

# Plans progressing on county jail facility

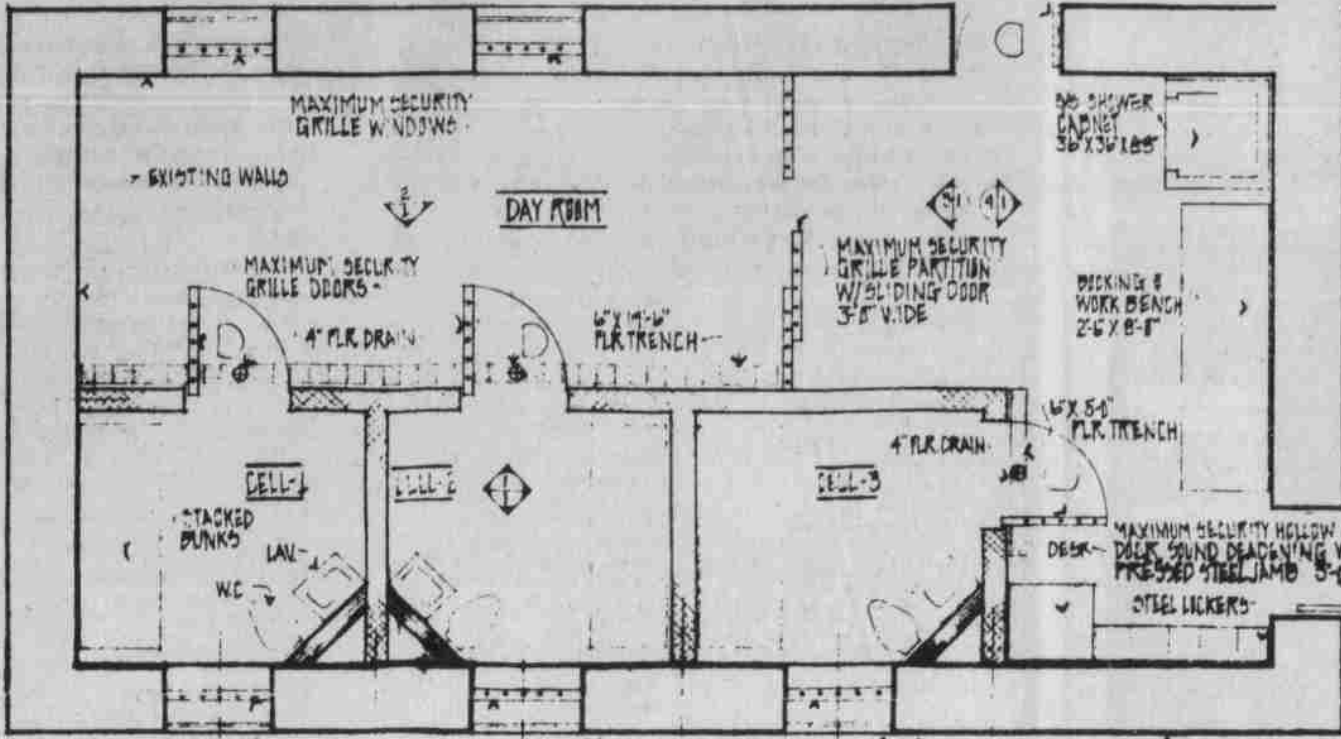
Editor's Note: Last summer and fall, the Gazette-Times published several news articles on the Morrow County jail facility. These were followed with a series of three articles written by the Morrow County District Attorney to explain why the county was not able to use its jail facility, why this adversely affects the public, and the alternatives. The following article has been prepared by Dennis D. Doherty to bring the public up-to-date on developments since those articles.

By Dennis D. Doherty,  
Morrow County  
District Attorney

County efforts toward providing a useable jail facility have been progressing in recent months.

In February, Law Enforcement officials presented the County Court with a plan to remodel the present facility for use as a lockup-holding facility for overnight and short-term prisoners. An alternative plan for a larger facility was scrapped because of cost.

