

## Bicentennial Forum

### Pioneer Profiles

THE FARNSWORTHS  
By Justine Weatherford

In 1874 Orin E. Farnsworth came from Portland to settle on Rhea Creek. He had been born and educated in Haverhill, NH. He enlisted in the cavalry and served nearly one year, or until the end of the Civil War, being mustered out in 1865.

He traveled to California via the Isthmus of Panama. In San Francisco he was employed in the service of the Internal Revenue Dept. and was in the mercantile business.

In 1869 he migrated to Portland, engaging in the general merchandise business for four years before moving to Morrow County.

He began with one quarter section of land and 163 sheep and was very successful, increasing his flocks to over 15,000 sheep and becoming one of the largest real-estate owners in this section of the country. He and his wife the former Katie M. Pray had been married just one year when they moved from Portland to upper Rhea Creek. They became parents of Frank P., Lucy H., Edward T., Flora M., Mary H., Emma E., and Karl William.

The Farnsworths lived on the ranch at the mouth of McKinney Creek in the summers and in Heppner during the winters. The 1902 "History of Umatilla and Morrow Counties" relates "his residence in Heppner and two of his ranches are connected with telephone. He is a heavy stockholder in and president of the Morrow County Land and Trust Company, which has the largest warehouse in Heppner. He is also stockholder in the Heppner building and Loan Association, which owns some fine city property. Mr. Farnsworth has served as city councilman for seven years."

An interview printed in the May 14, 1915 Heppner Herald quotes him: "We hauled our wool to the river, usually to Arlington, and piled it along the river bank. I used to take a flour sack and nail it to a pole to attract the attention of the captains of the boats and would leave a letter for the captain informing him whose wool he was getting. We never waited for the boat to come along and we never lost any wool by parties stealing it. Wool averaged in price about 30 cents per pound in the 70s but later it went lower. At one time it went down to 6 cents and I concluded that I would hold mine, so I piled up over 100,000 pounds on my ranch, covering it with a board roof. I didn't insure it or do anything else to protect it except plow several furrows of ground around it. The next year wool was 12 cents and I sold."

"I never heard of anyone losing anything by theft, and I remember several occasions when I was on my way back from the river or going to sheep camps that my team would wander off at night when they were hitched to the wagon and would take an entire load of provisions and be gone for a half a day before we would find them—and nothing was ever taken."

Frank P. Farnsworth, like his father, was a prominent stockman. He was a baby when his parents brought him to this area. He was educated in Heppner and San Francisco. He sold his holdings here, and like his brothers, left this area.

The four girls married. Lucy and Mary left this area. Flora married J. W. Beymer—they had no children. Emma married Louis Bisbee and their children Kathryn and Orin are well known here. Orin completed high school here and then his business career took him elsewhere. He is deceased. Kathryn Bisbee became a nurse and then a teacher. She lives in Toledo, OR, where she had taught for some time. She has been generous to the county museum and the Heppner library, presenting memorials in the name of her brother and their parents.

Fred John Lowes, 45, Vancouver, WA, was airlifted from St. Anthony's Hospital, Pendleton, to Emanuel Hospital, Portland, Saturday. Lowes was pinned beneath his logging truck for over an hour Friday, when his truck overturned on Highway 1-80N near Boardman.

### The Labor Force

"Labor unions are the worst thing that ever struck the earth because they take away a man's independence." Booklet distributed to Ford workers, 1936.

"Some day men will work together in a grand scheme. But until that day the trade union must stand as the only safeguard of the working man; the only instrument by which he can maintain himself and his family." Clarence Darrow.

Even as Thomas Jefferson was extolling the virtues of an agrarian society, a very different sort of society was coming to life along the swift-flowing rivers of New England. Yankee ingenuity, abundant water power, scarce labor and new labor-saving machines—all combined to give rise to the factory and to a revolution that rivaled the American revolution in its meaning for mankind. As industry grew, so did its demands for workers; millions of immigrants filled the factories and mills—human tools, replaceable parts on production lines. The nature of work began to change, and with it the concept of dignity and even the reason for working. Laborers began seeking some form of protection for themselves, some way of sharing in the fruits of their labor. After decades of often bloody clashes, 22 million Americans are unionized today. Would they be paid as well without the unions? Should limits exist on the right to strike? Some Americans regard work as a necessary evil with wages the only objective. Is unionization in any way responsible—or is the nature of work? How does the distribution of wealth and income among workers affect the meaning of their work? What is the fairest basis of compensation in a free society?

With immigration swelling the ranks of laborers, hours run as high as 80 to 90 a week, and wages are so low that wives and children have to work as well. In 1890 the average pay for unskilled workers is \$10 a week.

