

Gilliam County
Long-Range Planning
1970



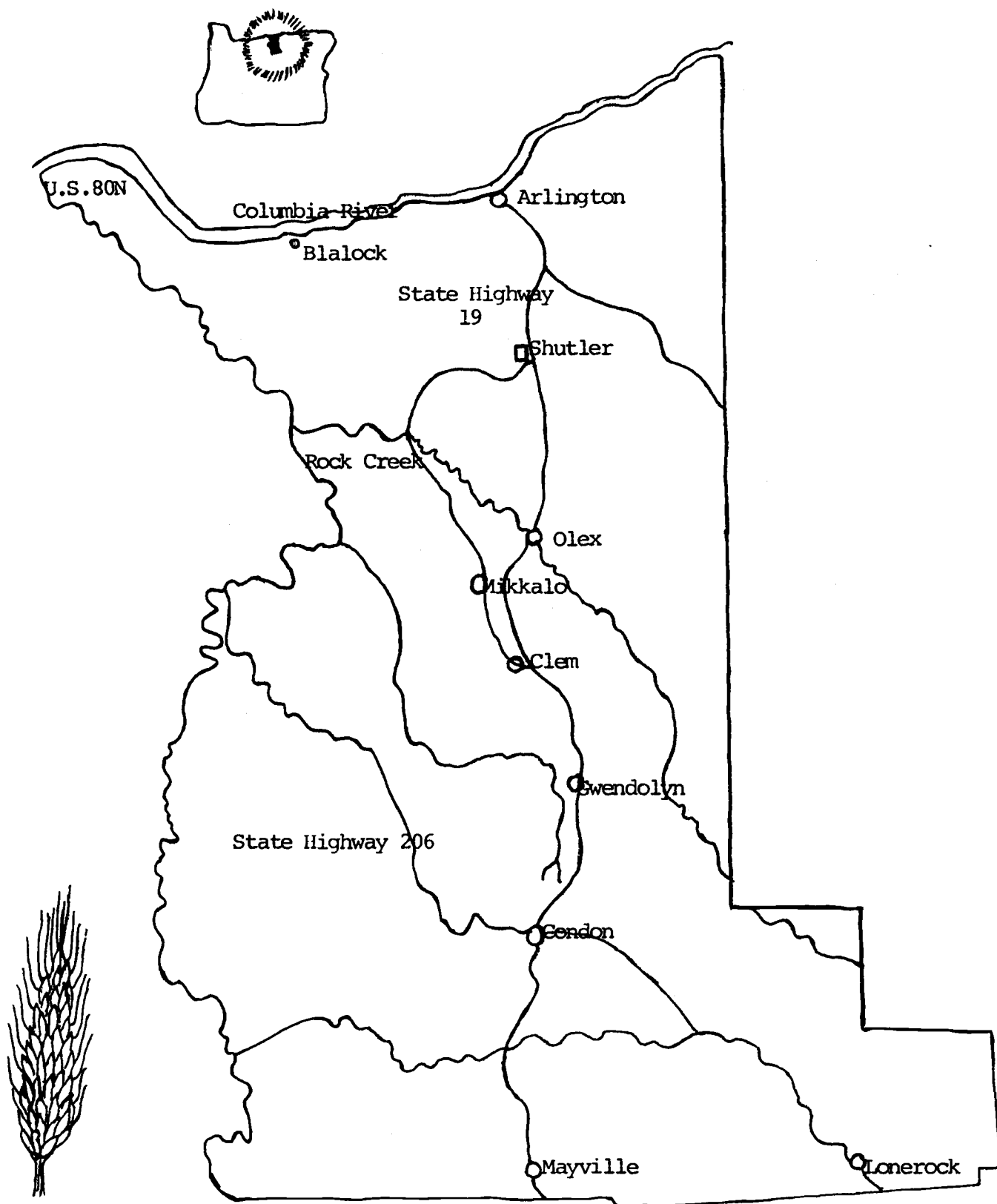
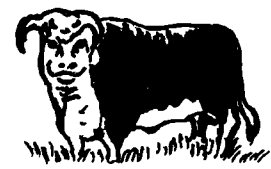


The Columbia River, railway and U. S. 80 North at Arlington provide a significant transportation resource to Gilliam County.—Highway Department photo

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GILLIAM COUNTY OREGON



Foreword

During 1969 and early 1970 more than 346 Gilliam County citizens participated in five major planning committees to assemble a program, "Planning for the Future." The purpose of this report is to provide factual information about Gilliam County; to present findings and recommendations of the four planning committees; and to encourage all residents and groups in the county to coordinate efforts to develop and improve the economic and social conditions in an orderly manner.

This planning program was organized by the Gilliam County Extension Advisory Council and the Co-

operative Extension Service of Oregon State University. Four earlier planning conferences in 1926, 1936, 1949 and 1957 were primarily in the field of agriculture.

This report covers four broad areas: agriculture, industry and economic development, human resources, and taxation. The committees have prepared their reports and recommendations with the purpose of stimulating further study and action by the citizens of the county concerning the problems of today and the opportunities of tomorrow. Members of the 1970 Extension Advisory Council who organized this planning program were:

Carrol Wilkins, chairman	Arlington
June Mikkalo, secretary	Mikkalo
Ernie Barnett	Condon
Alma Campbell	Condon
Howard Eubanks	Arlington
Arnim Freeman	Condon
Jim Green	Arlington

William Jaeger	Condon
Jim Morris	Arlington
Al Riney	Condon
Marge Weimar	Condon
Kathy West	Olex
Morris Wilson	Condon

Gilliam County Court and Commissioners

James O. Burns, county judge
Clarence Potter, county commissioner
Lester Brooks, county commissioner

County Extension Staff

Thomas G. Zinn, chairman agent, Gilliam County
Ken Killingsworth, chairman agent, Wheeler County
Ronald T. Mobley, Gilliam-Wheeler 4-H agent
Kathleen J. Carnes, Gilliam-Wheeler extension agent

Gilliam County, Oregon

History

Gilliam County was organized out of Wasco County in 1885. The name of the county originated from Cornelius Gilliam, who fought in the Cayuse War. Settlement began in the early 1860's when the cattle ranchers progressed into an agricultural economy with the influx of homesteaders in the 1880's, which forced cattle grazing to poorer lands and made winter feeding necessary. Irrigation systems developed this trend even further, agriculture being the only major industry at present. The original county seat was located in Alkali, which is now Arlington.

Facts About Gilliam County

The county seat is Condon, which is approximately 151 miles east of Portland and 103 miles west of Pendleton. The present population of the county is 2,207, with the major towns being Arlington (population 370) and Condon (population 916).

Location and size

Gilliam County is located in the northern-central part of Oregon, extending south from the Columbia River 45 miles and east from the John Day River 30 miles. The county is bounded on the west by Sherman County; on the south by Wheeler County; and on the east by Morrow County. Gilliam County has a total area of 773,120 acres, or 1,210 square miles, the average farm being about 5,000 acres. Of this, about 1,500 to 2,000 acres are tillable and are used for wheat and barley pro-

duction. Thus the economy of Gilliam County is based on cereal and livestock production. About 93 percent of the county is in private ownership, and 7 percent is publicly owned.

Topography and Climate

Gilliam County ranks 24th among counties in area, encompassing 2 percent of the total area in Oregon. It lies almost entirely within the John Day River Basin, making up 12.9 percent of the total area within this basin. The land slopes toward the Columbia River and is part of the Umatilla plateau. The lands on the plateau are generally smooth and rolling. The drainage pattern is characterized by steep swales and narrow canyons with the abrupt hillsides limited to range use. Plateau soils are used for dryland wheat and barley under the summer fallow system of farming.

With elevations of 2,840 feet at Condon and 315 feet at Arlington, the county has a variety of climates. Annual precipitation, which comes principally in the winter months, ranges from 8 inches at Arlington to over 15 inches at Lonerock in the southeast corner of the county. Condon, the county seat, receives 12 inches annually. The semiarid climate is characterized by low winter and high summer temperatures. The rainfall comes principally in the fall and winter months. Occasional torrential rainstorms which occur in the spring and summer seasons cause severe erosion and flood damage to soil and crops but add little moisture to the soil. The frost-free growing season varies from 50 days at higher elevations to 200 days along the Columbia River. The growing season varies from 120 days to 170 days where dryland grains of wheat and barley are grown.

Agriculture Report

Credit

At the present time, when the highest interest rates in history are combined with the inflated costs of everything a farmer purchases, credit assumes a greater importance than ever before. Even with the high interest rates, banks do not have sufficient money for both old and new borrowers. Lending agency representatives state that the day of 6 percent financing interest has gone. These factors make it especially important for farmers and ranchers to use credit wisely if they are to survive the cost-price squeeze. The farm business must be thoroughly analyzed and a definite repayment program established before credit is applied for. It should be borne in mind that the margins in certain types of agriculture are so low at the present time that the use of credit for expansion is not justified.

Problems

Credit is short for agriculture because banks can loan their limited supply of money to other segments of the economy at higher rates. The banks are short of money for all borrowers because of generally greater credit needs due to inflation. Depositors also have in many cases transferred their savings from bank savings accounts to the bond market where interest rates are higher. In order to control inflation, present governmental policy restricts the availability of money and imposes high interest rates. Banks are not allowed to loan over about 70 percent of their deposits, and at this time most are loaned to this limit.

The long-range outlook for greater credit availability, lower interest rates, and curtailment of inflation is not good as long as we are waging a war and have deficit government spending. With a balanced federal budget, government monetary restrictions could be eased without adding to the inflationary trends. However, it is difficult to say when more money will be available for agriculture.

Credit Institutions

In Gilliam County several institutions provide credit to agriculture. Credit for short-and medium-term operating capital is supplied by two large state chain banks and a local chain bank. This type of credit is also available from Production Credit Association offices in The Dalles and Portland. The Portland PCA office restricts its loans to those who receive most of their income from livestock sales and will be needing a commitment of over \$30,000. The farm implement companies also provide short-and medium-term loans for machinery purchases. Long-term credit used primarily for land purchases is available from the Federal Land Bank system and certain insurance companies.

A bank's decision on whether or not to loan money

to an individual is based on the cash flow occurring in the business during previous years and on whether or not financial progress is being made. The only way a lender can measure financial progress is by studying the required record of past performance. Good records are essential for any farmer requiring borrowed money.

It has been said that good records with enterprise cost accounting will be necessary in the future for farmers who want to borrow. This statement needs change; it should emphasize that good records with projected enterprise income and expenses analysis are necessary now for farmers who want to borrow. A banker today considers cash flow and financial progress more significant than net worth in deciding to whom they loan. Projected cash flow can be intelligently forecast only by referring to the record of experience from previous years. This projected cash flow or budget is necessary for the banker to know the total and timing of credit needs of his customers. It is necessary to plan the bank's cash flow so all commitments can be taken care of. This budget must be worked out well in advance of need. In general, banks prefer a ratio of customer debt to net worth of not over 50 percent.

Record Keeping

All lending institutions have some sort of computerized system of record keeping available and recommend its use. It is difficult for a rancher to accumulate the details of information required for budgeting and cash flow by enterprises, and in many cases the use of computerized records may be very helpful.

Any borrower must be able to provide a complete financial statement listing his assets and liabilities. This would include inventories of livestock, feed and supplies on hand, depreciation schedules, and crop production and land utilization information. The trend is more important in most cases than its size. The federal income tax return form is a good source of information concerning cash flow and is of interest to a lender.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the commercial banks remain in the agriculture loan and financing business. Those banks have a responsibility to make loans in the area where the deposits are made.

Finance Sub-committee

Frank Monahan, chairman
Dick Wiley
Dan McFarlane
Van Reitmann
Edward Bates
Bill Rattray
Jack Reser

Robert Hulden
Carrol Wilkins
Henry Wilkins
Leon Rondeau
William Jaeger
Donald Potter

Paul Marick
Earl Pryor
Morris Wilson
William Hardy
Virgil Choate

Dryland Crops

Typical wheat-fallow farms in Gilliam County have nearly 1350 acres of cropland. Crops harvested are mostly winter wheat and winter barley, with smaller amounts of spring wheat, hay, and other grains. Livestock, mainly beef cattle production, provides about 40 percent of the annual cash farm gate receipts in the county.

The wheat industry in Gilliam County currently faces economic and price problems. Growers' concerns extend beyond their current or short-run position and extend to the uncertainty facing the industry in the future. There is uncertainty about the future of present markets. Foreign and domestic governmental program changes threaten to change patterns of marketing. Exports of white wheat hinge largely on both foreign and agricultural policy. Losses of this export market would radically affect the wheat industry. Pressures toward wheat as a livestock feed is involved in the uncertainty.

A primary concern is, the current price and income situation of wheat producers. The wheat prices for the 1968 crop in Gilliam County as well as the Mid-Columbia Basin were at their 27-year lowest level and improved only slightly for the 1969 crop. Farming costs have increased substantially along with inflation. Only through increased efficiency has farm incomes been prevented from declining to the lowest level they have ever been. Compounding marketing problems, interest rates for new loans for operating capital and business expansion are higher than at any other time in recent history. Unfavorable world supply-and-demand situation for wheat has resulted in the reduction of wheat acreage allotments by approximately 13 percent for three consecutive years. The 1970 allotment is 12 percent below previous historic lows of 1966 and 1969. Moreover, in this county, as well as others in the Mid-Columbia Basin, unfavorable weather in recent years has reduced yields and production. The direct effect is not only on income, but it has also reduced the yield history of the individual farm, which is one basis for determining the certificate and diversion payments under the federal wheat program.

