

Stan's Stand From the Stands . . .

By STAN THOMPSON

Take a look at Nyssa north park. Instead of a jumble of knotty grass and sick looking weeds, there lies a sand-covered plot of ground slowly being transformed into a Baseball for Kids ball diamond. A top-notch backstop is practically completed and is the result of donated time and effort.

Men using their days off to sit in the hot sun under a welding helmet or to lift sections of pipe into place have one reward in mind, and this reward was summed up by a comment from an onlooking young ball player . . . "Boy, this is the best backstop in the whole town, and it is all ours!"

After further consideration, the high school baseball diamond will be available for Junior Legion practicing. This step into cooperation was greatly appreciated by team manager Larry Roberts, who had visions of having to sidestep cowpiles on a pasture practice field.

The Babe Ruth team will have a twilight game with Fruitland there Friday, and the Major Little league boys traveled to Ontario for a game this Tuesday.

Kinsey Keveren and his track boys—Luke Baker, Paige Zobell, Mike Savage, Frank Walker and Don Arai—woke up the roosters last Thursday morning and hurriedly downed their breakfast. Soon they would be on their way to Corvallis to run for a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow—the state track meet.

Checking the gear and making sure everyone was seated in the cars, Kinsey shouted "Wagons Ho!" and wheels began turning for the distant excitement. Having already captured the district trophy, smiles of confidence pushed back ears as dreaming eyes stared at passing trees and car motors sang "Corvallis, here we come."

Soon trail boss Keveren called a halt to the caravan and pointed to a hotel nearby. It was immediately invaded and camp established. Tomorrow was the big day, and a welcomed pillow supported fanciful dreaming as closed eyes watched a night long track meet.

Morning came and dawn went another breakfast—this time to be burned up on the track field. Equipment was loaded and cars pointed toward the track field.

The caravan pulled up to a gas station for replenishment, and some of the Nyssans regretted not bringing along a barrel when they saw the price tag on the gallon marker spelling out "gas war."

The battleground loomed ahead and leg muscles began to quiver. Some rain and wind teased over the grounds, but the two-day struggle was to go on just the same.

Frank Walker and his broad jump and Don Arai with his shot put were lost in the qualification shuffle. Zobell cleared the bar for third place in the pole vault. Baker stretched out his legs for a second in the 880, and Savage ran behind some heels for a fifth place in the 440 dash. All totaled, our boys held 16 points for ninth place in the state A-2 event.

Pooped out and ready to go home, the caravan turned back toward sugar beet land. Tired posteriors welcomed the lights of Nyssa beckoning home at last at 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

For one fellow who attended, this meet was the last page in his scrapbook. Kinsey Keveren, already a legend in the valley, will step down from his coaching platform in the track world and assume the status of a bystander



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when the starting guns fire next season. Hanging proudly from a bedroom wall in his home is a handsome plaque presented him for his gallant 17 years of keeping Nyssa a track threat and leaving his mark upon each boy he has coached.

If there were only some way to bottle his magic . . .

Adrian Antelope baseballed, stepping cautiously on moss-covered rocks while crossing the creek to state, suddenly lost their balance, fell into the water and were carried downstream out of the running. The mossy rock that did the trick was Umatilla, a bag full of rummy players, a hot-tempered pitcher and an unpredictable coach.

Seeming to last all night, the Thursday evening game dragged itself from inning to inning, slowed by walks and umpire conferences. Big Butch McDonald, the glue of the Antelope team, had a rough night on the mound and a rougher time at the plate.

The bleachers were filled, cars lined the horizon and the umpire finally shouted "Play ball!" Then the feared plague of errors and hard luck swept upon the Adrian team, and the game began bouncing up and down.

Mickey Hastrider was knocked flat on his back while tagging a runner at third, catcher Wayne Sparks had his throwing arm banged out of working order, a visiting player was taken out of the game for an unmentionable word directed at the umpire and to top it off the Umatilla coach protested the game because umpire Roy Buhler was a hometown boy employed by Adrian schools.

This same coach employed a young boy to go and shake the guy wires to the light poles behind home plate right after a high foul ball was caught by the Adrian catcher. The shaking of these guy wires caused the wires over home plate to jiggle. Then this coach jumped up to the umpire and shouted, "Look there, the catch doesn't count; the ball hit the wires!"

The umpire saw out of the corner of his eye the young boy tugging hard at the guy wires, and with a frown on his face pointed first to the coach and then to the Umatilla bench. The coach turned away, and with a grin walked back to the bench for another plan of strategy.

