

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Copies 10c
 In Malheur County, Oregon,
 and Payette and Canyon
 Counties, Idaho:
 1 Year \$3.50
 6 Months \$2.50
 Elsewhere in the USA:
 Per Year \$4.00
 6 Months \$2.50

Published every Thursday at Nyssa, Malheur County, Oregon.
 Entered at the postoffice at Nyssa, Oregon, for transmission
 through the United States Mails, as a second class matter under
 the act of March 3, 1879.

Penny Wise . . . Pound Foolish?

Since 1891 Oregon has had a law requiring counties to publish proceedings of the county court and a schedule of expenditures made for the preceding month.

This permitted people to know WHO got the money, What it was spent for, and HOW MUCH was paid.

Not everyone read the record, any more than they read the printing of city ordinances and other legals. But it was there for those who were interested in knowing how their tax money was being spent. And the fact that the officials knew it was going to appear in print made them doubly careful in their actions.

But a bill (SB 77) has been introduced in this session of the legislature to eliminate this law. It was introduced by Senator Boyd R. Overhulse and Representative Ben Evick, both of Madras, at the request of the Association of Oregon Counties (a body supported by taxpayers' money).

The organization says the law is "archaic" and "the cost to the county taxpayer of this publication is an unnecessary burden."

We agree that it is "archaic," in that it is over 70 years old, and it does cost the taxpayers money. (From reports of 11 Oregon counties the cost per person is about 3½ cents annually.) But it is hardly a "burden" on the taxpayer.

They further argue that the records are open to the public and anyone can check the records. This is true but how many have the time or inclination to drive to Vale for this purpose. Malheur county is rather large and it would take hours for Jordan Valley folks just to make the trip without lining up to check the county records. If all the 20,000 plus people in the county wished to check the records when would the elected officials do their work?

It might be argued that we oppose this because it would cut down our revenue as one of the publishers but this is not the case. Our income from this source is a small portion of the paper's revenue.

If you think the people are entitled to know what transpires in county government and the 3½ cents per person is a good investment, it might be well to let your senator and representative know it.

We believe the people are "entitled to know" and that this law of 1891 is one that should be retained.

OUR THANKS

To the People Listed Below
 Who Have Made Possible
 NYSSA'S FIRST ANNUAL
 F.O.E. BOWLING TOURNNEY

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 The Gate City Journal
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 Ralph Lawrence Insurance Agency
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 Bracken's Department Store
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 Owyhee Barber Shop
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 Bob Thompson Insurance
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 —TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE—

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.

January 30, 1961

To the Editor:
 February 14 this year has three distinct meanings: to the younger set, it means the exchanging of valentines; to others, it means the remembrance of the day Oregon became a state; to the voters of Nyssa school district, it means an important election.

On Feb. 14 this year, members of the board of directors are to be elected. In past years, with the five man board in effect, only one member's term expired each year. This was good. There remained four members who had been directing the progress of the school system. School laws governing the state of Oregon said it should be this way.

Effective July 1, 1961, Malheur County School District 26-C will no longer exist. In its stead will be Administrative School District 26.

The Nyssa school board (directors of the newly formed district) is being reorganized to fulfill the requirements of the Oregon state school laws. On Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1961, between the hours of 2 and 8 p.m., voters of Nyssa school district should vote at the little theater of the junior high school building to elect seven (7) members to serve as the board of directors. Terms expire for all members of the outdated five (5) man board.

It is possible that the seven newly elected directors could be serving and not have had any previous experience. It would be well to scrutinize the list of candidates and choose only those who you believe will make the best qualified directors. Present school board members are Henry Zobell, Ralph Lawrence, Warren Farmer, Melvin Spitze and Dale Bingham.

Nyssa schools have been fortunate in the past to have these areas represented on the school board: the area north of the city, Arcadia; the area south of the city, Oregon Trail; industrial area and the business section. With the reorganizing to elect a seven man board another area should be represented—the Sunset Valley community.

People who reside in these areas should be represented on the new school board. They should ask themselves, "Will he make a good qualified director?" This is not a popularity contest. This is an opportunity to elect men who you believe will do a commendable job of directing the progress of your schools.

Voters of the Nyssa schools: It is in your hands, now! The future of your schools! Never before has so much depended upon your choice of directors. For the first time you have the opportunity to vote for a whole new school board . . . seven members . . . all at one time!

VOTE! Feb. 14, 1961, 2 to 8 p.m.

at the little theater in the junior high school building. Turn right when passing through the center entrance facing Adrian boulevard (highway 201).

