

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, June 13, 1968

10 Cents

R-1 Budget Chopped \$50,000

County Budget Resources Down; Levy to be Up

Morrow county's budget for 1968-69, approved by the budget committee on May 28, holds within the 6% limitation but will require a tax levy increase of some \$28,000. Of the increase, \$18,000 is part of the road serial levy voted late in 1967 by the people.

The serial levy approved at the special election was for \$150,000 per year as compared with the former levy of \$125,000 per year. However, adjustments in land appraisals recently have cut the assessed valuation and the levy will net only \$143,000.

The budget committee, including the county court, adopted the policy this year of keeping costs to a minimum and every effort was made to pare anything not essential, County Judge Paul Jones said.

Thus, requirements for the general fund for the coming year are set at a total of \$245,514, slightly below the \$245,831 of last year. Total budget requirements in all funds are also set down, dropping from \$723,915 for the current year to \$706,529 for the ensuing year. But resources other than taxes have also dropped sharply, going down to \$384,682 from \$434,114 for 1967-68, and this is a factor in the levy increase.

Total taxes to be levied are \$346,137 for 1968-69 as compared with \$318,014 for 1967-68. Of the total to be levied, \$203,137 is within the 6% limitation and the balance of \$143,000 (the road levy) is not subject to the limitation. Last year, the amount within the 6% limitation was \$193,014 and not subject to the limitation was the road levy, then \$125,000.

The budget is printed for the first time in this issue of The Gazette-Times on pages 4, 5 and 6 of section 2.

Since the budget does not exceed the limitation no election will be held. Public hearing is set for June 28 at 9 a.m. in the county judge's office for the purpose of hearing anyone speaking either for or against the budget.

About 30 Turn Out To Start Summer Recreation Plan

About 30 young people turned out Monday night at the high school gym to register for the new summer recreation program which has been organized under sponsorship of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce, according to Stuart Dick who is one of the three college leaders of the program.

Registration will continue each night through the week, and all young people are invited to come and join the fun. Cost is only \$2 for the full program which will continue through the month of July. Among activities now getting underway are trampoline, basketball, tumbling, and volleyball. Other activities will be started if interests of those attending go in other directions.

The registration fee includes \$1 for insurance. Bulk of the cost of the program is carried by a \$100 donation from the Chamber of Commerce and similar contributions from Morrow county and the City of Heppner.

On hand to get the summer sessions started Monday night were Dick, Raymond Nichols and Martha Doherty, all older college students with backgrounds and training in physical education.

The activities will be held each evening, Monday through Thursday, from 7 until 8:30 p.m. at the high school gym.

Although 110 students in Heppner had indicated interest in the program through a survey conducted prior to the end of school, the turnout of 30 was not disappointing to the instructors. They felt that the number will grow and that some had conflicting activities on the first night. Dick emphasized that all young people through high school age are invited to participate, and an effort will be made to provide worthwhile activity for all. The number taking part is about equally divided between boys and girls.

Sacramento Lawyer Visits In Scouting Oregon Trail

A Sacramento lawyer, who seeks to instill more 'Americanism' in the children of America and create interest and curiosity about their forefathers is traveling the Old Oregon Trail route and was a visitor at the ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Krebs last Sunday and Monday.

The man is Bob Kleeman, 42, of Sacramento, Calif. He began his journey in March and expects to travel on horseback along the Oregon Trail route as far as St. Louis, Mo., from where he will continue on to New York City and back home again to California, taking the same route. He figures the entire trip will take from two and a half to three years, and he is working his way along, picking up odd jobs as he goes.

The Krebs said that the traveler rode up looking for water for his animals, a Palomino horse and a mule, which carries his tent, cooking utensils and gear. He had been told that Willow Creek runs all year around and was quite surprised to find it dry. He remained at the Krebs home as a guest at their invitation.

Kleeman intends to write two books on his travels, one

an adult novel and the other a children's book for grades three through six. His wife, a school teacher, will write the children's version of the book, through notes and tapes that he makes as he travels.

Mrs. Kleeman joins her husband from their home in California for short periods. She does not travel with him as she had been in an accident and is unable to ride horseback.

The visitor, whom Mrs. Krebs describes as clean cut and cordial, gave the Krebs an account of his life, saying that he had once been a farmer, a policeman and eventually became a lawyer. He contends that the children of today don't know enough of their forefathers and he hopes, through his book, to create enthusiasm and interest for learning about the past for young people of today. He added that California school children do not have to salute the American flag in school.

He is much enthused about the country he is now traveling and says he likes Oregon so much he may decide to settle in the state when his journey is through.

