

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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'Spoils to the Victors'

Never underestimate the power of a politician—especially if he's a Robin Hood for his local people, and if he can get his hands into the public funds.

It may have been Andrew Jackson, on winning the presidency, who initiated the policy of "to the victor belong the spoils" but our moderns know about it, too.

Judge G. Y. Chester has certainly been a Robin Hood for the people in Vale. He hasn't been outside the law in doing it, but a great deal of money has been spent for them at the expense of other parts of the county.

A perfect example of this has been construction of the 12-mile stretch of road known as Lytle boulevard and a third bridge across Malheur river so that traffic could go directly onto it instead of driving one-quarter mile farther from one of the two existing bridges.

Both of these projects will be financed from "farm-to-market" road funds. The fund gets its name from what it was designed to do . . . that is give the farmers an outlet for their farm products, let the people get to school, to church and to highways leading out of the territory. The federal government puts up 60 percent of the total because some territories were too thinly populated or the valuation too low, to pay for roads, using solely local funds. The state was asked to put up 20 percent and the county 20 percent. The project was to be initiated by the counties since they would know where the greatest need existed and what projects should be completed first.

State highway departments were to approve the projects submitted by the counties and then oversee the construction of them, since they were set up and qualified to do so with their existing personnel.

Did Lytle boulevard meet any of these requirements . . . Did farmers of East Cow Hollow creek need an outlet to Vale for the produce or did they already have black-top roads into Nyssa? And assuming they had enough business in the county seat to justify the cost of this road, would they not be willing to drive the short distance farther to get on one of the two existing bridges to get to the court house?

No, in our opinion there was no justification for either of the expenditures and the people of the county (other than Vale) have been asleep when these funds were being set up by the county for these purposes.

We were not surprised at Judge Chester's attitude. He was frank to say that he has had this whole project in mind for 10 years—that the paving of Lytle boulevard was step No. 1, the bridge at the end of it is step No. 2, getting the state to designate it as a state highway and take it over is step No. 3, and the last step will be to get it designated as U. S. highway 20 after some work is done on it and Idaho has straightened out the road from Homedale to the Oregon line near Adrian.

We were surprised when we talked to Commissioner Earl Flock the following afternoon. In presenting our arguments against construction of the bridge, including selfish ones due to traffic bypassing Nyssa under Judge Chester's plan, we got the same arguments for the bridge that we had gotten from the judge the previous afternoon. It became apparent to us that he had already made up his mind and that he was waiting to have the highway engineer to tell him they had gone to a lot of expense, that the state wanted the bridge, and that there was a good chance that the state would take it over and repay the county for its portion of the cost.

But his statement, released to the press Tuesday afternoon made no reference to what he learned from the district engineer, or if he ever made contact with him. His figures of \$335,000 as cost of Lytle boulevard are in error—according to figures furnished us by Judge Chester and Auditor Don Hosler the previous day, the cost was \$355,315.07. We gave these figures to Flock because he had not checked the cost and he estimated it at \$200,000. The \$67,000 paid by the county is also in error. He apparently took the \$335,000 figure and divided by 5 to get the county's percentage, but he has overlooked that the Nyssa Road district paid \$12,000 as 20 percent of the cost of two miles into their territory.

We were further disappointed in Flock's attitude that since the cost to the county was only \$10,000 that the bridge might be justified. We pointed out that state and federal funds were also part of our money and would be spent unwisely the same as county funds.

It should not matter to us whether money from one pocket is spent for gasoline taxes and from another pocket to pay state and federal income taxes—if spent unwisely we still have the bill to pay.

With one-third of our national income going for taxes it's time we became more concerned over getting the kind of government we want.

In view of Mr. Flock's statement when announcing as a candidate for county judge (page 8, May 12 issue of the Gate City Journal) it is difficult to get his present reasoning. We quote, "The over-all tax load is increasing at an alarming rate and unless some way to halt this trend is found, the small farmer and small businessman will eventually be bankrupt. I'm going to view the budget from a taxpayer's angle, and will do my best to eliminate all non-essential items. Needs not wants should be the governing policy."

We do not propose any veiled threat (through the election) as in our county seat paper of last week. We are not angry with Mr. Flock, because he used, what we think, poor judgment, and we admire Judge Chester in no small way for what he has done for Vale since he has been county judge. They should erect a monument to him on Main street and inscribe a few other names on it as his helpers, but he has faced the "firing line" on the controversial issues.

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES—

"The quality of government, and the costs we pay, will depend upon the kind of men and women we elect to office."

From This Corner . .

By T.M.B.

"In the spring the young people's fancy turns to love" . . . in the fall we older people begin to think of hunting and other pursuits not followed in the heat of summer. But normally we don't have fall in the middle of August.