—W. A. BARTON

To the Editor:
 I have been reading Stan Thompson's sports column in the Gate City Journal with considerable interest. It marks the first time in my association with the Nyssa community that the Journal has had a sports editor. True enough, over the years, busy editors have tried to cover the sports area and I wouldn't like to detract from their efforts or to appear unappreciative of Mr. Thomas, Mr. Powell or Mr. Alters in their attempts to cover our high school athletics.

Aside from his refreshing style of reporting the actual game situations, I notice more and more his invasion of the editorial field of sports writing, such as the conduct of the cheerleaders and half-time entertainment. He could enlarge his scope of constructive criticism to include an analysis of the current slump of our basketball team.

Some things are hard to say without stepping on someone's toes or needlessly hurting someone's feelings. I know that when things go wrong with a team the first person to be criticized is the coach. Have you ever listened to the "board of strategy" that meets on the front steps between halves of the games?

There one learns of all the mistakes of our coaches, our players, the opponents' weaknesses and which boys should be playing instead of the ones who are playing. These remarks are all healthy. It is our way of bolstering our ego among our fellowmen. We can convey the idea that we are experts in this game of basketball.

This is an old established custom which adds zest to this business of supporting local high school athletic events. I wonder sometimes just how far these experts, including myself, should go in trying to mold the thinking of

Retiring Pastor At Adrian Honored By Congregation

Adrian area residents, estimated at 100, attended an appreciation dinner Sunday for the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Moore. The dinner followed regular Sunday morning worship service at Adrian Community church.

A program was presented at the fellowship gathering. Betty Jean Phifer and daughter, Janette, presented accordion solos and a vocal trio was rendered by Dale Borge, Linda Bishop and Harry Packwood, accompanied by Borge on his guitar. Also on the program were talks by Irvin Topliff and Charles Witty, who paid tribute to the Moores and thanked them for their years of faithful leadership.

On behalf of church members and friends, Mrs. M. L. Judd presented the Moores with a money tree gift.

The Rev. Moore retired from his pastoral duties at the beginning of this year. He came to the Adrian church from Portland 14 years ago. The couple has two children, Hank who teaches in the grade schools at Indio, Calif., and Mrs. Betty Jacobson of Hayfork, Calif.

The Rev. and Mrs. Moore plan to remain in Adrian where Mrs. Moore is home economics instructor and librarian in the Adrian high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Smith were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Strickland and girls.

the coaches or players. I coached basketball for nine years in three towns, all larger than Nyssa.

Basketball has changed considerably from those days, but boys' and coaches' psychological problems are pretty much the same. Yet, I would not presume to be enough of an expert to tell a coach whom he should play, or the strategy he should use. I might ask him in a respectful way why so and so isn't making the grade, and I'd most likely get a reasonable answer which in retrospect would be borne out by this player's performance on the court. I would not ask this question for at least a day after a hard fought game.

I don't believe the advice given an experienced coach is going to make much difference in his choice of players or in his overall strategy. He knows what he wants his boys to do and he works all week long trying to perfect the pattern of his plays. Criticism no doubt worries a coach, perhaps makes him less confident and therefore less effective in handling his boys.

The big damage is done among his players. Self pity for the lack of recognition which we experts can instill in a boy makes him less cooperative. He doesn't put the effort into practice sessions and the whole team suffers as a result.

This condition has developed in the present season's play. Up to and including the Ontario overtime game we had a very creditable squad. Rumor has it that there was considerable beefing about the strategy of that game. It was a well played game in anyone's reasonable mind but to hear the howls you'd have thought it was Podunk that handed us the defeat. Since that game our boys have played lack-luster basketball.

I think our experts have ruined what might have been a fairly successful season. The sad part of this is that the advice is given sincerely in an attempt to bolster the winning ways of our team. Let's confine our beefing to our adult friends out of earshot of the youthful competitors who may not be aware of our lack of a basis for constructive criticism. On the front steps between halves everybody is recognized by his peers as an expert. Let's leave it there until the next game.

—FRANK PARR

Dear Editor:

I read the paper and I see the city is going to build a swimming pool this summer. As a community resident, I couldn't help wonder if this is good sound thinking. It seems as though we will need some new school rooms, etc., in the near future. Also the city needs some new streets.

I think the city planners are getting the cart before the horse. Would I buy a bath tub before I bought the house? Do we have recreation or recess in school before we study? I think it's time the planners start thinking about the pocketbook of the taxpayers and let us pay as we go or buy according to the money we have.

I find in a successful business, and the city is a business, you have recreation according to the pocketbook. And that pocketbook appears very short in Nyssa, or the streets, city equipment, city employees' wages, etc., would far exceed what they appear.