The Krebs family and their guest enjoyed sourdough hotcakes and biscuits made from a sourdough starter which is said to have come across the Oregon Trail in 1864, although Mrs. Krebs isn't sure of the actual date it was started.

The man resumed his journey Monday afternoon down the Butter Creek road, taking the old highway route from Echo into Pendleton.

Swimming Lessons To Start Here Tuesday, June 18

Swimming lessons will start at the Heppner municipal pool on Tuesday, June 18, and registration will be Monday, June 17, at the pool from 11 a.m. until noon. Stuart Dick, lifeguard and instructor, announces.

Classes to be scheduled include mother-tot, which is for the mother and one child aged 1 to 4; beginners; advanced beginners; intermediate; swimmers; junior lifesaving; and senior lifesaving.

The classes each will be of one-half hour duration and will be scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon each week day. Times of the specific classes are yet to be set and will be determined on registration day.

A basket fee of \$2 covers pool costs. In the case of the mother-tot class, the mother pays the \$2 fee. The American Red Cross supplies teaching materials free of charge.

Another special feature new this year is a teen night, which will provide supervised swimming for teenagers every Friday from 9 to 11 p.m. Charge will be 50¢ per swim. It will start June 14.

An early morning swim for male adults from 6 to 7 a.m. is another new feature. A woman's swimming hour may be scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m., and women are requested to notify Dick if they are interested, or of another time preference.

All special swimming hours, which require additional operating costs, will require a separate fee. Season tickets do not apply.

Private parties may be arranged for organized groups at the pools at hours other than regularly scheduled swims and classes. Those interested are asked to contact Dick.

'Romans' Invite Brave Male Adults To Early Swims

A brave and hardy segment of the local male population, who earned the title, "Romans," last year for their participation in the sport of volleyball, have a new wrinkle this year in their physical fitness endeavors, and they invite other male adults to come and join them.

The group is arising at an early hour daily — Tuesdays through Fridays — for swimming sessions at the new Heppner municipal pool. They swim from 6 until 7 a.m.

Six were in attendance at the first swim Tuesday morning. While the atmosphere was on the chilly side, the water was nice and warm, and they all enjoyed it, according to Bill Collins, one of the "Romans."

Others making the plunge were Bob Abrams, Joe Balfe, Herman Winter, Larry Prock and Loren Lucore.

Those who wish to join them are cordially invited. A charge will be assessed to cover expenses of using the pool, and the charge will be made even though the participant has a summer swim ticket. Amount will be determined by the number of participants.

Those interested are invited to contact Collins or Prock, or to merely show up at 6 a.m. at the pool. No examination, either physical or mental, is required.

Senator Nominee Ken Jernstedt Talks To Chamber On 'Get-Acquainted' Trip

Rep. Kenneth Jernstedt of Hood River, who is Republican nominee for the state senate from the 18th district (which includes Morrow county), spoke to the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce Monday on a "get-acquainted" visit.

He won the Republican nomination in the primary election, and has apparently also won the Democratic nomination, although official returns have not confirmed this. If this is true, he will appear on the general election ballot in November as the Republican-Democratic candidate.

Jernstedt, who served with the Flying Tigers in China prior to World War II and is now owner of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Hood River, is currently representative from the 22nd district (Hood River and

Wasco counties). In his talk, the genial politician stated that he is in favor of more basic school support from the state, and made it clear that he feels state government in Oregon is "way above most states in the nation."

As one example, he cited the fact that votes taken on all matters in the legislature are recorded and are open for public inspection. In many states, the votes do not show on the record, he said.

Chamber members learned that the senatorial nominee is very concerned about the "one-man, one-vote" principle, which he feels penalizes the people of eastern Oregon. He said that all counties east of the mountains have a total of only five senators and nine representatives. By contrast, Multnomah county

Equipment Takes Cuts; Vote July 1

Morrow county school district's budget committee slashed \$47,656 from the proposed 1968-69 budget at a meeting in Irigton Monday night. At the same time, receipts in the budget were increased from \$279,702 to \$282,102 because of a recently announced increase in expected state basic school support funds for the coming year of \$2400.

Thus, with the cuts and the \$2400 increase in resources, the tax levy to be asked at the election on Monday, July 1, will be \$50,056 less than that on which voters balloted on June 3.

Total budget requirements were reduced from \$1,313,876 to \$1,266,220, and total taxes to balance the budget were reduced from \$1,094,174 to \$1,044,118.

Total general fund taxes are now listed at \$1,044,118 with \$292,476 inside the 6% limitation and \$751,642 outside the 6% limitation. This requires a total levy outside the limitation of \$8.85 per \$1000 of true cash value of property.

