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# \$100,000 suit may involve county

Morrow County could be involved in a suit for more than \$100,000 because of alleged inadequate road maintenance.

In August of this year, a complaint was filed and a summons was issued by John Ledbetter, Personal Representative of the Estate of Logan Bergen Ledbetter, deceased, against Ruth E. Moyer.

The suit follows an accident that occurred on Aug. 8, 1973. According to reports, this is what happened: Ms. Moyer, traveling on Blackhorse Canyon Road, a county road, struck a power pole and knocked it down. Ledbetter came along and stopped to help. He parked his pickup in a way that caused it to come in contact with the power line and when he stepped from the pickup, he was electrocuted and instantly killed.

Ledbetter, represented by Kottkamp and O'Rourke, Attorneys from Pendleton, issued their complaint that alleged that on or about Aug. 8, 1973, Ms. Moyer operated her vehicle in a negligent manner, causing it to leave the road and strike a power pole.

The complaint alleges that an electrical line was thereby placed on or near the county road, and that L.B. Ledbetter then drove to a place where the wire contacted his vehicle

and died. All this allegedly occurred on Blackhorse Canyon County Road, about five miles south of Lexington.

Ms. Moyer, the defendant, and her insurance company,

Grange Insurance Association, notified Morrow County of the accident and alleged that it was a direct and proximate result of the county's failure to adequately

maintain the road, and a cattle guard thereon, and to provide adequate notices of dangers associated with the road and cattle guard.

Ms. Moyer has been sued by

the Ledbetter estate for a sum exceeding \$100,000, the exact amount being unknown at this time.

Through a letter from Sam Tucker of Kottkamp and

O'Rourke, Ms. Moyer and her insurance company have notified Morrow County of the claim against her and requests the county to indemnify her and her insurance com-

pany for any judgement rendered against her as well as any expenses thereby incurred.

Failing this, the letter said, Morrow County will be impleaded as a third party defendant in the case.

Dennis Doherty, Morrow County district attorney, said Monday he did not know what kind of position the county would take. He said that the position would be determined after seeing the state's suit charges.

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES HEPPNER

VOL. 93, NO. 41

HEPPNER, OR.

Thursday, Nov. 25, 1976

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### 1st antirecessionary check

## City receives \$2360 check

Heppner is \$2,360 richer this week.

The first antirecessionary fiscal assistance checks authorized under Title II of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976 were mailed last week to 223 of the 281 units of government in Oregon which are eligible to receive general revenue sharing.

The Title I program dropped

a small bundle of \$2,360 on the Heppner city government. It can be spent "anyway we want," according to Mayor Jerry Sweeney.

The program is designed to stimulate state and local economics forced to cut back on their basic services under pressure from national economic problems. A total of \$8,735,773 was allocated to

Oregon with \$3 million going to the state and remainder distributed among units of local government. The checks, which were mailed on Nov. 17, are for the July and Oct. quarters. Three additional payments will be made in Jan., Apr. and July.

Unlike general revenue sharing, which is allocated annually and then distributed

quarterly, antirecessionary payments are determined quarterly and can vary each quarter because they are based on unemployment levels for the quarter that ended three months earlier.

Those cities, evidently Ione and Lexington, that did not return the required assurance forms to the Office of Revenue Sharing by the deadline of

Nov. 12, will not receive a check even though they may be eligible to receive funds under the program. Instead, they will receive a letter advising that they have until Dec. 13 to submit the assurance forms or they will forfeit any entitlement to funds for the first three quarters of the program.



Hundreds of skins from elk and deer line fence near O. W. Cutsforths in Heppner. Skins are for Veteran's Hospital. Glen Ward is in charge.

(G-T Photos)

## PGE chimney climbs past Air Force doubts

Portland General Electric has hurdled...er...the Navy has hurdled.

A study by the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, has concluded that proposed structures by PGE would have little effect, other than possible rerouting of Navy and Air Force aircraft in the bombing range area.

PGE's industrial building complex will be 274 feet high while an adjacent chimney will reach 656 feet.

The proposed structures would be located about 10 miles southwest of Boardman, about five miles southwest of the main target of the Naval Weapons System Training Facility. As proposed, the chimney would exceed the standards of Federal Aviation Regulations in that it would exceed a height of 500 feet.

The proposal was circularized to the public for comment on Aug. 24, 1976. Comments were received from the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force. The Navy had no objection to the proposal, provided high intensity strobe lighting was employed and lighting outages reported to a range officer.

