



Ben Cox, left, one of the few remaining pioneers of Morrow County, talks to Buzz Lynch about the good old days at the 2nd annual picnic at Anson Wright Park two Sundays ago. Ben recently celebrated his 83rd birthday, and is looking forward to next year's picnic. Nearly 350 persons attended the picnic hosted by Lynch and Bill Scott, owners of Cal' Cafe and Lounge. The whole town had been invited to the day-long festival of food and entertainment.

## Farm assessments found accurate

Morrow County farmers have been accurately assessed for the year 1973, according to William H. Scharn, independent appraiser retained by the Morrow County Board of Equalization to check wheat yields and market prices for that year.

Scharn's findings were delivered to the board of equalization, July 16.

He was retained by the board as a result of 58 farm appeals from tax notices received for the 1973 crop year, some of which were 60 per cent higher than previous years because of unexpected high prices paid farmers for wheat. Those who filed appeals will be notified by mail of Scharn's findings.

According to County Assessor Joyce Bergstrom, Umatilla County may also employ an independent appraiser to check assessment practices there. Farmland in Umatilla County is generally assessed at a lower rate than land in Morrow County. As a result, Morrow County residents pay comparatively higher taxes to support Blue Mountain Community College than those in Umatilla County. A check of wheat yields and market prices in Umatilla may result in equalized support of the community college district, and a break for Morrow taxpayers, Mrs. Bergstrom said.

## Howell heads agency

Mike Howell, Morrow County 4-H and Livestock Extension Agent, has been elected chairman of the county Interagency Committee replacing Del Smith, chairman.

Smith resigned the position he had held since the formation of the committee this past winter, as he will be moving from the community soon. He formerly served as planning director, and has assumed a new position as farm manager.

Other business at the July meeting of the committee included discussion of efforts to attract doctors to the area, report of a slide-tape presentation presently in preparation which will be available for use to interested groups, depicting life in Morrow County, its growth and opportunities.

The Interagency Committee meets monthly, with the next meeting set for Aug. 13, Beecher's, Ione. Purpose of the Interagency Committee is communication and coordination of effort between agencies, organized groups and clubs within the county.

## Youths work on church

Fifty-five young adults were in Heppner Saturday to help "raise" the Mormon chapel which was begun in 1970.

The young people came from Oregon and Washington cities. By mid-afternoon Saturday they had the rafters in place. Most of the heavy work was completed by this task force, which expressed the hope that it won't be long before the chapel is completed.

Joyce Carr of Beaverton, daughter of Jim Carr, Heppner, had heard of the need for volunteers for the work project here, and passed the word among her friends. The result was Saturday's gathering.

Following their day's work they were able to use the facilities at Heppner High School to shower and change from work to dress clothing. Later they attended a barbecue at Anson Wright Park and the dance at the Hardman Opry House.

## FIRE THREATENS WHEAT FIELDS

A grass fire, whipped by strong winds, burned approximately five acres on the Don Evans Ranch Monday afternoon. Fast acting by Evans and the Heppner Fire Department contained the blaze before it reached 500 acres of wheat ready for harvest.

Rodeo Princess Michele Evans did her part by joining the men in beating out the flames.

## Court is first at Elgin

The Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Court did it again. They won first place for rodeo courts at the Elgin Stampede Sunday.

The girls were in a day-long competition with 80 girls from various courts. They were judged in the parade on their appearance and the grooming of their horses. At the Queen's Luncheon the girls were again judged. Queen Sherry was reported to have done an outstanding job of introducing her court and inviting everyone to attend the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo. The girls were also judged during the rodeo for horsemanship and riding ability.

Chaperone Suzzane Jepsen said everyone knew where Morrow County people were sitting when the Morrow County Court was announced as first place winner at the rodeo. Suzzane has the ribbon, won by the girls, on display at Gardner's Mens Wear along with the third place ribbon won at the Crooked River Roundup in Prineville the previous weekend.

Queen Sherry and her court have made every effort to advertise the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo when they have visited other rodeos.

They take plenty of posters with them. In Elgin and Prineville they and Mrs. Jepsen went up and down the main streets handing out pamphlets on the events.

All Morrow Counties and their friends are invited to a potluck picnic at Laurelhurst Park, Portland, Sunday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m. Coffee will be served.

## Youth work hard at Tupper camp

Much has been gained by the location of a summer youth camp at Tupper Guard Station this year.

The south county area has been improved through the youths' work under U.S. Forest Service guidance. The young people have learned through experience about approved methods of utilization of forest lands. They have spent time and muscle power cleaning up burnable materials and slash; cleaned out spring boxes and cleared culverts long buried in mud; strung fences; improved recreational trails; and cleared and thinned forest areas.

They have also assisted in mopping up after several fires which relieved forest service manpower. They cleaned the Tupper heliport. At Bull Prairie Lake they removed cattails which interfered with access to the lake. They have repaired and repainted bridges and buildings. They are working on Wilson Creek, deepening it to attract steelhead and to improve the spawning grounds.

Each of the 24 campers and their counselors has put in 40 work hours a week. Recreational times have been carefully planned. Each Thursday, except July 4, they have come to Heppner where they enjoyed swimming and visiting the museum and library. Each weekend they have visited places of interest.

Last weekend they all worked on Saturday to allow themselves an extra recreation day on Aug. 2. On Sunday they took a one-day trip to Camp Hancock to study wild-

## KATHY WOLFF ON STORY HOUR

Kathy Wolff will be the next story teller for the AAUW-sponsored children's story hour at the library.

Kathy, who is popular with young children, can be expected to live up to the performance for the 4 through 8 year olds who will be attending the 10 a.m. story hour.

Attendance had been doubled at this year's story hours as compared to last year. There is still room for more children. The program will continue every Monday morning at the library throughout August.

life and vegetation and to dig fossils. Next weekend some may go to their homes, and those who do not will have an opportunity to backpack in the Wallawa Mountains.

A final outing, Aug. 24, will send them into the Cascades around Bend where they will study geology, ride horseback and have an old-fashioned hayride party.

## Health clinic dates

The Morrow County Extension Service, County Health Department, and State Health Department are combining efforts to present a free health screening, with dates of the clinics set for Aug. 26-27.

The service will be provided in Irrigon for residents of North Morrow on Aug. 26 and in Heppner, Aug. 27.

Pre-school and pre-high school children will receive their pre-school physicals, and health cards required for school entry will be completed at the clinics. Immunizations required will also be given at the clinics.

To provide the free health service to residents of the county, a large number of volunteer workers will be needed, according to Birdine Tullis.

Anyone wishing to devote a day or part of a day to assist with the clinics is asked to call Mrs. Tullis as soon as possible. A qualified doctor and some technicians will be provided by the State Health Department, but clerks and assistants are needed.

Appointments are needed by those wishing to take advantage of the service. North Morrow residents may make appointments by calling Mick Tolar at A. C. Houghton School, Irrigon. Heppner, Ione, Lexington residents call Tiny Sweeney, 676-9911, or Birdine Tullis, 676-9642.

Residents are given early notice of the event in order that they may make plans to take advantage of the free health screening.

## ANNUAL METHODIST PICNIC ON SUNDAY

Sunday, Aug. 27, families of the Heppner Methodist Church will gather in the Court-house Park for their annual picnic. Rev. Edwin Cutting has announced that assembling should begin at 12:30 p.m. This event is one of long-standing with the church group.

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