparison I would say you get twice the skiing at Arbutuck that you do here—the crowds are so big."

MORROW COUNTY is a place that seems to have particular respect for its old timers, and it takes a heap of livin' here to gain that status. One newcomer

who has become what might be classed as a young oldtimer in short order is Jack Locke. He has only been in Heppner 18 months but with his work through the First National Bank, his excellent performance as rodeo secretary, and his help as treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, Jack has been a dependable and important cog in goings-on around here.

He and his wife, Fran, have really enjoyed Heppner, and now they are going to be transferred to Gresham, back to the big city area. This is in the nature of a promotion for a good man, but the Lockes will leave some places that will be hard to fill, and they certainly will be missed.

Fortunately the bank is coming to the rescue to fill some of Jack's "extra-curricular" responsibilities. John Venard taking the rodeo secretaryship and Harley Sager in line for Chamber of Commerce treasurer.

The Lockes' many friends, while sorry to see them go, wish them well in their new location. Certainly hope to see them back for a visit at rodeo time.

RANDALL PETERSON, retiring president of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, ought to get a big bouquet of roses. He went through his entire year at the helm of the C of C without missing a meeting, and that is a new record to shoot at.

Randall is one of those faithful and devoted fellows who always does a good job at anything he agrees to undertake and he certainly showed these characteristics as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

DAVE POTTER, county school superintendent, entered Emanuel hospital Wednesday for surgery and treatment of a chronic kidney condition, stemming from a World War II plane crash while he was in service. He will have an expected two weeks hospitalization and at least a like time at home in recuperation. This does not mean that his trouble will be over for he has the same condition in the other kidney.

We certainly hope that this hospitalization will work towards permanent recovery and that Dave doesn't have to suffer with this condition much longer. Best wishes of all the folks at home are with him.

County School Calendar

- Monday, January 3**
School Resumes
Ione Advisory Committee—7:30
4-H Automotive Club at A. C. Houghton—7:00
Ladies Volleyball—A. C. Houghton Old Bldg.—7:00
- Tuesday, January 4**
Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee—Irrigon—7:30
National Assembly—Heppner—10:30
National Assembly—Ione—12:40
New Math Class-Room 7, A. C. Houghton—7:00
Heppner High Varsity B. B. at Pilot Rock
- Wednesday, January 5**
Heppner Advisory at Heppner Elementary—7:30
- Thursday, January 6**
Grange at A. C. Houghton Old Bldg.
Echo Elementary at Heppner—2:00
Heppner J. V.'s at Arlington
- Friday, January 7**
Basketball: A. C. Houghton at Umatilla—2:00
Umatilla High at Riverside—6:30
Olex Elem. at Ione—2:00
Ione High at Stanfield
Enterprise High at Heppner
- Saturday, January 8**
Basketball: Helix High at Ione
Riverside High at Weston
- Monday, January 10**
4-H Automotive Club-A. C. Houghton Old Bldg.—7:00
Ladies Volleyball—A. C. Houghton—7:00
- Tuesday, January 11**
City Council at A. C. Houghton Old Bldg.
Regular Meeting of Morrow County School District Board at Lexington—7:30
New Math Class-Room 7, A. C. Houghton—7:00
Boy Scouts at A. C. Houghton—7:00 to 9:00
Basketball: Ione High at Heppner
- Wednesday, January 12**
O. C. C. I. at Pendleton—1:30
Heppner Elementary PTA at Heppner Elementary—8:00
- Thursday, January 13**
Transportation Committee Meeting at Lexington Office
Extension Meeting at A. C. Houghton Old Building
4-H Community Club—7:30—A. C. Houghton
- Friday, January 14**
Basketball: Ione Elementary at Arlington—2:00
Echo High at Ione—8:00
A. C. Houghton at Echo—2:30
Umapine High at Riverside—8:00
Heppner High at Madras—8:00
- Saturday, January 15**
Basketball: Riverside High at Helix—8:00
Ione High at Umatilla—8:00
Heppner Elem. at Condon—1:30
- Monday, January 17**
4-H Automotive Club at A. C. Houghton—7:00
Ladies Volleyball—A. C. Houghton—7:00
PTA—A. C. Houghton—7:30
- Tuesday, January 18**
Semester Finals
Boy Scouts—A. C. Houghton—7:00 to 9:00
- Wednesday, January 19**
Semester Tests
FHA Mother's Tea at Heppner High
- Thursday, January 20**
Semester Tests
Grange at A. C. Houghton Old Building
- Friday, January 21**
End of First Semester
Basketball: Riverside High at Pilot Rock—8:00
Ione High at Umapine—8:00
Heppner High at Burns—8:00
Heppner Elementary at Umatilla—2:00
- Saturday, January 22**
Basketball: Athena High at Ione—8:00
Heppner High at Grant Union—8:00
- Monday, January 24**
Kindergarten Assoc. Meeting—A. C. Houghton—7:30
- Tuesday, January 25**
New Math Class at A. C. Houghton—7:00
- Wednesday, January 26**
Heppner J. V.'s at Condon
National Assembly at Heppner—2:45
- Friday, January 28**
Basketball: Sherman County High at Heppner—8:00
Heppner Elem. at Pilot Rock—2:30

TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

My hometown paper is always interesting and I do not want to do without it. It keeps my memory alive to read about old friends. Many of the younger generation are the sons and daughters of old friends and I am always happy to hear what they are doing to and for my old home. As you already know, I think I am the oldest living person that was actually born in Heppner.