The best indicator of the significance of the present situation is in the land market. The historic climb in land prices has leveled off, at least temporarily. Many farms are being offered for sale at the present time. There are few sales.

The average wheat rancher in Gilliam County has farm expenses that left a negative return to his labor and management and gave only a small return to capital investment. If it were possible, he could sell his farm and obtain more for his labor and capital in other business ventures. There is limited market for farmland making

this alternative impractical. A reduction of land values is now apparent.

The loss in community sales is causing loss of the town merchants. According to the Center for Population Research and Census from information compiled by Portland State University, more than 100 people, or approximately 4 percent of the county population, moved away in 1969. One of the most valuable assets, our farm youth, are migrating to the city. Since the picture of steady erosion in financial, spiritual, and material qualities evidenced in their parents' position does not present an encouraging picture to the youth of this county, their plans for the future most often exclude the field of agriculture.

Recommendations

It was the feeling of the Dryland Crops Committee that a more diversified type of agriculture is becoming important in the dryland areas of the Mid-Columbia Basin, including Gilliam County. Evaluations of new crops and livestock enterprises are more imperative than ever because of the increase in the number of required diverted acres. Finding new crops or adding a new farm enterprise is most difficult since the new crop or enterprise must be adapted agronomically and also must have a potential market.

* The committee recommends more and continued research to determine the feasibility of livestock and poultry feeding as a potential alternative or supplement to the wheat and cereals program. Such research should answer the following questions:

—What type of livestock production enterprise should be provided to add the best farm income? Should it be a cow-calf operation, a yearling operation, a beef-feeding operation, a sow operation, a hog-feeding operation, or a combination of these? What about fall calving?

* —Since the addition of livestock to the farm operation will involve a larger capital investment, how should this be financed?

—Can livestock producers in Gilliam County and the Columbia Basin compete economically with producers in other regions over the long run? How will increased production in the Columbia Basin affect the profits of producers in other areas, and should this be continued?

* The committee recommends an accelerated effort be made in research for new or alternate crops that have a potential in this dryland area, including feed grains.

* Since recent premiums on hard red winter wheat in Portland have prompted grower interest in these varieties, the committee recommends continued and accelerated research in order to determine the feasibility of switching from soft white wheat to the hard red wheat varieties. In this regard, the following factors should be analyzed:

- Can the use of present hard red winter varieties produce quality and yield competitive with soft white club in Gilliam County and other soft white wheat-producing areas?
- Are the environmental conditions necessary for high-protein production, such as physiological drought before maturity and additional uses of nitrogen fertilizer, feasible in red winter wheat production?
- Will a limited production of hard red winter wheat create storage and handling problems?
- What effect does time of planting and rate and depth of seeding have on protein content of hard red winter wheat?

* The committee recommends that more research be done to determine the effects of gasoline-alcohol fuels in abating automotive air pollution and the economic aspects of converting wheat to alcohol and its by-products.

* Since there has been relatively little research concerning cultural methods of wheat production during the last 10 years, the committee recommends more and continued research on the effect agricultural equipment is having on the soil and just what the wheat rancher is unknowingly doing to the structure of the soil. Research should also be initiated to determine the effect of machinery currently being used in regards to plow pan, root aeration, soil conservation, etc., with the possibility of developing new cultural practices and new implements which would improve production. There should be more information available on the effects of the physical condition of the soil on grain production.

* The committee recommends that additional information

be provided concerning the soil fungus and disease complex as it relates to grain production.

* The committee recommends that fertilizer research be updated in view of the fact that many recommendations that come from Oregon State University do not correlate with those from private laboratories. Since such circumstances exist, research should be implemented in order to standardize recommendations so that dollars invested in fertilizers to increase wheat and barley production are justified. Research emphasis should concentrate in the following areas:

- Soil testing procedures and moisture content need to be standardized and educational programs conducted in the use of fertilizers and the results of fertilizer research, as well as in interpreting soil test results.
- Research on the need for sulfur fertilization should be undertaken.
- Research and applied research should be initiated relative to micronutrients.

* The committee recommends that more information be provided concerning the best use for diverted acres, since the number of diverted acres is increasing, with specific information on:

- Whether switching of most marginal land to grass is the most realistic adjustment
- What types of grasses or combination of grasses are best adapted to our area conditions
- The return of investment on diverted acres that have been put into pasture
- Pasture management
- Dryland pasture as opposed to dryland grass seed production
- The effect that these diverted acres should have on the individual's tax base
- What effect the diversion of these acres to permanent grass will have on the allotment program base and whether such diversion should be encouraged

Crops Committee

Dave Childs, chairman Arlington
Ernie Barnett, vice-chairman Mikkalo

Dryland Crops Sub-committee

William Jaeger, Condon, chairman
John A. Weimar, Arlington
Roland Simantel, Arlington
Ernie Barnett, Mikkalo
Tom Greiner, Condon
Frank Dyer, Mayville
James Nelson, Condon
Len Haldorson, Condon
Bernard Aamodt, Condon

Bill Wise, Mikkalo
Morris Wilson, Condon
Bill West, Mikkalo
Frank Burns, Condon
George Miller, Arlington
Leon Rondeau, Condon
Jerry Camyn, Condon
Richard Johnson, Condon
George Eaton, Condon
Bob Schomp, Condon
Clarence Potter, Condon
Henry Wilkins, Mikkalo
Frank Bauman, Condon
Louis Rucker, Arlington
Tom Zinn, Condon

Irrigation

There are an estimated 500,000 acres of prime irrigable land located on the south side of the Columbia River between the Umatilla and Deschutes Rivers. With the construction of the John Day Dam, the amount of lift

required to raise water from the Columbia River to the thousands of acres of rich fertile soil lying within the Columbia Basin has been reduced. The availability of water from the Columbia River, the deep fertile soils,

and the long growing season have prompted a number of irrigation projects and feasibility studies. With approximately 80-90 percent of the acreages presently under dryland farming and the distressed economic conditions in cereal production, an intense interest in water development for the Mid-Columbia Basin areas has been generated.

The dryland cereal producer in the Mid-Columbia Basin has a very limited choice of crops that can be produced. The present economic trend indicates that the cereal producer must increase production and acreage if he is going to stay in business. Irrigating these lands offers the possibility of not only increasing production but also affording a much larger variety of choice of crops.

Climatological data is important in the consideration of feasibility of irrigation projects in the Mid-Columbia Basin areas. The average annual precipitation in Gilliam County is as follows:

Arlington	8.96
Condon	12.91
Mikkalo	9.95

The elevation at these three locations is Arlington 315 feet, Condon 2,850 feet, and Mikkalo 1,550 feet. The average length of growing season ranges from 100 to 200 days, with the longest growing season to be found in the north end of the county. Average growing seasons are as follows:

Arlington	190 days
Condon	150 days
Mikkalo	170 days

Because of existing agricultural economic conditions, it appears that it will probably be at least 10 to 15 years before any sizable irrigation projects developed for pumping water from the Columbia River will materialize. Perhaps if more information were available on aquifers and geological formations, the possibility of well-irrigation development would not seem such a gamble to those living within this area.

Financing

Financing storage and related irrigation project measures is a serious problem. Federal financing, in part, is usually considered the only feasible way to develop many projects. Projects involving federal funds develop very slowly, and there is severe competition for such funds. The necessary developmental steps are increasingly complex because of more multiple-use considerations.

While many water storage sites have been identified by various state and federal agencies, information about these sites and possibilities for project development are not widely understood by potential users. Projects involving public funds require the continued, enthusiastic interest and support.

Wells have been drilled, construction of reservoirs planned, and a number of irrigation feasibility studies have been contemplated, implemented, or completed. In many such cases, the studies were for private groups interested in irrigating the most feasible acres from the standpoint of cost and production. Since this area has been predominantly a dryland area, there has been a need for research data on crops, soils classification, and economic

evaluations on potential crops in order for land owners to make intelligent decisions about irrigating dryland areas. Such information is necessary whether the project is considered private, corporate, or federal.

Presently a great deal of information is lacking; there is need for qualified personnel that can assist these irrigation groups.

An irrigation project such as the Rock Creek "566" project, as well as individual wells and private irrigation projects, would have a tremendous impact on the economy of the county.

Problems

The committee feels that fundamental to the success of the development and expansion of irrigation in Gilliam County and the Columbia Basin in Oregon are three basic requirements:

- * An adequate and dependable source of water
- * Financing available at reasonable interest rates
- * A market for the crops produced

The county has the physical climate. However, of even more importance is the mental climate or attitude of the people of Oregon, apart from those who will actively engage in growing irrigated crops. The rate at which our natural resources are developed is directly related to the interest of the citizens in those resources.

Our sister state California, has a State Water Resources Department, which is well funded and engages in developing water wherever it can be found in the state and by whatever means. It transports, by any means, water all over the state and sells water at the lowest possible price to municipalities, power companies, and landowners for irrigation. It maintains a division whose sole responsibility is to assist farmers and ranchers in setting up irrigation districts, executing the proper forms through the proper agencies, helping to secure financing for sound economically feasible projects, and otherwise working full time to help develop the natural resources of the State of California.

In contrast Oregon, with soil, water, and climate unexcelled anywhere either in quantity or quality, has only a Water Resources Board with the power to do nothing except act as a quasi-judicial body. Oregon has a State Department of Planning and Development devoted exclusively to the promotion and development of business and industry. It has no agency, department, division, or personnel for the sole purpose of assisting farmers and ranchers in developing the abundant natural resources of soil and water. Oregon does, however, much in agricultural research and extension which greatly benefits the general public. The general public is benefitted with a constant source of low cost food and fiber with additional benefits to farmers. It also has a helpful incidental benefit to farmers and ranchers.

The greatest advantages from development of our natural resources will accrue to the people of the State of Oregon. Resulting benefits to farmers and ranchers will be incidental and significant, but the real and meaningful advantages will benefit the entire state through more jobs, more cultural advantages, more business, more profits and more tax base.

Until people in Oregon quit asking farmers and ranch-

ers, "How are you coming with your proposed irrigation project?" and start asking "What can I do to help you with your irrigation project?" the development of the natural resources in Oregon will be a slow and tedious process to be carried out only by the hardest of pioneers.

Gilliam County has vast and tremendous potential for developing irrigation and consequently adding substantially to the economy of the state for the benefit of all the people. The water is rushing by our door and will be used by us if we recognize the potential, or by others if we do not.

Recommendations

* The State of Oregon should assist in the development of irrigated agriculture resource for the good of the economy of our state.

* The committee recognizes the lack of sufficient available information in the areas of marketing, source of water, and financing and development, three primary factors necessary for irrigation development. Therefore, Oregon State University, the Soil Conservation Service, and the State of Oregon are urged to cooperate in developing this type of information. The information is needed now.

* The many problems involved not only in finance but in other aspects for the landowner who is converting a portion of his dryland cropping area to irrigation deserves attention. It was felt by the committee that although cereal production would continue to be a part of the program during the interim period of transition, eventually the producer would phase out a majority of his cereal crops in lieu of other higher income crops and that cereal production would be used as necessary in crop rotation.

* It is recommended that the federal cropland adjustment programs and those who are responsible for administering and interpreting this policy make every effort to assist and cooperate with those in the transition period of bringing a portion of their lands into irrigation so that cropping adjustments made will encourage the producer to continue with irrigation development.

* Irrigated land should be taxed on the basis of comparable land not under irrigation, and any increase in tax should be on the basis of improvements, such as irrigation equipment.

* The Soil Conservation Service is urged to complete

the soils classification and mapping program initiated some 10 years ago. This information is vital and necessary and should be completed in order to be of value to any potential irrigation development enterprise now being considered in this area.

* The committee is in full support of the Rock Creek "566" project which is in the planning stage at the present time, such planning having been initiated in 1962.

—The completion of the work plan for this project by the Soil Conservation Service should be given every priority

—The Oregon congressional delegation should make every effort to support this project and see that it is completed

* The Oregon congressional delegation and other influential public and private groups should develop new procedures that will materially shorten the time required to approve and implement public-supported water development projects.

* Oregon State University should continue and enlarge research on sprinkler irrigation and related problems. Additional and more intense educational programs on the efficient use of irrigation water and systems and related problems should be included in the programs of the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service in order to use the limited water supplies currently available in the most effective way. The effectiveness of this recommendation obviously is dependent upon the irrigators' taking advantage of the irrigation information which is made available.

* The Oregon congressional delegation should encourage and support the development of thermal power plants in the Mid-Columbia Basin located in or adjacent to Gilliam County. Such power plants could supply large amounts of hot water which could be cooled for irrigation and recreational use in the Columbia Basin counties contiguous to the location of one or a cluster of thermal power plants.

* Development planning by local groups must include consideration of multiuse water, including recreation, even though the basic goal may be irrigation.