It was up to 107 Friday and Monday down to 48 here in the valley . . . and whether we're ready or not fall is not far away. The ball teams—Babe Ruth, Little League and "Little" Little League boys—have played their games and are looking to football.

Most merchants have carried their first "Back-to-School" ads and the stores have been doing a rush business in selling clothing for the smaller tots. College comes a little later and the rush for needs for these students hasn't arrived. Labor day isn't far off and only the childless families will still be taking vacations.

From now until the middle of November will be a busy season for most farmers. Many are working about day and night with full crews to get the sweet corn to the factory, potatoes to the produce sheds, and get ready for the fall beet harvest . . . to say nothing of the hundreds of other things that must be done on the farm.

Many of us town people envy the farmers (in a good year) but for my money the family-unit farmers earn all they get. The farm women do their part of the outside work, too, when it is necessary . . . and it usually is with the small farmers.

One day recently we were real proud of our city manager . . . He had just submitted the annual budget figures to the council and had gotten hearty thanks. And our sewer system was paid for with federal funds and \$42,550 was left over from the two grants we had received from this same federal government. But Art couldn't let well enough alone . . . He had the Statesman correct their story and it took away the LONG END and just left us a promise of the \$42,550.

Other disappointments . . . The Oregon Voter has turned out to be very partisan politically and is less than careful in their reporting. They not only changed the name of the postmaster general (page 10, 8-13-60) from Summerfield to Summerville in two or three places but they gave Elmo Smith credit for all the work in delaying moving of the regional postoffice personnel division to Seattle.

We note where he flew to Pendleton in his own plane recently. We question this as good publicity to send out from his campaign headquarters . . . Not too many will be impressed, and it might be resented by some.

Wyoming was the first of the United States to grant women the voting privilege. They received full rights in 1869.

The longest fence in the world is in Queensland, Australia, and is used to enclose sheep. It is 3,437 miles long—about the same distance across the United States from the East coast to West coast.

One of the ranch magazines de-

scribes an OLD TIMER as follows One who remembers when the 5c and 10c store meant it, and when you didn't add another room on the house until you had three more children, and when a girl married a man for his money instead of divorcing him for it, and when people worried about dying broke instead of living that way, and when you worried about where your next dollar was coming from instead of where it had gone, and when you just didn't have to be a thinking man . . . just smoked a corn cob pipe, and diplomacy was giving a hand without giving a handout.

Awed by his secretary's new diamond ring, the boss asked for the particulars. "Oh," she said, "When grandma died she left \$1000 for a stone in her memory. This is it."

The sun tan can fade very quickly in a hospital. Drive carefully.

Final Services Held Saturday Morning For Mrs. Mary Roth

Requiem mass for Mary Roth of Nyssa was conducted Saturday morning at St. Bridget's Catholic church and recitation of the Rosary was Friday evening at Lienkaemper chapel. She succumbed Thursday at a Pendleton hospital following a lingering illness.

Mrs. Roth was born Mary Blittersdorf Sept. 14, 1875, at Ratingen, Germany, a daughter of William and Marie Blittersdorf. Her early life was spent in Germany.

In February, 1898, she was married to Peter Roth in Ratingen, and to this union were born nine children, five of whom preceded her in death.

The Roths moved to America in 1922 and settled at Lakin, Kan., where Mr. Roth was a farmer. After her husband's untimely death in 1936, Mrs. Roth made her home with a son, Carl, and his family and when they moved from Kansas to Oregon, she once again packed her belongings and made the trip west. She was a resident of the Nyssa area for the past 23 years.

Mrs. Roth's hobbies were quilting, knitting and crocheting and her many friends in the area are aware of the fine work she did. Her life was very active and her devotion to her family was unsurpassed.

Survivors include two sons, Carl of Nyssa and Fred of Boise; two daughters, Mrs. Max Dahl of Dusseldorf, Germany, and Mrs. Henry Seidemann of Lemon Grove, Calif. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Services were under the direction of Lienkaemper funeral home with the Rev. John Baumgartner officiating. Interment was made at Nyssa cemetery.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Mrs. Alice Shy wishes to thank friends and neighbors for the floral offerings, food and sympathy extended to them during their recent bereavement.

—W. H. Shy
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Shy, Jr. and family.
Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Shy and family
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Griffiths
Ralph Shy
Edna Shy

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.

Redmond, Ore.
Aug. 9, 1960

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to your paper in the hope that some of your readers may assist us in satisfactorily completing a project of historical interest.

For some time now we have been attempting to trace the route, camps and grave sites of the lost wagon train of 1845 which traveled through Eastern and Central Oregon in late summer and early fall of that year.

