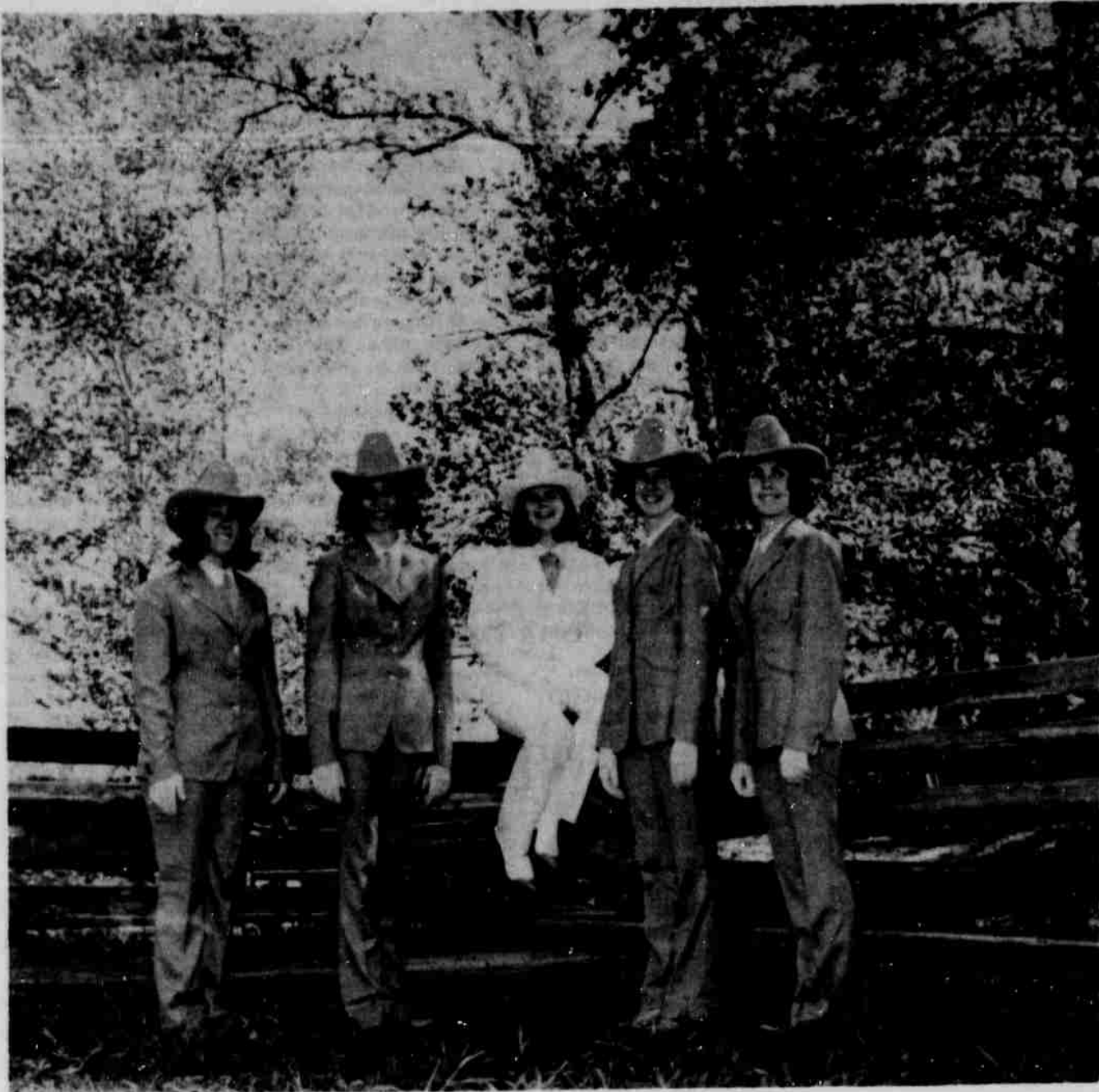




Morrow County's Fair and Rodeo Court placed first in the Milton-Freewater Pea Festival Saturday in a field of 20 competitors. The 1974 court are, from the left, Patricia Van Schoiack, Michele Evans, Queen Sherry Kemp, Cassy Chapel and Mickey Hoskins.

Rodeo court wins 'big one'

First place in the mounted courts division of the Milton-Freewater Pea Festival parade Saturday was won by Queen Sherry Kemp and her court and pennant bearers.

