

Bessie Wetzell
U of O Newspaper Library
Eugene, OR 97403

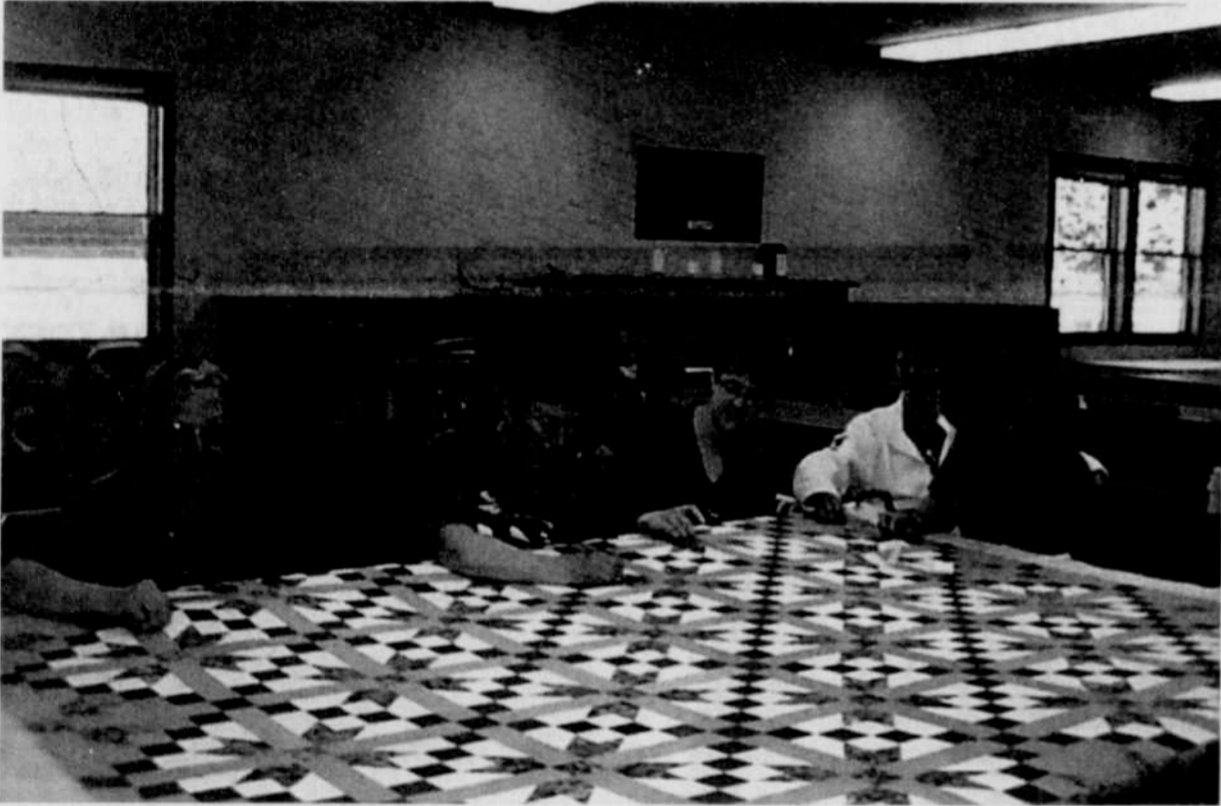
HEPPNER

50¢

Tazette imes

VOL. 121 NO. 20 14 Pages Wednesday, May 15, 2002 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

"Road to Oklahoma" goes to highest bidder



"Road to Oklahoma" is the Queen size quilt that will be auctioned off at the Ione United Church of Christ's quilt auction on Saturday, June 1, at 2 p.m.

The quilt, which is Queen size, was made by (l-r) Helen Heideman, Loa Heideman-Henderson, Yvonne Morter, Austin Morter, Judy Rea, and Debbie Morgan.

