

Farm Bureau Against Increases In Range Rents

"Our Congress seems content to allow the Bureau of Land Management and the U. S. Forest Service to price the range livestock operator off the public land despite the long-range implication that removal of livestock from the public lands spells disaster for the range livestock industry, big game and eastern Oregon communities," David Nelson, executive vice president of the Oregon Farm Bureau federation, has charged.

Nelson said that the recent announcement of the grazing fee increases for public lands administered by the U. S. Department of the Interior's BLM and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has come as a blow to Farm Bureau members and others who had wanted Congressional action on the report of the Public Land Law Review commission before there was any grazing fee adjustment.

Nelson quoted the two agencies as saying in their joint announcement that it was their feeling the increment is within the concept of the PLLRC's report of moving grazing fees toward "fair market value." However, Nelson said, "We think the agencies are interpreting the report out of context—the PLLRC recommendation states: 'Fair market value, taking into consideration factors in each area of the lands involved, should be established by law as a basis for grazing fees. . . . When market and other conditions in the vicinity of permitted lands are taken into consideration for each permit, grazing fees will vary based on conditions in each permit area.'

"The Farm Bureau favors this concept of flexibility in fees because it is unrealistic to charge the same fee without consideration of variances in operating and economic situations or differences in the quality of public range land and forage yield; yet the fee schedules used for lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM have always been for a uniform, universal fee."

Fees Up
The fee increase is the first since a one-year moratorium placed on fee increases to allow time to review recommendations of the Public Land Law Review commission. Most stockmen using lands administered by the BLM in 1971 will pay 64 cents to graze one cow or

five sheep for a month, compared with 44 cents during the past two years. This rate applies to eastern Oregon, Washington and other western states. New fees on western Oregon lands administered by the BLM will be 88 cents per animal unit month (AUM) compared to 63 cents previously.

Fees for public lands administered by the BLM inside grazing districts consist of a 43-cent basic grazing fee and a 21-cent range improvement fee, for a total of 64 cents. Outside of grazing districts in eastern Oregon and Washington, the basic grazing fee is 48 cents with 16 cents allocated toward range improvements for a total of 64 cents per AUM.

The annual increase in fees for public land use is 9 cents for BLM lands and 7 cents for Forest Service lands. However, both agencies are increasing fees an additional 11 cents to reflect market increases in forage prices during the two years since the last fee change, with revenues to be added to local

and federal government income, plus expanding funds for land improvements.

Nelson continued, "The agencies in their news releases state their intention of proceeding through the full 10 annual increments of increase, plus additional increases, thus effectively decapitalizing the ranchers' borrowing value in the grazing permit. Yet ranchers provide the largest share of hard work that goes into the management and maintenance of proper ecological balance on these public lands, and if livestock is removed, far-reaching problems are created, such as the rapid growth of thickets that are usable even by game animals."

Write Congressmen
"The cumulative efforts of all those concerned with the livestock industry in the United States in resisting fee increases have obviously not been good enough," Nelson observed, "so we are asking our members to write to their Congressmen seeking postponement of the increase which would go into ef-

KINZUA NEWS

Camp 5 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Camp 5 Women's Club was held last Wednesday at the Camp 5 Community Hall with seven members present. The meeting was in charge of Carol Thomas, president and the new officers were hostesses for this meeting. Scholarship rules were discussed and it was voted to re-write them. In charge of this is Rose Hardwick, Frances White, and Pat Van Arsdale. New chairman appointed for the coming year was Judy Warming, Log; Carol Norris, Cheer; Coffee Lids, Terry Todd; Gold Bond chairman was not appointed at this time. A card party will be held Jan. 30 with Betty Murdoch and Rose Hardwick as hostesses and a bingo party is scheduled for February with Carol Thomas and Terry Todd as hostesses. The door prize was won by Rose Hardwick and a drawing was held for the game prizes and they went to Rose Hardwick, Betty Murdoch, Terry Todd, and Carol Thomas.

Emergency Trip

Mr. and Mrs. Don Slinkard and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rice and family left Monday noon for Cherryvale, Kan., upon re-

ceiving word of the serious condition of Mrs. Slinkard and Mrs. Rice's mother, Mrs. G. L. Oylar. Mrs. Oylar had surgery a week ago and then suffered a heart attack Saturday night. They were to meet Mr. and Mrs. Paul Oylar of Bend at Ontario and travel on to Kansas together.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Sharp were in Heppner Saturday where Lowell had medical care. Bob Blue went to Heppner Saturday to bring home Mrs. Blue from the Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Richard Thomas and Mrs. Mike Todd and Gary went to Heppner Monday where Terry had medical care.

Birthday Party

Mrs. Steve Conlee was the hostess last Tuesday afternoon to a birthday party for her son Robbie who is six years old. The youngsters played several games and then had birthday cake, ice cream, and juice. Those enjoying this party were Robbie, D'rina, Dana, and Lana Reid, Windi and Cindi Mitchell, Joannette and John Bell, Sherri and Brenda McMinn, Mike and Marcel Luper, Andrea and Angela Jackson, Rob Hulett, Cindy Bowman, and Mike Van Arsdale. Mothers present were Deena Reed, Melba Mitchell, and Sharon Bell.

fect with the 1971 grazing season, and asking for reconsideration until Congress acts on the PLLRC report."

In addition the Farm Bureau in the western states are raising funds for an extensive research project on the economic impact of grazing fee increases, to be carried out by the American Farm Bureau research foundation. The results of this study will provide more facts "to combat the unjustified decisions that increased the grazing fees," Nelson concluded.

BOARDMAN NEWS NOTES

By MARY LEE MARLOW

BOARDMAN — Mr. and Mrs. Everett Struckmeier received a phone call from their son, SM

Kinzua News

Birthday Party

Mrs. Jiggs Bowman was the hostess Saturday afternoon to a birthday party for her daughter Cindy who was eight years old. The youngsters played games and then had birthday cake and ice cream. Winning game prizes were Christy Sargent, Paula Muzzy, Cindy Bowman and Jeannette Bell. Others enjoying the party were Robbie Conlee, Robert Hulett, Mark Asher, Kevin Muzzy and Marcel Luper, Nannette Carey, Sherri and Brenda McMinn, Windi and Cindi Mitchell. Others present were Sara Bowman, Bev Conklin, Sharon Bell, Sandy Sargent, Melba Mitchell, Roberta Conlee and Nancy Benson.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeMeritt were in Heppner last Tuesday where they both had medical care. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Jones and son Bobby were in Heppner last Tuesday on business.

Club Entertains

The members of the Friendship Club were entertained last Wednesday evening in the First Grade Room with Roberta Conlee as hostess. High went to Patsy McMinn, second high to Carol Norris and the pinochles to Carol Norris and Sue Mattison. Others playing were Sharon Bell, Sharon Smiley, Deena Reid, Melba Mitchell, Rose Merry Nelson, Doris Stubblefield, Cindy Weaser and Becky Wright.

Kinzua Pair Have New Years Eve Boy

KINZUA—Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stubblefield became the parents of a son on Dec. 31 at The Dalles General Hospital. The baby weighed 8 lb., 7 1/2 oz., and has been named Omar Lee. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hoover of Fossil and Mr. and Mrs. Omar Stubblefield of Kinzua. Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Woods of Toledo, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sasser of La Grande, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stubblefield of Elgin.

Heppner Safety Meeting Held

The December Heppner Kinzua Safety meeting had 11 employees present. A discussion was held on the format of the present safety groups and acci-

dents reported. Elwayne Bergstrom received 1000 S&H Green Stamps for a year's perfect attendance.

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