

Nyssa Gate City Journal

Special, Informal Meeting Called To Discuss Aspects of Proposed City Budget and Special Election

A public—and informal—meeting has been called with approval of the Nyssa city council for 7 o'clock this (Thursday) evening to clear up what has been termed as certain misunderstandings that appear to have arisen concerning the budget approved for 1956-57. The meeting will be in the council chambers at the city hall.

Pumping Plant Work Underway

The Contractor-Utility Construction company of Ontario Tuesday removed the south wall of the Owyhee Ditch pumping plant as the first step in the construction of the new Ontario-Nyssa pumping plant.

The wall was pulled out by a cat after the concrete had been diamond sawed and line drilled along the limits of the excavation.

The wall was removed in one section and later broken up with a "headache ball" for disposal.

Women About Nyssa!

If seeing a community grow from a town of 500 to a city of nearly 3000 if one had dodged cowboys whirling up the street to tie their horses to the nearest "watering" place, if one has stayed "put" for 46 years, then the term "Nyssa pioneer" truly can be bestowed upon today's guest, Hilda Tensen.

Born in Davenport, Iowa, in 1888, Mrs. Tensen came West with her folks while a baby and settled in Spokane where she received her grade and high school education. Hilda completed her education at Washington State College where she received a bachelor of music degree.

In 1910 the Tensens moved to Nyssa, Mr. Tensen opening a grocery and hardware store, building the Tensen block which was a thing of beauty in its hey-day. Time has long since taken its toll of the now forlorn looking edifice on Main between First street and the railroad.

Hilda worked in the store with her dad until her marriage in 1912 to Dick Tensen.

Dick was a farmer and stock raiser in the days "of the BIG haystacks" according to Hilda, developing a farm from the sage brush at Lockett Gulch. While they operated the Gulch property they lived in a home across from the present Malheur Memorial hospital.

Hilda's eyes blinked just a little as she recalled the early days in Nyssa, the hitching posts, the watering troughs on Main street (what there was of it) and the



Hilda L. Tensen

truly Western atmosphere of a young town peopled by the young.

She recalled the excitement of the announcement in 1910 when it was announced that the Shoe-string ditch would be built. The project fell through until many years later and the town quieted down until the early 20's when water was made available.

Dick and Hilda sold their ranch in 1939 and bought into the Nyssa Packing Company.

It might be added that through these many years Hilda taught piano in her spare time.

Her husband passed away in 1944 and after his death Hilda went to work as city clerk, a position she has held ever since but from which she is retiring at the end of the month after over ten years service.

Mrs. Tensen has had an eventful life and has been active in many fields during her years in Nyssa.

To name just some of her connections, she has been a member of the State Farm Tenant Committee, the County Rural Rehabilitation Committee, County Welfare Committee, Red Cross, Li-

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Members of the city council, City Treasurer Grant Rinehart and City Manager Jack Middaugh will be present to explain all phases of the budget and answer questions.

The proposed budget approved last Wednesday calls for expenditures of \$193,333.63, including \$35,910.63 for bond and interest payments and \$10,000 on the water system. Voters will be asked to give the council permission to exceed the 6 percent limitation by \$10,038. The special election has been set for next Tuesday from 8 a. m. until 7 p. m.

Old Error Confuses

Principal protest seems to be that to go outside the 6 percent, an additional 5.5 mills will have to be added to the tax levy, plus about 4.5 already authorized for old waterworks improvements and inadvertently omitted from the current budget. These two levies will bring city taxes up to 31.5 mills, although failure of the special election will leave the levy at 26 mills.

The city manager stated: "Comparisons between prior years and the next fiscal year could not be made for each item listed for the latter year because of appropriations have been made largely on a lump basis in previous years. Where possible, individual item comparisons have been made and comparison of totals are provided in every case. While the change in form has been substantial, a detailed breakdown or itemization of each fund has been provided so that costs of providing each separate municipal service may be reflected."

