



Cold spring winds now whistle through the loose shingles of this once stately pioneer church in Eastern Oregon, a greying reminder of days gone by.

Sumner reports on special session

A report on legislation at the recent Oregon State Legislature's special session was given by State Representative Jack Sumner to the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday.

Sumner gave a brief summary of the major action taken at the winter session and told how it would affect Morrow County.

The session had been called by Governor Tom McCall to deal with emergency legislation and fiscal measures. The session did not accomplish all that was planned, but most of the primary concerns were handled, he said. "Several things were done and several things were not done."

One of the things that was done was a consideration of new school financing and proposed taxation. One of the taxation proposals dealt with a set maximum amount that a school tax base could increase. Under the plan the local school districts would be only able to raise its tax base 5 1/2 per cent of its previous year's amount. The maximum increase would not include offsets, such as new construction or expansion.

The rules for calling a special session were considered by the state body and a proposal to grant the legislature the power to call itself into special session. The law

now stands that only the governor can call a special session. Sumner said he felt that if an emergency session was needed the governor would probably call one without the legislature having to do it without his authority.

The length of legislative sessions was discussed at the recent session, said Sumner, and ways to shorten them were discussed. Sumner pointed out that at this time there is no set maximum length for the sessions, and they can continue as long as is needed, ending only when they wish to adjourn.

One proposal suggested that a rules committee screen all bills to be presented to the legislature. "Most of the legislative time is spent in presenting new bills before the house," said Sumner.

He suggested the committee could save much time by refining proposed bills. However, he pointed out that a committee could kill a bill before it got to the floor if members of the committee were personally against it, making the process somewhat biased.

Sumner pointed out that there were "probably many violations of the open meeting law during the session." He said some which should have been public hearings, weren't. The qualifications of re-

pairmen and electric appliance workers were to be subject to standards set by law which would go into effect July 1. Due to concern in this field, the deadline for meeting the requirements has been set back a year, to 1975. Sumner said the legislature sought to establish a "grandfather clause" which would make those currently engaged in the business exempt from the examinations, but this was rejected.

A bill which would allow pickups up to 8,000 lbs. gross weight to operate on a \$10 license fee was passed, raising the old 6,000 lb. limit.

Some consideration was given to the controversial public disclosure issue which has caused concern among real estate people. Sumner said the issue will probably be settled on the city, county, and local level after debate is down to these levels. He said the house was in general support of the measures for public disclosure while the Senate was against them.

The main issue to be settled during the special session was the energy problems currently faced by the state. Since the governor has only 30 days power for his emergency programs "it is imperative the legislature put the programs into effect after the governor's power ceases," He

said the license plate number form of rationing seems to be working in the Willamette Valley "as long as the dealers have the gas."

In reference to the gas shortage, Sumner said he was interested in the problem of state workers being late for work because they had to wait in line for gas. He feels that the efficiency of state agencies is reduced because of the problems in obtaining fuel.

"Can you think of all the lost production this is causing?" asked Sumner. He told of talk at the capital concerning the possible purchase of "gray market gas" from Canada by the State of Oregon. He said the state would in no way lose federal allocations by doing this since the cutbacks are conducted on a company, not government basis.

He went on to say the state could buy up to 3 million gallons a month which could either be sold to the companies for Oregon use or even to local wholesalers and dealers.

He said a minority report dealing with this passed the house near the end of the session but was bogged down in the senate, finding no final action. He said this issue never had a public hearing but it did stand two hours debate on the legislative floor.

Sumner chuckled over the fact that because some of his stands on the issues he was politically re-defined. "I was labeled a liberal, so now I'm a liberal conservative on the campus down there."

Man dies in fall

Sam E. Whittenburg, 57, Yakima, Wn., died at Pioneer Hospital late Monday afternoon from injuries sustained in a 12-foot fall from a working basket scaffold at Kinzua Corporation.

Whittenburg was a pipefitter working on the construction of the veneer plant, and employed by Kenneth Ditzler, mechanical contractor, of Washington.

The exact details surrounding the accident are still under investigation by both company and state safety officials. Survivors include his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Shirley Ferrara, San Francisco.

Water improvement bonds to be sold

Monday night the Heppner Common Council unanimously approved resolution 388 for the issuance of bonds for the construction of Heppner's water system.

