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Hells Canyon Dam Project Wins Both Approval and Criticism In Nyssa As Construction Nears

Hells Canyon was just about that this week. While the waters that flow serenely through Nyssa apparently didn't give a dam, the rest of the nation was screaming for and against the Federal Power commission ruling that the Idaho Power company shall have the right to construct three low dams, instead of the government proposal to erect one high dam.

It seemed probable that the Hells Canyon project, coupled with the defeated Dixon-Yates proposal over in Tennessee, will be the major campaign issue of next year's presidential election.

And Nyssa is in the center of the whole picture.

Citizens Lauded For Aid During Water Shortage

Residents of Nyssa should be commended for their patience during their wait for water and for observance of water restrictions imposed again this summer. Mayor Paul House commented this week. He stated that users have been cooperative in most respects and irrigation water has been turned off to give more pressure when the fire alarm sounds.

There has been several weeks delay in supply water from the new system; first, because of difficulties in installation of the Ranney well and, second, as the result of delay of pipe for the main transmission lines. The pipe was originally scheduled for delivery in July and is slated for arrival here next Monday.

In spite of the fact that the city is unable to deliver water from the new well, new water rates went into effect July 1 for collection as of Aug. 1, the mayor stated. It was necessary to put the new rates into effect to meet the obligation of payments on the \$183,000 bond issue, it was explained. For instance, domestic rates were increased from \$2 to \$2.75 per month and irrigation rates were increased from 20 cents per front foot to 30 cents per front foot.

It is expected that trenches will be dug and construction of the pump house for installation of motors and pumps will get underway within the next few days to complete the new system.

Episcopalians Breaking Ground For Rebuilding

St. Paul's Episcopal church members will break ground this week for an extensive remodeling program designed to make the edifice into a community center for Nyssa, as well as a church.

The church owns an extensive property at Fifth and Bower, with the present structure now facing on Fifth street.

Now, according to Grant Rinehart, lay reader and coordinator of church activities, a basement will be dug, the church will be moved around to face on Bower, there will be considerable remodeling, and the grounds will be landscaped to make the property into one of the city's beauty places.

Accent on Youth

The basement is to be designed to be primarily of service to young people, Rinehart said.

In addition to a parish hall, this basement will include Sunday school rooms and a Youth Room, to be turned over to the city's youngsters, regardless of denomination, as a meeting place and sort of clubroom devoted to their own interests.

Rinehart said that work on the project will begin immediately, the financing to be undertaken within the congregation and its friends.

Last week it was announced that St. Paul's, which has been without a minister since early spring, will have a new pastor. He is the Rev. Herbert Grosdiedler, of Kansas, who will commence his ministry here on Sept. 4.

The minister, his wife and three children, will occupy the parsonage at 413 Good avenue on their arrival in about two weeks.

Mexican Fiesta Set For Aug. 20

Residents of Nyssa and the surrounding area are invited to a fiesta being planned for Saturday evening, Aug. 20, at the Nyssa labor camp where Mexican food will be prepared and served by residents of the camp.

Harold Henigson, chairman of the chamber labor committee, asked all persons intending to be present to notify him so that plans can be made for the amount of food. Family units, complete with all the children, are invited to attend the fiesta which also will include dancing numbers by several Spanish-Americans.



Eyes of Nation Turn to Nyssa In Cultivation of Hybrid Onions

The Nyssa-Parma section became a focal point in the culture of hybrid onions this week, after a five-day study here by several of the world's foremost authorities on the subject.

Heading the delegation was Dr. H. A. Jones, U. S. Department of Agriculture head horticulturist at the Beltsville, Md., station, who was the discoverer of the sterile factor in a red onion and has since been devoting virtually all his work to the breeding and developing of hybrids.

With him were DeLance Franklin, director of the University of Idaho experimental station at Parma, and Dr. Elmo Davis, geneticist at the Parma station.

During the five days of their stay, the three of them roamed through fields and experimental plantings of onions to secure first-hand knowledge of the progress made here in hybrid cultivation.

Study Local Farms

The three were particularly interested in the work being done by Bill Wahlert in a large-scale breeding operation for the Desert Seed Co.

"We are very highly pleased with the progress being made here," Dr. Jones said.

In view of Malheur's production growth of the Spanish type onion, known as the Fiesta onion, Dr. Jones and his associates spent many hours checking the hybrids now being grown by Wahlert in Nyssa, New Plymouth and Ontario.

Dr. Jones explains: "In the ordinary onion, male and female parts are in the same flower, and thus each plant is capable of pollinating itself. To

get hybrid seed, it is therefore necessary to remove the pollen-containing anther of the female parent, a procedure known as emasculation.

—Photo by Schoen

Obstacles Overcome

"This was an obstacle in the development of hybrids, but it has now been overcome. Onion plants are now available whose flowers are not perfect, as they contain no fertile pollen. They are solely female as far as breeding is concerned, and emasculation is unnecessary."