The Air Force, however, objected to the proposal on the grounds that the 656 foot chimney would restrict their range operations to daytime use only, necessitating relocation of night training to other ranges. They further stated in an aeronautical study, that the Air Force units operating for range entry, utilize 300 foot procedures and the chimney would create a hazardous situation, requiring revised procedures and/or route relocation.

Subsequent discussions with the Air Force revealed that flights within the area operate as low as 300 feet.

No other objections were received. The area in question is a joint-use restricted area open to general flight when not employed by military users. The restricted area is used about five hours per day with an approximate split of 75 per cent Navy and 25 per cent Air Force.

The Navy stated they would adjust their altitude for operations upward to 1,900 feet to accommodate the structure. The requirement of "see and avoid" will be satisfied by conspicuous marking of the buildings and chimney with high intensity strobe lights.

Air Force operations in and near the range area are essentially similar to those of the Navy. Both services use common ranges and Navy target equipment, and both employ low level, high speed maneuvers.

In regard to civil traffic, the structures would be located a sufficient distance from any natural or manmade flyway and

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## Palmer injured

A Heppner man, Ronald Palmer, owner of the Wagon Wheel Cafe and Lounge, suffered serious injury Friday night in a one car accident.

Palmer was traveling toward Heppner, according to police reports, on Western Route Road. Reports said Palmer's vehicle hit a patch of ice, causing his jeep to roll.

Palmer's jeep went off the road and into the canyon. Steve Beardsley, driving by, saw the lights from Palmer's jeep in the canyon and went down to get Palmer.

Beardsley transported Palmer to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, where he is now suffering from a broken back and severely lacerated ear.

## County well represented by Artifactory work

A number and variety of artists and craftpersons have arranged to show and sell their wares at this year's Artifactory. Persons representing most areas of the county will begin selling at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Gilliam-Bisbee building.

So far, the following organizations have made plans to participate: the Lexington Tole Painting Group, decorated articles; Heppner Lions Club, popcorn; Neighborhood Center, a variety of seasonal items; Heppner Garden Club, Christmas Green decorations; the Blue Birds, baked goods; Alpha Theta Sorority, bazaar items; A.A.U.W., used books

and homemade pie and coffee; Morrow County Extension members, demonstrations.

Individuals listed to sell include: Linda Johnson, molded candles; Jeanne Howell, straw wreaths; Opal Cook, dolls; Alberta Johannes, stuffed animals; Ken Curtis, applehead dolls; Martha Doherty, wood carving; Shirley Connor, Artex paintings and decoupage boards; Mrs. Lincoln Nash, wooden bowls; Jan Beitel, oil paintings and crocheted articles; Ruth and Marilyn Bergstrom, needle work; Sandy and Den Richardson, breads and bagels; the Evans Girls, recycled denim.

These and others will be putting their goods into place on Saturday morning between 8:30 and the 10 a.m. sale opening. The sale will end about 4:30 p.m. with the drawing for contributed door prizes.

President Linda Johnson lists the A.A.U.W. committee chairmen who are carrying responsibilities for this year's event as: June O'Connor and Debby Sheirbon, general chairmen; Ann Doherty and Monica Swanson, publicity; Liz Curtis, demonstrations; Linda Johnson and Mary Pat Lande, refreshments; Marion Abrams and Jeanne Howell, location; Jeanne Howell, Debby Sheirbon, Birdine Tullis, decorations; Ruby Shear, Santa Claus; Karen Beck and Justine Weatherford, used book sale; Pat Edmundson and Jane Rawlins, space-use by sellers.

Next week's paper will list the names of those who will present demonstrations and the time schedule for their demonstrations.

## County #1 spud producer

Morrow County has become the number one potato growing county in Oregon.

From a mere beginning a few years ago, this county's spud acreage has grown to 30,000. Just four years ago, the county could boast of only 8,000 acres.

For years, Malheur County was the top potato producer in the state. But Oregon State University Extension Service commodity sheets for 1976 indicate that Morrow County has taken over that number one status.

While Morrow County has jumped from 6,000 to 30,000 acres in four years, Malheur County has fluctuated between 10,000 and 12,000 acres.

This year, Morrow County leads the statewide acreage list, followed by Malheur with 11,000 acres, Umatilla County with more than 8,000, Klamath County with more than 8,000 and Jefferson and Crook counties with more than 2,000 acres each.

## Thanksgiving ... a time for prayer



For the happiness in our families today. For the beauty around us. For the friendships we've made. For the laughter, and the difficult times that have helped us grow. For the food on our tables. And for all the blessings we have received in the past year. Let us join in the tradition of the early pilgrims and give thanks in prayer.

The Heppner-Gazette-Times wishes the citizens of Morrow County and all the world a happy Thanksgiving. Thank-you.