Middaugh went on to explain that had the authorized waterworks levy been made during the fiscal year as should have been done, property tax increase for the coming fiscal year would have been only 6.8 mills or slightly less than 7 of one percent.

"It should be realized that the per capita tax by the city of Nyssa is other cities in the valley," Middaugh said.

It should be noted that according to the county assessor's office, 1955-56 tax levies in the three principal towns in the county are: Ontario, 38.6 mills; Vale 25.9 mills and Nyssa 21.5 mills.

Surplus Is Earmarked

"Another matter which seems to be the subject of misinterpretation is the cash surplus which was on hand but not budgeted for the current fiscal year," Middaugh went on to explain. "This surplus, in the amount of \$19,838.79 has been budgeted for the coming (Continued on Page 8)

Continued Zone Hearing Next Week by Council

Continuation of a recessed zoning meeting of the city council from June 12 will be Thursday evening of next week, according to City Manager Jack Middaugh.

A question of rezoning a business district to an industrial district came before the city council April 7 and has met with opposition from residents of an adjacent industrial zone in which there are dwellings. Tobler's Feed & Fuel, a feed industry that has recently expanded, is now located in a business zone and efforts are being made to change the zone to industrial.

A petition, not only against the change of zone but against alleged night-time noise and dust from the firm's processing plant, was presented at the June 12 meeting of the council.

The city manager said that it is probable that a decision will be made by the council at next week's meeting.

The council will also make an official count of the next Tuesday's municipal election involving the proposition of exceeding the 6 percent limitation to meet the proposed budget.