The train, estimated at over 200 wagons, left old Fort Boise on the banks of the Snake river and traveled eventually to The Dalles under the guidance of Stephen H. L. Meek, brother of Joe Meek. Their hardships were great; over 40 deaths resulted from their ill-advised attempt to shortcut the old Oregon Trail to The Dalles.

Many versions have been handed down; many stories told. Since this is the train that discovered gold—later to be the source of intensive searches for the lost Blue Bucket mine—much speculation and theory has been repeated as fact.

We hope to eventually establish the main and divergent tracks of this hardy group, but after 115 years the task is a difficult one.

If any of your readers can aid in identifying members of the train, or disclosing additional sources of information about the route, or feel they have any information which could help, that help will be most gratefully received. They are urged to write to the following addresses:

KEITH CLARK
724 South 12th
Redmond, Oregon
or
LOWELL TILLER
12308 N.E. Russell
Portland, Oregon
Thank you,
K. CLARK
L. TILLER

NYSSA FAMILIES MOVE TO NEW LOCATIONS

The Rev. and Mrs. John Briehl and family have moved from 516 North First into the new Faith Lutheran church parsonage located at Sixth and Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wilson and girls, who resided at 14 Emission avenue, have moved into the house formerly occupied by the Briehts.

Mrs. Harvey Howard and children, Mrs. Roy Schabot and children and Mrs. Elmer Bowman after spending the weekend in Mrs. Bowman's cabin near Donnelly, Idaho.

"42 1/2% WILL GO TO THESE SEVEN NEEDY STATES"



Bible Missionary Church to Conduct Daily Bible School

The Bible Missionary church at Second and Beech streets will conduct a vacation Bible school beginning Aug. 22 through 26.

Children ages four through 11 are invited to attend sessions from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each day.

The school will be under the direction of the pastor, the Rev. Noble V. Hunt, and those who will instruct and assist are Mrs. Virgil Seward, Mrs. Don Seward, Mrs. LeRoy Seward, Mrs. Hunt, LaDonna Seward and Sharon Collins.

Theme around which the Bible stories, study and handcraft will be centered is "Following Jesus." An invitation is extended to all children.

REV. TOM FOSTER TO SPEAK AT METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Tom Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Foster, will be guest minister speaking at the 11 o'clock worship service Sunday morning at the Methodist church. His topic will be "Elijah, Prophet of Fire."

The Rev. Foster is a graduate of Willamette university and studied three years at Pacific School of Religion at Berkeley, Calif. He has been pastor of the Haines and North Powder Methodist churches for the past two years.

GONYERS ATTEND SERVICES AT EOC IN LA GRANDE

Leo Gonyer and daughters, Gloria and Marilyn, went to La Grande Friday to attend graduation services for Mrs. Gonyer who received her bachelor of science degree in education.

College Musicians To Appear Friday At Adrian Church

Sterling College Ambassadors, a vocal and instrumental group from Kansas, will give a concert at the Adrian Community church at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19.

The church is sponsoring the concert in the belief that local residents, like the Ambassadors, regard music as an extension of religious worship.

The group is composed of four talented students from the college along with Leon Akin, professor of vocal music. The five men will perform as trumpet trio, male quartet, brass quartet and will give solos on piano and voice.

Sterling's Ambassadors are on a two-month tour that will carry them through 11 states, including nine of the 11 Western states. They will perform at more than 50 concerts and will travel over 7000 miles.

METHODIST HS YOUTH TO HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

Methodist high school youth from Lower Snake river valley will gather Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Ontario park for their annual sub-district picnic.

This includes youth from churches at Nyssa, Vale, Ontario, Payette, Fruitland, Weiser, Huntington and Emmett.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our gratitude to our neighbors and to the Nyssa volunteer fire department for their assistance in extinguishing the fire at our ranch Aug. 6. —Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Rookstool

Advertisement for Firestone Store. Text: 'We BUY, SELL and TRADE GUNS BROWNING SELECT THE GUN OF YOUR CHOICE NOW! We Have All the Popular Calibers of Browning—Remington—Winchester and SAVAGE GUNS in Stock! Take a Look at Our Used Rifles and Shotguns, Too! A Small Deposit Will Hold Your Choice. EASY TERMS AVAILABLE! Firestone Store NYSSA, OREGON'

Advertisement for Swager Ford. Text: 'The good old days are back when mighty little money bought a brand new FORD EVERYTHING GOES! Official factory clean-up for '61... 1961, that is! Get the year's highest trade and best deal! FALCON FORD THUNDERBIRD SWAGER FORD 314 Main Street Nyssa, Oregon Phone FR 2-2288 Only Ford Dealers Sell USED CARS and TRUCKS'