

City to Host NRA Cowboys

Northwest Rodeo Association cowboys, expected to be 100 strong, will come to Heppner Saturday and Sunday, January 15 and 16, for their annual convention, the first time that this event shall be held in the Morrow county seat.

Trophies won on points throughout the year will be awarded, including saddles made by Gray's Saddlery of Heppner; officers will be elected; Rookie of the Year will be named; a banquet will be held; business sessions will be conducted; and other activities will be on the agenda.

Mrs. Don (Joan) Griffith of Spray, here this week to complete arrangements for the convention, said that the first meeting will convene at the dormitory building of the fairgrounds at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 15. At this time officers will be elected and other business will be considered. Bill Ward of Athena is currently president of the organization.

Banquet will be at 7 p.m. At this time saddles, buckles and trophies will be awarded. Among those to get saddles are these point winners in various events during the year: Bill Herrera, Toppensh, Wn., bareback riding; Bill Ward, calf roping; Gene Jordan, Mitchell, saddle bronc riding; Chuck Johns, Eugene, bulldogging; Dick Powers, Ellensburg, Wn., who was all-around at the Heppner rodeo in 1965, wild cow milking; Bob Conforth, Hermiston, bull riding; and Bill Ward, all-around.

Brad Botta of Ellensburg, now in service, will not be able to be present to receive his saddle for team roping.

Trophy buckles will also go to each champion. Trophies, too, will be awarded to stock contractors for the bareback horse of the year and the bull of the year, choices to be voted upon at the coming sessions. A halter will go to the saddle bronc of the year.

Delene Johnson of Condon, Miss NRA through the past year, will be present for the convention and a new Miss NRA will be chosen for the ensuing year. Miss Johnson will present buckles at the banquet. Clyde Powers of Wapato, Wn., is tentatively scheduled to preside at the banquet.

District Teacher Committee Elected

Five teachers and two principals have been elected to a district-wide committee for professional negotiations on salaries and economic welfare. Mrs. Alice Vance, clerk of the Morrow County School District, announced Wednesday.

Teachers elected include Violet Lanham and Clint Agee, both of Heppner; Ronald Black, Riverside High; James Marvin, Lone; and Ruth Bentley, Iririgton. Principals are Ron Daniels of Boardman and Jack Grossnickle, Heppner.

Certified personnel voted on the committee members and results of the election were tabulated Wednesday. Provision for such committees in school districts throughout the state was set up in a law passed by the 1965 state legislature.

Chamber to Work On 'Business Climate'

a program every two weeks. Reports of committees and matters in the nature of "good of the order" will be emphasized at the other weekly meetings. The president said that he will name committees soon.

The Rev. Boschee extended appreciation to the retiring president, Randall Peterson, for his good work through 1965. Peterson never missed a meeting, and the installing officer characterized him as a man who expects perfection in himself.

"One strong point of this community is that we open up our hearts and homes to newcomers quickly," the Rev. Boschee said. "It is a small community where we all get acquainted personally, and this lets down barriers. Work of the Chamber is reflected in the community."

Among the best qualities of the organization, he said, are that the members are working in the organization because they want to make the community the best place possible to live; and they are willing to give of themselves and of their time and income to be of benefit to the community.

The retiring president thanked all those who worked on the Chamber's activities through the past year, including his officers and committee chairmen, naming each and telling of the work they had done.

Serving with President Young for 1966 are Herman Winter, first vice president; Wes Sherman, second vice president; Jerry Sweeney, secretary; and Harley Sager, treasurer.

Sunday's session will start at 10 and will conclude at noon, ending the convention.

Mrs. Griffith said that the convention is open to all interested and a welcome is extended to everyone. Stock contractors, rodeo officials from various areas, and others with particular interest in the NRA will be on hand.

Have Spare Room? It May be Needed

Those who may have spare bedrooms available for renting Saturday night, January 15, are asked to call the Northwestern Motel or Roice Fulleton at Fullerton Chevrolet Company.

Jack VanWinkle, working on a housing committee for the coming Northwest Rodeo association convention, said that 41 rooms are available in the city's hotel and motels for the convention. It is not known exactly how many will register for the convention, and extra housing may be needed. Any who are able to extend this hospitality to the visitors are requested to make it known.

Lone and Heppner To Play Return Game on Tuesday

Lone's Cardinals and Heppner's Mustangs will play a return basketball game on the Heppner maplecourt Tuesday night, January 11, to be preceded by a game between the schools' freshmen squads.

Varsity contest is scheduled to start at 8 p.m.

First, however, both teams have other action awaiting them between now and then.

Heppner will be host to the Enterprise Savages on the local floor Friday night with the Jayvee contest starting at 6:30 p.m. The Mustangs downed the Savages in their first game of the season at Enterprise and hope to make it two in a row.

