

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 91, No. 48

Heppner, Ore., Jan. 16, 1975

15c

Ask clinic facilities

Two Pendleton doctors would practice here

"What type of clinical facilities can we offer two young doctors who are both willing to come to Heppner to practice?" asked Liz Curtis, chairman of the Doctors Search Committee, before the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

"While it is true that Drs. Wolff and Tibbles did not have any clinical facilities when they came to Heppner, things have changed," she continued. "If a community wants a doctor today it had better make arrangements to have a clinic set up for his practice."

Last week Drs. Joe Gifford and Richard Carpenter came to Heppner to look things over, and they liked what they saw. They may set up their own practice here if the community will provide the clinical facilities for them for a year, with the doctors paying their own way after the one-year period.

Both doctors are now practicing in Pendleton. But the urge to set up their own practice seems inviting, as they both visited Morrow County and feel they could be of service to the community and the surrounding areas.

Both are family practice men, once termed general practitioners, and are both limited to the types of surgery they can perform. However, doctors in Pendleton have promised they would be willing to assist the new doctors in complicated types of surgery.

Since their meeting with members of the DSC last Thursday night, members of the committee and the county court have been active in trying to reach a solution on a proposed clinic site.

There are two alternatives to the problem, and the one that seems the most logical is the setting up of a mobile or modular home directly behind the hospital for clinical use, using the X-ray and laboratory facilities of Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

If this plan is adopted it would save valuable time and considerable money for the county. The estimated cost of the modular structure would be about \$40,000 as compared to \$100,000 if the county and other private citizens would prefer to purchase new equipment, build a clinic and purchase the property for the site. The modular home in question is approximately 60 x 24 feet and the cost about \$20 per square foot, or \$28,000. This does not include the furniture or the necessary examining tables and other equipment required by the doctors.

The space for the modular home is located directly behind the hospital. All that would be required is additional parking facilities.

Judge Paul Jones said, "If we can get the doctors, the parking problem could be solved." There is presently \$30,000 in revenue sharing funds that could be applied to the clinic fund, if approval for the site is agreed upon.

Pioneer Hospital Administrator Ilene Wyman said, "The hospital has a pie-shaped

piece of property that could be used for parking if the city would cooperate."

Mayor Jerry Sweeney said "A variance could be granted for the clinic by either the planning commission or the city council."

Prior to making any decisions the plans for the location of the modular building must meet the State of Oregon's Fire Marshal approval.

If the State Fire Marshal

gives his approval to the location of a clinic behind the hospital, members of the Doctors Search Committee, the County Budget Committee, the Revenue Sharing Committee and the Hospital board will meet to complete plans.

Dr. Gifford is from Beaverton, Ore., and Dr. Carpenter is originally from Minnesota. Both are licensed pilots and have proposed an air ambul-

ance service to the outlying areas.

They would like to be able to practice in the clinic for a year, rent free, and later pay the county a monthly rent for the building, should they continue to practice there. If they decide to set up a clinic elsewhere they would do so at their own expense. In that event, the county could sell the modular home to a private individual.

(Continued on page 2)



ICE PATTERNS decorated the back wall of Murray's Drug.



WILLOW CREEK meanders a fairyland of snow and ice.

Snow, ice, wind grip the county

Five to six inches of snow fell in the Heppner area Wednesday, most of which was gone by the following Monday.

A windstorm hit the area Tuesday night. Don Heliker, lone, reported that winds reached 75 miles an hour about 7:30 Tuesday night. One tree and two telephone poles on his ranch were blown down. He said the winds were the highest registered on his wind gauge during the past five years.

Jerry Brace, Heppner, was

injured Wednesday afternoon when a semi-truck jack-knifed on the icy pavement near Kinzua and the trailer hit the Brace pickup headon. Brace is employed by the Kinzua Corporation. He was taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for X-rays and treatment for multiple cuts and bruises.

School openings at Irrigon and Boardman were delayed until 10:30 a.m., Thursday and Friday.

An unexpected warming trend set in Sunday, and by 8 a.m. the 16 and 18-degree temperature had gone up to 44

degrees. Most snow in Heppner had melted by Sunday night, but snow was still on the ground Monday from Lexington to Hermiston and Pendleton, with dangerous icy conditions on highways.

