

# CONSERVATION DISTRICT MARKS 25th YEAR

Heppner Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
SILVER ANNIVERSARY

## Annual Meeting Program

25th Year  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1969  
7:30 P.M.

LEXINGTON GRANGE HALL

1. Opening Meeting
2. Business Meeting
3. Election of Two Supervisors
4. Introduction of Guests
5. State Conservation Winner Introduced by Louis Carlson

TALK:

### "WATER FOR MORROW COUNTY FARMLANDS"

By Charles W. Hodde, Chairman  
Northwest River Basins Commission

REFRESHMENTS—Compliments of Heppner  
Soil and Water Conservation District

### DISTRICT ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 1968

Four major projects head the list of District Activities for the year 1968:

- Detail soil survey of the north part of the County.
- Formation of group and survey to start Penland recreational project.
- Survey on Rhea Creek for a small watershed (P. L. 566) project.
- Organization and planning Committee meetings held on Columbia-Blue Mountain resources area.
- Held 10 regular meetings, 2 special meetings and one annual meeting.
- Annual report published and circulated in local paper and received Commendation for Excellence in Contest and presentation for our 1967 annual report.
- Made survey for water storage sites in helping to co-sponsor an irrigation project in north part of County.
- Observed Soil Stewardship week, "A Time For Initiative".
- Co-sponsored Farm-City Week and held annual banquet.
- Held two tours: Forestry-Soils tour for school children and Conservation tour for adults.
- Sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Speech contest.
- All but one land operator has signed as cooperator with the district. First district in Oregon to be this close to 100% sign-up.
- The second consecutive year to have a winner selected from our district as State Conservation Man of the Year—Louis Carlson in 1967 and Peterson Brothers in 1968.
- Own and rent equipment to district cooperators. Eighty Cooperators used district equipment and stakes.

### DISTRICT OBJECTIVES FOR 1969

Encourage continuation of contour and wind strip cropping, stubble mulch fallow, diversion ditches, contour farming, subsoiling, grass-legume rotation and all other needed conservation practices.

Continue to maintain conservation equipment for use by district cooperators.

Complete the high intensity detail soil survey on the north four townships of Morrow County. Continue the push for a published soils report of Morrow County.

Continue to encourage and cooperate with Oregon Wheat League in selecting the Conservation Man of the Year.

Work with the Port Commission and County Court to get a Reclamation Irrigation Project started in the north end of the County.

Complete the Penland Recreation Group Project.

Work for start of construction on the Rhea Creek small watershed project.

Bring to the attention of all people the importance of conservation of our natural resources and its effect on their economy. To encourage urban, rural and city people working together for that end.

Carry out a well-rounded conservation program through participation in the Goodyear Conservation Award contest.

Continue to sponsor activities to better acquaint youth with observation of our natural resources—Conservation speech contest—Soil workshop and judging contests—send boy to attend conservation range camp.

Encourage observance of Soil Stewardship Week with all Churches in the district.

Affiliate with, and be represented at the State and National Conservation Associations.

Be represented on all committees of the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Board.

### ANNUAL CONSERVATION REPORT

Heppner District now has 348 cooperators which includes 1,077,984 acres.

30 new cooperators signed district agreement sheets for 106,780 acres.

12 basic conservation plans were written on 121,729 acres, 72 acres of contour strips and 240 acres of wind strip cropping.

216,551 linear feet of diversion ditches (41 miles) making a total of 275 miles of diversions in the District.

1648 ft. of drainage, 438 ft. of tile drains and 1216 ft. of open drains.

51 stock ponds, 3 farm ponds, 10 erosion control dams and 1 wild-life pond.

14,372 linear ft. of channel change and channel improvement.

68 acres of land leveling and 27 acres of rough leveling.

8043 linear ft. of irrigation mainline, 3 irrigation structures, 1 flume, 4 spring developments and 6 acres of sod-waterways.

Assisted 20 farmers on 860 acres of grass and grass-legume seedings.

Field trial grass plantings on five farms in selection of better grasses for our use.



