

Teachers Offer to Hold Present Scale if Full Insurance Paid; Board Demurs

At a special school board meeting Tuesday night, directors voted to propose to teachers a salary schedule of \$6300 base, increments of \$220 per year and district payments of \$6.50 per month towards the health insurance coverage of each teacher. The proposal will be submitted to the teachers' negotiation committee for consideration.

But the district board, in special meeting at Lexington, did not agree to this proposal, and the salary issue for 1969-70 still stood unresolved as of Tuesday. The proposal was made by the teacher negotiation committee with Adrian Cook, chairman, as spokesman.

In essence, this latest move by the committee, which has been given power by vote of teachers of the county to act for them, would hold salaries for the coming year exactly on the same schedule as the current year. But the \$13 per teacher on the insurance plan would cost the district about \$13,500 per year, not including insurance payments for non-certified personnel.

At the regular January school meeting, the board had presented its latest counter proposal: A \$6400 base but decreasing increments from the present 4% to flat increments of \$200 for each added year of experience or for each step up in training. In their deliberations on this proposal, the teachers decided that they could not accept the smaller increments.

The 4% increment has been a previous settlement and is not an increase," Cook said. He added that anything less than the present 4% would be unacceptable. The \$6400 base-\$200 increment plan of the board would lessen the current salary position of teachers with longer experience and higher training in the district while offering a better salary inducement to starting teachers.

At the present salary schedule, and asking for the 100% payment on the insurance plan, Cook said, "The Morrow county teachers, recognizing the problems of the taxpayers of Morrow county, feel the insurance request is the most economical increase the board could grant."

He pointed out that an increase on such a benefit would not bring a hike in the district's fixed charges (such as Social Security, Workmen's Compensation, and retirement payments) that a salary increase would bring. Cook pointed out that with a \$6000 base on the salary schedule the county would have one of the lowest, if not the lowest.

85th Year

Number 50



Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, February 6, 1969

Price 10 Cents

Year's First Baby Born; To Get Many Prizes

Although the new year was 33 days old when Jerry Alan Blanckaert was born Sunday, February 2, in Heppner's Pioneer Memorial hospital, he was the first baby of the year and thereby wins the 29 prizes offered by local merchants.

count. First National Bank of Oregon; shirt for dad, Gardner's Men's Wear.

Sgt. and Mrs. Jerry A. Blanckaert of the Condon Air Force Station are the parents, and the boy is their first child. He weighed 7 lb., 15 oz. when he was born at 10 p.m. Sunday.

One year subscription, The Gazette-Times; first shoes, Gonty's; 10 gallons of milk, Hager's Dairy; electric bottle warmer, Heppner Auto Parts; \$5 in cleaning, Heppner Cleaners; \$5 for savings account, Heppner Nor-Gas Co.; 10 gallons of gasoline, Jack's Chevron Station; \$5 for savings account, Lott's Electric.

In some years of the annual contest, the year's first child has arrived on New Year's day, but it is not without precedent for the No. 1 baby to arrive sometime in February.

A diaper stacker, Murrays Rexall Drug; \$5 for savings account, M & R Company; \$5 in merchandise, Milladies Apparel; \$5 for savings account, Morrow County Grain Growers; \$5 worth of infant's merchandise, Penneys; sterling silver cup with name engraved, Peterson's Jewellers; \$5 in merchandise, Pettyjohn's Farm and Builders Supply.

Prizes that will go to young Jerry and his parents have a total value of between \$200 and \$250. Included is 25% off the hospital bill, \$45 in cash or savings accounts, \$30 in gift certificates and many merchandise prizes.

Twenty-five percent off on hospital bill, Pioneer Memorial Hospital; \$5 for savings account, C. A. Ruggles Insurance; 12 reg. ular cans of milk, Thomson's Grocery; \$5 in cash, Turner, Van Marter and Bryant, Insurance; and a diaper pail, Western Auto Store.

The Gazette-Times will furnish the parents a letter of introduction to be used in collecting the gifts.

The full list is as follows: Surprise gift for dad, Fullerton Chevrolet Co.; \$5 savings account, Bank of Eastern Oregon; \$5 in merchandise, Case Furniture Co.; \$5 in merchandise, Central Market; \$5 off on electric bill, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op; \$5 gift certificate, Elma's Apparel; \$5 savings ac-

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Mustangs Drop Wahtonka 49-37 To Lead League

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In a tight defensive battle the Heppner High Mustangs wrestled the western division lead from the Eagles of Wahtonka Tuesday night, on the Eagles' home court. The game, originally scheduled for January 31, but cancelled due to bad roads, was a see-saw battle until shortly before the close of the third quarter, when Heppner ran away from the tiring Eagles, 49-37.

Bowman suggested steps that might be taken to maintain interest in the project towards its eventual culmination.

The score stood at a 13-13 tie at the beginning of the second quarter. Wahtonka led 28-27 at the half, but Heppner had built a fragile margin of 36-33 at the third quarter buzzer. A change in the Mustang defense strategy held Wahtonka to five points in the third, and four points in the final quarter.

