



**EASTERN OREGON
OUTDOORS**

by Mark Bagett

**Special
Equipment
Aids Hard-
Water Anglers**

Of the few "good" things that come from sub-freezing weather, most would agree that not having to mow the lawn probably heads the list. Next in line, at least as far as many eastern Oregon sportsmen (and sportswomen, and sportskids) are concerned, would have to be ice fishing.

On December 29, the report from Stratton's Store was that the ice on Unity Lake, just one of the many popular eastern Oregon stiff-water fishing spots, remained a bit thin for most

pulse rates, though a dauntless few had already ventured out.

Given the buoyant properties of ice, it takes somewhat less to support anglers than most feel comfortable with; it has been said that three or four inches of clear, solid ice are sufficient to safely support an adult, and that you can drive a car (if you're that crazy) on 12 inches or more. Nonetheless, it's hard to have a good time (much less concentrate on fishing) if you're worried about falling through, so it's best to wait for a heavier cover if the present thickness makes you skittish.

Cracking or groaning sounds from underfoot have sent more than one would-be ice angler into orbit, with re-entry scheduled for anywhere in the vicinity of the nearest shoreline. In below freezing temperatures, these sounds are usually the result of the ice cover actually expanding and becoming thicker as it continues to freeze. Still, no matter how thick or solid the ice, it is always wise to include a 30-foot length of rope in your party's arsenal of equipment.

On the subject of equipment, ice fishing often presents special situations unique to this particular pursuit, which in turn demands specialized gear (much of which has not been readily available). One company, Berkley, Inc., has apparently taken the needs of ice fishermen to heart with the recent introduction of a family of products designed expressly for cold-weather anglers.

Nylon monofilament lines, for example, tend to get stiff and brittle in frigid weather, and the resulting coils can cause line snarling and make light bites (the norm with ice fishing) difficult to detect. To rectify this problem, Berkley announces its new Trilene-Cold Weather fishing line, designed for use in temperatures ranging from sub-zero to 45 degrees. Available in strengths from 1- to 17-pound-test, the line is said to maintain maximum limpness and strength in cold-weather conditions.

Also from Berkley are their new Northern Lites ice rods, available in casting and spinning models. Sporting ultrasensitive, 100 percent graphite blanks, they come in a variety of actions in lengths from 24 to 36 inches. For the trout and panfish of eastern Oregon, Berkley P.R. Director Michael Fine suggests a 30-inch stick with a medium or ultra-light action.

Last year Berkley's moldable, scented, Power Bait in crappie, panfish and trout formulas took the angling world by storm. This writer/fisherman enjoyed a marked increase in success on crappie by tipping my jigs with the Power Bait designed for that species—and no, I'm not on Berkley's payroll. For 1990, the company has added several new Power Baits to their lineup: the miniature-marshmallow-shaped Power Nuggets and the salmon-egg-shaped Power Eggs are designed for trout, while their tough, maggot-like Power Wigglers are said to be effective for crappie and panfish. All of the Power Baits mentioned, the company claims, are ideally suited for ice fishing.

Berkley says their Neoprene fishing gloves, much like those used by cold-water divers, provide the ice-angler a good feel of his equipment without sacrificing warmth or water resistance.

But regardless of how well equipped and warmly dressed they are, and no matter how well the fish bite, many will complain they're just not suited for ice fishing. Still, even they must agree: it sure beats mowing the lawn.

**Union beats Heppner
55-53 at the buzzer**

By Bob Krein

On Saturday December 30, the Heppner Mustangs faced the Union Bobcats for the championship of the Jo-Hi Tourney.

The game was close and nothing was changed at halftime as the score was tied at 22.

The Mustangs then took a three-point lead at the end of the third quarter. The Bobcats battled back and had a two-point lead with one minute left to play. The Mustangs' Jason Britt was fouled and made two freethrows, which tied the game at 52. Union then took the lead on a free throw and with six seconds left Russell Britt sank a freethrow, tying the game at 53.

A Union player then sank a 10-foot jumper with one second left

on the clock to give the victory to the Bobcats.

The Mustangs were lead by Russell Britt with 11 points and eight rebounds. Mitchell and Connor also added eight rebounds for the Mustangs.

The Mustangs will start league play this Friday at home against the Pilot Rock Rockets.

Heppner 7 17 16 13 53
Union 9 15 13 18 55
Heppner (53) Pettyjohn; R. Britt 3-5-8 11; Krein 1-0-0 3; J. Britt 0-2-2 2; Osmin 4-0-0 8; Pedro 4-0-2 8; Mitchell 4-1-2 9; Connor 3-2-3 8; Devin 2-0-1 4. Totals 21 10-18 53.
Union (55) Pfleger 3-3-4 9; Kausler 7-0-3 16; James 0-3-4 3; Tyler 0-1-4 1; Colwell 7-8-14 22; Tattersalt 0-0-1 0; Adkins 1-0-2 2. Totals 19 15-32 55.

3-point goals-Krein 1, Kausler 2. Fouled out-Mitchell, Krein. Total fouls Heppner 26 Union 13.

**1989 Ag sales \$100 million
in Morrow County**

Agricultural commodity sales for Morrow County were estimated at \$100 million for 1989, up over nine million dollars from 1988 and three million dollars higher than 1984, the previous high year. (Table 1.)

Cattle sales were stable, accounting for nearly \$35 million in gross sales to cattle producers. Each year cattle, potatoes, and wheat vie for dominance as the commodity which earns more gross sales within Morrow County. Cattle represented the largest commodity group by sales (table 2), followed by wheat and potatoes.