I'm just thinking; maybe I'm wrong. I may change my way of thinking. I like Nyssa and would like to see it prosper.

A native for 30 years,
 ELDON J. BARKER



JAMES MCKINLEY, IFYE delegate to Jordan, is shown walking down the street in Jerusalem known as the "Way of the Cross." This is the street where Christ drew his cross to the place of His crucifixion. The Nyssa visited the Holy City during the past Christmas season and describes his experiences in the accompanying story. McKinley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. McKinley of route 1, Nyssa.

IFYE Delegate to Jordan Describes Interesting Yule Visit to Holy Land

(James McKinley, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. D. McKinley, route 1, Nyssa, recently sent the Journal the following report on his Christmas visit to the Holy Land. McKinley is presently staying at the Arab Development Society farm in Jericho. He went in September to Jordan where he is participating in the 1960-61 International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) program.)

Greetings from the Holy Land, the land where Christmas began!

Everyone probably has at one time or another wondered what Christmas would be like in the land where it all came about. I was fortunate to be here during the Christmas season this year as an IFYE student and had a wonderful opportunity to witness this occasion first hand.

This little desolate country would probably be relatively unimportant and seldom heard of if it were not for the many places of biblical interest that lie within time you pick up your Bible and turn to the New Testament, you read from the scriptures the setting of which took place right here in Jordan a few thousand years ago.

During the Christmas season this little country comes to life. People from all over the world come on Christmas day to worship and take in the services during the celebration.

To give you an idea of the nearness of the many Biblical places, follow with our small party of six to Bethlehem on the afternoon of Christmas eve. Our starting point was the Arab Development Society farm which is located in the Jordan valley between the hills of Moab to the east and the hills of Judea to the west. Just two miles below the farm is the place where John baptized Jesus in the Jordan river (Matt. 3:1). To the west is the Mount of Temptation (Mark 4:1-10) and the ancient city of Jericho located at its base. Within Jericho is Eli-sha's fountain (II Kings 2:19-23).

We traveled through Jericho taking the upward climbing road leading to Jerusalem. This road takes us through the barren hills of the Judean wilderness. This land as in Biblical times serves only for the grazing of flocks of sheep and goats in years of ample rainfall. Half way to Jerusalem, we came to the Inn of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30).

After climbing 3540 feet by a winding road, we came to the Fountain of the Apostles. It marks the boundary between the territories of the Tribes of Benjamin and Judah. Just one more curve and we were at the top and in the small village of Bethany (Mark 14:3) with old buildings lining each side of the road. Bethany was much favored by our Lord and it was here in the House of Simon the Lepre that the women anointed Him with precious ointment.

Going on through Bethany, we came to the Garden of Gethsemane which is located just east of the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives is intimately associated with the last day on earth of the Lord (Luke 24:50). Just as we came to the outskirts of Jerusalem we turned to the left onto an even more curvaceous road leading on to Bethlehem.

at Shepherds Field, people of all different walks of life and people of different colored skins were gathered from many lands to participate in the ceremony. Everyone in his own tongue was singing of peace and love together. For once these people had forgotten their troubles, quarrels and racial problems amongst themselves and had gathered here as one big family sharing in the Christmas services together.

Immediately following the services, we went into the Shepherds cave where roasted lamb cooked over an open fire was served between two slices of bread. From Shepherds Field we drove to Bethlehem where we visited the Church of Nativity built over the old inn and manger where Christ was born.

I expected to see a humble place and was a little disappointed in going down to the manger and seeing silver covering the place where He was laid and silks and incense burners adorning the place. I have tried to forget that which I saw and still try to think of the place of our Christ's birth as it must have been then, humble and plain.

Upon completing our Christmas eve visit, our little group got into our car and started down the curvaceous road leading down to Jericho located at an elevation of 1,000 feet below sea level.

Christmas morning, Bernard Erven, my fellow IFYE, and I took a bus to Jerusalem where we attended Christmas morning service at the Lutheran church in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Old City is surrounded by the famous old walls of Jerusalem and it is in these walls that lies the Golden Gate. To me Old Jerusalem is one of the most fascinating cities I have ever been in. Many of the same buildings and streets that were there in the days of Christ are still being used today. There are four gates leading into the Old City, allowing only people and donkeys to pass through.

As usual the narrow streets were crowded with people and an occasional donkey carrying sacks of flour, vegetables and fruits to market. Over the top of the crowd I could see baskets filled with results of the morning shopping being balanced on the heads of women as they made their way through the crowded streets. Now

(Continued on Page 3)

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