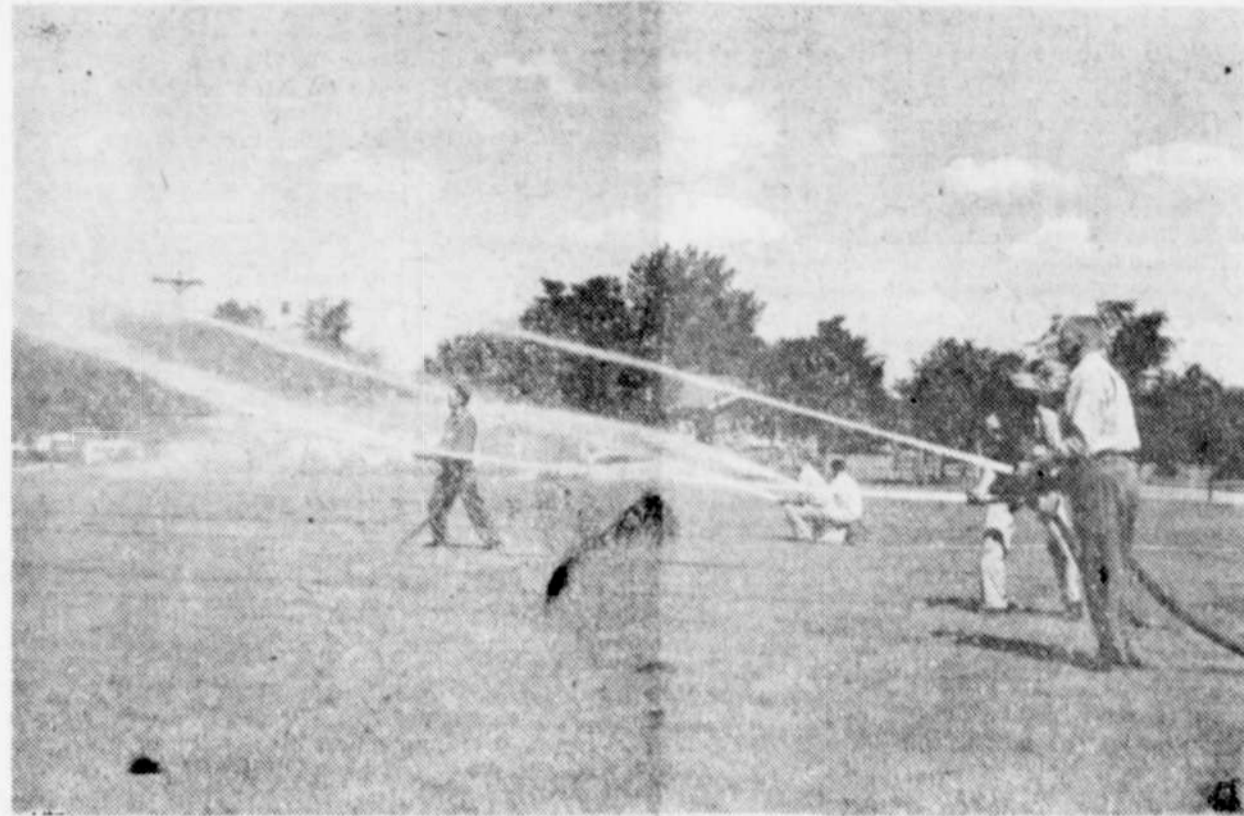
Nyssa Graduates From MP Training

Army Pvt. Raymond D. Watson, son of Wayne O. Watson, 910 N. Second, Nyssa, recently was graduated from the Military Police training center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Watson, who attended the school after completing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., was taught unarmed defense, traffic control and other law enforcement duties.

Watson entered the Army last January.

Nyssa Volunteers Host to Visiting Firemen



Firemen Host At Semi-Annual Association Meet

The Nyssa fire department Sunday was the host at the annual meeting of the West Idaho Firemen's Association. The day's activities included competitive drills, demonstrations, business meeting and open house at the local hall.

In the top picture the Nyssa firemen are shown during a display of hose work at the city park. Taking part in the demonstration are, starting in the foreground, Chuck Gilbert, Huck Wilson, Art Chapman, Duke Hipp and Gerald Curry. The second photo included, from left, Earl Albright, instructor, state department vocational education, Corvallis, John Pickett, deputy fire marshal, Salem and Jake Fischer, president, board of directors, Nyssa Fire Protection District. These men all took part in the many activities throughout the day. —Journal photos.

23 Patrons Give Zobell Approval Issues Elsewhere

Twenty-three electors in school district 26C voted unanimously Monday to return Henry D. Zobell to the school board for another five years. There were no other candidate filings for the office.

Immediately after the election, the board met to organize and named John Schenk chairman; Warren Farmer, vice chairman, and R. V. Wilson was reappointed clerk of the board.

The group set the regular meeting date for 8 o'clock on the second Tuesday evening of each month at the junior high school building. Plans were made for a tour of the district's physical plant this afternoon and arrangements were made for purchase of cafeteria, shop and grade school equipment with surplus funds remaining from the 1955-56 budget.

At Vale the same day, 274 patrons turned out to vote for a director and reelected Ernest Adams. They turned down a proposal to increase the district's tax base from \$40,000 to \$90,000 with a vote of 200 to 74.

A contest at Ontario brought out 374 electors who voted 220 to 154 for George Bain as a board member over Mrs. Martha Beechler, incumbent.

Two Volunteer Groups Join Efforts For Final Phase Hospital Campaign

The intensive stage of the campaign to raise the foundation fund to place Malheur Memorial hospital on a self-sustaining basis was launched Tuesday night at 7:30 o'clock, "School of Instruction" at the Masonic hall at Nyssa.

A volunteer organization of 120 men from the area served by the hospital attended the meeting. Jed Lewis, president of Malheur Memorial hospital and general chairman of the hospital campaign, presided at the meeting. Chairman Lewis paid tribute to Warren Farmer, chairman, his associate chairmen and members of the Advance gifts committee for their unselfish work.

Chairman Lewis also praised the generosity of many individuals and organizations that are subscribing for memorials and other gifts to make possible the continued excellent service of this community-owned and controlled hospital.

