

New councilmen take oath

More police, higher water rates under consideration



MARK PIPER, Lexington, will soon be Heppner's second Eagle Scout. He has passed all his requirements and is awaiting a date for his Court of Honor.



GLADYS BECKET was last week's Who's Who Mystery Person. Not a single person out of the more than 125 entrants identified her. There were four clues: wheat rancher, ret. (she still has interest in a wheat ranch but does not work at it); 1900 (that is the year of her birth); B. G. (her initials, transposed); babysitter (she is babysitter for the Jim Rogers children). This week's jackpot goes to \$15.

The oath of office administered to four councilmen was the first order of business for the monthly meeting of the Heppner common council Monday night.

Sworn into office were Jim Rogers, Lerice Martin, Bob Jones and Ernie Ceresa. Following the ceremony, Mayor Sweeney asked the council to elect a council chairman, in the absence of the Mayor. Bob Jones was unanimously elected to the office.

Bob Lowe, engineer and maintenance man for Pioneer Memorial Hospital, appeared to request a parking permit enabling him to park free in various locations within the city when he is on hospital business. "I would gladly pay a permit fee of \$5, \$10 or \$20, per year to park my vehicle when on hospital business rather than have to have pennies or nickels for the meters in the city," he said. His plea met with some objections from the council as it recently passed an ordinance revoking the use of parking permits.

Lowe contended that he not only runs errands for the hospital but also drives the ambulance, and he has been doing this for the good of the hospital as well as the community for the past 25 years.

He receives \$25 per month from the county for the use of his vehicle, and because he drives an emergency vehicle he should receive some consideration from the city for the work he is doing, he told the council.

Lowe pointed out that both County Judge Paul Jones and Hospital Administrator Ilene Wyman had designated his vehicle as an official hospital vehicle.

The council granted Lowe's vehicle free parking for the next 90 days when he is doing business for Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

The council approved the following building permits:

A permit for Pacific Northwest Bell for the construction of a new dial office. The cost of the construction is estimated to be \$45,000. The builder is McCormick Con-

struction Co., Pendleton. Some discussion followed on the permit when it was learned that construction had begun prior to the approval of the permit. "This is in direct violation of the city's ordinance," said Councilman Warren Plocharsky. However, it was pointed out that the contractor had been advised to halt construction on the project until a permit was applied for and approved and the contractor had complied with the order.

A permit for the remodeling of a garage located at 175 Baltimore St. owned by Bob Jones, was approved by the council.

Also approved was an application for the construction of a six-plex at 515 North Oliver St. The two-story building will have 4,600 square feet and will be built at an estimated cost of \$109,200. Owners of the multiple dwelling are Larry Prock, Mike Sweeney and Dan Sweeney.

Plans for the new six-plex had been approved by the planning commission last year and a building permit

had previously been issued by the council. Construction had not been started within the 45-day period, making application of the old permit void.

The building will be constructed by Dykstra Construction Co., and will be inspected by FHA inspectors at owners' cost. Permit was approved.

Easements for the installation of water mains within the Morrow County School District and the Parker-Hosmit Inc. property near the high school were approved by the council. The rights-of-way are for installation of new mains from the proposed new reservoir site.

Chief of Police Dean Gilman asked the council to consider the hiring of another police officer.

"The addition of another police officer will not curb all the crime in the city, but will tend to halt some of the criminal mischief now taking place," Gilman said. "In the good old days three to four crimes reported within a year, with a few more during hunting season, was usually

par. There have been four crimes committed within the past five days," he added. Too, as of Jan. 15 taverns will remain open until 2:30 a.m., and this means more people on the streets than at the present time. There has also been an increase in the number of criminal mischief cases.

Mayor Sweeney recommended that the police committee study the facts with the chief of police and with the city recorder to determine the amount of money needed for an extra police officer and the added cost of the patrol car. The committee will meet and report back to the council within the next 10-15 days, when a special meeting is planned to review Phase 3 of the city's water program.

Sweeney suggested to the council that the budget will be coming up for review within a few months and one of the city's primary source of income is derived from the sale of water. "Water rates have not been raised in Heppner since 1959," he said.

"and perhaps the council should study the water rates of other locales with approximately the same population, as a comparison."

Most cities comparable in size to Heppner have water rates of \$5-\$6 per month, while the rate in Heppner is only \$2.50. The city of Elgin recently revised and raised its rates, but placed in its ordinance a stipulation that anyone on a limited income, over the age of 65, need only pay one-half the rate.

"With over 600 hookups in the city, if the water rate were increased a dollar a month the added revenue would amount to approximately \$40,000 per year," Sweeney stated, "and any city would benefit from that additional income."

At Boardman, three city councilmen were sworn in Tuesday—Ronald Black, Jerry Peck and Joe Tatone were given the oath of office by Mayor Dewey West Jr. The council is still one member short due to the resignation of William Nelson in December.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 91, No. 47

Heppner, Ore., Jan. 9, 1975

15c

Burglaries at lone, Lexington

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Anderson recently had their home and their farm shop near lone burglarized.

Entry to the farm shop was made by prying open a door, missing are some hand and power tools. Entry into the house was made through an unlocked window. Camera equipment and a clock were taken.

The Andersons, who had been honeymooning in Hawaii for the past three weeks, estimated the loss at \$470.

Aaron Klinger, 18, Lexington, and a 16-year-old juvenile were arrested Thursday by the Morrow County Sheriff's Department in connection with a burglary at the Chevron Station, Lexington, Dec. 29.

Station Manager Paul Harrah reported an estimated 150 gallons of gasoline and some automotive tools were taken with an estimated loss of \$112.

