

Museum could spell economic relief

A new history center to be located in Heppner may be just what the doctor ordered in terms of an ailing economy.

The first phase of the center, to be called the Morrow County History Center, has been completed and bids are to be let for engineering and architectural plans.

The project was initially prompted by Harold 'Shorty' and Edna Peck's donation of their farm museum to the county in 1991. A subsequent ad hoc committee was appointed and, with the input of Morrow County Museum director Marsha Sweek, further developed the idea. A siting study was prepared for the court by McKeever/Morris, Inc. engineers.

The new museum will provide displays and exhibits documenting the history of agriculture in Morrow County. The center will be located at the grain elevator in Heppner, near Green Feed and Seed and will include: living history exhibits, outdoor exhibits, an area for reconstruction and maintenance of farm machinery to be displayed, a working flour mill, a museum store, a cafe and outdoor cafe seating, a ticket and information booth, office space, a working elevator which will provide rides into the grain elevator and provide a panoramic view of the city, a pedestrian plaza, a park with a gazebo and restrooms and two parking areas, one for 100 vehicles and one for overflow and RV/Bus parking. A pedestrian and bike path will connect the museum to the downtown area.

The new museum became a consideration when it was determined that the current museum, which houses over 4,000 artifacts, was simply not big enough. It could not store and display all the artifacts that the community had donated over the years and there was no room for expansion. There was also a concern that environmental conditions were not adequate to protect the artifacts displayed there and at Peck's farm implement museum.

Sweek, who has been Morrow County Museum director for the past seven years, says that Ron Brentano, field director for the Oregon Historical Society, said that 40 to 80 thou-

sand people could visit the new museum annually, based on figures from other interpretive centers in the state. "It's going to be first class," said Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson. "By all indications, by all consultants, it is supposed to be one of the finest collections in the state." Carlson said that the project will draw tourists expressly to the community and will entice others to stay, who might have just passed through before. He added that while tourism may not be the answer to all the community's problems, it will give an added economic boost to the area, especially considering the threats to timber and agriculture.

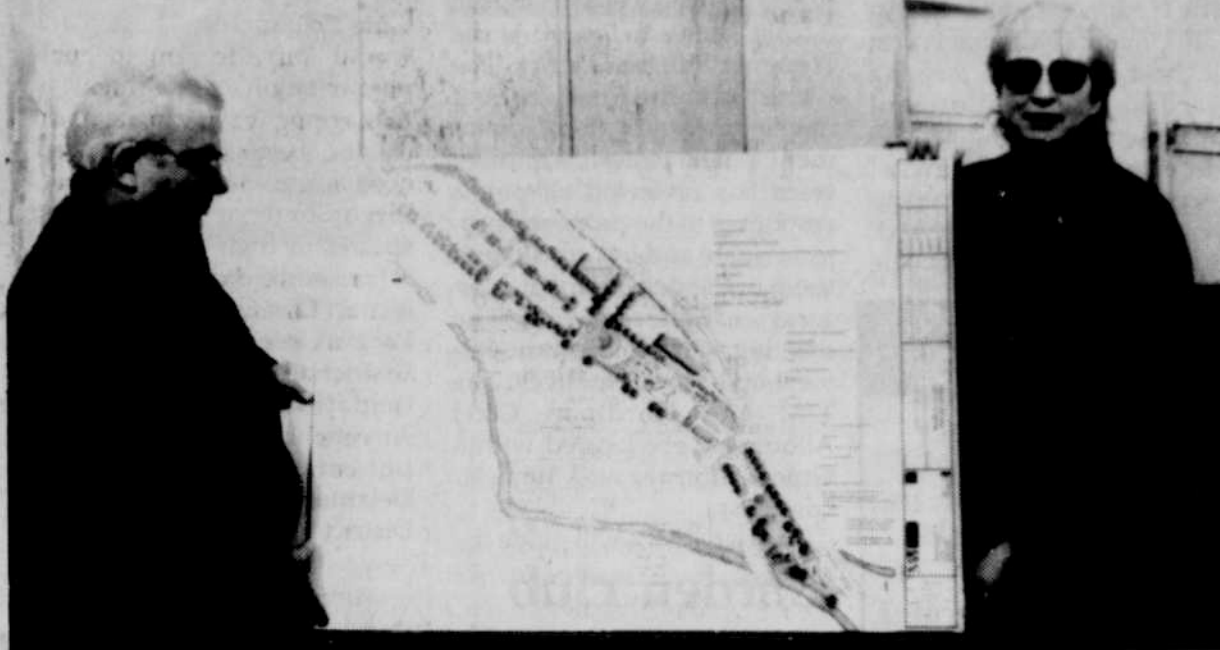
The facility was donated by the Morrow County Grain Growers, who, said Sweek, had planned to surplus the building, which isn't designed to handle grain in today's market. The building is valued around \$150,000. Kinzua Corporation donated \$75,000 from their community fund and another \$100,000 came from regional strategies monies. The whole project, including the value of the existing collection, now housed at the Morrow County Museum, and Shorty Peck's Museum, comes to \$1.4 million. Two grants are in the works and Sweek expects much of the project to come from in-kind donations. Carlson says that once the museum is up and running it should be able to pay for itself, adding that many of the museum's staff could be volunteers. Greg Smith of the GEODC office in Heppner is in charge of fund raising.