OREGON CONSERVATION MEN of the Year are the Peterson brothers, Herb (left) and Bob (right), of Ione. As Peterson Bros. they were chosen Morrow county Conservation Men of 1968 and were named State Conservation Men at the Oregon Wheat League meeting in December, the second consecutive year that this honor has come to Morrow county. Louis Carlson was chosen Morrow county and State Conservation Man in 1967.

## Morrow County Gets State Honors In Conservation for Second Year

For the second consecutive year statewide honors have come to Morrow county as the result of practices conducted here by conservation-minded ranchers.

Peterson Bros. ranch operation of Herb and Bob Peterson

southwest of Ione, was selected for Conservation Man of Year honors at the Oregon Wheat League convention in Portland in December. They had been chosen as Morrow county Conservation Men earlier in the year.

As the state winners, the two will be hosts for the State Conservation Tour to be held later this year.

In 1967, Louis Carlson was chosen Morrow county's Conservation Man, and he and his family were hosts for the state tour last summer.

## Meeting Held to Consider Underground Water Situation

By GAIL McCARTY

The Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored a joint meeting recently, featuring the State Engineer's office and the U. S. Geological Survey, to discuss the underground water situation in our area. Chris Wheeler, state engineer, and James Robison, ground-water hydrologist for U.S.G.S., were present to present their views and answer questions.

Robison explained that he was working on a cooperative study with the state engineer's office on the problem of declining water levels in the Ordinance area. He said that deeper water is much older than shallow water. Most of the wells studied are in water bearing zones in basalt. These are recharged only according to cracks in basalt layers exposed to water. On the problem of deep wells affecting shallow wells, he pointed out that an uncased well drilled through one water zone and into another will drain the first into the second zone thereby drying up wells drilled only into the first zone.

Wheeler stated that ground water follows the same laws as surface water, pointing out it all comes from precipitation. He then followed the history of Oregon Water Laws from the first water rights act of 1905 to present. He emphasized that his office "encourages the use

of every drop of water that can be put to a beneficial use without damaging an existing water right." He closed with an appeal to well owners to require a pumping test on all wells to determine output and to maintain a record of water levels in each well throughout the years.

### SWCD Supervisors

RAYMOND FRENCH,  
CHAIRMAN

KEN TURNER,  
VICE CHAIRMAN

DICK McELLIGOTT,  
SECRETARY

ED GONTY, TREASURER

BRYCE KEENE

ALBERT WRIGHT

DAVID BAKER

GERALD PETERSON

### Advisory Supervisors

D. O. NELSON

O. W. CUTSFORTH

RAY HEIMBIGNER

PAUL PETTYJOHN

The Petersons' ranch operation embraces some 7400 acres, of which 5400 is in cropland and 2000 acres in rangeland. Part of the operation is on the Holmes Gabbert ranch.

Stubble mulch bed preparation adapted to the lands between diversion ditches and contour strips, contour strip cropping, diversion and seeded waterways are among practices that mark the operation. In the 1968 season, 2800 acres were in stubble mulch and 700 acres on one place were in contour strips. More than 17 miles of diversions have been established, and improvement has been made on 1 1/2 miles of channel to dispose of water collected from waterways.

Subsoiling, range improvement and weed control also played a part in their selection for the county and state honors.

## Rhea Creek Project Showing Progress

By BRYCE KEENE

The Rhea Creek watershed development received an allocation of money from The Small Watershed Act, to be used for a survey made by the State Engineers.

On July 2, 1968, Dave Hall and Galen Bridge of the State Engineers, attended the meeting of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District, and discussed the work of locating possible sites above Ruggs with reports of cost estimates and water storage potential.

This work was to be done through the summer of 1968, and a report will be made at a later date.

## Accomplishments Noted On Silver Anniversary

Formed in 1941 by John Wightman, Ebb Hughes, O. W. Cutsforth, O. E. Wright and Henry Peterson, the Heppner SWCD celebrates its 25th year of service minus two years of dormancy during World War II. Morrow county has benefited from the work of the district. The original supervisors saw a great need and the results have been outstanding.