Twenty mounted courts were entered in the division's competition. "We are just thrilled. The girls were up against the big ones such as the Pendleton Round-Up and the Eastern Washington State Fair. The judging was the stiffest they will face this year," Suzanne Jepsen, court chaperone, said.

The court and pennant bearers rode in Saturday's

parade carrying their newly won trophy. Following the parade they attended the Queen's luncheon, reported to be a "grand" affair for 200 guests.

Sunday, May 5, was one of those "rare days in May" and a busy one for the court. Queen Sherry and Princesses Michele, Patricia, Cassy and Mickey began the day's activities by attending Hope Lutheran Church.

Jim Rogers, rodeo publicity chairman, hosted a luncheon for the court and the rodeo board. Sunday was official picture-taking day for the court. The Dick Wilkenson

Ranch provided the background for pictures which will be used by the rodeo board for publicity.

The girls then finished out the day by participating in the Wrangler Playday.

Assisting Mrs. Jepsen with chaperone duties for the 1974 court is Clista Venard of Heppner. Pennant bearers for this year's court are Barbara Palmer and Sherry Wilson of Lone and Teresa Hughes and Sally Matheny of Heppner. The bearers wear matching outfits of blue pants and blue flowered shirts which blend with the colors of the court's outfits.

Increased farm land values explained

The recent rise in assessed land values for Morrow County has raised the eyebrows and voices of many local residents involved in agriculture.

In response to this interest, Judge Paul Jones invited Bill Johnson, manager of The Dalles District of the Oregon Department of Revenue, to speak at the courthouse Monday to clear up some rumors and provide some facts.

Nearly 80 farmers attended the session, most of whom are involved in wheat production.

Johnson began by noting that the farm income type appraisal method which is currently being used by county assessors is in no way new or untried. In fact, this method has been used for about seven years in the area and apparently has not always been so controversial as it is now. He also noted that the market wheat price has not caused any large appraisal increase until now.

"I felt it was pretty well understood that it wasn't a one-way street," he said, in

reference to the fact that the assessment rate wouldn't always be lower than the property owners would like.

According to Johnson, the basic principle of this type of land appraisal is the anticipated production of the land, and not just the past performance of the property. "In land appraisal the past is only helpful for evaluating the future usefulness of the land," he explained.

Since the market price for the coming years cannot be pinpointed it must be computed, using the most accurate figures available, those of the previous two years market quotations, which is then established by the local assessors as the fair and basic average price.

The statutes set up by the Oregon legislature were briefly read and explained by Johnson, who noted some of the more important ones.

One of the statutes provides for a board of review which is made up of two county court-appointed members, two members of the court, two assessor-appointed members and one member appointed at large by the other members.

The appraisal of the property is not the final settlement if the property owner feels it is unjust. Johnson said the landowners can petition for judicial review and possibly receive a re-adjustment.

Although comparable sale of land can be used in establishing value of land it cannot by Oregon statute be used to evaluate land use.

Johnson talked briefly of landlord-operator agreements and how they affect property assessment. He explained that the most often used one third, two-thirds rental arrangement is the most commonly used division method. The landlord is assessed for the net income of the land along with

his operating expenses. "However, only those owner expenses which are attributed to obtaining the highest level of land use are involved," he said.

A statute provides that the assessor may use information from many sources in gaining assessment values. These sources include banks, county agents, and questionnaires sent out by the assessor.

Johnson mentioned the wheat and barley diversion programs, currently used in land assessment, which allow for summer fallow and high yield programs. "When this type of deferral was first used it lowered the appraisal rates; however, the market price changed that," he said.

To explain the system more precisely Johnson filled a blackboard with figures to illustrate how the appraisers do their job. He explained that many factors or constants are used as "average" or "standard."

Continued on Page 9

Waste plan ok'd

The Morrow County Solid Waste Management Plan has been tentatively approved by the Department of Environmental Quality as presented by John McDonald of Clark and Groff Inc.

The notice of approval was received in Judge Paul Jones' office Tuesday afternoon and passed on to County Planner Del Smith.

Further public meetings will be held in the near future to finalize the plan as approved by DEQ.

Bad news for taxpayers

Hospital levy to double; road budget up \$171,000

Huge increases in budgets for Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Morrow County Road Department were explained by Ilene Wyman, hospital administrator, and Judge Paul Jones at the chamber of commerce Monday.