The committee recommends that the State of Oregon give every priority to providing assistance in development of water resource projects in local areas.

Tom Zinn, Condon
Dave Childs, Arlington
Jim Morris, Arlington
Ray Heimbigner, Ione

Irrigation Sub-committee

Louis Rucker, Arlington, chairman
Walt Hulden, Arlington
Marion T. Weatherford, Arlington

Weeds

Uncontrolled weeds cost Oregon farmers more than \$5 million a year through crop-yield losses, livestock deaths, and reduced quality of crops. Since the 1964 flood, Gilliam County has experienced a continual increase in weed infestation. Some of the weeds, such as sandbur and puncturevine, are spreading rapidly along the roadside in the farming areas. These are spread by automobiles, livestock, wind, and water.

Weed control on state roads has always been at a minimum, and up until 1967 the Gilliam County Weed Control budget consisted of only \$500. Under the conditions which existed until that time, weeds all over the county were on the increase to the point where they were causing alarm.

This emphasized the need for an accelerated roadside weed-control program, as well as for educational pro-

grams concerning the use of the newer types of herbicides now available on the market.

In 1967 the Gilliam County Court established a weed-control program with an advisory committee comprised of seven Gilliam County ranchers located in seven specific areas of the county. Appointed as weed control supervisor at that time was Len Haldorson, with the Gilliam County extension agent serving as secretary of the advisory board and assisting in organization of the new weed-control program. The present Weed Control District is under the direction of the Weed Advisory Committee and the Gilliam County Court.

Gilliam County landowners have assumed the responsibility for weed control on their own land; however, the control efforts made by these individuals have seemed fruitless prior to the initiation of the roadside weed-control program.

Education and volunteer cooperation by the landowners have thus far been the most effective means of applying good weed-control measures since the establishment of the weed-control program.

The budget for the Gilliam County Weed Control program, which began at approximately \$6,000, for the fiscal year of 1966-67 and for 1969-70 was \$11,600. The major program is the spraying along county roadsides.

The Gilliam County Weed Control Committee is very much aware that weed control has become a highly sophisticated procedure. Information indicates that some two hundred different materials are employed or are available for various weed-control problems.

Securing qualified personnel to handle equipment and materials has been a problem in the past. It appears to be the feeling of the committee that since the county is presently engaged in a weed-control program, equipment and personnel should be combined with the County Road Department. The committee has obtained the services of a qualified applicator at the present time, and the program has progressed rapidly in the past few years. Some of the problems arose due to a vacancy in the position of weed control supervisor.

The committee recognizes that an educational program concerning weed control in dryland wheat production is necessary, particularly because of the many new chemicals that are being made available on the market today. Workshops have been held in the past, and the newer chemicals have been discussed by technical representatives from various chemical companies. Some of these chemicals have not been very successful because most are too high priced for the rancher.

The committee also recognizes a need for effective educational programs to assure that all of the people in the county recognize that a serious weed problem exists. This problem is the concern of all who live in or own

property in the county, as weeds are a threat to the economy and to the well-being of all those living within the county.

Recommendations

* Since a weed-control program should benefit both agriculture and maintenance, the county should continue to have a weed advisory committee to keep the emphasis of the program on agricultural benefits. This committee should be appointed by the County Court with specific length of tenure for members so that new members could be appointed at designated intervals.

* The County Court should be asked to send a letter to the Union Pacific Railroad describing the present weed problem along the railroad right-of-way and soliciting cooperation in solving this problem.

* The committee urges that the chemical companies, as well as Oregon Experiment Station technicians, encourage rainfall areas, such as Gilliam County, so that the test results would apply to these areas. Research should be continued on problem weeds, such as cheatgrass, purple-mustard, knotweed, etc.

* More emphasis should be given to the eradication of puncturevine within the county.

* Applied research might be expanded whereby the farmers would use new chemicals under various conditions on a limited scale, keeping notes on methods and times of application and the results. These observations could be used at a later date if weed tours were organized within the county.

* Additional education and further study are needed of any weed-control laws on a state level.

* In the matter of laws restricting the use of chemicals, it was the committee's conclusion that the best way to slow down burdensome restriction on the use of chemicals was to *read the label on the chemical and follow instructions on time, dosage, and usage.*

* The new highway shoulders and rights-of-way should be seeded to adapted perennial grasses to aid in the control of undesired highway weeds.

* Serious consideration should be given to initiating immediate control measures by the County Court and County Weed Control Committee and by individual ranchers to stop the spread of diffuse knapweed, dalmatian toadflax, and medusahead. The committee feels that these three weeds, at their present rate of infestation, are creating a serious threat to the agricultural land in this county; it is the committee's recommendation that a concerted effort be made by the Extension office and the County Court to publicize educational information concerning the situation. This program should be initiated immediately.

Weed Sub-committee

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Vernon Mikkalo, Mikkalo
Mark Phillips, Condon
Carrol Wilkins, Arlington
David Childs, Arlington

Robert Mallgren, Condon
Ryan Steinke, Arlington
Don Linnell, Ione
Len Haldorson, Condon
Ray Brown, Condon
Bill Wise, Mikkalo
Tom Zinn, Condon

Livestock Report

Cow-and-Calf Operations

The cow-and-calf unit is the basic form of livestock production in Gilliam County. This is as it should be, since there are 573,000 acres of rangeland and 135,000 acres of grain stubble available in the fall, which at the present time can probably be best utilized by beef cows, with the following exceptions: some of this forage could be harvested by sheep or by weaner calves before they reach feedlot size (600-700 pounds). Present price structure is more favorable than in the past for growing weaner calves out to feedlot size before selling.

The need for each cow in a producer's herd to bring the highest possible dollar return was never more pressing than at the present time. Cow-and-calf enterprises have not been particularly profitable for most producers, but there is a strong possibility that weaner calf prices will average higher in the future. The ability to enlarge the nation's beef-cow herd is more limited than the ability to construct feedlots and provide feed for fattening. Since feedlots have expanded very rapidly in the past ten years and consequently have provided more pounds of beef for consumers, the next increase in beef production must come from an increase in the pounds of weaner calf produced. As demand for beef continues to rise, calf prices should reflect this demand.

The nearer a cow-and-calf producer can come to raising the ideal animal for the feedlot at minimum expense, the nearer he can come to economic success. This feedlot replacement should be of moderately large frame, weigh from 600 to 700 pounds, be of moderate fatness, and have at least choice conformation with the ability to finish with a carcass weighing under 700 pounds. It should have a high percent of lean, well-marbled meat and a minimum of waste fat.

Management practices which may be of value in Gilliam County herds in reaching the goal of producing more desirable feedlot replacements are:

Earlier Calving. Where practical, this should be done and the calving period should be limited to 60 days.

Fall Calving. Some of the advantages of fall calving are as follows:

- Fewer calfhood disease problems would exist.
- Heavier weaner calves which might be of sufficient size for the feedlot would result.
- Calves can utilize lush spring pasture more efficiently.
- Sales would not be limited to the traditional October-November period.
- Fall calving would make cattle available for local feedlots at a time when they are hard to find.
- Feeder calves can be grown out on stubble.
- Cows are dry in summer when feed is nutritionally lower.
- Artificial insemination would benefit, because cows would be in for winter feeding at breeding time.

—Heifers born in the spring and put in a fall calving herd can be grown out on more roughage. They will need less pampering. Also, heifers calving at 2½ years will breed back better than those calving at 2 years.

Fall and spring calving. This practice has the advantage of cutting bull requirements in half. Also, top producing cows and heifers which fail to conceive get a second chance with only a slight time delay, as they could be bred again with the other half of the herd. It is recognized that there are some disadvantages to fall calving, but there are enough advantages to make such management practice worth considering.

Performance testing. Most producers keep their better heifer calves for replacements. This selection can be refined to include numbering the cows and their offspring with an eartag or tattoo or by branding to identify the best producers. Birth weight seems to be the quickest way of identifying the good producing cows. For every increase of 1 pound in birth weight, there is an increase of 3.1416 pounds in weaning weight.

Increasing fertility. The best way to improve fertility of the cow herd is to sell all open cows after a 40 to 60-day breeding period. Two-year-old heifers should be fed by themselves before calving and fed more generously than cows. A high level of nutrition will raise calf birth weights only 1 to 3 pounds. Cows should be fed well a month before calving, since this will assure vigorous calves and improved conception later in the subsequent breeding season.

Crossbreeding. The hybrid vigor which results from mating two individuals from different breeds has in many instances resulted in increased weaning weights and better feedlot performance. It should be remembered that the backbone of any crossbreeding program is the availability of high quality straight-bred breeding stock. A herd which can provide replacements for crossbreeding foundation stock may be quite profitable. Hybrid vigor may also be gained by outcrossing blood lines within a breed.

Implanting stilbestrol. Tests at Oregon State University have shown that delaying castration until shortly before weaning, combined with the implantation of 12 mg. of DES both at birth and at 100 days, has given up to one-fourth pound per day of added gain with little or no adverse effects. These steers are far less susceptible to urinary calculi problems in the feedlot due to increased size of the urethra. The use of DES on bull calves will greatly reduce the size of the testicles, making castration somewhat more difficult.

Preconditioning. Mortality and excessive weight losses occur from the stress of weaning calves and moving them

into market channels. Some plan that will relieve this stress is of definite value to the purchaser of these calves. Preconditioning should also provide a monetary bonus to the cow-and-calf operator.

The inauguration of one particular program seems impossible, since each destination area appears to require different preconditioning; therefore, the group concluded that a direct-selling procedure by the producers would still be economically advantageous to the feeder. There would be less sickness, less death loss, and less shrinkage. A portion of the negotiation for purchase of the calves could include the preconditioning program to be followed prior to the calves leaving the ranch where they were weaned.

Cattle Feeding

Less than half the beef consumed by Oregon residents is supplied by feedlots in Oregon. The major portion comes from Idaho and areas outside the Pacific Northwest. At the same time, two-thirds of the 500,000 weaner calves produced in Oregon are shipped out of state for growing and finishing. About 300,000 of these are then shipped back to Oregon for consumption in the form of fed cattle or finished carcasses. There also is now available more than enough surplus grain production to fatten 300,000 calves at a feed-grain price competitive with that to be found anywhere in the nation.

Gilliam County has approximately 12,000 beef cows, which, with an 80 percent calf crop, produce about 9,600 calves. Like the state average, about two-thirds of these are shipped out of the area for growing and finishing. When they are shipped out, they add considerably to the economy of the destination area by providing jobs and markets for the input items of a stocker or feedlot operation.

Prices and Markets

Gilliam County produces a surplus of grain and grain by-products and is faced with declining prices as well as diminishing markets. The feed grains, wheat and barley, are an excellent combination for fattening cattle. Straw and chaff can be utilized profitably if properly supplemented for growing calves and starting cattle on feed. Other advantages in this county are farm grain storage capacity of 1,800,000 bushels, which farmers could utilize in conjunction with feed milling equipment. In addition, Condon Grain Growers and Cargill have additional storage for feed grains if the feedlot operations do not have their own storage.

This equipment may be individually owned if the operation is large, but an installation doing custom work might be valuable. The county also has an abundance of low-value marginal land with the proper slope and exposure for feedlot pens. Because of the cheap land, sufficient space can be allotted to feedlot pens to minimize winter mud problems.

Recommendations

The cattle-feeding subcommittee recommends the

Recommendations

- * Cattle ranchers should take every measure possible to produce feedlot cattle that will have choice conformation, carcass weight of under 700 pounds, a high percentage of lean well marbled meat and a minimum of waste fat.
- * Cattle ranchers should consider earlier and fall calving.
- * Cattle ranchers should performance test their herds.
- * Cattle ranchers should pregnancy test their herds and cull open cows.
- * Preconditioning of calves before weaning should be a standard practice of every cattleman.

utilization of local grain for beef-cattle finishing rations if the following factors exist:

- * Feed grain prices remain competitive with those in other areas.
- * The feeder will be selling fat cattle more than once a year. Whether or not these cattle are fed in Gilliam County in small lots or in large lots is an individual operator's decision. However, it should be borne in mind that once-a-year selling is hazardous.
- * Specialized farm labor which can feed cattle successfully is available.

Feedlot Finishing

The principal problem a cattle feeder will encounter in trying to feed year-round is a shortage of cattle of the proper weight for feedlot finishing.

Recommendations

This very important problem can be solved by a combination of the following:

- * Adoption of both spring and fall calving
- * Weaning heavier calves
- * Utilization of grain by-products to grow calves
- * Development of irrigation which will increase the roughage supply and enable local ranchers to grow weaner calves to the feedlot size

Farm Operation

The matter of what type of farm operation can feed these cattle most efficiently in Gilliam County should be considered. There is not a clear-cut answer to this question.

Recommendations

- * Farmers who have been in a straight cereal-grain operation with adequate farm storage who wish to diversify may find it advantageous to use waste ground of suitable slope for a feedlot. The possibility of rather extensive feedlots exists.
- * The cow-calf operator who wishes to finish his own cattle can plan his operation to best use his available facilities and feeds, but will probably be forced into a single or short-time marketing period.

* The operator who does not have the proper personnel or facilities for the fattening process but still desires to hold ownership through this process may find that custom feeding is the best solution. In this way, a yard wishing for greater volume may be able to use advantageously these custom cattle to hold down the investment in cattle inventory.

