

# Heppner Merchants Plan For Christmas Shoppers

The Merchants Committee met Friday to make preliminary plans for the approaching Christmas shopping. The Heppner Christmas opening was set for Saturday, Nov. 27. Christmas stock will be out so that shoppers will have the best selection possible by this date.

## Grain Growers Open House Next Week

Morrow County Grain Growers will have a gala open house Nov. 20 to inaugurate its fine new building in Lexington. Manager Larry Mills said there would be some free gifts and some good things to eat. He issued a cordial invitation for everyone to plan to come.

## Demurrer Filed in Schlichting Case

A suit seeking \$100,000 and reinstatement to his former position as appraiser was filed Oct. 29 in circuit court by Dick Schlichting, former county appraiser against the Morrow County assessor and members of the Morrow County Court.

Mr. Schlichting's service as appraiser was terminated Oct. 1. Demurrer was filed Nov. 5 on behalf of the Morrow County Court to the complaint upon grounds that it appears it does not state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against them.

## Heppner Runners In State Meet

Heppner's cross country team got a taste of state competition this past Saturday in Eugene. Coach Dean Naffziger is very proud of his team. He said that while the Mustangs did not finish high in the standings they did an outstanding job for a group of young first year contenders. Out of 125 runners, the Mustang's Luke Padberg was Heppner's top runner finishing 55th. Considering that Heppner's four top runners are freshmen and two sophomores, now with one year's experience makes them look much stronger for next year.

guessing the closest to the number in the jar will win a PRIZE. The winners names will be posted in the window at 5 o'clock that evening.

## AOC to Meet At Indian Hills

Following the meeting of the County Courts from five counties Tuesday at Arlington, Judge Paul Jones made a call to the Gazette-Times. This was just at the height of the fire in Heppner.

Rather than going on to Salem for a board meeting of the Association of Oregon Counties, he returned to the county seat. The Salem meeting had been called to consider a possible change of the annual meeting from Indian Hills Lodge in Pendleton that has been scheduled for Nov. 17-18-19. These dates just happen to coincide with the possible start of picketing of the new business. It is known that some County officials would not consider crossing a picket line to attend the meeting.

Judge Jones who is currently serving as vice chairman, said Wednesday morning that the board had approved to continue with plans to hold the meeting at Indian Hills Lodge. It is anticipated that Morrow County's Judge Jones will be elected president of the Association for the next year.



MRS. ROBERT LAUGHLIN is the new treasurer for the Morrow County chapter of the American Red Cross.

## Red Cross Slates Fall Fund Drive

Mrs. Robert Laughlin has accepted the job as treasurer for the Morrow County American Red Cross. This she says, "is little enough to do in appreciation for all the help that the Red Cross did for Heppner after the May flood."

She replaces Mrs. Claude Buschke who has served as treasurer the past 10 years and as Fund Drive chairman before that. Mrs. Buschke has a record of 20 years of Red Cross work in Union county before coming here.

## GRAIN PRICES

(F.O.B. Lexington, does not include warehouse chgs.)  
(Courtesy of Morrow County Grain Growers)

Soft white wheat	1.45 1/2 bu.
Red wheat	1.49 1/2 bu.
Barley	44.25 ton

88th Year

Price 10 Cents

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, November 11, 1971

Number 38



EVANS LUMBER YARD was all but gone when this photo was taken. The fire had already spread into the upper part of the Knox Building. Evans' entire roof had collapsed and shortly a large part of the Knox roof also collapsed. Loss of the two buildings and contents will run about \$150,000. (G-T Photo)

# Flames Destroy Two Heppner Firms

About 11:30 Tuesday morning, a huge blaze broke out at Evans Lumber Yard on Heppner's Main Street. Ken Evans said they had been waiting on customers and were quite busy as the paint mixing machine hummed loudly. He spotted the smoke from under the door from the back part of the store and immediately ordered his wife and the lady customers to take their children and leave. Black smoke billowed from the building covering quite an area. This smoke was soon cut by great fingers of flames that shot skyward. It was a fairly warm day that was breezy and at times a little gusty. This windy condition made fire fighting difficult.

The Evans Lumber Yard was quickly engulfed. Paint cans exploded as did aerosol cans. One of the latter shot across the street into a parking lot and another cracked a window at Mahoney and Abrams' office. Intense heat also cracked windows across the street at Mahoney and Abrams' office, Jeanne's Beauty Shop, Central Market and at Heppner Cleaners.

Besides the Heppner Volunteer Fire Department, assistance came from the Ione Fire Department.

Lexington's Department stood by in case of a fire there or in Ione and some of their firemen came up.

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op provided men and considerable equipment, too, as did Morrow County Grain Growers. Firemen and equipment came from Ordinance and Navy firemen from the Bombing Range and from Hermiston. Some spray firms around the county brought equipment. A number of ranchers brought in spray rigs in case the fire spread to homes in the area. Men and equipment came from Kinzua Corp. and the Heppner Lumber Co.

