

When Heppner made its own money

Need to pay teachers prompted Depression-era scrip

By David Sykes

Many people know that during the Depression, when money was tight, Heppner made its own scrip for use around town. But most people don't know why, or the "mechanics" behind how the money was issued.

The idea to issue scrip to replace scarce currency was formed during a meeting held at the Heppner Elks club on February 12, 1933. The meeting was held during the bottom of the depression, which lasted from 1929 to 1941. The purpose of the meeting was to hear a report from a committee appointed by Mayor Gay M. Anderson to draw up plans for issuing scrip, and to ask the local businessmen to honor this scrip.

Chairman of the meeting Dean T. Goodman said the purpose of the scrip "... would be to assist municipal employees to obtain a medium of exchange...and stimulate business."

At that time in Heppner actual currency was in very short supply, and many of the businesses were holding warrants from teachers and other municipal employees in exchange for goods and services; most businessmen agreed that taking the scrip would be no different.

"Money in itself is merely a medium of exchange and that the scrip... would be just as good as money," said a Mr. Dave Wilson.

A driving force behind issuing the scrip was the ability to pay the school

teachers in the district, with Mr. Garnett Barratt saying that issuing the scrip "... would be a relief to the teachers and a stimulant to business," and that "...he had talked with a number of the Heppner teachers and they had said they would not consider returning next year unless something were done to relieve the stress of getting their warrants exchanged for living necessities."

Also in attendance at the meeting was a Mr. Hall from "The Bank," who said that issuing scrip was an excellent plan and that the bank would use a certain percent of its deposits as backing for the scrip.

A vote was taken whether to print and circulate the scrip; the vote

passed 22 to 4.

Another meeting was held Feb. 7, 1933, when it was decided to make an initial issue of \$5,000 in scrip, secured by municipal warrants discounted at five percent and to be redeemed in July of 1934. Some of the scrip would be made from the now-famous sheepskin, and some from paper.

A later meeting on March 21 had a cashier's report showing a total of \$1,267.50 in leather scrip and \$3,461.30 in paper, with denominations of \$5, \$1, \$.50, \$.25 and \$.05.

A final accounting on January 4 of 1935, when the scrip was discontinued, shows that \$5,670.65 in scrip had been issued over the life of the program,



Some of the scrip issued in Heppner during the Depression to replace scarce US currency.

and \$3,341.15 had been redeemed.

Editor's note: Much appreciation to Heppner

resident Steve Rhea who brought in the minutes and scrip to the Heppner Gazette.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

-Continued from PAGE FIVE

wanted to see the 1963 autopsy report for his grandfather. Caller was provided with contact info for OSP State Medical Examiner.

-Man in Boardman called MCSO and said her received three coins from a business that belong in a collection.

April 27: -MCSO re-

ceived a call from a woman on Hwy. 74 out of Heppner reporting that cows and beefalos were jumping the fence. Deputy checked the area and was unable to locate.

April 28: -MCSO issued a citation to Patricia Ruby Pennington, 79, for maintaining a dog as a public nuisance/potentially dangerous.

-MCSO issued a citation to Anthony Ryan Vice, 29, for driving while suspended violation and failure to obey traffic control device/stop sign.

-Person in Boardman called BPD and advised

that subjects possibly had a gun and were going to shoot it. Officer responded and subjects were given a ride home.

April 29: -MCSO issued a citation to Clinton Raymond Downs, 21, for failure to register vehicle.

May 1: -MCSO arrested Laroy Lee Cline on a Umatilla County Circuit Court warrant for failure to appear on DUII, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana and refusal of intoxicant test. The subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail.

May 3: -BPD cited a 24-year-old male for driv-

ing while suspended violation and issued a verbal warning for no license plate light/

-BPD arrested a 27-year-old male for harassment.

-BPD received a call from a female in Boardman who advised that while her brother was walking by the fire hall, someone tried to shoot him. BPD responded.

-MCSO arrested Clinton Raymond Downs, 21, on PC charges of possession of controlled substance-methamphetamine and frequenting place where controlled substances are used.

-MCSO cited Misgna Meles Werede, 22, for no ops. The subject and Abraham K. Kashay, 22, were also trespassed from Beef Northwest.

-MCSO was advised that The Dalles PD arrested a 47-year-old subject on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to appear on possession of less than an ounce of marijuana; subject was lodged at Norcor.

-MCSO was advised that Amelia V. Cortez was arrested by Hermiston PD on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to appear on failure to appear. Subject was lodged at Umatilla County Jail on additional warrants from other agencies with a hold placed for Morrow County.

-MCSO cited Terance Cooke, 65, for violating the basic rule 95/65.

-Irma Calvillo, 22, was arrested by MCSO on Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to appear on possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. Subject was cited and released to appear.

-MCSO cited a 46-year-old male subject for violating the basic rule 75/55.

-MCSO issued a citation to a 21-year-old male for violating the speed limit 87/65.

-A 74-year-old female subject was cited by MCSO for violating the basic rule 90/55. Subject was also given a verbal warning for failure to carry proof of insurance and failure to register vehicle.

-MCSO cited Thomas

Allen Gonty, 67, for failure to renew registration.

-MCSO issued a citation to John Alexander Brown, 25.

Michelle Garcia, 32, was cited by MCSO for failure to present proof of insurance.

May 7: -BPD arrested Victor Manuel Diodoro, 20, for failure to carry and present.

-Daniel Bryon Peebles, 52, was arrested by BPD on a Umatilla County warrant for failure to appear on trespass II.

-Amber Dawn Dima, 26, was cited by MCSO for no ops, illegal display of switched plates.

-MCSO issued a citation to Gregory Scott McDonald for passing in no passing zone.

-MCSO received a call from a woman in Irrigon advising that a silver Escalade or pickup with Oregon plates was headed toward the Mexican restaurant on 4th and Hwy. 730. Two Hispanic males stopped and mixed drinks and drove off. A black Chrysler with blacked-out windows stopped and visited with them. Caller doesn't need contact.

May 8: -BPD arrested a 47-year-old female for DUII bac .25. Subject was also cited for violating the speed limit 109/65.

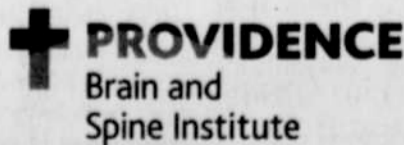
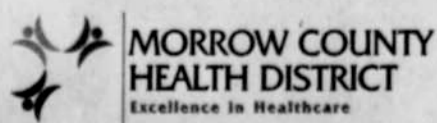
-MCSO cited a 18-year-old female for violating the basic rule 75/55. A verbal warning was also given for failure to carry proof of insurance.

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If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available and that help is FREE of charge.

If YOU have a family member who suffers from gambling addiction, YOU can also receive FREE treatment even if the gambler is not receiving treatment.

If you are a resident of Morrow County and you wish to take advantage of the services above or desire more information, please call any of the following numbers to set up a LOCAL appointment or just to talk:

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Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) @ 541-676-9161
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