

A perilous first trip



BY JIM TAYLOR
For the Keizertimes

We often look back on our own youth and wonder how we survived all the things that would be unthinkable in today's societies. The three day July 4th holiday, the summer before my high school senior year was one of those occasions.

My best friend John and I had gotten our parents permission to go on a camping and fishing trip to the Metolius River by ourselves. We got off work about midnight and headed on our way in John's '56 Ford. It was an interesting vehicle held together with prayers. The taillights and muffler were secured with wire clothes hangers.

Our first unfortunate incident was in Mill City when John got a speeding ticket for going 45 in a 35 mile per hour zone. An auspicious start to our trip. After traveling past Idanha, on a dark moonless night, the headlights suddenly went out on a curvy section of road along the Santiam River. Somehow John got the car stopped without plunging into the river.

After wiggling wires we finally got the lights working and continued on

our way for about 10 miles when they went out again. More wire jiggling and we made it to Santiam Junction where they went out for good. We waited until it started to get light out to proceed on our way.

Upon arriving at our camp spot along the Metolius, John parked the car and turned the steering wheel to straighten the tires and it came off. He had driven 100 miles and now sat there with a detached steering wheel. He handed it to me and said "Here, you drive."

We finally found someone who helped in reattaching the steering wheel, not an easy fix. We fly fished the rest of the day and caught lots of rainbow trout. During our fishing we happened to meet two sisters about our age. Two blond beauties that even caused us to stop our fishing for a short time. Being handsome young men we managed to wrangle an invitation to join them and their families for 4th of July fireworks at their cabin across the river.

We were going to have to drive to get the cabin and it would be dark but we had no headlights. I decided to sit on the hood with a flashlight and lead the way.

It was difficult to find our way through the pine forest with only the flashlight but I finally told John to stop the car because it was getting rocky where we were driving. We continued to the cabin on foot and joined the girls and their family for an enjoyable evening.

Upon finding our way back to the truck we saw people and lights surrounding it. One of those people was the Sheriff. I had inadvertently led John to park in some ladies rock garden. She was not happy. After apologizing over and over and begging the Sheriff to be lenient with us he kindly led us back to our camp after a stern lecture.

The next day we fished until the early afternoon as we had to get home before dark. We had no problems on the trip home but later discovered a few missing coat hangers. Probably in the Rock Garden.



Maya Alston (21) will be a key contributor to this Celtics team after receiving an honorable mention nod last season as a freshman. FILE PHOTO, Keizertimes

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play a key role in the Celtics success this season — Alston received an honorable mention nod for her play as a freshman last season.

"She is showing leadership already. She is not scared to tell upperclassmen if they are not in the right spot. I am really excited to have her back," Brouse said.

The back line will be a big question mark for the Celtics this year. Along with losing multiple defenders to graduation, McNary gave up two or more goals in 10 of their 12 games last season. Senior Isabelle Gatchet and freshman Kaelynn King will hold the two main spots on the back line this season, and Brouse believes that both players are up to the challenge.

"We are going to miss those seniors, don't get me wrong, but I think we will be okay back there," Brouse said.

Without a set goaltender in the back

of the net last season, the Celtics cycled through a litany of keepers in the spring. While Brouse will probably mix it up at the goalkeeper position this year, sophomore Hannah Ferguson will receive the majority of the reps in the net.

"She is going to probably get more time in the net than anyone else, but there will probably be a little shuffling," Brouse said.

With the experience they have and the improvement they have shown over the last six months, anything short of a playoff appearance will be a disappointment to this McNary team, according to Brouse — McNary's last playoff appearance was in 2017.

"This team has more technical talent and sees the field well. If we don't make the playoffs, it won't feel like a successful season. I think we have the depth this year with 18 players on varsity. A lot of these girls play club, so I feel like if we aren't in the running for a playoff spot we will be upset with the season," Brouse said.

McNary travels to Westview for their season opener on Thursday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m.

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brainfood ANSWERS

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