

# Santa's Coming 2 p. m. Saturday! BLM Land Sale Stirs Interest



## Annual Christmas Opening Features Window Contest

Heppner's Main Street will be "Santa Claus Lane" for Christmas Opening Saturday. The genial gentleman from the North Pole is due to arrive in downtown Heppner at 2 p.m. on that day to greet all youngsters of the area. He will have candy treats for all the kids. Santa's first appearance will be just one of the highlights of Christmas Opening week-end. Another big feature will be the annual window guessing contest, and merchants are offering 15 fine prizes, with total value of about \$150. Everyone — men, women and children—except store owners and their wives (or husbands) are eligible to take part.

The big downtown Christmas tree is scheduled to be in place with the work being done by Chris Crisp and his crew as a fine gesture in assisting with the community event. Columbia Basin Electric Co-op again will have the Christmas lights in place and decorations up to bring the holiday spirit to "Santa Claus Lane."

Heppner stores are filled to overflowing with gift merchandise, and a check early this week showed that most of it is now out on counters and shelves ready for shoppers. Early shopping has been brisk, they report.

Rules of the guessing contest are listed on page 1, section 2, of this paper in the Chamber of Commerce advertisement. The contest will be from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday, and in most instances, those participating will guess the retail value of gift merchandise in designated windows. However, some stores will have different types of guessing contests and will give details to those who call at their stores. The person whose guess is the closest to the actual figure will win that store's particular prize.

Here are the participating businesses and their prizes: Case Furniture Store, Tensior desk lamp; Central Market, 12 lb. turkey; Elma's Apparel, \$10 gift certificate; Gardner's Men's Wear, shoe shine kit in hardwood footrest box, and second prize, set of trouser hangers; Gazette-Times, \$10 cash; Gonty's, transistor tape recorder; Miladies Apparel, \$10 in merchandise; Murrays Rexall Drug, \$10 gift certificate; J. C. Penney Co., thermal blanket; Peterson's Jewelers, anti-tarnish silver-plated fruit bowl, \$11.50 value; Tum-A-Lum Lumber Company, one gallon Plasolux paint, value \$10.85; Van's Variety, horse racing set, value \$15; Western Auto, \$10 in merchandise; Peetyohn's Farm and Building Supply, Black and Decker 1/2-inch electric drill.

(Continued on page 8)

## Survival Classes Scheduled Soon

Fallout survival school, conducted by the Department of Education of the State of Oregon, will be held in the circuit court room of the county courthouse on four consecutive nights, December 12 through 15, County Judge Paul Jones announces.

Each session will consist of a three-hour study period, starting at 7:30, with a coffee break dividing the class period. No tuition is required and no materials are required of the participants. It will be composed of lectures, illustrated by pictures and other visual aids. The general public is invited to attend, and each is urged to take the full 12-hour course. Mrs. Dorothy Viera of the State Department will instruct the course.

Judge Jones said that the county court has made it an order that all county employees attend the school. "This is an unusual step, but we feel that county employees need to be in a position of responsibility if attack and ensuing fallout occurs," he said.

## Radio Film Slated For Chamber Meet

"Sounds from Inner Space" is the title of a motion picture film that will be shown as the program feature of the regular meeting of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce Monday by Ted A. Smith of KUMA, Pendleton. Mrs. Avon Melby, program chairman, announces.

The film concerns the history and development of radio in the county.

## Gross Receipts During Year '66 Show Small Gain

By GENE WINTERS  
County Extension Agent

Morrow county farmers and ranchers grossed \$10,709,765 from their crops and livestock in 1967, according to the 1967 Morrow County Extension agent's annual report completed this week.

Cash receipts in 1966 farm crops and livestock was estimated to be \$10,586,000.

Crops lead the county's agricultural income with a gross to farmers of \$7,645,253, while livestock totaled \$3,064,512.

Wheat income was up about 1/2 million dollars over last year. Cash receipts of wheat including marketing certificates amounted to 6.5 million dollars from 165,000 acres, largest acreage in history. Low yields and low prices at harvest were responsible for the small increase over that produced in 1966 on 110,000 acres.

Sale of beef cattle was up \$250,000 from last year to \$2,407,000. This reflected the slightly higher weaning weights and increased prices for slaughter cows and bulls. Better lamb prices brought income up 20 percent to \$323,000 in the sale of sheep and lambs. Wool was down substantially.

Barley income took the greatest drop in cash receipts being down from nearly 1.5 million dollars in 1966 to \$370,000 this year. Increased wheat allotments and the substitution clause permitting wheat for barley reduced acreage to 13,300. This is the least acreage recorded since 1954.

Increased melon and potato plantings reflected considerably larger income from these crops over previous years to \$280,000. The value of the 1967 hay crop was over 1.1 million dollars. With slightly more than 1/3 to be sold the value of sales amounted to \$386,000.

Further information is available from the county extension office.

## Accident Results In Minor Injuries

George William Smith, 26, of Chicago, Ill., suffered facial lacerations and other injuries shortly after midnight Sunday when his car went out of control on the Heppner-Lexington highway and hit a bridge railing near the Jim Bloodworth place.

