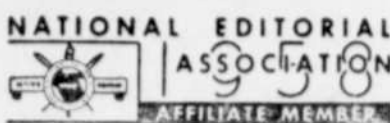


THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

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

Taxpayers' Rebellions

Taxpayers' rebellions are evident throughout the nation, but unfortunately, blows are being struck against those necessary advancements that for generations voters have willingly financed.

Contrary to some political analysts, who maintain the November election was a mandate for more federal spending and federal control, unorganized resistance to further spending might be showing up in all locally controlled segments of government.

Rural communities for years have attempted to lead the way in protesting federal and state spending and their spiraling taxation, yet they have been overly generous in financing schools, hospitals, sanitary facilities and other means of progress. The "hicks from the sticks" have tried to stand on their own feet, to be true to their convictions and to heed the warnings of possible pitfalls connected with strings-attached federal and state funds.

We doubt—or possibly want to believe otherwise—that the current attitude has any semblance of "what's the use." It's a hope, we are attempting to see through rose-colored glasses, that the thumbs-down votes on local tax matters are efforts to bring the controllable and uncontrollable tax problems to a head—to gamble the entire pot in an effort to return America to some semblance of sanity.

The Nyssa community is a good example of "hicks" who have attempted to practice what they preach. The area in past years scored a 1,000 batting average in support of its schools, it financed a modern hospital, city residents built their own sewers and streets many years ago and more recently they agreed overwhelmingly to build their own water system.

The tide started turning last year as was evidenced when voters approved a street improvement project, then were rebuffed when they were not allowed to spend their own money.

More recently neighboring communities have rejected school bond issues, some of them innumerable times, a farmers irrigation group last week overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to rebuild its deteriorated pipeline.

While these rebellions are going on, other communities are getting local voter approval when federal and state funds are promised. When one sees neighboring communities building new hospitals, new water systems, expanding their public works with federal and/or state aid, he might become cynical about his mounting federal and state tax bite and resort to the "me too" attitude. On the other hand, he might believe that his rejection of local tax increases—the only remaining stronghold where he can express an opinion—might return the nation to the ideals he has long cherished.

It is possible the rebellion will be noticed in the Nyssa community in the near future—a community that has received many pats on the back for its efforts to carry on the American tradition of rugged individualism. Nyssa's school board has announced it may call for additional funds next summer, the city has long considered a special election for new sewers and consideration is being given for at least one more taxing district, all subject to the will of the voters.

If these projects are requested from local taxpayers, it is possible local residents will do an about face and say no—not because the proposals are unworthy, but simply because the people are tired of being their brothers' keepers and allowing their own cupboards to become somewhat bare.

Coming Events . . .

American Legion and auxiliary meet first and third Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. in community hall.

Dec. 18—Legion auxiliary will package cookies for Veterans hospital at the home of Mrs. Lyle Grunke at 8 p.m.

Dec. 19—IOOF and Rebekah family Christmas party and pot-luck supper, 7 p.m. at the IOOF hall; Christmas party for children of Eagles and auxiliary members, 4 p.m. at Eagles lodge hall.

Dec. 20—Eastern Star members will hold a cooked food sale at Eder's.

Jacksons Open Home For Fellowship Hours

The Rev. and Mrs. Robert O. Jackson of the Nazarene church will host "at home" in the parsonage at 412 Good Ave. Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Eagles' Children

The Eagles Auxiliary will host a Christmas party Friday at 4:00 p.m. at the lodge hall for all children up to 12 years of age, whose parents are members of the Eagles Lodge or Auxiliary.

Malheur Meanderings . . .

By Johnny Birrel
EVERY YEAR ABOUT THIS TIME (it's nearly Christmas, you know) newspapers, radio and television all over the country start quoting that, by now famous, editorial reply by the New York Times many years ago to a youthful reader's inquiry asking if there really is a Santa Claus.

THIS YEAR SOMETHING NEW WAS ADDED, however. Last Thursday's Wall Street Journal's editorial page carried the following, conspicuously short editorial under the headline "There Sure Is:"

"THE UNITED STATES government is estimated to have given away more than \$60 billion in foreign aid since World War II. Now then, Virginia, what was your question?"

SPEAKING OF LITTLE THINGS . . . Nyssa's accounts payable for last month, approved at the last city council meeting, carried an interesting item—83 cents due for Canyon county, Idaho, taxes. The bill, it turns out, is a perfectly legitimate one for the small piece of property the city retained for boat launching facilities from the airport land just to the south of the bridge on the Idaho side of the river.

WELL, THE RATS HAVE LEFT, and before their special feeding of Red Quill poison, too. The question is, where did they go? To the Vale city dump, as warned by the county sanitarian a week or so ago? Or did they decide to come uptown from their original river bank home? At any rate, they've gone somewhere. The county sanitarian was set Friday to start the special poisoning pro-

gram of the rodents, which were feeding in large quantities near the river, but by then all reports indicated they had exhausted the waste grain that attracted them by that time and moved on before they had a chance to try the poison.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE ANY OF THEM (Andy has suggested you might try some of the city's unsightly vacant lots) just send them on to the Vale city dump; that's where it was predicted they would migrate to if some improvements weren't made, and I'm sure Nyssans would prefer they moved right on through here.

IN FACT WE MIGHT START A RAT-LIFT and furnish transportation for all rats interested in leaving town, particularly in view of the cold nights which make hiking rather difficult, you know. Besides, if we could get them back in a concentrated area again (preferably somewhere besides Nyssa) perhaps they would wait for their poisoned dinner.

SPEAKING OF RIDING (and I hasten to point out, not rats), Nyssa's Fred Bennett seems to have all the transportation angles figured. In that big, four-city Veterans' day parade last month, Nyssa's units, bare-legged majorettes and nearly everyone else braved especially chilly morning air to hike miles in the four towns. And the line of march was led by Fred (as state Legion vice commander) tucked comfortably inside the warm comfort of a new car . . . being chauffeured, yet.

AND THEN THERE WAS SANTA'S ARRIVAL a week ago Saturday, not leading his reindeer, not following a dog sled, but riding into town (but

this time it wasn't in "warm" comfort, believe me) in a helicopter, right to his destination, and with a chauffeur again. I guess that's what comes from living right, or something.

READ SOMETHING THE OTHER DAY which seemed to me might be applicable to Nyssa's unpaved streets and alleys situation, in a couple of different ways—"A rut grown deep enough becomes a grave."

RED HOT, LAST MINUTE

news item! Last year about this time it was a gas war in the area . . . one that dragged on for some time and resulted in some drastic reductions in gasoline prices. This week a new type of war (or at least a skirmish) broke out in Nyssa . . . something entirely new and alien to the price-warring field!

IT'S A HOT CHOCOLATE WAR flaring up, with the hottest

shots (and chocolate, too, I suppose) fired just this week. It all started (so I'm told) with the distribution of a new-type dispenser and hot chocolate mix in this area. Some places dropped the regular 15-cents-a-cup price to 10 cents while some didn't. The latest action—at least one seller dropped the per-cup price to five cents . . . proudly displaying the fact on the rotating cup facsimile on top of his new dispenser.

HEY, KIDS . . .

ANOTHER FREE SHOW

In Nyssa SATURDAY

2:00 P.M.

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