

# Sargents buy Gilliam-Bigsbee; plan spring move

The Gilliam-Bigsbee Building at Main and May Streets has been purchased by Dick Sargent of Coast-to-Coast Store in Heppner. It was learned this week. Sargent said Coast-to-Coast will move from its present location this spring.

The building was purchased from Eastland Company of Portland for an undisclosed amount.

Sargent said offices on the

second floor of the building will be retained as is for present occupants. Offices on the second floor are the Tri-County Health Services, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Morrow County Extension Office, and others.

In other Heppner business activity this week, Miles Tires was sold to Les Schwab of Walla Walla. According to Dexter Miles, the change in operation will bring at least one new family into Heppner.

Wayne Wilson of Wayne's Diesel reports buying out his business partner. Wilson said he plans to install game tables in the store front and cater to persons under 18 years of age.

An announcement is expected shortly on the sale of one of the oldest businesses in the community, the Becket Equipment Company of Heppner.

Mrs. Virginia Whitaker of the Lebusch Shoppe has completed summer market buying in Portland. Also back from a Portland buying trip is Carolyn Cole of Cole's House of Fashion. Still other Heppner business people are at market this week.

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Although the country has received little moisture from above, it doesn't mean winter's chill hasn't invaded. Johnson Creek, about 25 miles southeast of Heppner, has a thick ice crust cover.

Thistles, branches and grasses are covered with icy frost throughout the day in the area. Forecasts are for possibly a little moisture to be followed by more dry weather.

(Gazette-Times photo)

## Drought threatens county wheat crop

Drought conditions continued to threaten crops and water supplies in Oregon this week. The situation in Morrow County was mixed, with wheat, other grains and hay yields threatened on one hand. On the other hand, irrigated lands, potato acreage and civic water supplies appear generally sound for the coming summer.

Harold Kerr, Morrow County Extension agent, Tuesday night completed a report on drought damage in Morrow County. The report indicates that as much as 40 per cent of the Morrow County dryland wheat crop will be lost if moisture conditions do not return to normal by the end of this month.

Kerr said that a full harvest of planted acres depends on the return of normal moisture patterns by Mar. 1 and the continuation of normal rainfall through to harvest.

To escape significant crop loss, wheat growers must also have moderate temperatures in June. A loss of any less than 40 per cent would also mean considerable programs of re-seeding, Kerr said.

Last year there were 227,560 acres seeded to wheat with a production of 7,175,000 bushels. This year the acreage is already down, with perhaps 10,000 acres now seeded to barley instead of wheat, Kerr said.

A loss of 40 per cent would roughly mean a production of 15 bushels per acre compared with a 22 or 23 bushel average on dryland.

Wells and municipal water supplies are not threatened at the present time. Irrigated wheat acreage is not included in the 40 per cent loss estimate.

Potato crops are not a matter of concern at the present time, but creek bottom hay land which depends on spring runoff could easily be off 50 per cent without more snow, Kerr said.

Drought effects can already be seen on an estimated 15,000 acres of barley and about 4,000 to 5,000 acres of hay. The alfalfa growers who are affected are those who depend on spring runoff for irrigation.

Through Jan. 1, the Soil Conservation Service reported record low snowfall in much of

the west including Oregon. Little change has been reported since Jan. 1. A new report on what little snow pack there is will be issued in the next few days.

Looking at poor moisture conditions, Morrow County farmers are reportedly holding off on farm related purchases which are not immediately necessary.

Larry Mills, general manager, Morrow County Grain Growers, Lexington, noted that rainfall in the area has measured only 1.6 hundredths inches from Sept. 1. "This is normally our heavy rainfall period," Mills said.

He went on to report that late seeded wheat is not up or has sprouted in some sections of the county. "Some of the irrigated wheat in the north end doesn't look good," he added. Mills said the cycle of freeze and dry weather has put stress on irrigated wheat. "Further south in the Eight-mile area wheat still looks reasonably good, but moisture is critical," Mills said. "I would say that an average crop is a long shot," he concluded.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney reported the water supply of the City of Heppner in good condition. Supply from underground sources is stable and Heppner apparently faces no critical water problem for human consumption. There may be regulated watering this summer, Sweeney noted.

Likewise, most farm wells in Morrow County are not dependent on winter snow pack for recharging. As a result, the supply of water for human and livestock consumption may be stable in Morrow County in comparison to other areas of the west. Forage for livestock, however, is continuing to worsen as drought conditions continue.

The report on the effects of drought in Morrow County will be channeled through T.H. Sidor at the Extension Office in Corvallis for immediate submission to Gov. Bob Straub.

Straub reportedly had no plans as of Feb. 1 to tour eastern Oregon farming areas "where farmers are worried, but whose crops are not yet to the point of suffering," according to an Associated Press story.

Both Kerr and Mills were in agreement that the crops in Morrow County are suffering and will experience heavy damage unless normal rainfall begins soon and continues through June.

### WEATHER

Wed., Jan. 26	35	26
Thurs., Jan. 27	39	19
Fri., Jan. 28	30	17
Sat., Jan. 29	29	22
Sun., Jan. 30	26	22
Mon., Jan. 31	35	21
Tues., Feb. 1	34	26

.02 precipitation  
Total precipitation for January was .36 hundredths against a norm of 1.29 inches. The total in January 1976 was 1.83. This January is the second driest on record. The first was in 1914 when the monthly total was .31 hundredths.