He also told of concern about the decline in ground water that may be coming about with the increased drilling of wells.

Only 23 fouls were whistled. Heppner sank 11 of 16 tries and Wahtonka 5 of 11. Both teams were poor in field goal percentage, at 31% each.

Reelected officers in the Chamber of Engineers' capability for planning for the next fiscal year is \$250,000," the speaker said. However, this sum was not included in President Johnson's budget.

Cal Ashbeck whistled in 13, John McCabe and Gary Kemp each totaled 9, Jon O'Donnell 8, Larry Pettyjohn 6, and Pat Kilkenney and Mel Ashbeck made 2 each.

The same advice, he said, applies to the City of Heppner and to the county.

In the preliminary, Jayvee coach Ed Hiemstra played Dave Gunderson, John Hall, Lee Hudson, Steve Kemp and Matt Murray until the closing seconds in an easy 60-43 win.

It usually takes about three

years of detailed planning before the 'blue prints' for the project are in form to be put into the hands of a contractor," he said. "For this reason you should continue to ask your Congressman to request funds for this detailed planning now and work with Judge Paul Jones, Chairman Clarence Rosewall of your county water resources committee, and the City of Heppner, Granges and others to keep up a systematic and continued show of support in the request for additional planning funds."

An effective priority date is in the State Engineer's office for the Willow Creek Dam and Reservoir as a result of the joint efforts of local groups and other agencies, Bowman said.

He also suggested that someone on the city council should learn what the city's channel responsibility is and that it be prepared to meet any financial obligation that may be required. While this may not be

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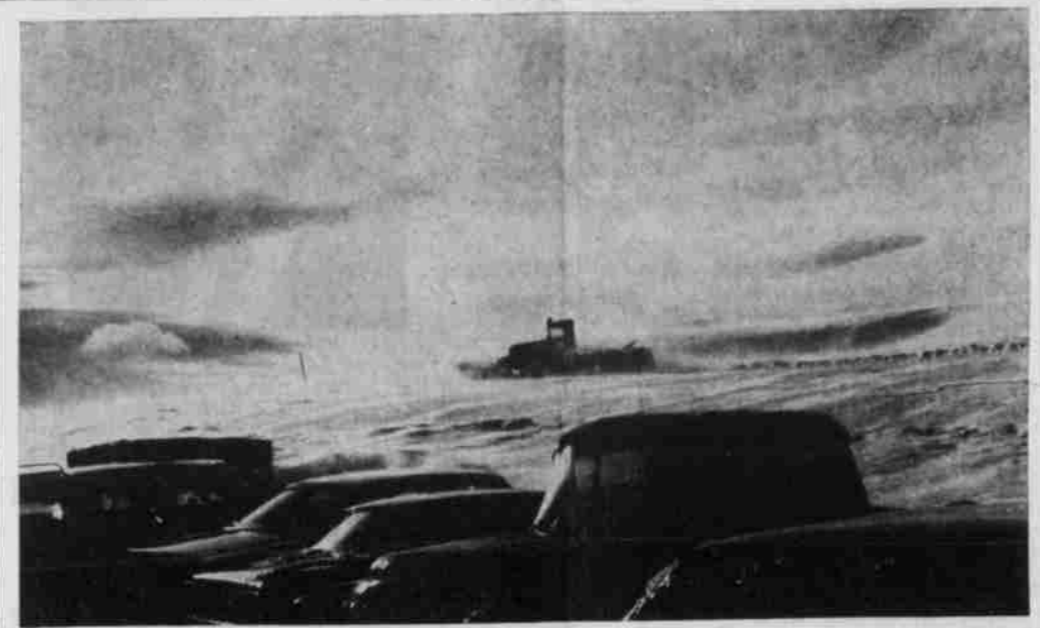
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IT WAS A REAL BATTLE with the wind and drifting snow for a few days during the week. This Heppner High photo shows snow plow clearing the main road behind the school, where drifts were deep.

Snow Slowly Melts Despite Added Fall

As temperatures warmed gently this week, the heavy accumulation of snow melted slowly and seemingly prepared to depart for the season after a six weeks' visit. But on Wednesday morning a new covering of 2 1/2 inches was on the ground, bringing at least a temporary setback to the cold weather period.

For a while, the routes to Pendleton from here were closed by drifting snow, and the Condon highway was also closed. The mail truck couldn't get through to Condon.

With no sign of a feared chinook in sight, the snow melt through Tuesday was considered ideal for obtaining maximum benefit from the moisture it contains and for preventing heavy runoff or flooding.

But the trend towards warmer and better weather started Saturday and by Tuesday, the ice on the city streets was slowly being converted to slush. Heaps of snow that had accumulated by streets and sidewalks were receding but Wednesday's snow added a little more.

While the snow has been a blessing here towards alleviating drought conditions of the past three years, it has also taken a toll on some fronts.

Of the current total, 669 are boys and 691 are girls. In 1966 there were 713 boys and 726 girls. Covered in the school census are all children of ages four through 19.