Some accomplishments are:

- 1/2 of Oregon's stripcropping
- 1/3 of Oregon's diversion terraces
- Largest acreage of stubble mulch in Oregon
- Rangeland managed and rated in good condition
- Been selected Oregon's No. 1 district twice and No. 2 once
- Had three State Conservation Men of the Year winners
- Had one State Conservation speech champion and four others reached state finals
- Had a film and TV show made
- 100% of its farms as cooperators (this may be unique)
- Out of 66 Oregon SWCD's, Heppner's Annual Report was cited best in 1968
- With a little promotion and a lot of hard work and planning, irrigation acreage and gross product from irrigation could increase 100 times. Morrow county may grow from 4000 to 40,000 population in 25 years. The Golden Anniversary report will include this predicted growth.

## Completion of Penland Project Scheduled for Year of 1969

By O. W. CUTSFORTH

In December, 1967, an option was obtained from Shirley Rugg by Morrow county and the State Game Commission to purchase both Penland Prairie and Kelly Prairie for the purpose of making improvements on these sites for recreation purposes.

Upon the maturing of this option, the State Game Commission, due to technicalities, was unable to finance the purchase of these lands so private funds were obtained for this purpose.

A movement started by Corbett Green and others toward developing the Penland site, with the cooperation of the Heppner Soil Service and the State Game Commission and Morrow county, was initiated by the selling of 25 home sites at

\$3,000 each in order to finance the project.

Later, with the including of the Forest Service, the project now has every appearance of success.

The SCS made a detailed survey of the site and reservoir. Soil samples were taken and excavations were made toward the feasibility of the site and project. With favorable reports from these efforts it was decided at a joint meeting of the four agencies involved to go ahead with the project and finish it in 1969 if possible.

The SCS engineer is now designing the dam which will be 34 feet high and impound about 65 acres of water and it is hoped the dam will be completed in 1969 so it can be filled the winter of 1969-70.

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF January 1, 1969

Bank balance January 1, 1968	\$1,865.96
Received from cooperators on account	\$438.89
Cooperators credit	1.25
Net income from cooperators	\$490.14
Subsidies from SWCD	33.89
Morrow County Fair Board	20.00
Total income	\$494.03
Minus cooperator credit	1.25
Bank deposits for 1968	\$492.78
	192.78
	\$2,358.74
Disbursements during 1968	
Dues and memberships	\$140.00
Stewardship materials	14.50
Stamps	35.80
Advertisements and notices	108.97
Freight on stakes	12.72
Hall rental (two meetings)	30.00
State audit	50.00
Awards & trophies	10.00
Treasurer bond	36.00
Liability insurance	25.00
Eighth grade tour	10.06
Repairs (Gopher Getter)	
Total expenses	\$478.05
Paid out by checks	478.05
Bank balance January 1, 1969	\$1,880.69
Value of equipment	1,164.84
Total cash and equipment January 1, 1969	\$3,045.53
Accounts receivable	\$107.75
Accounts credits	1.30
Net accounts receivable	\$106.45
Equipment rentals for 1968	
Gopher getter	.35 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental \$ 38.30
Grass drill	.50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental \$ 21.00
Noble blade	.50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental \$ 30.00
Packer	.50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental \$ 5.00
Terracer	1.25 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental \$ 5.00
	Total Rentals \$284.30
Sales land leveling stakes	\$ 80.10
Survey stakes	108.79
	\$188.89 \$188.89
Total sales and rentals for 1968	\$473.19

Submitted by  
EDMOND GONTY, Treasurer

## THE FOLLOWING ARE HAPPY TO JOIN IN SPONSORING THIS REPORT IN THE INTEREST OF CONSERVATION

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Turner, VanMarter & Bryant

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Morrow Co. Grain Growers

Heppner Inland Chemical Co.

First National Bank

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Columbia Basin Electric  
Co-op

Fulleton Chevrolet

Heppner Auto Sales

Pettyjohn's Farm & Bldg.  
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Cornett Green Feed

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HEPPNER SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT