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Surprising Changes, Advancements Noted By Census Bureau In 1954 Report About Rural Malheur County

Malheur county had 16 more farms in 1954 than it did in 1950 and there were 187,300 more acres of land in farms, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The 1954 census of agriculture report was issued this week by the department.

The number of farms increased from 2,430 in 1950 to 2,446 last year. Malheur county, rated as one of the largest in area in the nation, has a total of 6,316,800 acres of which 22.3 percent is in farms. The increase in farm land was shown at 1,406,915 last year as compared with 1,221,615 in 1950. Average size of the farms in 1954 was 576 acres.

Average value of farms jumped from \$21,085 to \$33,291 during the five year period. Average per acre value increased from \$43.25 to \$61.32. Of the total number of farms in the county, 2,303 are irrigated, as of 1954 reports, while 2,313 were reported to have been irrigated back in 1949.

Many Tenant Owned
It is interesting to note that 1,591 of the farms are operated by their owners and 380 are operated by part owners. Only 136 are operated by tenants.

Malheur farms outdid the national average for modern conveniences back in 1950, but even more advancements were made during the five-year intervening period. During that time, telephone farms increased from 582 to 1,729; farms with electricity increased from 2,254 to 2,369; homes with home freezers jumped from 407 to 1,114 and in 1954 there were 891 television sets where there were none in 1950. The back yard pump is almost unheard of since piped running water is in 2,165 of the farm homes.

That farms in this county are highly mechanized is shown by the number of motor trucks and tractors for the two reporting periods. In 1954 there were 2,804 trucks as compared with only 1,888 five years before. There were even more tractors, or a total of 3,723 as compared with 2,575 in 1950. Number of automobiles increased from 2,366 in 1950 to 2,799 last year.

Dairy farms were grouped as the greatest in number of various types and a terrific increase was noted.

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BATESMANS HUNT
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bateman and a party of deer hunters had a very successful hunting trip over the weekend.

HOME FROM COLLEGE
Jane Pruin, Jack Winchell and Rex Neiger were in Nyssa over the weekend. They attend Oregon State College.

NYSSA AND ADRIAN 4-H GIRLS SELECTED TO ATTEND STATE MEETING WITH CHANCES FOR NATIONAL CONTEST
Four Nyssa and Adrian community 4-H club members are among the group of youngsters chosen two weeks ago for county awards and medals in various projects. A committee of 4-H leaders met Sept. 20 with E. M. Hauser, county extension agent and 4-H leader, to choose the outstanding boys and girls.

The winners are eligible to compete in the state contests and state winners will go to the national 4-H Congress to be held Nov. 27 to Dec. 1, in Chicago.

Among county winners announced this week are Barbara Hickman and Sherril Sisson of the Nyssa community; Shirley Skinner and Margaret Butler of Adrian; Margaret Burke, Joe Payne and Sharon Anderson of Vale, and Sharon Anderson of Harper.

Later this year a dinner will be given in honor of all county winners and awards and medals will be presented. A special feature of the program will be the announcement of the project in which each boy or girl was chosen.

There are 29 projects sponsored by individuals and companies on the list for 1955 awards. These projects range from entomology and forestry to achievement and leadership—almost any field requiring knowledge, skill and service to others.

Neighbors Scary to Aid of Family Burned Out in Sudden Blaze

The Donald Brewer family was burned out of house and home last Tuesday evening, but there was considerable solace in the sort of friends and neighbors they have.

The ashes had hardly cooled at their abode near Owyhee Corners when members of the Owyhee church came rushing to their aid.

On Monday night, the church's Worthwhile club will have a shower for the Brewers—a "fire shower" was the way Mrs. Frank Perko put it, any item needful to a family which has lost all its goods will be acceptable.

In addition, a special collection will be taken at the church this Sunday morning.

The family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Brewer and their four sons, ranging in age from 5 to 11.

Grown-Up Classes To Begin at City Hi School Monday

Two adult evening classes have been definitely scheduled for the high school, it was announced Wednesday by Richard V. Wilson, superintendent of schools.

One will be for beginners in typewriting and the other will be in conversational Spanish.

The two courses will last 16 weeks, Wilson said. Those expecting to join the classes will be expected to meet at the high school at 7 p.m. Monday, with the Spanish lessons being given in room 3, and typing in room 4. Wilson said that cost of the full course will be from \$19 to \$20, which should be paid in advance.

Two other courses will be offered, if more adults apply, he said. These are bookkeeping and shorthand, in which interest has been indicated, with not quite enough students yet to warrant employment of a teacher. Applications should be made immediately, Wilson said.

Ontario Elks Honor Press At Banquet Tuesday

National Newspaper Week Oct. 1 to 8 was observed in the valley Tuesday by Ontario Elks lodge which sponsored a special program and banquet Tuesday night at the East Side Cafe in Ontario for weekly publishers and their wives of the valley.

In keeping with the 1955 slogan "Your Newspaper Fights For Your Right To Know," Oregon Senate President Elmo E. Smith, John Day publisher, spoke to the guests and Ontario Elks about his experiences as a weekly publisher. Smith was founder and publisher of the Eastern Oregon Observer in Ontario.

Hugh Smith, Ontario exalted ruler of the lodge, said that event is sponsored annually throughout the nation by the Elks to recognize the part the press plays in maintaining all freedoms.

Editors and their wives were present from the Ontario Argus-Observer, Payette Valley Sentinel, Payette Independent-Enterprise, Gate City Journal and KSRV.

Water Problem Is Nationwide Moss Tells C.C.

Water, agriculture and taxes and their relationship to the future and to the economy of everyone in this area were discussed Wednesday noon by Fred Moss at the Nyssa chamber of commerce meeting. Moss, manager of the Idaho Canning Co. which has its headquarters in Payette and canneries in Nyssa and Home, said that there is now a problem in this area and that plans must now be made for the future.

Citing the importance of agriculture and the fact that no one in this area could live without the farmer, Moss called attention to the water shortage experienced this summer. The main body of water for irrigation here is the Owyhee reservoir and the problem can be corrected by saving, he said. A lesson might have been learned this year and it is hoped the people will regulate themselves for efficiency, Moss commented.

Nyssa had a domestic water problem, but that is now corrected although the new well could become depleted if the water table drops, the speaker said.

Moss stated that the Owyhee dam has paid for itself by making desert land productive. People will have to think of more diversification and encourage more crop rotation with more farm products to be manufactured here.

There are two kinds of taxes—education and common. Moss said. We have to have education because communities are growing and there are many other things, such as the YMCA of the old days that go in waves and are soon unneeded, Moss pointed out.

First things should come first and water is first, the speaker said. One of the greatest things a city can offer is water and since there is no mining and no logging here, food processing is vital to the economy, chamber members were told.

Rapidly increasing numbers of people not only require more food, housing projects and business buildings in some areas such as California are replacing farms where food was grown. Because of drastic water shortages elsewhere, this area is the bread basket to feed the millions of people now in the congested areas.

U.S. Gives Its OK For a Diversion Of Spuds to Feed

Official government approval for diversion of No. 2 potatoes to livestock feed and starch has been given by the Department of Agriculture, it is announced by Roy Hiral, Nyssa shipper.

The action was taken by the Market Control committee as a means of stabilizing Oregon spud prices, with Lauren King, of Ontario and Jim Watson, of Parma, spearheading the movement for controls sought by most of the Valley's growers.

Many of these growers had urged that controls be placed on inferior potatoes, and the governmental action was generally considered as a victory for Valley farmers in maintaining price levels on the finer yields.

Boy Scout Fund Drive Lagging

The Boy Scout fund drive is progressing somewhat slowly, Joe Bellon, Nyssa area drive chairman, announced Tuesday evening. Only about \$800, not including special gifts, have been contributed and the goal for the community has been set at \$2500.

Bellon said that anyone not yet solicited for a contribution could leave his money at the Bob Thompson Agency. If any home in Nyssa or in the rural community has been missed by solicitors, a telephone call to Joe Bellon or to Mrs. Wayne Chesnut will bring someone to the home.

No Increase Seen For Rail Freight

Because of repeated inquiries regarding the possibility of increased rail freight rates on less than carload shipments, shipping patrons of the Union Pacific should be informed that no rate increases are contemplated at the present time, Thomas G. Jones, Nyssa agent, said this week.

Recently common carrier truck lines increased their charges six percent within the state and about the same time increased minimum charges on shipments from Boise to \$1.50. A similar increase of six percent will take effect Oct. 14 on all truck line shipments originating on the west coast, Jones said.

Elks Gleemen, Educator Slated For PTA Program

Ontario Elks Gleemen will present the musical portion of the program at the October meeting of the Nyssa PTA, it was announced by Mrs. Lester Cleaver, vice president. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 13, at the high school. Speaker for the evening will be A. Wayne Durrell, director of admission at the University of Portland and juvenile protection chairman for the Oregon state congress of PTA.

Durrell as juvenile protection chairman is chiefly interested in maintaining community services that will protect children from abuse and neglect, eliminating morale hazards and unwholesome influences that prevent the development of healthy personalities and improving procedures for handling juvenile delinquents and their rehabilitation.

Members of all PTAs in Malheur county have been invited as well anyone else interested in hearing this speaker.

Zip in the Air Gives Huntsmen An Added Zest

It was just the sort of weather that hunters like last week.

The average day of the week was a mite over 68 degrees, while the nights chilled down to an average of 39.

Here are the daily weather reports, as recorded by the North Board of Control.

	Max.	Min.
Sept. 28	64	45
Sept. 29	64	33
Sept. 30	66	35
Oct. 1	70	32
Oct. 2	74	36
Oct. 3	76	41
Oct. 4	64	43
Oct. 5	64	54

Two Cleanup Weeks Designated With Free Hauling Service Being Offered

Two Cleanup Weeks will be incorporated with Fire Prevention week Oct. 9 to 15 and the seven-day period following ending on Oct. 22, it was announced Wednesday by City Manager Jack Middaugh.

During that time all residents of Nyssa are asked to clear their property of all weeds and trash and pile it in convenient places near the curb where city trucks can pick up and haul it to a disposal area. There will be no charge for the service.

Middaugh said that a special appeal is being made for property owners to voluntarily clean their lots during the two-week period. After Oct. 22, if no action has been taken by owners, the lots will be cleared by city-hired crews and the cost of clearing away weeds and trash and hauling it from the area will be charged against the property.

FIRST GRADE VISITS FARM

The students of Mrs. Alcon's first grade visited the farm of little Lucinda Bratton Friday afternoon to see the animals.

Refreshments were served before the children left.

Nyssa Merchants Consider Local Aspects In Views On Business Conditions; Optimism Being Expressed

Good prices for late potatoes which followed the fair to poor market for early potatoes has had a strange effect on business conditions in the Nyssa community. The Mighty Spud has had extreme power this summer, even though some of it might be imaginary, and has been of more importance insofar as controversy is concerned than the overall farm problem that is being heatedly discussed on a national basis.

A nationwide effort to paint the general farm picture black has been ineffective here simply because farmers themselves refuse to take up the chant of doom and despair. There are many, if not a majority, who are justifiably concerned about the spreading parallel between farm income and general costs. There are some actual dirt farmers in this highly diversified farming section who refuse to believe that there is much need to worry about future farm income.

Business Reports Vary

In Nyssa, retail business seems to be affected more by rumors than by any actual difference from past years in farm income—with certain exceptions. Farmers themselves seem to be buying about as much as they have in the past, and if in a few instances they are buying more here than they have when prices were above normal. Some retail stores have been affected this summer because migrant workers were

Crop Shipments on the Up and Up; Between Spuds, Grain and Onions Figures Exceeding 1954's Record

Cold figures showed a hot increase in crop shipments for the Nyssa area this past week.

Between potatoes, onions and grain, rail shipments of the Valley's precious agricultural commodities showed a handsome rise in September, over the same period of 1954.

This September, a total of 993 carload movements were recorded by the Union Pacific, according to Tom Jones, agent here. In September of last year, the figure was 817 cars.

Potato growers didn't do so badly after all, in spite of the slow start and the low price on early potatoes.

In the month of September, Jones said that 537 carloads of spuds were shipped out of Nyssa to market. During the corresponding period of 1954, just 405 carloads were shipped, giving an increase of 132 carloads.

"That," said Agent Jones, "is a lot of spuds."

