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Announcements

Winter weather has checked in early this year in many of Oregon's mountain passes and much of the high country. In dealing with this early arrival, the Oregon Transportation Commission approved the use of studded tires beginning October 26, 1976.

The Willows Grange dinner and bazaar scheduled for November 14th has been cancelled. A card party will be announced at a later date.

Marilyn Terjeson has been elected chairperson of the Advisory Council of the Morrow-Umatilla Counties Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Sherman Messenger, Lexington, is a new member of the council. During the summer quarter, RSVP volunteers gave 6,467 hours of service to the two-county area. These retired persons are available to serve any non-profit organization or agency, excepting religious or political. For information, call 276-3311.

Business locates

A tractor and automobile repair company that goes by two names in one, is planning to move to different quarters in mid-November or early December. According to Cleo Childers, owner of B&C Parts and Supply or B&C Repair, the machinery works in the present building will be moved about a half mile to the new location on the highway near Beecher's Cafe. The new building will give the company needed space. The old building is 50 X 60 or 3,000 square feet. The new building will offer 7,000 square feet in its metal, 100 X 70 foot space. The company will also expand its services, offering parts and equipment, repair on autos as well as tractor, heavy equipment and farm equipment. The business will incorporate a parts stock and machine works and will feature new mechanical tools to rebuild specific parts of farm and heavy equipment. The business now employs five persons, but Childers said will expand its employment, also. Plans are set for a mid-November or early December move in.

CBEC Condon meeting



Two hundred seventy members and guests were present at the 32nd Annual Membership Meeting held November 6th at Condon. President Van Rietmann told of the complex contractual power supply problems the Board has faced recently—and many similar problems on power supply contracts in the future. He also told of programs the Coop. had in effect to reduce "line loss" in getting the purchased power to the consumer's service. This was a very viable form of conservation, he stated. These improvements included: capacitor installations, a good meter testing program, new systems transmission and distribution lines, heavier service drops, line balancing and conversion to higher voltage distribution lines for carrying distribution power. Director Dick Wilkinson recognized three employees with perfect records "on the job" or no lost time (such as sick leave) for the fiscal year: Lucia Barrett, Doyle Key and Bill McDowell. Other employees recognized for outstanding "on the job" records were: Dan James, Dave Harrison, Jim Prock, Lea Winters and Neil Parks. Elmer Palmer, a Director for 15 years, had announced retirement and the Board of Directors honored him with a plaque and a gift certificate. Walt Jaeger was recognized for his 25 years on the Board of Directors. The by-law proposal to amend the by-laws calling for decedent estate capital credit payments to be specifically applicable to the death of a "natural person" and calling for a possible limit on the amount of decedent estate payments in any one year was voted in by 362 to 78. Van Rietmann was elected over John Re as director for Zone 1; Dick Krebs was elected as director over Gary Grieb in Zone 3; and Herb Wright was elected over R.W. Boyles in Zone 7. The balloting committee for counting "mail" and "in person" voting was: Gene Pierce,

Dave Dollarhide, W.W. Weatherford, Mike Sweeney, Clarence Potter and Bernard Aamodi. Manager Dave Harrison gave a colored slide presentation of some of the system improvement projects of the past year. He also showed slides of many business buildings which had recently been converted to electric heating. Harrison told of the good work of the employees the past year, with no lost time accidents once again; an outstanding record on holding down workmen's compensation claims; a good safety record and a good job of working on "catch up projects" as well as keeping up on new member service requests. Treasurer Paul Tews covered some items of the audit report and discussed the recent Board action in effecting a policy of discounting decedent estate payments—unless they are made at the same time as general distribution of patrons credits for specific years' credits.

The dinner was served by the Condon Eastern Star ladies. Entertainment was provided by a Condon High School chorus and instrumental group.

Observe
Nov. 11, 1976

VETERANS DAY

Survey return sought

Several weeks ago residents of Morrow County were asked to pick up and fill out a city council and planning commission attitude poll. Points of disbursement included City Hall and the Post Office, to name two.

