

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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15 cents

## Road relocation hearing is held

There was a public hearing on relocation of the highway along the right side of Willow Creek Monday morning at the Morrow County court house, necessitated by construction of the Willow Creek Dam.

What began as a means of exploring the alternatives for relocating the highway turned into a debate over whether there should be a dam built at all.

U.S. Corps of Engineer representatives of the Walla Walla District were present to offer their comments on several proposals, and to present their reasons why the highway should be relocated on the opposite side of the reservoir, the left side of Willow Creek.

Farrell A. Spencer, Chief of the Relocation Section, and the person charged with responsibility for relocation of roads, sewer, water lines and other installations, said running the road along the left side of Willow Creek would be more feasible, both from a standpoint of practicality and cost.

Spencer said the proposal, which is still subject to approval by the city and county governing bodies, would not disrupt area routes and would afford a grade of about 8 per cent down the hill to where the proposed route would connect with Court Street. All alternate routes suggested so far would result in a grade of 15 to 18 per cent, considered too steep to insure safe descent into town by heavy trucks.

The proposal to widen the

existing highway along the right bank of Willow Creek was ruled out because of the difficulty of getting through rock outcroppings along the right-of-way and the danger of damage to residences along Hager Street.

Still another proposal to bring the relocated highway across the dam and down Chase Street was deemed impractical because of the steep grade, 18 per cent, down that street. Too, locating a road on the dam itself would have a high cost factor because a diversion road would have to be built while the dam and the road across it were under construction.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney asked who would pay for rebuilding and repairing the Court Street bridge if the Corps' proposal were effected. Spencer replied that "we will consider the replacement as part of the project," but was unwilling to make a definite commitment at this time.

If the road relocation proposal submitted by the Corps is approved, two residences on Court Street at Cowan will have to be relocated, along with one or two mobile homes located in that area. This brought a mild protest from owners of the property, along with a flurry of suggestions for re-routing the road.

Spencer said, in answer to a question from the audience of about 30 persons, that the dam construction is definitely slated for 1974, with \$400,000 for road relocation already signed into law by the President.

B.C. Christensen, Chief of the Land Use Planning Section, Corps of Engineers, discussed recreational aspects of the reservoir to be created by the dam. He said that recreation is naturally limited. The state fish and game commission has already started planning for a fish hatchery at the site for raising trout. If this proves unfeasible, he said, the emphasis will be on bass for fishing. The recreation benefits will be hampered by the adverse terrain, short season, water quality and the small size of the reservoir. Access to the waterfront is necessary, but expensive. A picnic area is planned near the spillway crest and another, plus a small boat ramp, on the right side of Willow Creek reservoir. There will not be ideal water skiing conditions, and the reservoir may be limited

to non-motorized boats. In short, it will not be a "great recreational Mecca."

Howard Hogan, Chief, Dam & Reservoir Section of the Planning Branch, Corps of Engineers, said the dam is to impound 11,500 acre feet of water; 2,000 feet of which is for recreation and 9,500 feet for flood control. There is no plan for irrigation at the present time.

Terry Thompson, a consistent opponent of the dam, said he was convinced that the people did not know what they were getting with the dam, and knew little or nothing about what it is to be and what it is to do. He suggested that the people be allowed to vote on the question of Willow Creek dam, although he admitted the result would probably support the project, and that he "expected the dam will be built anyway."

Spencer, attempting to keep the hearing on the subject of road relocation, answered: "We only do what we are asked to do," and explained that the decision to build the dam lies with local officials and Congress.

Hogan explained to a questioner that the reason Willow Creek was chosen for the dam instead of Hinton or Shobe is that their records, kept over a period of years, indicate that Willow Creek drains about 100,000 acres while Shobe, for example, drained about 6,000 acres. He gave no figures on Shobe drainage except to say it was a huge amount of water.

In spite of late objections, it appears the dam will be built as authorized. Both the city and county planning commissions are expected to furnish the Corps of Engineers with letters of approval for the road relocation within the next few days. If so, ground could be broken for the dam in February or March.

County Judge Paul Jones, chairman of the hearing, said at the outset of the hearing that the county had no "concrete" road plan to offer.

Also present from the Corps of Engineers were Arlis H. Martin, civil engineer, and his assistant, Ernest V. Rogers.



Morrow County people who love a parade got an eyeful Friday and Saturday at the Pendleton Round-Up. This Princess of the Happy Canyon show, waving to the crowd, is one reason why!

## A plan for more water at Irrigon

In a continuing effort toward improving Irrigon's water service, the city council has voted to apply for a permit to drill a second well.

Tentative plans call for a cooperative effort between the city and the housing project developer. The well and a 200,000 gallon reservoir would be developed by the housing promoters with cost to both parties based on a percentage of those using services in each area.

Cecil Cooley, representing Majestic Acres, the corporation planning development of the area, was present at the meeting. Mayor Chester Wilson stressed the importance of having plans for the well and tank approved by the State Health Division before any work is started.

In further business, a water tank was purchased for the purpose of watering trees and other plants. The purchase of an adding machine was also authorized.