School Board abolishes election zones

The Morrow County School Board voted 5-2 Monday to immediately abolish zones for election of the seven board members. From now on, the seven school board members will be elected at large. Board Chair Julie Weikel and board members Burke O'Brien, John Rietmann, John Renfro and Larry Mills voted in favor of the proposal. Board members Pat McNamee and Gary Frederickson voted against the change.

"I see a lot of positive things about at large elections. It would eliminate the boundary issues," said Mills, who made the motion for the change. "The most compelling is the whole issue of provincialism." Mills said it was hard not to feel that as a board member you represent a particular school or community and the change would give board members a chance to "look at the

Baccalaureate and graduation ceremonies planned

The Heppner High School baccalaureate service will be held Tuesday, May 21, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at 7 p.m. The HHS graduation ceremony takes place Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m.

whole picture." "You'll find that every community will be represented," added Mills.

"It's important that, first of all the system has worked these past 10 years," countered Gary Frederickson. "I think there's a reason we have zones. I'm concerned that if we changed the system we would have a lot of problems. I don't see any reason to change it and I'd like to put this (issue) to bed."

Five board members will be elected at large in the next election in May of 2003-Mills, Heppner, who was appointed from zone 4; O'Brien, who was appointed from zone 6, Rietmann, Ione, who was elected from zone 3; McNamee, Irrigon, zone 5; and Frederickson, Boardman, from zone 1. In May of 2005 O'Brien will be up for election again, as will be Weikel, Boardman, and Renfro, Lexington.

Ione's baccalaureate service will be at St. William's at 7 p.m. on May 22 and the graduation ceremony takes place Friday, May 24, at 7 p.m.

Election ballots due May 21

Voters have until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, to turn in their ballots to one of several drop sites in the area.

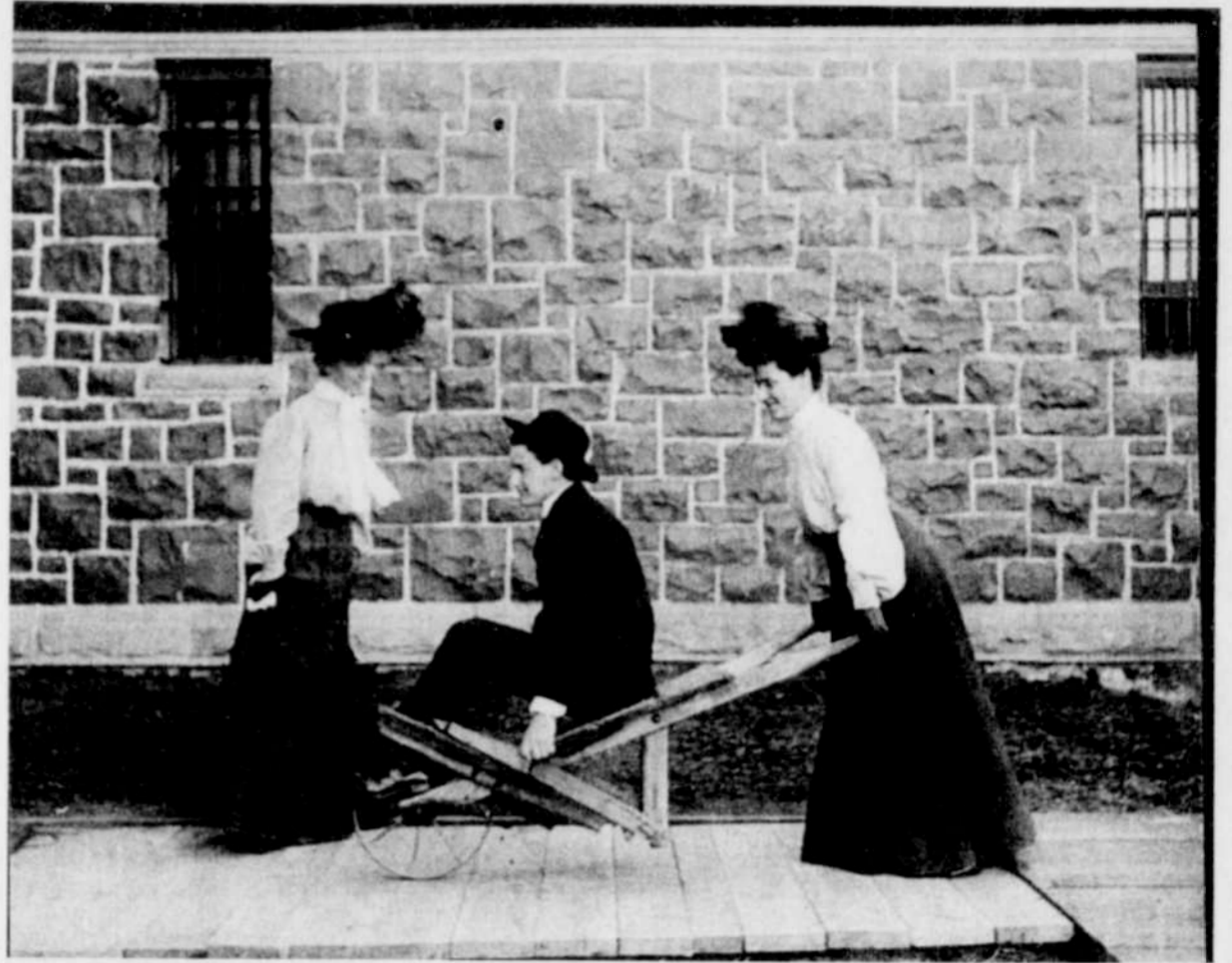
Drop sites have extended hours on election day and include, the Morrow County Courthouse: 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Lexington Road Department: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Ione branch of Bank of Eastern Oregon: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Morrow County Behavioral Health office in Boardman: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; and the Irrigon Annex building: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