* Many cattlemen who do not want to finish their cattle out should sell feeders, cattle to local feedlots or have them custom fed.

Marketing

Marketing of agricultural products, no matter what they may be, may spell the difference between profit and loss to the producer. Population centers generally will attract slaughter facilities. Distances to these slaughter facilities are definite factors in competitive selling. It is an established fact that it is cheaper to haul cattle to and away from feed than to move the feed to the animal.

Gilliam County lies within a 150-mile radius of three major slaughter areas, which is considered a practical hauling distance, so excessive shrink or excessive cost is not encountered. These facilities are located at Portland, Toppenish, and Pasco, where a new plant is under

construction. In addition, there are smaller but important slaughter facilities in Pendleton and Long Creek, as well as small local units.

Recommendation

* The hauling rates presently in effect are controlled by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Oregon Public Utilities Commission. Cattle in interstate transit move at a lower rate than those in intrastate transit. This inequity should be studied and vigorous efforts made to eliminate it.

Available Information

Information on carcass quality and feeding efficiency on the cow herd progeny is of value to a cow-and-calf operator in selecting breeding stock. This type of information is not always available when feeders are sold.

Recommendation

* This feedback of information is readily available when the owner fattens his own cattle or has them custom fed. If the cattle are sold, such information is more likely to be available if they are sold to someone who fattens them locally.

Range Management

Gilliam County rangelands have, in most cases, deteriorated over the past decades much the same as in other neighboring counties. The sheep and horse populations have been accused of overgrazing and have contributed greatly to the deterioration. Poor management, followed by overgrazing, has done the greatest damage. Regardless of how it has occurred, the situation exists, and the degree of damage has been in direct proportion to the level of management that has been exercised.

Range improvement is a long-time investment. Costs might well equal the land value. This necessitates ownership or long tenure in order for the operator to spread out his investment over a sufficient period of years to make it economically feasible.

Because of the high cost in relation to land value, the exact practice or group of practices that are economically justified vary with every situation. Although each operator must make his own decision, much capable assistance is available from the Cooperative Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service. The county ASC office may assist financially in the application of many of these plans.

Recommendations

Solutions to range deterioration problems are based primarily on range economics. Important practices recommended are (1) brush control, (2) range seeding, (3) water development, (4) fencing, and (5) livestock management.

Brush control

Sagebrush spraying should be done on all sites where a sufficient understory of native grasses are present. Time of application is a critical factor in this practice and recommendations should be followed closely. If rabbitbrush is present, timing and rates of spray should be adjusted for control of this weed, too.

Range seeding

Range seeding should be accomplished where the site is suitable. The controlling factor is generally a matter of getting machinery onto the site. The rangeland drill will function anywhere power can pull it. Additional research in seeding methods for sites too steep or too rocky should be continued.

Crested wheatgrass is the most successful species in dry sites of the county. Beardless wheatgrass may be desirable in certain areas. Intermediate wheatgrass or Sherman Big bluegrass may be successful in areas of higher rainfall. The prime consideration is to "fit the grass to your livestock needs."

Water development

Water availability is the key to proper distribution of livestock on a range, so considerable planning should be given to this phase of range improvement to include the development and piping of springs, adequate storage, holding ponds, and drilling of wells. Plastic pipe is relatively cheap and may be utilized in moving water from a water source to a point of need. Sufficient slope for a gravity system is desired over pumping but a study of the situation may show that the latter is worth the cost.

Large track laying equipment is available for plastic pipe laying, but in some areas the cost of getting the equipment to this area may be prohibitive.

Fencing

Fencing is an expensive range practice but often becomes necessary to control the livestock grazing and to better utilize the available water supply. Fencing can be the key to the proper deferment or rest-rotation plan for the proper management of the total range resource on a ranch. Adequate planning is a must in this phase of range management.

Grazing management

The above-mentioned tools of range spraying, range seeding, water development, and fencing tools to accomplish proper range management.

Livestock must be managed for the sustained high production of the range resources. Deferment of different portions of the range are necessary for the longevity and high production of a total range.

Rest-rotation systems are advised in very low production areas, but it was felt that the Gilliam County tax structure makes this practice non-feasible. It is imperative during the establishment year of a new seeding but judicious deferment will be adequate in subsequent years.

Many fields that have been seeded to such grasses as Crested wheatgrass to qualify in various federal land retirement plans, such as soil bank, are now released from

their original use. Intensive grazing of these areas by livestock is imperative to reduce rodents and disease, and to stimulate the production of palatable forage.

Burning has been used as an economical method of accomplishing the above, but ranchers should be cognizant of the responsibility of damage from a fire that becomes uncontrollable. The rancher should also acquaint himself with burning regulations that might be applicable at the time.

Abandoned cropland

Wheat farms should not allow cropland which is diverted because of government programs or because of shallow depth to revert to cheatgrass and eventually sagebrush. This land which has been farmed is in excellent condition for establishing a stand of perennial grass. Also, the weeds that grow when a good perennial grass stand is not established can spread to adjoining cropland. Another reason for seeding these abandoned acres to grass is that crested wheatgrass is not such a great fire hazard as cheatgrass. It has been observed that a fire will burn up to crested wheatgrass and stop.

This committee would like to stress that the main job of the grass farmer is to convert grass to beef, with strong emphasis on improvement of quality and quantity of grass. We have an abundance of range in Gilliam County, and any group considering the long-range planning in this area should include important steps for improvement.

Swine

In recent years, Oregon has produced only one-fourth of the pork consumed in the state. An additional 10 percent is shipped in live and slaughtered within the state. The remaining pork is shipped in from other areas of the United States. Idaho has been producing about 60 percent of its requirements, Washington 9½ percent, and California only 3 percent. This shows that the pork coming into Oregon is moving here from areas beyond our neighboring states.

From the above data, one could also draw the conclusion that a swine producer in Oregon would have the freight differential on a rather long haul as an advantage in Oregon and a portion of the neighboring states' markets.

As reported in the cattle feeding section of this report, Gilliam County is in an area of surplus production of the cereal grains. At the present time approximately one-half of the cereal grain produced in Oregon must be either shipped out or utilized locally. This amount approaches 600,000 tons of potential feed. Certainly Gilliam County and the surrounding area has a large percentage of this "surplus" cereal grain.

On a rather practical conversion figure of 4 pounds of feed per pound of swine produced, this feed, if all fed to swine, could produce an additional 1 and a third million head of hogs. Since the four northwest states mentioned above have a production-consumption deficit of about 9 million head, a marketing problem should not develop.

At the present grain price, as compared to the sale of live hogs, this enterprise appears to have promise in Gilliam County.

If the local rancher wishes to turn to swine production for purposes of diversification or to utilize the grains he raises, he must decide upon the type of swine operation that should be followed.

Production Alternatives

A number of factors, including such items as existing facilities, availability of labor, and financial position will determine the type of operation that the individual operator may choose to follow. The three major types are listed below.

Feeder

The advantages of this type of operation are low labor requirement per unit; low investment in facilities per unit; very readily available market; adaptability to mechanization; and lower incidence of disease.

The disadvantages are larger operational investment in livestock and a greater waste-disposal problem.

Farrow to weaning

The advantages of such an operation are low investment in livestock; the possibility of varying the size of operation without losing efficiency; adaptation of the available labor supply to other farm operations by planning; less feed storage; and the possibility of developing a local market.

The disadvantages are high labor requirement per unit; higher incidence of disease; and high initial cost of facilities per unit.

Farrow to finish

The advantages here are lower transportation costs;

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Earl P. Hoag, Arlington
Leon Rondeau, Condon
Louis Rucker, Arlington
Lester Schaefer, Mikkalo
Dan Schott, Condon
Roland Simantel, Arlington
Leo J. Skinner, Spray
Larry Snyder, Condon
Otto Steinke, Arlington
Tom Sumner, Arlington
Robert Taylor, Fossil

lower disease incidence; more efficient quality control; and guaranteed source of feeders.

The disadvantages are increased labor and management and wider diversity of facilities.

Frank Monahan, Condon
Chairman, Financing (Credit) Sub-committee
Ron Davis, Olex
Chairman, Range Improvement Sub-committee
Ron Alford, Condon
Chairman, Swine Sub-committee
Robert E. Hulden, Arlington
Walt Hulden, Arlington
Alva Hunt, Fossil
Bill Jaeger, Condon
Henry J. Jaeger, Condon
Walter Jaeger, Condon
Larry Kennedy, Mayville
Ray Lantis, Condon
Ernest Lear, Condon
Don Linnell, Arlington
Paul N. Marick, Olex
Bill McCain, Olex
Vernon Mikkalo, Mikkalo
George Miller, Olex
George Morris, Olex
Jim Morris, Olex
Bud Philippi, Arlington
Donald Potter, Olex
Lyle Potter, Condon
Earl Pryor, Condon
William E. Rattray, Condon
Jack Reser, Condon
Larry A. Wade, Condon
Earl Weatherford, Olex
George E. Webb, Mayville
John Weimar, Arlington
J. Z. Weimar, Condon
Bill West, Olex
Henry Wilkins, Arlington
Philip Wilson, Condon
Morris Wilson, Condon
Ken Killingsworth, Fossil

24,000 head of Gilliam County beef cattle comprise a large share of the agriculture industry.—Extension Service photo



140,000 acres of grain is harvested each year from 280,000 acres. The rest is summer fallowed to conserve moisture for next year's harvest.—Extension Service photo

Youth programs receive emphasis in Gilliam County. A three-county 4-H livestock field day gives boys and girls leadership skills, self-confidence and technical "know-how".





Snow cap identifier testifies to unsurpassed beauty of Gilliam County scenery.—Highway Department photo

Industry and Economic Development Report

A great deal of time and effort was put into questionnaires mailed to all voters and high school students of Gilliam County in order to find areas for improvement in our economy and environment. The percentage of replies was very gratifying, and the answers for the most part were frank and helpful. Understandably, some people were offended by the criticism. The purpose, however, of the questionnaire was to find out what the people of Gilliam County were thinking. Compiling the statistics was phase one. Analyzing the results is phase two. Taking necessary action to improve the county is phase three.

A questionnaire similar to the one used for Gilliam County had been conducted by the Pendleton *East Oregonian* for Umatilla County. However, the Gilliam County questionnaire was set up on a much smaller scale with fewer questions. Although some criticism was received because all areas of business activity were not mentioned, everyone was urged to make any suggestions or remarks believed appropriate, and many did. The whole idea behind the questionnaire was to try to find out what people thought should and could be done to make this county a better place in which to live.

Since people differ in attitudes and opinions, and resources differ from area to area responses from the north county area were tabulated separately from the south. The questionnaires were color coded so that answers from the north part of the county could be separated from those from the south part.

Some facilities are reasonably satisfactory in all areas of the county. Food and clothing, churches, utilities, schools, service stations, sanitary services, police and fire protection, and county services rated good or adequate in all areas; i.e., the good and fair responses were greater than the "need improvement" vote.

The Condon area showed more favorable rating as a whole than the Arlington area. For example, the Arlington area, has no doctor, dentist, lawyer or drugstore, and the people are understandably concerned about it. Condon's shortcomings were pointed out as restaurants, TV repair, streets and sidewalks, doctor-dentist shortage, highways, housing, electricians, and lounges.

Since this questionnaire was distributed, however, some changes have occurred in Condon. One of the most important projects advocated by this conference was a travel-tourist package showing points of interest along the John Day Highway from Arlington to John Day. These travel packets showing the areas of Gilliam, Wheeler, and Grant counties are very attractive. This commendable project was initiated primarily in the committee. Efforts are being made to secure another doctor. An excellent restaurant has opened under new management. With the impending closing of the air base, the

housing situation should take care of itself. An excellent TV repairman has made his residence in Condon. In addition, a recreation and sports camp on a cooperative, nonprofit basis is well on its way to becoming a new factor in the economy of Condon and the entire county.

Opportunities

It is the opinion of this committee that encouragement of the location of any business or industrial activity in Gilliam County without the assurance of economic stability would be neither wise nor helpful for the area or persons involved. For example, Arlington or Condon might not be the right answer for a young doctor or attorney, but it might be a suitable location for a qualified older person desiring a good place to retire and build up a limited practice. Many people who have lived in crowded cities might find the simpler life of a small town desirable, and both Gilliam County towns can proudly and truthfully list the advantages of living in these rural communities.

Arlington is situated in and near a very desirable recreation area, with its natural harbor, the mouth of Willow Creek to the east, and the John Day River to the west, where the backwater of the John Day Dam has created a natural water-sports haven. With coordination of various interests and owners and with vision and persistence, this area would need very little change to make recreation development economically profitable.

Condon, when the air base is phased out, will have available at the base location perhaps 10 to 15 good modern homes with adjacent buildings which might be used to establish a small industry of some type. In Bend a toy airplane factory constructs its products from balsa wood from Ecuador and saws and packages the product. The National Trailways Bus Service was also started in Bend and has developed into a nationwide charter bus service still headquartered in Bend. This could happen in Gilliam County. There are opportunities of many kinds for the county. One possibility might be the manufacture of simple wooden toys from the soft pine lumber produced by Kinzua Pine Mills.

