

EXTENSION  
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# VISIONS OF THE FUTURE



HARNEY COUNTY  
PROGRAM PLANNING CONFERENCE

MARCH 22, 1957 - - BURNS, OREGON

# Table of Contents

FORWORD .....	1
THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE .....	2
RAINFALL SHORT .....	2
GROWING SEASON, SOILS VARIED .....	3
TOPOGRAPHY UNIQUE .....	3
COUNTY'S INCOME IMPORTANT .....	3-4
FARM SIZES INCREASE .....	4
TIMBER INDUSTRY IMPORTANT .....	4-5
COUNTY ROADS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE .....	6
REPORT OF CROPS AND LAND USE COMMITTEE .....	7-13
Land Ownership in Harney County .....	7
Taxation .....	8-9
Silvies Flood Control .....	10
Water Storage Important .....	10
Water Storage Benefits Everyone .....	11
Weed Control Essential .....	11
Dryland Farming Hazardous .....	11
Crop Recommendations Varied .....	11
Grain Storage Needed .....	12
Pump Irrigation .....	12
Ground Water Survey Needed .....	12
Malheur Wildlife Refuge Important .....	12-13
REPORT OF HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING COMMITTEE .....	14-17
Health .....	14
Rural Chapel Needed .....	16
Electricity Realized .....	16
Telephones Needed .....	16
Schools .....	17
Harney County Library Needed .....	17
REPORT OF LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE .....	18-21
Forage Balance Good .....	18
Range Improvement .....	19
Disease Control Good .....	20
Quality of Livestock Improved .....	20
Information Needed on Livestock Marketing and Efficiency .....	21
Beef Promotion Needed .....	21
REPORT OF YOUTH COMMITTEE .....	22-24
Parent Participation - Greatest Need .....	22
Leader Training Needed .....	22
New Swimming Pool Needed .....	22-23
Recreation Program Needs Fulltime Director .....	23
Delintment Lake Youth Camp Needed .....	23-24
Public Parks Needed .....	24

# Foreword

This booklet deals with the future of Harney County. It presents the judgment of a large number of local citizens concerning problems, probabilities and opportunities. It supplies some guides for the action of organizations and individuals interested in local improvement.

The reports contained in this book were developed by local committees for presentation at a County Program Projection Conference in March 1957.

That conference was organized and conducted by the county planning council with the cooperation of the Oregon State College Extension Service. Similar conferences had been held in the county at several earlier periods, the most recent being in 1948. Experience has shown that these conferences are effective in predicting trends in the local society and economy and in influencing developments in farming, ranching, youth, community and home living.

Each of the reports in this booklet is the work of a committee that met several times over a period of months and considered data from all available sources. It is hoped that this booklet will be as significant and useful as earlier similar booklets have been.

If additional copies are needed, they can be obtained from the County Extension Office in the Post Office Building, Burns, Oregon.

O. D. Hotchkiss  
General Chairman

Ray Novotny  
County Extension Agent  
General Secretary

Funds necessary for the publication of these reports were provided by

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# This Is Where We Live

Land of enchantment — history — desert — mountains — land of opportunity — that's Harney County, ninth largest county in the United States!

Oregon's largest county offers opportunity for ranching — for the mountaineer — for those with the touch of cowboy in their makeup — for the timber worker — for farmers — for sportsmen — and those who like to get out into the upper reaches, as big and endless as time!

Harney County's 6,484,480 acres of sagebrush ranges, juniper plateaus and timbered mountains create a haven for thousands of cattle, sheep, deer, antelope and elk. The county offers countless changing vistas, each with its own fresh beauty, for those who love the high desert country. Nature lovers come from all over the world to visit the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge where they can study birds, animals and vegetation unchanged by man. The sportsman through our enlightened and demanding American way of life can enjoy our singing mountain streams with trout leaping for the fly! The "squeezing of the trigger" for the big mule deer, elk and antelope, the majestic honker, ducks of all kinds, pheasants and other birds, offer the hunter the kind of hunting he has dreamed about — the fulfillment of a sportsman's dream!

Changing times have created changes in the county's agriculture. The Homestead Act, Revisions of the Desert Land Act and passage of the Stockraising Homestead Act brought hundreds of dryland farmers into the region in the early 1900s. By 1920 most of the dryland farmers left, broke, discouraged and disappointed in the country to which they gave so much. This history brought the realization that dryland farming was uneconomical, and water soon became the major factor in successful farming and ranching operations. Livestock operations through these changing times remained as the areas stable industry!

## RAINFALL SHORT

Harney County is a semi-arid region with an average annual rainfall of 9.35" and an average growing season (April-August) rainfall of 2.66". During the past thirty (30) years, fourteen (14) years have had 10" of moisture or more with the highest (nearly 16") recorded in 1940 and the lowest (under 5") in 1930. Annual and monthly rainfall records are listed below:

												Annual
Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average*
1.22	1.00	.73	.78	.82	.82	.24	.25	.47	.74	1.00	1.22	9.35
Growing Season April to August												2.66

\*1914-1954 Harney Branch Experiment Station

\*1954-1956 Burns Weather Station

## GROWING SEASON VARIED

The county's growing season is varied. Frosts may occur every month of the year and can usually be expected up to the middle of June and after the middle of August. Temperature variations are shown below:

### Average Mean Temperature\*\*\*

41 Year Average

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
22	28	36	44	51	58	66	65	56	46	35	25	44

### Average Minimum Temperature\*\*\*

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avg.
9.9	16.3	23.7	28.6	34.4	39.4	44.7	41.9	34.0	26.5**	20.6**	14*	27.8

### Average Maximum Temperature\*\*\*

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avg.
32.4	37.9	48.1	59.4	68.0	75.4	86.8	85.3	75.8	63.1**	46.9**	35.3*	59.5

\*39 year average

\*\*40 year average

\*\*\*41 year average (Harney Br. Exper. Stn. 1914-55)

Average growing season — 94 days.

## SOILS DIFFER

Harney County's surface soils range from fine, sandy loams to heavy clays with subsoils varying from fine sand and gravel to tight clay. Crop production is limited in some areas by alkali. Reclamation of soils in these areas is expensive and difficult as adequate drainage is a problem.

