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Autumn scene along Willow Creek

31st annual

Co-op meeting draws throng to Fossil

300 residents of Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam Counties attended the 31st annual meeting of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Fossil, Thursday.

Following the luncheon served by the Methodist Ladies, director Herb Wright welcomed the guests to the City of Fossil. Wright told of the various businesses within the city and asked the members to take the time to visit the antique car display and the museum.

Manager Dave Harrison, using color slides, told the members of the progress made during the past year. Between lone and Heppner the power poles were located near the edge of the existing shoulder of the road, since last year the power poles have been relocated. Harrison also told of looping the lines from the Condon substation to better serve the community. He spoke of the Olex line and of plans to have the circuit completed in the near future.

Harrison told of the increase in the load limit by saying many new homes are all electric and some of the older homes are converting to electric heat.

The Wheeler High School choir, under the direction of Arnold Melby entertained the visitors with their singing as well as trumpet and saxophone numbers.

Secretary-treasurer Paul Tews read the proof of mailing report and gave a short resume of last year's meeting in Heppner.

Our fiscal year ends June 30 and an audit was made at that time. We have a new audit firm this year and they submitted an excellent report to the Board and Management.

Income for the past fiscal year was over \$1.3 million and the margin of income over expense was over one-third million. It was by far our best year ever financially.

There were a few significant items Tews noted. Rural residential members showed only a 6 per cent increase in billings for the year. Our town residential users made an increase of 23 per cent for \$57,816.00 increase. The irrigation users were up over \$75,000.00 for a 24 per cent gain and the large commercial class of users were up \$83,221.00 for a 31 per cent gain. Our total revenue gain was 20 per cent while our expenses increased at 11 per cent for the fiscal year. Of the total expense increase, our cost of power increase amounted to 6.4 per cent or more than half of the total expense increase.

We also show payments of capital credits made to the maximum permissible under our mortgage agreement with REA. Our patronage credits to decedent estates and to active members for the margins for 1961-62-63 were paid at \$55,551.18. This compared to \$12,785.25 paid the previous

year.

The Coop. has made 7.5 million in investments of line facilities in our five county area to provide better service.

We on the Board are pleased with the strong financial progress of your local electric business. It appears we are very fortunate in comparison to other electric utilities of the area who have had to place large rate increases into effect and plan others almost immediately. Such is not the case with Columbia Basin Electric Coop. in spite of the large increases from BPA and most other things we buy. Good management techniques have really helped control costs as

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VAN RIEMANN

Corporate Farms

The other side of the coin

"Five years ago I farmed 400 acres and the cost of raising potatoes was \$400 per acre; this year I farmed 8,000 acres and the cost had increased to \$1,200 per acre," said Dennis Logan, president of Western Empire Builders, Boardman. Logan made the statement speaking before the Chamber of Commerce, Monday, speaking in favor of corporate farming in Morrow County.

His primary objection to the proposed amendment to the State Constitution, which if passes by the voters would abolish corporate farming in Oregon, is he feels would ban free enterprise. "Free enterprise was started by our forefathers and should be allowed to continue," said Logan.

"We have one world supremacy left and that is in the field of agriculture, last year we had an \$11 billion credit in agriculture, while we had a \$15 billion deficit in industry. With this in mind the government should not tell us how to run our corporate farms," said Logan.

Corporate farms have developed over 100,000 acres in the Columbia Basin area, on land the government said was worthless and could not be developed.

If Boeing had not come into this area the land would not be developed today, said Logan. If we had waited for the government to develop the land, we would still be waiting. "Presently corporate farms are paying approximately 40 per cent of the Morrow County tax roll. In the past three years the tax roll has increased 200 per cent in the county and this is being paid by the corporate farmers. Last year the corporate farm paid out over \$5 million in wages. Responding to the quote that most workers do not spend their money within the county, Logan estimated that 90 per cent of his budget is spent within Morrow and Umatilla counties.

If the proposed farm area in the north end of the county were divided into 640 acre plots and given to veterans as they plan, what would be the cost of developing the land?" asked Logan, and who would loan the money to develop the land on speculation?" With the increase in farm machinery prices, 640 acres would not be enough land for a farmer to make a living.

If the land were divided in 500 farms for family farming at the end of 20 years there would probably be 20 farms left as the successful farmer would continue to purchase the property of the unsuccessful farmer.

Other questions posed by Logan were: "Who will pay for the necessary roads and power? Will this be paid for by the average taxpayer? Why should the land only be given to veterans, why not to the children of non-veterans?"

Logan said, "The fairest way would be to auction off the land and give the money to the state."

