

Rocket Catches Tank

Ex-Heppner Athlete Escapes Viet Cong Hit

Lt. Edward D. (Eddie) Howard, Heppner High school graduate with the class of 1962, escaped unhurt when a Viet Cong rocket hit the tank he was commanding in action north of Saigon in Vietnam recently, according to information from his sister, Mrs. Mona Thompson of Portland.

Seven South Vietnamese troopers and one American were killed in the eight hour battle near Tan Hoa, according to Associated Press accounts of the action. The Viet Cong was reported to have lost 142 killed.

In the fierce exchange of rocket fire, the heavy Patton tank which Lt. Howard, 22, now of Portland, commanded, was struck by an enemy projectile. The tank pulled back to allow its crew to assess the damage. No one was injured.

"We were in a corner and spotted a bunker," Lt. Howard was quoted as stating after the action. "We couldn't fire then because there was a wounded South Vietnamese soldier in front of the bunker."

"We were zeroing in, when the first thing we knew there was a big puff of smoke. It (the rocket) hit the searchlight on top of the tank."

"We were lucky no one was hit. They (the Viet Cong) are in here tight. They're all around. They got a lot of rockets and automatic weapons. The bunkers are the best I've ever seen. They're reinforced and the only way to knock them out is with a direct hit."

Men of the U. S. 11th Cavalry Regiment and the South Vietnamese Infantrymen battled the entrenched Viet Cong. Objective of the drive was a Viet Cong stronghold in a hamlet south of Tan Hoa, 15 miles northwest of Saigon. It was the second of four objectives for the Third Squadron of the 11th Cavalry Regiment commanded by Lt. Col. Neal Creighton, 32, of Louisville, Ky., according to the AP account written by Al Chang.

The squadron had attained its first objective without any contact. As the column came within a mile of the hamlet, the Viet Cong opened up with rockets on armored personnel carriers loaded with South Vietnamese Infantrymen.

More than 50 U. S. tanks and armored personnel carriers pushed through the barrage of Viet Cong rocket fire and countered with their tank and heavy machine guns. They reached within 50 yards of the Viet Cong bunkers and trenches, laying



LT. EDWARD HOWARD

down a steady stream of fire. U. S. tactical fighter-bombers streaked in to pound the dug-in Viet Cong with 500-pound bombs and napalm.

It was at this time that the tank of Lt. Howard caught one of the enemy rockets.

At Heppner High school, Eddie Howard was an outstanding athlete with track his specialty. He set a school record in the 100-yard dash, and in 1962, won the event in the district meet in a time of 10.2. Howard was one of the "fearsome threesome," which also included Lee Padberg and Archie Ball. The three won five of 13 first places at the district meet, and all participated in the state event. Besides the 100-yard dash, Howard won the 220 event.

Howard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman H. Howard, also participated in basketball and football for Heppner High.

He also attended grade school in Heppner, and his father was a barber here. The parents now live in Sandy, and Eddie has two brothers, Thomas and Roger, both living at home, as well as the sister, Mrs. Thompson of Portland.

Structures Burn As Schools Move To New Location

By MARY LEE MARLOW

BOARDMAN — The 13-year-old Riverside High school gymnasium went up in smoke Monday night, and the old gymnasium built nearly 50 years ago, which has been used for classrooms since the building of the new gym, was also burned to the ground. Kelwit and Sons, which has the salvage contract, had the city fire trucks standing by to protect the main school building which will still be in use this week.

The grade school was moved to the Greenfield Grange hall last week, and the high school moved to the new building at the corner of the building that was built in 1917. Classes will be held in the new building although it is not yet finished.

Ronald Black and his vocational agriculture and shop classes have also been moved, as they were in the basement of the old gymnasium.

Voters Approve College Bonds, Operating Levy

85th Year

Number 6

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, April 4, 1968

10 Cents

City Council Expects Shortage of Water

Possible shortage of water in Heppner during summer months was discussed by the city council at its regular meeting Monday night after City Superintendent Groshens said that city wells may be affected by drought conditions and the digging of other wells in the area.

He said that the city wells haven't been recovering as they should and estimated that within the next year probably 15 wells will be dug in the vicinity of Heppner.