If the ballot is to be mailed, a voter must mail it Monday, as ballots postmarked for Tuesday, but received later than the 8 p.m. deadline, will not be counted.

Seat belt blitz will take place

There will be a seat belt blitz in Heppner May 17-26. Heppner still has the highest seat belt compliance with 97%. The Heppner Police Department encourages citizens to try for 100%. Seat belts can save lives.

Memorial Day Courthouse Centennial celebration



This photo was taken in front of the jail annex not long after completion of the courthouse in the early 1900's. Those pictured are Gertrude Crawford (Parker), Clyde Brock, and Lenna Brock.

Morrow County Courthouse will celebrate its 100th birthday on Monday, May 27. Andrea Denton and other community members are planning an extra-special birthday party.

On May 27, 1902, ground was broken on the courthouse and that groundbreaking ceremony will be reenacted during the Centennial celebration at 2 p.m. on Memorial Day.

"We wanted to let the public know what we are doing and invite them to come celebrate with us," said Denton, the coordinator of the event.

The ceremony will begin with a "ground-breaking" by

county officials dressed in period costume. Next, there will be a time for guests to share their connection to the courthouse. Some guests who were invited to the ceremony include descendants of architects, contractors, and officials and former Morrow County officials. "We would like to invite people from the community to come and tell stories... anyone connected to the Courthouse should come and share their connection", said Denton.

A time to share birthday cake and refreshments will be next, followed by the announcement of the model

contest winners. There will be awards presented to different age groups and classes. "The deadline to have the entries in has been extended," said Denton, "we are accepting entries until May 21 and any medium is acceptable." Some ideas may include, painting, stitching, drawing, and food art. Entries should be turned in to Andrea Denton at the courthouse.

The courthouse will then be open for tours by officials dressed in period costume. The day will end with a bus trip out to the quarry site on the Osmin property. This is the land where the blue basalt for the courthouse was quarried.

Sheriff deputies begin patrolling Heppner

The Morrow County Sheriff Department is now providing police coverage for the city of Heppner on an "as needed basis" until a formal agreement for complete coverage can be worked out; it was announced at Monday's city council meeting.

