

City Council

# Roark house to be destroyed

After lengthy discussions over the last few months, the Heppner Common Council Monday decided to destroy the Bert Roark house, located on Elder Street.

The house was declared a dangerous building earlier this year and at a public hearing Monday, there were neither opposition or favorable comments concerning the destruction.

Ralph Marlatt, city maintenance engineer, along with Forrest Burkenbine, fire chief and Dr. Wallace Wolfe, agreed that the house was a fire hazard and health hazard as well.

Marlatt said the floors were uneven, wiring was bad, and the back end of the house was nothing more than a 2x4 lean-to structure nailed to the roof.

A resolution was passed to remove the building and bill the property owner, Roark,

for any necessary fees. Burkenbine said the best way to destroy the unwanted structure was to wrap a cable around it, pull it together, run over it with a caterpillar and then burn what was left.

A woodshed near the house, which Marlatt termed as being in better shape than the house, will stay.

The destruction will take place not less than 10 days from Monday and not more than 30 days. Roark will be notified of the council's decision.

Another hazardous home, a Moyer owned residence, was also termed a nuisance by the council. However, in light that persons occupy the house, the council has found themselves between a rock and a hard place.

The house was condemned early this year as a fire hazard. That was when it was unoccupied and children were

able to run amok inside, smoking, according to city officials.

But, there are people living in the home now, and the danger, the council was told, may have been reduced by the inhabitants.

City attorney Bob Abrahams told the council it was a "bad situation" and that he had not pursued the issue.

Police Chief Dean Gilman said the house was on his list and that the inside of the home was exactly what it was before. "Contrary to people living there," he said, "the inside has not changed in any degree. Perhaps it's worse," he said.

Gilman also said the house had become somewhat of a kennel and that the police department was getting "static" at least twice a week from neighbors. "If we can't help the people of this community," Gilman told the council,

"there is something wrong."

The police chief, building inspector and city health official were supposed to have inspected the house Tuesday. In other business, the council:

approved a building permit for Ed Gonty to construct a 24 by 48 metal structure behind his business on Main Street. The building, to cost \$8,000, will be fire resistant, set on a concrete foundation in a commercial zone.

agreed to a state code for inspecting mobile homes. For several months, the council has brewed over the issue of whether or not to agree with the state's policy. The policy says that if the city inspects mobile homes, 85 per cent of

the inspection fee goes to the city and 15 per cent to the state. The council had trouble figuring out why the state should receive any of the fee

charge. The other alternative was to let the state send an inspector in and take the full 100 per cent inspection fee. Marlatt has been to a training course and is an authorized mobile home inspector.

approved by a 2-1 vote to endorse a bill to be proposed, asking the state for revenue sharing monies. Some discussion concerning strings attached and increased taxes preceded the vote.

approved a five year franchise for Cliff Green to collect and haul garbage in Heppner. Costs for the service were reaffirmed as \$3 for the first 30

gallon can and \$1 for each additional can. The franchise agreement called for service at least once a day, except where it was not required. The agreement will be reviewed annually.

approved a recommendation from the city auditor to change the city's bookkeeping procedures to a general ledger type operation. Cost for the service would not be more than \$575. It was approved unanimously.

agreed to review and adjust the water rate schedule for Bill Cox at his creamery. Cox told the council, after gaining

meter readings, that he was being charged for using 260,000 gallons a month while he was using just 15,000 on the average. The council agreed to the adjustment.

referred to the city planning committee a request

from the Heppner High School to be annexed into the city completely. Now, the city boundary cuts through the center of the HHS gym.

agreed to let the city crews build a small storage room on the back of the present city building on Willow Street

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

### Editorial & Viewpoint

## Voter turnout high

Voter apathy in Morrow County?

No way.

Out of 3,081 registered voters in Morrow County, a total of 2,411 persons turned out at the Tuesday polls to vote their choices in city, county, state and national contested races.

That 2,411 out of 3,081 represents a 78 per cent voter turnout.

And as far as we're concerned, that's great.

There were 141 absentee ballots, more than usual. In the precincts, the total figure was mirrored by the individual precinct's turnouts. Take small Hardman, for example. Out of 31 registered voters, 24 turned out for a 77 per centage.

Here in Heppner, there are 1,198 registered voters. A total of 911 voted for a 76 per centage. Great!

In the north end, where the returns weren't compiled till 5 a.m., Boardman has 485 registered voters and got a turnout of 385. That's a 79 per centage.

In Ione, with 392 registered voters, a turnout of 300 represents a percentage of 76. In Lexington, it was about the same. With 315 registered and 236 voters, that is a percentage of 74.

In the county's largest precinct, Irrigon, there are 539 registered voters and 414 turned out. That is a 76 percentile.

To say Morrow County voters were apathetic and uninterested is a crock. We're proud to be part of a county that is represented by its people.

Good job, Morrow County.

wcp

## Hello Friends

Editor:

We want to say hello to all our friends. It was real nice to get together with the Harley Sagers recently when they visited Idaho.

Since leaving Heppner, we have all been busy. I am self employed...paint, wax and clean floors, etc. Mrs. Everhart will receive her Certified Public Accountant degree this year from Boise State University.

