

Giles French Describes Morrow County as Having 'Soft Landscape'

(Editor's Note: The following is written by Giles French, who for years was owner of the Sherman County Journal, as a description of Morrow county. French, author of the book, "Cattle Country of the West," and other works is considering writing a history of Morrow county. He is considered an authority on eastern Oregon. Still a resident of Moro, French served for many years as a representative in the state legislature. Last year, he won the Oregon Newspaper Publishers' Amos Voorhies award for his "outstanding contribution to journalism" in this state).

MORROW COUNTY, OREGON
By GILES FRENCH
Morrow county is the 2059 square miles (1,317,760 acres) in northeastern Oregon lying between Township 23 east of the Willamette Meridian for the most part, and extending to Township 29 EWM except in the northern part which joins Umatilla county midway in Town-

ship 27 EWM. It reaches from the Columbia River on the north of the Base Line—which crosses the county near Ione—and six townships south, 66 miles in all. The average width is 40 miles.
Morrow county probably has the softest landscape of any eastern Oregon county. There are few of the tall, precipitous basaltic cliffs that distinguish the terrain of Sherman and Gilliam counties, immediately west of Morrow. And the Blue Mountains in the southern part of the county are not so steep as in Umatilla and Grant counties. More canyons have grassy hillsides than rock cliffs.
Willow Creek runs to the Columbia diagonally across the county from the Blue Mountains near Black Butte but its bordering rimrock is seldom very sharp or high. Butter Creek starts in the southeastern part of the county and cuts a deep gash until it reaches the level land at the Umatilla county border, then runs through the flat country before joining the Umatilla River some ten miles south of the Columbia.

Except in a few places the hillsides are grass covered with few outcroppings of shale, a distinguishing feature of nearly every other county in eastern Oregon. Morrow county gives evidence of being a part of an older geological formation, a more eroded, smoother formation. The layer of volcanic rock is thinner, probably older. Madison Butte is probably the highest peak in the county and there is a road running clear up to the lookout at its top. Right on that point is an outcropping of rock resembling decomposed granite as if the rains and snows had worn the peak down to expose the solid granite framework of the earth. It is possible that Black Butte, or even Arbuckle, farther east, are as high as Madison, but they would have to be above 5711 feet and that is doubtful.
The county may be roughly divided into three parts by geology, geography and also by use.



GILES FRENCH
The southern part is stock country and forest. It is the lo-

cation of the 233,500 acres of forest land of which nearly all, 200,000 acres, are in the Umatilla National Forest. Much of it drains into the north fork of the John Day River on gentle slopes. The streams are small and numerous, the soil a light gravelly one that produces a stand of nutritious grass, tall pines and patches of beautiful wild flowers.
The central part of the county, the wheat belt, is typical of eastern Oregon wheat land, probably volcanic in origin, which the southern part surely is not. It has low hills for the most part although some fields are steep. There are numerous dry creeks caused by spring and summer sunoffs that have gashed the country in the rush of water to find its level. Most of the county's 372,300 acres of tilled land is in this belt.
The northern part of Morrow county lies low along the Columbia River, a large part of it sandy without croppings of rock. Much of it is called desert, and it qualifies. Recently, since the

average rainfall has increased, there are no basaltic cliffs bordering the river here. The land slopes part of it has been successfully sown to wheat. Scientists say that once upon a time in the distant geological past, a huge lake in northeastern Washington broke its boundaries and overflowed down the Columbia River, bringing tons of sand to cover this land which was about the first place such a flood could spread out. A newer theory has it that the deposit of sand was caused by a natural dam in the big river that backed water up to cover the north end of Morrow county, and thereby deposit sand.
Whatever the cause, this section has not been productive of crops for man except under irrigation which has been intensive near the Umatilla River. Several townships of it have been leased to the State of Oregon and turned over to the Boeing company for missile testing.
The Columbia gorge is not a gorge in Morrow county; there

gently to the river. Willow Creek comes to the Gilliam county border before it meets the river and Butter Creek at its terminus is in Umatilla county. But the bottom lands of both are irrigated and productive of a healthy livestock industry while going through Morrow county.
When high-piled snow on the southern hills melts quickly or when a cloudburst hits across a ridge sending water down two creeks at once, floods occur in Morrow county. Winds are sometimes strong along the Columbia in the spring, the season of the chinook. Back in the timbered hills wind is not common.
There are examples of very high and very low temperatures, 20 below and 100 degrees above zero and once in eight or ten years such may happen. In ordinary summers the mercury climbs into the nineties and natives expect some zero nights in winter. Rainfall is light, 8.6 inches in the north, 13.05 in the wheat belt and nearly 20 in the range area.

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ONE DOLLAR

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HEPPNER SHEEPSKIN SCRIP

No. D 0695

Issued by the Business Men of Heppner, Oregon

Heppner Gazette Times

Club Schedules April Card Party

By VIRGINIA KESLO
KINZUA—The Kinzua Women's club had its regular meeting last Thursday at the kitchen with Margie Ball and Lucille Reavis as hostesses.