## TOPOGRAPHY UNIQUE

The topography ranges from flat plateaus to rough, irregular regions. North of Burns are the Ochoco and Malheur National Forests. Stinkingwater Mountains and Crane Creek Mountains cross section south from the National forests. In the southern part of the county, the high Steens Mountains, with beauty unsurpassed, quicken one's heart by their majestic gorges, rock formations, vegetative types and natural beauty. Adjoining the Steens Mountains and heading into Nevada are the Pueblo Mountains. Farther south lie the high Trout Creek Mountains. Between these mountain ranges are foothills and flat plateaus.

## COUNTY'S INCOME IMPORTANT

The progress of any region is determined by its overall income. Two major industries are represented in this area, agriculture and timber.

## AGRICULTURAL INCOME

Income from agriculture is determined partly by national and international affairs beyond the control of local people, and partly by the way we use our land and water.

\*1926-30 Average cash farm income ..... \$3,580,000.00  
 Sale of all crops products 9.7% 347,268.00  
 Sale of all animal products 90.3% 3,232,700.00  
 \*1938 Agricultural Outlook Conference Report

\*\*1956 Agricultural income cash ..... \$4,470,300.00  
 From sale of crops products 15.7% 607,300.00  
 From sale of animal products 84.3% 3,863,000.00  
 \*\*Annual Report by County Extension Agents

## FARM SIZES INCREASE

Marketing, economics and climatic differences have brought changes in size of farm and ranch units. The general trend since 1920 has been a gradual increase in the size of operations accompanied by a decrease in the number of farms. Failure of dry farms, the change from horse power to tractor, and absorption of uneconomic units by successful operators are responsible for this trend which is shown below.

Census of	All Land in Farms		Number of Farms	Av. Size of Farms
	Acres	% of County's Acreage		
1890	469,813	7.4	482	974.7
1925	689,338	10.8	681	1,012.2
1935	1,186,015	18.7	619	1,906.0
1940	874,450	13.5	436	2,005.6
1950	1,278,433	19.7	333	3,839.1
1955	1,340,060	20.7	322	4,161.7

Generally speaking, we have half the number of farms we had thirty years ago, but they are four times as large.

## TIMBER INDUSTRY IMPORTANT

Management, production, research, marketing, programing and advertising are all jobs of the lumber industry today. The industry remains one of the major economical factors in Harney County's economic stability.

The county's lumber industry is dependent on the Malheur National Forest and Eastern portion of the Ochoco National Forest. Ninety percent of the lumber is Ponderosa Pine and the remainder is Fir and Larch.

The Edward Hines Lumber Co., Hines, Oregon, cuts timber in the National forests on a sustained yield basis and operates the largest mill in the area. The future of this important industry will key directly to production on a sustained yield basis.

The following indicates board measure production of the Edward Hines Lumber Co. at intervals for the past eighteen (18) years in Harney County:

1938 .....	79,327,102
1940 .....	98,665,291
1946 .....	116,439,086
1950 .....	122,570,950
1953 .....	121,248,501
1956 .....	117,875,723

In addition, other mills cut some 7,947,900 board feet in 1956.

A total of 635 men and women were employed in the forest products industry in 1955. Total payroll is \$3,682,000.00. This amount of money, pouring into the county's economic blood stream regularly, contributes to our economic health.

The county receives a share of the National Forest receipts on an annual basis. Amounts received for specified periods were:

1950 .....	\$ 88,917.00
1955 (fiscal year) .....	183,953.00
1956 (fiscal year) .....	259,256.00

Ownership of our commercial forest lands is as follows:

1953	Acres
National Forest .....	364,000
Private .....	27,000
Bureau of Land Management .....	18,000
Other Public .....	2,000
	<hr/>
	411,000

National Forests own most of our sawtimber volume with private ownership a poor second as shown below:

1953	Board Feet
Private .....	159,000,000
National .....	3,982,000.00
Bureau of Land Management .....	103,000,000
Other Public .....	12,000,000
	<hr/>
	4,256,000.00

Total payroll, volume of production, and economic returns to residents of Harney County from lumber will always be a factor in our development.

## **COUNTY ROADS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE**

Ranchers, farmers, businessmen, sportsmen and visitors are all interested in good roads. With approximately nine hundred miles of county roads to be maintained, grading and graveling will always be difficult problems due to limited budgets.

There are 202 miles of graded and graveled roads and approximately 35 miles of graded roads without gravel surface. Road construction costs in Harney County for grading and graveling have varied from \$2000.00 to \$6000.00 per mile. The county road budget is very dependent upon the revenue from the timber cut on the Malheur and Ochoco forests. Total road budgets vary from \$170,000.00 to \$230,000.00 per year.

The four maintenance stations in the county at Andrews, Diamond, Drewsey and Burns have one patrol grader, two gravel trucks, a gravel loader, pickup and two men at each station. Each station has responsibility for maintaining an average of approximately 225 miles, in addition to the many miscellaneous roads in the area.

There are about 700 miles of miscellaneous roads that the county equipment goes over once or twice a year, — some, once every other year. The county operates a construction crew for ten or eleven months per year with crawler tractors, carryalls, dozers, power graders and gravel trucks.

The Harney County Court supervises the improvement of the county roads system which is important to everyone. Great improvement in key areas has taken place in the last few years through grading and graveling vital road areas. With limited money, specific planning for future road improvement is essential.



**The Timber Industry of Vital Importance to the Economic Stability to Harney County**



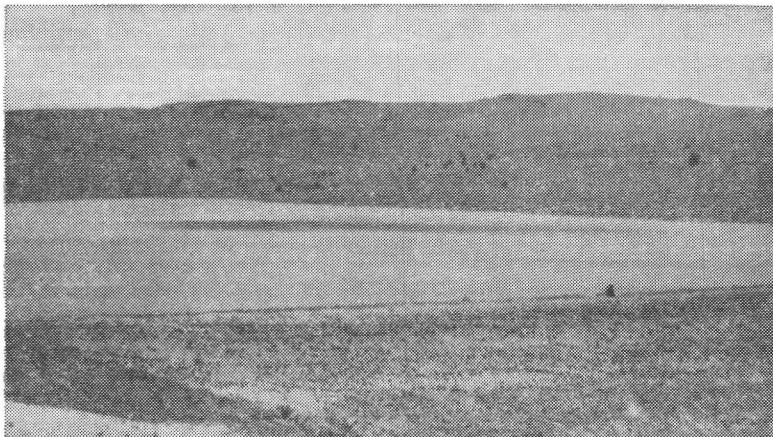
# Report of Crops - Land Use Committee

Members of the Crops and Land Use Committee have studied all available data to develop recommendations relative to the future of our land and water problems. First, land ownership must be understood.