Jailed 6 months for traffic violations

Traffic citations have put a 23-year-old Umatilla man in jail for six months.

Maynard Meyers Pourier, Umatilla, was cited by Oregon State Police Dec. 31 for driving in Morrow County under the influence of intoxicating liquors and for driving with a suspended drivers license.

As the arresting officer finished, citing Pourier, the man escaped on foot through nearby fields.

The following day Pourier telephoned the state police

and asked about "the seriousness of his escape." Informed of the severity of the crime, he decided to give himself up to the county court. He turned himself into the State Police at Hermiston who transported him to the Morrow County Justice Court. It was his 13th citation since 1967.

Pourier appeared in Justice Court on Jan. 2. An examination of his driving record revealed that he had been arrested 11 times since 1967, with citations ranging from

driving without an operators license to attempting to elude police to driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Pourier pled guilty to all three charges. Justice of the Peace Charles O'Connor sentenced him to six months in the county jail for drunk driving, 90 days for driving with a suspended license and 90 days for attempting to escape. It is expected that the sentences will run concurrently and Pourier will serve only six months in jail.

The maximum sentence he could have received for the three charges is a fine of \$5,000 and three years in jail.

In other police action, a mink coat valued at \$2,700 was stolen from the Elks Club early Wednesday morning. It was found later in the waters of Willow Creek. The coat belonged to Mrs. Rose Mae Hardwick, Camp 5, Kinzua, and was recovered by city police and sheriff's deputies.

Arrested was Charles Sherman Gilman, Heppner, who was charged with theft in the

first degree. Arraigned before Justice of the Peace Charles O'Connor Thursday, he was released on \$2,505 bail to consult an attorney. No trial date has been set.

Luke Padberg, formerly of Heppner and now serving in the U. S. Navy, was arrested by city police Dec. 31 on charges of driving while under the influence and for having an alcohol blood content of .15 or more.

He appeared before O'Connor and was fined \$305.

Winter wheat estimates off

Winter wheat production estimates for Oregon for 1975 are down 10 per cent from 1974, reports Harold Kerr, Morrow County Agent.

Acres estimates for Oregon are up 3 per cent but yield estimates are down due to spotty stands and below average fall and early winter moisture. These estimates are from the USDA, Kerr reports.

Nationally, acreage estimates are up 6 per cent over last year and yield prospects are up 15 per cent. The leading state in increased acreage is Texas with 16 per cent and production estimate up 122 per cent from 1974.

In the Pacific Northwest, seeded acreage for 1975 is 4,900,000 acres, down 2 per cent from 1974.

Acreage in Oregon for 1975 is projected to be 1,150,000 acres. In 1974 Oregon's total wheat crops was 52,770,000 bushels, up 46 per cent from 1973, and the first time in history that Oregon exceeded 50 million bushels.

Oregon produces about 2 per cent of the nation's winter wheat. Kansas is the largest winter wheat producing state,

with Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska and Montana in that order, making up the top five. All five are Hard Red producing states.

Washington, with 2,760,000 acres ranks 6th nationally; Oregon with 1,150,000 acres is 8th and Idaho with 990,000 acres is 9th. Washington is 3rd in production due to higher yields per acre. In 1974

Oregon's average yield per acre was 42.9 bushels per acre, compared to 26.5 for the nation.

In Morrow County for 1974, the average yield was estimated at 29.0 bushels per acre on 170,000 acres. Indications are that seeded acres for 1975 will be slightly under 1974 in Morrow County.

Get involved, speaker urges

Earl Pryor, Condon, member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of LCDC, spoke to members of the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

He gave a resume of the founding of the organization, and called for strong local citizen input into construction, agriculture and forestry problems.

The involvement of citizens in both county and city government, he pointed out, is a "first" in the State of Oregon. This is the first time, he said, that citizens have had a chance to voice their opinions as to what they really want. One of the problems facing local government is that many citizens are reluct-

ant to get involved and are waiting for George to do the work; however, many communities are running out of Georges to do the work, he said.

Pryor concluded by urging each person to "be a concerned citizen and get involved in your government."

Youth still unconscious

John Eksstrom, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Eksstrom Jr., Jone, remains in critical condition in a Portland hospital following a single vehicle accident the early Sunday morning on the Heppner-Lexington Highway.

Mark Pointer, a student at Blue Mountain Community College, found young Eksstrom lying on the pavement, in the right lane going toward Lexington, about 4:15 a.m. Apparently, the youth fell asleep, swerved to the left lane and may have over-corrected in trying to get back into the

right lane of traffic. His pickup went into a barbit on the right, throwing him out onto the pavement. The pickup came to rest against the right-of-way fence, upside down.

Pointer went to the Monte Evans home and awakened Evans, who rushed to the scene while Mrs. Evans notified Sheriff John Mollahan. Eksstrom was lying about 40 or 50 feet from the pickup.

The youth was taken by ambulance to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for emergency treatment, then rushed to Good Samaritan Hospital in

Portland. Preliminary reports indicate that Eksstrom is suffering from head injuries, and as of Tuesday had not regained consciousness.

Eksstrom had taken Mary Ann Greenup home that evening. After visiting with her mother, Mrs. Colleen Greenup, he left for home about 3:30 a.m. According to Mrs. Greenup, she tried to persuade Eksstrom to spend the night with them. He declined, she said, because he said he did not want to wake his father at that time of the morning.



ALL RIGHT, WE'LL TRY AGAIN! This is the 1939 picture we should have run in this space last week. Some editorial, knucklehead grabbed the wrong photo, as more than 100 readers called to our attention. The Gazette-Times will still offer a year's subscription to any person who can identify those in this picture and why.