Mrs. Wyman said the serial levy of \$22,500 per year plus an annual \$10,000 for the county expired last year. A new levy of \$65,000 a year for a three-year period is being asked, with the county relinquishing its support funds.

Part of the increase, according to Mrs. Wyman, is for the retirement plan for hospital employees and payment into the state unemployment plan. These two items total \$23,270. Salary increases amount to \$1,100, which brings hospital workers up to new minimum wage scales. The current hospital budget is \$408,000.

Pioneer Hospital serves as a combination hospital and nursing home, with facilities for 20 patients in each section. However, hospital patients seldom exceed eight in number, while the nursing home has a waiting list.

At present one nurse has been taking care of all hospital patients and checking on nursing home patients each half-hour. The state requires that a registered nurse be on duty in both hospital and nursing home during the day shift for the entire week. Negotiations with the state resulted in the hospital having a registered nurse on duty during the day shift, four days a week, and a licensed practical nurse on duty the remainder of the week.

The change means a budget increase of \$6,900 per year.

To further meet state requirements, Mrs. Wyman said, all bathrooms must be equipped with electronic devices for the elderly as well as hospital patients. The water must not be hotter than 110 degrees, whereas the present water is connected to the kitchen and laboratory source and exceeds 110 degrees. New booster tanks must be installed to solve the problem.

The state also demands that a social director, an occupational therapist and a medical librarian be hired, full or part time. There are only five

persons in Eastern Oregon who have these combined qualifications. If the three positions are filled separately it would add \$26,000 per year to the operating budget.

An ionization system (smoke detector system) is required, whereas the hospital is now equipped with a sprinkler system in case of fire. All draperies must be replaced with a fire resistant material.

Mrs. Wyman said the raise in hospital rates has taken care of the increase in employee salaries, even though the number of patients admitted has dropped 13 per cent during the past year.

"The hospital has been operating without the benefits of the Medicare Funding program, and now it seems as though the State is complying with some of the regulations of the Health and Welfare Department," she said.

"We don't want to give up the hospital for a nursing home, yet the state has us in a bind, and there doesn't seem to be any simple solution to the problem."

Asked what portion of the total budget would be a

one-time budget item, she said "About \$11,000 will be a one-time budget item, the remainder of the cost will continue to go on and on."

Judge Paul Jones spoke to members about the proposed road budget for the new fiscal year.

The budget shows an increase of \$171,776 for the general road fund. This amount includes an 8 1/2 per cent increase for the employee salaries.

With the exception of \$5,600 per year for the services of a county surveyor, which the county has not previously had, most of the increase is due to the increase in costs of materials for roadway work.

"Last year road oil cost the county \$37 per ton. The cost has risen to \$75 per ton, or a 100 per cent increase. The same is true of diesel oil and gasoline. Last year we were able to purchase gasoline in bulk quantities, now we are unable to do so and are forced to pay a premium price for it," he said.

"Failure to pass the road levy would result in the county patching, sealing and repair-

Continued on Page 9

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 91, No. 13

Heppner, Ore., Thursday, May 16, 1974

15c

Valley View Estates:

Water run-off problems aired at council meeting

A special meeting of the Heppner Common Council and the Utilities Board was held last Wednesday at 8 p.m. at City Hall to hear Steve Anderson, city engineer, give a report on drainage problems on Gilmore and Morrow streets.

Anderson told the council that owners of Valley View Estates housing subdivision would be responsible for all drainage problems and run-off that is created by the subdivision now under construction. He also noted that plans have been submitted by the subdivision showing the installation of various catch basins and the installation of 8-inch storm drains to handle water run-off problems within the subdivision and on Gilmore Street.

"The developer should not be held responsible for the city's drainage problems, as long as he doesn't create any new ones. Some of the responsibility for drainage belongs to the city, and although the developer is trying to eliminate any further problems, he should not be held responsible for water on existing city streets," Anderson explained.

"The city will have to do something with its existing streets, and the city will not have to pay for anything that will help the developer," he added.

Further questions by the council were answered by Anderson, who then asked all interested council members to meet with him at 8 a.m. Friday morning at the subdivision site and go over any problems they might have regarding the drainage problems.

Friday morning at 8 a.m. Anderson met with four councilmen and, according to reports, all questions regarding the run-off were answered to the apparent satisfaction of those present.

