

Fuel crisis cutting schools' operations

Shortages in gasoline and fuel oil are creating increasingly serious problems for school districts. Supt. Ron Daniels told the Morrow County School Board Monday night.

Currently Morrow County Schools have been notified that in December they will receive only 90 per cent of the amount of gasoline purchased in December of 1972. The allocation for future months is

uncertain, but indication is that there will be additional reductions in the school district allocation. This 10 per cent reduction in gasoline presents a serious problem in school bus operation. Morrow County transports over 65 per cent of its students with bus routes each day totaling 1,691 miles. The daily consumption of gasoline is approximately 330 gallons. If the 10 per cent reduction is enforced it would mean that closing schools approximately two days each month.

"To reduce fuel use by 10 per cent we would need to reduce travel by 3,400 miles each month. If the school district chose to eliminate all athletic programs, field trips, and other extra-curricular activities we still could not realize the 10 per cent reduction some months," Daniels reported.

The heating oil situation is better in terms of allocation. Sufficient heating oil is in tanks to last until late February or early March. Suppliers say they have sufficient oil to make deliveries through the balance of the school year.

Availability of gasoline and heating fuel is only part of the problem. Equally as serious in terms of school budgets is

the rising cost of these two products. In 1972-73 the district used approximately 65,000 gallons of gasoline and paid approximately .225 per gallon for a total cost of \$14,625. The latest billing received on gasoline was .285 per gallon, or an increase of 6 cents per gallon. This increase would cost the district an additional \$3,900. The price of gasoline continues to rise and will undoubtedly be much higher before the end of the school year.

Last year the bid for heating oil was \$5.89 per barrel. The bid this year was \$5.84 per barrel with the stipulation that any price increase to the jobber would be passed on to the school district. "On Dec. 6, I received a letter informing me that the price of heating fuel had increased to \$10.25 per barrel. This is an increase of \$4.41 per barrel. The school district uses approximately 2,500 barrels, so the net cost increase would be \$11,025," Daniel said.

"It is too early in the year to determine whether or not we will be able to reduce expenditures in other areas sufficient to cover the cost increase in these two categories."

Certainly continued rising costs for these two products will have a substantial affect on next year's budget.

In addition, there are also indications that PS 300 fuel oil may not be manufactured after September 1974.

"If this proves to be true, we will be faced with converting our furnaces to utilization of an alternate fuel," the superintendent warned.

The board is considering two questions. Can it obtain sufficient fuel oil and gasoline to continue normal school operations; and, if not, do we reduce extra-curricular activities or do we have less days of school? The second question is, if we are able to purchase gasoline and fuel oil to meet our needs, will we have sufficient funds to operate within the total budget amount?

Daniels suggested there are too many uncertainties at this time for either question to be answered with any degree of certainty.

Items to be considered for possible reductions are as follows:

1. Field trips. Eliminate all or selective reductions (total 8,500 miles).
2. Reduce administrator and staff travel. Already in effect?
3. Ski bus gas. They will fill at local stations (230 gallons).
4. Driver education programs (1,164 gallons).
5. Combine bus stops where possible?
6. Irrigon kindergarten bus. 3,400 miles, paid from 4-C Kindergarten money.
7. Athletics. Non-league games, 4,246; freshman schedule, 1,162; spectator bus, all sports, 3,057; girls sports, 3,862; JV and varsity league schedules, 6,608; activity bus to Lexington and Irrigon (6,600 miles, 1,320 gallons); junior high sports, 2,466 miles.

Joe Hay, former Morrow County extension agent, has adopted a 5-month-old baby girl. The Hays now live in Salem where Joe works for the State Highway Department.

Church crowded for pageant

All Saints Church was filled for the Christmas program held there Sunday evening as a cooperative venture with its neighboring United Methodist Church.

A large group of children in a combined choir and an inspirational program was presented.

The congregation sang "O Come All Ye Faithful" during the processional. Rev. Blackaller gave a brief welcome. Rev. Cutting said the opening prayer.

The pageant directed, by Mrs. John Maatta, was built

around the lights on a large tree at the front of the sanctuary. Verses were read by the pastors and by children telling about the lighting of the tree and how, perhaps, in this excitement many could forget the true meaning of Christmas.

The adult choir, accompanied by Mrs. Allen Hughes, presented "Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel" and "Angels We Have Heard on High." The junior choir sang "Silent Night" and the nursery sang "Away in a Manger." As the pageant drew toward

its close most of the lights on the large tree were extinguished, leaving only a lighted cross. The entire assembly sang "In The Cross" and "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" as the program ended. After a joint benediction by the two pastors the recessional hymn, "Joy To The World," made the rafters ring.

Mrs. Bob Lowe and Mrs. Ida Farra were in charge of a coffee, punch and cookie hour that followed in Fellowship Hall.