We have all been active in the work of the Gospel. I have continued my writing and teach an adult Sunday School Class of about 30 every Sunday morning. Helen teaches Bible Memorization on midweek. Although I have made no definite plans to return to the pastorate, on August 1 we commenced an outreach ministry for the "Truth, Faith and Hope Fellowship"—called "The Everhart Family Singers."

Since its inception, we have ministered in 14 services and are scheduled for the Nyssa Christian Church, the Salvation Army Hall in Nampa and Fruitland Southern Baptist Church.

Members of our group include all of our children except Dan, 26, who is currently ministering in Guatemala for the Church of the Nazarene. He is helping rebuild churches destroyed by the earthquake in February. He is interpreting, singing in local churches and preaching the word.

In our group, there is Jim 24, and wife Cindy; Gary 23 and wife Jean; Sam 19, Pam 17, Joy 15, Gloria 13 and Tim 11. Gary sets up the musical numbers and is the pianist. Jim, Gary, Sam and myself each take turns ministering God's

Word at these services.

We say hello and hope we can come over to Heppner and hold services.

Sincerely,  
Floyd Curran Everhart  
Rt. 7, Box 7476  
Nampa, ID 83651

## Thank you businesses

Editor:

We would like to write a letter of appreciation to the businesses that sponsor ads about the activities that go on in our community. More people will know and appreciate the fact that businesses care enough to help out clubs, the schools, and other organizations. When businesses take the time and money to sponsor ads, we know that they care about our community and future. I hope people will read this letter and know what the businesses do for our community.

Thank you,  
Brenda Bruner  
Susan Gray

## Farmers warned of over-supply

"The wheat industry should be aware of potential losses from having to store overflow on the ground next season and the financial problems associated with such an over-supply of wheat," warned OSU Extension Agribusiness Specialist, Clinton Reeder. Speaking to workshop gatherings of some 300 wheat farmers from seven Columbia Plateau and northeastern Oregon counties over the past two weeks, Reeder gave insight into the decrease in wheat export sales for the 1976-77 growing season.

Harold Kerr, Morrow County Extension Agent, attended a workshop held by Reed, Gene Nelson, OSU Extension Farm Management Specialist and J.B. Wyckoff, OSU Extension Economist. Kerr pointed out economic speculations for the declined wheat market in a November 1 presentation to the Heppner Chamber of Commerce.

Unlike the 1974-75 or 1975-76 production prices of \$4 to \$5 a bushel, this year's crop has been fluctuating considerably lower, somewhere in the area of \$3.60 to less than \$3.00 according to June through August reports. This disheartening decrease is largely due to favorable production weather conditions (more favorable than last year at least) in India (South Asia) and the U.S.S.R. Those two countries alone represent a decrease of 147 million bushels of U.S. export wheat.

The workshop also indicated that a good production year in Canada is expected to increase its exports this year compared to 1975-76. In fact, a large sale by Canada in September may have contributed to the current downturn in world wheat prices. Overall the U.S. wheat situation parallels the world situation this year. That is, increased consumption, increased stocks and decreased exports are expected.

This is not to say the entire U.S. wheat situation is growing stagnant. The USDA has negotiated a new \$50 million line of credit with South Korea to finance export sales of U.S. wheat. The U.S. is still the largest exporter of wheat world-wide comparing 1,940 billion bushels with a combined export of foreign nations of 1,407 billion bushels. "Unknown to some of the population is the U.S. import of foreign wheat, 2 million bushels is listed to arrive in U.S. ports this year," revealed Kerr. This token import exists even though the U.S. wheat production has steadily increased for the past three years.

An increase in supply and a decrease in demand can only mean that the stocks at the end of this marketing year will increase. The total disappearance is expected to be 42 million bushels less than last year. Much of these increased stocks are in the hands of farmers. As a result, the management of this inventory will be less predictable. However, aid may result from this lower wheat price. Because of the higher prices the last two years, many Asian and South American countries dropped out of the white wheat market. "Since prices are lower than the last two years, perhaps some of these countries will begin to buy again," suggest

the workshop. Looking closer to home, a decrease in projected yields has caused Oregon wheat production to be less than that a year ago. This year's average yield at 42.3 bushels per acre is 4.2 bushels less than 1975-76. Though acreage is slightly up, it is not enough to offset the lower yields of 56 to 57 thousand bushels, about 1,400 thousand bushels down from last season.

Uncooperative weather has resulted in some reports of sprouting Oregon wheat during heavy harvest—time rainfall.

What direction is wheat production taking? It's a weather you will or weather you won't kind of gamble. One way of keeping fully informed is by attending your local Oregon Wheat Growers League meeting, which incidently happens to be coming up November 23 at the Heppner Catholic Church Parish Hall.

## Submit losses

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, USDA, would like to remind their policyholders that any claim for loss on a unit shall be signed and submitted to the corporation, not later than 60 days after harvest.

Notification should be given the county office in Pendleton several days prior to the deadline so inspections can be timely.

