

Morrow women tour capitol

Forty-three Morrow County women boarded a chartered bus March 20 for a tour of the Oregon Legislature in session in Salem.

First stop in the capitol was to the Senate, followed by a visit to the House of Representatives. Special recognition in both house and senate was given to the Morrow County Extension Service. Prior to a special luncheon arranged by Sen. Kenneth Jernstedt, the women met with Gov. Straub. The governor told that women that he was familiar with Morrow County, having spent vacation time here. He welcomed and congratulated the women for their interest in public affairs. He questioned them on their reaction to developments occurring in their county.

The group was joined by Sen. Jernstedt and Rep. and Mrs. Jack Sumner, Harold Kerr, extension agent, and Mrs. Milton Morgan for the luncheon. The afternoon was spent attending hearings in session, visiting the Bill Room, and exploring the capitol building and surrounding area.

John's Landing was the spot chosen for dinner on the return trip home.

Women from all of the county joined the tour. Heppner women included Sadie Parrish, Garnett Huddleston, Beth Bryant, Dianna Ball, Claudia Hughes, Judy Laughlin, Mabel Heath, Verna Brinde, Irma Keithley, Freida Majeske, Etta Parker, Jeanne Howell, Doris Graves, Gladys Connor, Kathy Clark, Helen Curran, Sue Duncan, Marion Brosnan, Irene Padberg, Faye Pierce, Mary Eleanore Gilman, Lexington, Marie Struthers, Jean Nelson, Phyllis Piper, Liela Palmer, Virginia Grieb, Mildred Rhea, Mary Doherty, Evelyn Gulick, Leann Rea, Ione, Norma Rea, Irrigon, Vera Cooley, Juanita Ryan, Betty Schmeder, Isabel Jones, Joyce Smith, Francine Evans, Francis McCoy, Boardman, Martha Baker, Mabel Allen and Kay Trumbull.

The group was accompanied by Birdine Tullis, Morrow Extension Service.



GREYHOUND BUS IN HEPPNER? Only briefly. Morrow County women chartered the bus to take them to the legislature tour in Salem last week.

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Ground squirrels in population explosion

A population explosion of ground squirrels is erupting in Central and Eastern Oregon this spring.

Two Oregon State University researchers, George Sullins and David Costain, are studying Beidling's (or Oregon) ground squirrels in separate research projects at two Eastern Oregon sites. Initial surveys by both men, who are graduate research assistants in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at OSU, have indicated the number of adult ground squirrels is larger than normal and they warn that when young are born early this spring, a population boom is almost inevitable.

This means problems for ranchers with grain and forage grass fields where the animals like to feed, and Sullins warns that now is the time to distribute poisonous bait before the season progresses and the problem becomes more severe.

The Agricultural Experiment Station researcher says that the sex ratio of adult ground squirrels is about 2 1/2 to 1 in favor of females. Mating occurred earlier this year and young will be born in early March at lower eleva-

tions. Sullins says each female produces an average of seven to eight young which will be secluded for approximately one month and then will emerge ready to eat and grow.

To prevent hordes of both adult and young ground squirrels from attacking grain and forage grass fields, Sullins said ranchers should put out bait treated with a toxicant before the animals are weaned. Reinvasions can be reduced by treating a wide border around the fields.

Ranchers should be careful when selecting baits, warned Sullins, because grains which have husks do not work well. The nimble ground squirrels will shuck off the husks and eat only the unpoisoned grain kernels, avoiding contact with the toxicant.

Information on toxicants is available from OSU Extension offices in each Oregon county.

The OSU scientist hopes to determine the most effective types of baits, methods of baiting and times of applying poisonous baits.

And while Sullins is trying to find ways to reduce the depredations by the exploding squirrel populations at one research site near Monument, Costain is investigating the long-range population dynamics of ground squirrels at another Eastern Oregon research location.

Costain will try to determine whether the present population explosion is part of a predictable cycle or if it is a short-term eruption brought about by unusual circumstances.



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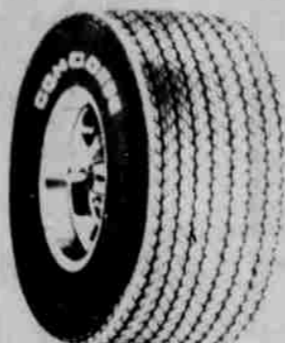
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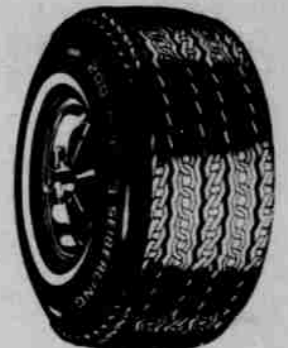
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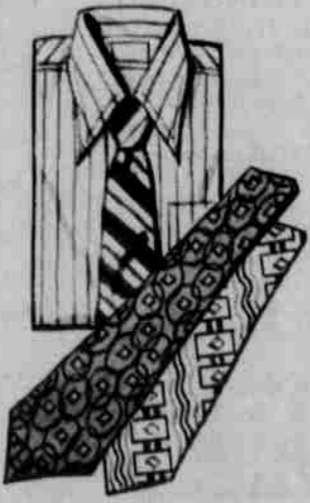
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