Farmer extended welcome to the 60 members of the general organization. Farmer said, "The advance gifts committee of 60 men will now work shoulder to shoulder with the new organization. The splendid spirit of co-operation and sacrificial service shown by the advance gifts committee, I am certain will be continued during the coming general campaign."

Lewis introduced William B. Russell, chairman and Bob Thompson, co-chairman of the general campaign. Chairman Russell said, "All the men of the

Sallee Attends OSC Institute

Tom Sallee of Nyssa is one of 127 selected high school students from Oregon and Washington now attending the first annual "Junior Engineers and Scientists" summer training institute at Oregon State College.

The two-week course, which opened June 10 and continues through June 23, is designed to give the high school students a look into career possibilities in the fields of engineering and science.

Selection to attend was based on scholarship and interest in science and engineering subjects. Students had to be endorsed by their high schools.

County Real Estate Values Increase, Personal Property Goes Down; Values For Cities, Schools To Be Told Later

Malheur county's total assessed valuation, excluding public utilities, amounts to \$22,529,95, County Assessor John Koopman announced Wednesday after completing summaries of local assessments. This figure compares with last year's value of \$22,672,705 when personal property showed a higher figure and real property was somewhat lower.

Real estate values showed a \$243,845 increase during the one year period, while personal property showed a \$386,595 decline, or an overall decline of \$142,750 in local assessed valuations within the county.

Koopman said that figures had not been broken down to give individual valuations of municipalities or school districts. He said that in view of the downward value of livestock, it is possible that school districts may suffer some lost valuations while it is possible that cities may hold their own or enjoy slight increases if there has been much building.

A county-wide program of re-evaluation which has been underway for the past four years might tend to bolster municipal values, although the program is no different than that which has been underway constantly since 1952, the assessor said.

Koopman also pointed out that public utility valuations, handled entirely by the state, would have some bearing on total values of quasi-municipal corporations, or taxing bodies, but he would not venture a guess as to whether they will be higher or lower.

Last year public utility values were set at \$4,573,426.

Livestock Down

To show where a large part of the lower valuation on personal property came, the assessor said that last year there were 11,207 head of cattle valued at \$2,202,922 and this year's count is 115,598 head valued at \$2,128,550. Horses and mules also showed an increase in numbers and a decrease in values; the 1955 count being 2,970 valued at \$32,405 and the 1956 total at 3,004 valued at \$27,465.

Other livestock populations and values for 1955 and 1956, respectively, are: sheep, 43,155 head, \$81,585 value and 45,829 head and \$84,420 value; hogs, 2,448 head, \$17,850 value, and 2,474 head and \$9,970 value; poultry, 71,941 head and \$25,090 value, and 63,673 head and \$20,205 value.

Another factor affecting valuations is the large increase in veterans' exemptions which rose from \$85,155 in 1955 to \$118,210 this year, the assessor reported.

Milking Contest Slated Prior to Payette Game

Harry Miner, a Nyssa baseball manager of some years back will challenge Hugh Tobler, present day boss of the Nyssas to a contest Friday night just prior to the Payette game to see which has the greater pull.

The event will be a cow milking contest in deference to dairy month with a special award going to the victor.

Both admit being a little rusty but rumor has it that they have been visiting farmer friends this week just to "get the feel of things."

The event, with no holds barred, will take place near home plate if the bossies are willing.

Both are a little concerned as to what cow they will milk, fearing a prankish dame might be run in. Scheming will do no good, however, as they will be forced to draw for their bovine pals.

Beet Growers Board Considers Child Labor Case

H. S. Davis, Nyssa area beet grower charged with use of child labor and assessed \$20 penalties by the Malheur county ASC committee, appeared last week before the Nyssa-Nampa Beet Growers association board of directors to present his case. Davis told the board he had appealed his case to the state ACS office in Portland after his appeal from the original charge was rejected by the county committee.

Davis was charged with allowing a 7-year-old daughter of an employed farm worker couple to hoe beets on his farm. The charge was denied with the explanation that the child was "playing with a hoe while her mother was nursing her baby."