Sweek anticipates that the architectural and design work will be completed around Feb. of 1996, with construction hoped to begin that summer and the entire project completed by 1988 at the earliest. She says that the project will have a distinctly local touch, with three parallel stories told by the exhibits—the broad generic story of the history of agriculture; the cultural, industrial and political development of the county; with those two stories told by the families of the county, using local names and artifacts. "We've got to keep it personal," added Sweek, "and keep it our

story."

Sweek, who is also on the boards of the Oregon Council for the Humanities and the Oregon Museum Association, says that the building will be kept as much like a grain elevator as possible, since its original function is important and relevant to the story of agriculture. The interior is huge, accommodating giant bins, which will be connected by cutting doors between bins, so that visitors will proceed through the building in an intertwining fashion.

Sweek says that anyone interested in the project is welcome to attend the next meeting which will be held Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the museum.



Larry Mills (l) and Marsha Sweek show floor plan for the museum to be built in the old MCGG grain bin

ICABO plans meeting on access road

The Lone Community Agriculture Business Organization (ICABO) will sponsor a town hall meeting on Monday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lone School Cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to get the lone community's consensus on the need of a job access road to the Portland General Electric Carty Plant, the industrial area at the airport, and the agriculture industry on the Boeing

leased lands. ICABO feels that the proposed job access road would bring in families to live in the lone area and will counteract the current trend of a declining town population and school enrollment.

A vote at the February 6 meeting will determine if the proposed job access road will be taken under consideration by the Morrow County Court.

Speakeasy II slated in Heppner

There is more to public speaking than saying some words in front of a group. 4-H members are invited to Speakeasy II (originally titled Advanced Speakeasy) Friday, Feb. 10, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Heppner Jr. High Home Ec room. This will help 4-H members gain experience in putting presence and pizzazz into their speaking presentation.

This field day is filled with practice activities that will help: put expression and emotion into your speaking voice; project your voice to the back row; use overheads as a visual aid; be

aware of what your body is doing while you speak; gain confidence to share your speaking talent; use a microphone; and give a good introduction.

Speakeasy II is designed for 4-H members who have had some experience with public speaking. Those who are Speakeasy I graduates and have given a presentation to a club, or just don't mind being in front of a group, this field day is for you.

Registration will begin at 1 p.m. Activities start at 1:15 p.m. and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Parents and leaders are invited to participate, too.

Coyote Springs to produce electricity in November

The Coyote Spring co-generation electrical plant is scheduled to start producing electricity the first week of November of this year, it was announced last week.

Construction on the co-gen plant, which produces steam in addition to electricity, was started in September of last year.

When completed, the plant, which is located near Board-

man on Port of Morrow property, will employ between 17-19 people.

The Port of Morrow believes steam from the plant will attract additional food processors to port property.

The plant is owned by Portland General Electric, and will produce 220 mega-watts of electricity. By comparison, the larger coal-fired electrical plant, also owned by PGE at Boardman, produces 540 mega-watts.

Adventists host monthly spingspiration

The Seventhday Adventist church of Heppner will host the South Morrow County Ministerial Association's spingspiration on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

Special musical arrange-

ments are encouraged from each participating church. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow immediately after the spingspiration.

Lexington Grange has installation

By Delpha Jones

Lexington Grange met on Monday, Jan. 16 for the regular meeting with master, Clarence Buchanan in the chair.

Members not installed previously were installed by the county deputy, assisted by Dorris Reil of Columbia Grange and Kenneth Smouse. Installed were lecturer Jean Nelson; gatekeeper Ned Clark; secretary Delpha Jones; treasurer Cecil Jones; overseer Barton Clark; flora Dorothy Wilson; ex-com. Lyle Peck and Kathy Clark. Virginia Peck was named GWA chairman.

The meeting was called to order following the installation. Dot Halvorsen obligated Fred Ernst as a new member.

Sympathy and get well cards were sent by the chaplain.

It was announced that Pomona will meet Sat. Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. at the Lexington Hall. The program will be on weed control.