Merry Christmas

To neighbors, patrons . . . friends all. We're on route to bring happy holiday messages your way. And to express our sincere appreciation for your kindness and loyal support.

RIETMANN'S HARDWARE
Ione



Merry Christmas

--A Marty Rogers creation

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ALL THE GANG AT

BANK OF Eastern Oregon

Arlington - Ione - Heppner

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION



Merry Christmas

DRAWING BY LORENE FREDERICK

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT


Rene's Beauty Shop



MERRY CHRISTMAS

BY JACKIE GENTRY


L. E. Dick



ZOWIE

--Sketch by Cliff Harris

Pettyjohn's Farm & Building Supply

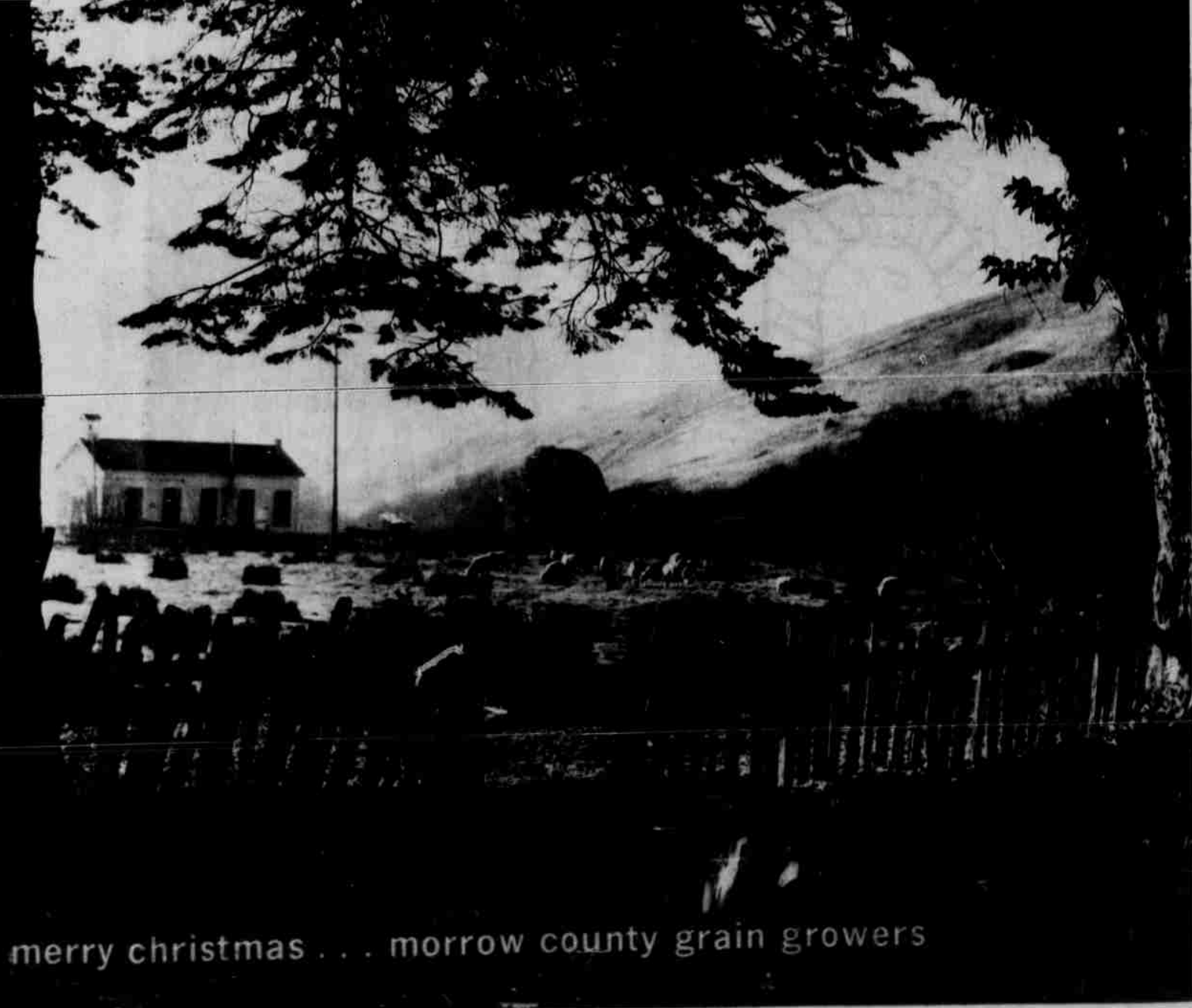


Christmas Dreams

--By Carlita Marquardt

From our house to your house, warmest wishes for the happiest holiday ever.

Heppner TV



merry christmas . . . morrow county grain growers