

Board, Teachers Fail to Agree On School Salary Proposals

Morrow county school district directors and teachers of the district were at an impasse Monday night after the teachers' negotiation committee reported that the board's counterproposal to requests for salary increases and other benefits had been rejected by the teachers.

Another attempt will be made to reach an agreement at a meeting Monday night, January 27, at the school district office in Lexington. If agreement cannot be reached at that time it may be necessary to select a 3-man arbitration committee in the hope of reaching a settlement, as provided by state law. In this case, the board would name one person, the teachers another person, and the persons would select a third as a neutral party.

Adrian Cook, spokesman for the teacher committee, said that a poll of all teachers in the district late last week showed them strongly against accepting the board's offer to pay \$10 per month per teacher towards a health and medical insurance plan and providing for no salary increase.

The committee originally had asked that base salary in the district for a teacher with bachelor's degree and no experience be \$6400, an increase from the present \$6000. The district last year raised the starting salary from \$5800 to \$6000.

Also in the original proposal, the teachers asked that annual salary increments be increased from 4% to 5%, that the district participate in paying for the teachers' health and medical insurance plan, and that administrators be placed on the administrative index for 11 months instead of the present 9 1/4 months. After the 9 1/4 months, administrators now receive only the same salary as teachers for the balance of the year.

When Cook reported Monday evening, he said that in the poll presented last week to the teachers only four voted to accept the board's offer. Sixty-five voted to reject it. Thirty-five voted in favor of the district paying \$13 per month for the insurance plan (\$13 is the full monthly charge for a single teacher). Seventy-four voted in favor of giving the committee

full power to negotiate the salary schedule without further ballot from the teachers.

The committee Monday night then proposed the following:

1. \$13 per month per teacher for the insurance plan.
2. A starting salary for a teacher with bachelor degree and no experience of \$6300.
3. Continuing the same annual salary increments as at present—4%.

Cook said the committee feels this would still be below state average and pointed to the following agreements arrived at in other nearby districts: Helix, \$6350 per year; Milton-Freewater, \$6400 per year with 3 1/2% increment; Echo, \$6400 per year with 4% increment; Pine Eagle, \$6550 per year with annual increments ranging from \$250 to \$275.

Willow Dam Project Listed for \$27,000

Press wire service reports from Washington, D. C., last week, following presentation of the President's budget, indicated that the Willow Creek project at Heppner is listed for \$27,000.

The budget was proposed by President Lyndon Johnson before he left office. There was no indication as to what phase of the project the sum is intended. The budget is subject to approval by Congress before any money can be appropriated.

County Judge Paul Jones said Tuesday night that he had no information on the matter but expected to look into it right away.

Snow Plow Hits Bus

No one was hurt and damage was light when a county snow plow hit a school bus of the Morrow county district on the Brenner Canyon road Monday evening, Mrs. Ernest Christopherson was driving the bus and a few lone school students were on it as she was taking them home. Both the bus and county truck were traveling slowly, and the truck with the plow moved to the bank side to make way for the bus. In doing so, the plow hit the bank and bounced the front of the vehicle partially into the path of the bus, causing the minor collision, according to a report received by Ron Daniels, county school superintendent. The bus was not disabled, although damage was done to a fender. It continued in operation Tuesday.

Cook quoted from information released through the Oregon Education Association which recommends that no district accept a salary proposal for less than \$6300 as a base and that the committee should impasse rather than accept a lower agreement.

The matter was discussed no further Monday night than to hear the committee report, but Chairman Don McEilgott set next Monday night as a time to discuss the matter further with the committee. This will be done following a meeting previously scheduled with contractors on the Riverside school to consider the possibility of imposing penalties on the contractors for alleged failure to meet some of their contracted deadlines. The contractor met— (Continued on page 8)

Anderson Chosen Federal Reserve Board Chairman

Frank Anderson of Heppner has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Portland branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, effective January 1, it has been announced.

He is one of five members of the board and served as a director through the past year. Meetings are held monthly, and during the course of the year, directors also go to meetings in San Francisco and other points on business in connection with the Federal Reserve.

Serving with Anderson as directors this year are E. W. Firstenberg, chairman of the board of the First Independent Bank, Vancouver, Wash., and president of the bank; Robert F. Dwyer, lumberman, Portland; Charles F. Adams, president of The Oregon Bank, Portland; and Ralph J. Voss, president of the First National Bank of Oregon, Portland.

Anderson, Heppner rancher, was appointed for a two-year term on the board beginning January 1, 1968, succeeding Graham J. Barbey, president of the Barbey Packing Co., Astoria. Appointment is made by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Dwyer served as chairman of the directors during 1968. It is the practice to elect non-banking members of the board as chairman.

LATE BULLETIN

Farm Chemicals Exercises Options

Farm Chemicals, Inc., of Athens confirmed reports today that it is exercising its options to purchase approximately 12,000 acres of land in Morrow county between Boardman and Hermiston near Highway 1-80N.

No purchase price was disclosed. E. C. Miley, president of the firm, said that purchases are being made to study the feasibility of reclaiming normally arid land, using new farming techniques, including modern irrigation systems.