The association board is now considering Davis' appeal for assistance.

County Budget Stands at Original Figure; Health Group Gives Views

Final approval of a \$670,286.85 budget last Friday was given by the Malheur county budget board meeting at Vale. Of the total amount, \$369,261.85 will be raised by taxes with \$23,300 expected to be delinquent by the end of the fiscal year next June. The remaining \$324,325 is expected to be raised from other sources such as gasoline and liquor taxes, fines and other means.

The 1956-57 budget compares compares with a current budget of \$648,760.

Appearing at the hearing was a representative committee protesting the board's earlier slash in requested funds for the county health department. The committee was composed of Mrs. J. W. Rigney and Frank Parr, Nyssa; Mrs. Emmett Knott and Mrs. John Elfering, Vale, and Dr. Sam Pobanz, Ontario.

Committee Protests

Mrs. Rigney, spokesman for the group, explained that the committee wished to protest action of the county budget board in limiting the county health budget to \$15,960, and emphasized the following points:

"The requested budget of \$25,780 was an effort of a county-wide committee to provide more adequate health services for the

23,000 people in the county. "That as far as actual progress toward better service is concerned, Malheur county seems to be going backward instead of forward."

"That the services asked for were a direct result of the suggestions made by Dr. Harold M. Erickson, director of Oregon State Board of Health."

In answer to the court's statement that very few people attended the first budget hearing, Mrs. Elfering stated that her presence at the hearing represented 1400 members of the PTA in Malheur county. The court was reminded that approving statements had been received from at least 21 civic organizations throughout the county and that more than 600 individuals were represented.

Compares Courthouse Fund

Dr. Pobanz asked each member of the court his personal opinion in regard to a full-time health department and each board member said he was fully in accord with the idea. "But you continue to feel that it is more important to put \$20,000 into a sinking fund for a new courthouse than to make provisions for two nurses?" the Ontario doctor asked.

There was further discussion concerning needs for child guidance clinics, further prevention of tuberculosis and general health education. The group emphasized that it is impossible to secure anything like adequate services in this area with just one nurse.

Mrs. Rigney said the court was emphatic in saying that \$4500 had been budgeted for a public health nurse and "made it plain that if one is hired, the present nurse, working hard for her \$3600, will be out of a job!" The court made it clear if a public health nurse is not found, the \$800 saved will revert to the general fund.

"Several times during the discussion, Judge G. Y. Chester stated that the matter of health service in Malheur county would have to be settled by ballot and that in such an event he would vote for it," Mrs. Rigney reported.

Truck Fire Calls Rural Department

Firemen were called at 8:20 Tuesday morning to the Watson-Lamatia farm 4 miles south of Nyssa where a farm truck was enveloped in flames. Fire Chief Ralph said that apparently the gas tank had been filled too full and had seeped out around the vehicle's seat. A possible wiring short was believed to have ignited the gasoline.

Workers at the farm had attempted to put out the blaze by throwing dirt onto the truck and called the rural fire department when their efforts were unsuccessful. Chemicals were used to quell the flames.

Profits From FFA Projects Realized By Boys Working In Important Class

Nyssa's 59 Future Farmers of America under the direction of LeRoy Pulliam realized a net profit of \$15,931.63 for 7,472 student hours of work involved during the period ending last Dec. 1, according to an annual report filed by the FFA advisor.

Pulliam said these figures represent actual profits which involve sales of products after all expenses are deducted. Under the FFA program, students must even figure current rates of rental for land and other facilities even if they are owned by a boy's father who doesn't actually make a charge.

Gross value of all crops and animals amounted to more than \$42,500 while expenses were more than \$26,500.

Some of the boys lost money on some of their projects while others, just like the farmers of this area, made better than average profits when they happened to sell at the right time.

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Sugar Beets Profitable
Boys growing beets were generally financially successful as was indicated by \$329 net profit from (Continued on Page 8)