Smith was treated at Pioneer Memorial hospital and was dismissed Tuesday morning. He has been visiting with his sister, Mrs. Tom Martin, and family through the hunting season.

About half of the bridge railing on the west side was knocked out from the impact and Smith's car was heavily damaged. His sister said the road was frosty and the car skidded in making a turn south of the bridge as Smith was proceeding north from Heppner. He was alone in the car.

Excitement reminiscent of the famous Race for the Cherokee Strip or that akin to the old homestead days in the West is noticeable in some quarters over the Bureau of Land Management's public land auction that will be held Friday at Greenfield Grange hall, Boardman, starting at 1 p.m.

At that time, 11,865 acres of BLM land in north Morrow county, checkerboarded with private land, will be on the auction block under the public act of 1964.

County Judge Paul Jones says that he has had many inquiries concerning the land, most of them coming from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California.

But interest extends much farther than that. The judge said that a BLM official told him Tuesday in a telephone conversation from Portland that the top three letters on his desk that day were inquiries on the

land from New York, Michigan and Louisiana. "I'm afraid that the Grange building isn't going to be near big enough to hold the crowd," he said.

The judge said that the BLM had given him some folders describing the plots up for sale, but by Tuesday virtually all of them were gone and he was referring inquiries to the Bureau in Portland.

Key to the widespread interest is the potential of converting the land from desert country to productive and profitable agricultural land under irrigation from the Columbia River.

Soil, topography and climate are figured to be conducive to profitable development of the area, using water that will be backed up in the Umatilla Reservoir on the Columbia behind the John Day dam when it is completed in the spring of next year. There are 26 tracts to be offered for sale, and the auction will continue until the last one is sold, according to the BLM announcement.

Disposal of the lands has been in controversy ever since a group of businessmen, some of them from Portland, some local and some from Washington, filed on the property in 1965, hoping to obtain it under the Desert Entry Land Act of 1977.

Many applications by others followed, and after considerable debate, discussion and public hearings, the BLM eventually decided to offer the acreage for sale at auction under the 1964 act. This closed it to Desert Entry.

Sealed bids on the tracts were accepted until Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the BLM office in Portland. Oral bids at the auction itself must exceed the sealed bids. All bids must be at or above the appraised tract prices.

These appraised prices range from \$31 to \$52.50 per acre. Assessments on surrounding land are in the neighborhood of \$50, and so, with the "speculation fever" gripping many would-be investors, it is predicted that the lands will bring prices well above the appraisals.

The successful potato project of Ray Dunn and Bill McClannahan, operating in the far northeast corner of the county, has increased interest in the acreage to be sold Friday. The two, working in conjunction with Spada Distributing Co. in Umatilla, which is handling marketing and distribution of their potato crop, purchased 1,700 acres of BLM land a year ago at \$50 per acre. They used Columbia River water on 500 acres this year and brought in a very good crop.

There have been rumors that several national food firms have been showing interest in the lands and may place bids themselves.

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Number 39

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, November 23, 1967

## WEATHER

November 15-21

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	58	35	—
Thursday	58	35	—
Friday	44	32	—
Saturday	48	34	tr.
Sunday	41	31	—
Monday	53	27	—
Tuesday	45	25	—

10 Cents

# Road Serial Election to be December 8

## Special Deer Hunt Slated This Weekend

A special deer hunt on land in the Heppner game unit has been authorized for this weekend, Thursday, November 23, through Sunday, November 26, it is announced by the Oregon State Game Commission.

The hunt applies to land only outside the boundary of the Heppner Ranger district, Umatilla National Forest. In addition, some private land will be closed.

Those who hunt must have general deer tags as well as antlerless permits for the Heppner unit, according to Glen Ward, state game agent.

Hunting is expected to be good as the deer are plentiful and they are feeding in the daytime.

Ward said that the hunt was scheduled because of complaints of ranchers and land owners of damage being done by the deer.

Hunters are also reminded that the coming weekend will be the last for the pheasant season, which ends November 26.

## Fiddler Contest Friday, Saturday

Lively entertainment for the holiday weekend is planned for the public by Morrow county Jaycees who will stage an old-time fiddlers contest Friday and Saturday nights at the Heppner Junior High gym. They are sponsoring the event in cooperation with the Eastern Oregon Old Time Fiddlers association.

Many more entries from throughout the northwest have been received, according to the committee in charge.

Friday night's program starts at 7:30 with intermediate and the 7-county competition planned for the program. Saturday night's contests will start at 7 p.m. with the regional contest, followed by the classic old timers' competition.

Besides the music featuring the fiddlers, other entertainment is planned for variety and a lively master of ceremonies will keep the program rolling. Trophies and prize money will go to winners. State and national champions are scheduled, and the Jaycees are staging the program to bring top entertainment here.

They are hoping for excellent response from the public. Friday night's admission is \$1 for adults, and Saturday night will be \$1.50. Students will be admitted for 75c either night. All Jaycees have tickets for sale, or they may be purchased at the door.