School meeting

Riverside High School in Boardman will house the Morrow County School District Board meeting November 15 at 7:30 p.m. A report from the district's architect on the progress of the district's building program is expected. Building projects include shops in Heppner and Ione and classroom additions at Riverside and A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon. The building program has been plagued with minor delays recently. A representative of the auditing firm of Wetherell, Wetherell, Morrison and Fife will have a representative present to discuss the district's financial status and present the district audit. Policy revision for equal opportunity in education and employment will be considered by the board for a second time.

Hospital budget needs booster

By Lavon Starr
In the shadow of Pioneer Memorial Hospital stands a considerably less obvious structure. Yet, despite its menial stature, the Heppner Medical Clinic may very well be the life-blood of the Morrow County Hospital. Prior to the arrival of Drs. Richard Carpenter and Joe Gifford to the clinic nineteen months ago, Pioneer Memorial Hospital was averaging 100 out-patients a month. At present, the out-patient average runs approximately 250 a month. According to hospital administrator, Ilene Wyman, "Everyone seems to think it's (the clinic) great. The doctors are most satisfactory to our needs and we certainly needed them." The clinic, a \$31,500.00 modular home, has handled some 3,000 charts (number of cases on file) since its opening. According to the two doctors, the facility is already too small. "One more examining room per side is needed and may have to be built in the near future," reviews Dr. Carpenter. Agreeing, Dr. Gifford points out, "It is a little on the small side for two physicians, but using the county hospital facilities also helps to relieve the tight space."

'Pioneer Memorial Hospital is an excellent facility...'

Basically, the immediate problem does not lie with the crowded quarters in the clinic. In order for H.M.C. to be an even greater aid to the medical needs of this county, the medical equipment available in Pioneer Memorial must be updated as soon as possible. Cautiously, Dr. Gifford estimates that, "the hospital will not be able to function as such, probably not beyond five years from now, without some major equipment replacement. There is a great chance Medicare or the government will reassess this hospital within five years. Look at the nursing home." The nursing home, located on the lower floor of Pioneer Memorial, according to Dr. Gifford, "can no longer take Medicare patients because it has been assessed to be below Medicare standards. What I'm wondering is how long it will be before that same situation will come to the hospital." Mrs. Wyman disagrees in part with that prognosis. "Medicare never has taken any of the patients in the nursing home. Most of them pay from their own pockets or adjust the fee with their insurance company if they can find one that will list this care." In order for the nursing home to be brought under the classification of what is termed a "skilled nursing facility" and receive benefits as such, estimates Dr. Carpenter, "it should convert the bed section of the hospital into a larger nursing home with room for 22 nursing patients. Then we could afford to go under the heading of a skilled nursing home."

"Pioneer Memorial Hospital is an excellent facility serving the needs of the people well. But we must look forward to the future. It would take \$500,000 to put in a modern twenty-two bed hospital in the present site—utilizing present lab, surgery, delivery, and X-ray facilities as well as offices." What the present hospital lacks, at this writing, pinpoints Dr. Gifford, "is modern X-ray equipment." A need, according to Ms. Wyman, that will cost \$30 or \$40,000 for a screen and \$100,000 for the machine. Pioneer Memorial received a \$56,000 serial levy from the voters three years ago. The levy will go up for re-election again this spring. Six years ago, the levy had been for a \$32,000 amount. Ms. Wyman sees the new levy being the \$56,000 amount at the very least.

Judge Paul Jones, Morrow County, doesn't seem to feel the county court has that much decision making power concerning the hospital financing. "It is law that we can't give them any more money until the new levy comes into effect. I would certainly hope the hospital continues to operate in the manner it always has. If it calls for a new levy, I would implore the people to bring it about." Even with the levy, according to Ms. Wyman, "Most of that goes into maintenance. This building is 26 years old. We are in need of new floor tile, the DEQ has ruled that we can no longer use our outdoor incinerator and must haul our refuse to the new landfill. This will take our workmen away from here to make three or four trips to the fill a day. A new DEQ approved incinerator would cost \$10,000." With no other hospital of any kind in the county, Morrow residents can't afford to stand by and let their investment fall into uncertain depths of depreciation. Dr. Gifford fears the alternatives to the present medical facilities will be a holding room where patients will be brought to wait until they could be transferred to Pendleton or Hermiston.

