



Don and Jean Bennett look across a gully at one of their wheat fields. Terraces, like the ones in the background, keep the soil from being washed away and is one conservation practice that helped them to win the award.

Conservation Man of the Year

Field Day to honor Bennett

By Steven A. Powell

A Field Day honoring Conservation Man of the Year Don Bennett and his wife Jean will take place June 11 at the Bennett Ranch, eight miles east of Heppner on Highway 74.

The event is sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with everyone meeting at the ranch. Don Thompson, president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, will make the introductions. Dr. Ernie Briskey, dean of agriculture at Oregon State University, will then have a half an hour presentation.

At noon, a lunch of steak, baked beans, french bread, salad and coffee will be served. Hosts for the lunch will be the Bennett family, Morrow County Wheathearts, Morrow County Cowbells, Morrow County Grain Growers, Bank of Eastern Oregon, First National Bank of Oregon and the Oregon Wheat League.

Harold Kerr, who is helping to organize the Field Day, said 100 steaks have been ordered and a crew set up to barbecue them.

"We don't know how many people to expect," Kerr said. "We expect some people from

out of the county to come in buses. We have made arrangements to sell the steaks we don't use but I don't know what we will do if we run short."

Kerr said last year, about 80 people came to the annual Field Day. But he said that steaks were not served, it was a cold day, and busloads were not coming from outside the county.

At 1:15 p.m., Don Bennett will present "Our Conservation Program" at the Bennett Ranch. Al Osmin of the Heppner Water Control District will aid in the presentation. At 1:45, participants will tour the farm in four-wheel drive pickups to observe the Bennett conservation methods first hand. Refreshments will be served at 3 p.m. to end the program.

The Conservation Man of the Year Field Day is set to honor the Bennett family, which not only won the county prize but also the state award. The award began in 1948 and Morrow County has had four other state winners in the 31 years.

Mel Boyers was the Oregon State Conservation Man of the Year in 1972. Bob and Herb Peterson won it in 1968. Louis Carlson in 1967 and Ken Peck

in 1953. Eight counties participate in the state-wide competition with each county picking its own winner and then a state winner being chosen from that group. The winners from the previous year pick the state winner after touring each contestant's ranch.

In Morrow County, the Wheat Growers, Soil and Water Conservation District and Soil Conservation District choose the winner from a list of a dozen nominations presented by those groups and local farmers. Winners can repeat but so far in the 31 years, a new winner has been named each year.

The committees change each year and they look at the conservation practices of the county farmers, Kerr said.

"The main thing they look at is preventing erosion but they also look at community activities," Kerr said. "It is not an easy choice. Bob Adelman (ASCS) and I are advisors to the committees. It's hard because different areas use different conservation practices. Some areas concentrate on wind erosion and others water. In the Willamette Valley they concentrate on draining water. It is hard to compare the different practices."

Kerr said the Bennetts were runners up last year to the award but the committee this year was not told that:

Don and Jean moved to the ranch in 1964. Her father John I. Hanna, owned and operated it before that since the 1930's. The ranch has steep farm ground surrounded by rangeland prone to summer thunderstorms and serious erosion from snow and rain on frozen grounds.

Conservation practices on the ranch include: 57,165 feet of terraces, 16 sediment dams, a grass waterway and farm pond, conversion of 167 acres of seeded grass from cropland, and stubble mulch farming on 490 acres of dryland wheat.

A short season water supply on Hinton Creek is utilized by flood irrigating 150 acres of alfalfa and grass hayland. The Bennetts also rotate grazing on 2,000 acres of rangeland which provides spring and fall feed for 150 cows and 75 yearlings.

The conservation practices on the Bennett Ranch have been followed to protect farm land erosion, preserve rangeland productivity and provide flood protection for downstream property owners.

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HEPPNER, OREGON

12 PAGES

Weather

by Don Gilliam

Hi Low Pre.

Tues., May 27	61 44 .06
Wed., May 28	66 45
Thur., May 29	71 41
Fri., May 30	72 43
Sat., May 31	76 49
Sun., June 1	72 51 .10
Mon., June 2	59 41 .85

Total	May	2.26
Precip.	Normal	1.34
	1979	1.44

Pool opening; rates raised 25¢

Heppner City Council decided to delay the opening of the Heppner pool and raise rates for swimming at its meeting Monday.

