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Recent winners in the Riverside Tournament were the Lone Elementary School Cards. Front row from the left, Bruce Willman, Todd Sherer, Dennis Stefani and Leslie Thompson. Second row

from the left, Robin LaRue, Larry Snider, Jerry Rietmann, Greg Rietmann and Scott Martin. In the final game of the tourney the Cards defeated Riverside by a score of 21-17.

922,000 Acres

Beetles infest Blue Mts.

"There are approximately 922,000 acres in the Blue Mountains infested with Mountain Pine Beetles," said Bill Carter of the Supervisors Office of the United States Forestry Service at the Chamber of Commerce, Monday.

With the use of color slides, Carter elaborated on the beetle saying, "The beetle attacks Ponderosa Pine, Lodge Pole Pine, Sugar Pine and White Pine." The damage caused by the beetles is inside the bark next to the fibers. As the beetle enters the bark a small pitch tube is formed on the outside of the bark. Once inside, they are free from pesticides and are able to continue their destruction. Once between the bark and fibers of the tree they construct a series of tunnels and deposit their larvae.

The beetles are usually flying in July, the time they infest the trees. During the fall and early spring pitch tubes can be seen on the trees and the trees start to die. When the young are hatched they emerge from the bark through minute holes in the bark.

The beetles will infest the larger trees around the edge of the stand and gradually work their way to the smaller trees. They seldom infest trees smaller than six inches in diameter as the bark on the smaller trees is too thin.

The beetles usually infest the lodge pole pines and when these trees commence to die the beetles will move on to Ponderosa Pines.

As the trees start to die the tips of the trees turn red and eventually the entire tree turns a rust color.

Carter said, "In the past the lodge pole pines had never been properly managed, and now it is too late for some of the older trees." With all the dead trees in the area they present a definite fire hazard. In certain areas some of the infested trees were burned and later removed, only to find they were useless for salvage as the charcoal in the tree can not be removed from the chips.

The larger trees that can be salvaged for saw logs will be salvaged while the remainder of the smaller logs will be used for chips.

When the trees die they will crack or check, making them unsuitable for logs or lumber and while chips appear to be an alternative to the solution the chips are dirty, as they contain some of the fungus of the beetles.

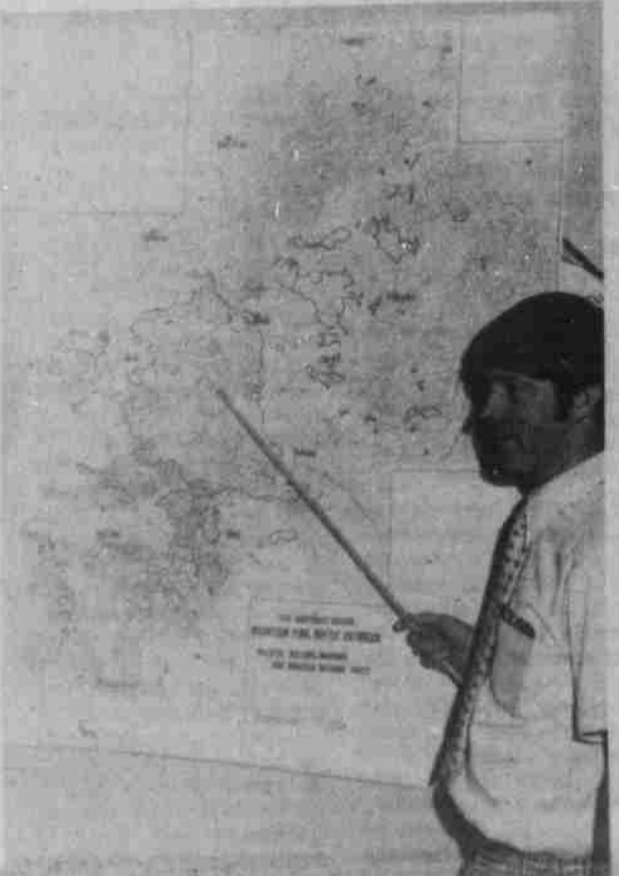
In one area the trees were made into chips and the following spring small trees were found growing in the area where the infested trees had lain. If this continues the reforestation program will be aided as the cost of planting smaller trees in the area would be tremendous.