Lone swings into gear Friday night in their first game since holiday vacation. They will play at Stanfield Friday night and then come home to be host to visiting Helix. Both of these are league games, and the Cards are hungry for a win. Their good team has failed to reach its peak as yet, but Holstein, Halvorsen and Co. will have a surprise coming for some of their Umatilla-Morrow B league competition soon.

Prior to the Lone-Heppner game here, the Heppner PTA will hold its annual chili and chicken noodle feed, 5:30 to 7, and all are asked to eat there that night to help bolster the PTA's scholarship fund.

The Mustangs defeated Lone on the Card's floor in their first meeting, but had a wee bit of trouble in doing so.

Heppner will get in the thick of counting games Friday, January 14, when they take to the road in what may be one of the toughest trips of the season. They will play the Madras White Buffaloes there at that time.

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Hope--or Despair--In the New Year?



MIKE BENGE, serving in a civilian capacity with the Montagnards of Viet Nam at Phu-Yen, has sent these pictures to show the "Jolks back home". They are of refugees who have fled communist-terrorized areas. Mike, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terrel Bengé of Lone, is among those from the United States working to "win the war within a war" in achieving the goodwill and friendship of the Vietnamese.

Trip from Monument 6 Hours via Flats

Mrs. Martha Matteson, the Gazette-Times' Monument correspondent, and her husband, Elmer, set out to come to Heppner Tuesday via their accustomed route — Sunflower Flats. They made it all right, but it took about six hours!

They left at 7:40 a.m. and she came to the G-T office at about 2 p.m., saying that they had just arrived in town.

En route over the back route to Heppner they hit deep snow and eventually wound up in the ditch, being unable to see under the white blanket where the road left off and the barrow pit began.

There were other brave souls, too. Martha reported because two other cars were following them. Fortunately a county grader came along as it was plowing the road, hitched on to their car and pulled them out of the ditch.

There were 14½ inches of snow at the county line, the correspondent said.

When the Mattesons returned home Tuesday afternoon they decided that discretion was the better part of valor and went the long way around — by the highway.

Benge Extends Thanks For Home Folks' Help

Michael D. Bengé, who has been working for several years with the Montagnards in Viet Nam in a civilian capacity, has sent a holiday message to the Gazette-Times to express his appreciation for those who have supported the American effort in the strife-torn country.

"I would like to take this time to express my thanks to the people of the United States and of my home town for the continued support of the American effort in Viet Nam," he writes. "For the people here I would like to offer the sincere thanks for this expression of hope for those who are fleeing communist aggression."

"My special thanks to those who have contributed the many items of clothing and toys which are sent to me by my mother. Please express my personal gratitude for contributions from the Heppner people. We look forward to future assistance."

Speaking of the photos reprinted with this story, Mike said, "To those in the United States who do not understand why we are here I send these pictures. They express the anxiety and fear of not knowing what lies ahead. This is the reason why America is in Viet

Nam. We hope that some day they may be able to enjoy the peace and prosperity that you are enjoying this Christmas.

"We should be proud of our boys serving here in Viet Nam for they are the ones who are fighting to give us and other nations future peaceful Christmases. We hope that all of the people will support our effort. "Again I wish to thank you and wish all of you 'a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.'"

PTA Sponsors Feed Prior to Lone Game

A public chili, chicken and noodle feed will be served by members of the elementary and high school Parent-Teachers Associations prior to the Heppner-Lone game Tuesday evening, January 11. Serving will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the high school multipurpose room. Menu will include chili or chicken and noodles, salad, homemade pie and coffee. Tickets, on sale at the door, or prior to the supper from grade school students, will be \$1 for

Sewer Use Fee To Be Raised \$1

(See Editorial Comment, Page 2)

Monthly sewer use charge will be increased \$1 per month in Heppner for both residential and commercial users beginning in February. It was decided at the regular monthly meeting of the city council Monday night.

An ordinance providing for the increase will be presented to the council at a special meeting Monday night. It will carry the emergency clause in order that the increase may be placed in effect next month.

This increase is brought about as a result of the report of Allen Langenwalter, Hermiston accountant, who recently conducted the city audit. He told the council last month that the sewer fund is failing to meet operating costs and payments on

bonded indebtedness at the rate of about \$8000 per year. Will Bring \$600 Month

The \$1 "across the board" increase, treating commercial and residential users alike, will bring in some \$600 per month and approximately \$7200 per year.

Langenwalter had pointed out that the deficit on the sewer system was draining other departments of the city and could imperil their finances.

Councilmen agreed that the monthly fee increase would be fairer and a sounder plan than resorting to restoring a tax levy which they are empowered to impose, if necessary, as a result of the original vote on the sewer system's general obligation bonds 14 years ago. A 10-mill levy was imposed for a 10-year period but was dropped in 1961. At that time the system's finances were in good shape.

It was pointed out at the meeting that total costs of the sewer department in a fiscal year run about \$14,000 of which some \$3,300 is for operation and maintenance and the remainder goes for bond retirement and interest.

Mayor Al Lamb remarked in stating his position on the tax levy as a solution that property taxes are already too high.