"The idea behind the proposed amendment to the constitution is to get more people on the land. This has been tried in other states and the result has been a total failure," said Logan.

"What is the fear of large corporate farms in the area?" asked Logan. "We need free enterprise in this country and if corporate farming is restricted, what happens to free

enterprise?"

Corporate farms are the only ones with enough money to farm this area. A family farmer could not compete with corporation farming. Presently the family farmers are selling their produce to the corporations. Once the family farmer has established the price of a commodity, corporate farm will spend the necessary money to maintain the price.

Residents object to Boeing, C.W. Brewer, Simplot, and other large corporation farmers in the county. If the proposed amendment is passed it will not affect either P.J. Taggeres or J.R. Simplot, as both of these men are sole owners of their respective companies.

Logan concluded his talk saying, this amendment is going to be dangerous if it is placed on the ballot. If the people of this community do not support corporate farms, their loss will have a tremendous impact on the community.

The people residing in the valley have the idea that corporate farming is terrible, yet, if the issue is placed on the ballot, they will decide the fate of large farms as they have the population and will cast the majority of the votes.

Next week's guest speakers will be Alice Abrams, Janette Piper and Cathy Palmer. These three girls will tell the members of their recent visit to Japan.



DENNIS LOGAN

Revenue sharing discussed

City council holds special meeting

A special meeting of the Heppner common council was held Monday night to consider a building permit for Oscar Crook. During the last regular meeting, Nov. 3, a motion to approve his building permit had been tabled allowing the city to receive written complaints concerning the placing of a mobile home on his property. Although the permit had been accepted by the planning commission, the council had to wait the required 15 days for any letters of protest to be filed with the city recorder. As no written complaints were filed the council voted to approve the permit.

The council discussed the possibility of hiring a certified building inspector as of Jan. 1, 1976, for under the new building code all buildings will have to be inspected by a certified inspector. No action was taken on the matter until further information is reviewed by the council as to the specific qualifications of a building inspector.

The council adopted a resolution stating the specific duties of the planning commission, which include comprehensive plan, land use permits, variances, subdivision and boundary changes roadways and rotating the planning commission chairman every six months by alphabetical order.

Mayor Sweeney read a letter taken from the League of Oregon Cities which states that Oregon cities may not receive revenue sharing funds for the next fiscal year. The letter states, "Failure of Congress to act this session

means that re-enactment cannot occur until after May 15, 1976, because of new congressional budget procedures that will go into effect starting 1976.

Since the present revenue sharing program expires Dec. 31, 1976 cities in Oregon will probably need to prepare budgets next spring on the basis of only a half-year of federal revenue sharing funds being assured, with the availability of the second half not known until after July 1, 1976."

Mayor Sweeney speculated that if the revenue sharing funds received by the city are cut in half, the budget will probably have to be submitted to the voters for their approval. If the voters refuse the city's budget, it could result in the loss of some of the city's services.

The council voted to approve free parking for residents Nov. 29, and the following Saturdays in December, thereby allowing residents to do their Christmas shopping without receiving a parking ticket. Free parking will be allowed Dec. 6, 13, and 20.

Personnel problems were discussed and an executive meeting is scheduled Nov. 25, 8 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD TO MEET

The Morrow County School Board will hold their regular meeting Mon., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. at Riverside High School, Boardman.

The State School Board meeting will be held Nov. 19-21, Hilton Hotel, Portland.

BPA Outage

Electricity will be turned off Sunday

A BPA scheduled outage at their Boardman substation will affect customers of Columbia Basin Electric Coop. in the Sand Hollow, North lone, town of lone, rural areas south of lone, Hardman area, Heppner, Little Butte Creek, Gurdane and Ruggs areas.

The outage is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16, 1975 from approximately 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The work is necessary to provide larger capacity for rapidly growing loads of Umatilla Electric Coop.

Columbia Basin crews will take advantage of the outage to perform a limited amount of maintenance in replacement of gun "shot" suspension insulators.

It's that time again

Last year some of the families of All Saints Episcopal Church decided to cook their Thanksgiving birds at the parish hall and invite all the lonely persons in the community to have dinner with them.

It was such an enjoyable day that they are planning to do it again this year.

The affair is for those who

cannot be with their families for the holiday because of distance or other reasons. "Just don't eat alone on Thanksgiving Day," a spokesman said.

The dinner will be served Thursday, Nov. 27, 3 p.m., at the parish hall on Gale Street. All that is required is a call for reservations to 676-9496. Food trays will also be delivered to shut-ins that day.