

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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To escape comment or criticism, do nothing, be nothing, say nothing.

Tax Confusion Is Spreading

Confusion of Oregon residents over taxation has spread into our neighboring state on the east. State officials, The Oregon Journal, The Idaho Statesman and most taxpayers seem to share in the general state of uncertainty about alleged surpluses, who is to blame, higher taxes and whether or not there will be tax relief — and when.

Last Friday Gov. Robert D. Holmes called a special session of the legislature to convene Oct. 28 "to provide \$17 million of property tax and income tax relief during 1957 and 1958, and \$22 million per biennium of tax relief thereafter." So stated the official release from the governor's office.

The Portland newspaper's glaring headlines announced, "Holmes Calls Session To Cut Taxes." Text of the story contained this comment: "He (the governor) clarified this statement (in the press release) by saying income taxes will not be reduced to provide any relief for taxes paid this year but will be applied to incomes earned this year and on which the tax is due next year." It was also pointed out that additional basic school money will be used to offset real property taxes if districts themselves hold their costs at the present level.

The Boise newspaper editorialized, "Oregon's governor shows the high test of executive responsibility when he orders the Legislature to return to Salem and readjust its income tax levies back in step with the state's financial needs."

Special session costs have been estimated at no less than \$100,000 and it must be remembered that both houses are made up of the same individuals who could not agree on much of anything, regardless of party affiliations, at the record-long regular session last winter. They did provide more state funds that reduced Nyssa school taxes far less than the increases imposed by the new state income tax schedules.

Could it be that double-talk originating in Salem and Portland means a state sales tax is in the offing. Pressure is growing stronger for a sales tax in most sectors other than Malheur county and the "but on the other hand" comments and political hay-makers are more prevalent each week.

All we're sure of is that we can depend on Rep. Emil Stunz of Nyssa and Sen. Anthony Yturri of Ontario to continue fulfilling their pledges of opposition to a sales tax, and the same unyielding opposition to extreme pressure groups in Western Oregon.

Christian Church Notes

Sermon Sunday morning will be "The Silent God."

Sunday evening, "The Study of Revelations."

At the meeting of the worship committee last week the Rev. Porter addressed the group on "How to Conduct a Worship Meeting for Young People."

Sunday morning the junior girls gave a report on their week at camp.

The education committee will

John W. King and brother, Robert King of Nampa spent the week end in Reno and Virginia City, Nev.

Kerna and Sally Kesler, Joan and Janet Maulding spent the past week end at McCall.

meet Thursday in the church at 8 p.m.

The yearbooks are ready. There is one for each family in the church. If you did not get yours, do so as soon as possible.

Board meeting will be held next Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 8 p.m.

Nyssa Labor Camp Summer Activities Under Oregon Council of Churches Reviewed by Migrant Ministry Staffer

By Carolyn Fredrickson

The Migrant Ministry has grown rapidly in Malheur county over the past few summers. Beginning with a program in the Nyssa camp, directed by Rev. Frank and Maria Reyes, it has expanded now to the four camps in the county, and has benefited from the aid of many part-time and full-time volunteers who live in the county.

After the Reyes' served three summers, they climaxed their program with a big fiesta, where the Mexican people served Spanish dinners to 700 people. This fiesta served to better relationships between town and community and made the migrants feel at home in Nyssa.

This summer a new staff arrived in June to continue and expand the program. Carolyn Miller, a seminary student who has spent three previous summers in the Migrant Ministry in Salem, and Carolyn Fredrickson, a junior majoring in elementary education at the University of Oregon, opened the program. In July, Carolyn Miller left to return to the Salem area and two new workers came to assist Carolyn Fredrickson for the remainder of the summer.

Josue Munoz is a Spanish-speaking boy whose home is in Mexico City. He attends the Spanish Bible Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and has had previous experience working for the Gideons in Guatemala. Don Hohstadt is a member of the United Presbyterian church in Ontario. He is a student at Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland. This ecumenical team (Carolyn is a Disciple and Josue a Nazarene) carried on the program together for six weeks. Don and Josue both volunteered their services and will receive scholarships to return to school.

