

# Back To School, Everyone!

## Manpower Project Reviewed by Johnston

The Cooperative Rural Manpower Project which includes Area Extension Agent, George Johnston, and recently, Employment Counselor, Nate Marston, began during the last twelve months in Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties. It is a combined effort of the Oregon State University Extension Service and the Oregon Employment Division. This is a progress report to the citizens it serves.

Objectives of the project are to create an awareness of the manpower situation, to identify employment needs and opportunities, and to make available manpower services to employees and employers.

From November to June approximately 350 adults have signed up at the four County Extension Offices, and nearly 200 local job openings have been filled throughout the area. A great deal of this work

with the potential employees and employers has been done by the local Extension Office secretary. Other services offered to the potential employee is counseling, job development, occupational and aptitude testing, and contacts made to employment offices in Pendleton, Hermiston, The Dalles, and Prineville.

Some individuals have been referred to some of the manpower programs such as On-The-Job Training, Manpower Training, Public Employment and others. To reduce overlapping, other individuals are referred to other agencies such as the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

EXTENSION WORK has been done in the area of youth employment services. Besides the Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler Extension offices, four volunteers in Spray, Ar-

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Section Two — Thurs., Aug. 17, 1972

ington, Boardman, and Irrigon are serving as Youth Employment Services for their towns. Addition a 11y, classes have been given to High School seniors in Sherman, Wheeler, and Morrow counties on how to find and get a job. The Extension Agent also helped with the manpower portion of a TRACTOR TRAINING CLASS in Sherman County. More projects designed to help youth employment are planned.

This project has been responsible for starting special VOCATIONAL COURSES sponsored by Blue Mountain College. Last winter, a training course on the operation of center-pivot electrical irrigation systems had twenty participants in Boardman. A class on Nurses Aide training shall soon be held in Condon for the benefit of the residents

of the Fossil and Condon area. This project has worked closely with the Gilliam County staff and the people of the region to meet their expressed needs. Other programs are planned to complement the Nurses Aide training.

The Extension agent spent much time working with the people of Morrow County on their Overall Economic Development Program submitted and approved by Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce. Another project helped by Stan Miles of the Extension Service using the O.S.U. computer center, was the survey of southern Morrow County residents to find out how businesses can be improved. Richard Sar gent, chairman of the Merchant's Committee of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, says that this survey has been a valuable tool "to help us know what the community wants and to improve our services and facilities here."

The main result of the work of the Extension Agent and Employment Counselor, with the help of the county extension staff, is to make employment services locally oriented. Also programs of many agencies, heretofore thought inapplicable to rural areas have been introduced and are succeeding because of the genuine interest of the local citizens.

Employment news articles have been, and will be, appearing in each county's newspaper and an estimated 20 percent of all of the residents of the area have been met by the Extension Agent and Employment Counselor. It is hoped that all citizens will know of, and comment on this program. Your local Extension staff will be glad to answer any questions.

### BAND IS GROWING PRACTICES SET

The band is growing quite fast in the last remaining weeks. Forty-four volunteers (including those who were persuaded) are now in the ranks of The Heppner Centennial Band.

There are four practices scheduled— one was held August 15, others will be held Aug. 17, 21 and 25. The drummers should come at 8:00 p.m. and the full band at 8:30. Practices are at the Heppner High School—come to the front, band-room door.

The first time the band will be together in full will be on parade day, Sat. Aug. 26. All band members must meet at or around the Northwestern Motel by 9:40 at the latest that morning as the parade is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

Anyone interested in joining can still get on the band wagon by contacting Bob DeSpain Jr. at 676-5055 in the evenings.

### Irrigonite Advanced by U. S. Navy

Word has been received by Mrs. C.A. Miller of Irrigon, that her son Robert A. Holden has been advanced to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy.

Holden graduated with the class of 1955 in Irrigon and enlisted in the Navy in June of that year. He has served aboard several Aircraft Carriers including, USS Randolph in the Mediterranean, the USS Ticonderoga, USS Constellation. He was also a charter crew member on the nuclear

powered U.S.S. Enterprise. He has served several tours in Vietnam and is now stationed in Guam.

MRS. FRED MANKIN is able to have visitors in her hospital room this week according to her daughter Mrs. Al Bunch

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