Dr. Jones said that the crossing of suitable inbred lines into hybrids have produced excellent results.

"One hybrid was more than three times heavier than either parent," he has reported. "Other hybrids were outstanding in shape, size, uniformity and time of maturity. Even more significant, the results showed great possibilities for using hybrid seed for commercial crop production."

It was indicated that the party's visit here will give impetus to the growing of onions, considered one of Oregon's most stable crops.

DeLance Franklin claims that "It is just a matter of a few years before the hybrids take over and the open pollinated varieties will be a thing of the past."

Fire Instructor Comes To Nyssa

Howard Gill, Portland, state department of vocational education fire department instructor, met Monday night with Nyssa volunteer firemen. Gill gave a talk on fighting structural fires and demonstrations on ventilation practices.

Fire Chief Ralph Lawrence said the service is a new setup in the department of vocational education and is for the purpose of assisting fire departments throughout the state and to increase activity in the departments.

Meanwhile, no fires had been reported here during the week.

Valuations Go Up; City Levy Only Unit With Drop

Malheur county's total assessed valuation, along with that of school district 26C and the city of Nyssa, showed an increase for the 1955-56 taxing year and a slight drop in mill levy for some areas.

The county's valuation is \$27,246,131 as compared with \$27,204,715 a year ago. This year's budget amounts to \$348,572 requiring a 12.8 mill levy, which is slightly higher than the 12.2 mills last year.

The school district's valuation is \$4,888,900 for an increase over the \$4,751,581 for last year. Mill levy will be 54.8, which is higher than the last year's 53.7 because of \$450,000 bond approved in December for additional classrooms and a cafeteria and shop.

Greatest reduction in taxes is within the city where the mill levy will be reduced to 21.5 from the current levy of 24.2. The reduction was made possible by an increase in valuation from \$1,717,078 for the year just ended to \$1,720,091 for 1955-56.

County Assessor John Koopman announced the final figures Wednesday following receipt of public utility valuations from the public utilities commission.

Paving Project On Five Blocks

Work started this week on paving of five blocks, or approximately 2000 feet of Nyssa streets to complete a state-aid project started a year ago. The Russell Olson Construction Co. of Pendleton has the contract for the job that will include paving of Locust street between North First and Second and three blocks on Third from Locust to the city limits.

All work is expected to be completed Friday evening, according to the construction company's engineers.

Crops Prospects Brighten As Rail Shipments Increase; Bumper Crop of Wheat Indicated; Spuds Are Fair

Trucks were rumbling into Nyssa this week, bringing spuds, choice grain and onions for shipment to market.

In spite of the slow start of the harvest season, growers were generally optimistic that this year's yield will be a profitable one.

As of Wednesday morning, a total of 522 carloads of crops had been moved out of Nyssa to eastern markets this month, it was reported by Tom Jones, agent of the Union Pacific.

This figure would be considerably increased, Jones said, as soon as sufficient wheat cars arrive to move the valley's lush grain crop. Growers say that this year's yield is the best in at least four years.

Spuds Rolling In

As for potatoes, which are now bringing a net of \$1.35 to the farmer, supplies of whites are coming in so fast that shippers are having difficulty getting them loaded into cars.

Jones said that the UP has a good stock of refrigerated cars on hand for immediate draw, but the mechanics of loading were just about swamping the shippers.

At a late hour yesterday (Wednesday) there were an estimated 50 carloads of White Rose ready to be shipped. Early reds have been exhausted, shippers said, with virtually none coming to town now, but these and the whites will represent about 45 per cent of the season's total potato crop.

Policy Sought

At the same time, growers were seeking a definite governmental policy on potato growing.

Turner Bond, county extension agent, and Roy Hirai, rancher, will go to Portland Aug. 19 for a conference with the state department of agriculture on potato problems. They will go as appointed delegates of the Malheur County Potato Growers association.

And in Chicago this Thursday, another group representing the several western potato growing states, will meet to seek an overall answer to their problems.

"Farmers have had some substantial losses," Bond said. "Prices are not fancy, and the growers are being hurt. Today's shipments are more or less a salvage proposition."

Still Far To Go

By Aug. 9 last year, potato shipments totalled 1170 cars, Union Pacific figures show. On the same day this year, the total was just 213, Agent Jones said.

But shippers were far from discouraged, pointing to the lateness of the season as the main reason for the slow start.

Onions have done best of all, according to car loadings. As of Wednesday, 286 cars had rolled out of Nyssa, compared to 361 cars on the same date last year.

In spite of the car shortage, 44 carloads of grain had been shipped as of Wednesday, with local granaries filling up rapidly.

Nyssa Chamber Takes Strong Action To Urge Restoration Health Service

The Nyssa chamber of commerce voted Wednesday to notify the Malheur county court by letter that a county health nurse and a sanitarian should be hired immediately to restore the now non-existent county health department. The chamber action included a motion that a delegation combine with Ontario and Vale representatives to meet with the county court as soon as possible.