"These may hurt us," he said, indicating that they may reduce the supply of ground water available.

He told the councilmen, "We may have to make a choice between furnishing water to horse pastures and residences."

Councilmen discussed the possibility of drilling another well. Groshens said that another well would cost an estimated \$6,000. Some discussion also centered around present users of city water who are located out of the city limits, but nothing definite came from the discussion.

(Continued on page 5)

recovered, pointed out that the new building will require more care to keep it in good condition. The second lifeguard will also make it possible for Stuart Dick, who served as lifeguard last summer, to give more swimming lessons.

Street Work Approved
Groshens requested permission to call for bids on street work to be done this spring at a cost of about \$3000. This will be in paving and resurfacing. A motion authorizing calling for bids on the work was approved.

At the request of the Morrow county school district, the council acted to return the sum of \$8000 to the district. This money had been placed on deposit by the district with the city for the purpose of improving Morgan street extension to the high school here on a cooperative plan with the State Highway Department. When the plan did not materialize, the fund was left on deposit with the city. Under a supplemental budget authorized by the school board, the district will now transfer

Assessor Placed On Leave Status By County Court

Rod Thomson, Morrow county assessor, was placed on leave of absence by an order of the county court which was signed Tuesday by County Judge Paul Jones and Commissioner Jack Van Winkle.

The order cited the fact that Thomson has been absent from his office "over an extended period of time" and "has failed to vigorously prosecute the making of the assessment in the manner provided by law."

Thomson has been in ill health for the past few years. The order, which was approved unanimously by the court recently and was signed Tuesday, said that the assessor would continue to receive his budgeted salary until July 1, 1968.

At a later date the court will determine what salary he will receive for the next fiscal year.

Mrs. Joyce Ritch, deputy in the office for the past two years, was named as special assessor by the county court.

Thomson has been assessor for more than five years, being first elected to the office in 1962 and being reelected in 1966. Prior to that he served as deputy under Assessor Harry Dinges and Assessor Oliver Creswick.

Thomson has suffered from eye trouble and underwent surgery on his eyes about two years ago.



ELMER MOE of Kinzua Corporation holds certificate presented to the Heppner plant of the corporation by the State Compensation Department last Wednesday afternoon. At left is Don McConnell, mill superintendent of the Kinzua and Heppner plants, and at right is Harold Smith, assistant manager of Safety Services for the Compensation Department, who made the presentation. The certificate is in recognition of 100 per cent sign-up of the state safety pledge.

Certificates Given On Safety Signup

Heppner plant of Kinzua Corporation was presented with a certificate from the State Compensation Department at a safety meeting last Wednesday in recognition of 100 per cent sign-up of employees on a state industrial safety pledge.

Harold Smith, assistant manager of safety services for the state department, made the presentation, and Elmer Moe, Heppner plant superintendent, and Don McConnell, mill superintendent for Kinzua and Heppner operations, received the certificate.

William L. Bohlender, safety consultant, was also present for the awarding of the citation.

He called attention to the fine record that Kinzua Corporation has compiled in accident prevention and safety.

In signing the pledge cards, employees endorse a goal of no accidents for the operation.

The safety meeting was held at 4 p.m. last Wednesday.

Rugg Sheep Ranches To Be Featured on TV

Of interest to residents in this area will be a televised showing of the extensive sheep operations of Shirley Rugg, as part of the "Oregon At Work" TV program, scheduled for Monday evenings, April 8 and 15, at 8:30 p.m. over Channel 10.

The Rugg operation was picked as an outstanding example of good sheep range management in the state of Oregon, and covers a year's period of operation.

Channel 10 can be seen locally through cable hookup, making it necessary for ranchers to join city friends or relatives to see the special farm feature.

300 Musicians Due This Week; Concert Slated

Some 300 high school instrumental musicians are expected in Heppner Friday and Saturday for their annual Band Festival, Arnie Hedman, instrumental music teacher here, announced.

Schools expected to participate include Echo, Riverside, Umatilla, Ione, Fossil, Hermiston Junior High, Stanfield and Heppner. One or two of these are listed as "tentative," but those participating will number between 265 and 300, Hedman estimated.