My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. James Labon Yeager, bought their first piece of ground right across from the old O.K. & N. railroad depot up a ways on the hill. There was no railroad in Heppner then. That came about three years after I was born. I have always thought Heppner was a very nice place to be born in even if there was no fine hospital there. I worked hard to get the hospital there.

Made me very sad to read about the fine old Gilliam & Bisbee hardware store going out of business. A few years before the great Heppner flood of 1903, my father owned and operated his furniture store in the brick building right next to the hardware store. I think Ed and Eleanor Gonty now own that building.

I remember Lou Bisbee and I used to play around back of the stores. Also remember when Clarence Bisbee came there to work in the hardware store. I think he later went over to Long Creek or Monument. I have known the Gilliam and Bisbee families all my life, Len and I used to play around and go over to Dutton's Canyon to snare ground squirrels. Sometimes we had as many as a hundred caged up. Ralph Thompson usually went along on these trapping trips.

I used to know Dick Wilkinson years ago, but he probably does not remember me. I have fished up Willow Creek many times for those fine little mountain trout.

When I was born in the little one room cabin with no roof and only three walls up, Rachael Harnett's grandfather was my doctor and her grandmother was my nurse. I would be very happy if Dick and Virginia Wilkinson would send me a copy of their photo published in the G. T. Would like to use it in my book I hope to publish. They could give it to Oscar E. Peterson, who is my business agent in connection with my "History of Morrow County." Oscar knows more about when the book will be published, if ever, than I do, but I know it will be very interesting and worth publishing. Oh, yes, tell Mrs. R. B. Rice she is just as

good looking as she ever was. Would like to hear from any Heppner folks.

O. M. Yeager

To the Editor:

Your newspaper again did an outstanding service in contributing so much space this past season to Keep Oregon Green and "Smoky Bear" forest fire prevention releases.

In behalf of the Keep Oregon Green Association, we sincerely thank you for your fine support of this public service program. Fire season severity was rated very high in Western Oregon. Eastern Oregon experienced more rain than usual which held down fire losses.

Considerably more man-caused fires were reported by many protection agencies. On state and privately protected lands more fires remained small and fewer fires reached large size than would be expected. Prompt detection and cooperation on the part of the public in reporting fires, along with fast action by trained fire suppression crews, private, state and federal, prevented many fires from developing into larger ones.

Your forest fire prevention news items and editorials resulted in keeping our citizens forest fire conscious. According to a preliminary report by the U. S. Forest Service and the State Forestry Department, a total of 1,016 man-caused fires occurred. These fires along with 775 lightning fires burned over only 6,515 acres.

We hope the 1966 season will be less severe and that we can again expect your continued support to help reduce man-caused forest and range fires.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your staff. Keep Oregon Green Association
Albert Wiesendanger
Executive Secretary
Keep Oregon Green Association

Tuesday, December 14

To the Editor:

In regard to the service I am getting in receiving my paper, well it is very poor most of the time.

The last weeks paper I got yesterday (Monday, December 13) which I should have gotten not later than last Saturday and it should always be here by Friday.

Some times they come as late as Tuesday of the next week. I have been terribly disappointed a lot of times.

Thank you kindly
Mrs. Elma Hiatt
1315 S. Underwood
Kennewick, Wash.



- SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS**
Heppner Elementary School
January 3-7, 1966
- Monday—Rice-roast beef gravy, tomatoes, cake and fruit, bread and butter, milk.
 - Tuesday—Meat loaf-mushroom gravy, buttered corn, celery sticks, peach half, bread and butter, milk.
 - Wednesday—White beans and ham, hot rolls and butter, Jell-O fruit salad, milk.
 - Thursday—Tuna noodle casserole, cabbage salad, apricots, bread and butter, milk.
 - Friday—Potato soup, peanut butter sandwich, vegetable salad, cheese sticks, fruit, milk.

Office Moved
The county supervisor of the Pendleton office of the Farmers Home Administration announces they are moving from 105 S. E. Byers Avenue and that the office is now located on the third floor of the Pendleton Post Office, Room 356. The new mailing address will be P. O. Box 1328, Pendleton, Oregon 97901.



- Coming Events**
- HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL
Tuesday, January 4, Pilot Rock, at Pilot Rock
Friday, January 7, Enterprise at Heppner
Tuesday, January 11, Ione at Heppner.

ELKS' NEW YEARS PARTY
Friday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.
Dance to Gene Rietmann's orchestra
Breakfast at 1:00 a.m.
Elks Temple, Heppner.

NEW YEARS DANCE
Heppner Fair Pavilion
Friday, Dec. 31, 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Music by the Henchmen of Heppner
Admission, \$1.50.

OES SOCIAL CLUB
Saturday, Jan. 8, 1:30 p.m.
Heppner Masonic Hall.

HEPPNER MOTHER'S CLUB
Monday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Mel Dixon
Important Business Meeting.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!

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