Preceding the meeting Kenneth Smouse showed slides of some of the Morrow County

Historical Society trips. This being men's night, the ladies were served pancakes, eggs and sausages by the men's supper committee.

Lone Topic club gives book review

"Like Water or Chocolate" written by Laura Esquivel, was reviewed by Alice Harper at the Lone Topic Club meeting Jan. 25 at the home of Kathy Morter.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Sixty-seven degrees outside. If only it were St. Patrick's weekend, but then that's wishing the year away. Some changes are in store for "Wee Bit O' Ireland in Heppner" visitors. The new RV facility at the lake will be dedicated on Friday; Saturday a new event has been added, "Ye Old Bartenders Race" with challenges going out to the Rainbow and Goosehollow Inn; and Sunday everyone can relax and enjoy a lamb barbecue put on by the South Morrow County Scholarship Trust Board, followed by the annual St. Patrick's auction. A wee bit o' fun should be had by one and all.

Crucial to the future of our rural community will be the passage of the bond measures. To attract quality people, improve our economy and provide healthy activities and education for our children and grandchildren we have to move ahead to compensate for measure 5. We have to look after ourselves and our community; we have learned that the metropolitan areas are not going to do so. Quality schools, a pool, and activities are a strong consideration when people consider moving to a community or starting a business there. So lets continue to move forward as we prepare for our Irish event and elect to provide for the needs of our young people. March is the month.

Thought for the week: "The reason the Ten Commandments are short and sweet is that they were handed down direct, and not through several committees".

This is a story about duty versus love, or tradition versus love and the price one must pay whether you choose duty or love. The key to the novel seems to be the recipes that precede each chapter as they relate to the leading character's life. The story takes place in Mexico during the agrarian revolution between 1897 and 1919 and was translated from the Spanish in 1992.

Special guests for the day were June Crowell and Ann Morter.

The library report showed a count of 4,784 books in the library at present. There are many recent novels and lots of pre-school books available. The library is still having a story hour twice a month for preschool three and four year olds. Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. Evening hours will be discontinued until later in the year. A plaque honoring members who have contributed to the success of the library has been prepared and will be mounted in the library.

Anne Morter was present and told about BMCC classes such as cross country skiing and shoe box photo classes available to Morrow County people. If anyone is interested in a specific class they could contact her.

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PMH Foundation receives money for X-ray equipment

The Collins Foundation of Portland recently awarded the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation \$10,000 for the purchase of remanufactured X-ray equipment at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Last week, trustees of the hospital foundation voted to add another \$10,000 of their own funds in support of the project. Larry Mills, president of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation Board said trustees will try to raise an additional \$5,000 in local support. The proposed X-ray equipment includes fluoroscopy capabilities and is expected to improve the quality of the hospital's radiographic services.

Kevin Erich, administrator at Pioneer Memorial Hospital

said, "These donations show there are people who care about the well-being of rural Americans. I am extremely grateful to them for their generosity and support." He added that recent grant funding will help south Morrow county residents maintain access to essential diagnostic X-ray services.

According to Erich, total X-ray improvement costs will be \$105,500. A total of \$53,500 has been raised through grants and community donations. The project's unfunded balance is being sought through additional local donations and private financing. Erich said he hopes to have the radiology improvement project completed by the end of March.

Mills said tax deductible contributions to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation may be made for a specific purpose or can become part of the foundation's permanent fund, where only interest earnings are used. For more information about making a charitable donation, contact Linda Kenny at 676-5504.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Jan. 31	
Soft White	
Feb.	\$4.25/\$4.26
March	\$4.26
April	\$4.25
New Crop Aug.	\$3.82
Barley	
Feb.	\$101
March	\$102
April	\$103

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF JOHN AND NELLA BRITT ON SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 1995 FROM 2-3:30 IN THE AFTERNOON AT THE HOME OF RUSTY AND KATHY BRITT IN LEXINGTON.

ATTN: KINZUA RESOURCES EMPLOYEES
RE: Prescription Services under PACC insurance
From: Murray Drugs Inc.

The change of insurance to PACC has brought many questions regarding prescription service.

WE ARE ABLE TO FILL YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS

as we have in the past. We have claim forms for PACC and will help you fill them out. PACC does not have a contract with us for the \$5 copayment system. Therefore, you will need to pay for the prescription, then they will re-imburse you for all but the \$5 copay. We were told by the insurance company reimbursement would take about 10-14 days.

We have chosen not to participate in the \$5 copayment system because we do not believe in giving an insurance company "preferred prices" over our other customers, or cost-shifting other prescriptions to subsidize an insurance company.

Thank you,
John & Ann Murray