



Temperatures rose 20 degrees in a matter of minutes Saturday, causing snow to melt and swell Willow Creek. It was not warm enough to melt the ice formed over the waterway. The running water eventually undermined the ice, causing it to topple into the creek. Crews were busy removing the ice in an attempt to prevent possible damage which might have been caused by chunks of ice crushing into bridges and creekside property.

Roads, highways blocked

Sudden thaw brings water, mud runoff

A chinook wind hit an icy Heppner Saturday sending temperatures soaring, ice rushing down Willow Creek and bringing anxiety to residents of the area.

It all began Saturday morning when residents on Balm Fork, upper Willow Creek, and Shobe Canyon reported the temperature went from 10 degrees to 40 degrees in an hour. A south wind accompanied the warm air and melted a week's accumulation of snow and ice along the stream.

The chinook arrived in Heppner around 5:30 p.m. Saturday, according to Don Gilliam, Heppner weather forecaster. The temperature rose to 40 degrees, but dropped down to 12 in a few hours. At 8:30 p.m. the temperature rose to 40 again, and stayed.

Although high temperatures warmed up the frozen community, freezing rain and black ice fell Saturday night. Randall Peterson reported freezing rain caused low visibility returning home following the Heppner-Sherman County game.

Sunday was a day of turmoil for residents of Lexington and Ione. Willow Creek overflowed between Heppner and Lex-

ington and fed ice into the creek from Fuller and Clark's Canyon.

Tons of ice jammed the dams and bridges at the Way, Harrison, Palmer and Jones ranches from Lexington to lower Willow Creek. Residents were seen blasting the ice with shotguns to relieve the jams.

Ranchers found their fields flooded with water and ice and were forced to move livestock to higher ground.

Mud and water flowed over the highways in spots near the Ken and Mike Palmer residences.

Mike Palmer reported about a foot of water stood around his home. The Roy Martin ranch received high water in the canyon next to it. The road to Erda Pieper's was closed temporarily due to high water. Larry Lindsay and Bill Doherty ranches also reported canyons with high running water.

Motorists on the Lexington-Butter Creek highway reported that mud covered much of the road. Driving conditions were hazardous.

Damage was done to alfalfa fields and grazing lands along the creek. Canals and ditches for irrigating were either filled or washed out.

Elva Ruhl's ranch home had

water standing in the basement.

By Monday morning, county and state road crews and railroad crews were grading and clearing the mud and debris on the road.

At Ione, water rushed down the Rietmann Grade and sent mud and water down Main Street. The water followed the railroad tracks, by Beecher's Cafe and Hubbard Warehouse, and flowed between the Independent Garage and Pettyjohn Oil Company.

Straw bales were used to divert the water from going down Gooseberry road. The west entrance into Ione was blocked off until the flow had subsided Monday morning.

Work crews had the road cleared by 10 a.m. Monday morning.

The water continued to flow and went over the banks of Willow Creek below Ione. The Cecil and Morgan areas reported flooding.

According to Sheriff John Mollahan, the runoff damage from the chinook wind will not be known until further reports are received.

Most residents in south Morrow County rested calmly Monday afternoon, but strong winds forced residents to be on the lookout for possible flood and wind damage.

Winds came up late Sunday night, Monday and continued Tuesday, causing problems in many areas.

The Garretts, who live on Balm Fork, reported winds blew over their camper early Tuesday morning.

Adrian Becholdt, Hardman weather forecaster, said strong winds blew parts of his roof off Monday night.

At 10:45 a.m. Tuesday morning, Herbert Hist of the emergency service division, Salem, Ore., reported that moderate rains were to be experienced in Eastern Oregon, accompanied by high winds.

NEW PICKUP STOLEN FROM IONE OWNERS

A 1974 GMC Sierra pickup was stolen Saturday, Jan. 12, from Mr. and Mrs. James Sullivan, Ione, the sheriff's office has reported.

The vehicle is red and white in color and bears the license number JXJ-151. Also stolen were 20 tapes and an 8-track tape player, plus some tools.

The Sullivans believe the vehicle was stolen early Saturday morning.

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To be 're-authorized'

Willow Creek Dam back to Congress

Willow Creek Dam received a setback Wednesday when the Corps of Engineers informed the City of Heppner that the entire project will have to be "re-authorized" by Congress.