Other studies have been conducted and at first it was reasoned the infested trees should be removed as soon as possible, however, the infested trees although dead by flying provide a source of shade. If the infested trees were removed they impact on the small streams and the erosion problems

could be damaging. Many studies have been conducted with regard to all wildlife habitat and in the case of the Blue Mountains the Division of Forestry is concerned with the elk herds and protecting the total environment.

A bill is presently before Congress asking for \$133 million during the next 21 years to remove most of the dead trees, however, most of the estimated cost will be in the construction of roadways into the areas.

The destruction of the forest will be greater than that of the tussock moth, however, the value of the lodge pole has never been estimated during the past 20 years. "Proper management of the lodge pole pine is one solution for the future.



BILL CARTER

\$ 4.28 MILLION?

EPA takes action to prevent wheat loss

In a move that is expected to keep Oregon winter wheat growers from suffering an estimated \$4,280,000 in this season's crop losses, EPA today announced it is allowing growers to use Benlate, the only fungicide known to be effective against an infestation of foot rot on 261,000 acres of winter wheat in eastern Oregon.

Clifford V. Smith Jr., EPA's Northwest regional administrator, announced that his agency had approved the request of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture to use the fungicide on a one-time basis

on acreage in Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union and Wasco counties.

"EPA's action has come in time to prevent Oregon winter wheat growers from incurring average crop losses of about 12 per cent during the current growing season," said Smith. In order for Benlate to be effective, Smith explained, it must be applied no later than the end of March. The request to use Benlate was made in mid-February by Leonard Kunzman, the Oregon state agriculture director. The request set in motion an EPA evaluation process in which the agency reviewed, on an

emergency basis, toxicological and chemical data supplied by the manufacturer.

"EPA has determined from its review that the use of Benlate will not result in any long-term or short-term effects on man or the environment," Smith said. "Any Benlate residues on milled wheat will be within limits that do not constitute a hazard to public health, and that includes any secondary residues transferring to meat, milk, poultry or eggs as a result of feed or forage use of the treated wheat."

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as amended by the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972, no pesticide can be used unless it is registered by EPA and then only after EPA sets tolerance levels - i. e., the amount of the pesticide that may safely remain on the crop after harvesting. Benlate still remains unregistered by EPA for use on winter wheat. Today's action allows Benlate to be used only on a one-time basis between now and March 30.



BICENTENNIAL EXPRESS ON ITS WAY

Friday, March 12, at noon, marks the beginning of an eight-month, statewide, 72 stop journey for the Bicentennial Express, sponsored by U.S. National Bank of Oregon and carrying the story of the advance of humanity in the state.

Special ceremonies are featured for the lunch hour in this first public showing of the gaily decorated, carefully appointed 45 foot highway semi-trailer. The free exhibit is funded by USNB in cooperation with the Oregon Historical Society (responsible for selection of artifacts and design of the trailer) and the Oregon Trucking Associations who volunteered to provide free transport of the trailer from one location to another.

Planned participants in the March 12 presentation are John A. Elorriaga, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Bancorp; Fred Wessinger, President of the Oregon Historical Society's Board; David Lloyd Davies, chairman of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Oregon; Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt, and representatives of a host of others including Oregon Trucking Associations, Fruehauff Trailer, Multnomah County Intermediate Education District and the Oregon Department of Education.

The Lincoln High School stage band will be on hand. Ceremonies are scheduled to begin shortly before noon. The public is invited.



Winners of the Rally Squad Trophy are members of the Lone Elementary School cheerleaders, from the left: Kathy Gutierrez; Kelly Pettyjohn; Tana Hams.

