

Historical society seeks members

Officers of the new Morrow County Historical Society are working on plans for a meeting in early March, to be announced later this month. The by-laws committee will present results of its work, and other committees appointed at that time. Annual dues are \$5 for a family. Members may at the same time obtain a member-

ship in the Oregon Historical Society for an additional \$7. This is not mandatory, however. Regular dues in the state society are ordinarily \$10. The accompanying form may be sent with your application for membership. Those applying for membership before the March meeting will be considered charter members.

Low bid received for Irrigon plan

There were 25 persons present Jan. 31 when the Irrigon City Council opened bids for the water improvement system. Of the 12 bids submitted 5 were below the engineer's estimate of \$143,934, with the apparent low bid by Sharpe & Preszler Construction Co. of Kennewick of \$117,000. The high bid was by Vancouver Excavation of \$189,483.

The contract is to be awarded within the next few weeks, after the bids have been analyzed and a recommendation made by Engineer Val Toronto, according to Mayor Chester Wilson.

Alternate bids were called for concrete and steel reservoirs of 100,000 and 200,000 gallon capacity and an initial evaluation indicates the possibility of the cost of the larger size tank to be within the funds available.

Other improvements covered are distribution lines, pumps and pumphouses, with the work to begin soon after awarding of the contract.

Improvements to the water system are needed for several reasons, the major one being that capacity of the present booster pumps has been reached and storage for emergency purposes is not available. The larger storage reservoir will give some assurance for continual service in case of temporary well-pump failure.

Additional wells are not

permitted in the area for municipal purposes because of a declining water table. Present improvements will also allow for looping of the pipe line grid in which initial construction left many dead-end lines.

The improvement system although not being extended into much new territory will allow for residential building to be added to the area.

Unusual chain is in museum

A 16-foot circular chain carved from pine is a new exhibit at the Morrow County Museum.

It was carved from an 8-foot long 2 x 4 by Orville W. Cutsforth and was given to his son and daughter-in-law, Pat and Karen Cutsforth. They had it in their home for several years before they determined to share it with the rest of the county. It now hangs in the northeastern corner of the new addition.

Cutsforth got the idea to carve it from one he saw that belonged to a Canadian sheepherder. Then when he found time and the right piece of pine for the project, he began, although he didn't know whether or not he could succeed.

He achieved the 50-link endless circle by carving up one side and down the other side with a cross link at each end. It is possible to spot the two cross links by their cross grain.

The project took a long time and "lots of patience," Orville said. "I only carved about two links a day and then quit because I was afraid that if I got nervous or tired I would break the chain." He used some good whittling knives and said he "fudged a little by using a brace and bit to drill a start in the center of each link."

Some people who have seen the continuous-circle chain and have asked how it was

Try a Gazette-Times Classified Ad

Help for renters and homeowners

Personnel from the Oregon Department of Revenue will be available in Heppner on March 19 in the County Clerk's Office, Morrow County courthouse, between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m. to help homeowners and renters complete their claim forms for the 1974 property tax refund program.

This is part of a statewide department effort to provide convenient assistance to taxpayers who are entitled to the property tax refunds.

Homeowners should bring with them Form 70-R (Refund Claim), which has been mailed with the individual income tax packets to every residence in the state, and a copy of their property tax statement re-

ceived this fall. They should also have with them information about their 1974 income, including a completed federal income tax return (Form 1040 or 1940A) if one is required.

Renters should bring the Refund Claim, copies of Form 99-R (Rent Certificate) obtained from landlords certifying total rent paid during 1974, and the completed federal income tax form if required.

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and

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