Councilwoman Dorothy Irish was appointed to a committee involved in long range planning for the educational needs of the community. The committee will be made up of representatives from civic groups in both Irrigon and Boardman since the schools are consolidated, with the grade school to the 6th grade in Irrigon and junior high school students going to Riverside High in Boardman.

Street lights scheduled to be installed at this time were deferred to a later date by general assent of the council in keeping with Governor McCall's plea for energy

curtailment. Only half of the lights were turned on in the council room to demonstrate the need to conserve energy.

The council meeting was further enlivened by a group of young people interested in council proceedings. A welcome was extended to the group by Mayor Wilson and council members. It was found that they were specifically concerned with having the speed limit reduced from 50 m.p.h. on the highway through town. They were urged to submit a written plea.

## A tour to the north

The Port of Morrow has invited the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and members of the community to tour the north Morrow County area, Saturday, Sept. 29.

Slated on the tour are visits to the Eastern Oregon Pelletizing Plant, Desert Magic Potato Plant, and various farming operations in the Boardman-Irrigon area.

A noon luncheon at Dodge City Restaurant in Boardman will feature guest speakers from the two plants.

Interests persons should plan to depart Heppner at 9 a.m. in front of the Extension Office.

## By 5 to 1-- take the meters out!

Residents of Heppner and Morrow County want Heppner's parking meters removed, by 5 to 1.

In the newspaper poll conducted through the Gazette-Times over the past two weeks, 79 persons returned ballots marked for or against retention of the meters. Sixty-seven persons voted against parking meters; 12 voted to retain them.

In several instances, more than one person signed one ballot; or, one person signed for his entire family. Ballots marked in this fashion were counted as one vote only.

In Heppner, the percentage of ballots returned was approximately 20 per cent of the population; in Morrow County, approximately 6.5 per cent

of the population. This is a sufficient sampling to accurately estimate the public's attitude toward most issues.

The ballots will be turned over to the city council for its information.

In the next few weeks the Gazette-Times will outline a plan for orderly and ample parking space on the streets without the expense and bother of parking meters. There is sufficient experience to draw upon, because towns and cities all over the country are getting rid of meters as fast as they can do so. The Gazette-Times has inquired into the experiences of a number of these cities, all of which express relief at getting rid of the meters.

## Energy conservation practices in effect

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative is attempting conservation practices within its operation.

Flood lighting on the front of the building has been eliminated. The perimeter lighting has been eliminated. Lighting at the pole yard and at the rear of the building has been cut off. Only one light on each side of the building has been left on at nights to allow security.

A cage has been built around the thermostat in the

### DICK SARGENT GETS 4-H APPOINTMENT

The appointment of 21 Oregon 4-H leaders and members to program development committees has been announced.

Dick Sargent, Heppner, was named to the 4-H Livestock development committee. Sargent was active in 4-H in Wheeler County prior to moving to Heppner. He and his wife are leaders of a large livestock club in the Heppner area and also are active in the 4-H Leaders Council.

warehouse area of the building to keep the temperature there quite low instead of around 70 degrees in the winter. The air conditioners were turned up from 70 degrees to 75 degrees and 76 degrees, and this was done some two months ago.

Lighting has been eliminated in the lobby area and much of it in the hallway of the office has been eliminated. Columbia Basin is attempting to cut lighting usage by 30 per cent in its own operation.

Columbia Basin is hoping that other businesses will curtail water heating use where possible, also curtail display lighting, turn unused lights off, and eliminate any unneeded lighting.

The Bonneville Power Administration reports that the situation has worsened rather than improved so far as stream flow and storage is concerned. The Northwest is more than 90 percent dependent upon hydro power for electric generation.

Morrow County is the second largest wheat producing county in Oregon.

## James Boyce injured in traffic mishap

James Boyce, 15, 435 South Chase St., Heppner, is in the intensive care unit at St. Anthony's Hospital, Pendleton, following a freak accident Thursday night, Sept. 13.

Boyce was traveling South on Gilmore toward Willow Creek Rd. on his street model motorcycle. At the same time, Orville W. Cutsforth, 71, Rt. 2, Heppner, was traveling west

on Willow Creek Rd. toward Gilmore in his pickup.

Cutsforth saw Boyce coming out of the intersection and swerved to avoid hitting the youth. He skidded, leaving 60 feet of skid marks on the pavement, coming to rest cross-wise in Willow Creek Rd.

As Boyce approached the intersection, he also applied his brakes, leaving 10 feet of skid marks on the pavement. His motorcycle came to rest facing the opposite direction in which he was traveling.

According to reports, Boyce was thrown from his cycle and hit the spare tire on the Cutsforth pickup.

He was taken by ambulance to St. Anthony's Hospital, where he is recovering from a broken collar bone, broken ribs and multiple bruises.

Boyce is a sophomore at Heppner High School.

## Fair gate pass may go to \$1

A "gate raise" and additional storage room on the Snack Shack at the fair grounds were the main topics of discussion at Monday night's Morrow County Fair Board meeting.

Members discussed raising the price of a season fair pass from 50 cents to \$1. According to Secretary Lenna Smith, many fair passes are already higher than \$1. No decision was reached.