Land Ownership in Harney County			
TOTAL ACRES IN COUNTY .....			6,484,480
	Percent		
Public Domain .....	62.2	4,033,442	
Forest Service .....	7.9	514,860	
Wildlife Refuge .....	2.5	163,450	
Squaw Butte Exper. Stn. ....	.3	16,926	
TOTAL FEDERAL LANDS .....			4,728,678
State School Land .....	3.5	227,158	
County Lands .....	1.3	90,688	
TOTAL STATE & COUNTY LANDS .....			317,846
Crop Land .....	2.9	186,280	
Range Land .....	19.3	1,251,676	
TOTAL PRIVATE, CROP & RANGE .....			1,437,956

The 1955 census reports a total of 186,280 acres of crop land in comparison to 149,590 acres in 1940.

Our irrigated lands have increased substantially. In 1945 a total of 104,825 acres were under irrigation in comparison to 136,636 acres in 1955. This change can be attributed to the construction of seventy-seven (77) irrigation reservoirs since 1946.



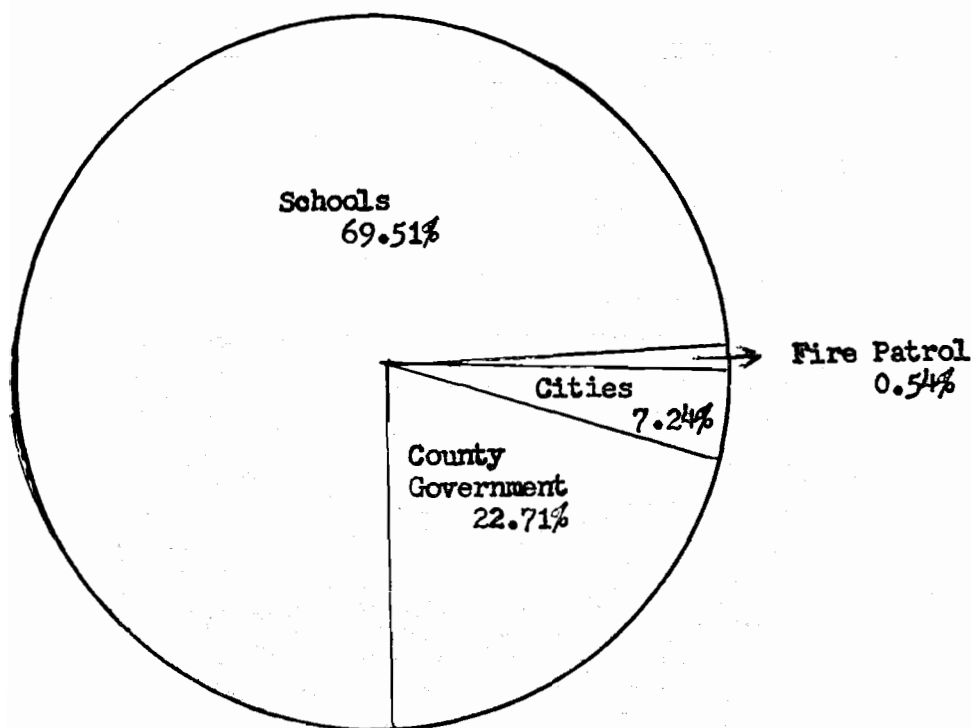
Seventy-Seven Such Irrigation Reservoirs Constructed  
in Harney County Since 1946

# Where Your Tax Dollar Is Spent

## TAXATION

The committee found considerable misunderstanding about taxation. Some want services, but don't want to pay for them. Our schools, roads, health, and home living need to be maintained at high standards, but we can't have these things without footing the bill.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that tax structures be published and that all residents of Harney County be encouraged to study fully our source of taxes.



# STATEMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSED VALUES AS ENTERED ON THE 1956-57 TAX ROLL

Rural	Assessed Value	% A. V. to Total A.V.	County Tax	Rural School Tax	Special School Tax	U. H. No.1 Tax, Sp.	U. H. No. 2 Tax, Sp.	Burns & Hines	Fire Patrol	Total Taxes	% of tax to Total Tax
<b>Rural</b>											
Real Property	6,003,120.00	39.34	76,239.62	125,465.21	32,604.67	3,468.34	21,799.11		4,144.29	263,721.24	34.11
Personal Property	3,038,965.00	19.91	38,594.86	63,514.37	16,548.36	2,035.95	8,626.10			129,319.64	16.73
<b>Total Rural Property</b>	<b>9,042,085.00</b>	<b>59.25</b>	<b>114,834.48</b>	<b>188,979.58</b>	<b>49,153.03</b>	<b>5,504.29</b>	<b>30,425.21</b>		<b>4,144.29</b>	<b>393,040.88</b>	<b>50.84</b>
<b>Urban</b> (Burns & Hines)											
Real Property	2,670,450.00	17.50	33,914.72	55,812.43	31,162.81		22,965.87	43,607.67		187,463.50	24.25
Personal Property	455,920.00	2.99	5,790.18	9,528.73	5,257.30		3,920.94	7,248.02		31,745.17	4.11
<b>Total Urban Property</b>	<b>3,126,370.00</b>	<b>20.49</b>	<b>39,704.90</b>	<b>65,341.16</b>	<b>36,420.11</b>		<b>26,886.81</b>	<b>50,855.69</b>		<b>219,208.67</b>	<b>28.36</b>
<b>Public Utilities</b> Less Ore-NW R. R. in Rural Area in Cities											
	930,844.86	6.10	11,821.73	19,454.66	3,777.72	649.71	2,417.80			38,121.62	4.93
	311,504.75	2.04	3,956.11	6,510.45	3,641.53		2,678.94	5,106.73		21,893.76	2.83
<b>Total P. U. C.</b>	<b>1,242,349.61</b>	<b>8.14</b>	<b>15,777.84</b>	<b>25,965.11</b>	<b>7,419.25</b>	<b>649.71</b>	<b>5,096.74</b>	<b>5,106.73</b>		<b>60,015.38</b>	<b>7.76</b>
Wolverine Mill Ed. Hines Lbr. Co. Ore.-NW R. R.											
<b>Total Real &amp; Personal Property</b>	<b>1,849,569.05</b>	<b>12.12</b>	<b>23,489.54</b>	<b>38,655.99</b>	<b>22,749.70</b>		<b>15,906.29</b>			<b>190,801.52</b>	<b>13.04</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,260,373.66</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>193,806.76</b>	<b>318,941.84</b>	<b>115,742.09</b>	<b>6,154.00</b>	<b>78,315.05</b>	<b>55,962.42</b>	<b>4,144.29</b>	<b>773,066.45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## **SILVIES FLOOD CONTROL**