Fire completely gutted the Evans Lumber Yard. The fire caught the roof and upper story of the Knox Department Store building. Part of the Knox roof collapsed and much damage was done in the other floors from water and smoke. The Bank of Eastern Oregon roof looked like it might burst into flame as it was literally "bathed" in flames blown over from the lumber yard. However, a drain on the flat roof was clogged and a layer of about four inches of water stood on the roof.

Fire broke out twice on the

roof of the Odd Fellows Building before hoses and water were brought up to the roof. The Odd Fellows Building houses Elma's Apparel and Flower Shop and Murray's Rexall Drugs.

The fires were fairly well under control by a little after 3 p.m. but fire smoldered for some time at Evans Lumber Yard and firemen were on watch all Tuesday night there and at Knox Store.

The roof had caved in on Evans Lumber Yard, destroying all the merchandise inside and the roof also caved in on the upper story of the Knox building and there is considerable smoke and water damage to the ground floor there, and much of the merchandise there is ruined or damaged.

Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine said the approximate value of Evans Lumber Yard's building and contents would run about \$60,000. Knox's Store suffered close to \$90,000 to the building and contents.

The extremely thick wall of the Odd Fellows building prevented spread of the fire to Elma's. However, if the wind had changed from the north and flames had gained a toe hold on the roof, very likely Elma's, Murray's Drugs and the Gazette-

Times would have been destroyed.

Gene Pierce of the Bank of Eastern Oregon said the clogged drain on the roof saved the building. The Bank has "business as usual" and will have the roof fixed and repairs to walls, baseboard and floors.

Much credit is given to the Ione and other fire departments which came and helped magnificently.

Rachel Harnett, curator of the Museum here and one of our leading historians, says wind has figured greatly in two other big fires at Heppner.

Heppner has had several big fires in its past, she said and brought in some greatly detailed accounts. On May 28, 1918 fire broke out in the opera house, taking portions of four blocks, doing \$25,000 worth of damage. A north wind spread burning debris. Then on July 4, 1918 fire destroyed the handsome Palace Hotel and burned four and a half blocks and left 25 families homeless. The Gazette-Times was among the victims that time. Total loss from fire within a month was about \$200,000 according to a report by the Ione Independent. The City Library burned that May and burned again in later years.

Gene Pierce told of a number of instances Tuesday of helpfulness and cooperation here.

Folks are grateful to all the volunteer firemen, from here and many other places, and to all the individuals and groups who gave of their time and efforts to help.

There is some insurance on the destroyed property here but it only partially covers the losses. A State Fire Marshal has been trying to determine cause of the terrible conflagration.

For safety, electric power was disconnected from the fire area for about two hours. It was restored in the lower end of town in about 25 minutes.

All records were lost at Evans Lumber Yard. A considerable amount of checks and currency were ready for deposit but they were so busy they had not been able to get to the bank.

The Knox Variety moved into their building here in 1969. Evans Lumber Yard opened their new business here in March last year.

Sparks from the big fire blew onto the roof of All Saints' Episcopal rectory and burned a place on the roof, which was seen by Mrs. Dan Thompson. Thanks to the Conley Lanham's for their ladder and putting out the fire.

Cal Sherman took a ladder over to Dan James' where a spot fire flamed on roof shingles, and tore the shingles off.

With all the fire hoses connected, it was a big job getting all the pressure needed. Jones' fire truck and firemen were a welcome sight as they hooked onto the line, water pressure picked up substantially. It was reported.

We heard of no serious injuries.

## Mayor Calls Special Meet

Mayor Bill Collins has called a special meeting today, Thursday, at 5 p.m. at City Hall. A quorum could not be present yesterday so the meeting was called today.

Purpose is to canvass votes of the bond issue election held this past Monday; to set wage rates for clerks and judges of the election; to approve bills received after the regular Council meeting.

## New 'Rock' Display At Courthouse

Mrs. Paul Miller is responsible for the mineral display that you see to the right of the stairs at the Morrow County Courthouse. She and her husband share a keen interest in rocks and are active members of the Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society.

This week she changed the display. Note her showing of fossils. You will see horn coral and trilobite (bug) from Utah, turtilla (small shell) and fossil fish from Wyoming, sea urchin from Denmark. The latter fossil they traded.

## LDS Church Buys Camp Space Near Lake Penland

Announcement was made this week that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had purchased 20 acres of land on the west side of Lake Penland fronting the Forest Camp from Orville Cutsforth. The site will be available for use by the 12 wards and branches of the Richland Stake. It will be used for scouting, youth camps and other church gatherings. The Youth Committee is checking it over for long range plans with preliminary work to start in the spring.

## Burwell Baby Comes Early Sunday

Alicia Yvonne Burwell arrived at the Pendleton Community Hospital at 4:00 a.m. Sunday morning, just 4 minutes after her parents checked into the hospital.

Alicia Yvonne weighed in at 8 lb., 14 1/2 oz. She has a brother Tony, one year old and a sister Cindy who is three. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burwell, Long Beach, Ca., and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hamilton, Ashland. She is also welcomed by great-grandparents Hamilton in Mississippi.