An additional storage room on the Snack Shack was another subject of interest. The present facility can't handle the supplies and business needed during the fair. No decision was reached.

These topics along with comments and suggestions on this year's fair will be discussed at the next fair board meeting, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. in the Dorm Building at the fairgrounds.

The public is invited.

## Timber sale cancelled

The Abels and Smiley Timber Sales, scheduled to be offered Sept. 19, are being cancelled and will not be offered for sale at this time, according to H.B. Rudolph, Umatilla National Forest, Pendleton.

This action is being taken because of the large volume of Douglas fir tussock moth killed timber that will be placed on the market in the next several months.

The above two sales will again be offered for sale when control of the Douglas-fir tussock moth is obtained.

## Photography classes begin Monday night

Classes in beginning and advanced photography will be offered as an evening extension project at Heppner High School beginning Monday, Sept. 24.

Dennis Toney and Tom Shear will conduct the classes at both high school and elementary school, which should reduce crowded conditions that existed last year.

Classes will meet Monday nights with a work night set for Wednesday evenings. The Wednesday class is for interested students who want to gain additional experience.

Registration is Monday night, 7 to 9 o'clock, in Room 8 of the high school. There is a tuition fee of \$15, and students will furnish their own sup-

plies. Classes last 10 weeks.

The courses are designed to give practical and intellectual exposure to the language of photography. Emphasis, according to Shear, will be placed on developing a visual vocabulary and technical craftsmanship. Photography will be explored from creative expression to the family snapshot.

Advanced students have a knowledge of black and white photographic procedures. This section will work with black and white photography, color printing and color film development. Beginners will work with the basics of light film, camera, printing to darkroom procedure.

## 'Tax' of life are given the CC

At last Monday's meeting of the Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, Joyce Bergstrom, Morrow County assessor, was guest speaker.

Mrs. Bergstrom, speaking on tax reviews and legislative changes, enumerated various Senate and House Bills. Some of the changes: require mobile home manufacturers to issue certificates of origin with each mobile home to be sold in this state, and prohibits registration of an issuance of title by the Department of Motor Vehicles without presenting such a permit.

Benefiting ranchers, HB 3247 adds farm machinery used in planting, cultivation, or harvesting of farm crops to definition of inventory for the purpose of tax inventory phase out.

Morrow County tax rates are down this year, maybe not individual taxes, but the rates, due to a gain in assessed

valuation of \$8,597,233. This gain is due to new construction, irrigation development, mobile homes, recreation increases and developments, public utilities and the Kinzua veneer plant. The veneer plant at Kinzua showed an increase of \$3,878,380.

Another reason for the tax decrease this year is HB 3241. The county school district received \$65,728.34 from the state in accordance with this bill as an offset to their budget as provided in the state's plan for school support. Also received was \$74,135.74 for the Eastern Oregon Severance Tax, which was used as an offset to all county-wide districts.

As a comparison of taxes collected within the last 53 years, Mrs. Bergstrom stated that in 1920 the county collected \$544,680.69 in taxes, as compared to \$2,142,252.85 for the present year.

## Riverside dedicates its athletic field

Friday, faculty, friends, and students of Boardman's Riverside High School dedicated its athletic field to Don Hendrix, former football coach and teacher.

Mr. Hendrix was killed during a hunting trip in January of this year.

The dedication took place during half-time of the Riverside-Prairie City football game. Rev. Neil King of the Boardman Community Church opened the ceremonies with a prayer. Riverside Vice-President Don Russell conducted a flag salute and pledge of allegiance.

Russell was followed by Don Daltoso, Riverside principal,

who gave the dedication address. Daltoso spoke on Hendrix's life as a coach and teacher.

Riverside's student body then presented a memorial plaque to the Hendrix family, and erected on the athletic field a score board in his memory. Daryl Frederickson, president of the student body, made the presentation.

Tribute to Hendrix was made by Lions Club President Bill Nelson, who spoke of the late coach and his contributions to youth and to the community.

Rev. King closed the dedication ceremonies with a benediction.

## County eyes need for building inspector

"Building permits are needed for zoning rather than the construction," was the opinion of the Morrow County Planning Commission at Monday night's meeting.

The question arose after members told of construction within the county, where they were sure building permits had not been acquired. With the present situation, although not critical, the question came up as to the imposition of fines and the method of collecting them.

At present, building permits are required within the county and must be on file with the County Planning Commission. "To fine someone and set penalties at this time would not be in keeping with the county standards," said Judge Paul Jones, "at least not until the Oregon

revised standards are in full effect in the county."

When the ORS is used within the county, the need for a building inspector will also be required. At present there are no set building codes within the county because of the lack of building activity. It was pointed out that when the county needed a building inspector, perhaps they could share his services with another county. However, the need for a full time building inspector within the county is not seen as an immediate opening.

Although the relocation road proposed by the Corps of Engineers to serve Willow Creek Dam was discussed, no action was taken.

The next regular meeting of the commission will be Monday evening, Nov. 5.



The Don Hendrix Memorial Scoreboard overlooks Riverside's athletic field, which was dedicated to the late Coach Hendrix last week.