Committee Formed
This spring the Malheur County Migrant committee was formed by the churches to sponsor the program locally. Rev. Paul Ludlow of the Nyssa Methodist church is chairman. The committee is responsible for housing the staff, providing a car and raising funds for program supplies, as well as assisting the staff to find volunteer workers for the program. Housing was provided at W. W. Foster's for the girls. Rev. and Mrs. Robert Jackson of the Nazarene church gave housing to Josue. Boyd Wilson at Roberts-Nyssa, provided a 1948 Dodge for the staff.

People Receptive
The people in the Nyssa camp were as receptive as ever to the Council of Churches' program. The people of Nyssa were more eager than ever to assist the staff. This was shown when a total of 21 people from the churches in Nyssa gave anywhere from one to ten mornings to come to the camp and teach Bible school to 70 or more Negro and Mexican youngsters. Twelve of the people from the Nazarene, Episcopal, Christian, Methodist and Latin-American Assembly of God met together with the staff ahead of time to plan the curriculum, centering around the life of Christ.

Many Donations
Many others helped by providing cookies and milk for the children every day. Clover Lawn Dairy gave a discount and furnished a cold milk dispenser so all the children could help themselves to nourishment. One small three-year-old boy was never satisfied until he had finished off five glasses of "lache" per day.

Some of the helpers discovered that the language barrier caused some difficulties with the preschool children who had not yet learned English. But this left them undaunted. When they wanted the children to lie down and rest after their morning milk, they realized there was only one way to get this across to the energetic youngsters—they would have to act it out. In a similar way it was possible for the teachers to show the children something of the love of God in spite of the difficulty of verbal communication.

Adults Attend, Help
Children weren't the only ones who came to Bible school. Young mothers often came over to the community building to see what was going on. A few of them helped, too. Each day the school closed with a singing and worship service. As the children were dismissed one day, Mrs. Martinez came up to one of the workers. She had been helping the children color and stayed for our closing service. She said to the teacher, "I like to come to your Bible school because I love to hear little children sing. It's so seldom I hear them."

English Classes
English classes are something the Mexican migrant people almost always ask for. With the help of the National Council of Churches' director for Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho, Miss Sarah Goodwin, classes were arranged for the Nyssa camp. The first evening, 35 men and women registered. This enthusiastic interest was adequately met by the community of Nyssa.

Three people volunteered to teach classes. Nora Valdez, Mrs. Chadwick and Miss Ilett each took one class, along with Carolyn Fredrickson. The first evening the people came and the teachers found many who spoke no English. Mrs. Chadwick had a group who could speak English but wanted to learn to read and write it. Miss Ilett's group was made up of men and women who could speak, read and write English well. The staff worker asked what the class would like to do. "We want to learn English better," was the prompt reply. Then one lad spoke up—"Could we study geography?" he asked. With the gathering of books and atlases, the study of geography began the following week.

As English classes began, a young 12-year-old boy entered the building. His name was Juan (Johnny) Sanchez. Two summers before, Johnny lived in a migrant camp near Independence, Ore. There, a staff worker, Dick Schneider, had sat down to read a book with Johnny one afternoon. Dick soon realized Johnny was badly behind in his reading. Obviously, his difficulty was with the English language and frequent change of schools had set him behind. Dick arranged for Johnny to leave the bean fields one hour every morning for six weeks.

At the end of the summer, Dick gave Johnny some books. On the day of the English classes in Nyssa, Johnny was there. "A boy named Dick taught me to read when I was in Independence," he explained.

Athletic Program
An athletic program was also arranged in the Nyssa camp. Bob Keveren, a young student home for the summer, became the coach for the baseball team at the camp. He arranged games for them with other farm labor camp teams and town teams. He also organized a

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jones were visitors and dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hancock in Council last Sunday.