Road damage has been heavy and costly to the county; calving and lambing has been difficult for some livestock growers; wildlife has suffered some losses; and there have been numerous accidents, most of them minor, as a result of the storm period.

The school census was taken by four different organizations, including the lone PTA, the Irizgon PTA, the Boardman Tillikum club and the Heppner Jaycee Wives.

Drifting snow late last week was probably the hardest to deal with of any condition throughout the six weeks period. Trucks jackknifed on the highway, one big rig blocking the Condon highway near the Clark Canyon junction; school buses were unable to cover some of the routes; snow plows got stuck in drifts, and in one case a rotary plow, sent to their aid, also became stuck.

Figures by ages are as follows (with the 1966 figures in parentheses): Four-year-olds, 65 (78); 5-84 (78); 6-86 (87); 7-77 (100); 8-81 (85); 9-88 (100); 10-87 (94); 11-89 (112); 12-96 (109); 13-103 (91); 14-105 (115); 15-97 (75); 16-99 (99); 17-84 (84); 18-72 (72); and 19-47 (65).

A Hager's Dairy truck was unable to negotiate the icy corner at the bottom of the hill coming down from the high school and went into the ditch last

County Judge Paul Jones said that the \$750 per day cost for snow plowing, that he had previously estimated, was a "very minimum" figure. On Friday the county had declared an emergency and applied to the state for a loan through its

School Census Shows Decrease

School census in Morrow county, taken as of October, 1968, shows a decline of 79 children from the census of two years previously, October, 1966. Ron Daniels, superintendent of Morrow county schools, reported recently. Present total is 1360 as compared with 1439 in 1966.

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Estacada Firm Awarded City Drilling Contract

F & S Drilling Co. of Estacada, low bidder among three contractors seeking the job of drilling another city well, will be offered a contract on the job as a result of action taken by the city council at its February meeting Monday night.

Chief of Police Glen Kolkhorst recently attended a meeting in Pendleton on the matter and highly endorsed the program. Mayor Bill Collins said. The chief was expected to report on the program Monday night but was unable to appear because of illness.

The F & S bid was to drill 200 feet at \$14.80 per foot, with a 30 ft. casing at \$7.35 per foot. Set up charge will be \$300 and testing will be at the rate of \$13.65 per hour.

It is expected that total cost of the program to train and upgrade officers and to expedite law enforcement would be \$4161 for the five-county district (Umatilla, Morrow, Wheeler, Grant and Gilliam). The federal and state governments assume 90% of the costs, according to the understanding of the city councilmen, and so Heppner's cost, sharing the 10% with other cities in the district, would be minor.

Drilling of the last city well required less than \$6000, he said.

Two other bidders were A. C.

Plaque Honoring Late Bill Farra Presented Monday

A plaque honoring the late J. W. (Bill) Farra and recognizing new equipment purchased for the volunteer fire department in his memory was presented to his widow, Mrs. Ida Farra, and the City of Heppner by Fire Chief Forrest Burkenbine at the council meeting Monday night.

Through the program, it is expected to send city officers to take state police training in the future, as well as to participate in other activities to upgrade law enforcement.

The equipment consists of a Scott Air Pack unit, valued at more than \$300, which was purchased from donations by organizations and individuals as a fitting gift to honor the man who served as a volunteer fireman here for some 20 years.

Willow Project Push Asked

Mayor W. C. (Bill) Collins responded with words of appreciation for the memorial gift, which will be used to save lives and property in the spirit of the former assistant fire chief. The plaque and equipment memorialize Farra's devotion to the department, his willingness to serve his fellow men, and his many hours of volunteer work for the community.

Willow Project Push Asked

The plaque will be placed on a wall of the city hall, but the Air Pack will be put in service to help aid firemen in the protection of life and property.

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Farra died December 5 of a heart attack after fighting fire at a residence here.

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Contributors to the memorial gift and plaque include: The Heppner Volunteer Firemen, the Chamber of Commerce, the Soroptimist club, the Odd Fellows Lodge, the Heppner Elks, Morrow County Jaycees, C. E. McQuarrie, L. E. Dick, Orville Cutsforth and Randall Peterson.

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Willow Project Push Asked



A \$550 DEAN'S FUND for use in assisting students attending Blue Mountain Community College has been established by the Pendleton Masonic Lodge. Robert Abrams, (right), Heppner attorney and chairman of the college board of directors, received the money for emergency fund from Bob Hale, master of the Pendleton Lodge.

Wilkinson Reports Minor 'Avalanches' Along Willow Creek

Snows last week produced a phenomenon that Dick Wilkinson said he has never seen before.

He reported seeing a small avalanche start on rolling hills a few miles up Willow Creek from his ranch home. It gained momentum and reached sizeable proportions as it hit the creek. Sweeping across, it dammed the creek under an accumulation of snow and debris of some five or six feet in depth, he said. Within a short time the stream cut back through.

Later in driving back up the canyon, he noted four other minor avalanches that had started from the weight of the heavy snow accumulation, he said.