

County law officers qualify at training shoot



Morrow County law officers participated in a training shoot last Saturday, August 4 at the Boardman Police firing range.

Members of all county law enforcement agencies must qualify four times a year to maintain their positions said Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago.

Sergeant Bill Hudson of the Boardman Police Department is the Board of Police Standards and Training approved range master of the Tactical Revolver Course.

The three-hour course simulates actual combat situations and requires officers to shoot at targets beginning from a distance of 50 feet, said Drago. Because most gun battles in law enforcement occur at a range of five feet or less, the course stresses training at close range. "Although we seldom use a gun, we must be ready because if the situation happens, there is no time to think and an officer must do in a part of a second what it would be too late to do if he had to think about it first," he concluded.

Sherer to head tax collectors



Margo Sherer

Center in Portland.

Attending Sherer's installation from Morrow County were County Judge and Mrs. Don McElligott, Commissioner Warren McCoy, County Assessor and Mrs. Greg Sweek, and Lorene Montgomery from the Morrow County Tax Office.

Sherer is the first member of the association from Eastern Oregon to serve as President. Her duties will include planning and presiding over next year's conference which will be held the last week of July 1985 at Indian Hills in Pendleton. Since this is an election year, the association will be gathering and presenting information to help in certain tax legislation. Sherer will be required to appoint a legislative committee and to help with their work.

Margo Sherer, Morrow County Treasurer was installed as President of the Oregon Association of County Tax Collectors at a July 26 meeting of the 1984 Tax Conference at the Red Lion Motor Inn at Lloyd

USDA issues rules on farmland protection

Beginning Aug 5, all federal agencies will be using criteria developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine if federal or federally aided construction will have any adverse effects on farmland designated for protection under the 1981 farm bill, a USDA official said recently.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John B. Crowell, Jr., said USDA is issuing the rules to carry out its implementation of the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981.

Congress passed the farmland protection legislation as part of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981. The law was designated to minimize the role of federal agencies in converting farmland and to ensure that federal agencies follow federal, state and local government policies to protect the nation's farmland.

USDA cooperated with other federal agencies in developing the criteria for farmland protection.

Under the farmland protection law that the rules implement, federal agencies are required to measure the impact of their projects on farmland, and in some cases, consider alternative designs or locations to minimize the amount of farmland converted. The rule will apply to farmland that qualifies as prime or unique or that state and local governments identify as having state or local importance - if USDA agrees.

Crowell said USDA had taken care to see that the new rules would not let the federal government intrude on local land use policies or upset applications for federal assistance to development projects on farmland.

If a tract of prime farmland already is in or committed to urban development by local zoning, for example, the federal agency will not have to measure the impact of a development project on the site, Crowell said.

He said even where the federal agency studies the impact of a

project on farmland and considers alternatives, the agency still will be free to go ahead with the project after doing the study. Moreover, no federal agency may use the rules as a reason for refusing any assistance to a development project on farmland, Crowell said.

USDA's Soil Conservation Service will provide technical assistance on farmland protection to agencies that request it, he said. Assistance on site assessments also will be available from many state or local government planning offices.



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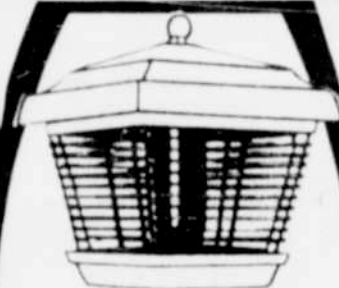
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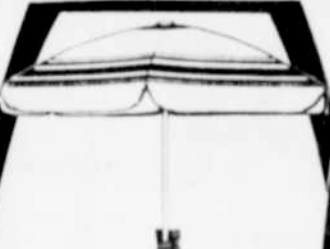
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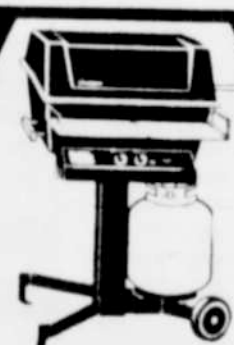
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