The most logical field for development seems to be to supply our own community with the goods and service required locally. Too many of our citizens are buying out-of-town products and services that could and should be obtained locally. If satisfactory goods and services are not available at home, one must go away or send away. Every merchant or craftsman owes it to his community to give the best possible service in his field. If the merchant or craftsman does not adequately provide service, he must expect his customers to go elsewhere. Conversely, if services and merchandise are available locally, each cit-

izen has a duty to his community to trade at home. Services are still needed here that are not available. It would seem, for instance, that a farm machinery dealer could develop a paying business in Arlington, since it formerly supported two good ones.

Our first concern should be local and regional needs. Our second concern should be to look for new industry to stabilize and improve the economy.

Recommendations

The comprehensive survey made this year shows great need for the improvement of the economy of our county, and the committee therefore makes the following recommendations:

* Foremost in importance should be an increase in the agricultural output of the area through irrigation, diversification, and improved varieties of crops. Irrigated farming is a definite possibility for the north part of the county.

* The committee would favor industrial development through the Arlington Port Commission, which should be expanded to include the entire county. Gilliam County has many possibilities for industry, being situated well with ideal climate and adequate transportation and ample

power supply. Prime consideration should be given to the protection of the natural qualities of the area in the selection of any type of new industry. Business enterprises, with good management and adequate financing which prove to be practical for this locality, should be welcomed to the county.

* Top priority in industrial development should be the processing of crops and livestock grown in the area. The development of cattle and hog feedlots should be encouraged as a means of using surplus grains and obtaining top dollar income. A feed-processing plant should be established to further the use of local crops as feed. A further study of the possibility of establishing a slaughter plant facility in cooperation with these feedlots should be made.

* Great potential exists in the increase of recreation and travel in the area. The cooperative effort of Gilliam, Wheeler, and Grant counties will assist in advertising our county as the gateway to some of the greatest scenic attractions in Oregon. The improvement of Highway 19 and the encouragement of tourist travel should have high priority. The development of more parks and rest areas should be given serious consideration in county planning.

Industry and Economic Development Committee

Earl Butler, Mayville, co-chairman

Ernest Fatland, Condon, co-chairman

Carrol Wilkins, Arlington

Les Grant, Arlington

Tom Sumner, Arlington

Jim Green, Arlington

David Childs, Arlington

Louis Rucker, Arlington

Clarence Potter, Condon

Carl Myers, Condon

James O. Burns, Condon

Lester Brooks, Arlington

Ken Killingsworth, Fossil

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Vernon Mikkalo, Mikkalo

Ron Davis, Olex

Luren Maley, Condon

John Madden, Hermiston

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George Jamieson, Condon

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Larry Wade, Condon

Jack Reser, Condon

Dave Peterson, Condon

Jack Jackson, Condon

Jack Fatland, Condon

Iris Mahaffey, Condon

Human Resources Report

Home and Family

The major concerns of the committee on home and family were marriage and divorce; the economic picture; recreation and entertainment; religion; and housing.

In general, family life in Gilliam County is oriented to the rural community. Homes are fundamentally stable, consisting mainly of young-middle age through retirement-age families. There are very few young marrieds because of the lack of job opportunities. School concerns and activities and community organizations are well supported by most families in the county.

The following report has been compiled from questionnaire form results, county statistics, and church reports.

Marriage and Divorce

Little statistical information was available through county records to aid in examining the true picture of marriage and divorce in the county. It was quite evident that the first three years of marriage prove to be the most hazardous. One third of all divorces in Gilliam County during the past 10 years were granted to couples married less than three years.

Families who desire assistance with personal problems can receive counseling from the local ministers and priest. A mental health counselor is available if referred by the County Court.

Recommendations

- * The local high school board should institute into the curriculum a required course in Family Relations. The course should be taught by a well-qualified, married instructor and should include money management, budgeting, consumer education, sex education, the danger of misuse of drugs and alcohol, and any other areas felt important by the board, faculty, or students.

- * More social activities designed for young marrieds are needed.

Family Economic Picture

Fifty percent of the women from the Condon area and 30 percent of the women from the Arlington area who responded to the survey indicated they would like to work outside the home if employment were available. Presently there are few job opportunities for women, with little likelihood of change in the situation.

Most teenagers can find *summertime* employment on farms and in summer recreation programs, restaurants, and service stations. There are, however, few job opportunities for young people on a full-time or career basis.

Recommendations

- * Job opportunities to attract and keep young families in the area need to be developed.

- * Numerous responses in the questionnaire indicated that people felt guidance counseling in high school was of great importance. The committee agreed that even though a full-time counselor in the local high school might be ideal, however, money available provides only for the current sharing program. The addition of a full-time counselor would, however, be desirable so that each of the two county's high schools could be served by a guidance counselor on a full-time basis.

- * There is a need for a day-care center and reliable babysitters.

Recreation and Entertainment

Gilliam County has many sources of inexpensive recreation and entertainment. Clubs and organizations provide many opportunities for those interested. The county has three farm groups and one active grange. Condon has six fraternal and ten service organizations. There are many youth groups, including those of the church, the Boy Scouts, and 4-H. Arlington has eight service and two fraternal organizations.

There are four parks in the county, one with overnight camping facilities. Condon has a city park with a full-time recreation program, including tennis, ping-pong, swimming, crafts, and games. Three sessions of Red Cross swimming lessons for all ages are available. Arlington hires supervisory personnel for the swimming area in the lagoon on the Columbia River.

Other summer recreational facilities include golfing, fishing, and picnicking. Hunting for birds and deer is available each fall. Condon's Fourth of July celebration has become widely attended by people around the state. The Bit and Spur Club is responsible for at least one rodeo each year, and the Arlington Saddle Club sponsors the annual Arlington Rodeo and Parade.

Cultural environment includes the Masquers theatrical group, the Reading Club, the county library, and courses in art and ceramics by instructors from Blue Mountain Community College. Musical instruction in guitar and piano is offered.

Those interested can participate in tennis, bowling, and basketball. Spectator sports of basketball, football, bowling, and tennis are also available. In the north part of the county, there are facilities for boating and water skiing.

Recommendations

- * The committee recommends that the local newspaper

carry a weekly calendar of coming events. An activity board should be provided and maintained by a local organization covering all coming events, weekly or monthly, located in a central place such as the post office. This would be of benefit to many people without school-age children informing them of coming events.

- * The drive-in restaurant should stay open after evening events and activities, especially local ball games.

- * In order to take advantage of cultural events, such as concerts, stage plays, art exhibits, etc., which are being performed in nearby cities, a committee formed to arrange car pools for interested people in the communities would be desirable.

- * Workable teenage centers are needed.

- * The committee recommends an increase in adult education classes in woodworking and welding.

- * The Condon committee recommends that the juvenile curfew be strictly enforced by parents and the city marshal.

Religion

The churches appear to be holding their own, showing about the same membership as 10 years ago.

The following denominations are found within the county: Episcopalian, Lutheran, Baptist, Mormon, 7th Day Adventist, United Church of Christ, Catholic, Methodist, Nazarene, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Human Resources Committee

Marge Weimar, Arlington, Over-all co-chairman

Kathy West, Olex, Over-all co-chairman

Home and Family Sub-committee

Bunny Dyer, Mayville, co-chairman

Laurel Butler, Mayville

Mabel Jaeger, Condon

Shirley McIntosh, Condon

Rev. Richard Trotter, Condon

Father Patrick Lunham, Condon

Robert Gent, Condon

Recommendation

- * Since many denominations meet in homes or buildings rather than in churches, it would be helpful to newcomers or visitors if a weekly calendar of times and meeting places were carried in the local paper.

Housing

Although no statistics are available, it appears that in the Condon area those who own their own homes live in more desirable houses than those who rent. Perhaps the poor quality of rental homes has led to the increased number of mobile homes in the area.

The un-rented houses fall into a state of disrepair, being vacant eyesores to the community. Many of these older, unused homes lead to cluttered and littered lots becoming community fire hazards.

The relocation of Arlington, caused by the construction of the John Day Dam, resulted in only 3 substantial dwellings out of the 140 available units. There are four trailer parks, but no apartments available for young marrieds or limited-income persons.

Recommendations

- * Renewed community effort can help to upgrade the quality of rental housing and clear vacant lots that are presently less desirable in appearance.

- * More apartments should be built to accommodate younger couples and people with limited incomes.

Youth

The Youth Committee held meetings in each area of the county in the hope of involving more people and thus obtaining opinions and recommendations of ways to solve the problems involving the youth of Gilliam County.

The committee also surveyed 168 students of the two high schools in the county. The purpose of this survey was to inquire about their attitudes and plans, in order to have a more complete picture of their needs.

Using the survey as a guideline, the Youth Committee concentrated its study in three major areas: education (elementary, high school, and post high school), community involvement, and career guidance and training.

According to the 1960 census, Gilliam County had a

population of 3,150. Of this population 1,198 or 39 percent were under the age of 19. The number of youngsters between the ages of 6 and 19 was 810, or 388 of pre-school age. At this time it should be pointed out that the population of the county decreased to 2,695 in 1969 and to 2,207 in 1970.

There are three public school districts within the county, with two high schools and three grade schools. Arlington and Condon each have grade schools and four-year high schools, while Olex supports only an eight-grade elementary school.

There are no public kindergartens in Gilliam County at the present time. There have been private kindergartens; however, because of numbers, needs, and

costs these have not been in constant service. To date Gilliam County has not become involved in any community college district, although nearly 30 percent of the graduating seniors do enroll in a community college. In 1968 over 50 percent of the graduating seniors in Gilliam County attended a four-year degree-granting institution.

The greatest employment opportunities for youth in this county are in the area of summer farm and ranch employment and in the unskilled, clerical, service, and sales occupations.

Problems and Recommendations

General Education

The public of Gilliam County needs to become better acquainted with and more involved in the business of our schools. The school system and facilities comprise one of the most important parts of our communities and county. Administrators, educators, and citizens alike need to be conscious of the changing needs of our youth and our communities and to be open-minded about these needs.

The necessity of expanding school services and curriculums, greater use of facilities, and the growing expenses for providing these programs place extreme demands on school administrators and boards. The responsibility for meeting these needs must be shared by all.

To share this responsibility with the public, it will become necessary for administrators and educators to enter the field of public relations. Public relations must be an everyday project, not just something to become involved with at budget and bond time.

The committee felt that although our schools are presently working in the field of public relations, with our decreasing population and increasing demands for the tax dollar even greater stress must be placed in this field in the future.

The Youth Committee made the following recommendations regarding the total education program of Gilliam County:

- * Education must be concerned with the total development of each individual child: his attitude, personality, mental ability, physical fitness, creativity, and responsibility.

- * The public must become involved with and informed about the business of our schools and must share in this responsibility.

- * The feasibility of adopting an adequate and meaningful vocational training program into our schools without weakening our present educational program for college-bound youngsters should be studied.

The survey indicated that of the high school-aged youth, 49 percent of the youngsters living in the county worked away from home, and nearly 60 percent of those living in town worked away from home.

The survey also indicated that 90 percent of our students participate in school activities and 74 percent in out-of-school activities. The participation in activities was not influenced by whether the youth lived in town or in the country.

The Youth Committee set the following guidelines in studying the youth and youth programs of Gilliam County:

- * To evaluate the present attitudes and programs
- * To recommend programs that will assist in the development of responsible, participating citizens and parents
- * To recommend educational programs that can economically provide our young people with the best possible scholastic and vocational training

Preschool Training. The feelings of the committee regarding preschool training or kindergartens can best be expressed by quoting a paper prepared by the Oregon Elementary School Principals' Association, "For many years, parents, educators and pediatricians have recognized the need for an extension below the primary grades. There is no doubt that the younger the human being, the more effective and lasting will be any effort to teach him."

One recommendation was made by the committee regarding kindergarten: an investigation of the feasibility of adopting a kindergarten should be conducted. This investigation should include the number to be involved, teacher, facilities, transportation, and costs.

Elementary Education. The elementary school system plays a very important role in the development of the attitudes, skills, and personalities of our young people. An evaluation of the elementary schools' curriculums and activities indicated that they are satisfactory.

The committee's only recommendation is that the elementary school program should be flexible to include the average learner and also the slow learner and fast learner.

High School Education. The establishment of educational programs for all students is as necessary at the high school levels as the elementary level. An adequate and meaningful vocational and scholastic training program to develop each individual to his fullest potential is of utmost importance. Due to the amount of operating capital and the number of students, it may be impossible to achieve the ideal program; however, our high schools are striving and must continue to strive to produce the best possible educational program.

An evaluation of both high schools indicated that more vocational training is needed. The State Department of Vocational Agriculture estimated that to implement a vocational agricultural (Future Farmers of America) course into a high school with a present woodworking shop would cost between thirty and fifty thousand dollars per year.

Because of costs the only solution to providing more vocational training may be work study programs and encouraging individuals and local businesses to provide opportunities for on-the-job experience. Career training is covered more completely in the Career Guidance and Training section of this report.

The student survey also indicated that 70 percent of our students would welcome a program in sex education. Presently some of our schools do provide some instruction in sex and drug education; however, all schools agree that these subjects could be covered much more adequately if knowledgeable professional teachers were available, possibly through the Gilliam County Intermediate Education District.