Board approves budget

The Morrow County School District budget committee held a short meeting, Monday night, Lexington District Office for the approval of the present budget. Although some changes were made in some of the budget items the amount of the proposed budget remains the same, for a total budget of \$3,020,601.

The Levy within the 6 per cent limitations amounts to \$466,157, while the levy outside the 6 per cent limitation totals \$1,421,049. The total proposed levy (to be certified to Assessor) totals \$2,140,775. Total budget resources amount to \$127,088, as the total resources except tax to be levied totals \$1,008,834.

Following revisions of the budget, the board accepted

the proposed budget.

After the budget meeting a special school board meeting was held. Bob Smith working with the district office in the preparation of the plans for the improvements to the Morrow County schools announced plans should be completed by the mechanical and electrical engineers shortly and he hopes to let the bids March 22, with the opening of the bids April 14, at the District Office, 8 p.m.

A special meeting of the board was proposed for March 29, for March 29, for the final inspection of the plans, at Riverside High School, Boardman, 7:30 p.m.

In other business the school board considered a request for a lease of a lot of the school

property at Boardman, opposite Nelson Square. The school board received two proposals for the property, one from Mr. Hansen who would like to trade some of his existing property for the school property and one from First Federal Savings and Loan, Hermiston. The Savings and Loan Association would like to lease the property and place a mobile unit on the property to conduct business in the Boardman area two days per week. The board rejected both offers at this time as they would like to trade the frontage property for property near the north end of the existing high school for future development.

Following the discussion on the property the school board

adjourned to executive session to consider contracts for certificated personnel.

The board reconvened the meeting and with the exception of Steve Jones, Riverside High School, who notified the board of his intentions to resign, recommended the approval of 52 teachers. This includes teachers eligible for second and third probationary contracts as well as those eligible for permanent status.

In the final action of the evening, the board moved to accept the recommendation of the advisory board that the one year contract of Dean Naffziger, as basketball coach at Heppner High School not be renewed; the motion carried by a vote of six to one.

BMCC Improves Budget

The Blue Mountain Community College budget committee last night added \$31,300 to the college's proposed 1976-77 budget then approved the revised document by unanimous vote.

Even with the added cost the college's levy per thousand dollars true cash value will probably be less than the current year's levy due to an increase in the true cash value of the district, President Ron Daniels said.

After three weeks of study and discussion the committee made cuts in some areas and added funds to cover escalating utility costs and to pay for planning of a two-year Associate Degree Nursing program. Additional money was also included for maintenance of a fire alarm and clock system and a human services training program. The total budget is now \$1,079,381, an increase of \$77,500.

Budget Committee Chairman Ben Holdman, Pendleton, said after the meeting, "This is a good, bold - the line budget."

Daniels said he, too, felt it was a tight budget, but one that the college could live with unless fixed costs exceed estimates. If costs for social security, electricity, natural

gas, insurance, and other items over which the college has no control increase beyond present estimates, the college may be forced to reduce other costs to stay within the total budget figure.

The college's general fund levy this year is \$1.63 per \$1,000 true cash value. Due to anticipated increases in the college district's true cash value, Daniels expects the \$1.63 figure to drop to about \$1.60 next year if the budget is approved by Umatilla-Morrow County voters April 20th. He also expects the college's construction levy to come down from the current 20 cents to 26 or 27 cents per \$1,000 true cash value.

Members of the budget committee, in addition to Holdman, are: Wally Wedin, Milton-Freewater, secretary; Bill Etter, Pilot Rock; Bob Mautz and Bob Stangier, Pendleton; Home Hughes, Lexington, and Ralph Skoubo, Boardman.

Members of the Board of Education who also serve on the budget committee are Harmon Springer, chairman, Malachi Campbell and John Hansell, all of Hermiston; Ken Dauble, Weston; Bob Rietmann, Ione; Jim Whitney and Joe Greep, Pendleton.