The event will be culminated Saturday night with a massed band concert in the Heppner High school gym, and the public is invited to this event. It will be at 7:30 p.m. and admission will be 75c for adults and 50c for students.

At 9 a.m. Friday the musicians will start receiving instruction by sections, being divided into three groups: Percussion, brass and reeds. In the afternoon they will rehearse as a massed band for the concert Saturday night.

In the evening, individual schools who wish to do so may play for informal judging to assist them in evaluating strong and weak points for any competitive events in which they may participate elsewhere.

"This will be sort of a pre-judging for those who wish to play in contests," Hedman said.

Saturday's procedure on the schedule will be similar with the work by sections in the morning and rehearsal in the afternoon. Guest conductor for the festival is John Sheeley of Hermiston High school. Band directors of participating schools will assist.

Proposals Get 2-to-1 Win Margin

Voters of Morrow and Umatilla counties approved both propositions in the election for Blue Mountain Community College Tuesday with each passing throughout the two-county district by more than a 2-to-1 majority.

The proposition to authorize a \$1,250,000 bond issue for construction of a third building on the college campus in Pendleton was approved by a vote of 2313 to 1018. The operating levy for the college for the year 1968-69 was approved by 2233 yes to 1056 no.

As in the past, Morrow county gave the college a more substantial margin than it received district-wide. Vote on both the bonds and the budget in Morrow was in the affirmative by nearly a 3-to-1 margin.

The vote for the bonds in this county was 284 yes to 100 no; and for the operating levy, 277 yes to 97 no.

In Heppner, the vote in favor of the bonds was nearly 6-to-1 with a 119 yes vote to 21 no. Boardman gave it an even greater support at 9-to-1 with a 46 yes vote and only six no. Other precincts cast ballots as follows: Irrigon, 31 yes, 8 no; Ione, 55 yes, 37 no; Lexington, 19 yes and 18 no; and Ruggs, 14 yes, 10 no.

On the operating levy, which remains at substantially the same tax levy as last year, the vote in Morrow county was as follows: Heppner, 115 yes, 24 no; Boardman, 42 yes, 6 no; Irrigon, 28 yes, 8 no; Ione, 54 yes, 37 no; Lexington, 20 yes 16 no; and Ruggs, 18 yes, 6 no.

President Wallace McCrae of Blue Mountain College said Tuesday night that only one precinct in Umatilla county voted against the bond issue.

It carried in all other precincts throughout the two-county district.

The president was highly pleased with the results and expressed thanks of the college administration for the support.

He said that the voter approval will enable the college to proceed at once with building plans and it is hoped to call for bids by sometime in August.

This will make the college eligible for \$250,000 set aside by the state legislature for the construction. The new building will house a library, student center, theater workshop, arts and music studios, classrooms and other facilities.

Bob Abrams of Heppner, director on the college board since the institution was started, said Wednesday morning, "I'm real pleased with the results. This means that we can continue to offer a better program and still work with the students who need it. If the bond issue hadn't passed, we would have had to look for ways to cut down the student body."

The vote in Umatilla county on the bond issue was 2029 yes, and 918 no; on the operating levy there it was 1956 yes and 959 no. With only a total of 3331 casting votes in the two counties, the turnout was very light.

Moonlight Sale Planned April 26

Heppner merchants will hold their second Moonlight Sale on Friday, April 26, they decided at a meeting Friday noon at the Wagon Wheel Cafe.

The first Moonlight Sale, held last fall, proved an almost overwhelming success.

At the sale, stores remain open on the Friday night with special value buys for a three hour period only. The stores will be open on April 26 from 7 to 10 p.m. in addition to regular hours.

Sidewalk Bazaar will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13, it was decided.

Dry March

Total precipitation for the month of March was only .41 inch, according to Don Gilliam, official weather observer here. This is .76 inch below the normal for March of 1.17 inches. For the year to date, the total is only 2.69 inches as compared with the normal of 3.69. Complete report for the week of March 27-April 2 is as follows:

	HI	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	63	39	—
Thursday	65	48	—
Friday	63	39	—
Saturday	52	23	—
Sunday	59	29	—
Monday	55	37	—
Tuesday	49	41	—

Daniels to Speak

Ron Daniels, superintendent of Morrow county school district R-1, will be the speaker on the program of the luncheon meeting of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce Monday at noon in the Wagon Wheel Cafe.