At the present time residential sewer charge in the city is \$1 monthly. It will raise to \$2 when the increase is placed in effect. Commercial users pay up to \$15 per month, according to amount of use.

City Attorney Bob Abrams was requested to prepare the ordinance for presentation to the city at the special meeting.

Traffic Hazards Eyed
Traffic hazards presented by parked cars and limited visibility at the corner of Gale and May streets came in for lengthy discussion at the meeting. This has been of concern to the council through the past several meetings.

City Superintendent Vic Grosheens was asked to check into the cost of installing a guard railing around the inside of the curve. This would prevent parking of cars on the shoulder and extending into the street, councilmen reasoned.

The street committee was asked to work with him to determine where openings might be placed in the guard rail for access to vacant lots in the block. In this connection, the council also discussed steps that might be taken in an effort to get property owners to clean up the lots in the area, but no action was taken at this meeting.

Street Improvement Dropped
Mayor Al Lamb announced that the State Highway Department did not approve the proposed paving and improvement of the Morgan Street extension from state funds allotted to small cities because the city could not pay its share of the proposed improvement. The state had proposed doing the work, costing some \$26,000, if the city could provide some \$8,000 for walks and curbs.

The city turned to the school district because primary use of the street is to serve Heppner High school. Neither the city nor the district could provide the necessary funds because neither had budgeted for this purpose.

A letter from Langenwalter to the city reported that he had neglected to inform the council in his report that the city is not protected by insurance on the boilers at the swimming pool or by insurance for false arrest. He said that such coverage would be desirable, and his recommendation was affirmed by City Attorney Abrams. The council passed a motion to secure adequate coverage in each case.

Water Supply Increased
Grosheens said that work to increase water supply at city wells has been completed and that he believes the water system will be able to supply 900 gallons per minute from the wells. Maximum capacity from the wells last summer was 637 gallons per minute. The work, therefore, will add nearly one-third to the supply. The superintendent said he expects to conduct a test run with all pumps at capacity probably this week.

Chief of Police Dean Gilman reported that a request had been made to install a stop sign on Barratt Boulevard at the Court Street intersection. The council agreed on the need. A figure of \$125 per month for electricity for operating a proposed crosswalk sign at the intersection of May and Court was submitted by Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. Mrs. Elaine George, city recorder, said that no figure had been obtained on cost of installing the sign as yet but that a pole would need to be set for the installation. The council previously had asked the state highway department for the sign and was advised that the state would furnish it if the city would pay for installation, operation and maintenance. Residents had requested something be done to help alleviate hazards at the intersection.

Permit for building alteration was granted to Lora Moyer, 220 Court Street, \$400, for a new roof.

'Miss 1966' Arrives January 5

Miss Morrow county of 1966 wasn't very prompt in arriving, waiting until the new year was five days old before making her debut, but on Wednesday, January 5, Sherri Lynsee Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Howard, was born in Pioneer Memorial hospital.

As the first baby of the year, Sherri will receive 34 prizes offered from businesses in Heppner and Lexington. She weighed 7 lb. 7½ oz. at birth and arrived at 10:52 a.m.

The baby girl's father is stationed at an Air Force base at Indian Mountain, Alaska, where he has been for the past few months. The mother, the former Francine Moyer, is living with relatives in Heppner while he is in Alaska.

Sherri Lynsee joins two brothers in the family, Ricky, age 3, and Ronnie, 2.

Melvin Moyer of Heppner is the maternal grandfather, and paternal grandfather is Glen T. Howard of Arlington, Texas. Maternal great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Cunningham, Heppner, and Mrs. Lora Moyer, also of Heppner. Paternal great grandmother is Mrs. Kathryn Prim of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Howard will be presented a letter from the Gazette-Times soon to introduce her or a member of her family to local firms giving the First Baby prizes so that they may be picked up or arrangements made for them.

Weather Favors Heppner Area

Gusty winds, snow and rain all had their turns in weather conditions experienced during the week, but when Heppnerites looked elsewhere, they had to concede that this area was given some special favors.

There were clear times, too, and the sun occasionally broke through overcast skies. After a rather heavy snowfall Sunday, which melted quickly, Heppner's landscape was clear during the rest of the week.

None of the heavy and paralyzing snowfall noted in other parts of the state was experienced here, nor was there any flooding from heavy rains and swollen streams.

Leonard Gilliam, weather observer, reported that 1965 ended with total precipitation of 12.13. This was slightly below the average of 13.05 inches and just a bit less than 1964 when the rainfall was 12.92.

December brought total precipitation of only .34 inch. By contrast, first week of the new year checked in with 1.08 inch, including Sunday's snow and a good soaking rain principally during the night Wednesday.

Weather report for the week from Gilliam is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Thursday	43	25	.01
Friday	41	24	—
Saturday	45	32	—
Sunday	39	30	.53*
Monday	46	32	.02
Tuesday	50	30	.08
Wednesday	57	39	.45

(*Snow)