

Morrow County Wheat Growers to debate on herbicides Monday

Wheat farmers are in danger of losing the use of phenoxy herbicides such as 2,4-D, according to Brok Tucker, president of the Morrow County Wheat Growers Association. He said this

will be the topic of the annual spring meeting March 3 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Parish Hall in Heppner. Brok and Janet Tucker, the Wheatheart chairman in Mor-

row County, invite farm wives to attend. Wives are the "best public relations people wheat farmers have" in keeping herbicides from being banned, Mrs. Tucker said. The public is

welcome. The program will start with Dr. James Witt, Extension Service specialist in chemistry and environmental toxicology at Oregon State University. He will discuss

"2,4-D, a Health Evaluation." Next, will be Georgia Hoglund from "Citizens Against Toxic Herbicides." She will talk on "Risks, Benefits, and Alternatives."

Roth hopes to unseat Ullman

Leonard G. Roth, who traveled in Morrow County a few years ago as an insurance agent, came back last week as a congressional candidate

hoping for the chance to unseat Rep. Al Ullman. Ullman, a Democrat and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, repre-

sents Oregon's vast eastern district.



Leonard G. Roth

"No, I'm running with Denny Smith," Roth said with a laugh, at mention of a fellow Republican who is also in the congressional race. Roth and Smith would vie in the primaries May 27.

"I'm campaigning on getting back to the basics," Roth explained. "There is too much government in our daily lives."

Roth came by way of his philosophy, he said, as a rancher, farmer and miner.

He was born in American Falls, Idaho, 62 years ago. He makes his home now at Durkee, 24 miles south of Baker.

Roth passed through Heppner enroute to Pendleton last Wednesday, on his way home from a speaking engagement in McMinnville. He spoke there before the Republican Women's Club.

As a candidate for GOP nomination, Roth is fighting a lone battle. He has no campaign manager as yet, and can count only \$89 in contributions. His expenses have amounted to \$734.

"If a candidate feels strongly enough to run for public office, he should give the best of his time and efforts instead of looking for large contributions," he said.

Roth's one previous bid for election was several years ago, when he ran for mayor of Athena. He was not elected.

"I don't have to have four million dollars like some of these presidential candidates do," he said. "If you receive large gifts, you're not going to be your own man, you won't be doing your own thinking."

Roth said he has done some mining on his property but has run into "a lot of guff" from the Department of Environmental Quality. He added that ranchers and miners have "had a hassle" over bureaucratic regulations imposed by both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Does he support the "Sagebrush Rebellion"? "You'd better believe it!" he exclaimed.

The reference is to a movement in several western states—Nevada, in particular—where a majority of the land is still federally owned. The argument goes that because the land has not been sold and regulations are imposed in various land uses, the 12 western states are less "sovereign" than the other states.

Roth was critical of a federal act passed in 1976 that he regards as particularly restrictive. He termed it an "organic" act that requires "permits for this, permits for that," along with a horrendous amount of red tape.

Roth describes his qualifications as:

A citizen of the United States, born at American Falls in 1917; a disabled veteran of World War II, in which he served on Saipan, in the Pacific, as transportation manager for the 148th Army General Hospital; a rancher, and farmer of Baker County; a member of the Oregon State Grange, Durkee Grange No. 653; a member of the National Rifle Association; a heavy equipment operator on logging roads, miner, soil conservationist, insurance agent, building contractor, assistant Boy Scout leader and Little League coach, a family man with a grown family, and a Protestant.

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