In 1869 Uriah Stephens, a Philadelphia tailor, organizes the Knights of Labor, open to all workers, skilled or unskilled, of whatever race or national origin. Membership grows to 700,000 by 1886, but the Haymarket Riot in Chicago in 1886 and the 1894 Pullman Strike lead to the Knights' decline. Many of its white, skilled members join the American Federation of Labor, formed in 1881. Its goals are an 8 hour day, 6-day week, better wages, job tenure and the abolition of child labor.

Henry Ford creates the assembly line to turn out his automobiles. Its impact on other industries and on concepts of productivity is immediate. Automation, the "second industrial Revolution," changes the nature of work of millions after WW II, displacing blue collar workers at the rate of 2 to 3 million a year in the late 1950s and 1960s.

### MORROW COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society will hold their first meeting of the year at the First National Bank Conference Room, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.

Officers were elected at the Christmas dessert potluck at the Ed Hunt home, Dec. 15.

They are: President, Bud Springer; Vice-president, Gen Springer; Secretary-treasurer, Ardith Hunt. Refreshments will be served by Mr. and Mrs. Bud Springer.

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## Doctors sign lease with county

A lease with an option to purchase the Heppner Medical Clinic from Morrow County was entered into by Drs. Joseph Gifford and Richard Carpenter, last week.

The doctors opened practice in the new modular building last year. At that time they had an agreement to set up practice with the stipulation they could have free rent for the first year.

The five-year contract gives the doctors the right to use the building without charge until July 1, 1976, then continues for

another four years at \$350 per month. Presently the doctors pay utility charges, repairs and maintenance within the new building, while the county pays for outside maintenance, property taxes and insurance on the existing building.

During the lease period the doctors may at any time use their option to purchase the building. Should they purchase the building the county will credit them with \$150 per month for the length of time they have paid the rental fee of \$350 per month.

## Crisis faces livestock industry

"A 50 per cent increase in public land grazing fees, announced last week by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service, has threatened the existence of thousands of cattle ranch operations in the western United States. This increase will cost the livestock operator eight million dollars for the year 1976 alone. Since 1968, when grazing fees were 33 cents, these new fees represent a 358 per cent increase to the livestock public land user during the past seven years," stated Donald Ostensoe, executive vice-president, Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

BLM grazing fees for the 1976 grazing season are going from \$1.00 to \$1.51 per Animal Unit Month (AUM) and Forest Service fees from \$1.11 to \$1.60 per AUM.

"This extreme increase for 1976, comes at a time when livestock producers in Oregon and throughout the west have been losing money for at least the past two years, and losses are expected to continue into 1976 for a large majority of cattlemen. Last year, President Ford put a moratorium on grazing fee increases due to the financial crisis within the livestock industry. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the American National Cattlemen's Association had sought to have the moratorium continued through 1976 because economic conditions in the livestock industry have not improved all that much and a loss position is in store for the basic cow-calf producer."

"It seems inconceivable that an Administration which professes to be so inflation-conscious would approve such a big one-year increase," said Donald Ostensoe. "Because of such factors as low carrying capacity and low calving rates, most producers using the public lands already have high production costs. With the big fee increase, many operators, particularly the smaller ones, undoubtedly will be forced out of the business. However, both small and large operators will be affected, and the action will have adverse effects on the economies of many Western communities which depend on a viable livestock industry. Almost one-fifth of the calf crop comes from the western states, and a large portion of the cows producing the calves are on public lands at least part of the year. Thus, the BLM and Forest Service action can have far-reaching effects on the entire industry."

"It appears that the policy of these agencies is to force livestock off the public lands, as has been advocated by some environmental groups, even though wild life habitat actually will be hurt if cattlemen are not permitted to use the grazing land. The huge fee increase also is inconsistent with claims that greater use has to be made of otherwise wasted resources, like grazing land, in order to produce ade-

quate supplies of protein food. If cattle are taken off the public lands, more pressure will be put on grain and other crop producing areas."

Ostensoe continued, "As if this wasn't enough, for the livestock producer, you should be aware that the environmentalists have won their court case insisting that Environmental Impact Statements, regarding use of grazing land be made. Therefore, during the next several years, there will be 212 Environmental Impact Statements at a cost of over \$55 million. The first one is underway in Idaho and another one will commence in the Eastern Oregon area of Drewsey sometime this spring. Our industry believes in environmental protection as much as anyone. For reasons of necessity, the American farmer is readily the first conservationist. But enough is enough. It is our feeling that environmentalists have really gone too far. It is time we bring this situation to a halt before it is too late."

### County receives \$51,288.36

The State Highway Division has distributed \$16,785,734.42 in highway-user funds to the 36 counties of the state during the period July 1-Dec. 31, 1975, it was announced by Fred B. Klaboe, Highway Division administrator.

The allocation is based on the statutory 20 per cent with the appropriation being made to the counties on a monthly basis as a result of legislative action during the 1975 session. The funds come from the following sources: motor vehicle registration and operator's license fees, gasoline tax, use fuel tax, motor carrier fees, and fines and penalties collected for violation of the size and weight statutes where complaints are made by the Highway Division weighmasters.