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## Elk's plan 81st annual

The Elks' Lodge, BPOE No. 358, of Heppner, will hold their 81st Annual Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Elks' Lodge in Heppner. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. with lodge activities beginning at 2 p.m., officials said.

Ritual will be conducted by the Condon Elks' officers. A champagne tea, card and bingo party for the ladies will begin at 1:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at the Lodge from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Dancing will follow the dinner from 9 p.m. until 1:30 upstairs.

Entertainers for the Annual will be the Marty Davis Show, Medford.

Officials of the Lodge said the 81st Annual promises to be the biggest Annual in the history of the Heppner Lodge.

## Lincoln closures

Federal, State, County, City offices and schools in Morrow County will close Monday, Feb. 7, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday. Generally unaffected by the holiday will be most business concerns and banks.

In Heppner, the downtown Merchants' Association members will remain open for business as usual, according to Randall Peterson.

A similar situation will be encountered Feb. 21 when schools and other government agencies close in observance of Washington's Birthday.

## Morrow County health officials urge pre-school measles shots

Morrow County Health Officer, Dr. L.D. Tibbles, is recommending that all susceptible children—those who have not had natural measles or measles vaccine, should be immunized as a preventive measure. There has been several small measles outbreaks in Oregon the past few weeks and Vancouver, Wash., is experiencing a large scale epidemic.

Approximately 97 per cent

of Morrow County's grade school age children have been immunized. The age groups Tibbles is concerned about are the pre-schoolers and some of the high school age students who have not been immunized or had the disease. Measles vaccine is rarely indicated for adults as nearly all are immune by the age of 20. Infants as young as 6 months old can be vaccinated if there is danger of exposure, but in

such cases, they would need to be revaccinated at an older age.

Measles is often a severe disease, frequently complicated by middle ear infection and broncho-pneumonia. Death from respiratory and neurological causes is associated with measles in one of every 1,000 reported cases.

Tibbles said he would encourage residents seeking im-

munizations to contact their family physician or the County Health Department.

Immunizations will be available at the following locations:

County Health Department at Lexington—Every Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (closed at noon).

A.C. Houghton School at Irrigon—Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

(Tuesday).

Riverside School at Boardman—Feb. 8 at 11:00 a.m. (Tuesday).

Ione Grade School at Ione—Feb. 9 at 9:30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Heppner Grade School at Heppner—Feb. 17 at 9:30 a.m. (Thursday).

Vaccine should not be given to children allergic to eggs, neomycin or ill with a fever.



## Influenza cases reported here

According to the latest Oregon Communicable Disease Summary, Morrow County had 10 reported cases of influenza reported during the first two weeks of January.

The Oregon State Health Division said the Morrow County cases were all reported in the second week of

January. On a state-wide basis, there were 800 influenza cases reported and 1,140 cases for the first two weeks of January.

The 1,140 influenza cases for the first two weeks compare with a 1,775 case average for the first two weeks of January in the previous four years.

Neighboring Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant counties had no reported influenza cases and like Morrow County had no other reports of communicable disease. Nearby Umatilla County reported 56 influenza cases through Jan. 15 and three cases of venereal disease.

## Ione schedules hearing on sewer treatment system

A public hearing on a proposed sewer collection system and treatment facilities

for the city of Ione has been scheduled for Mar. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers

of City Hall.

The hearing will include the presentation of alternative proposals for providing sanitary sewer service and treatment facilities for Ione, city officials said.

Topics to be considered will be potential environmental impacts, monetary costs, feasibility, resource and energy use, and reliability.

The public hearing will allow expression of the views of all persons concerned with the project. Detailed information on the project is open to public inspection at the Ione City Hall.

## Former mayor honored

Former Mayor Chester Wilson was honored with a retirement party Sunday at the School Cafeteria.

About 90 people gathered to express their appreciation for his 14 years of service as mayor and four years more as a councilman.

Mayor Vernon Stewart presented a plaque and a letter of

appreciation to Wilson and to retiring council members Elbert Eppenbach and Elva Sanders. Each served two four year terms. Also recognized and given a plaque was former city Marshal Perry Pummel, who served the city without pay for 19 years. He received expenses only to operate his car.

## Dental clinic hearing slated

A public hearing to consider a conditional use permit application for construction of a dental clinic in Valley View Estates has been scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. in the Heppner City Hall.

The hearing will be held before the Heppner Planning Commission. The conditional use permit calls for a structure to be used as a dental clinic on Lot No. 2 of Block No. 2 of Valley View Estates. The location is near the present Heppner Medical Clinic.

The structure is planned to accommodate the practice of Dr. O. Lee Hazen, 35, of Portland.

Hazen, based on construction progress, now expects to start his dental practice in Heppner around May 1.

Hazen and his family were in Heppner this week and were introduced at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday.



Dr. and Mrs. Lee Hazen plan to start practice in Heppner March 1. The dental clinic will be built near the medical clinic. (Gazette-Times photo)