From the way he carried on it appeared he thought the game was televised or he just liked to show off.

Adrian Coach Sam Tyson felt fresh wrinkles growing on his forehead as the game progressed. Having run out of balls via foul tips, many times the game was stopped while search parties kicked through the weeds at the bottom of the hill.

McDonald tired, and the Umatilla bats began sounding like firecrackers. With the score 8-6 the Antelopes had their last chance. With the bleachers trembling and Umatilla jeering, Martinez dug in and lined out. Hastrider walked and McDonald struck out for the fourth time. Parker walked and the tying run was on first base with two out.

Bulky Flores flashes his bat for a single and Hastrider heads for home. But the ball gets there the same time he does and the thumb of the plate umpire jerks past his ear and black cap. The game is over and hopes of winning are blown in bits into the night.

Nyssa Students Receive Degrees At Oregon State

Six students from Nyssa will receive degrees June 5 at the 92nd annual commencement at Oregon State university.

Oregon State will confer about 1760 degrees this year, including some 1370 bachelor's degrees, 336 master's and 52 doctor's degrees. Number of advanced degrees is the largest in history.

Nyssa students receiving degrees include Marvin Richard Niccum, science; Louis Franklin Pratt, agriculture; Carolyn Ann Jones and Sherral Sisson Shoemaker, education; Margaret Ada Butler and Marjorie Sager, home economics.

Baccalaureate service will be Sunday, June 4, at 11 a.m. with Dr. Robert E. Fitch of the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif., as speaker. Commencement exercises will be Monday, June 5, at 10 a.m.

Both will be held in the coliseum at Corvallis to provide maximum seating for parents, guests and the general public, and both will be televised and broadcast over KOAC-TV and radio.

Dr. A. L. Strand, who is retiring as OSU president after 19 years, will make his traditional address to graduates after conferring degrees.

Coming Events . . .

Tonight, 8 p.m.—Banquet for Dairy Princess candidates at East Side cafe, Ontario.

June 2, 2 p.m.—Rebekah Sunshine club meets at IOOF hall.

June 3, 9:25 a.m.—Spring dairy show at fair grounds, Ontario.

June 4, 1:30 p.m.—Malheur County Sheriff Posse Queen contest at rodeo grounds in Vale.

June 5, 9 a.m. to 12 noon—Vacation Bible school at Methodist church.

June 5-16, 9 to 11:30 a.m.—Bible school at Nyssa Christian church.

June 6, 8 p.m.—Eastern Star meeting at Masonic hall.

June 6, 8:30 p.m.—Eagles auxiliary meeting.

June 7, 2 p.m.—St. Paul's Episcopal guild meets at home of Mrs. William Schireman.

Gate City Journal
Classifieds for Results

STATE DRIVERS LICENSE EXAMINER SLATES TESTS

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Nyssa Friday, June 9, at city hall between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., according to announcement received from the department of motor vehicles of Oregon.

Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

VISIT IN LOVITT HOME

Richard L. Lovitt, ET/2 of the U.S. Navy and son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Lovitt of route 3, Parma, arrived home May 20 for a 10-day visit before leaving for a year of shore duty in Japan. Also visiting at the Lee Lovitt home recently was Richard's guest, Linda Moseley of Kent, Wash. Both left by plane Monday for their destinations.

Early Morning Fire Destroys Dwelling

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed at 3 o'clock Friday morning a dwelling occupied by the Orville Maze family at 417 North Eighth street. According to firemen, the family was away at the time and none of the household furnishings were saved as the house was engulfed in flames when they arrived.

According to Mrs. Hudson Robb, owner of the structure, no estimate of damage has been made. The five-room home was of frame construction.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Bellon and family of Van Nuys, Calif., left Tuesday to return to their home after visiting with relatives here and in Boise. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bellon accompanied them to California for a visit.

Journal Classifieds Pay!

LEAVES FOR QUINCY

Lynn Child left recently for his home in Quincy, Wash., after spending the past 10 days at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elwood Flinders and Gail.

He was a Friday evening guest of Jim Benedict and was presented a gift Sunday morning by members of his Sunday school class.

ENGINEERS PLATOON SETS JUNE 6 PAY-DRILL MEET

A class "A" summer uniform pay-drill meeting is scheduled for Nyssa's 321st Engineers platoon June 6 at 7:45 p.m. at community hall.

A teacher, annoyed with clock-watching students, covered the clock with a card on which was lettered: "Time will pass. Will you?"

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