



This picture of the school van shows how lucky driver Marie Keye was to escape with only minor injuries.

School van demolished

A Morrow County School District van was demolished last week when it slid on ice and rolled down a 10-foot embankment. There were no children aboard and the driver, Marie Keye, was not seriously injured.

Keye suffered an injured finger but it could have been worse if she had not had her seat belt on, Matt Doherty, school superintendent, said.

The accident occurred 2½ miles south of Lone when Keye

was on her way to pick up students with the 1970 Ford Van.

"It is not worth fixing up," Doherty said. "Marie (Keye) said she probably will be back on the job soon."

To replace the van, Doherty said the district is going to have to use the activity bus in Heppner and the students who use the activity bus will just have to "make due" until something else can be arranged.

Wind to generate power to farms

A small-scale wind power-generation project will be conducted in Klickitat County. Under the program, twelve 2-to-3 kilowatt windmills will be installed by the Bonneville Power Administration at homes and farms in the county during the next year.

The wind program is one of four pilot projects BPA is undertaking in the Pacific Northwest to find ways to help develop small-scale energy technologies and conservation. The other pilot projects deal with solar water heating,

home weatherization, and irrigation pump testing.

"This wind pilot project is BPA's first step into the whole field of small is beautiful technology," said BPA administrator Sterling Munro. "If these machines work as well as we hope they will, this could be one way people who want to do so could reduce their dependence on utilities for electric power, and at the same time lighten the load on the region's grid."

"The first two machines have already been purchased and delivered," Munro continued. "Weather permitting, installation will begin within the next few weeks, just as soon as final arrangements between the county, the homeowners, and BPA can be completed."

BPA will purchase and arrange for installation of the 12 windmills and retain ownership for five years, after which the homeowners may buy the machines for 10 percent of their original cost. During the 5-year period, electricity from the wind will be free to the homeowners, Munro said.

Workman's comp number now toll free

Central and eastern Oregon residents can now talk with local state safety compliance officers without paying for telephone calls. John Goodman, Bend District manager of the Accident Prevention Division, Workers' Compensation Department, said the toll free number for this new service is 1-800-452-7813.

Impact report issued for Willow Creek project

Copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement assessing the effects of construction of the Willow Creek Dam in Heppner have been distributed by the U.S. Army District Engineer's office in Walla Walla.

The report is being filed with the Environmental Protection Agency, according to Col. H.J. Thayer, district engineer.

The project that could cost \$35 million is described in the impact statement as including the 161-foot high dam and a

lake with a normal surface area of 88 acres.

Its primary purpose would be for flood control but recreational opportunities are foreseen, as well as enhancement of a fish and wildlife habitat.

In a talk before the Heppner Morrow County Chamber of Commerce in November, Thayer said land acquisition would be started early this year so work on the project may commence in the summer or autumn.

The dam site is near the confluence of Willow Creek and Balm Fork, just upstream from Heppner.

The colonel said \$3.2 million had been approved for the project this year, the money to be used mainly for property acquisition.

The ultimate cost, as stated by the district engineer when he and his party were in Heppner, was an approximation subject to design changes and monetary inflation, Orel C. Dugger, public affairs officer for the Walla Walla district, said. He commented the figure could be off by as much as \$5 million.

In addition to the beneficial impacts of the dam's construction, which include the flood control and recreational aspects, the report discusses

the adverse effects, including the elimination of portions of free-flowing creeks and their uses, removal of riverbank vegetation and water-level fluctuations in the reservoir due to flood-control operations.

Copies of the document may be obtained by writing to the Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, ATTN: NPWEN-PL, City-County Airport, Walla Walla, WN 99362.

In a statement of findings accompanying the impact report, the alternatives to the project are listed. These are:

1. Forego the project, leaving stream conditions and flooding potentials as they now exist.
2. Zoning to prevent future flood-prone development, at the same time accepting the flooding problem to existing buildings, roads and agricultural lands.
3. Relocation of the vulnerable portion of Heppner out of the flood plain.
4. Construction of a flood-control channel through Heppner at a capacity adequate to provide reasonable protection.
5. Provide a multipurpose storage reservoir at the same site as the authorized project; or
6. Provide a multipurpose

storage reservoir at the same site as the authorized project in conjunction with downstream channel improvements through Heppner.

The statement of findings was prepared by Col. C.J. Allaire, Thayer's predecessor as district engineer.

In evaluating the objectives and alternative possibilities, he said, the following points were considered pertinent:

Environmental considerations, social well-being (especially flood-hazard safety), engineering considerations and economic considerations.

Other public-interest considerations included a study of threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, protection of wetland and flood-plain management.

Allaire commented: "Concerning the aspect of social well-being, as particularly related to flood control, it is important to note the high vulnerability of the flood plain within the City of Heppner."

"The whole of the situation with respect to the flood hazard has been given full attention in consideration of alternatives and in selection of the recommended project plan."

economically justified. This would relate to the cost of the dam spread over its 100-year life, the annual maintenance, and other factors, as compared to the public savings in flood insurance and benefits to be derived from future growth of the community.

"In light of the public safety factors involved, the project is considered to be a necessity... on balance, the total public interest should be best served by development and operation of the Willow Creek Lake Project as now recommended."

Police Report

Cases handled by the Morrow County Sheriff's office for the week ending Jan. 7 are:

Donna Hanson of Irrigon reported her portable Zenith color TV stolen, which is valued at \$150.

Two juveniles, both from Pendleton, were cited for minors in possession of alcoholic beverages when they were caught drinking at the Irrigon Marina.

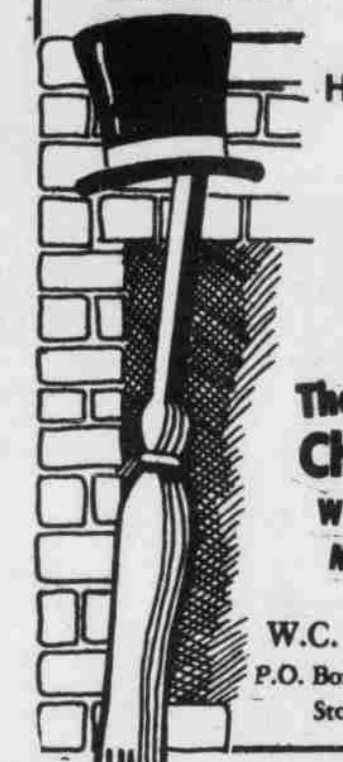
Truman Elmer Messenger, 365 W. Water St. in Lexington, reported that 15 gallons of gas had been stolen from his car.

Mike Debomb, Lincoln Sp. No. 4-B in Boardman, reported four guns stolen. The guns are a Remington 700 .30-06, a Ruger Blackhawk .357 pistol, a Marlin lever action .22 rifle and an antique Stevens .410 shotgun.

Alvin Leroy Thomason and Calvin Lynn Thomason, both of the Gerald Ray Ranch in northern Morrow County, were arrested for criminal trespass. They, along with Ricky Lee Johnson, Wilson Rd. Tr. Ct. Sp. C-3 in Boardman, were caught illegally at the SunRiver Farms property on the Homestead Rd. in Boardman. Security guard Gilbert R. Crow of Hermiston reported the crime.

Since 1944, when the first GI Bill became law, Americans have invested some \$49 billion to train 7.8 million World War II veterans, 2.4 million Korean Conflict veterans and 7.5 million Vietnam Era and Post Korean veterans and active duty personnel.

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