Bigger Movements Near
Wheat movement was beginning to get into stride, with a bumper crop, the best in the past four years, already in the granaries.

And onion growers were looking forward to one of the most successful years they have ever had, with drought and floods in the east bringing big demand for Oregon onions. The price currently is around \$1.50 per hundred for field run onions, with prospects of a steadily advancing price.

So far, shipments have been lagging, as compared with last year's movement. In September, 61 refrigerator carloads were sent out, against 199 for the same month of 1954, Agent Jones reported.

But a large onion movement is expected during the coming week. (Continued on Page 12)

Stunz Lumber Co. Taken Over By Boise Payette

Sale of Stunz Lumber Co. of Nyssa to Boise Payette Lumber Co., effective Oct. 1, was announced last Friday by Emil A. Stunz, founder of the firm in 1938, and his son, Gene Stunz.

E. A. "Gus" Liming, assistant manager of Stunz, has been named manager of the combined operation and all Stunz personnel will continue as employees of the new owner it was announced. Liming is a former Boise Payette employee, having been manager at Ontario before coming to Nyssa with Stunz. Company officials announced that C. M. "Cal" Roberts, manager of Boise Payette for more than a year, will remain in Nyssa with Liming to help expedite the move and will be assigned to another post in the company.

Liming said that the old location of Boise Payette on North First street will be abandoned after all supplies and materials are moved to the former Stunz location at the intersection of Good Avenue and the Adrian highway and the real estate and improvements on North First will be offered for sale.

The two Stunz families retain ownership of the property and buildings which are being leased to Boise Payette with an option to purchase.

Both Stunz families expect to continue making their homes in Nyssa. Emil Stunz is Malheur county representative and he and Mrs. Stunz have other interests here. Gene Stunz, 1955 president of the Nyssa chamber of commerce, said that he may return to college after the first of the year to complete his credits for a degree in business administration. "Beyond that, plans are indefinite, but it is likely that Nyssa will be our home for a long time to come," the younger Stunz commented.

Emil Stunz has been semi-retired for the past year and a half, having turned a large part of the business responsibility over to his son and devoted much of his time to public affairs and community activities.

Status of the Stunz Lumber Co. yard at New Plymouth is not affected by the transaction, it was reported. That firm is managed by Chet Council, half owner, with the remaining owned by the two Stunz families in Nyssa.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

The executive committee of the Civic club met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Dale Garrison.

FHA To Hold Dist. Convention
The annual FHA district convention will be held at Union Saturday.

Nyssa's nominee for district chairman is Ellen Sheer and for district secretary, Dorothy Holcomb. These girls were nominated by the executive council and elected at the FHA general meeting held in the home making room. Last year district convention was held in Nyssa with Joretta Moeller as district chairman.

Minimum Politics

Few, if any, of Nyssa's merchants think along political lines when they talk about current and future business conditions. This is strange, too, in view of the fact that unlike many farm towns in the lower Snake river valley, Democrats just about equal Republicans among business men.

True, there's a lot of discussion about national politics, the 1956 campaign and the issues to be discussed and even speculation on the effects of the President's recent address might have on business. Even at that there's none of the soap-box oratory here about "all is lost" and "the farmers are sinking fast."

The rural towns are too close to the farms for that kind of propaganda to ring true.



SHIRLEY SKINNER, 15, has been in 4-H work for five years. Her projects have been sewing, cooking and health. She was 1955 grand champion in the county and dress revue for sewing III.



SHERRIL SISSON, 16, has been in 4-H work for eight years. She has carried projects in clothing, cooking, poultry, dairying, swine and entomology. She was winner of the county swine trophy for 1954.



MARGARET BUTLER, 16, is a seven year worker in 4-H. Her projects have been sewing, cooking, homemaking, health and junior leadership. She was 1955 county grand champion in the sponge cake baking contest. A 1955 state blue ribbon was awarded for her best dress.



BARBARA HICKMAN, 16, and during her six years of 4-H work has had projects in sewing, cooking, homemaking, canning and livestock. She was awarded the 1955 grand champion ribbon in the county style revue of sewing IV and the county achievement trophy for being the outstanding 4-H club member. Her best dress won a 1955 state blue ribbon.