Judith Ann Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Roberts, spent last Friday in Boise where she had her stitches removed from her last operation. She will be in camp for approximately 10 weeks.

am for teen-age boys and soon had them playing youngsters from town.

Through the cooperation of Eldon Farmer, director of Nyssa's summer recreation program, several boys and girls enjoyed afternoon swimming at the Ontario pool. The youngsters rode over to Ontario on the school bus driven by Mr. Farmer.

Movie nights were enjoyed by more than 100 in the camp every week. After Josue's arrival, Sunday afternoon services were begun, too. Several Negro families were responsive to the idea of Bible study. One family's children attended Sunday school at the Methodist church. Christine came, even though she had no shoes; and Willy attended minus his shoe laces. But they liked it so well, they wanted to go every Sunday.

Program Spread
The staff found that reports of the Nyssa program had spread to Ontario, Vale and Adrian. Already ministers and civic groups were asking about programs for their own camps. The staff decided to have weekly recreation and movie nights in Ontario, Vale and Adrian in order to show these communities the nature of the program and stimulate more interest in a full program next summer. In addition, a two-week VBS was held in Ontario, and one week each in Vale and Adrian. Josue and Don found a large number of teen-agers in the Ontario camp and planned tent-nights with volleyball and woodcraft for them.

The camps in Ontario, Vale and Adrian are much smaller than the Nyssa camp. The people are usually from the same town or area in Texas and are already good friends. Many of them return to the same camp every year. Gradually, they are coming to feel more at home in Malheur county, but this is not always the case.

One day this summer, a young mother in one of the camps asked Carolyn, with utter frankness, "Do you like Mexican people?" She was a little surprised by the question, but answered, "Yes, of course."

The girl went on to say, "Not everyone in the town likes us. Sometimes they don't seem to want us. If one or two of our people get in trouble, they blame all of us. Are you sure you like Mexicans?" she asked again earnestly. Carolyn answered, "I would not be here if I did not like you. It's because the people don't know you that they think they don't like you. There are many people in town who are coming out here to meet you and they will like you very much."

There is no doubt that there is tremendous need among the migrant people who come to Malheur county each year. They need to feel accepted and at home while they are here, for many of them have no home. They want to learn, to work with their hands, to have the fun of making things on their own, to know the fun of playing together.

They need to hear about the Bible. They want to know what it says. They want to share their problems with people from the churches who understand them. They want their children to have the benefit of public and religious education, wherever they go. They are a needy people, but they have much to give—a song, a smile, a dish of tacos—these are simple but rich gifts.

Methodist Church News

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."—Phil. 3:14.

Thursday, Aug. 29 (tonight), 7 p.m.—Potluck supper and work night for all who would like to join in the painting and varnishing of the educational unit. If it is difficult to get in at suppertime, come at a later hour.

Aug. 31-Sept. 2—College and older youth at Camp Ponderosa. A call is being made for laymen to work on the Wallowa Lake lodge which is being built on our institute grounds starting today, Aug. 29, and continuing through Aug. 31. Meals will be furnished. Each person is to take his own bedroll. Men from this district are joining to speed construction of this building.

Sunday, Sept. 1, 9:45 a.m.—Church school for everyone and everyone welcome.

Episcopal Church Announces Pastor

The Rev. William Woodman of Alturas, Calif., has been named pastor of the Nyssa St. Paul's Episcopal church, it was announced this week by A. C. Sallee.

Rev. and Mrs. Woodman and three children are scheduled to arrive here next Thursday. The new minister has been serving temporarily at Alturas, which is part of the Eastern Oregon missionary district, and had served in the ministry near Philadelphia, Pa. where the family has been residing for several years. Rev. Woodman succeeds Herb Grosdier who resigned the Nyssa pastorate early last spring.

11 a.m.—Worship service. Mr. Ludlow's sermon topic will be "Jesus Calls Us in Our Work." 7 p.m.—Methodist Youth Fellowship meetings at the church.

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