During the business meeting the ladies made plans for a card party to be held Saturday, April 9, at the grade school. Both bridge and pinocle will be played. An advance ticket sale will be held.
After the meeting closed the rest of the afternoon was spent quilting.

The regular meeting of the Friendship club was held last Wednesday at the Camp 5 community hall with Barbara Mortimore as hostess to the group. High was won by Naomi Rice, low by Dinah Jackson, and traveling by Rosie Graham and Carol Norris. Others playing were Judy Norris, Betty Murdock, Doris Stubblefield, Patsy McMinn, Rita Conlee, Sue Mattison and Mavis Oyster. A show of miscellaneous gifts was given to Judy Norris as a going away present, after which Hungarian goulash was served by the hostess.

Mrs. Frank Ferrel, Mrs. Slim Rhoton and Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Murdock were business visitors to Pendleton Thursday.
The F. L. Club was entertained Friday evening with Hazel Hulet as hostess to the group. High for pinocle was won by Betty Murdock, low by Lois Walker, and traveling by Carol Norris and Barbara Mortimore. High for bridge for the evening and the three months series went to Pat Hyatt. Grand high for pinocle went to Betty Murdock and second grand high to Marilyn Thomas. Others playing were Marge Asher, Ann Asher, Jean Medlock, Gail Putnam, Patti Bell, and Vi Slinkard.

The community card party held at the Camp 5 Community hall Saturday night was well attended with eight tables of pinocle in play. High was won by Dick and Rosie Graham, low by Delbert Barzee and Jean Medlock, and traveling by Dick Graham and Golda Barzee. The door prize was won by Richard Mortimore. After the cards, a chili feed was served by the hostesses, Betty Murdock and Nancy Hawk.

Mr. and Mrs. James Foyen became the parents of a daughter Saturday, February 19 at the Heppner hospital. She weighed 7 lb., 2 oz., and was named Virginia Jean. She joins a brother Jimmie. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Britt of Spray and Mr. and Mrs. James Foyen of Baker. This last Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Foyen and their two children moved to Baker where Mr. Foyen will be employed.

Lyle Muzzy and Marvin Rowland left Saturday by plane from Portland for Ketchikan, Alaska, and on to Thorne Bay where they will be employed. They were taken to Portland by Paul Muzzy and Elva Davis.
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brace of Bend spent the week-end here visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Allen and family.
Mr. and Mrs. Arne Slinkard of Klamath Falls spent the week-end here with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Slinkard and son Mike.

Mrs. Bert Hoover and Mrs. Robert Kelso went to John Day Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller of Fossil where they attended a retirement dinner party for Mrs. Rose Beam of Unity. Mrs. Cella Norton of Mitchell, and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hoover of Fossil. These people all recently retired from the Postal Service.

Mrs. Bill McMinn, Mrs. Steve Conlee, and Mrs. Ray Rector were business visitors to Heppner Wednesday.
Mrs. Joe Browning and Mrs. Bob Reavis went to Pendleton Friday to bring home Miss Joan Browning for the week-end.
Mr. and Mrs. Doyal Hubbell went to Portland Thursday to visit an uncle of Mr. Hubbell who is seriously ill.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sitton went to Lexington Sunday to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Steagall and other relatives.
Mrs. Olin Weems was home

Irrigon Women Plan Workshop In Reupholstery

By LaVELLE PARTLOW
IRRIGON — Morrow County Extension Agent Donna George of Heppner was in Irrigon last Thursday evening to conduct a preliminary meeting for a reupholstery workshop which will begin April 1.

The workshop will be under the auspices of Ladies Home Extension and will consist of approximately five or six classes. Leaders for the project are Mrs. Dean Acee and Mrs. Louis Shade. These two ladies will take their training in Boardman starting the 7th of March, and will then instruct the local group.
Miss George displayed fabric samples and instructed in the necessary supplies and materials the ladies would need.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Early hosted a "welcome-home" dinner party at their home Saturday evening, honoring Steve Smith, recently home on leave from Viet Nam. Later in the evening, other friends dropped in for dessert and coffee.

Mayor Chester Wilson reports that street work is progressing on North Main, 5th and 6th streets, with the streets being graded and widened. Evergreen trees have been planted on North Main as a part of a city beautification program, and these will later be interspersed with shaped locust.

John H. Califf, SKSN, who was stationed on the U.S.S. Canopus out of Charleston, S. C., is home on a 25-day leave with his wife and family, and also his folks, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Zehner. Califf's next duty station will be Rota, Spain.