Whether we ever have water control of the Silvies River by construction of a flood control reservoir is a decision to be made by the people. The U. S. Corps of Army Engineers will soon be completing a flood control survey of the Silvies River. The Silvies River project would store spring flood waters that have caused substantial damage to the city of Burns and ranch properties in Harney valley. It has been estimated damages caused by this flooding are approximately \$125,000.00 per year. Later releases of these flood waters would provide supplemental irrigation to Harney valley ranches and farms.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the feasibility study by the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers be thoroughly reviewed with all people. We further recommend that an educational program on land reclamation, water distribution and other economic information be conducted.

## **RESEARCH NEEDED**

To consider feasibility of construction of a Silvies River flood control project, it is highly essential that problems relative to reclamation, drainage, management and forage production be studied. The development of a sound research program would be of great benefit in all regions of the West where wild flooding is a method of irrigation. Many individuals are spending substantial amounts on their individual activities.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that Oregon State College and the Agricultural Research Service establish a research program in the Harney Basin region to obtain and evaluate information on irrigation, drainage and other cultural practices relative to forage production with controlled irrigation.

## **WATER STORAGE IMPORTANT**

Water, life of the land, is the key to a successful agriculture in the high desert country. Improvements and increased crop production can be realized through sound water control and development of our available water resource. Since 1946 seventy-seven (77) irrigation reservoirs have been constructed by private operators. Irrigated lands have increased from 104,825 acres in 1945 to 136,636 acres in 1955. There is still need for additional construction in small drainage areas.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that farmers and ranchers continue to construct and develop private water storage facilities.

## **WATER STORAGE BENEFITS EVERYONE**

The demands of our water resource by domestic, agricultural and other uses are growing. Great need still exists for additional private water storage structures on a national level.

Flood damage, recreation, conservation, wildlife, irrigation and stock water are all affected by water storage, so construction of a reservoir has values for nearly everyone, in addition to the good it may do to the individual who builds it.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the Federal government, through its Agricultural Conservation Program, extend cost share practices to create additional construction of private water storage facilities and that the present \$1,500.00 cost share limitation be raised or removed and maintained at (50%) fifty percent.

## **WEED CONTROL ESSENTIAL**

Noxious weeds have been taking their toll from Harney County's income by reducing production. Our noxious weed problem has increased twofold during the past ten years. It is essential that every effort be made to obtain a complete weed control program. Selective weed control by use of growth regulating chemicals such as 2, 4-D has added millions of dollars to the income of farmers throughout the nation.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that a strong educational program be conducted to create interest and enthusiasm toward individual participation in controlling weeds.

We further recommend that each farm and ranch operator control all weeds on his property.

## **DRYLAND FARMING HAZARDOUS**

Experience has shown that dryland farming in Harney County is extremely hazardous and uneconomical with the exception of rye. Lands of limited water supply and low fertility which are classified as drylands are adapted only to the production of Crested Wheatgrass and other grasses with drouth resistance.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We do not recommend dryland farming other than rye hay production except for seed bed preparation prior to seeding range grasses.

## **CROP RECOMMENDATIONS VARIED**

Grain and forage crop recommendations are difficult to make because of climatic variations in the county and due to everchanging varieties.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend farmers and ranchers contact the County Extension Agent for crop variety recommendations.

## **GRAIN STORAGE NEEDED**

The feasibility and economics of local grain storage has been thoroughly reviewed by this committee. During the past ten years grain storage has been a good investment. Price increases in feed grains between harvests have been substantial in some years and it certainly is not good business to sell grain out of the county at harvest time, only to ship other grain back in later.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that farmers and ranchers be encouraged to construct and develop grain storage sufficient for their needs.

## **PUMP IRRIGATION**

Pump irrigation demands are increasing rapidly in the county. Some factors affecting successful pump operations are: depth of lift; efficiency of pump; extent and efficiency of irrigation system; and season of use. Each individual operation will require its own pump, so no blanket recommendations can be made. Types of crops that can be grown under existing soil and climatic conditions will be factors to be considered in pumping feasibility. Electricity in many areas of the county will create additional demands on ground water supplies.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that continued studies and information be obtained on the feasibility of pump irrigation in Harney county.

## **GROUND WATER SURVEY NEEDED**

Demands on ground water for domestic and agricultural purposes are increasing each year. Survey data is limited and we have need for more information on our ground water supplies.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the State Engineer and the U. S. Geological Survey be requested to conduct a ground water survey to determine total ground water supplies. This recommendation is urgent because sooner or later we will come to a point where one well will rob another.

## **MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE IMPORTANT**

The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge comprises 165,000 acres of land which includes Malheur, Mud, and Harney Lakes, major portions of the Blitzen River Valley and the Double O ranch region.

This wildlife refuge was principally established for a wildlife

nursery. Two hundred twenty-eight (228) different species of birds, and fifty-three (53) species of mammals, including deer, antelope, and other animals, have been recorded as finding their refuge in this sanctuary.

Thousands of people throughout the world visit this public facility and in addition hundreds of hunters enjoy the public shooting grounds.