The Youth Committee made three recommendations regarding high school education:

* A thorough study of the feasibility of expanding the vocational training programs of our high schools should be conducted by a committee composed of school administrator, teachers, school board members, and local business men and ranchers.

* A study should be conducted to find what percentage of the high school graduates complete college or vocational school and to find if there are areas in which these students needed better training or preparation.

* A feasibility study should be conducted by the County Intermediate Education District on the possibility of instituting into our present program an educational program which would aid in the development of attitudes about drugs, alcohol, smoking, sex, safety, and citizenship.

Community Involvement

Presently Gilliam County youth are not sufficiently involved in community and county affairs. If our youth are going to become tomorrow's leaders and citizens, they need to be involved now in making plans and decisions by which they will have to live. Possible means of involving youth more deeply might lie in the following: Know Your City and County Government Field Days; inviting students to meetings of the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Club, the School Board, the County Planning Commissions, and the 4-H Leaders' Association. They could also be offered more responsibility in making decisions and in setting laws and regulations that involve them. Sixty-eight percent of the students surveyed indicated that they would like to take an active part in community affairs and improvements.

The committee made only two recommendations or challenges regarding youth in community involvement:

* Clubs, board, and committees could make a concerted effort to involve the youth of Gilliam County in making plans and decisions that will affect them and their county in the future.

* The youth also must make an effort to become informed about community affairs and to live by the plans and decisions that they assist in making.

Youth activities. The survey showed that 90 percent of the students participate in school activities, and 74 percent participate in out-of-school activities. In-school activities include athletics, band, chorus, student government, paper and annual staffs, pep clubs, drill team, GAA, etc. Out-of-school activities include church groups, scouts, 4-H, Rainbow Girls, CAP, and art and music lessons. The small percentage which do not participate have to work or are not interested.

Activities that high school students indicated that they would like to participate in that are not currently offered are 4-H Empire Builders, Rifle Club, Campfire Girls, Ski Club, Drama Club, and summer baseball.

The committee felt that although the present 4-H program was sufficient, it could be encouraged to put more emphasis on natural science, woodworking, electricity, and mechanics projects. Also, activities such as tours, exchanges, and leadership training should be instituted to broaden the experiences of our young people.

Both scouting and 4-H programs indicate that there is a decrease in participation of high school students, especially boys, in these programs. The reasons for this decrease in participation are that there are students

working or becoming involved in school, church, and personal activities and that often these programs do not offer enough challenge or responsibility for this age student. The committee's recommendations regarding youth activities follow:

* A constant evaluation of our youth activities should be conducted to find if they are meeting the current needs of our youth.

* A county youth council should be formed to promote and coordinate all county activities involving youth.

* 4-H, scouting, and other youth programs should be encouraged to emphasize programs that have practical carry-over values for youth.

Recreation programs. An evaluation of the summer recreation programs offered in Gilliam County indicates that the present programs are adequate; however, they could be improved to include such things as arts and crafts, nature studies, rock hounding, family outings, camping, and boating. Our schools are presently made available for recreation and cultural activities, after school hours and during summer vacation.

The biggest deterrent in expanding the present recreation program is the lack of funds to hire at least a summer recreation director. At the present this problem is being partially solved by Work Study programs and the Neighborhood Youth Corps programs.

The committee's only recommendation is to study the feasibility of employing a summer recreation director, who would work in conjunction with the city councils, County Court, and County Youth Council.

Laws and regulations. Young people as well as old need to obey the laws and regulations and in most cases will do so if they know what the laws are. An educational program to publicize and explain why we have laws and what the laws are must be initiated. Also, the adults who administer these laws must be consistent in enforcement.

The committee offers these recommendations:

* More publicity and more consistency in enforcement of laws affecting youth are needed.

* Most adults need to be better examples in their respect of laws, regulations, and law enforcement personnel.

Churches. The role of churches as part of the community effort to meet the needs of children and youth in the next 10 years is extremely important for youth, for the community, and for the churches themselves. The churches should be adaptable to the needs of youth and make an effort to meet these needs.

The Youth Committee does not wish to suggest the content of church action in youth work, but does suggest two areas of action:

* Congregations should review their present structure and attitude in meeting the needs of young people.

* In our area of decreasing population, the churches should study the possibility of not only joint programming youth activities with other congregations, but also with other agencies or programs, such as scouting, 4-H, school, and summer recreation programs.

Career Guidance and Training

Mr. Arnim Freeman, Gilliam County Intermediate

Education District Guidance Counselor, is currently counseling our young people in career and education guidance. The present counseling program begins with eighth grade students. These students are tested to determine their aptitude and high-interest areas.

The committee agreed that our guidance counseling program is very beneficial to our young people, but that it should be expanded to include more counseling and guidance for those students wishing to go directly into a vocation instead of on to college. Vocational materials are available to the students in the high school libraries.

It was the feeling of the Youth Committee that our young people are not being sufficiently prepared for future careers. Possibly we could better prepare our young people if we initiate career clusters, on-the-job training, and more practical experience such as that provided by shop, commercial studies through the high schools, work study, and other on-the-job training opportunities. As indicated in the High School Education section of this report, the cost of incorporating a vocational agricultural training program into our school system may be prohibitive.

To provide our young people with more practical experience and vocational training it may be necessary to develop a "resource pool" of local individuals and business men. The members of this "resource pool" would provide students an opportunity for on-the-job training experience. If this type of on-the-job training is coordinated through the schools, possibly the student would receive school credit and work for little or no pay.

An example of another possible means for students to receive practical vocational training is that with the cooperation and assistance of ranchers and farmers, farm equipment handling could be instructed through the 4-H program. All on-the-job training programs should be organized with the assistance of the guidance counselor, so that the training will meet the student's aptitude and areas of high interest.

While the committee has stressed the importance

of more vocational training, it has not forgotten that special emphasis and improvement of the educational program for the college-bound youngster is also necessary. Programs to prepare, stimulate, and challenge these youth are also necessary.

Presently some of our students are receiving vocational training through work study programs, Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC), 4-H programs, schools, and summer employment. With greater community understanding and support, all of these programs could be expanded to better meet the needs of our youth.

After high school graduation a growing percentage of our youth are going to community colleges for either vocational training or to meet partially the requirements of a four-year college or university. The committee feels that for community colleges to best meet the needs of our youth, they need to provide vocational training and scholastic training programs.

In regards to career guidance and training, the committee made seven recommendations:

- * Our present counseling and guidance program should be expanded to include those students wishing to go directly into a vocation.
- * Job counseling and vocational training should begin at least in the eighth grade.
- * An adequate and meaningful vocational training program should be developed, local individuals and business men as a ("resource pool") to include job attitudes, on-the-job training, and job counseling.
- * Work-study programs, NYC, 4-H Programs, and summer employment programs can be expanded by involving more local business men and individuals.
- * A Teen Job Shop to assist youth in finding summer employment could be established.
- * The educational program for the college-bound youth must be evaluated.
- * Community colleges should be encouraged to offer both vocational training and scholastic training programs.

Youth Education Sub-committee

Harry Hartley, Condon, co-chairman
Gloria Davis, Arlington
Ed Masters, Condon
Clarence Bare, Condon
Ferman Warnock, Condon
Matt Cooney, Condon
Ellen Cooney, Condon
Ron Mobley, Fossil
Adrin Carnine, Condon
Vic Miller, Condon
Ann Greiner, Condon
Geb Galle, Condon
Tom Greiner, Condon
Rev. P. J. Lunham, Condon
Carolyn Fatland, Condon
Jack Fatland, Condon
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Alfred B. Clough, Jr., Arlington, co-chairman
Shirley Harris, Condon
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Alma Jean Tiple, Condon
Ginger Van Houtin, Condon
Jean Galle, Condon
Mary Ellen Reser, Condon
Lorraine Morgan, Condon
Dewey Kennedy, Mayville
Peggy Kennedy, Mayville
Clarence Langer, Arlington
Ken Burdick, Arlington
George Fletcher, Arlington
Barbara Hoover, Arlington
Ted Hoover, Arlington
Jean Mikkalo, Mikkalo
Ellen Caudle, Arlington

Senior Citizens

Approximately 360 people in Gilliam County are retired and an ever increasing number are approaching retirement. There are no organizations or planned activities to meet the rise in our senior citizen population.

The two major sources of income for the elderly are Social Security or retirement fund. These payments must meet their basic needs of food, lodging, medical care and transportation.

With only one doctor and no hospital in the county the medical services are extremely limited for older adults. A privately owned nursing home with a capacity of 30 patients is located in Condon.

Problems

In a survey of senior citizens the following problems were identified.

- * Medical help is too limited
- * Handyman help
- * Homemaking assistance
- * Lack of transportation
- * Loneliness

Senior Citizens Sub-committee

Marge Steinke, Arlington, co-chairman
Virginia Cooney, Condon
Richard Rende, Arlington
Ruth Lantis, Condon

- * No opportunity exists to study handicrafts
- * There are no study groups for reading and discussion, travelogues, or garden and flower clubs

Recommendations

The committee recommends the following:

- * Bus service to The Dalles available to senior citizens
- * A place to show and sell handicrafts and handwork
- * Special invitations to Extension classes and other local events, with transportation provided
- * Sponsors for cards and games in the afternoon for the elderly
- * Special interest meetings for adults explaining eating habits, ways to save energy, cooking for one or two, the benefits of Medicare, Social Security, etc., safety practices, and budget planning and management
- * A coordinating group who will assist senior citizens requesting help
- * Establishing a senior citizens' organization in the county

Rose Nelson, Condon, co-chairman
Nell Anderson, Condon
Crystal Burlingame, Mikkalo
Elmer Knighten, Condon

Health and Welfare

Gilliam County is faced with a serious shortage of manpower in the medical, health, and welfare fields. Part of this is due to the distance one must travel in order to serve the people in our area. Gilliam County is one of the smaller counties, having 2,207 people in an area of 1,218 miles. Our nearest hospital is around 45 to 50 miles; east to Hermiston or Heppner or west to The Dalles. In addition, what medical and health personnel we do have, serves neighboring Wheeler County.

The facts about existing facilities in Gilliam County and the recommendations of the committee follow.

Public Health

Doctors and Dentists

At the present time Gilliam County has one doctor and one dentist, while Arlington has none. Both have their own offices and are living and practicing in the town of Condon. A building is for sale that could accommodate both a doctor and a dentist. This building has adequate facilities, as it has been used in the past as an emergency-type clinic with two or three beds for patients. A large percentage of the county's population is composed of senior citizens. A nursing home in Condon facilitates 30

patients. This further points out the seriousness of the county's lack of medical service.

A rabies clinic for animals is needed as a public health measure for the county. This could be a joint Gilliam-Wheeler County program.

Recommendations

- * The population of both Gilliam and Wheeler counties warrant the needs of two doctors and dentists.
- * A joint county rabies clinic should be formulated.

Mental Health

One school guidance counselor serves all of Gilliam County. He is able to refer a person to the out-patient clinic in Pendleton, which in turn provides a doctor to make a diagnosis and give treatment if necessary. Payment is on an "ability-to-pay" basis. Facilities in The Dalles are also available on a fee basis.

No mental health facilities or counseling are available to the general population in Gilliam County.

Recommendations

- * The county should budget funds for diagnosis and treatment at mental health institutions. These funds would also assist those who could not afford such referral service.

* A qualified commuting psychiatrist should be made available through the State Mental Health Division, working two weeks at a time in cooperation with the schools, families and welfare cases.

* We feel that at the state level there is a great need for referral facilities for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents and unwed mothers. We have no facility in eastern Oregon and only a few in the valley that can take a limited number of unwed pregnant girls.

School Health

There are three school systems in Gilliam County; Arlington, with grades 1 through 12, Condon with grades 1 through 12, and Olex, grades 1 through 8.

The only doctor in the county is also the county health doctor operating out of Condon. We have only one county health nurse available only part-time, living in Arlington. Her duties as health nurse concern the school children.

Due to the lack of a public health nurse, there is no immunization program available to school children.

There is an excellent school lunch program in both of the county's schools.

Recommendations

* The county needs a public health nurse which could perhaps be shared with another county. This would help doctors, counselors, and the welfare program with referral cases for mental health and clinics for immunization of polio, flu, etc., should be continued.

* The state should have facilities for emotionally disturbed children and adults to service the county's needs.

* The schools need an educational program on mental health and an instructor for the mentally retarded youngsters.

* A qualified instructor to conduct a thorough program on family life.

Nursing Home

There is one nursing home in the county located in Condon and privately owned. It is equipped for about 30 patients and is filled to capacity most of the time. Patients must rely on their own finances or welfare assistance, since this nursing home is not equipped to supply Medicare assistance.

Ambulance

Both Condon and Arlington have a very well-equipped ambulance with qualified attendants in each community. Arlington's ambulance is owned by Veterans of Foreign Wars. The calls received concerning the freeway accidents defray perhaps 90 percent of the cost of maintenance of the ambulance. Condon's ambulance is owned

by the city and county and operated by volunteers. The vehicles are reasonably new, and Condon recently purchased new equipment for their ambulance. Cost of the ambulance to the patient is 75 cents a mile, helping to maintain these services.