The doctors recommend that concerned citizens attend meetings of the hospital board, to search for a solution. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in Ms. Wyman's office. She has also agreed to arrange special meetings for groups of individuals who find the 10:00 a.m. hour difficult.

'It is law that we can't give them any more money until the new levy...'

Another necessary improvement, claims Dr. Carpenter, "is building on a pleasant twenty bedroom wing now or we won't be allowed to do so in 10 years." That rationale derives from the proposed National Health Care program being pushed by the incoming democratic administration. Health Maintenance Organizations of Oregon, a program involving large governmental agency control of medical facilities, "will place wage and price controls on medical care," warns Dr. Carpenter. "The majority of funds will go to larger communities. Hospitals like ours will get less because of the less dense population."

From Ilene Wyman's view, the county hospital can only survive by the generosity of the people. "Donations have been made in the past, using them as a tax write-off makes such gifts more feasible." The loss of a hospital would have a severe effect on the liveability of a community, not to mention the effect it would have on the people it employs. But the ultimate and greatest effect would be felt by those people in need of medical attention.

Green to direct

The Administrative Board of the Morrow County Mental Health Service announced late last week that Dr. Janice Green has been named to the post of director effective November 1. Dr. Green, a clinical psychologist, has been acting program director for the past three months while the Board organized and then screened applicants certified by the Eastern Oregon Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center. Dr. Green, who has been working three days a week in Heppner and two days a week in the Boardman-Irrigon area, stated her first major task will be screening applicants for the psychologist position so that the clinic can be fully manned as soon as possible. Dr. Green is married and has two teenage children. Her husband will join her here as soon as he is able to market their property in Carson City, NV, where they have lived for the past 15 years. She states that she has very much enjoyed seeing the newly independent agency through its first few months of being separated from the Umatilla mental health clinic. As soon as the clinic is staffed and things settle down a bit, she plans to look for a permanent place to live. Her family needs enough space for a horse and a big garden, as well as room under cover for various airplane and hang-glider projects.

Local man in 'Deep Freeze'

Engineman Second Class, Frank L. Lovgren, 25, son of Mr. James C. Lovgren and Mrs. Jeannie Hansen, all of Heppner, has completed a "wintering over" period on the "ice" in the Antarctic. Lovgren was a member of the U.S. Naval Support Force Antarctic (NSFA). Participating in Operation "Deep Freeze," his detachment of NSFA was assigned to McMurdo Station, the largest U.S. research station in Antarctica. Remaining isolated at McMurdo during the Antarctic winter, from mid-February until early October, Lovgren helped maintain the station during the winter. He also assisted with the preparations for the arrival of the scientists and support personnel who conduct research projects during the austral summer. These projects are part of the U.S. Antarctica Research Program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. A 1968 graduate of Heppner High School, Lovgren joined the Navy in August of 1969.



Archie Alderman, head of sprinkler maintenance for Kinzua Corp., was presented a gold watch by plant superintendent, Harry Kenison, at his retirement dinner, October 27. Alderman, a resident of Heppner, had been with Kinzua Corp. for 35½ years.

Because all federal employees have already celebrated their Veteran's Day holiday earlier this month, all federal offices will be open today, November 11. All other businesses in Heppner will be closed in observance of this day honoring the American Veterans.

Wanted
Theme
Reward offered

It's time once again to play "Name That Theme." Name it and next year's Morrow County Fair may very well represent your brainstorm. This distinction alone will not be your sole reward. A king's ransom in the amount of \$10 will be awarded the person submitting the chosen theme. Kings aren't quite worth what they used to be—must be inflation or something. All entries must be delivered to Delpha Jones—Lexington, or Larry Mills—685 E. Pioneer Dr., Heppner, OR, by no later than Nov. 15, 1976. Good luck and may the best theme win.