Farm Chemicals, Inc., is a distributor of fertilizers and other farm supplies and equipment and operates in Eastern Oregon and Washington.

County Snow Plows Keep Roads Open; Drifting Feared

All county snow plows were in operation Tuesday following the latest onslaught of snowfall. County Judge Paul Jones said Tuesday.

As of mid-day Tuesday, all roads were open, and the county workmen were widening the plowed portion of various roads. "We're deathly afraid of the wind," the judge said, "if we get a wind, every road in the county may be blocked with drifts."

Widening of the plowed surface is being done, he said, "to give the drifting snow a place to go."

Sanding trucks were all in action Tuesday, too, to lessen the hazard of the icy roads. Ron Daniels, county school superintendent, said that two school busses became stuck in making the morning runs Tuesday, one driven by Elden Padberg and one driven by Clint Agee.

The superintendent also was worried about the possibility of wind and drifting of the dry snow.

"We plan to continue school throughout the county unless winds cause too much drifting," he said.

Judge Jones said that county workmen late last week had just completed reopening the last road that had been closed by storm conditions several weeks ago.

He said that damage to the roads will probably run as high as the estimate of \$25,000 he made when fast runoff melted the first big snow and caused flooding conditions in some areas.

While all roads have been reopened, there is still considerable damage to shoulders and oil surface to be repaired.

The possibility of a chinook taking off the present snow cover is something that Harold (Doc) Sherer, road supervisor, and the county court hate to consider.

Heppner Measures Three More Inches

Heppner's snowfall measured three more inches on Tuesday of this week, according to the official report of Don Gilliam. This brings the winter total to 28.95 inches.

The snow that started falling Monday threatened to close schools but buses made it around their routes Tuesday with some difficulty. Several were late, however, and school attendance was reported down. Because the snow continued through the day, both Heppner High and Heppner Elementary dismissed at 2 p.m.

The temperature never climbed above 40 degrees for the week, and so the bulk of the snow from January 11 remains on the ground, impacted as ice on some streets and in other places.

Complete report from Gilliam is as follows:

	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	31	19	—
Thursday	35	25	—
Friday	40	28	.02
Saturday	31	16	.02
Sunday	28	19	.03
Monday	26	17	—
Tuesday	23	15	.23*

(*three inches of snow).

Examiner Coming

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, January 28, 1969, at the courthouse between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.



MAYOR BILL COLLINS signs proclamation here recognizing National Jaycee Week while Reggie Pascal, Jaycee Week chairman for the Morrow county chapter, looks on. (G-T Photo).

John Cole Unhurt On USS Enterprise

An accident that happened to John F. Cole, formerly of Heppner and now serving with the Navy aboard the carrier USS Enterprise, may have spared him from more serious injury in the fire and explosions that badly damaged the carrier last week.

He sent a postcard to The Gazette-Times saying that he escaped the major mishap because he suffered a concussion in an accident the day before (Monday, January 13).

Otherwise, he would have been a foam nozzle man on a flight deck fire party. Three men of the fire party were among those injured after a bomb dropped from a plane and triggered the fire and explosions.

Cole is a graduate of Heppner High school.

PLU Band Coming For Concert Here

"Music for Listening" will be presented to the public here when Pacific Lutheran University's 70-piece concert band appears here Sunday evening, January 26.

Directed by Professor Gordon O. Gilbertson, the band will present the concert in the Heppner Junior High auditorium at 8 p. m. under the auspices of Hope and Valby Lutheran churches.

Under Gilbertson's direction, the PLU band has come to be recognized as one of the top collegiate bands in the Pacific Northwest. He has conducted the band for 14 years and has had wide experience as teacher and performer as well as director.

Prof. Gilbertson was a member of the Casper, Wyo., Civic Symphony where he was often featured as a viola soloist. He was also violist with the Fargo, N. D., Symphony, the Northwestern University orchestra and the Concordia College orchestra. He has studied under world famous conductors and played in orchestras at the Berkshire, Mass., and Aspen, Colo., summer music festivals.

The two local churches some time ago sponsored an appearance of the Pacific Lutheran choir here, and a large crowd attended and enjoyed their music.

Admission is nominal, \$1 for adults and 50c for students. Members of the Luther League of the churches have tickets on sale, or they may be purchased at the door.

Skull Fractured

Barney Marshall, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Marshall, sustained a skull fracture Saturday night when he slipped on steps and fell in the Heppner High gym during the Heppner-Burns game. He struck his head above the temple. Barney is expected to be confined home for two weeks following his release from Pioneer Memorial hospital. He is a freshman at the high school.

Lease is Signed For Variety Store In Case Building

Lease was signed last week that paves the way for the E. L. Knox Company, which has variety stores in John Day, Burns and Hermiston, to open a variety store here in the former Case Furniture Co. building.

Henry Gohring, representing the company, was here to sign the lease with the Bank of Eastern Oregon which has acquired the building from Mrs. Gene Case, now of Portland and who formerly operated the furniture company with her husband, Allen Case.

Gene Pierce, president of the bank, said that considerable remodeling will be done to the building. The stairway in the center of the main floor will be removed and the lower ceiling will be sealed. A stairway will be installed at the rear of the building to provide access to the second floor.

