



The first section of the new clinic for Heppner arrived last Thursday. It was followed by the second section of the modular home as it arrived later in the day.

Against the rules

# New clinic building stymied by water

"This is one of the worst jobs I have ever seen," said State Plumbing Inspector, Dan Russell, when he inspected the water service to the new doctor's clinic building.

The water service to the clinic is tapped from a transit pipe to an unoccupied residence, and directly above the water line a sewer pipe crosses the water pipe.

"This is against all of the public health and plumbing codes in the state, said Russell. Sewer lines are never permitted to cross over water lines. If the sewer line should develop a leak the sewage has the possibility of entering into the water line and contaminating the entire system," continued Russell.

"It is my recommendation that the water line be removed and installed properly," said Russell.

At present there is no bedding material under either the water or the sewer lines, as indicated by a visual inspection. "Plumbing codes are designed for the health and welfare of the people. This is a case of workmen being negligent. They were just not competent in their workmanship to allow something of this nature to happen," he continued. If they are

competent contractors they have to know the basic rules of plumbing and this hookup defies the basic rule."

Although he contends that he has no jurisdiction in the public roadways, he has the authority to have the contractor expose all of the water and sewer lines that will serve the new residences from the back of the curb line to the homes.

"One of the problems that exists in Heppner is that there are no licensed plumbers in the area, and most of the people doing the work have tried to follow the state standards.

Russell said that he will not approve the hookup to the clinic until the necessary corrections are made. He plans to issue an order to the contractor to dig up the lines and replace them as per State of Oregon specifications.

The general contractor for the project is R.C. Chambers and the plumbing contractor is P.S. Cook.

The letter of Russell's corrections will be sent to the plumbing contractor. Members of the City Council plan to review the entire project at their Monday night meeting in an effort to correct any inequities.



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WATER SERVICE to new clinic is located under sewer line. State Plumbing inspector, placed "Stop Work" notices on all buildings Tuesday, including clinic, as a result of his inspection.

# National Farmers Organization explained at chamber meeting

Don Peterson, a farmer in the lone-Gooseberry area, and presently vice president of the National Farm Organization for the State of Oregon, was the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce, Monday.

Peterson stated, "I would like to share some interesting experiences with you, that are of interest to the local community. A project to get farmers interested in collective bargaining and to inform them why they should cooper-

ate in a small community."

"Do you think that farm prices are on a parity with the economy?" asked Peterson. He then answered, saying, "Parity and equity of trade should go hand in glove, yet there are thousands of us in agriculture that feel guilty to ask a parity price."

"In 1967 everything was at parity, figured at 100 per cent, today parity in grain is figured at \$1 per bushel under the present price," continued Peterson.

He then read excerpts from the National Organization for Raw Materials (NORM), to bear out his convictions. The excerpts are as follows:

"There will be no solution to our economic dilemma until agriculture prices are restored to full 100 per cent of honest parity. If not the nation will continue to experience the horrors of uncontrolled inflation."

"Rural America had no problem supporting its public institutions when agricultural prices were at full, honest parity."

"If agricultural prices should drop to the 1972 level, we will be short \$90 billion to be up to parity," remarked Peterson.

In 1973, wheat sold from \$1.50-\$2.00 per bushel and continued to rise and in the fall of the year it reached \$3 per bushel. The rising price continued until it reached an all time high of \$5 per bushel. However, last spring the price started to decline and the current price is slightly over \$3.50 per bushel.

If the price continues to drop, the wheat farmer will be in trouble as the cattle man is

today. The continued decline of price will be of great concern to every member of a small community as it will tend to upset the economy.

"Our strength lies in our production, yet in many cases we supply with no demand," said Peterson.

Presently the NFO is engaged in trying to locate foreign markets for the wheat farmer. If this is accomplished wheat will be sold in blocks.

## Kindergarten registration

Kindergarten registration and orientation for next year will be held on Wednesday, May 7.

It will be held in the Kindergarten room at the elementary building. The all day session will give parents an opportunity to ask questions concerning the classes and what is expected of the students.

Parents will receive a booklet outlining the rules of the school.

## Water supply good

Excellent water supplies are forecast for the Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow, Rock and Lower John Day watersheds.

The snowpack is 20 to 40 per cent above average and reservoir storage is good, according to SCS surveys.

March precipitation was only 87 per cent of normal and the soil moisture remains slightly below average. Spring and summer streamflow forecasts are 10 to 20 per cent above normal.

The streamflow forecast for Butter Creek near Pine City is expected to be 112 per cent of average during April to July

period.

The water supply outlook for the spring season on Butter, Willow, Rhea and Rock Creeks is excellent. For the late season the supply should remain average.

The snow survey made on Arbutle Mountain on March 26 showed a snow depth of 46 inches. There was 14.8 inches of water content as compared to last year's 13.2 inches and the average of 10.2.

The survey was made on Lucky Strike April 1 where 44 inches of snow had a water content of 14.5 inches. This compares to 13.4 last year and the average of 13.0.

