

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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Letters to Editor

Signed letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed if they do not contain comments of a libelous nature or attacks on religious and racial groups. Publication of the letters does not signify the agreement of this newspaper with opinions expressed.

805 N. Second St.
 Nyssa, Oregon
 April 9, 1960

Gate City Journal
 Nyssa, Oregon
 Dear Editor:

I noticed in last week's Journal an article entitled "Christianity is Basis for Easter Parades." That is just as much a fable as the Easter bunny laying Easter eggs.

Next Sunday will be Easter, the forty-day Lenten season comes to a climax on Easter Sunday, a day which is honored throughout the world as the day of Christ's resurrection and which is, therefore, considered the most holy day of the Christian's year. Considering the world-wide emphasis on Easter, it might come as a surprise to some to learn that the New Testament says absolutely nothing about celebrating any special day (other than the weekly Sunday) to honor the Savior's resurrection. Easter is traditional, not scriptural.

The New Testament says nothing about an Easter Sunday. This fact, which is known to every student of God's Word, is confirmed by all scholarly authorities. The Encyclopedia Britannica states, "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the apostolic fathers. The sanctity of special times was an idea absent from the minds of the first Christians" (Vol. 7, p. 859). The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says, "There is no trace of Easter celebration in the New Testament" (Vol. 2, p. 889).

What about the word "Easter" which is found in Acts 12:4 in the King James Version? This word is a translation of the Greek Pascha, which means "passover" and it is so translated in other versions. The translation "Easter" in the King James version is very misleading, for this verse refers only to the Jewish passover, and most certainly not to the Easter of Christian tradition.

Hundreds of years were required for the rise of the Easter tradition. It was not until the Council of Nice (325 A.D.) that it was decided on what day of the week Easter would be observed. Prior to that date, some churches had celebrated Easter on Sunday (regardless of the day of the week). Augustine reports that as late as 387 Churches in Gaul kept Easter on March 21, those in Italy on April 18, and those of Egypt on April 25. Nearly a century later, there was still a difference between East and West on the date of Easter. Thus Easter is pure tradition.

The question now arises: may

Christians be governed by tradition in the observance of such special days? The answer of the New Testament cannot be misunderstood. Jesus stated, In vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men." (Matt. 15:9). Paul wrote, "Ye observe days and months, and seasons and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain." (Gal. 2:10, -11). Paul also warned us not to allow any man to judge us in respect of a feast day. (Col. 2:16). Thus, Christians must be governed by the authority of the New Testament and never by the (uncertain voice of tradition). The whole idea is traditional, and for this simple reason, the celebration of Easter has no place in the worship of the New Testament teaching.

Yours truly,
 Sam Hanby.

Nyssa, April 10, 1960

To the editor:

My father came from a land across the sea. As a boy he used to see the row of statues in the balustrade down the side of the flight of steps leading from the big door in the magistrates' house. At the top stood the marble likeness of the king. At the base of the statue was the legend, "I rule you all." Next tower was the statue of the learned lawgiver. "I legislate for you all." Next step below was the minister, "I pray for you all." A step lower was the teacher, "I instruct you all." And finally at the bottom of the flight of steps, with the weight of all the others bearing upon his stooped shoulders, stood the farmer with his hoe. Under it said, "But God help me. I feed you all." Those canny Germans realized that, more than a hundred years ago.

When we look at the fields, so shortly released from the grip of winter all plowed and disced and harrowed and corrugated, with rows of tender green stretching away to the evening sun, I think we take for granted the miracle of the plow.

In my great grandmother's time the plow was wooden, with maybe a straightened out horse shoe nailed to the edge of what might be called the share. She was born in Ireland in 1800. In her day, one farmer could feed himself and three other people. Now, one of our farmers feeds 23 others who do not live on a farm. Then the hoe, the hand rake, the cradle, the flail, were the standard agricultural implements, and had been, since the days of the Pharaohs.

In those parts of Africa and the Orient where western civilization has not yet penetrated, they still plow with a crotch of tree limbs, pulled by oxen, women, or other beasts of burden.

In all the countries we know about from written history, they never had plows that would plow even furrows side by side until an Englishman in 1832 made a steam plow, and John Deere and James Oliver, Yankees, made

Holy Week Events Set at St. Bridget's Catholic Church

Holy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.—High Mass.

Good Friday, 3 p.m.—The service includes: 1. Scripture readings. 2. Solemn prayers. 3. Reverence of the Cross. 4. Holy Communion. 7:30 p.m.—Way of the Cross.

Holy Saturday: 7:30 p.m.—The Easter Vigil includes: 1. Blessing of the New Fire and Easter Candle. 2. Baptismal service with scripture reading, Chanted Litany of the Saints, blessing of Baptismal water, renewal of the promises made at baptism. 3. The Eucharistic service—a high mass.

Easter Sunday: Nyssa, —Masses at 8 (high mass) and 10 a.m. Adrian:—Mass at 4 p.m. at Holly Theatre.

Confessions: Before and after Holy Week services.

Holy Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. and after the Easter Vigil mass.

Spanish Assemblies Of God Church

106 East 5th, Nyssa, Oregon
 Augusto Vereau, Pastor

The Rev. and Mrs. Augusto Vereau arrived recently from California. The Rev. Vereau is new pastor of the Spanish Assemblies of God Church in Nyssa.

The new pastor extends a welcome to all who desire to attend services. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m.; Sunday evening service, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday prayer and Bible study, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday C.M.F., 7:30 p.m.

On Easter Sunday at 6 a.m. there will be sunrise services and Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., followed by an Easter program directed by Mrs. Evelyn Vereau.

plow shares lined with a piece of saw blade that would turn over sticky soils. Look how the western world has advanced since 1930. The plow has lifted the farmer from the level of the brute.