The insurance period on grain ends October 31, 1976, for the current year. If harvest will not be completed by this date, notification to the county office is required. The county office for Morrow County is located in Pendleton, 1229 S.E. 3rd or phone 276-3811, Extension 437.

## Farm report

Don Peterson, Ione, state president of the National Farmers' Organization, Gylan Mulkey, Monmouth, legislative representative, and Leroy Gilson, Rickreall, secretary, met recently with officers of the Grange, the Farmers' Union, the Farm Bureau and Agri-Business Council at the invitation of the State Department of Agriculture, to discuss areas of general concern. There will be further meetings which will include major farm organizations and commodity groups.

Wheat production will be down in the Willamette valley next year. It appears at this time that irrigated crop areas which have the opportunity to grow other crops will be used.

While in Seattle recently, Peterson made contacts with many city people who were amazed that farmers are receiving below cost of production prices, which force farmers to borrow money to produce next year's crop. This, of course, is inflationary.

National Farm Organization is making a major push to sign contracts and block production. This will enable them to market their products so that farmers can put into the marketing system their cost of production figures, which have not been in up to now.

## Dennis Doherty District Attorney

IS A JAIL FACILITY NECESSARY AND WHAT ALTERNATIVES DO WE HAVE? (Third and final of series.)

In previous articles, I have elaborated the reasons we are not able to use our jail in its present condition and some of the resulting adverse impacts.

After assessing these impacts, the members of the Morrow County Peace Officer's Association are in agreement that the jail problem is the law enforcement problem of longest standing and gravest concern. Consequently, we have not been content to accept the implications of the jail situation without bringing them to the public's attention.

It should be self-evident that Morrow County could continue without a jail. However, I believe that passing time would simply serve to aggravate the related problems which were discussed in my preceding article. We would continue to divert police officers from law enforcement duties to prisoner-related duties. Monetary costs related to handling, transporting and lodging prisoners out of the county will inflate rapidly. The deterrent influence of the threat of confinement would continue to diminish and offenders will become increasingly bold and intimidating. Law-abiding people who desire to see offenders deterred, or confined when not deterred, will become increasingly frustrated.

The county court has appointed two citizen committees to study the jail situation in the past. The most recent study was completed in the spring of 1974. The committee's recommendation then was to use revenue sharing monies to bring our jail up to minimum standards for use as a lockup facility, but to continue to board long-term prisoners in other and more sophisticated county jails.

Neither the committee's study nor its recommendations were well publicized. Public attention was not gained and public support did not materialize. The committee's recommendations were not implemented.

I still tend to favor the recommendations of the citizen committee. While I dislike the thought of continuing to send our dollars to other counties with long-term prisoners, it does not appear realistic to believe that we can obtain funding assistance beyond the local level. The two sources of such funding, the Economic Development Administration and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, do not seem promising. Each would require NEW construction, rather than the upgrading of the existing facility. Each would require design and construction to their approval. Each would require more cell space, and it is questionable whether either would approve double cells. Moreover, the likelihood of approval of a grant application from either is extremely slim.

I hope, though, that a jail facility is within our local means. I have in mind a facility which can be used for pre-sentence holding and post-sentence "short-termers," work-releaseses and jail trustees. This type of a facility could be austere and yet meet our greatest need and alleviate our most pressing problems.

It would provide a deterrent influence and, if that weren't sufficient, it would permit over-night lodgings, detoxification, short sentences and work-release sentences. It would avoid scheduling disruptions and the necessity of either calling an on-duty officer away from duty or an off-duty officer back to duty to transport the prisoner. We might even be able to operate such a facility without any increase in staff.

The Peace Officer's Association is exploring these and other alternatives, including—no jail, but increase the deputy positions; and, a combination adult holding and juvenile detention facility.

Law and law enforcement neither exist nor operate in a vacuum. In existence, they purport to closely follow the public need and interest. In operation, they strive to implement the measures necessary to satisfy the public need and achieve the public interest.

It would undoubtedly be helpful if the public examined the jail and discussed their thoughts with some of our law enforcement people. Too often there has appeared to be an inclination to cast fault or blame towards the people nearest to and most visible in connection with the jail and other law enforcement problems, meaning the officials within the criminal justice system.

Responsibility, however, follows authority. As I have previously explained, jail standards have been developed by the federal courts, Congress and the State Legislature. Those bodies, in reality, must share in responsibility proportionate to their authority. The same is true of local non-law enforcement officials, for the only authority to PROVIDE jails is vested in the local governing bodies and budget committees.

Most importantly, the public must also share in the responsibility, for it is the public's interest in safety and protection which is at issue, and it is the public's assessment of need and priorities which will ultimately determine whether we continue with neither a jail nor lockup facility.

The Sheriff has indicated that he would be glad to open the jail for inspection to any interested group or person. The Peace Officer's Association members are available to speak with groups about the jail situation or any other law enforcement matter of interest. A constructive dialogue and exchange is in our interest and, where the jail is concerned, it should assist to get offenders out of the vacuum and either into the "fold" or into the "bag".

Dennis Doherty  
District Attorney  
Morrow County

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G.M. Reed, Publisher  
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