## USE CHRISTMAS SEALS



FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS  
EMPHYSEMA  
AIR POLLUTION

## President Bob Jepsen Readies League Meet

(Also See Story and Pictures, Page 6)

President Bob Jepsen of the Oregon Wheat Growers League has announced that the list of speakers for the league convention in Portland, November 30, December 1 and 2 has been completed.

Floyd Corbin, Los Angeles, a world known speaker, and Glen Hofer, the executive vice president of the National Association of Wheat Growers in Washington, D. C. have consented to appear on the program.

Corbin has appeared before 2500 convention groups. He was a business executive with 10 years of sales experience before losing his sight as a result of an auto accident. In addition to his lecture activities, he has written five books. His topic for the Thursday luncheon meeting will be "Are You a Winner or a Whiner?"

Hofer was a wheat producer in the Watsburg area before assuming his present position about a year ago. He will discuss the projects of the National Association as well as pending and future proposed wheat legislation.

Dr. Joellene Vannoy, Western Wheat Associates home economist in the Asian area, will bring a message that should be of special interest to both the men and women. Her travels have taken her to Hong Kong, Philippines, India, Indonesia and many other Asian underdeveloped countries.

The commission report will be given by Bob Nixon of Junction City, representing the western area of Oregon on the wheat commission.

Another feature of the program that should be of interest to both the men and women will be a talk and demonstration given by C. C. Haggard of Pacific Power & Light. The theme of his presentation will be electric safety on the farm and in the household.

Don McKinnis, a past League president, and now employed by the State Dept. of Agriculture, will discuss "Irrigation and Total Development." McKinnis serves as development specialist for the state.

"By looking over the list of prospective recommendations coming from the various counties, we have a job to do at the convention," commented President Jepsen. "As a result, we need each producer's thinking to help us arrive at our decisions."

Congressman Al Ullman was unable to keep his speaking date at the annual meeting of the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative in Condon last Thursday, but this was the only disappointment for the crowd of more than 200 which attended at Memorial Hall there.

They heard a good address by Hank Alderman, editor of the Ruralist magazine, who accepted a last minute invitation to speak when Cong. Ullman was called back to Washington, D. C. two days prior to the meeting.

They enjoyed the witticisms and geniality of Stewart Patty, Eugene, a vice president of the First National Bank of Oregon and former Condon resident, who was master of ceremonies.

They heard a comprehensive report of progress made by the cooperative and some important plans for the future by Manager Harley Young. They heard the president's report from Walter J. Jaeger of Condon who stressed, "This utility system belongs to you—the members," and who told them, "The past year was better than

## \$150,000 Annual Levy Proposed To Continue Plan



BOB JEPSEN  
PRESIDENT OF Oregon Wheat League arranges for annual league meeting November 30 and December 1 and 2.

Special election has been called by the county court of Morrow county for Friday, December 8, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. to decide on a \$150,000 annual serial levy for a 5-year period for the county road maintenance and improvement program.

The county has depended upon a serial levy for its road program since 1948 when a five-year levy was first voted. Other five-year levies were voted until 1962, when a three-year levy was approved. Most recent voter approval to the road levy was given in early 1965 when an annual levy of \$125,000 was approved.

This current 3-year serial levy will expire in June, 1968, and if the road program is to be continued without severe cut-backs, another levy must be voted prior to that time. This is the question that will be put to registered voters of the county on December 8.

It is necessary to hold an election because the amount involved would place the county budget over the 6% limitation, similar to conditions that have existed since 1948. When voters cast ballots at the special election they will decide on the proposition of exceeding the 6% limitation in the amount of \$150,000 per year.

Cost \$1.57 per \$1,000. Figures show that this amount will cost the taxpayer \$1.57 for each \$1,000 of true cash valuation. The \$125,000 per year currently being levied for roads costs \$1.29 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This would mean an increase of 28c per \$1,000 valuation.

Judge Paul Jones explained that the higher figure is asked because of the increasing needs in the road department. During the past few years the county has undertaken a program to put virtually all of the rural areas on hard-surfaced roads, and it is expected to continue this program through the next 10 to 12 years, when the goal should be nearly accomplished.

Considerable road work has been done in the north end of the county during the past two or three years, and the county expects to build a frontage road along Highway 1-80N soon, made necessary because of the construction of the freeway with limited access.

Another project that will mean expense to the county is the state requirement to embark on a complete sign program for the roads in the county that will require an estimated \$10,000. This will mean installation of many more caution signs, designating curves and other hazards, but is expected to make the county's roads considerably safer to drive.

A number of years ago, the road serial levy was voted as a 10-mill levy. This was discontinued after 1962 when a designated sum was set for the serial levy. If the 10-mill levy were still used as a basis for levying the road tax, it would bring in some \$240,000 annually on the county's assessed valuation today, much greater than that of several years ago.

Utilities Share Cost. A large part of the tax for roads, as it is for other levies against property, will come from public utilities serving the

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