The plan, which has been approved by the Court, would provide that the 547 square feet of floor space be divided between two cells for 4 prisoners, a daytime bull-pen area, a separate two-bunk cell which could be utilized for juveniles or other prisoners who require segregation, and a separate area for the combined purposes of booking, prisoner



interviews, meal preparation and shower.

Security would be provided with mechanical or electrical locking doors. Surveillance would be maintained with a TV-camera monitor and a sound system, operated from the Sheriff's office. Fixtures would include lockers, freezer, microwave oven, steel bunks and commodes. The cell walls would be constructed of reinforced cinder block. Steel grill or mesh would be used to enclose the cells and bull-pen and to provide an interior ceiling. All plumbing would be laid in a concrete floor and no wiring would be exposed in the bull-pen—cell areas. The heating and ventilation systems would be installed above the

steel mesh ceiling. The plan has also received tentative approval from the State Corrections Division. The County Court has not yet committed any financing to the project. When the plan has been put into construction drawings and a cost-estimate is available, it will be submitted to the County Court for consideration of cost and financing. The Court authorized the stripping of the old facility to facilitate planning for renovation.

The old steel sweat-box, patented in 1887, has been dismantled and the existing 14-foot ceiling is exposed, showing the art-work, ingenuity and graffiti of prisoners dating back to 1909. In the

dismantling, two old unbroken corked whiskey bottles, a pocket watch casing, and mixing utensils were salvaged from under the sweat-box.

We expect that progress towards construction, from this point, will be slow. In the meantime, the Sheriff will continue to utilize the jail facilities in Hermiston, Pendleton and The Dalles.

Both Congress and our State Legislature are considering legislative proposals in the corrections area. The proposal with the most practical impact on Morrow County's need is the Corrections Construction and Program Development Act (S. 1245), sponsored by Senator Griffin in the Congress.

The State proposals with which I am familiar generally

are geared towards rehabilitation programs, rather than facilities, and seem to adopt the philosophy formulated by the Governor's Task Force on Corrections. The main goal seems to be to shift emphasis from State owned and operated institutions to local programs maintained with local funds. We have argued against this goal, but it seems to have wide acceptance in the Executive Branch.

Our goal locally is simply to have a small, flexible jail which will permit us to handle prisoners more easily and to achieve some small measure of deterrence and public safety. The plan which we are working with would be of great assistance towards achieving that goal.

# Water restrictions urged

City Foreman Don Penney has asked Heppner residents to limit lawn and garden watering during the current two-month critical use period. Peak demands are placing overloads on the five city well pumps and Penney is now left without a standby pump for

use in case of a breakdown. The restrictions call for citizens living on the west side of Main Street to water on odd days of the month and those living on the east side of Main Street to water on even days. Penney said the system will allow a greater chance for

water buildup, put less strain on well and pump motors and give the city a greater reserve of water in case of fire. The City Council has appropriated \$1,200 for the purchase of a standby pump and Penney is now in the process of pricing the machinery.

# Activity award to Lions



Neil Parks (l) and Don Cole proudly display the Lions Club second place activity award presented Heppner Lions at the State Convention recently.

Heppner Lions walked away from the State Convention in Salem recently with a second place in their district for club activity.

Neil Parks of Heppner attended the state confab and accepted the award on behalf of the club.

The Heppner club was in competition for the award with 49 other clubs in District 36-G and finished second only behind The Dalles.

Don Cole, president of the Heppner Lions last year commented, "It's quite an honor and one that Lions members and the community at large can share in."

"Without the individual Lion donating many hours and the community supporting our fund-raising and community help programs, the award would not have been possible," Cole continued.

Without a doubt the most industrious project undertaken by the Lions this past year was enlarging the Heppner High School track to regulation size, a \$40,000 project.

## Masons... from page 1

Coal County, a deposit of coal having been found in the foothills south of Heppner. The bill didn't pass the senate. In the next session J.L. Morrow was representative and introduced a like bill, which did pass, and the county bore his name.

In April, 1883, the lodge was saddened by the death of Frank Maddock in Salem.