#### 1. MULTIPLE USE

Restricted grazing and haying have been permitted to the advantage of wildlife management and cattle production.

Receipts from this use have been of great benefit to Harney County's road and school system.

Monies received by Harney County from this form of use are as follows:

1953 .....	\$27,536.37
1955 .....	29,066.54
1957 .....	32,950.35

One third of these monies goes to the Harney County School System and two-thirds for the improvement of our roads.

RECOMMENDATION — We recommend that the Malheur Wildlife Refuge be maintained on multiple use with restricted hay and grazing practices.

#### 2. CROPPING PRACTICES

Improved grain seeding methods are essential to supply migratory birds with ample feed supplies. Difficulty in the past has been inadequate financing.

RECOMMENDATION — We recommend that the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior adequately finance five hundred (500) acres of grain yearly for migratory bird feeding areas.

#### 3. RECREATION

Due to tremendous demands for recreational facilities by the people throughout the county, there is a need for additional recreational sites.

RECOMMENDATION — We recommend the construction of Crumbo Dam, and that the Department of Interior and Forest Service be encouraged to develop additional recreational sites as rapidly as possible.

#### 4. DRAINAGE

The Diamond swamp area lacks drainage for most productive use by wildlife and migratory birds.

RECOMMENDATION — We recommend that the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior appropriate adequate funds to complete construction of a drainage system on that part of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge known as the "Diamond Swamp."

# Report of Home and Community Living Committee

Home and community living is tied to the overall American standard of living, and this, in turn, is our American "way of life" and is the strength of our nation.

Ideal community participation in church, schools, road improvement, recreation, government and other activities is essential. Organization and leadership in the community and county are keys to the success of home and community living standards. This committee has kept in mind these facts in establishing their goals and recommendations.

## HEALTH

### Nursing Home Needed

Population trends show a large increase in the number of adults over sixty-five years of age. This increase is due to advances in medical science, better knowledge of foods and other factors affecting the health and well-being of our people. There are more than two hundred adults past the age of sixty-five in the county.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that Harney County provide facilities and services to meet the needs of our older people. We further recommend construction of a County Nursing Home with monies raised by taxation and that the issue be placed on the ballot at the next election.

## HOSPITAL DEMANDS GROW

Harney County has one county hospital with thirty-nine (39) beds. There are three medical doctors to care for the seven thousand county residents and the radar station personnel. Space and facilities are now inadequate.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the present Harney County Hospital be expanded to take care of the increased demands.

## DOCTORS AND DENTISTS NEEDED

Records prove that Oregon ranks high in the prevalence of tooth decay. The Harney County Health Council's survey taken in 1954 indicated 388 people in need of dental care. In addition 143 needed eye attention. All indicated they were unable to obtain this service locally.



To take care of dental needs adequately the Oregon State Dental Association recommends one dentist for every 1200 people. In Harney County there are two dentists who serve seven thousand (7000) people. According to the U. S. Public Health Service, there should be one physician for every 1200 people. This would indicate a need for three or more doctors and dentists. Difficulty in obtaining adequate facilities appears to be one of the major problems.

**RECOMMENDATION** — The committee recommends that an investigation be made as to the feasibility of constructing a medical center in order to provide adequate space for doctors, dentists, and other specialists who desire to establish practices here, but are unable to do so because of lack of office space.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDED FOR FLUORIDATION**

\*"The results of a number of scientific studies have shown conclusively that the addition of approximately one part per million of sodium fluoride to a fluoride-free public water supply reduces the incidence of tooth decay among children by almost sixty percent (60%). From all the scientific evidence available, it is indicated that no harmful effects have been observed from the consumption of water containing either naturally or artificially added fluorides in the approximate amount of one part per million."

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that an educational program be conducted on fluoridation of public water for control of tooth decay.

### **DIETS GOOD**

The committee reviewed thoroughly diets for the people of Harney County. Due particularly to an educational program carried on by the Extension Service and through other commercial programs, most residents of Harney County have adequate diets. Additional information on home gardens was needed.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that an educational program be conducted in the field of nutrition and its relationship to home garden production. We further recommend special emphasis be placed on the 4-H foods project to inform the young people of the importance of good nutrition.

\*Rural Life — August 1952

## RURAL CHAPEL NEEDED

The church is the oldest known institution! There are two rural churches in the county located at Drewsey. Week-day bible schools are being held in Diamond, Double O, Frenchglen, Crane, Suntex and Sod House, Fields, Andrews and Lawen. Drewsey has the only Sunday school. Monthly church services are held at Drewsey, Andrews, Fields, Sod House, Frenchglen and Diamond. Also, there are weekly youth meetings at the Crane High School.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend the construction of a small chapel centrally located for the rural areas to continue development of spiritual, social and recreational life. We further recommend special training sessions be established in rural communities for instruction of church school teachers.

## ELECTRICITY REALIZED

Electrification of two hundred forty-nine (249) rural homes will soon be realized. The newly-formed Harney Electric Cooperative, Inc. is rapidly completing construction of transmission and distribution lines to four hundred ten (410) services. The Cooperative borrowed through the Rural Electrification Administration \$1,402,000.00. Total services by the Cooperative are:

Residential Non-Farm .....	21
Residential Farm .....	198
Residential Twn .....	30
Schools, Churches, etc. ....	9
Irrigation - Pumps .....	87
Commercial Establishments .....	24
Drainage Pumps .....	13
Stock Wells .....	28
	<hr/>
	410

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that a consumer education program on all phases of electrical use be conducted in the areas receiving electricity.

## TELEPHONES NEEDED

Adequate telephone service is important to ranchers, farmers and others living in the rural areas. Communications are highly essential in such a large county, particularly in cases of emergency. Telephone services were available to 163 individual units in 1945 and 135 in 1955 according to the United States census. With electrification of many areas which have single line telephone service, the situation will become more critical due to electrical disturbances.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend a study and investigation to review the feasibility of obtaining a Rural Telephone Association loan to construct an adequate telephone system.

