

# Wheat Growers Elect Jerry Myers

Jerry Myers, Butter Creek rancher, was elected president of the Morrow County Wheat Growers Association at their annual fall meeting last Thursday night at the Heppner American Legion Hall.

Dick McElligott of Ione was elected first vice president. Ralph Crum, the current president, was master of ceremonies for the event.

A delicious dinner was prepared and served by the Legion Auxiliary and Legion post with Mrs. Bill Heath, chairman.

Door prizes were awarded during the dinner and meeting. Donating the prizes were the Morrow County Grain Growers, Paul Pettyjohn Co., Pettyjohn Farm and Builders Supply, Padberg Machinery, Cal's Arco, Cornett Green - Feed, Heppner Inland Chemical, Farley Motors, Fullerton Chevrolet, Heppner Auto Parts, Heppner Gazette-Times, First National Bank provided souvenir ballpoint pens to everyone who came and the Bank of Eastern Oregon furnished an aid for the meeting.

Winning prizes in the drawing were Irvin Rauch, Carl Marquardt, Mrs. Jerry Myers, Glen Brogotti, Mrs. Vernon Munkers, Floyd Everhart, Don McElligott, Louis Carlson, Shelley Robertson, Roger Palmer, Jack Sumner.

Tables were gaily decorated in fall colors.

Making reports for committees were Dick McElligott, Don McElligott, Jerry Myers, Jack Sumner, Bob Rietmann, Don Peterson, Louis Carlson, Mr. Carlson told of losing Irvin Mann in the Legislature and suggested that farmers should try to get an ag-oriented representative there.

**State President**  
Glen Brogotti of Helix, state president of the Oregon Wheat League, told of being in Washington, D. C., to testify in a hearing on the 10,000 pound truck driving regulation. He also went back to testify on the limitation of farm payments which he says is something that must be carefully watched in the future.

He told of the dock strike and efforts to get things moving to fight future strikes. Irvin Mann was contacted and Governor McCall. All commodity groups have been contacted and an inter-industry ag-conference has been dated for Dec. 13.

He invited all to the State Meeting Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1 at the Sheraton Hotel, Portland, Administrator

Ralph McEwen, administrator of the Oregon Wheat Commission, told of feed grain research and its importance for markets in the Northwest and Japan.

**Wet Wheat Problems**

He said two and a half months during 1968 were most miserable when Japan suspended wheat shipments. Rain during harvest set off wet wheat damage which Mr. McEwen said sets off an Alpha Amylase as an enzyme provided by Mother Nature in the germ of the kernel to aid implant germination. It converts the starch in the berry to simple sugars to nourish the embryo plant so it can grow. This happens very quickly under moist warm conditions and presents numerous production problems in several end uses abroad. When germination starts, the sugar converting process due to enzymatic activity goes into immediate action before any visual changes can be seen.

A small part of the region had this trouble in 1971.

Forty percent of the Japanese wheat is made into noodles and the enzyme makes for sticky, gummy wet noodles which they do not like. The Swedish Numbers Test is the simplest and best and most economical method for testing for the trouble, he explained. The State Testing Service is now making tests in order to overcome doubts of the Japanese buyers.

County Agent Harold Kerr announced that there was a possibility of a workshop being held on the future market.

**Marketing Talk**  
Shelley Robertson, Pilot Rock wheat rancher and business man, spoke on "Markets versus Collective Bargaining".

He told of the development of world markets and the continuous price decline for the past 20 years.

Technology has outstripped population growth, he said. The Northwest raises mostly export wheat.

He told of the world diamond markets. He said the DeBoers people who control the diamond markets could provide one carat for each person in the USA as they had a huge supply of diamonds. However, due to their techniques in marketing, they are able to hold up the price of the diamonds. This he said was sort of superceding the law of supply and demand.

Mr. Robertson explained that right after the Armistice in 1918, surpluses were created as only with surpluses could the farmers become distressed by low price for their grain.

Grain prices, he said, were set at harvest time because those who have to sell at that time have financial demands to meet. This, he believes, has caused an artificially low price to be set.

He said he had his confidence shaken in the law of supply and demand. He said "you can create a market or price". There are actually only five major grain companies in the world.