Anderson told the council that he had been notified that Dave Miller of the Corps of Engineers would be in Heppner Friday to conduct preliminary negotiations regarding the cost of the water main and related facilities. "The Corps is interested in knowing what portions of the transmission line will be the Corps'

responsibility and what amount the City of Heppner will have to pay," Anderson said.

After a meeting with Miller Friday, Anderson announced that it appears as though negotiations will proceed smoothly with the Corps of Engineers. In a brief interview with Miller, the Gazette-Times learned that negotiations for the water relocation on Willow Creek Dam are a little irregular at this time because according to Miller, negotiations are usually held after all hurdles have been cleared. Should the dam receive the official go-ahead, the Corps will be able to act at once.

Miller said that it has been at least 10 years since he has been in Heppner, and he

wanted a first-hand view of the proposed site rather than study aerial photos and contour maps.

He stated the Corps would be willing to help the city on water relocation facilities on a percentage basis rather than a lump sum basis. One of the reasons for the percentage basis is the rising costs of material and labor. Should the cost of material continue to increase, the city would benefit from a straight percentage basis rather than a lump sum cost figure at the present time.

Miller also suggested that many of the work items could be grouped into categories rather than individual items, as long as the work is in direct relation with the work to be performed.

Anderson suggested to the council they take home a drawing he presented to them for further study, and the council meet again the following Wednesday night to approve the plans.

Anderson contends it would be in the city's interest to wait another three months and see if the authorization of the Willow Creek Dam is approved by Congress. It is impossible for the city to construct a one million gallon reservoir at this time, and should the dam be approved, and negotiations are completed with the Corps of Engineers, work would be able to proceed without further delay.

Continued on Page 9

Cancer fund drive is on

Heppner residents may donate to the American Cancer Society Thursday evening, May 16, when members of the Heppner Soroptimist Club conduct a door-to-door campaign. They will be assisted by other women of the community.

In the 1973 cancer drive Heppner did not give strong support to the program because no organized drive was held locally. Because some Heppner residents have been stricken with the disease this past year, members of the Soroptimists hope support will be stronger.

A fact sheet from the Oregon Division of the American Cancer Society says, "Cancer strikes one in four persons, or two of three families. One in three cancer patients are being saved. This could be one in two with earlier detection and treatment. Cancer takes the lives of more teenagers than any other disease. There are now

1,500,000 Americans alive today, cured of cancer."

Statistics published by the Oregon Division state that 62 per cent of the money raised in Oregon stays in Oregon. Of this amount 10 per cent is used for research in major Oregon institutions, 18 per cent for public and professional education, 21 per cent for patient care, rehabilitation and community service and 13 per cent for fund raising and management of the program. The remaining 38 per cent of the money raised in Oregon goes to the American Cancer Society for use in research, medical grants and fellowships and educational and service programs.

The purpose of the drive is to raise money and to educate the public to cancer's danger signals. Local chairwomen of the drive for the Soroptimists are Marlene Gray and Elta Parker. County Cancer Crusade chairwoman is Mrs. Ron Black of Boardman.

Heppner honor students named

Honor students from Heppner High School were tapped today for membership into the nation's leading high school honorary, The Society of Outstanding American High School Students.

The following students have been awarded the honor: Cyde Marie Allstott, Gregory Paul Davidson, Kristi Lyn Hague-wood, Gary Dean Hunt, Charma Trudi Marquardt, Luke Padberg, Robanai Coral Riddle, Anita Louise Davidson, Shannon Kelly, Michael Allen Mills, and Sandra Kay Palmer.

These students are now participating in The Society of Outstanding American High School Student's Annual Awards Program which offers \$800,000 in renewable college scholarships. The scholarships consist of unrestricted cash awards to colleges of the student's choice and renewable annual scholarships to

leading colleges and universities across the nation. The Society of Outstanding American High School Students Awards Program is one of the largest of its kind in the country.

The Awards Program is one means The Society uses to promote academic achievement and civic responsibility on the part of American youth. These students are also recognized nationally in an annually published volume, The Society of Outstanding American High School Students, which is distributed to colleges, universities and libraries across the nation.

Principals and counselors of high schools submit to The Society each year a limited number of their top students. The Society then selects only the young men and women who have distinguished themselves as the highest of achievers for membership.