The allocation to each county is based on the number of vehicles registered in it during 1974. The allocation for Morrow County follows: Registered vehicles: 5,365; apportionment: \$51,288.36.

**ANNUAL MEETING  
Willow Creek Country Club  
January 22  
7:30 p.m.**

at

**Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op.**

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(A public service advertisement by your friends at Columbia Basin).

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## Kinzua has new employees



Larry Van Camp, green end supervisor, started work at Kinzua Corporation, Heppner, Dec. 22. He is formerly of Roseburg, OR. Larry and his wife Neva have 4 children, 2 in grade school and 2 youngsters at home.



Frank Pearson is the new accountant at Kinzua Corporation. He previously worked for Boise-Cascade, Independence, OR. He and his wife Chole have 2 children, ages 4 and 1.



Georgia Seal is a new accountant secretary at Kinzua Corporation. She previously worked on the string machine before going into the office. She and her husband Gerald have 2 children.

## Traffic fatalities increase

Only one Oregon county managed to end 1975 without recording a single traffic fatality even though the state had its lowest traffic death toll in more than a decade according to the Motor Vehicle Division.

Wheeler county went death-free for the year. Several other counties—Gilliam, Hood River, Lake and Sherman—each recorded only one death during 1975.

Multnomah county recorded 100 traffic fatalities according to preliminary figures. Lane county reported 87 fatalities. Marion county reported 43 deaths and Clackamas county reported 40 fatalities for the year. The four counties alone

accounted for 44 per cent of the 565 reported deaths for the year.

Twenty-four of the state's 36 counties had lower death tolls last year than in 1974. Three counties had no change in deaths for the two years and nine counties went against the statewide trend by recording higher death tolls in 1975 than in 1974.

Counties showing increases, ranging from one to 11, were Benton, Deschutes, Gilliam, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Marion, Morrow and Wasco Counties.

Morrow county recorded 3 deaths in 1975 as compared to 1 in 1974.

## Unemployment fraud

The Oregon Employment Division reported that fraud control activity in the fourth quarter of 1975 (Oct-Dec), through its Unemployment Insurance Benefits section, brought recommendations for prosecution of 14 new cases, bringing the total number of cases during the quarter to 55. The Division reported that even though the number of Unemployment Insurance claims were at record levels, fraud was kept to a minimum through the continued vigilance of claims personnel, tax auditors, fraud investigators, and the cross-matching of claims through the Division's computer.

A total of 14 cases were completed during the quarter leaving 41 cases pending. The completed cases brought three convictions in Marion county; three convictions and one declination in Multnomah county; 2 convictions in Lane county and one conviction each in Polk, Linn, Josephine, Lincoln and Clackamas counties.

The courts ordered restitution in ten cases; suspended sentences in 13 cases; imposed sentence of three days in one case; imposed a fine in one case of \$500; and set probationary periods in 13 cases ranging from six months to five years.

## Low unemployment

Morrow County maintained a significantly low unemployment rate with a 5.4 per cent in November, only 0.7 per cent higher than the 4.7 per cent level reported in October. Both figures are considerably below the 13.6 per cent unemployment rate of November 1974. Only one other Oregon county—Malheur—had a lower unemployment rate. Seasonally adjusted, Morrow Co-

unty's rate of 5.4 per cent (identical to the raw figure) was the lowest of any Oregon county.

## Obituary

WALTER H. HAYES

Walter H. Hayes was born in Heppner, Oregon April 4, 1896. He died at Good Shepherd Hospital, Hermiston, Jan. 11 at the age of 79.

Mr. Hayes had been a resident of Boardman since 1949, moving there from Condon. He had a grocery store in Condon and also one in Boardman.

Mr. Hayes was a Morrow County Commissioner for 12 years, until his resignation in 1975 because of ill health. He was a member of the Christian Church, the Masonic Lodge in Condon, the Scottish Rite and the Shrine. He was Past Master of the Masonic Lodge and a 50 year member of the Masonic Lodge, the Shrine, and the Heppner Elks Lodge. He was a member of the Desert Shrine Club, Hermiston and the Greenfield Grange, Boardman.

He is survived by his widow, Phoebe, Boardman; two sons, Jeff, Maupin, OR, and Melvin, Condon; two daughters, Mrs. Louise LeTrace, Boardman, and Mrs. Ted Putman, Fossil; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Boardman Community Church, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. James Wilson officiating. Paul Jones, as acting Worshipful Master, was in charge of Masonic services at the church.

Heppner Elks Lodge conducted graveside services. Vault interment was at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

For those who wish, contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital or the American Cancer Society in memory of Mr. Hayes.



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More information contact Hermiston Office, 567-8498

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