Fire Protection

Both cities operate with volunteer fire departments, having new fire trucks which are well equipped. The cities offer rural fire protection, with other equipment available, and will go to points within a 25-mile radius. Many farmers have fire fighting equipment available and can be called to rural protection concerns such as grain or grass fires.

Recommendations

* The equipment in both cities for fires and ambulance service should be maintained and up-dated.

* Volunteers and attendants should be adequately trained to man fire trucks and ambulances reliably.

Welfare

The tri-county welfare administrative unit of Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler counties is the most understaffed in the State of Oregon, according to Lowell Chally, welfare administrator, quoted in the *East Oregonian*, March 7, 1970. The welfare caseload is 27.2 cases statewide, while our tri-county cash caseload average is 47.3. Judge Paul Jones pointed out that administration is exceptionally difficult in the three counties, since Chally serves as the only social worker in the area. His covers some 5,000 square miles consisting mostly of secondary roads. There are two assistance workers now for the three counties.

The Gilliam County office is located in the courthouse, where one assistance worker is employed 5 days a week, spending one day a week in Wheeler County. A local Welfare Advisory Board is comprised of two members from Arlington and five from the Condon area. The acting board, is greatly limited, since almost everything is closely regulated from state and federal sources.

The abundant foods program for both Gilliam and Wheeler counties is serviced out of Condon. There is an active participation by both low income and public assistance families.

Recommendations

* The program should be more flexible so that the local administrators can make evaluations and exceptions in special cases. Then those people who earn extra money will not lose the welfare check completely.

* We definitely need more personnel for our large tri-county area in addition to the present case worker-administrator and two assistance workers.

Health and Welfare Sub-committee

June Mikkalo, Mikkalo, co-chairman

Marian Humphrey, Condon

Velma Fatland, Condon

Carol Camyn, Condon

Donna Hardie, Condon

Lou Ann Wilkins, Mikkalo

Kay Austin, Condon

Chuck Hickerson, Arlington, co-chairman

Marge Anderson, Condon

Janet Phillips, Condon

Nancy Miller, Olex

Ruth Magee, Mayville

Joan Wade, Condon

Adult Education

During the years 1967-69, eleven courses carrying four-year college credit, community college credit, or no credit were available to adults. Two hundred and fourteen adults were enrolled in the instructional systems at Condon High School.

In the present year, both college algebra and English Composition are being offered, with English Literature to be offered in the spring term. Typing, bookkeeping, and ceramics and art are anticipated this year.

Adult education needs in Gilliam County as indicated by a recent survey are listed below. In order of preference, they are:

1. Commercial courses (typing, bookkeeping, shorthand)
2. Physical education for women
3. Crafts
4. Art
5. Various college courses
6. G.E.D. courses (high school equivalency)
7. Special interest classes, such as geology, welding, furniture refinishing, upholstery, mechanics and woodworking for women, knitting, cake decorating, sewing, ceramics, etc.
8. Limited selection of high school courses

Adult Education Sub-committee Home Economics Extension Sub-committee

Arnim Freeman, Condon, co-chairman
Florence Jaeger, Condon
Marianne Jamieson, Condon

The following local agencies have within their scope potential to fulfill most of the above needs: the Oregon State Cooperative Extension Service; the Division of Continuing Education (College courses can be arranged through this agency if there is enough interest in a given area); School District #25; and the Intermediate Education District.

Many Gilliam County citizens are well qualified as instructors for adult education courses. The following areas have local resource personnel readily available: commercial courses, women's physical education, art and college courses, a division of continuing education which furnishes its own teachers if local instructors cannot be found. Many knowledgeable and experienced people can be contacted to lead crafts such as leather, ceramics, clear cast plastics, and woodworking.

Recommendations

- * The majority of adult education needs should be met by the educational agencies available.
- * Local personnel who are very qualified in their particular subject matter should be utilized as resource personnel.

Ted Hoover, Arlington, co-chairman
Ann Greiner, Condon

Communications

Travel Conditions

Highways into Condon are narrow and winding, adding to the isolation of the area. The condition of the roads is not as good as it should be. This contributes to the difficulty of bringing attractions to the immediate area such as speakers, special classes, entertainment and assemblies. Traveling between Arlington and Condon is not conducive to intra-county activities.

Travel time and road conditions required are possible factors in polarization in the county.

Recommendation

- * Roads into Condon should be widened, straightened and resurfaced.

Transportation

There is not public transportation such as buses or trains into Condon. The non-driver or unsure driver has difficulty finding transportation to The Dalles, Pendleton or Portland to secure medical and special services. Some teachers, agents and others with specific skills do not choose to live in this area because of transportation difficulties.

Recommendation

- * A small station-wagon type bus be used two to three times per week to provide transportation service. This vehicle could provide taxi service in emergency conditions.

Publications

The Local Paper

A small weekly newspaper is currently printing two separate publications per week. Uniting the two papers would have a unifying effect on the communities. It would reduce the cost of printing and speed delivery of the papers.

Recommendations

- * Recommend uniting the Condon Globe-Times and the Fossil Journal. The publication should be renamed to include both areas.
- * Recommend publishing the paper early enough to better serve merchants and local citizens.
- * Recommend the use of High School Journalism staffs in the various phases of the paper where they would gain valuable experience.

* Recommend the scope of the local paper be expanded to fulfill more potential as the best medium for news in the area.

* We recommend that local news be included to the maximum extent possible.

* Editorials should apply to this area as much as possible. Controversial issues should be presented which will improve citizens' understanding of them.

Editorials can be used to create awareness, enhance understanding and bridge communication gaps.

Vocal Communication

Communication within the area is inadequate. Telephone calls within the county are expensive thereby reducing its use. Toll-free telephone service within the county would enhance communications.

Wireless radio service in the county is limited. The Sheriff's radio and the civil defense radio are the only two

units that have sufficient range to enhance communications.

Recommendations

* The telephone company should be petitioned for toll-free service within the county.

* The Sheriff radio and the civil defense radio should be available for assistance in emergencies.

Town Meetings

Lack of a public meeting place or structure for various factions of the community to air problems and grievances. Misunderstanding exists between age groups, occupations and taxes vs. taxpayers.

Recommendation

A series of town forums should be arranged to discuss current problems and public affairs as they arise.

Communications Sub-committee

Narita Hayes, Condon, co-chairman

Lucille Schreiner, Condon

Peetie Pryor, Condon

Ione Furniss, Condon

Joyce Hickerson, Arlington, co-chairman

Pauline Smith, Condon

Loris Haldorson, Condon

Marilyn Froman, Condon

Lily Wilson, Condon

Home Extension

The Home Extension program in Gilliam County is the result of insistent demands on the part of a determined group of women to participate in a program of homemaker education lessons. They felt that there was a continuing development of domestic arts and that they were entitled to know what was "going on" and they needed a resource center to keep them in touch with the latest in ideas and skills.

The Extension Service has the program and the grass roots organization that can be valuable to Gilliam County. As a resource center, it can be of great value to the area, but it cannot hope to define needs or control usage.

Program needs are identified by the county Home Extension Advisory groups. Appropriate programs are selected by the group in conjunction with resources available from OSU Home Extension administration.

It is important that all areas of the county be included in the Program Planning process. In the past it has been difficult to get groups of homemakers involved. It is imperative that the Home Extension program keep in touch with the needs of all different groups within the county. This can be done through increased publicity and through flexibility in the program offerings of Home Extension administration. Many local resource people with great expertise in subject matter areas are available

and could be used in developing and carrying out programs. Timeliness of programs is of particular importance. Too long a time-lag between identification of a need and the offering tends to reduce the effectiveness of the program.

It is also important that communication channels operate at peak efficiency between the county and Home Extension administration in order to be more immediately aware of problems and opportunities.

Extended absence of home economics agents has pointed up the need for some centralized programming in extension work. These programs could be offered to cover vacancies and maintain continuity in a county program.

Recommendations

* Rapidly changing needs and opportunities of Gilliam County's women make it imperative that Home Extension offerings be prompt and flexible.

* Local resource people be used to the maximum degree where appropriate.

* That centralized programming be used to enable continuation of Home Extension offerings in the absence of a home agent.

Home Economics Extension Sub-committee

Arnim Freeman, Condon, co-chairman

Florence Jaeger, Condon

Marianne Jamieson, Condon

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Ann Greiner, Condon

Libraries

There are two public libraries in Gilliam County; the Gilliam County Public Library, located at Condon, and the Arlington City Library, located in that city. Both are located in the city halls of their respective towns. Both cities donate the room, light, heat, etc. The Arlington City Library is well located and appears to be adequate at this time for the size of the community served. The Gilliam County Library has an excellent location, but it is in extreme need of more room to expand. It does not even have room for a table and chairs. Both libraries have good collections for their size and circulation. The Arlington City Library is open three evenings a week for a total of six hours and three mornings a week for a total of six hours. The Gilliam County Library is open six afternoons a week for a total of 18 hours.

Statistical Data

Library	Circulation	Volumes	Hours open weekly	*Operating funds exclusive of salaries & insurance
Arlington	2,508	3,780	12	\$565.61
Gilliam Co.	8,145	5,506	18	547.00

*The Gilliam County Court budgets approximately \$4,000 per year for library services in the county. Of this amount, \$900 is delivered to the Arlington City Library. The Arlington Library also receives \$500 from the City of Arlington. Insurance for the contents of both libraries comes from the county budget. The operating funds figures shown above are the actual amounts used to operate the libraries exclusive of salaries and insurance.

Problems

- * Condon requires expanded library facilities
- * There is a perennial need for additional funds for

Libraries Sub-committee

Roberta Greiner, Condon, co-chairman
 Mary Campbell, Condon
 Karen Dyer, Mayville
 Marianne Jamieson, Condon
 Pauline Smith, Condon
 Mary Bare, Condon
 Lucille Schreiner, Condon

cataloguing, clerical help, more open hours, and a better book collection

- * Encouragement should be made for broader use of the library facilities

Recommendations

- * Additional room in Condon, with the library area large enough for a study center, tables, chairs, etc.
- * More books about history in the libraries
- * Summer library hours for children at the Arlington library
- * Up-to-date scientific information
- * More new books for juvenile readers
- * The possibility of a traveling library to Rock Creek, Olex, Mikkalo, Lonerock, and Mayville
- * The possibility of housing library facilities of the high school, the county library, and I.E.D. in the same building as a total resource center
- * A possible change of library hours in Arlington. The Gilliam County Library open evenings on a trial basis, with the possibility it might be permanent. Additional funds for extra help
- * Efforts to establish a composite subject matter catalog of all library holdings in the county, a copy to be kept in each library
- * Cooperation with the area newspapers in publicizing the new books available at the libraries
- * Mobile services for senior citizens, shut-ins, and others unable to come to the library

The Gilliam County Court should define and support the County Library according to Oregon Law. Condon Committee supports the proposal for development of the Oregon Regional Library Proposal Plan submitted by the Library Development Committee of the Oregon Library Association. The Arlington Committee does not.

Joyce Hickerson, Arlington, co-chairman
 Carol Ann Clough, Arlington
 Sally Green, Arlington
 Cathy Dowrey, Arlington
 Barbara Hoover, Arlington
 Carol Burns, Condon
 Jaunita Shearer, Condon

Historical Records

There is no official history of Gilliam County. Various individuals, over the years, have compiled and set down a number of brief histories and incidents that elaborated on the times, but none of these works have been combined and placed in a central repository for reference. Considering the great progress made since the beginning of the county and wealth of significant historical data

that accompanied this progress, it is especially appropriate and vital that a history of the county be assembled. Many people who have lived our history are now deceased or aged. If we do not obtain the information still available, it will soon be lost to time. The county has neither an officially designated county museum nor a county historian.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that:

- * If either larger library quarters or a historical building were acquired, the two boards consider the possibility of joint quarters.
- * A Gilliam County Historical Society be formed as soon as possible.
- * In the immediate future the county court find safe storage space for items of county historical value. This would prevent items being lost that people may wish to donate during the time there are no museum quarters.

Historical Sub-committee

Colleen Selby, Condon, co-chairman
Georgia Martin, Condon
Jan Vasecka, Condon
Margaret Bennett, Condon
Dave Peterson, Condon

* Tape recordings be made of conversations with persons who have reliable knowledge of important incidents and events in the county's history.

* Papers, tape recordings, photographs (labeled and described), and memorabilia be collected and consolidated at one location for reference.

* The county give full support toward the establishment of a commercial-type tourist attraction museum to be located in either or both Condon and Arlington.

Joyce Hickerson, Arlington, co-chairman
Neva West, Arlington
Leona Weatherford, Arlington
Joyce Thompson, Arlington
Earl Butler, Mayville

Law Enforcement

Gilliam County has a land area of 1,210 square miles and an approximate population of 2,200 (1970 census).

*Population estimates:

July 1, 1966 2600 U.S. Department of Commerce

July 1, 1969 2695 Oregon State Center of Population Research (see attached)

July 1, 1970 2209 U.S. Bureau of Census Prel. 7/31/70

Law enforcement at county and city levels is a minimal operation because of the large area to be covered, time involved in routine work, lack of manpower, lack of equipment, undefined job standards, and absence of a lucrative pay scale. These problems should be areas of immediate concern to the taxpayers and citizens who are interested in having better and more efficient law enforcement.

