

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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**Nyssa Farmer Honored by Having Oregonian Editor Clean Farm Ditches**

**Editor's Note:** Following is a copy of a letter sent last week by John Schenk, Nyssa farmer, to Joe Bianco, agriculture editor of the Oregonian, with a request that it be used in their Sunday edition. Schenk reports his request has been ignored thus far.

Dear Joe:  
 On July 3rd when I needed a man to clean corrugates on my farm, I phoned the local employment service and my friend Luis (Vendrell) said he would send a man who had just come in from Pennsylvania and needed work—as Luis stated, "He will do anything."

When the worker (?) arrived I sensed something "different" about this man. What was it that set him apart? As he talked (and he surely didn't lack for words) I wondered what situation in life had sent this man to us farmers. He was not like the six other workers hoeing beets nearby.

What was the difference? I noticed his hands were soft—so different from the rest of us. He smoked a pipe—a luxury most of us can't indulge in while working. While I realized this man was not a "worker" my wife and I both sensed that here was a man in need.

When my wife pointed out the field where you were to work, Mr. Joe, and told you what had to be done, she expected that you would at least render a fair measure of service for the wages to be received. Maybe this is unfair as you were so praiseworthy of Mrs. Schenk, the farmer's wife, and really you are so much better with words than with a shovel or hoe.

To verbalize is not my prerogative—you, Mr. Joe, are the newspaperman. The sensational article about your experience as a migrant worker and the "grueling work" you performed on our farm should have sold newspapers. But actually, Mr. Joe, was it honest—or even a true picture?

You came to my farm allegedly in need of work and in good faith. When I showed you how to clean the corrugates and put you to work, it was not too long before I realized you didn't know how to use a shovel. Then I gave you a hoe. When Mr. Joe with the hoe still faltered, I decided that I had contributed sufficiently to your "economic plight" and relieved you of your task. Mr. Joe, if I had known the excruciating pain you were suffering, I would have relieved you much sooner. Please forgive me.

Do you know, Mr. Joe, that the next day I hired a local high school boy, Morris Williams, who finished digging out the corrugates, incidentally doing a good part of your work over. Don't you feel ashamed, Mr. Joe, about accepting pay for your meager efforts? The wage rate was \$1.00 per hour and you kept your own time. It takes a man to toil in

the soil, but in a way we thought we were helping someone in need.

Mr. Joe, instead of flying under false colors for reasons of self adulation, why didn't you study the migrant labor situation from all facets? There are many people in our area, of all walks of life, who can give you a better picture of the migrant worker than your phony stab at acting like one.

The migrant has many problems and most of us in this area realize the situation. We know many are natural born. When a local Mexican immigrant receives his U. S. citizenship the event is celebrated, with participation by his non-Mexican friends from all strata of society. Each spring and fall as the migrant labor children enter our classrooms the Nyssa school system does its best to help them make the most of their short stay with us.

Many of our teachers have learned to speak their language. At present there are 150 migrant labor children attending summer school 6 miles north of us in Cairo. Last week I spent time and money in trying to rehabilitate a labor family. I am not seeking self glory, as this is commonplace among our farmers, but what I wish to point out is that the picture of the migrant worker is not one of exploitation.

The migrant worker cannot step into your job, Mr. Joe, no more than you can step into his. This nation attained its development through foreign born citizens, many of whom experienced some of the same difficulties of our migrant laborers. As they became better educated their opportunities improved.

So will education improve the lot of the migrant worker's family. They will better understand the importance of cleanliness and will not leave their cabin as Mr. Joe found it. Who knows, perhaps one may become a "Mr. Joe" and write legitimately of his experiences as a migrant worker.

Instead of playing for sensationalism, Mr. Joe, why don't you devote yourself constructively to an education program for migrant workers?

Very truly yours,  
 JOHN SCHENK

**DEAR EDITOR:**

If I've seen it once, it's a dozen times—Misspelled names of so and so, Distorted facts, sometimes wise-cracks. Course we can't always be in the know!