## **SCHOOLS**

County school populations are on the increase. This means additional demands on the present school administrations and facilities. With the construction of a new high school, two new grade schools and an addition to the Hines Grade School, the facilities available should be adequate. The future use of the Burns Union High School was thoroughly reviewed by the committee.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the Burns Union High School be used for a Junior High School after construction of the new high school.

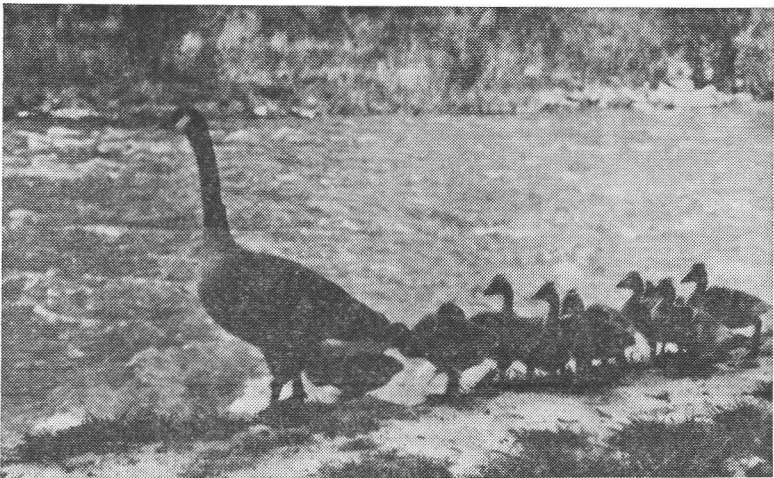
## **HARNEY COUNTY LIBRARY NEEDED**

The Harney County library is basic to maintenance of our American way of life.

Every person needs lifetime access to sources of information upon which to base sound judgment and wise action. Circulation of books has increased greatly during the past five years with 18,590 books being circulated in 1956.

Cost of the library operation is \$2400.00. In order for the library to continue to expand, more shelving space is needed.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that a new library be built in conjunction with the new museum.



**Mother Goose and Her Flock  
Outdoor Living for the Family in High Demand**

# Report of Livestock Committee

Livestock through the years has been Harney County's major agricultural source of income. Eighty-four and three tenths percent (84.3%) of the total agricultural income comes from the sale of livestock products. Beef cattle and sheep production developed in Harney County as the West opened for settlement. The formation of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management created changes in the management of livestock operations. Livestock operations must revolve around the use of these Federal lands which comprise seventy-two and nine-tenths percent (72.9%) of the total acreage in Harney County.

Beef cattle numbers have increased from 47,792 in 1940 to 108,982 in 1955. Sheep numbers have declined from 80,000 in 1940 to 15,592 in 1955 as reported by the United States census. Indications at this time are that sheep numbers are substantially increasing and estimates indicate there are now approximately 20,000 head. The county is thus carrying double the animal units that it had fifteen years ago. This is due partly to decrease in horses, partly to more irrigation, partly to greater rainfall recently and partly to better management.

This committee, realizing that grazing permits on Federal ranges are a major factor in the numbers of livestock in the county, has thoroughly reviewed this factor along with many others.

## FORAGE BALANCE GOOD

An abundance of comparatively low-priced feeds is highly essential for a successful livestock enterprise. In general our rangelands and feed requirements have met this specification for a stability.

Present forage production capacities versus livestock numbers appear to be in good balance. However, livestock numbers cannot be materially increased unless extensive forage improvement practices are undertaken. These include range improvement, meadow fertilization, and others.

Data indicates we have 101,599 acres of hayland with an average production of approximately one ton per acre. Considering the desirability of a fifty percent (50%) carryover of hay, it appears that hay production is a little low in comparison to livestock numbers. In addition to the hay harvested on private lands, 20,000 head of cattle are wintered on the National Wildlife Refuge. This materially changes our livestock feed ratio.

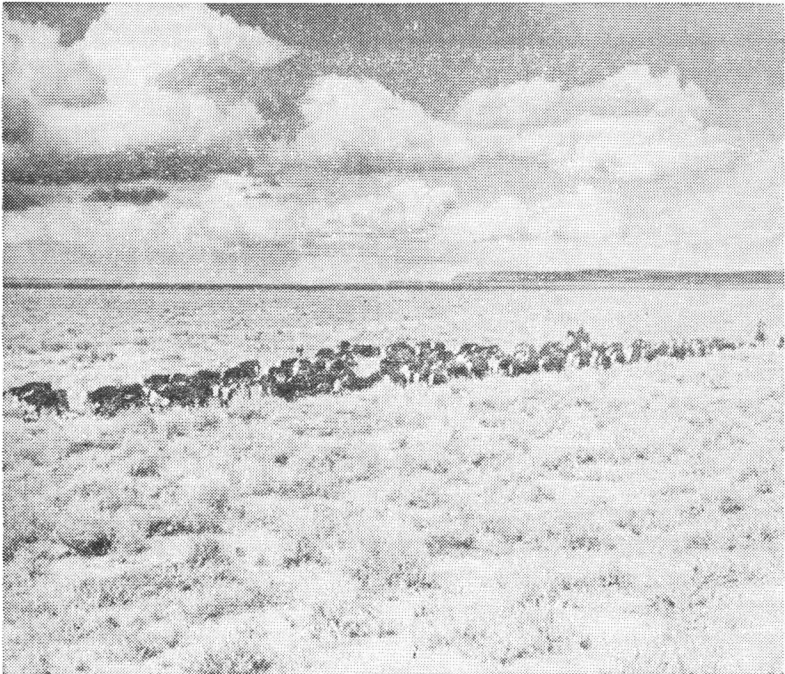
**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that in view of our forage-livestock ratio, livestock numbers in general should not be increased, unless forage is increased proportionately.

## **RANGE IMPROVEMENT**

Harney County is made up of seventy-two and nine-tenths percent (72.9%) of Federal lands. Private rangelands are nineteen and three-tenths percent (19.3%) of the total county acreage. Range improvement through reseeding, brush removal, water development, fencing and other management practices is important! Cooperative programs between private and Federal Agencies are necessary for stability of the livestock industry.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service develop cooperative range improvement programs with ranch operators.

We further recommend that ranch operators be encouraged to improve privately-owned rangelands through sound, basic range improvement methods.