The Irrigon City Council will meet at the upstairs room of the old school building on Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., for its regular March meeting, with the Boy Scouts participating.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stewart, Sharon and Tom drove to La Grande Sunday and visited his art. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffols, her mother, Mrs. Floyd Reeder, and her sister, Mrs. Doris Courtney and family.
Mrs. Ernest Stephens arrived home Thursday after a 2-week trip to California, where she visited several relatives, and with others enroute home.

Several ladies of the Auxiliary of Veterans of World War I participated in a work day at the old Irrigon school, tying afghans and working on other projects.

Menus at A. C. Houghton school for the week of March 7-11 are as follows: Monday—spaghetti, tomatoes, french bread, applesauce and cookies; Tuesday—vegetable beef stew, pear and cheese salad, pineapple pudding; Wednesday—hamburger, buttered corn, potato chips, peaches; Thursday—fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, gingerbread and

over the week-end from Coos Bay where she has business interests.
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jellick were business visitors to The Dalles Saturday.

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DANCE

To Live Music

Saturday Night

Wagon Wheel

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HERE IS A FACSIMILE of Heppner Sheepskin Scrip used as a medium of exchange in Heppner in 1933 when \$5000 worth was issued in various denominations. This is printed from plates still in the possession of the Gazette-Times. Back of the scrip is at the top and front is at the bottom. The sheep's head seal at left was overprinted on the front of the scrip. (See Chaff and Chatter column, page 2).

Heimbigner Wins On Trampoline

Competing against 10 college teams in the Pacific Northwest gymnastics championships held at McArthur court in Eugene Saturday, February 26, Tom Heimbigner of Ione won the third place bronze medal in trampoline competition.
Coach Dick Smith of the University of Oregon said after the meet that performance of his trampoline team of four in this championship event was their best to date. Individually they won a first place, a third, a fourth and a tie for fifth.
Coach Smith predicts continued improvement from his young sophomore from Ione and still grins when he tells of Tom's background which involves a homemade trampoline buried in a hole in the ground and a book for a coach.
Tom is now qualified to compete in the Pacific Coach championships to be held in Berkeley, Calif., on the week-end of March 17.

Rhea Grange Changes Meeting to March 13

Date of the March meeting for Rhea Creek Grange has been announced for Sunday, March 13. The change will make possible the attendance of members at the Flack-Bergstrom wedding at Valby. Lutheran church the evening of the regular meeting date, March 11.
A potluck dinner will be served at 1:30, with 4-H clubs in charge of the afternoon program.

Highland Machinery New Toyota Dealer

Toyota Motor Company announces that Highland Machinery Co. of Condon is now dealer for its line of Land Cruisers in this area. The company will carry a full line of the 4-wheel drive Land Cruisers, which come in five models, and cars, as well as a full line of parts.
Trained mechanics will assure customers of service.
Highland Machinery invites customers to come in and look over the new units. Those interested are also invited to test drive the Toyota.

Mrs. Warren Ill

Relatives received word here early this week that Mrs. Willard (Betty) Warren is very seriously ill in Rupert Hospital at Rupert, Idaho. The Warrens resided in Heppner for several years until about 11 years ago when they moved to Paul, Idaho, and just recently to Rupert. He was employed here as a carpenter. Mrs. Warren is a sister-in-law to Paul Warren.

State Tax Help Offered March 8

Assistance in preparing Oregon state income tax returns will be given by State Tax Commission personnel at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner on Tuesday, March 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Taxpayers wishing help in filing their returns are asked to bring earnings slips and other information needed to determine the correct tax, including, if possible, a copy of their federal return files for the year 1965.
The Tax Commission points out that in order to be eligible for a refund a taxpayer must file a return. Refunds are issued on a "first come, first served" basis.
It is also emphasized that if a joint return is filed, both spouses must sign it.
Deadline for filing is April 15.

Entries Invited For Music and Art Contests Saturday

The Seventh District, Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, contests for the Virginia Brown Music Scholarship and Hallmark and Penny Art Scholarships will be held jointly Saturday, March 5 at 10 a.m. in the Vert Clubroom, Pendleton.
Several entries are expected in each field. Music contestants will perform at 10 a.m. after which the art entries will be judged.

All persons interested in art and music are invited to attend this affair and to stay for the coffee hour which will follow the judging.
Further information may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Melvin Bates, Pendleton; Mrs. Ben Filippin, Roosevelt, Wn., or the president of any club affiliated with the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs.

Son Joins Family Of Darrel Ployhars

Mrs. Lucy Peterson returned Sunday evening from a week's visit in Spokane, Wn., with her son-in-law and daughter, Sgt. and Mrs. Darrel Ployhar, and became acquainted with her new grandson.
Little Jor Patrick was born to Sgt. and Mrs. Ployhar on Thursday, February 17, at a hospital at Fairchild, Wn., weighing 8 lbs. He joins two sisters at home, Susan and Marti.
Mrs. Peterson is the baby's maternal grandmother, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Moe, all of Heppner.

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- NEW Shirts
- NEW Shoes
- NEW Windbreakers

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