Potato production in the county is up slightly from 1988, but the price received was down slightly, resulting in no real change in gross farm sales of \$27 million.

Hay producers took some alfalfa out of production (down 2000 acres) but received a slightly better price for their product in 1989. Gross farm sales for hay growers was \$7.2 million, up one million from 1988.

This year wheat harvested more acres (140,000, up 20 percent) than

1988, but yielded slightly less (48 bu/ac, down 17 percent.) This resulted in gross farm sales of nearly \$28 million.

Big gains were made in relatively minor crops in the county. Apples had gross sales of \$1.4 million, for example, and fresh carrots of \$1.2 million. Processed sweet corn had gross sales of \$1.8 million, tomatoes, \$250 thousand, and popcorn, \$320 thousand. All in all, vegetable and truck crops gross sales increased over 300 percent to \$4.3 million. With a regional strategy focussing on value added agriculture, these trends will probably continue.

All sales mentioned are estimates only. The final sales figures will be ready around mid-1990. The sales figures are gross farm receipts and should not be confused with net farm income. The index or prices paid by farmers was 3.5 percent higher in 1989, while the index of prices received was 0.77 percent lower.

Agriculture continues as the most important economic sector within Morrow County, and it is growing.

**St. Patrick's
Senior Center
Bulletin Board**



Best wishes for a happy, productive 1990.

The events of '89 have brought pleasure and success to seniors in the area. In March the goal of six years' work and planning became reality when residents moved into Heppner's first senior center, occupying most of the first floor of the renewed Heppner Hotel, originally St. Patrick's Hotel. Since then, the center has been the scene of many activities as social, educational, devotional, health and craft programs continue to be developed. The services of the Area Agency on Aging for seniors and handicapped are administered from the office by the senior resources specialist, Merri Reamer. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. staffed by senior volunteers. Phone 676-9030. The Dollaride, a taxi service for seniors and handicapped is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays (and other days if volunteer drivers can manage it). Other volunteer drivers are needed.

But the center has not served seniors exclusively. Since the Irish Stew Dinner served by the Methodist Church March 17, the center has been used by community organizations, individuals and other groups of all ages for meetings, meals, parties, contests, anniversaries, classes, receptions and other functions.

Whatever the senior dreams and work may have been, being in this center is largely due to the concern and generosity of many others in the community. The goal in the 80's was to secure a building; the new goal for the 90's is to use it to serve seniors and the community the best possible. All ideas and suggestions are welcomed for reaching that goal.

The residents here asked that thanks be given to the "real Santa" who secretly delivered sacks of candy and oranges at the door of each apartment some time between midnight and dawn. Another christmas gift was a beautiful big glass punch bowl and cups from Marlene and Randall Peterson. It shall be used many, many times. United Way also presented the center with a generous grant for purchase of much-needed equipment.

The 55/Alive driving classes may be offered again in January or February if enough drivers request them. Contact Bill Cox 676-9497.

Next week: Jan 8 to 14, Quilters and Company meet at 1 p.m. on Monday. Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Heppner Garden Club meets in the sitting room.

Wednesday: regular noon dinner. Menu-meat loaf with cheese, buttered potatoes, stewed tomatoes, apple-raisin salad, whole wheat roll and rice pudding. At 1:30 p.m. the Senior Center Board meets in the office. VFW will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the sitting room.

Sunday the 14th will be potluck and games beginning at 4 p.m.

Problems arise, too. The old freezer that has puffed and wheezed for several months expired the other day. Luckily, it was caught in time to save the contents. By chance, is there someone out there with a used one to give or sell?

Financial aid workshop

A financial aid workshop will be held Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Heppner High School library. While the workshop is designed for high school seniors and their parents, everyone is welcome to attend, said Heppner High School counselor Liz Curtis.

The workshop will include information about completing financial aid forms, scholarships, and the new career information research system now available on computer at the high school.

The workshop will be conducted by Curtis and Dorwin Lovell, financial aid director at Blue Mountain Community College.

**Mustangs clobber
Joseph Eagles 67-27**

By Bob Krein

On Friday, December 29, the Heppner Mustangs traveled to Joseph to face the Joseph Eagles in the first round of the Jo-Hi Tourney.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 19-5 first quarter lead and had a convincing 36 to 11 halftime lead. The Mustangs then coasted for a 67 to 27 victory. The Mustangs were lead by Slater Mitchell with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Russell Britt added 12 and Doug Devin 11 for the Mustangs.

Heppner 19 17 10 21 67
Joseph 5 6 7 9 27

Heppner (67) Pettyjohn 3-0-0 7; K. Britt 4-2-4 12; Krein 3-0-0 7; J. Britt; Osmin 2-0-0 4; Pedro 0-3-4 3; Mitchell 5-3-8 13; Connor 3-2-6 8; Rathbun 1-0-2 2; Devin 4-3-5 11. Totals 25 13-29 67.

Joseph (27) Williams; Latta 0-2-2 2; Mainschke 0-2-2 2; Harves 1-0-0 2; Cooch 2-0-0 4; Garrett 1-0-0 2; Kellerman 0-0-1 0; Moyer 0-3-4 3; Manuel 2-1-3 5; Roberts 1-1-2 3; Belcher 2-0-2 4; Tippett. Totals 0 9-17 27.

3-point goals-R. Britt 2, Pettyjohn 1, Krein 1. Fouled out-Manuel. Total fouls Heppner 14 Joseph 18.

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