

Budworm infests Heppner area, meeting slated Oct. 19

Preliminary aerial surveys indicate a population buildup of the Western Spruce Budworm has currently infested over 306,000 acres of fir stands in Northeast Oregon.

"Particularly hard hit areas of the Umatilla National Forest are located in the northeast portion of the Heppner area."

Historical Society holds meeting

By DELPHA JONES

The Morrow County Historical Society met at the Lexington Grange Hall on Sunday, Oct. 11, for the groups annual meeting. The day began with a bountiful potluck dinner. The dining room was decorated in the Halloween motif with candles and arrangements in fall colors.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by the chairman, with the singing of "America the Beautiful," the flag salute, and the opening prayer by the Rev. Cathy Barker of the Ione United Church of Christ.

Musical selections were enjoyed with Gene and Chris Rietmann and the group joined them in singing Amazing Grace with the able help of Cathy Barker and Bob Lowe.

The nominating committee placed the following as three year directors: Ruth McCabe, Bryce Keene, Harold Peck, and Don Eppenbaugh. The members then accepted the report and elected the named as three year directors.

After reading the minutes of the previous meeting, the treasurers reports and a short break down of the years activities and trips, the group was entertained by Marcus Haynes and his wife of Burns. They showed slides of Harney County, the birds and other animals, and the early travelers routes to settle that part of the state. Mr. Haynes brought the group much of the colorful history of that area, both in color and talks.

The president announced that there will be family displays in coming years with different families taking turns. The display may be of the items owned by either the family or friends with, a bit of the history of the display. The first family chosen was the McMillan family, early Morrow County settlers, mostly in the Lexington area. The committee will include Sam McMillan of Portland, and Freda Slocum of Heppner. This promises to be a fine display. A fun reading was enjoyed by Cliff Williams on learning to drive a car. Harold Beckett gave the grave marking report and told of a three newly found graves in the eight mile area.

The president asked for volunteers in putting together an annual quarterly, but no one seemed to have the time, but anyone wishing to work on this project, contact Ruth McCabe or Delpha Jones.

It is planned to have markers made for the houses in the area that are 75 years old and have part of the original house still standing.

Bob Lowe told us some of the stories circulating concerning the dam that has recently been unearthed at the Willow Creek dam sight, but no one seems to be sure of which of these interesting stories is the real thing. There is still research being done to determine the origin. Committees working for the day nominated Mildred Wright and Jean Nelson, Dinner and decorating, Barbara Bloodsworth, Delpha Jones, and Ruth McCabe, registering, Ruth McCabe and Jean Nelson. Door prizes were received by the following, Verdie Isom, Oscar Peterson, Joe DuPuis, Frances Mitchell, Eula Bloodsworth, Edna Peck and Donna Eppenbaugh. Gifts were given the Haynes family, the book "Homesteads and Heritages," and a bunch of large carrots grown in the Boardman area, to show some of the fine produce grown in the county. The meeting was adjourned after which members enjoyed coffee and dessert in the dining area.

Another bus trip is planned for the spring, about the first week in May.

Forest Ranger District said Forest Supervisor John Lowe. Private forest lands are also being hit north of the Heppner and Ukiah Ranger districts.

A reddish-brown discoloration of the forest in late June or early July is the result of this population buildup.

The insect is feeding on this year's needle growth on

224,900 acres of National Forest land, 73,700 acres of private forest lands, 7,380 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and 400 acres of Oregon State Forest land. Present areas of concern are from Prineville east to the Idaho border.

The Budworm prefers Douglas-fir, grand fir, and white

fir. It occasionally attacks other conifers.

The insect usually feeds on the new needles, and after taking several years of heavy defoliation, serious tree damage occurs. Outbreaks generally build up slowly and last from six to eight years. The insect may ultimately kill trees toward the end of a

severe outbreak.

Budworms are normally held in check by interaction of predators, adverse weather, parasites, and food supply. However, during an epidemic outbreak these natural controls are no longer able to limit population growth.

An assessment team has been formed by the U.S.

Forest Service and the Oregon State Department of Forestry to assist land managers in considering alternative ways of dealing with this epidemic. These alternatives may include: do nothing, silvicultural treatments, applying chemicals and/or biological insecticides to reduce growth loss and top-kill. This list of alternatives is not final, public input will be considered before

the alternatives are finalized.

The public is invited to share their concerns about this problem. Supervisor Lowe said. We are planning a public meeting on October 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Umatilla National Forest Office, 2517 S.W. Hailey Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon, 97801. Deadline for comments is November 6, 1981.

meetings will be held in Baker, John Day, and La Grande. If unable to attend the meeting comments may be sent to the Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest, 2517 S.W. Hailey Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon, 97801. Deadline for comments is November 6, 1981.

Recommendations as to what course of action should be taken will be available in early 1982.

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