The parents, Rev. and Mrs. Donald D. Burwell, were probably grateful that they had no tire or car problem on their way to Pendleton.

## Bill Siewert Heads Library Board

At a meeting called Monday evening by Councilman Jerry Sweeney as councilman in charge of City Services which includes the library, Bill Siewert was elected chairman of the Library board. Randall Peterson, the new appointee to the board, was elected vice chairman and Mrs. Gene Ferguson, secretary-treasurer.

It was agreed that the money for books allowed in the city budget and the Memorial Fund set up at the Library would be kept separate. Those present at the meeting were besides Mr. Sweeney, Mayor Bill Collins, Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. Peterson, Lucy Peterson and Blanche Brown, the librarian. Pauline Winter and Mr. Siewert were not in attendance.

## Lost Elk Hunter Shows Up

Dennis Hammel, 20, of Eugene had been hunting in the north part of Camas Prairie, located in the southwest corner of the county on Tuesday. He was last seen by members of his party at 2:30 p.m. The Sheriff's Department made a preliminary search with assistance from the State Game Commission and the Oregon State Police.

About 11 a.m. yesterday Mr. Hammel called Sheriff Mollahan's office from the Bob Van Schoelack ranch on Rock Creek. He was about 10 miles from his hunting area. He was in good condition. The Sheriff's Department picked him up and delivered him to his hunting camp at Anson Wright Park.

## Columbia Basin Annual Meet Next Week Here

Harley Young has issued a cordial invitation to all to attend the annual meeting of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op. It will be held at the Fairgrounds Pavilion Nov. 19 and 20. There will be a fine lunch, good entertainment, interesting reports and some prizes.

## Joe Burns Fills Mann Vacancy

Joe Burns of Hermiston was appointed to the legislative seat formerly held by Irvin Mann by the County Courts of five counties Tuesday morning. He will serve during the special sessions called by the governor. The vacancy occurred when Mr. Mann was appointed State Director of Agriculture.

Ted Smith of Pendleton was also considered for the appointment. The five County Courts were those from Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Sherman and Umatilla.

## Tax Info Available At Sheriff's Office

Sheriff John F. Mollahan said Monday when property tax statements were mailed Oct. 22, 1971, each contained a Homeowner's Tax Relief Application even though not all are eligible for tax reduction under the law passed by the 1971 legislature and effective beginning with the 1971-72 tax year.

Under the new law, the Department of Revenue, State of Oregon, and county tax collectors are cooperating in administering the new concept of homeowners' property tax relief, which is based on "household income" rather than the age of the resident as the primary basis for granting relief on owner-occupied homesteads.

There are two pages of instructions accompanying the application. Filing must be done after Dec. 31, 1971 and not later than April 15, 1972. Relief cannot be granted for the year if the application is filed after April 15, 1972, and no extension of time to file can be granted, Sheriff Mollahan emphasizes.

"Taxpayers may receive their 3 percent discount by paying in full before Nov. 15, 1971, and still apply for and receive relief after Jan. 1, 1972," Sheriff Mollahan said. Those not paying in advance but expecting to qualify or persons needing assistance or additional information after reading the instructions accompanying the application form are advised to contact the county tax collector's office in the courthouse in Heppner after Dec. 31, 1971.

## Heppner High Band Enjoyed

The Heppner High School Band was presented here in concert Tuesday night with Dave Mann, conductor.

The audience was enthusiastic and applauded joyfully for the rousing and mostly contemporary musical numbers. Mr. Mann explained that the band is raising money which they will use for a band trip. They will have a presentation of trophies and awards later in the year.

The audience also enjoyed delicious pie, cake and cookies.

Members of the band are: Flutes, Mary Abrams, Kery Coppock, Lisa Collins; clarinets, Charma Marquardt, Deana Struthers, Juanita Wilson; saxophones, Dianne Mills, Dana Sweek, John Luciani, Anita Davidson, Scott McDaniel; trumpets, Rick Pettyjohn, Mark Schlichting, Mike Sweek, Chris DeSpain, Dave McLeod, Chris Evans; trombones, Richard Wadholm, Jack Urrein; baritone, Don Papineau, Shana Kelly; tubas, John Hedman, Jim Marquardt; percussion, Dale Hedman, Cyde Allstott, Jim Spear, Chris Papineau and Debby Papineau.

## Equalization Board Studies Ratios

The Equalization Board met for organization and study of ratios on Tuesday. Judge Paul Jones was named chairman. Other members of the board are William Nelson of Boardman and Harry O'Donnell of Heppner. They made a study of the ratios. The ratio should be 100%. Certain code areas were not up to 100%. These were mostly vacant tracts. The assessor was instructed to bring them up to full 100%.

## WEATHER

By DON GILLIAM			
	Hi	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	67	47	—
Thursday	57	32	.08
Friday	46	20	—
Saturday	45	19	—
Sunday	54	23	.01
Monday	55	27	—
Tuesday	67	32	—