

**THE GATE CITY JOURNAL**

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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**Ayyoub Spends Christmas in Jordan; Wife, Daughters Visit Nyssa Parents**

Christmas is a time for going home! For the first time in nine years, Ibrahim T. Ayyoub traveled almost half way around the world for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Towfig Ayyoub at El-Hussn, Jordan.

Ayyoub, mathematics instructor at Yakima Valley college in Washington, arrived in the United States on Dec. 17, 1954, and spent his first Christmas in this country with an uncle in Detroit, Mich.

**NHS Group Attends Spiritual Session At Catholic Church**

Thirty-six high school students of St. Bridget's parish in Nyssa gathered at the church for a spiritual day of recollection on the last Friday of the year, according to a release by Father John Baumgartner.

Theme of the day was "What Your Future Will Bring" and serious consideration was given to the recognition of one's vocation in life.

Father Merwyn Nuxoll, pastor of Sacred Heart church in Emmett, spoke to the students. One of the interesting highlights of the day was the "Question Box" in which questions posed by the students were discussed and answered.

A potluck luncheon was served in the rectory with Mrs. Leonard Hewett and Mrs. William Wahlen in charge of serving.

Much of the time from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. was spent in meditative silence. A recording of a talk given by the late Dr. Tom Dooley was played during the afternoon session.

**ARRIVE HOME FROM GUAM**

Mr. and Mrs. Jon R. (Dick) Winter and Jon plan to arrive Friday at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., from Guam where they have been stationed for the past three years. They will spend several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Winter and Harlan, before visiting her parents in Wisconsin.

Winter is a lab technician with the U.S. Navy and following his leave will report to Louisville, Ky.

Miss Helen Winter, a registered nurse at the Portland Medical clinic, arrived Tuesday to spend several days with her parents, the Wilson Winters and Harlan.

**VISIT FROM WASHINGTON**

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lefler and family of Royal City, Wash., were Dec. 21 overnight guests of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Fischer.

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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 necessarily signify agreement of this newspaper with opinions expressed.

**Lists Qualifications Of Mrs. G. Van Horn For Treasurer's Post**

December 24, 1963

Gate City Journal  
 Nyssa, Oregon  
 Gentlemen:

Since there has been no mention of the names of applicants, either on the radio or in the newspapers, for the appointment to the office of Malheur county treasurer to succeed the late George Van Horn, I am taking this opportunity to mention the name of one of the applicants whom I believe to have been fully qualified and deserving of this appointment.

There was one exception to the above statement: Pat Bond, the successful applicant, was mentioned on the radio the day before the appointment was made. But few people know that Marie Van Horn, widow of the former county treasurer, was also an applicant.

I was a member of the group appearing before the county court with Mrs. Van Horn in support of her application when it was presented to this body. The court was told that our appearance with her was not a gesture of sympathy but we felt that it was more a matter of respect for a man who had served the county so well and for such a long time.

They were also told by this group that since there was only a year left in this term that we thought the appointment of Mrs. Van Horn would be only a small token of appreciation for this man's excellent services to the county. Mrs. Van Horn told the court that if she were appointed she would definitely seek re-election next year.

Election campaigns are expensive and involve a lot of time and work. Mrs. Van Horn shared all this with her husband in both of his successful campaigns. During Mr. Van Horn's 11 years as county treasurer, the office was managed with the greatest degree of efficiency and a minimum of expense. He had no extra help and his budget was always at a minimum. We believe Mrs. Van Horn would have operated the office in the same manner.

The county court was also reminded that they should consider what they hoped to accomplish by taking a key person out of an office and placing him in another, the operation of which was unfamiliar to him.

I believe that more consideration should have been given to these applications and that the Republican Central committee should have had a chance to meet and make a recommendation for this appointment. The reason given by the court was that a tax turnover had to be made immediately and that there was not time for the central committee to meet.

Persons who are familiar with this turnover procedure have stated that it could just as well have waited until the following Monday.

GLENN E. HIGH

**GOMEZ COUPLE HAS SON**

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Gomez (nee Delia Lopez) are parents of a 5-pound, 11 1/2-ounce son, Jesse Gomez, Jr., born Dec. 4 in Salt Lake City. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lopez, former Nyssans now residing in Salt Lake. Word of the birth was received by an aunt, Sandra Vre Non of Nyssa.

**CHRISTMAS in the PHILIPPINES**

(Sent to the Journal by Leila Alampay, 1961-62 AFS Exchange Student at Nyssa High School)

Christmas in the Philippines is a 22-day affair and is possibly the longest Christmas season in the whole world, commencing as it does on Dec. 16 and ending Jan. 6, the day of Epiphany.

Although customs and traditions that attend Philippine Christmases are offshoots of those of other Christian countries, the prevailing spirit is peculiarly Filipino, bespeaking that spontaneous, artless and vital fiesta mood that animates all small-town fiestas, be they in honor of patron saints, the homecoming of new graduates, or simply, the blooming of flowers.

The chiming of church bells come dawn of Dec. 16 heralds the first of a novena of masses called "misa de gallo" (mass of the rooster), so named because the novena is held at cock's crow. It was simply and originally a "farmer's mass"—a ceremony of harvest thanksgiving where pious farmers congregated before leaving for the rice fields at dawn.

**Climax Reached Christmas Eve**

As in the old days of pagan feasting where ceremonies of this kind were climaxed by a day of rejoicing and festival, the "misa de gallo" of today, held nine days before Christmas, reaches its climax on Christmas eve—day of rejoicing and festival of the whole Christendom.

The advent of the "misa de gallo" signals the burgeoning along the waysides of picturesque thatched "tiendas" dear to everyone's heart for the sweet smell of their rice cakes molded in bamboo tubes or banana leaves—baking, roasting or buried in hot coals on open clay stoves.