The City Council meets monthly on the first Monday at 8 p.m.

Despite the absence of Councilmen Joe Miller and Ron Farris and Mayor Jerry Sweeney, a quorum was present so business did take place.

The council decided to have the pool open June 15 with a free swim that Sunday. The pool had been scheduled to

open June 8 but because of the cold weather, the council decided it would save the city some money by opening later. Regular swimming will begin June 17, since the pool is closed Mondays.

Fees will increase from 50 to 75 cents for children less than 10, from 75 cents to \$1 for ages 11 to 14 and from \$1.25 to \$1.50 for 15 and older.

Season tickets can be purchased for \$50 for a family, up from \$45, \$20 for a student, up from \$17 and \$25 for an adult.

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Ione man now governor's aide

Don Peterson, of Box 294 in Ione, has been named by Gov. Vic Atiyeh as his "Listening Post" representative for Morrow County.

The purpose of the program, the governor said in a news release, is to "form a channel of communication" directly to him.

The governor reiterated a statement he made in his inaugural address in 1979, that he wants to "ensure that there will be no walls around Salem

between the people and their state government."

People with concerns involving the state government may reach the governor through his "Listening Post" representative, Atiyeh said.

Representatives have been named for all of Oregon's 36 counties. "The citizen representatives will not be defending me or explaining my actions in any way," Atiyeh said. "They will be helping me listen to what Oregonians have to say."

Coal plant being tested

Steam testing at the Carty coal-fired plant was expected to be heard in Heppner and Ione this week.

Dave Eagon, public information representative for Portland General Electric, said the company is conducting "steam blow" testing to clean out the main steam and reheat piping systems before electricity generation begins in June. "Some noise may be detectable in Ione and Heppner," he said.

The boiler was to be fired up on oil to create steam pressure. The turbine was to be bypassed and the steam blown out from a pipe on the south side of the power-block building. The testing was scheduled approximately every 45 minutes for a duration of two to five minutes.

The testing, which began last week, was to be completed within two weeks.

Ione church auction and barbecue set for this weekend

by Jean Jepsen

The United Church of Christ will hold its 17th annual barbecue and auction Saturday June 7 at the Willows Grange Hall in Ione.

The event will begin with the ringing of the cowbell in the Country Store section at 10 a.m. and will continue throughout the day. All proceeds will go to various church projects.

Judy and Keith Rea are general chairmen this year. Don Wink, the auctioneer, has donated his services to the auction for seventeen years.

The Country Store chairmen are Birdine Tullis and Katherine Lindstrom.

"We have a new look this year, so allow some extra time to browse early," the Reas said.

The Country Store hosts several sections including:

Handmade items-baby quilts and baby clothing, dish towels, pillowcases, stuffed handmade toys, aprons, stuff-

ed pillows and needlework, pillows and needlework.

Arts and Crafts-tole painting, hand tooled belts, candles, knickknacks, etc.

Kiddie-Korner-books, games, puzzles, sporting equipment, dolls, jewelry, small games. These items are all priced at low prices for young shoppers.

Fish Pond-prizes and toys for 10 cents a cast. Kids of all ages love this. (The Jr. High youth help manage this booth.)

Kountry Kitchen-all those homemade baked goodies-pies, cakes, jams, jellies, breads, rolls, cookies, candies, etc. A new feature of this section will be home-ground flour in clever little bags. We also plan to have home-grown peas and beans.

New-To-You-Used items at bargain prices including dishes, pots, pans, vases, books, silverware, small appliances,

curtains, jewelry for craft items, and many more.

The outside auction begins at 10:45 a.m. with Don Wink calling for the first bid. Many items have been donated. A few include tables, chairs, beds, lawn mowers, dressers, davenport, stereo, gas cook stove, automatic garage door opener, TV sets, 18-foot diameter swim pool (above ground, complete with plastic liner, sand filter, hydro-skimmer, ladder and pool vacuum), and ice cream cart, 3-wheeled with canopy.

Antiques will be auctioned just prior to and after lunch. Laurel Cannon and Marilyn Rietmann, both collectors, have assembled many items to tantalize the antique buff. Of particular interest is an antique library table (complete with ink well), a trunk, picture frames, old lamps, irons, chest of drawers, and a

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For county offices

Independents can now file

The final votes have been tabulated and winners officially announced of the May 20 Primary Election.

