

## Favorable County Response Can Save Pioneer Hospital

"For 12 years", Irene Wyman, who is now Pioneer Memorial Hospital Administrator, says "I have fought the Pay Roll". Employees at the hospital have been told to hold their checks until the 10th, the 15th and sometimes the 25th of the month, until enough money comes in to cover them.

The hospital has been nip and tuck for these many years and the thing that makes this year's Auditor's report different than other years, is the change in auditors. This year Mrs. Wyman asked the County Court for auditors experienced in doing hospital audits.

She was asked to go back as far as 1950 for complete inventory of equipment. Some items of equipment had been depreciated out but were still good and in use. Mrs. Wyman said due to the excellent care given by Bob Lowe, the beds were just one of the items given new life in the audit.

This was the first year that the auditor has come to Heppner to give the report to the Hospital Administrator and the Hospital board of directors. Glen Finch who made the presentation, is employed by Ernst & Ernst of Portland.

He had only words of praise for the competent management of the hospital which he said was the major factor in keeping the hospital doors open.

Of the \$36,000 net loss for the past year, he said, "Like a private individual, you cannot continue spending more than your income or you are heading for bankruptcy."

Everything in the hospital conforms to standards except the income. Low occupancy in the 24-bed hospital and low rates paid by the high occupancy in the 20-bed nursing home were contributing to the loss of income. Welfare patients make up much of the nursing home occupancy. These fees paid by state are less than the costs.

The occupancy in the hospital is low and averages 33 per cent. Mr. Finch said the key factor here is the need of more doctors. Too many people are going to other hospitals because of the lack of doctors. He noted there are only two doctors in Morrow County, both in Heppner, who are carrying heavy work loads.

Mrs. Wyman who has been well aware of the need of another doctor in the county for some time, explores every avenue to bring another doctor to the county. She keeps continual contact with the Oregon Medical School. She said another doctor was expected to come in April to look over the possibility of moving to Heppner.

Clarence Rosewall, chairman of the Hospital board, says "the hospital has been in trouble ever since it was built. The increase in costs has aggravated the situation."

He noted that when the hospital has 50% occupancy, the expenses can be met but there are no funds for improvements.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital was built at a cost of approximately \$500,000 with 20 bed facilities completed in 1950 and an addition in 1955. It was financed jointly by tax levies and federal Hill-Burton funds. Mr. Rosewall says that Pioneer Memorial Hospital's name has come up again to be in first place position for matching funds from the Hill-Burton funds. He favors a small tax over the 6% limitation of the county taxes to be voted on by the people for the benefit of the hospital.



"Humm—I don't like the looks of that eye..."



JUNE GALLAGHER, new lab technician at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

## New Lab Technician At Pioneer Memorial

June Gallagher is the new lab technician at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. She moved here from Springfield where she had served as a lab and x-ray technician at a Eugene hospital and clinic. She graduated from OTI and began work at the Rogue Valley Hospital in Medford in 1964. She has four married children at Springfield and her 14 year old son, Terry, a freshman, is attending high school there.

In speaking of her new domain, she says the lab at Pioneer Memorial is well equipped for a hospital its size. It needs some glassware replaced. About \$150 or \$200 would put it in top shape. "Another thing, I need a Pipette washer real badly."

A quick look in her catalogue and she added, "I could get one for \$72.50." Asked about some of the equipment in the lab, she pointed out the Spectrophotometer which tests chemistry, hemoglobins. She said she used it daily and it is a good one. There is also a flame photometer with it. It isn't used often but it's real important when its needed.

The x-ray equipment is old but it functions well.

## LUTHER LEAGUE

On Feb. 21, the Luther League met at Hope Lutheran Church. President Tom Cutsforth called the meeting to order. For old business, a bake sale was discussed. It was decided on March 6, there will be a food sale in Central Market at 10 a.m. Next, a report on the Luther Crest Retreat was made by Tom and Diane Cutsforth. Then Pastor played a tape on Contemporary music for the church. This is a new way to sing the liturgy of the service. They decided to use this music sometime this spring or summer. Supper of hot dogs and cake was served.

## School Budget Hearing Set

The Morrow County School District R-1 Budget Hearing will be held in the school district office at Lexington at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9.

This will be the fifth and final public budget meeting and is designed to give the public an opportunity to make comments and recommend budget changes in addition to those already made by the budget committee.

The last two editions of the Heppner Gazette-Times have contained summarized copies of the budget and copies of the complete budget document are available at the school district office.