But what breaks my heart, there's no apologies; Your readers don't rate, I suppose—No reluctant sighs, no tears in your eyes, Not even a runny nose!

Now I realize you're a busy man And oftentimes wish you were twos, But brother, your job is to turn out a gob

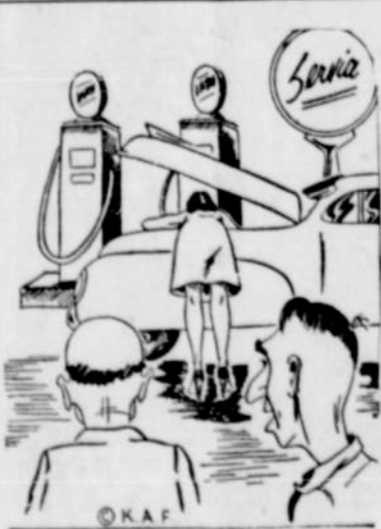
Of disgustingly factual news! I think it's all right to give the editor The dickens once in a while. It may make him frown, that man of renown, But it'll make some other folks smile!

—O. Bratton.

**ATTEND CHURCH CAMP**

Kent Main, Gerald Wyckoff, Bonnie Sager, Marilyn Gonyer and Linda Leseberg left Monday morning by bus to attend Methodist church camp at Wallowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Coe and sons of Roseburg, Ore., left Saturday after spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Talbot and other relatives.



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RECENTLY REORGANIZED bishopric of Nyssa and counselor: Clifton D. Anderson, first counselor. First ward, LDS stake, includes (seated, left to right) R. Frell Blair, bishop; Melvin Neilson, sec- Mark O. Moncur, ward clerk.—Photo by Schoen.

**Various Activities Discussed by Ladies At WSCS July Meet**

Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service held its monthly meeting July 6 in the church social hall. Mrs. Duane Holcomb was in charge of the program and Mrs. Bill Fangen led devotions. Assisting were Mrs. Dick Pounds, Mrs. W. L. McPartland and Mrs. Merildean Robbins.

Mrs. Kinsey Keveren, president, conducted the business meeting. Mrs. Paul Ludlow gave a brief talk on the school of missions. The group also discussed a rummage sale, ice cream social and hospital sewing.

The Frances Major circle has been in charge of providing flowers for the church during July.

**Methodists Feted At Birthday Dinner**

A large cake decorated with pink sweet peas centered the table at the monthly birthday dinner held recently for Methodist members. Mrs. Orland Cheldelin, Nancy Wilson, Marilou Wilson, Mrs. Ava Broughton and Mrs. Bill Hamilton were honored guests.

Mrs. Merildean Robbins was in charge of the program which included ballet dances by Lisa Nishitani and a baritone solo by Ray Evans. Talks on Church Loyalty Sunday were given by Mrs. Mural Lewis and Clifford Fox.

Group singing led by Mrs. Paul Ludlow concluded the program. Eugenia Seuell accompanied the group on the piano. Hostesses for the event were Mrs. Bill Hamilton and Mrs. Woodrow Seuell.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Penrod spent the past weekend camping and picking huckleberries on East Camp creek near Baker.

**FIRST WARD SCOUT TROOP ATTENDS WARM LAKE CAMP**

Nyssa First ward Boy Scout troop, accompanied by Leon Leavitt, spent last week at Camp Billy Rice at Warm Lake.

Scouts attending the camp-out were Alan Cottle, Royce Zobel, Dean Banner, Steve Mann, Ralph Leavitt, Evan Weeks and John Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cottle took the boys to camp Monday morning. Scoutmaster Dean Fife and the Cottles returned to Warm Lake to bring them home at the end of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell returned Sunday evening from Pocatello where they attended the wedding of their niece, Miss Beth Donnelly.

John Weeks and children of Seneca, Ore., returned Friday to their home after visiting several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Weeks. Stevie remained for a longer visit with his grandparents.

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