## Lions plan charter night

The Heppner Lions will hold their charter night on Saturday, May 3. It will be held at the American Legion Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The program will also include installation of officers, initiation of new members and presentation of awards.

District Governor, Roy Cook, of Pendleton will install the officers and Past District Governor, Paul Sanstrum, of Hood River will initiate the new members. Sanstrum was instrumental in the organization of the Heppner Club.

Cliff Green has served as president during this first year and will be succeeded by Dick Sargent.

## BMCC's ballot covers board and budget

A four-way race for a position on the Board of Education plus a levy to operate the college for the next school year will be on the Blue Mountain Community College ballot facing voters in Umatilla and Morrow counties Tuesday, May 6.

Running for the lone board position are Pat Dye and Mike Kilby, both of Pendleton, John Hansell, Hermiston, and Leon Reese, Echo. The post is being vacated by Brent Horn, Hermiston, who is retiring after 12 years on the board.

The college's operating levy will also be on the ballot. BMCC has no tax base and

must submit a levy to voters annually.

The levy is expected to be between \$1.85 and \$1.95 per \$1,000 true cash value. Total amount to be collected in taxes is \$1,465,594. The balance of the funds needed to operate the college during the next school year comes from federal and state sources and from tuition and fees.

Cost to the individual taxpayer is expected to run between \$37 and \$39 for a \$20,000 home.

BMCC President Ron Daniels said the new budget provides for no new program expenditures other than "a

modest amount to start a new farm management curriculum."

Polls in Morrow County will be open from 2 to 8 p.m. Polling places are:

Precinct 1, Greenfield Grange, Boardman; Precinct 2, Lone City Hall; Precinct 4, Irrigon School Building; Precinct 5, Lexington City Hall; Precincts 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Old City Library, Heppner.

Morrow County voters can obtain absent voter ballots from the Morrow County Clerk, Heppner, the BMCC Business Office, or any school district office.

## Phone outage due to wind

High winds in the Heppner area Sunday caused a telephone outage for the area. A bare electric line fell across the telephone cable near the Heppner Hotel burning the cable.

Service wasn't restored until 11 p.m. Sunday night. A second cable was damaged near the phone booth by the First National Bank. A small fire was started on the pole by this break.

Columbia Basin Electric reported an outage in Fossil and two others in the Olex area.

Dave Harrison, manager of the electric coop, said that the bare lines in the Heppner area are being replaced to avoid such occurrences.

## Gardner's expand clothing store

Gardner's Men's Wear is expanding into the area recently vacated by the Western Auto Store.

The building is undergoing extensive remodeling before being occupied. New lighting will highlight the decorative cedar boards and paneling. The cedar boards applied at an angle are outlined by simulated archways.

The present store will also undergo remodeling with the installation of paneling and new lighting.

The addition will more than double the space now occupied by Gardner's.

Work is expected to be completed within the next two weeks.

## ATTENTION MASONS

Attend our first annual hotcake and sausage feed on Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., at the Lodge Hall.

Stated Communication 8 p.m. Larry Smitten guest speaker.

## Tax refunds

# Morrow County taxpayers to recover \$731,000

Some financial aid will soon be on the way for residents of Morrow County.

A total of \$731,000 will be flowing in from Washington, a partial offset to the funds they sent in the opposite direction recently in paying their 1974 income taxes.

Essentially, it represents a two-part payout. The bulk of it, approximately \$571,000 will be coming back in the form of refunds to local taxpayers who overpaid on their taxes during the past year because the amount withheld from their paychecks was more than was required.

Most of the other money they will be receiving consists of the rebates on their 1974 taxes that Congress and the Administration approved last month.

Morrow County residents will recover an estimated \$160,000 in such rebates.

In addition, local persons who are recipients of Social Security, people getting railroad pensions and the aged, the blind and the disabled who are on welfare will receive \$50 each.

This bonus will in no way affect the increase in monthly benefits they are scheduled to get later this year under separate legislation.

Nationally, a substantial amount of money is being put back into the hands of consumers with the hope that they will start spending more freely and get the economy moving forward.

The total going to individuals in these direct payments figures out to \$37.8 billion, of which \$28 billion is in refunds, \$8.1 billion in rebates and \$1.7 billion in the \$50 checks.

According to the latest Treasury Department re-

ports, the refunds are running at the rate of \$386 each. This compares with \$361 last year.

As for the rebates, the range is from \$100 to a maximum of \$200. Those who paid less than \$100 in taxes will get all their money back.

The new bill provides, also, for reductions in 1975 taxes in

the amount of \$7.8 billion, including a \$30 tax credit for each taxpayer and dependent.

Taxpayers need file no application to receive their rebates, it is noted. They will start going out the early part of May. It is expected that all of them will be issued before the end of June.



ROBERT PETERSON



ANITA DAVIDSON, Heppner High School senior, was recently notified that she had placed third in the nation in the Elks Most Valuable Student contest. In addition to the money she has won in competition reaching the national level, this award gives Anita \$2,000 per year for a four-year period. Bruce Allen, Grants Pass, Oregon, was the first place winner in the national contest.