Total general fund taxes for the amount both inside and in excess of the 6% limitation will be \$1.93 per \$1000 true cash value. This represents an increase of approximately \$1.50 per \$1000 true cash value for school taxes above the 1967-68 year.

Work Until 1:15 a.m. In making the cuts, the committee worked until 1:15 a.m. after hearing questions and comments at a public meeting in the A. C. Houghton school with about 30, including committee members, attending. At a previous meeting in Lexington on Friday night, about 50 turned out to discuss the budget and present their views.

In paring the nearly \$50,000, the committee invaded many areas of the budget.

Teacher salaries were reduced by \$18,000 by eliminating two teachers. One which was cut was the special education instructor, including the counseling program, at Heppner Elementary. Also at the same school three first grade classes will be combined into two, and Mrs. Alena Anderson, first grade teacher, will teach a second grade class. Mrs. Anita Stockard, former second grade teacher who has resigned, will therefore not be replaced.

Here are where more of the cuts came and the amounts pared:

Educational television hook-ups, \$1,000; supplies for classes, \$2,065; replacement of vehicles, \$300; contracted transportation services, \$800; field trips eliminated, \$1,000; custodial supplies, \$300; replacement of equipment reduced by \$5880; planned purchase of new equipment dropped, \$9,461; upkeep of grounds reduced \$500.

Public employees retirement cut \$1000; Social Security pared \$300 (by reducing staff); golf course rental in Heppner cut, \$100; salaries for student hot lunch servers cut out, \$4500; supplies for lunch programs, \$500; salaries for athletic officials pared \$1,300; paving at Heppner Elementary, \$500; leveling at Riverside, \$150; remodel girls' rest room at Heppner Junior High, \$4,000.

Reduction of amounts allowed. (Continued on page 8)



ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON, when Heppner's devastating flood of 1903 struck on June 14, it did a pretty good job of wrecking the T. W. Ayers house which stood on Chase street a few lots south of the corner of May street. But the upper story of the house, minus the cupola and remodeled, was re-erected on Chase street to serve families for years to come. This is one of the most used of the well-known Heppner flood pictures.

'Black Clouds Over Heppner' Brought Death June 14, 1903

By MILDRED CAROL FLETCHER

Few areas in the Northwest have possessed dull, uninteresting histories since the Northwest has, itself, had a very interesting development during the last two centuries. The influx of settlers into the Northwest brought a new breed of people together, the adventurous, determined people who set out to carve from the west a new land and a new life. These people brought with them hope for a new and better country, and gradually both country and city life were formed in the midst of vast expanses of wilderness and sagebrush. A new land was born, a land only partly fertile because of rich soil. This could be said to be a summary of the history of practically all cities in the Northwest, including the community of Heppner, Oregon.

The settlement of the hilly area near Heppner was originally founded by cattlemen who in 1838 drove their herds into the region to forage. Finding an abundance of rye grass along the creek bottoms they established cattle camps from which grew the first settlements. The first permanent settlement in the region was Heppner, then known as Standsbury Flat in honor of the founder, George W. Standsbury, whose log cabin was for several years the only white dwelling within many miles. A small but thriving settlement soon was growing near the Standsbury residence at the confluence of Hinton and Willow Creeks on the level valley floor, protected by the high dome-like foothills. By 1873 the small town had grown to such a size that a store was in full operation and the need for a school was recognized. Later, at the suggestion of Standsbury, the town's name was changed to Heppner in honor of the most active citizen, Henry Heppner, who had established the only store and was largely responsible for the erection of the small school.

Like many other small towns of its day, Heppner was the object of Indian scares. In 1878 when a band of Paiutes were fleeing from the cavalry forces and were reportedly coming toward Heppner, the settlers banded together in fear of the eminent Indian raids. When no such raids occurred the people dispersed to their homes thankful that the Indians had chosen another route of flight. Thus, we might say that the foundation of Heppner was not unlike any other happy, healthy Northwest town. It seems, however, that the relatively peaceful life of small towns is often broken in the most rude, unforgettable manners, but few towns were

College Sophomore Writes Article On 1903 Disaster

Friday, June 14, will be the 65th anniversary of the great Heppner flood of 1903. Probably millions of words have been written about the flood, but The Heppner Gazette-Times this year has obtained permission from Carol Fletcher of Yakima, Wn., to use her account to mark the anniversary.

Miss Fletcher has completed her sophomore year at Yakima Valley College where she is majoring in foreign languages. She was born and raised on the ranch of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fletcher, at Goldendale, Wn., where she graduated from high school in June, 1966.