He will speak on the school budget for the coming year.

Budget Hearing Set Tuesday Night

Hearing on the 1968-69 budget for Morrow County School District R-1 will be Tuesday night, April 9, at 7:30 in the school district office in Lexington, Ron Daniels, superintendent, reminds the public.

Election on the budget will be on Monday, May 6, to coincide with the regular school election.

The budget was published in the March 21 and 28 issues of the Gazette-Times. Total requirements of the general fund are listed at \$1,313,576 as compared with \$1,216,262 for 1967-68. It calls for a tax levy of \$1.181,189 as compared with \$1.016,401 for the current school year.

All are invited to attend the hearing to remonstrate or speak for or against the budget.

School Orientation Days Slated; PTA Invites Parents

Next fall's incoming freshmen at Heppner High school will get their first glimpses of high school life Tuesday and Wednesday, April 9 and 10. In two days of visitation, the eighth graders will become acquainted with the requirements, testing programs, counseling aid, and curricula of the 1968-69 school year.

On Wednesday night, a PTA meeting will be held for parents' orientation, and a special invitation is extended to parents of eighth graders. Business meeting will begin at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria with Bill Weatherford, president, in charge. Teachers then will give short explanation of the various courses and departments at the high school.

At a social hour following, parents will have opportunity to talk to individual teachers. Special 8-page editions of the school paper, The Hehisch, will be distributed. These will have information on course offerings and other details of high school activities.

Principal Dick Carpenter said that it is hoped that a large group of parents will attend the meeting because it is important in helping their children get a good start in high school. Explanation will be made at the meeting on the procedure for registering.

At the two days of orientation for the students, placement testing will be conducted at 10 a.m. on Tuesday and at 9 a.m. on Wednesday. On completion of the testing, the students will tour the facilities of the school.

The orientation program opens at 9 a.m. Tuesday with a general assembly in the cafeteria with talks of welcome by Principal Carpenter, Mrs. Vi Lanham, Adrian Cook, and Student Body President John Rawlins.

Information will be given at that time on registration procedures, testing, physical exams and guidance and counseling. The testing session for the 8th graders will follow at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria.

On Wednesday morning at 9, the testing will continue in the cafeteria after which the eighth graders will tour the building.

The PTA meeting, offering the opportunity for parents to become acquainted with the teachers and the school program, will conclude the two days events, starting at 8 p.m.

On Monday, April 15, Mrs. Lanham and Cook will be at the elementary school to meet with eighth graders individually and to register the students. If they have not completed this work on the one day, they will continue Tuesday, April 16.

Algebraic aptitude tests will be given Wednesday, April 17, at 9 a.m. and the Portland prognostic test will be given to the incoming students Wednesday, May 8, at 9 a.m.

Returning Heppner High school students (sophomores, juniors and seniors) will start registration on Tuesday, April 16, at a student body meeting and class meetings. All students are to have their registration forms completed and returned to the counseling office by Friday, April 26, Carpenter said.

Kinzua Mill Here 'Blows its Stack'

Operations are back to normal at the Kinzua Corporation mill here after crews repaired damage to the plant's towering smoke stack that occurred two or three weeks ago.

One might say that the mill "blew its stack," but perhaps that doesn't exactly describe it.

Actually, the stack suddenly dropped about four feet with its lower section telescoping for that distance. Apparently it had become heated to the extent that the metal was pliable and allowed the stack to drop.

Guy wires kept it from falling, so damage was confined to the boiler room. Had this not been true, the stack may have plunged into the mill pond, or across the buildings at the plant.

The mishap didn't cause a shutdown, since the plant operated on smaller boilers while crews raised the stack, moved it over and restored it through the ensuing couple of weeks, finishing last week.



ART STUDENTS Brenda Steagall, Marcia Jones and Joan Burcham of Heppner High school prepare flats to be used in stage sets for "Arsenic and Old Lace," play to be presented by high school students Monday and Tuesday, April 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. at the school. Miss Cecilia Delmore is director of the play. Tickets are \$1 for adults and 75c for students (HHS Photo).