The hoe is still the standard farming implement in China and the valley of the Nile. This situation may not change too soon. As one young upper class Egyptian, a student at Oregon State, put it, "I can't take tractor plows back to Egypt, and a single combine would do the work of 500 peasants. Then what would they do? There are too many people there and they would have nothing to do."

Without the plow, where would our cities be? Our massive buildings would go the way of Babylon and of Nineveh. How would our fleet of jets survive? How long would our factories hum and our highways and railways and airways scintillate with traffic? We would go back to the grass and the wilderness. The sods of centuries, the forests of ages, the virgin soils of the continents have been given to the use of man by the all-conquering plow only in the last century and a half.

Miracles? Look around you at the fields in this most progressive agricultural area, the valley of the Snake.

—Anna D. S. Pratt.

From This Corner . .

By T.M.B.

In the past week or so we have begun to realize that school will soon be out, only about six more weeks. The extra curricular activities are more in evidence each week and will reach a climax the last of next month. Our senior class will be a thing of the past and the individual members will spread out to the four winds.

Some will probably be married before fall, some will settle down to helping their parents on the farm, temporarily, and a larger than national average, will make plans to enter an institution of higher learning this fall.

For those who wish to go on to school and feel financially unable to do so, we would suggest you investigate the Federal Loan Program for students. The Feb. 1, 1960 issue of U. S. News and World Report carried a question and answer interview with the head of this program and it seemed to us that most any worthy student can borrow money to get a college education. The loan can be paid out of earnings following the advanced schooling, and it carries no interest charge. There must, of course, be a definite need of the money—"pa" cannot loan his money out to draw interest and have his child use government money interest-free.

This isn't just another scheme of letting the Federal Government foot the bill so it won't cost us anything. It is based on the idea that the total earnings of the college graduate will be much higher than the high school student—and Uncle Sam will eventually get the interest back through increased income taxes.

It appears that a bill for some form of medical aid for the aged will be passed by this congress. The aged want it, both political parties want it (from a standpoint of the number of votes it will buy), and the taxpayers are apathetic about it.

The people are beginning to watch the cost of service more than usual, but more on the local level than on the national. The Farm Bureau of Malheur county has started to question the candidates about their stand on various issues and asking how costs can be cut; the school district of one of our neighboring towns rejected a building issue recently; a proposed consolidation of school districts in our county was rejected by the voters the latter part of March; and the police force of Emmett resigned because the council criticized the police chief for his personal actions regarding a woman in his office.

Some people are just naturally "thin-skinned". It's a good thing an editor isn't, else he would write few editorials. It is surprising how many people that disagree with you want to convince you of the error of your thinking rather than display the other side, when offered space to do so. And some think criticism should not be voiced if it seems to disagree with the majority. Conformity seems to be a desired principle.

When we read of all the controversy over Russia; over our plan of defense; over a farm program; over the population explosion; it makes us wonder how long a people so divided can agree on anything.

From Congresswoman Edith Green of Oregon: "At this most critical time in our history, one of my colleagues commented that the great American concern today is losing five pounds and finding a place to park."

We noted recently that a panel of physicians were wondering about finding a method of deter-

mining what is one's blood pressure when no one is taking it. It seems the act of taking it can run the normal pressure up, they don't know how much. It doesn't have to be a pretty nurse taking it, nor does it have to be a physical to determine your draft status, to get the rise.

Following charges by four Protestant ministers of Wheeling, W. Va. that prostitution and gambling were rampant in that city, a "vice and corruption" grand jury returned 49 indictments against 47 people in that city.

It appeared that the issue of how the candidates for sheriff felt about gambling in Malheur county, was pretty well avoided in the Cajo meeting last week. Some avoided answering at all, some felt that the laws should be enforced, and some felt that it was largely confined to the three towns of the county and should be the concern of the local police.

Small boy to his mother, "Is it true that we came from dust and will return to dust?" His mother nodded assent and the small lad said, "Well, I just looked under the bed and there's somebody there either going or coming."

In the papers last week—A 50 inch ad in the Payette paper by an automobile agency advising the public that the city officials had failed to accept low bids on automobiles that met the city's specifications. In the Parma paper an editorial criticizing the actions of the school board for not accepting the bid of a local bidder for a new school bus.

People need to learn to get along with less than perfect persons.

Hard work may never kill one but it certainly is wearing.

See the Gate City Journal For That Printing Order!

DO YOU KNOW?

By Mrs. J. W. Rigney

Melvin Spitzer? That he is an active member of your school board? That he is a family man with four children in school—a son in college, a daughter in high school, and a son in grade school? That he is very interested in all matters concerning our school and community and that he is prepared to tell about the needs of our school today?

That Mrs. Grant Hughes is a member of the Oregon State Mental Health Association; that she represents this area when she attends state mental health meetings; that she is well qualified to discuss problems concerned with mental health in home and community?

Alvin Hicks? That he is principal of Conklin school, Ontario? (If not, you have missed knowing a most interesting person!) You will enjoy hearing him describe Ontario's Special Class for Retarded Children.

Mr. Glen Purdom? Mr. Norman Reynolds? (They are educational consultants, State Department of Education, Salem.) Have you heard that they are coming to Nyssa just to answer your questions about special education programs for children?

That Mrs. Clarice Poor, Elementary Principal, Nyssa Grade School, will be the moderator when the above-named panel members will present a fine program at the Nyssa PTA meeting on Thursday evening of this week?

The place is the Little Theater, Junior High building.

PLUMBING and HEATING

Irvin Zimmermann

Nyssa FR 2-2215
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