



Heppner's Main Street

(Courtesy Zetta Brosnan)

## MORE 1920'S

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basin. The 1927 crop was very good. Herbert Hoover was elected in 1928. Banks were closing. Chain stores came into Heppner-Red & White, MacMarr, and J.C.

Penney. Personal debts rose, business slowed, and the depression dominated the entire U.S.

## TROUBLES OF THE THIRTIES

Money was short, people were badly frightened, banks failed, bankers jumped out of

windows. Men were out of work everywhere. The C.W.A. and the W.P.A. and P.W.A. came into being as "Make Work" relief measures. Many farmers were in debt - salaries were reduced - people went back to a barter system for food. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected and was inaugurated the same January that Heppner put out its sheepskin scrip.

## THE SHEEPSKIN SCRIP

The Lions Club backed \$5000 in scrip in amounts from 25 cents to \$10. Mayor Gay M. Anderson appointed Dean Goodman chairman and Charles Thomson, Earl Eskelson, J.J. Nys, Lucy Rodgers, Josephine Mahoney and Spencer Crawford to the scrip project. The scrip was being backed by county and school district warrants. Teachers could draw ten dollar warrants - never full salaries - and get scrip. The scrip could be spent for groceries or other merchandise. Warrants were negotiable. The novelty of the sheepskin scrip appealed to many who never turned it in for redemption, preferring to keep it for souvenirs.

## F.D.R. STIMULATES

BY Justine Weatherford

The new administration reached out into every community with many programs. Banks reopened. The National Recovery Act set prices for goods and labor. Prohibition was repealed. The Civilian Conservation Corps brought 200 eastern boys to Morrow County. Soil conservation practices found more general acceptance. Heppner built its swimming pool. Going to high school became more popular. The county population dropped down to 4337 by 1939. Land prices were down. A small lumber and box business started in Heppner, prospered, and was sold to Kinzua Lumber Co. THEN CAME THE FORTIES

In 1940 most of the world was becoming involved in World War II. The U.S. did not become officially involved until the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Giles French states, "The history of Morrow County

during most of the 1940's is a history of the nation at war, so completely were Morrow Countians involved. Naturally people died and were buried, children were born - although in reduced numbers - and life went on, but it was a strange life.

"When it was over all trace of the ebulliance of early Morrow County was gone. Men looked to the government for guidance and help in all endeavors. It was war that subdued the pioneer spirit. It was not depression; depression tested it and strengthened it."

However, in spite of the war's domination, some splendid progress took place in Heppner. The Morrow County Grain Growers acquired complete control of the grain storage business and advanced in other lines too. MCGG headquarters grew at Lexington. The Columbia Basin Electric Power Company was incorporated. Morrow County leaders were powerful in woolgrowers and wheat producers organizations. The Heppner Rodeo and the Morrow County Fair were consolidated. Steps were taken to build a fine hospital on hillside land donated by Garnett Barratt, the county judge.

## 1950 UNTIL TODAY

As in earlier periods, Morrow County continues to have

ups and downs. The completion and dedication of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital on June 11, 1950 was an up. The hospital was enlarged in 1955 and considerably improved in 1958.

In early times the south county was the lively section with the area closest to the John Day west-east trade route most significant. Now the action is in the north changing the landscape

## The north end of Morrow

County is seeing many changes with the development on the Boeing tract. Huge pumps are bringing water to arid but fertile lands, bringing big increases in alfalfa and potato production. Portland General Electric proposes a big nuclear power plant at the Carty reservoir site. The coolant water for the plant will go into the reservoir and from there to thousands of acres for irrigation. This will mean a number of new crops for the county and, no doubt, some processing plants and population growth.

In Heppner, the Kinzua Corporation has spent \$2,500,000 on the most modern new veneer plant in the west.

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