The action followed the resignation two weeks ago of County Health Nurse Edna Farris and the threatened resignation of County Health Officer Dr. L. A. Maulding last week. Cause of Mrs. Farris' resignation was reported to have been "differences" between herself and the county court over a long period of time regarding incidental expenditures.

County Commissioner Alva Goodell this week told the Journal that an office has been opened in Vale where health records are on file. Applications are being taken for a county nurse as well as for a sanitarian to replace Raymond Ruff who resigned four months ago. Goodell said that the selection of the health nurse will be left to the county health officer.

Malheur Costs Low

A chamber committee composed of Dale Bingham and Clifford Main had investigated the county health problem and invited Walter McPartland, Nyssa grade school principal and former president of the county TB association, to report to the chamber Wednesday. McPartland said that

approximately 50 crippled children in the county and 200 youngsters with defective hearing will be without any means of assistance through the schools. The immunization program in all schools has been handled through the health department, he said.

McPartland said that Malheur county is in fourth place in the entire state insofar as economy of operation is concerned. During the fiscal year 1954-55 per capita costs in Malheur were 68 cents per capita while two other counties operated for 59 cents and one for 65 cents, he reported. All other counties were higher.

Another example of efficiency cited by McPartland was that Malheur had 78 percent of its school children immunized, while Baker county had only 20 percent with overall costs and personnel about the same in the two counties.

To Honor Teachers

Other chamber business Wednesday included plans for feeding teachers here Aug. 30 when the instructors will tour the city.

Miss Betty Whittaker, Portland, representing the Oregon Council of Churches spoke on the migrant labor recreational program in Nyssa and stated that she is greatly pleased with the program, as it has been operated for the past two years.

Emil Stunz gave a report for a committee of 24 persons, most of whom are rural residents, who are investigating the possibilities of organizing a recreational district to construct a swimming pool.

Group Planning Swimming Pool For City-County

This area's cherished dream of a modern swimming pool came close to reality this week as a committee of 19 county and city leaders set to work to provide us with a pool not later than next summer.

Spearheaded by a sub-committee headed by Carl Barclay, the group set to work in earnest to:

1. Find a suitable site for the pool, to be easily accessible to a city and rural users.
2. To devise a sound plan for financing the project.
3. To make it ready for use when the swimming season starts next year.

Community Project

It was accented by the committee that the pool will be a project for the entire Valley community and must be viewed in that light. Thus, rural groups have been given a majority on the general committee which Emil Stunz heads, and will have a dictating voice in establishing policy.

Immediate plans, Barclay said, call for the drawing up of plans to give us the finest pool of any rural section in the entire Northwest. Water will be purified and re-used to conserve supplies, he said, and adequate parking areas and bath houses will be provided.

Following is the full committee working on the project.

Frank Parr, Shorty Brandt, Emil Stunz, Grant Rinehart, Carl Barclay, Warren Farmer, Dick Maw, Deb Garner, Kayno Saito and Ted Morgan.

Jack Schenk, Dick Forbes, Dale Garrison, Hal Henigson, J. R. Winchell, Cliff Main, Shay P. Bybee, Dick Wilson and Everett Heldt.

Marijuana Plot Found Six Weeks Ago Is Destroyed

A small patch of marijuana, reported to state police and the Oregon Liquor Control commission on June 26, was destroyed Saturday evening by State Police Sgt. Russell Haines and Liquor Control Commissioner Bill Courtney. Even though the plot of hills containing 66 marijuana plants had been cultivated and irrigated, even during the six weeks period that its location was known to officers as well as numerous private citizens in Nyssa, no trace was found of the person or persons growing the plants.

The narcotic plants were located on the George Sadamori farm about two miles south of Nyssa along the banks of the Snake river. Sgt. Haines said that his department is convinced Sadamori did not know the plants were being grown there.

Sgt. Haines said that his department had hoped to keep the plot under surveillance in an effort to make an arrest, but lack of manpower prevented a round the clock guard. However, three Nyssa policemen and Justice of Peace Don M. Graham reported that they had volunteered to serve as guards on their off-duty hours.

The Nyssa justice court issued an order Monday for the state police to destroy the plants that were pulled up Saturday.

Numerous Nyssans, who knew about the marijuana for several weeks, had been "sitting tight" on the information to give officers an opportunity to apprehend the offender, Judge Graham stated.

More Roads Oiled In Rural Area

The Nyssa Road Improvement district completed oiling Enterprise avenue last week to connect Lytle boulevard with Enterprise. The new surfacing makes an extensive paved highway from the thickly populated and rich farming area southwest of Nyssa into the city.

The district, financed by property owners who each year impose a 10 mill levy upon themselves in addition to a standing 10 mill levy, has one of the most extensive paved road networks of any rural area in Oregon. The district was the first of its kind in Oregon and has been followed by a similar district recently organized in the Ontario area.