Sarah Adkins slipped on the ice-coated sidewalk on Main Street about noon Saturday. She was taken to St. Anthony's Hospital, Pendleton, where she was to undergo surgery Tuesday for a broken hip. Friends of the elderly woman say a steel ball will be implanted in the hip socket.

Ekstrom slightly improved

John Ekstrom, 16, lone, remains in critical condition in a Portland hospital following a single car accident, Jan. 5.

He has not regained consciousness, but his condition is described as "slightly improved."

He remains in the intensive care unit of the hospital and is reportedly suffering from a slight staph infection.

According to reports, the youth suffered only slightly visible cuts about his hand and has a black eye as a result of the accident, but apparently has serious internal head injuries.

Doctors at the hospital are hopeful of his recovery, but cannot predict when he will come out of the coma.

BULLETIN

The Doctors Search Committee recommended to the Morrow County Court Wednesday that the county sign an agreement with the two Pendleton doctors, Joe Gifford and Richard Carpenter, to set up practice in Heppner, probably by the end of May. Drs. Gifford and Carpenter will meet with the court Saturday to sign the agreement whereby the county would provide clinical facilities for them for one year. According to Mrs. Liz Curtis, DSC chairman, no other Corps doctors will be invited to visit the area.

Twins are first 1975 babies

Morrow County's Baby of the Year turned out to be twins! They were born Saturday morning to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harrah, Lexington, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Twin boys were delivered by Dr. Wallace Wolff. The first boy was born at 7:50 a.m., the other at 8:20 a.m. The twins weighed slightly over 8 pounds each.

The Harrah's came to Heppner last July from Tacoma, Wa., where Paul was employed by Kinzua Corporation until last December, when he left to manage the Chevron Station, Lexington.

The Harrah's have two other children, Wanda, 8, and Paul Jr., 2.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Sam L. Harrah, Elma, Wa., and the maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson, Lexington.

The twins have been named Charles Samuel and Mark Edward.

According to hospital reports, this is only the third set of twins born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in the past five years.

The last set, twin girls, Tracey and Stacey were born Sept. 3, 1973, to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Geer, Fossil.

The first 1975 babies also win prizes offered by the following merchants: Case

Furniture, Central Market, Columbia Basin Electric Co., Elma's Apparel & Flower Shop, First National Bank, Gardner's Men's Wear, Gazette-Times, Gonty's Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner Auto Parts, Heppner Cleaners, Cal's Arco Station, Lott's Electric, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Lebus Shoppe, Morrow County Grain Growers, Murray's Drug, Ruggles Boyce Insurance, Peterson's Jewelers, Court Street Market, Sear's Catalog Store, Pettyjohn's Farm & Builders Supply, Turner, VanMarter & Bryant, Coast-to-Coast Stores, Del's Market, Lexington and Cal's Cafe.

Sheriff's log reveals

Crime rate extremely low in Morrow County

Crime may be rampant in other counties in Eastern Oregon, but it is practically non-existent in Morrow County, according to Sheriff John Mollahan's official log book. There was a total of 79 complaints filed with the sheriff's office during the calendar year 1974. Of these, 58 were logged during the first six months of the year, January through June. In the last six-month period only 21 complaints were recorded in the log book, a crime rate reduction of 68 per cent from January through June.

This is believed by many to be the lowest number of complaints filed in any county in the state for the same period.

Most of the recorded offenses were for disturbances in taverns, thefts, loss of cattle, accidents, the loss of a pet or for somebody taking a shot at a neighbor's dog.

Toward the middle of August, 1974, the sheriff hired a second deputy to assist in curbing criminal activities that raged throughout the county during the first six-month period.

To see how crime has fallen off sharply during the last six months of last year, here is a complete list of complaints recorded on the official log:

July 19, disturbance at a local tavern; July 20, damage to a telephone line; Aug. 4, theft; Aug. 16, report of a broken headlight; Aug. 26, theft; Sept. 1, theft; Sept. 11, AWOL returned; Sept. 12, driving while under the influence; Sept. 27, bench warrant for return to Morrow County; Sept. 28, vandalism; Sept. 30, accident; Oct. 15, lost (Continued on page 5)



FIRST SNOW. A picture postcard scene taken Friday morning near the O. W. Cutsforth home adjacent to Willow Creek Country Club.