**Cattle Moving to the Summer Ranges in the Vast,  
High Desert Country**

## **DISEASE CONTROL GOOD**

### **TUBERCULOSIS**

Harney County has participated in a cooperative tuberculosis eradication program with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Oregon State Department of Agriculture since 1948. Recent tuberculosis tests showed no reactors.

### **BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture and State Departments are in process of organizing the State of Oregon in an effort to maintain certified Brucellosis free cattle herds. Harney County cattlemen will soon undertake a Brucellosis testing program.

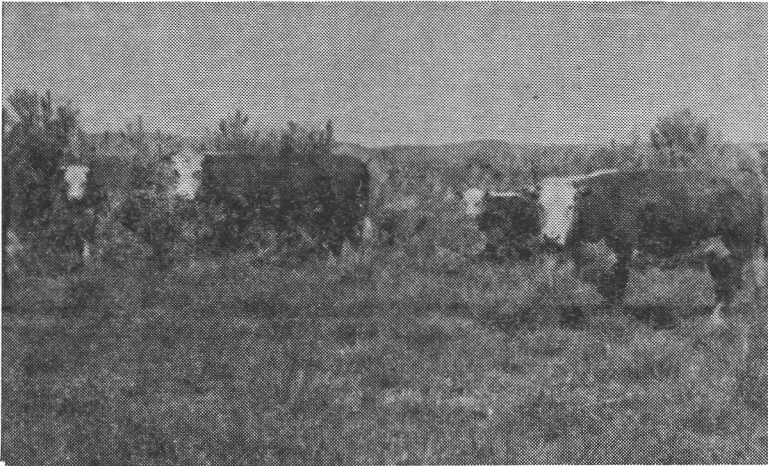
#### **RECOMMENDATION —**

1. We recommend that Brucellosis and Tuberculosis testing be done at the same time to eliminate livestock handling and losses during the official testing program.
2. We recommend that all cattle operators maintain a strong vaccination program for Brucellosis or Bangs disease.
3. We recommend that all livestock operators improve and develop adequate corral and chute facilities to meet the needs of the testing programs.

### **QUALITY OF LIVESTOCK IMPROVED**

Quality of both cattle and sheep in Harney County has improved greatly during the past ten years. Quality livestock is the key to wise marketing.

**RECOMMENDATION —** We recommend all livestock operators be encouraged to improve the quality of their livestock by using quality bulls, and by culling, feeding and management.



**Quality Cattle are the Key to Wise Marketing**

## **INFORMATION NEEDED ON LIVESTOCK MARKETING AND EFFICIENCY**

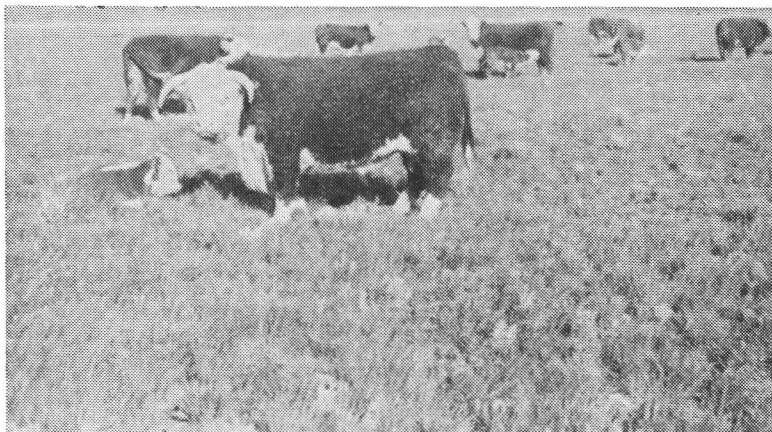
Records prove that some animals use their feed more efficiently than others. Therefore, it is possible to increase the total pounds of beef marketed by improving the efficiency measured by rate of gain. Livestock operators may then, without sacrificing quality or standards of animals, select males and females with emphasis on efficiency of rate of gain.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that more information and studies be developed to obtain adequate knowledge of livestock efficiency. We further recommend that a workable progeny testing program be established through colleges, associations and organizations to determine practical methods of efficiency testing of commercial herds.

### **BEEF PROMOTION NEEDED**

Beef, the major agricultural product in Harney County, is dependent upon an efficient marketing program. As consumer demands change, producers must change production practices and must produce types and grades to suit changing demands. But consumer demands can be influenced, otherwise there would be no TV or magazine or radio advertising.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** — We recommend that a strong beef promotional program be organized on research, consumer education, grades, grading and efficient marketing in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.



**Quality Bulls Important to Herd Improvement**

# Report of Youth Committee

The strength of our great nation revolves around the training of our youth. Their character and initiative ultimately affect our American way of life.

Harney County, realizing the many problems and questions facing our youth, has constantly worked in establishing a sound, broad youth program. Problems still exist in interesting older boys and girls in creating worthwhile objectives.

The Youth Committee surveyed most of the schools in the county. A total of 1204 youngsters were included in the survey. It was found that 90% of the boys and girls were involved in some church activity.

The survey further indicated that the youth are tremendously interested in outdoor activities. Sixty-eight percent participated in swimming, 63% in fishing, 49% in camping, 48% in hiking, and 43% in hunting. These percentages show that strongest interest of any activity other than church is in outdoor events. Family relationships can be strengthened by participation of the entire family in these wholesome out-of-door activities!

## PARENT PARTICIPATION — GREATEST NEED

Parents, and their interest in their children, influence any youth activity or organization. The youth's interest in schools, government, recreation, community service, churches and many other activities can be traced to parent interest.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that all groups and organizations establish an active program directed towards encouraging parent interest and participation in youth activities.

## LEADER TRAINING NEEDED

The effectiveness of any youth group depends upon capable leadership. Many leaders feel the lack of information and training in handling specific programs.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that all organized youth groups set up a leader training program designed to establish confidence in subject matter as well as in other phases of youth development.

## NEW SWIMMING POOL NEEDED

The swimming pool located south of Hines, is the only wood constructed pool in the State of Oregon. During the three summer



months an average of three hundred (300) swims daily has been recorded.