Miss Fletcher's story of the flood was written as a term paper in Northwest History in the fall quarter of 1967. "My choice of a topic was simple because I was very interested in the Heppner flood since my grandfather, J. H. Pearson, at that time of Lena, had worked six weeks as a member of the clean-up crew," she states.

ever stricken so severely as Heppner on the rainy Sunday of June 14, 1903.

"June 14, 1903 was an important day for me," recalled Wiley Pearson, "it was my eighth birthday. I can remember standing on the porch watching the black clouds billowing to the south of us, then the rain came. It was raining pretty hard, but not hard enough for us to worry about." As the heavy rain began to fall many people in the Heppner vicinity were pleased to see a heavy rain to aid their crops. Little did they know that to the south, where at least one little boy had seen dark angry clouds, there was not merely a heavy rain, but a roaring torrent. The angry waters drowned the land, formed rivers in dry washes, overflowed the banks of Willow Creek and Balm Fork, and rushed in their haste toward the sea.

No Warning Heard

Due to the pounding of the rain and the roaring thunder no warning sounds were heard as the torrent surged downstream. Thus, without prediction a wall of water forty feet in height descended upon Heppner. Few people were prepared for any such disaster; many knew nothing of the flood until their buildings began to move.

Panic was the automatic reaction of the people as the water leaped through the streets and buildings spun from their foundations. A wild rush for the hills resulted, and many lives were lost when the people bolted from buildings and were swept away by the current. The survivors watched helplessly from hillsides, unable to do anything to aid those who did not escape. People unable to get to higher ground rushed to the upper stories of buildings and prayed that their lives might be spared.

The effects of the flash flood soon were quite evident for in the strength of the mighty torrent everything gave way. Buildings spun like tops and crashed into pieces, large trees snapped as if they were only toothpicks, and the victims clinging to drift bobbed like corks. In the midst of the changing nothing could resist the force of the current and total destruction was left when the water receded within one hour of when it first struck the small town. It seemed terrible that what had taken so long to construct could be lost during one hour. During such a tragedy one can almost always find

some pale element of comedy; such was the case of one of the older members of the community.

Houses Float By

Julius Keithley calmly sat and watched the houses float by while he sympathized with the poor victims who gazed back at him. It seemed that all of the buildings in the valley were floating by his own steadfast house. Finally he noticed that not only were all of the buildings floating by, but so was the landscape. Then came the harsh realization that it was his house that was riding the current not the others. Calmly he moved upstairs and then onto the roof as the lower parts of the house were demolished. At one point, while on the roof he rescued one person by pulling him to safety. Two miles downstream from Keithley's homestead, the tattered roof and the two boarders floated to shore. Actually it was the calmness involved with thinking that Keithley, himself, had no problems that saved the lives of these two people. Heroism came in many forms, one in the calmness displayed by an elderly man, another in the energetic actions of Leslie Matlock and Bruce Kelly, two members of the community.

Two Men Act

When the first waters hit Heppner these two men flew into action. They realized that the town was lost and that they were useless there but down stream lived many settlers. Only nine miles down the valley lay the settlement of Lexington, farther yet was lone Matlock and Kelly broke into a hardware store, grabbed two pair of wire cutters, leaped onto their horses and sped down the valley. By not following the roads on shortcuts to individual homes, the two men were forced to cut fences and traverse all kinds of obstacles. Nothing could stop the men as they shouted warnings to the settlers who were in danger. Riding on both sides of the creek so that they could warn more homes on their wild ride for life, they reached Lexington slightly

(Continued on page 8)

Man Listed Dead In Flood Visits, Very Much Alive

When the Heppner flood hit in 1903, the name of Grover Swaggart was listed among the victims.

But Swaggart, now of Woodburn, was back on a visit Tuesday, still very much alive 65 years later.

He was living on the Swaggart ranch 12 miles north of Heppner on the fateful June day, and didn't come to town to see the results of the disaster until two weeks later.

Swaggart returned to Heppner occasionally. He had planned to come for the Memorial Day picnic this year, but Mrs. Swaggart was ill, and so they couldn't make the trip. So they postponed it until this week.

Milwaukie Man Visits; Father Died in Flood

John Stein, 74, of Milwaukie, whose father died in the Heppner flood 65 years ago, was a visitor here Tuesday.

The father's name was also John Stein, but he was listed among the victims as "Mr. Stine" in the early reports.

Because the flood claimed his father, the son never lived here. It happened this way: The elder Mr. Stein, with others, was in the process of buying the bank here and had been in Heppner about three months. His family was getting prepared to move here when the flood came, and the father perished. So the family never came here.

The Milwaukie man came Tuesday with Sam McMillan, former resident and now of Portland. They were guests of the Norman and Alfred Nelson families.

(Continued on page 8)