Patrons of the school district are urged to familiarize themselves with the budget and to attend the hearing to ask questions or make comments.

The school board may, at the budget hearing, make changes in the published budget not to exceed 10% of any one line item so long as it does not increase the published tax levy figure. They may also increase resources or reduce requirements by any amount that is deemed advisable.

Prior budget meetings resulted in mandatory increases of \$14,900, but these increases were offset by budget cuts totaling \$14,872.

The budget as it now stands reflects a 4% budget increase with a tax levy increase of \$50,787.

The proposed 4% increase reflects a desire to hold the increase as low as possible and does not utilize the full 6% increase which legislators have urged school districts to use as a guideline in budget preparations.

In addition, it seems very probable that the district will receive approximately \$23,000 more from the basic school support fund. This would enable the school district to reduce the tax levy increase to approximately \$27,000.

## School Board Agenda

The agenda for the Morrow County School District R-1 Budget Hearing and School Board meeting at the District office on Tuesday, March 9, beginning at 7:30 p.m. is as follows:

Financial Report.  
Delegations, if any.  
Superintendent's Report.

## Old Business

Ione Furnace.  
Establish date for long range planning committee.  
Approve contract change for Vic Marchek and Betty Rietmann.

## New Business

Appoint election boards.  
Appoint replacement to Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Committee.

Review Umatilla and Gilliam Counties IED services.

Hire certificated personnel.

## Reports

School board and advisory committee vacancies for 1971-72.

## Announcements

Fairgrounds improvement committee meet with Fair Board on March 15, 1971.

Budget election, April 5, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Next regular board meeting, April 19, 8 p.m., Heppner High School.

Curriculum committee meeting, March 15, 7:30 p.m., Lexington.

## Coffee Day to Aid Crippled Children

The annual drive of the Easter Seal Society has a new face on it this year. It's a COFFEE DAY. Beginning March 8 BAC buttons will be sold for \$1.00. Anyone wearing one of these buttons may have a FREE cup of coffee on March 19 at the Wagon Wheel in Heppner, The's in Ione and a restaurant in Boardman. Everyone buying one of these buttons is asked to wear it daily. BAC stands for Back a Child.

The Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Oregon is in its 24th year of providing direct service to Oregonians. The Society, under the direction of volunteer board members and delegates, concerns itself with all crippling conditions and avoids duplication of services available through other private or public agencies.

They will again send out appeal letters.

Beta Omega chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha of Ione sponsors the drive in Morrow County. Mrs. Art Lindstrom is chairman and Mrs. Joe Engelman is co-chairman with her.

## Bill Brannon Runs Body Shop

Bill Brannon has inserted an ad this week in the Gazette-Times showing the Body Shop will remain open in the former Heppner Auto Sales location. Bill will feature automotive painting and body work and automotive glass installation. Heppner Auto Sales was closed here Saturday. Dealership is expected to reopen within a few weeks, although no statement will be forthcoming until Ford Company officials have time to approve new owners.

## HOSPITAL NEWS

Patients receiving medical care at Pioneer Memorial Hospital are Frank DeMerritt, Kinzua; Edna Bailey, Heppner; Ted Schwartz, Heppner; Anna Marie Wilson, Heppner; and Neil Snow, Ione.

Linda Picker of Ione has been discharged.

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## Arlington Rodeo, Saddle Club News

The Arlington Saddle Club will hold its annual rodeo, May 1 & 2. This is a two day Jackpot Rodeo held at the Arlington Rodeo grounds.

Scheduled for March 21, is a playday, at which time the Jackpot Rodeo Court will be chosen. Tryouts for the Court are at the Arlington rodeo grounds at 1:00 p.m. Contestants must be 16 years of age by Jan. 1, 1971.

During the morning of March 21, will be a general rodeo grounds cleanup followed by a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon; the Court tryouts at 1:00 p.m. followed by a playday for all riders of all ages.

The Arlington Jackpot Rodeo Parade is May 1 at 10:30 a.m. in downtown Arlington followed by the grand entry for the rodeo at 1:00 p.m. at the rodeo grounds. Saturday night, May 1, there will be a rodeo dance at the Arlington High School gym.

The Saddle Club also has a trailride scheduled for April 18, 1971 officers of the Arlington Saddle Club are Ron Davis, Olex, president; Tom Proctor, Arlington, 1st vice-president; A. B. Clough, Arlington, 2nd vice-president; Carroll Wilkins, Arlington, treasurer; and Jean Mikkalo, Mikkalo, secretary.

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