Season tickets are sold to adults with all children of the county receiving free tickets.

To meet State Board of Health requirements for the coming year previous to the opening date of the pool, a chlorinator, flush toilets, and warm water showers must be installed. The committee enlists the support of all citizens of the county so that this important facility may be kept active.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend construction of a new swimming pool to be located at the site of the new high school with monies to be raised by serial levy on the tax roll not to exceed a five-year period. The amount should be determined by the Harney County Swimming Pool Committee.

### **RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS FULL TIME DIRECTOR**

Recreation is an important field of community activity. It can add to the cultural and social achievements of people of all ages, or lack of it can detract from their well-being.

Recreation has proved its value in building positive physical and mental health; in maintaining and restoring emotional balance; in helping to prevent juvenile delinquency; and in promoting appreciation of other people — "Those who play together will work together."

The youth survey shows that thirty-six (36%) of the youngsters surveyed are using the City Parks. Both Burns and Hines have a paid park supervisor for the summer months. The development of a volleyball court, badminton court, and a softball diamond in the Burns Park are all facilities needed in order to make present facilities adequate for older boys and girls.

The feasibility of establishing a community center to provide extra room for meetings, crafts, and other indoor activities could be considered after the recreational director has had an opportunity to develop a leadership and recreational program.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend the need for a fulltime recreational director. This would benefit the establishment and administration of a strong recreational program for Burns, Hines and all rural communities.

### **DELINTMENT LAKE YOUTH CAMP NEEDED**

The Delintment Lake Youth Camp Association, composed of representatives of the Grange, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H Club Leaders Association, was organized to develop and coordinate activities for a summer camp facility.

The Association has plans underway to develop an adequate water supply system and to bring the camp to minimum Forest Service re-

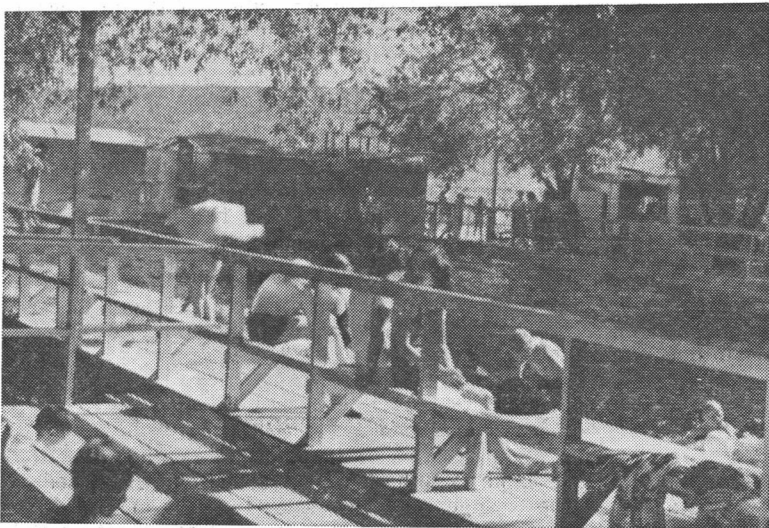
quirements. Camp facilities include a cabin at the lake with a kitchen with adequate utensils to serve seventy-five (75) persons. The camp is open to any organized youth group without charge. This facility will aid in the summer camp recreational needs of the county.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend full development of the Delintment Lake Youth Camp and commend the Delintment Lake Youth Camp Association for development of this fine facility.

### **PUBLIC PARKS NEEDED**

Results of the youth survey showed the importance of outdoor activities and participation of all of our youth. High demands of all people for recreational facilities point out the present inadequate facilities available on our Federal lands.

**RECOMMENDATION** — We recommend that the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management be encouraged to develop additional recreational facilities in our National Forests and other Federal lands.



**Swimming Pool — Number One Recreational Facility  
for County's Youth**

### **LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Joe Altnow, Chairman	Henry Griffith
Howard Otley	Elden Catterson
Howard Miller	Lyle Vickers
Dick Hotchkiss	Fred Witzel
Lloyd H. Hill	Dick Jenkins
Lee Williams	Homer Carlon
Harley Hotchkiss	Dorman Otley
Henry Otley	Hollie Schroder
J. C. Cecil	Paul Stewart
C. M. Otley	Chas. Miler
Jack Drinkwater	Dick Cowan
J. B. Appling	Chas. Otley
Newton Hotchkiss	Leon Thompson
Allen Turner	Bob Barnhart
Jack Catterson	Don Hotchkiss
Marcus Haines	Verne Cady
Dan Opie	Allan Otley

### **CROPS AND LAND USE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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O. D. Hotchkiss	Lloyd H. Hill
Henry Otley	John Scharff
Standley Ausmus	Earl Sitz
J. B. Appling	E. N. Sewell
Allen Turner	Pat Cecil
J. M. Lillard	Art Sawyer
Scott Cooper	Pluribus Tiler
Hilton Whiting	Jack Catterson
C. W. Craddock	Henry Griffith

Harry Withers Jr.

### **YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Allen Turner, Chairman	Mrs. Nell Sevey
Mrs. S. P. Hotchkiss	Pauline Reed
Orm Carter	Don Sawyer
Mrs. Lionel Connall	W. W. Sargent
Mrs. Delbert Allen	Henry L. Slater
Cal Williams	Lee Baldwin
Mrs. A. O. Pollentier	Norman Green
Gus Bardwell	Jim Red
Mrs. E. F. Gatlin	Robert G. Paige
Mrs. Henry Ausmus	Rev. Len Fishback
Mrs. Standley Ausmus	Mrs. Pauline Miller
Mrs. Allen Turner	Mrs. Marcus Haines
Mrs. Dick Jenkins	Mrs. Dwight Allen

M. H. Fell

### **HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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Mrs. Frank Thorne	Mrs. Wallace Shepard
Mrs. Bill Hurlburt	Mrs. O. D. Hotchkiss
Mrs. Ansel Marshall	Mrs. Homer Otley
Mrs. John Scharff	Mrs. Dick Jenkins
Mrs. Bill Thompson	Mrs. Jim McDade
Mrs. Joe Altnow	Mrs. Mary Neill

Mrs. John Crow