The Law Enforcement committee after discussions with the general public, law enforcement bodies, and local government officials, have established some recommendations that we feel will benefit, aid, and assist the people

Law Enforcement Sub-committee

George Jamieson, Condon, chairman
Jean Gilliam, Condon
James O. Burns, Condon
Ed Vasecka, Condon

of Gilliam County in all aspects of public safety and law enforcement.

Recommendations

* A means be found to increase police protection in our widespread rural areas.

* A study be made of the feasibility of the cities of Arlington and Condon developing a working agreement with a county law enforcement agency for police protection within their city limits.

* The public be provided with more information concerning all aspects of law enforcement. The schools in this county should invite law enforcement agencies to conduct seminars to educate students in a coordinated program of local government, law enforcement, and public safety.

* Home rule be studied as a possible solution for more efficient law enforcement and police protection in Gilliam County.

This committee concluded that the above recommendations should be considered by the general public and the agencies involved in public safety and law enforcement.

Foster Odom, Arlington
Rube Wetherell, Arlington
Volney Thomas, Condon
Harold Hartfield, Olex

Taxation Report

The Taxation Committee is an ongoing group of nine members appointed in 1964 to act in an advisory capacity to the Gilliam County Court.

The committee was asked to assist with the reappraisal program being done in the county under contract with the State Tax Commission.

- * To acquaint itself with statutes and regulations regarding property valuations.
- * To review the work of state appraisers and advise them of factors having a bearing on land valuations.
- * To provide local knowledge and historical data that affect sales computations, production studies, land classifications, access problems, and operational functions.
- * To act as a liaison and information committee, both to the court and to our neighbors.

The committee held several meetings, in part, summarizing the work that has been done in the past seven years in an attempt to report this is our neighboring counties at this conference.

Land Classification

Land was carefully classified and the values put on the 1967 tax rolls. The committee got the state appraiser to modify and correct many valuations, especially on untilled land. Pasture lands were reviewed on the animal-unit carrying capacity and assessed accordingly. The resulting land classification reflected rainfall, soil types and depths, together with grain, hay, or pasture yields.

Sales Computations

Oregon laws and regulations require assessment and taxation of property, unless otherwise provided at its market value as indicated by sales and purchases of "willing and well-informed" buyers and sellers. This concept prompted committee members to do considerable research to determine if this formula really applied to property sales within the county.

It was found that the proximity of the property, family transactions, the impact of government agricultural programs, and many other factors must be weighed in most land purchases. Challenging the State Tax Commission representatives on many of their accounting procedures and ideas has brought about a careful weighing of sales information.

Farm Use Alternatives

Legislation and regulations developed during the 1960's provide an alternative to "market value" assessment of farmland. It is commonly referred to as the greenbelt, green spot, farmland tax deferral and exemption, or farm use assessment law. It applies only to land devoted to farm use. It was passed by the state legislature

primarily to assist land owners around urban areas whose assessments were forcing them out of agriculture. It was at first thought to have no application in Gilliam County, except in relation to rangelands.

However, the law has proved in subsequent application to be the answer to requests by most owners of agricultural lands that they be taxed and assessed on the basis of productivity, as indicated by capitalization of annual rents.

County zoning in 1969 put all agricultural lands automatically in Gilliam County under provisions of the Farm Use Law. This has reduced 1970 assessments on tillable lands by about 20 percent. This indicates that land market prices are high in relation to present earnings and capitalization rates. Coupled with the closing of the Air Force Station, this adjustment in land values is resulting in a redistribution of local property tax levies. The Assessor's Office assisted by the appraiser will work to correct inequities, if any.

Reappraisal

Legislation passed in 1955 made it mandatory for each county to reappraise each parcel of property at least once every six years. This requires the services of a trained appraiser in Gilliam County to assist the assessor. Valuation of Property at 100 percent has come slowly but is an improvement moving toward better communications and understanding of our local property tax structure.

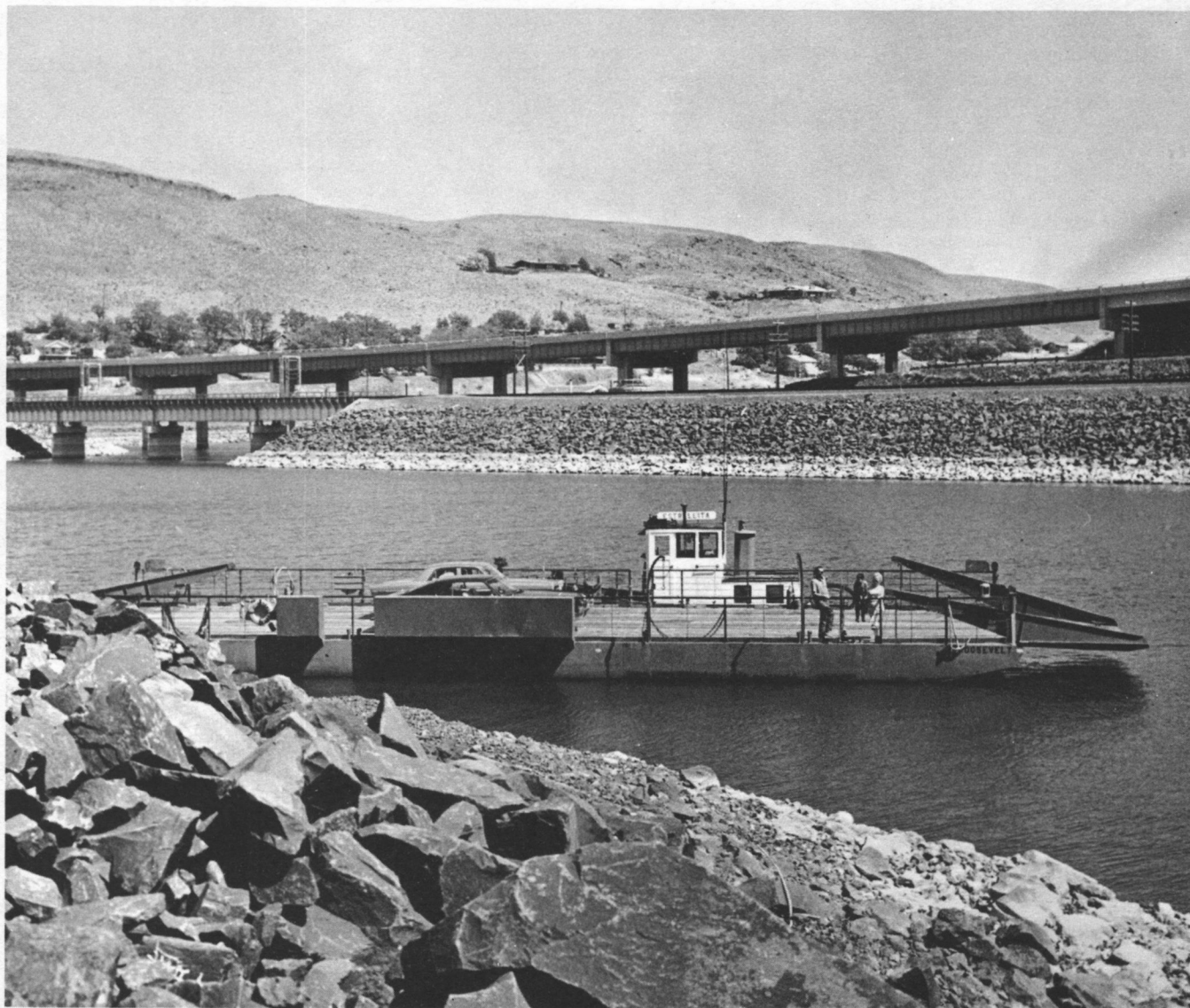
Recapitulation and Recommendations

- * The committee commends the Gilliam County Court for its continuing and persistent emphasis on keeping county costs down, resulting in savings in property taxes to county residents. The committee recommends that this practice be continued.
- * The committee recommends that all land and improvements be reappraised immediately, the reappraisal to be completed in time for the 1972 tax roll, and that the program be kept on schedule with the six-year cycle. The committee urges the continuance of hiring of a competent certified appraiser.
- * The committee pledges to continue to share experiences in planning, executing, and maintaining an equitable, progressive tax climate in Gilliam County.
- * The committee feels that there is a need for professional personnel and computer equipment for efficient tax assessment and tax collection. A study should be made to determine if it is desirable for these functions in county business to be reorganized; and perhaps a study should be made of the home rule type of county government in the future.

Taxation Committee

Morris Wilson, Condon, chairman
Dave Childs, Arlington, vice-chairman
Jim Campbell, Condon
Jack Reser, Condon

Melvin Pattee, Condon
Otto Steinke, Arlington
Bill Hardie, Condon
Grant Wade, Condon



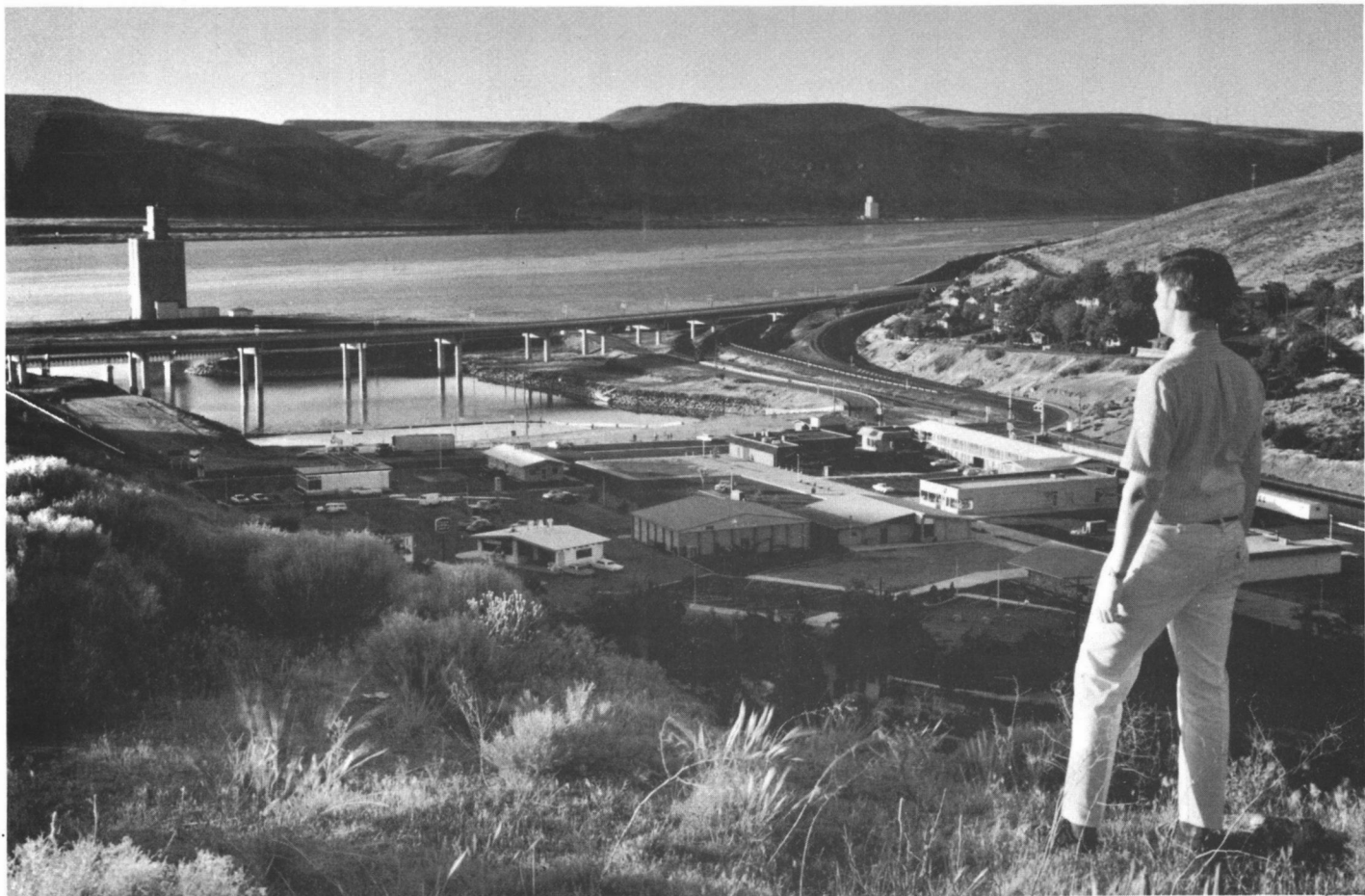
Ben Flippen has operated the ferry between Arlington and Roosevelt, Washington for 27 years. This is one of the last ferries on the Columbia River.—Highway Department photo



Gilliam County Fairground at Condon provide cultural and recreational resource for all county citizens.—
Highway Department photo



CONDON—Heart of Gilliam County's wheat and cattle country.—Highway Department photo



ARLINGTON—Oregon's newest and most modern old cities relocated to make way for the waters of the Columbia River behind the John Day Dam.—Highway Department photo