The bids will be asked for and opened April 1, the regular meeting night of the council. Only after bids are opened will the council know the exact amount of bonds issued and the interest rate of the bonds.

In other business to come before the city, the council listened to a report by City Engineer Steve Anderson, who asked the council if it had any objection to his preparing another set of plans for an alternate water system, should the Corp of Engineers fail to reach a decision on the related water system to be constructed in conjunction with Willow Creek Dam.

"Should the Corps fail to approve the measure this summer, we will be in a position to proceed with a portion of the construction of the water system," Anderson said. Anderson informed the council of the alternate plan he will design for the city's approval.

One of the main changes would be in the construction of a 200,000-gallon reservoir at

the west end of Willow Street rather than the proposed million-gallon reservoir as first proposed. Another reservoir would then be constructed behind the cemetery to supply the city's needs.

If and when the Corps constructs the dam, the reservoir behind the cemetery would be constructed and the existing 8-inch transmission main would become obsolete, with the Corp installing a new 12-inch main.

The use of the Thorpe well would play a vital role in meeting the supply for the city.

At present only 28 new building permits are allowed in the city; however, with the new tie-ins and the construction this summer, Anderson feels that the State of Oregon would issue more permits for this fall, at the end of the peak fire season.

In other business, the council decided to proceed with abatement proceedings on the Hager property on Main Street after Gene Pierce told of plans to expand the Bank of Eastern Oregon, probably in May. "Part of the existing wall will have to be torn down when the bank expands," Pierce said, and the remainder of the wall will probably fall down. Pierce notified the

city that it should be ready to make a decision prior to construction. The matter was referred to the building committee for further investigation.

Listened to Elwayne and Joyce Bergstrom ask the city for both water and sewer facilities for an eight-tract subdivision located between Thorpe and Bisbee Streets. It is their intention to construct either modular or single family dwellings on the property. There would be no problem in supplying Heppner Heights with water or sewer, as the subdivision has been approved many years ago; however, they will have to install both the water and sewer and improve the streets prior to applying for any building permits.

Accepted building permits for the construction of a building by Howard Pettyjohn and accepted a building permit for a residence on Lot 2, Block 1, of the Lott - Rassmussen Addition and rejected another building permit for Lot 1, Block 2, of the same subdivision.

Dick Wilkinson notified the council that the Heppner Water Control District would pay for the installation of services for the flood warning systems to be installed by the

National Weather Service on lower Balm Fork and Shobe Canyon bridges.

Wilkinson told the council that he had contacted Dave Bauman in regards to the devices and they would probably be installed by the end of June.

The council also moved to adopt with reservation a permit from Pacific Northwest Bell for installation of underground cable on Hager Street.

Agreed to refund 10 cents per month to Ron Palmer for 60 months for an overcharge on his water service, and allow him an extra 1,000 gallons of water per month.

Accepted a letter of resignation from Bill Siewert as chairman of the Library Board. Siewert tendered his resignation because of ill health.

A bid of \$1,200 was received from Earl Struckmeier, Heppner, to install a guardrail on one block of Cannon Street. The guard rail will be installed where the street was narrowed after the Corps of Engineers widened the channel in 1971 after the flood.

A special meeting of the Heppner Common Council will be held Monday, March 18, at 8 p.m.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 91, No. 3

Heppner, Ore., Thursday, Mar. 7, 1974

15c

4-H forum March 9

\$1.9 million

A day of help, understanding and sharing ideas about 4-H Club work in Morrow County is what 4-H members, club leaders, parents and friends of 4-H will find when they attend the 4-H Mini Forum, March 9, 10 a.m., at the Morrow County Fairgrounds main building.

4-H members and leaders will find out how well they listen, learn what it takes to have good 4-H meeting, find out the roles of 4-H members, leaders and officers, receive help on record books and giving good demonstrations.

Participants will be brought up to date on activities and programs connected with the 4-H program in Morrow County. Lunch is provided free by the 4-H council. All 4-H members, leaders and friends of the 4-H are invited to attend.

Another survey party

Surveyors for the U.S. Corps of Engineers will be working in the Heppner area for the next four or five weeks, trying to locate property corners and establish control points.