Following the burial of Maddock the lodge discussed the need of organized care at the cemetery. Once again the lodge buckled down, bought two acres of ground, platted and sold lots and for the next 70 years added to and maintained the cemetery.

During this time Masons also became actively involved in Morrow County government, serving as commissioners, clerks and treasurers.

The year 1887 was a big one for the town as Heppner was incorporated and Masons again were among the civic leaders, mayor and council-

men. Heppner Masons voted to purchase their own lodge hall in 1902 and then on September 9, 1915, the Heppner Gazette reported: "T.J. Mahoney reports that the Heppner Lodge

of Masons would commence their new building after the fair...They are setting a good example by tearing down the old building instead of moving it to the back of the lot."

The new building was to be a two-story brick structure with full basement located at the corner of Willow and Main streets.

From that humble beginning and with a new lodge hall in which to conduct business, the Heppner Masonic lodge grew and prospered, weathering the storms with the community, helping their brothers and their brothers families.

Now, a hundred years old, the lodge is inviting the people of the county from which it grew, to help celebrate and commemorate a truly memorable event.

# Irrigon adds 200 acres

A total of 200 acres were annexed into the city of Irrigon Tuesday. Facing no opposition, the city council accepted the Oregon Potato, Inc., owned property into its 738-acre jurisdiction.

The addition will mean a \$3,600 increase in tax revenue. City manager Dave Moon said the move would have no adverse affect on the city. The acreage is located west of the city.

Sancy Co., land developers, presented the request. The company plans to develop the property into housing lots. By annexing into the city, the saleability of the lots is improved. The city is not obligated to the development in any way other than to provide fire and police protection.

Friday, the council will meet with the State Vocational Rehabilitation Department head at Irrigon. They will be discussing an evaluation of Irrigon's policeman. The officer is working under a state rehabilitation program since being injured in a truck accident last year. Various community complaints about the policeman have resulted in the call for the meeting. No time is set pending the arrival of the state department head.

The city recorder's position, to be vacated by resigning

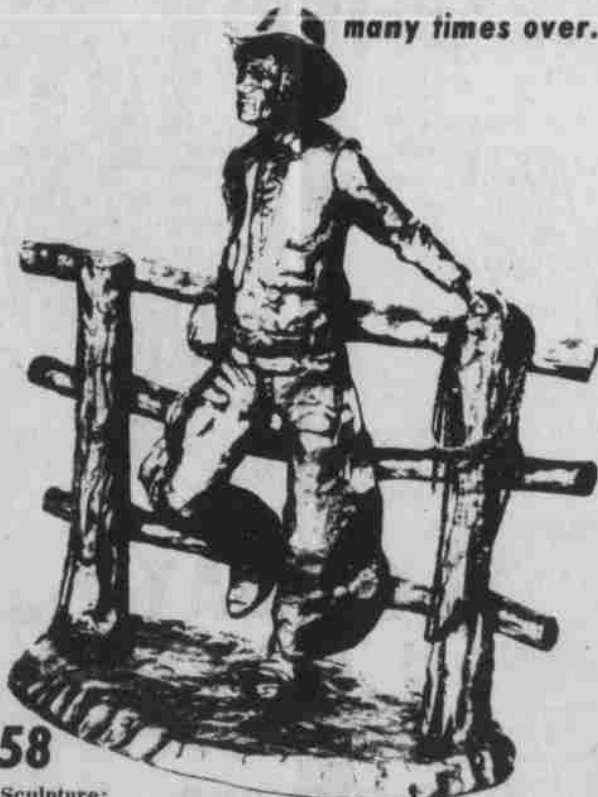
Barbara Byrd, will be filled by Diane Hutchinson. Ms. Hutchinson is currently employed as clerk at Stanfield City Hall. She will begin Monday.

Ms. Byrd, who has served as city recorder for the past three years, felt the time had come for the recorder to change. "Things are growing

and I felt it was time to take the job out of a private home and give it a more professional approach by placing it in an office."

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