Many of the offices for county officials have just one candidate. Independents that are registered up to 180 days before the General Election in November may file for a position at the County Clerk's office from June 4 to August 26.

A candidate that was de-

feated in the Primary cannot run in the General Election.

Unless an independent files for judge, Don McElligott will be the only candidate on the ballot for that position at the November election.

Warren McCoy will be the only candidate for the four-year term as County Commissioner and Dorothy Krebs will be the only candidate for the two-year County Commissioner term. The reason Krebs

is running for a two-year term is that she was appointed commissioner last year and can only serve that appointment until the next General Election. The commissioner positions are designed to have staggered election dates every two years.

For County Clerk, Barbara Bloodworth will be running against Pauline Winter in November.

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Cattle feedlot approved

Morrow County Court approved the \$6.2 million cattle feedlot to be built by J.R. Simplot in north Morrow County.

The county planning commission earlier approved the plan but the county court had to make the final approval.

"Since there were no negative reports (at the meeting in Irrigon last Wednesday) the county court approved the land as 'qualified farm use' Judge Don McElligott said. McElligott added that the

approval has two restrictions, both which were made by the planning commission. J.R. Simplot is restricted to the plan that was presented to the planning commission and the county court. Any changes in the plan must be approved by both government bodies.

The other stipulation is that

Boeing Corp. must approve of the plan for its land.

County Planner Deane Seeger said the Simplot company has intentions of beginning construction on the feedlot as "soon as possible."

McElligott said the feedlot

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Tax relief still available

Morrow County Assessor Greg Sweek announced this week that Oregon Department of Revenue Director Robyn L. Godwin authorized assessors to accept late applications for property tax relief.

Applications for 1980-81 tax relief on owner-occupied homes will be accepted on or before Sept. 2. The filing deadline was April 1.

Assessors are accepting late applications this year only because of confusion among taxpayers about the filing deadline for the state's new Property Tax Relief Plan. A number of property owners have confused the filing deadline of the new program with the deadlines for other programs.

Under Oregon's 1979 Property Tax Relief Plan, the state pays part of the property taxes on owner-occupied hom-

es. The state pays a percentage of the taxes levied by local districts, up to a maximum of \$800 per home. This payment is made directly to the county in the fall, on behalf of the taxpayer. The homeowner then receives a property tax statement showing the state payment as a credit, with a lower tax bill to pay.

Homeowners who have not filed must submit applications to their county assessor by Sept. 2 to receive tax relief in the fall.

Greg Sweek urged homeowners to file as soon as possible. Property tax relief claim forms are available at the assessor's office.

Many homeowners filed in 1979. Those who have already filed and have not moved or changed the use of their property should not file again. Their tax relief will be continued automatically.

'Now is the time to kill grasshoppers,' extension agent advises farmers

Now is the time to start spraying to kill grasshoppers, Harold Kerr, county extension agent, advises local farmers.

Kerr said chemicals cannot kill grasshopper eggs and have trouble with mature, adult grasshoppers so the best time to spray them is now.

"Weather cannot get nasty enough to kill eggs," Kerr said. As for the adult grasshoppers, "The recent cold weather has apparently not killed them."

Kerr said eggs are laid in the Fall and hatch in May or

June, depending on the elevation. The eggs have been hatching in Morrow County for the past three weeks so the best time to spray is during the next two weeks when the eggs have hatched and the grasshoppers are young.

Last Tuesday night, Kerr planned to meet with 20 people from Ione who are trying to start a neighborhood spraying program in an effort to reduce cost. Those farmers cannot participate in the government program, which only allows for spraying rangeland. Under

the program, the federal government pays a third of the cost, the state one third and the farmer one third. A minimum amount of 10,000 acres of rangeland must be sprayed at a cost of \$1.80 per acre. Kerr said that bill was passed in the 1930's and it was mainly for the Great Plains states.

Kerr advised that spraying should be done in canyons and other rangeland areas first because that is where the eggs are laid and where the grasshoppers hatch. They

move to cropland after they run out of food in the rangeland.

Kerr said he plans to talk with the Ione farmers about what types of chemicals should be used by the air applicator.

"North and south of Ione, which was not sprayed last year, is the worst hit by grasshoppers in the county," Kerr said. "Boardman and Irrigon also have a serious problem and we have also had calls from Buttercreek, Lexington and Heppner."