The \$12 million dam, for which approximately \$800,000 has already been appropriated, will apparently have to run the gauntlet of Congressional approval because, as the Corps explained to Mayor Jerry Sweeney at a meeting in Walla Walla Wednesday, the purpose of the dam was changed from a multi-purpose (irrigation, flood control and recreation) to a single-purpose (flood control) project.

Sweeney pointed out the delay involved in getting a

re-authorization would play havoc with the city's timetable for coordinating the upgrading and relocation of the city water system for which residents voted \$450,000 in bonds on Dec. 3.

The city had been led to believe that the dam had been approved, and was timing its water system revision to coincide with relocation of a reservoir and water mains as required by the Corps of Engineers in building the dam.

"We are in a bind right now," Sweeney told the Gazette-Times yesterday. "Our plans call for advertising the sale of bonds in March, the calling of bids about April 1 and the opening of bids by

April 15."

What is now apparent is that the city, lacking a commitment from the Corps of Engineers, cannot proceed either to advertise or sell the bonds that have already been voted.

Cong. Al Ullman and Sen. Mark Hatfield have both promised to seek Congressional re-authorization of the Willow Creek Dam. Phase 4, when Congress adjourns Jan. 21.

Sweeney was not able to ascertain, he said, why a re-authorization is required, who made that decision, and why the city was not notified that such action would result by changing the dam from multi-purpose use to single-

purpose use.

Sen. Hatfield will be in Pendleton Friday, and may have some news on how the new procedure will be handled. His office expressed surprise that a re-authorization order had been entered.

Steve Anderson, city engineer, has held five conferences with the Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla in recent weeks, he said, and Wednesday was the first time the subject of re-authorization had been mentioned.

Anderson cannot proceed with the design of the water system until a firm commitment has been made by the Corps of Engineers, setting out how much money will be available for road and reservoir relocation. This will set Anderson back several weeks, even though Congressional approval is quickly gained, which is doubtful.

The longer the delay, Sweeney said, the greater the cost of materials will be. Steel is necessary for the new reservoir and transmission lines. It takes time to get steel these days, and the cost is escalating. The city will be obligated to pay the cost of steel at the time of delivery. The escalating costs caused by the re-authorization could conceivably exceed the amount of bond money voted by Heppner.

Meanwhile, the status of the \$12 million, 150-foot dam remains in doubt.

It was Sen. Hatfield who in September notified the Gazette-Times that the dam was assured, that it had been kept in the budget, and that the only thing that could stop construction would be an impoundment of appropriated funds by President Nixon.

President Nixon did not impound the funds. And, unless the matter of re-authorization is resolved favorably and quickly, there may be no dam at all.

Mayor Sweeney is continuing to stay in touch with Senators Hatfield and Packwood and Cong. Ullman.

Heppner has all the gas it needs

There is little shortage of gasoline in Heppner, and service stations are not observing the voluntary gasoline rationing program which went into effect Monday at the instigation of Gov. Tom McCall.

No local service station is observing the display of flags, red for closed, yellow for gas pumped for priority vehicles only, and green for gas available for general public use.

According to the program,

license plates ending in even numbers would be eligible for gas on even days of the week; uneven numbers on uneven days. On Saturdays, all vehicles would be able to purchase gas subject to supply on hand, and out of state license plates would be entitled to gas every day except Sunday when stations are urged to close.

Wes Marlatt of the Chevron station is the only dealer who is rationing gasoline, and this on a basis of 10 gallons per

customer. This is because he is allotted gas on the basis of a 1972 consumption.

The other stations are not limiting quantities and appear to have plenty of gas for local consumption.

Cal Sherman, Arco dealer, and Leonard Toll, Mobil, say they are "not about to check license plates or check each car's gasoline tank" to see if it is less than half full and thus eligible for filling. Both stations are pumping gas as they

always have. Local dealers feel Heppner is fortunate to be away from the tourist route. "Travel here is a necessity, not a pleasure," one reported. "When a car or truck comes into our station we know he needs gas, and we've got it."

Mike Gray, Union Oil, told the Gazette-Times that there is no need for rationing gasoline in Heppner.

No dealer recalls any inconvenience suffered by customers in securing gas when they need it.

School board meets Jan. 21

The Morrow County School District board meeting will be held Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., at the district office in Lexington.