A new furnace will be installed and repairs will be made to the roof of the building, he said. Gohring said that plans are to open the variety store here by May 1 or sooner. The Knox company is planning to close out the store in John Day but will retain ownership of the Burns and Hermiston stores. Gohring expects to reside in Hermiston, and after the local store is in operation it is planned to employ someone to operate it for the company.

Steps Underway To Assure Center

Steps are being completed to assure continuance of the Neighborhood Center here under the Office of Economic Opportunity after the San Francisco office of the OEO had threatened suspension of the Umattila Morrow program, County Judge Paul Jones said Tuesday.

The suspension threat came when it was alleged that the Blue Mountain Economic Development Council, Inc., under which the Neighborhood Centers operate, had not complied with certain provisions of the act authorizing the centers. One of this required an audit be completed, another required submission of certain reports, and a third had to do with the organization of the board of directors, Judge Jones said.

As a result of the charges, Lorin C. O'Gara, director for the Blue Mountain Council, resigned.

The judge said that a required public hearing was held Tuesday morning to determine whether there was any opposition to the Blue Mountain Council. No one appeared to oppose the council but several appeared to speak in favor, he said.

The hearing was not advertised nor publicized here because of lack of time, the judge said. A small notice on the hearing was inserted in the East Oregonian.

At the request of Judge Jones, a special meeting of the Heppner city council was held in order that the city formally authorize the Blue Mountain Council to represent it.

Board of the council has been reorganized to comply with the provision that various groups be represented. Mrs. E. E. Gonty has been named to represent the city, Judge Jones represents the county, and Barbara Jessmer is another member of the board from this community.

R-1 School Budget Message Meet Set

Ron Daniels, budget officer for Morrow County School District R-1, will present the budget message for 1969 at a meeting of the budget committee of the district on Tuesday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the school district office at Lexington.

Any person in the district may discuss programs with the committee at that time, and all are invited to attend.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the civic bodies and service organizations of our community and the departments of the local government recognize the great service rendered to this community by the Morrow County Jaycees, and

WHEREAS, The United States Jaycees and its affiliated state and local organizations have set aside the week of January 19-25, 1969, to observe the founding of the Jaycees and to commemorate such founding, and

WHEREAS, this organization of young men has contributed materially to the betterment of this community throughout the year.

THEREFORE, I, William C. Collins, Mayor of the City of Heppner, do hereby proclaim the week of January 19-25, 1969, as JAYCEE WEEK and urge all citizens of our community to give full consideration to the future services of the Jaycees.

Signed: WILLIAM C. COLLINS, Mayor

THEY GO IN SNOW... AND PAY THE TOW!



OH, THERE'S FUN ON THE HILL at Arbutle Mountain, as this Heppner High school photo shows. The snow is good and deep, the scenery is beautiful, and the air is fresh and brisk. Rope tow is in operation for skiers on Saturdays and Sundays.

Work Continues On Road Waysides

Two highway waysides, one near the Bill Doherty place on the highway to Hermiston and another on the Willow Creek highway near Cecil, can be developed for \$150 each, Orville Cutsforth, parks committee chairman, reported to the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday.

His committee will undertake no new projects this year but seeks to complete those already started, he said. The State will not develop the waysides, Cutsforth said, because the car count is not high enough. However the county will take them over.

Litter barrels and turnoffs will be provided at the start, and the committee is working on a plan for toilet facilities.

The Dohertys have donated the land for the one wayside and an attempt is now being made to reopen an old well there to provide water. Cutsforth said he is exploring with the Hynds brothers a location for a wayside near Cecil.

Innertube Sliding Results in Injuries

Sliding in the snow on innertubes has proved hazardous for local children, with three accidents having been reported.

Kristi Hagewood, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hagewood, was hospitalized here Sunday after she slid into a diversion ditch and landed on ice. She suffered an injury to her tail bone and has been unable to sit or stand. X-rays were taken to determine extent of the injury, and she returned home where she has been confined to bed.

Jimmy Raymond, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Raymond, suffered a fractured left elbow Sunday while sliding on an innertube on a hill behind his home. Another child jumped on the tube to ride with him, striking the elbow and breaking it.

Previously Keith Curmutt, a Heppner High school student, suffered a concussion when he hit his head on a post while sliding on an innertube on a city street. He was confined to bed for about a week.

Ski Run Operates With Good Snow

There's plenty of good snow at Arbutle Mountain, and skiers can now enjoy their sport at the course there, Ed Dick of the Arbutle Mountain Corporation states.

Morrow County Jaycees are now operating the rope tow on Sundays and 4-H ski clubs and leaders operate it on Saturdays. Report was Monday that there is 48 inches of snow on the mountain.

The road was in good shape last week-end, with the rotary plow of the county being used to clear it. The State Highway Department reimburses the county for this service.

The Ski Patrol is in operation to safeguard the skiers, and indications are that there is a good season ahead.

Last weekend was the first full weekend of operation, since for a while, it was a little too difficult to get there. But now, all skiers—far and near—are invited to come and enjoy the fun!