A helicopter will be used for transportation and the location of the points, which will be used in establishing a coordinate system for the State of Oregon.

According to Ken Ehrsam, engineer with the Corps, "If any person in the immediate area has any questions concerning the Corps' work, or should see the helicopter over head and have any questions about what it is doing there, please call either city hall or the sheriff's office and leave a message for me."

At present Ehrsam is trying to find housing for himself in the area.

VAN WINKLE MOTEL HAS NEW OWNERS

Jack Van Winkle announced yesterday that he had sold his motel to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Coulter of Tillamook, Ore.

The Coulters took over the Motel on March 1.

They are long-time residents of Oregon and have two children in Heppner, Roberta and Tim. Tim is a student at Heppner Elementary School.

Board approves school budget

The annual budget hearing for the Morrow County School District was held Monday night at the district office in Lexington.

The board voted to accept the total budget requirement for 1974-75 of \$1,926,297. The amount outside the basic school support 6 per cent limitation of \$1,071,178 was accepted, to be presented to the voters at the budget and directors election March 26.

County School Superintendent Ron Daniels told the board this year's budget increase will cost the taxpayer an increase of \$2.03 per \$1000 assessed valuation. This figure could decrease if the expected increase in true cash value of land in the county materializes, he said. The increase to the taxpayer is only 49 cents higher per \$1000 than the increase accepted by the voters in 1972. The 1973 figure was \$1.44 less per \$1000

because of increased money from the state and the marked increase in the true cash value of land in Morrow County.

Daniels told the board that the 15 per cent increase in next year's budget is a conservative estimate. Increases, which were not budgeted in next year's budget, have already arisen. There will be a 25 per cent increase in postage. Improper meter wiring at Lone and Heppner High plus meter malfunctioning at Lone, which was recently discovered, will institute a 15 per cent raise in electricity costs. The special session of the Oregon Legislature increased the rate of one part of the employee's State Accident Insurance Fund. The rate of cost to the school board per employee per day was increased from 3 cents to 6 cents.

In the main business of the board, contracts for certified

employees up for renewal were renewed. Three more teachers notified the board that they will not return to lone next year. These teachers are Donna Waible, business education teacher; Sherrie Bahr, music teacher; and Becky Frasier, 5th grade teacher.

Mrs. Virginia Watts was hired as the aide for the 4th grade at A.C. Houghton School. Mrs. Shirley Enright was hired as a tutor to assist the Title I special reading instructor at Riverside School. Her position will be paid for through a federal grant.

The board sanctioned the spring tennis programs at lone and Riverside. A girls' golf team was approved for Heppner High School. The team will practice with the boys' team and travel to other schools with the boys' team, providing the school they are playing also has a girls' team.

Outdoor school to continue

The Morrow County School Board Monday approved a week-long education program to be held jointly by A.C. Houghton and Lone schools for 6th graders in May.

Heppner Elementary School conducted a successful pilot program last year, and will again hold outdoor school at Tupper Guard Station, May 6-10. The following week of May 13-17, A.C. Houghton and Lone students will hold their school at Tupper.

The major portion of the outdoor education curriculum deals with science and conservation, but the program also offers learning experi-

ence in health, language arts, arithmetic, social studies and other phases of the total school curriculum. The students will receive more than 300 minutes

of instruction per day, which is equivalent to the regular school day. The additional learning experiences which take place during the day provide students with an opportunity to learn to live democratically with other children and with adults through experiences in outdoor living.

The outdoor school is cooperatively planned and sponsored by Morrow County School District, U.S. Forest

Service, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and the Oregon State Game Commission with other materials being provided by the Oregon State Extension Service.

Mick Tolar, principal of A.C. Houghton School, reported that the 6th grade students there have already raised \$600 to pay for the week. John Edmundson, principal at Lone, reported that the parents there will meet the school's cost by paying a tuition fee.

In addition to teachers and resource consultants, high school students will act as, and be trained, as counselors for the school.



Snow, snow, go away . . . Heppner hasn't quite lived up to its title of the Fun and Sun Capital of Eastern Oregon this week. Residents have been subjected to hail, sleet, snow, rain and high winds up to 70 miles an hour. But it's only 15 more days until Spring, tra-la!