The agenda will include: final economic agreement with certificated staff, discussion of morning starting time for schools, changes in athletic practice times, disposition of sick leave under SB 622, adoption of plan for new graduation requirements and the kindergarten.

New business to be con-

sidered include: bids on two 66-passenger school buses, participation in OIAS program, hiring of custodian for Heppner High School, and contract renewals for district

principals John Edmundson and Don Cole.

The budget message will be ready Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m., at the district office; a budget meeting is set for Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.,

Riverside High School and another on Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., at Heppner High School.

The next regular meeting of the board is Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., at Riverside High School.

Solid waste problem near solution point

County Planning Director George "Del" Smith brought the members of the Morrow County Solid Waste Advisory Committee together at the court house last Thursday to consider the draft of a third and hopefully final report by consultant John McDonald of Clark & Groff.

The State Department of Environmental Quality had suggested a deadline date of Jan. 1, but an extension to Jan. 31 had been requested.

The principal matter discussed was the method to be used by Morrow County to implement the final plan. The formation and operation of a county service district as a means for the county government to provide special services to portions of the county and charge the cost to the area served was outlined. This method would be governed by the county commission. Its financing powers and limita-

A long-range forecast is included at the conclusion of this report:

"In 10 years the technology for recycling wastes will be greatly advanced over the present situation and a smaller proportion of wastes will require ultimate disposal. By that time it may even be profitable to mine old landfills for their metal content. Nevertheless, landfills will still be necessary. The Turner site by then will be operating as a full sanitary landfill with daily coverage. The BLM site between Boardman and Irigon will probably be needed, and it could become a regional landfill site. The real change that could come about in solid waste disposal would be if a coal-fired power plant is in operation locally. In this case the solid wastes would be shredded, sorted, and burned along with the coal."

tions were explained.

McDonald's typed third draft is 31 pages long. It reviews the goals and objectives of the project, gives a summary of recommendations, and presents a complete picture of the situation in Morrow County. As those present studied the report various suggestions were offered for its revision.

A tentative implementation schedule was presented that sets public information meetings through February, organization of a County Service District by the end of April, development work completion and the opening of the Turner site by the end of May, the taking over of the site operation by a private franchised operator by Oct. 1, 1974. The existing Heppner and Lexington sites would then be officially closed and their coverage and rehabilitation would be completed by May 1, 1975.

10-ton limit on roads

All paved roads in Morrow County have been posted to a 10-ton load limit, which includes the weight of the truck, to prevent any further damage to the roads.

This order was issued by Morrow County Judge Paul Jones on recommendation of the Morrow County road superintendent in an effort to prevent any further damage to roads due to their frozen condition.

Some roads are posted with a lesser load limit. However, the 10-ton limit should be observed, Jones said.

\$247,000 increase in school budget seen

Ron Daniels, Morrow County School superintendent, predicted a \$247,000 budget increase for 1974-75 at the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Board meeting, Monday night at Heppner High School.

The budget increase includes a 8 to 9 per cent increase in teacher and classified employee salaries; increase in operating costs, supplies, fuel and heating oil; and cost for maintenance, remodeling, replacing equipment, instructional and non-instructional, and new equipment.

He told members of the advisory board the increase does not necessarily mean an increase in property tax. With the value of land higher in Morrow County, taxes are predicted to be about the same as they were in 1972.

The advisory members also heard reports on various items on the predicted budget by Don Cole, Heppner Elementary principal, and Jim Bier, Heppner High School principal.

The principals presented the budget requests after making cuts at their school level.

The board recommended to the school board budget committee that Heppner High School's request for a piano valued at \$1,300 and the home economics request for china place setting and expensive flatware be denied.

Recommendations to be included in the budget: a calculator for the commercial and business classes in the High School and carpeting for the elementary school library.

These recommendations will be presented at the school board budget meeting, Jan. 22, at the district office in Lexington.

The advisory board also reviewed teacher contracts for the coming year. They will make recommendations at the Feb. 11 meeting of the advisory board. These decisions will be brought to the school board meeting Feb. 18.

In other business, the board made no recommendations to the school board on the

kindergarten program. The kindergarten program budget will go to the budget committee, Jan. 22.

The last item of business included the discussion of the energy situation. Members agreed that administration should take a look to see if schools could operate a half an hour later during the dark hour of Daylight Savings Time. This information could be used for next year.



Road to Ione