He said that the gross return for agriculture was two and three-fourths percent, which could not continue without breaking the farmers.

Average age of farmers is now 59 years. And, he added, one farmer is leaving the farm every five minutes or 12,000 each week.

He pointed out that the German economy is booming and that Germany has the greatest protective tariffs. Price in Germany for a bushel of wheat is \$3.54 with the subsidy portion returned to the German farmer.

He said each American farmer produces enough food for 47 people but that actually we do not have a surplus.

Mr. Robertson said that agriculture needs to be treated as a public utility. In spite of soil conservation practices, the soil is the few. He said this is a de-

being raped for the benefit of sign for a cheap food policy.

Mr. Robertson was interrupted several times and points were challenged and several other times was interrupted by those supporting several points which they felt needed emphasis.

Mr. Robertson pointed out the position of the potato market and sounded a warning of the bad fix farming is in today.

There seemed to be a bit of disagreement at times but everyone was in full agreement that agriculture needed better prices.

Mr. Robertson concluded with this: "The Basis of everything is your basic resource, Agriculture."

**KOOKY COOKS**

The third Kooky Cooks meeting season in 1970 and this year lyn showed us some charts on food.

Our next meeting we will do our lessons. The first year we are going to do puddings. The second year we are going to do fruit salad plate and quick sticky buns.

Then our meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting is Dec. 2.

Bety Fae Green, reporter

Mrs. William (Thelma) Smethurst underwent major surgery at St. Anthony Hospital Nov. 1. Mr. and Mrs. C.J.D. Bauman chatted with Mrs. Smethurst soon after he'd brought Mrs. Smethurst home from the hospital and it is reported she is doing quite well.

The Smethursts recently moved to a new home at 134 J 6th St., Rt. 1, Pendleton, Ore. 97801.

CLASP ENVELOPES in a variety of sizes from 6 1/2 x 9 1/2 to 12 x 15 1/2 on sale at The Gazette-Times, Ph. 676-9228.



JERRY MYERS, newly elected president of the Morrow County Wheat League and his first vice president, Dick McElligott.



CAROL KERR picks a winning ticket from the hat for a door prize at the Morrow County Wheat League dinner and annual meeting Friday evening. Glen Brogotti, Oregon Wheat League president who is seated next to Carol, was the winner of the gift subscription of the Gazette-Times. The fellow wearing the handsome tie behind them is none other than Morrow County Extension agent, Harold Kerr.

## ASCS is Info Center, Phase II

Morrow County residents can get official information on Phase II of President Nixon's Economic Stabilization Program at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Office, says David McLeod, the County Executive Director.

"As the nation enters Phase II, ASCS county offices along with the Internal Revenue Service will continue to provide public information at the local level," McLeod said.

The county ASCS office will receive regular updated information from the President's Cost of Living Council, Price Commission, and Pay Board.

Residents calling or visiting the county office about a wage-price problem, will get answers on the spot if the questions fall within existing guidelines.

More complex questions will be forwarded by county office personnel to the nearest IRS office for reply.

"We are not authorized to handle complaints, violations, and requests for exemptions, but we will forward them to the IRS District Headquarters Office," McLeod explained.

He also said that the name of anyone filing a complaint or violation will be kept confidential.

Any questions that cannot be answered by ASCS or interpreted by the IRS District office will be forwarded for higher level action. The person making the inquiry will be informed if this

action is taken. Details on procedures for appealing decisions also are available upon request.

The county ASCS office located in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, Heppner, is open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone number is 676-9250.

**SNAPPY SNIPPERS**

The Snappy Snippers of Ione met for their November meeting at the home of our leader, Rikka Teus. Our Junior Leader, Cheryl Carlson outlined our plans for the coming year.

Catherine McElligott gave a demonstration on making lap robes. Our club has decided on this project for our Christmas treat of bringing joy to others. Carol McElligott served refreshments.

Jan Peterson, reporter

**CHEFS MEET**

The Devil Chefs met on Nov. 17.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Chef, Cindy Kerr. The devilment of the previous meeting was read and approved.

Mrs. Rita Wolff, leader, took the Devil Chefs shopping for today's meal.

The main dish is Italian Spaghetti with meat sauce. Jackie Mollahan, reporter

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