Mike Sweek is no longer working as a police officer for the city, which leaves only Police Chief Merle Cowett for coverage. And Cowett is due to retire at the end of June.

As a cost saving measure the city has been in negotiations with the sheriff to provide complete police coverage for Heppner, however, those negotiations are not expected to be completed until July, which could have left the city with little police coverage.

City Manager Jerry Breazeale said as a public safety measure the exact schedule of the Sheriff's coverage is not being given out, but it is being provided when needed.

Deputy Rory Bolter, who lives in Heppner, was introduced to the council as one of the deputies that will be patrolling Heppner under the present agreement until the end of June.

In related police business the city council voted to donate 20 to 25 uniforms to the city of Amity. The uniforms will no longer be needed and the city of Amity is having tight budget problems, chief Cowett said.

In other business the council discussed a proposal to raise city sewer rates from the current \$26.90 per month to \$30 per month. Because of recent extensive needed repairs to the city sewer plant the fund is extremely low and increased revenue is need for future maintenance projects, Public Works Director Craig Canham told the council. The increase in fees would be applied to the 680 hookups in town. Canham added

that compared to other cities in the area, Heppner has "very cheap water rates". The council agreed to study the proposed increase.

In other business the city discussed a proposal to raise Columbia Basin Electric Co-ops franchise fee from 2 to 5 percent per year. The franchise fee is the amount CBEC collects from rate payers in Heppner and then gives to the city.

Co-op general manager Jerry Healy was in attendance at the meeting and told the council if that rate were raised the co-op planned to indicate the amount paid for the fee on its electric bills. In the past the franchise fee has been included in user's total bills and then passed on to the city. Healy estimated that the increased fee could generate an additional \$25,918 in revenue for the city, depending on the severity of the winter and other factors that would affect electrical usage. Last year Columbia Basin Electric collected \$17,279 for the city under the 2 percent franchise agreement. The agreement is renewed every five years. All cities within Columbia Basin Electric's service area currently have franchise fees.

In other action the city is considering leasing a building purchased earlier for the now abandoned city hall/library project. Whistling Wings Taxidermy has expressed interest in leasing the building, located behind the post office, for \$200 per month.

At an earlier council meeting City Manager Breazeale had been instructed to prepare a report on selling the building and property to get it back on the tax rolls. Breazeale explained Monday that the property may be needed for off street parking depending on what remodeling is done with the current city hall.

Breazeale said the property, which was purchased for \$30,000 for the library/city hall project, would generate a total of \$508 in tax revenue for various taxing districts (including \$256 to the city) each year if owned by a private individual.

In addition it was pointed out that renting the building for \$200 per month would bring in \$2400 to the city. The owners of Whistling Wings were in attendance at the meeting and indicated they would be willing to install a restroom in the building, but would like to have at least a one year lease on the property. They also said they would be interested in purchasing the property.

Curt and Mindy Christiansen, owners of Whistling Wings, said their current building, located at 388 N. main in Heppner, was just not big enough to do the type of taxidermy he is getting into. Curt said for larger type animals he needs the additional room.

The council voted to have the city attorney draw up a one year lease with a year option for the property.


In other business: - The city heard that it has been awarded a \$17,600 grant for development of the new park being developed on the old Unocal property in Heppner.

- Okayed use of the main city park for an "extended singspirational event" on June 21. The event will include music and an overnight prayer vigil. Monica Hunter, whose husband Craig is minister at the United Methodist Church in Heppner made the request. Monica also announced that she and her husband are moving to take over pastoring the Methodist church in Joseph. The couple will be leaving on July 1.

- Heard from Heppner resident Tom Sly who urged the council to

continued page two

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.



LAND O' LAKES Dog & Cat Food
50 # Chuck Style \$13.59
40 # High Protein \$14.59
and 20# Cat Food \$7.99

Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcggr.net

Sale good through May 18th