The best yet are those served from clay pots above glowing charcoal embers. These delicacies supplemented with hot ginger tea are truly a delight that one remembers for a long time. The thought of these treats after you come out of church into the nippy December air summons you to the "misa de gallo" almost with as much urgency as do the church bells.

**Lanterns Light Way**

Along the streets as you emerge from these makeshift rice-cake stalls is the heartwarming sight of hundreds of lit lanterns (for it is a custom to light lanterns before leaving for the dawn mass) and various other contrivances of multi-colored lights hanging over windows, doorways, plazas, public buildings—stars of Bethlehem all, leading you home.

In the rural areas, the Christmas lantern, invariably shaped like a star, is the unmistakable Yuletide motif. The Christmas lantern is a Filipino Christmas item as uniquely Philippine as the early December mass. They vary in construction from the bamboo frames to the more ornate cardboard cut-outs with colored cellophane coverings. To light the lanterns, either a candle or an electric bulb is used.

**Manger Scenes Present**

Another Christmas decoration indigenous to the Philippines is the "belen," the Filipino counterpart of the French "creche" or the Italian "belfana." Almost every house in the rural towns has a representation of the manger scene either in the yard or inside the house. If installed indoors, it is constructed of light materials, mostly crayon drawings on paper interlaced and framed by bamboo sticks.

As to Christmas trees, one of the most impressive is that set in Malacanang Park for the annual Children's Christmas Festival. This is fitted with candles which are lit by the President's Lady in a touching ceremony amid mountains of gifts and multitudes of expectant children. The annual affair started years back for the benefit of children of poor families in Manila and attended by as many as 50,000 children every year.

**Sing Familiar Carols**

The spirit of beneficence and goodwill which dominates even the lowliest of homes is evident in the way carolers are welcomed in households as they go around town singing familiar Christmas carols and native songs.

A ceremony still observed in many Tagalog towns on Christmas Eve is the "panunuluyan" which as its name in the vernacular indicates, re-enacts the attempts of the Holy couple to seek shelter. The pageant travels through the principal streets, knocking on doors along the way. Trailing them are devotees singing religious songs until the procession finally arrives at the church door a few minutes before midnight and the participants are "housed" in a ready creche by the altar.

Then starts the Midnight Mass, usually formal "misa cantada" enlivened by the singing of "vilucios" and accompanied by the tinkling of castanets, tambourines and bells.

**Celebration Gains Momentum**

Now the Christmas celebration, started nine days before, gathers momentum and reaches its peak in the midnight supper—the "Noche Buena." Every house is

**Schedule of Services Announced by Pastor Of Christian Church**

A singspiration held Sunday evening at the Nyssa Christian church included congregational singing of favorite hymns interspersed with special selections. A piano duet, "Silent Night," was played by Cathy and Cynthia Spitzer. Linda Clapp presented a piano solo, "Sonatina," and Mrs. Henry Anderson played "When Jesus Came" on her violin.

Items for the "Stump the Preacher" devotional included a small rubber skeleton and pastry brush. Members of the congregation provide articles for the minister to respond immediately with a devotional which the items bring to mind. The Rev. Wallace Prowell reported that he was really "stumped" by these.

"Home and Family" Stressed  
 Sermon title next Sunday morning will be "The Family and God." Emphasis on "Home and Family" will be placed on the January Sunday evening services, the Rev. Prowell said.

The Jan. 5 service will be a film, "God's Will Through Yours." Another film, "For the Record," will be shown at the Jan. 12 evening service. "What God Hath Joined Together" will be sermon topic at the Jan. 19 service and on Jan. 26, a film entitled "Family Worship" will be shown.

All interested area residents are invited to attend any or all of these services, Pastor Prowell added.

**Adrian Community Church News**

Bible study group of Adrian Community church met Dec. 19 at the home of Mrs. K. I. Peterson in Adrian with 12 ladies in attendance. As a part of the lesson, each one present read an article pertaining to Christmas.

**Christmas Program Presented**

Sunday school classes presented a Christmas program on the evening of Dec. 20. Selections included recitations and songs by kindergarten pupils. A narrative and pageant were presented by members of the youth choir, junior, junior high and senior departments.

An anthem was then sung by the youth choir, followed by a narrated pantomime by the junior high department. An organ and piano duet was played by Betty Phifer and Helen Bishop with the benediction given by the youth choir. The entire congregation presented offerings of white gifts.

**CARD OF THANKS**

I wish to thank my doctors and the Malheur Memorial hospital staff of nurses for their kindness and care during my recent stay in the hospital. I also wish to express appreciation to my friends and relatives for the cards, flowers and other get-well wishes I received.

—Jessie Skinner

Classifieds Bring Results!

**LOCAL PASTOR ANNOUNCES CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC**

The Blair family of Mountain Home, Idaho, will present a concert of sacred music at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, at Friendship Baptist church, according to the Rev. A. Griffin.

There will be no admission charge and the public is cordially invited to attend, the Rev. Griffin said.

The church is located at 12 South First street in Nyssa.

**Nyssa Chapel Rites Conducted Saturday For Leona Tallman**

Funeral services for Mrs. Leona Mather Tallman, 61, were conducted Saturday afternoon, Dec. 28, 1963, at Lienkaemper chapel. Officiating minister was the Rev. Arthur Skogan of Owyhee Community church.

Mrs. Tallman was born April 4, 1902, in Aurora, Neb., a daughter of Uriah Benjamin and Nora Maude Satchell Mather. She succumbed last Thursday in Ashland, Ore.

On Dec. 16, 1923, she was united in marriage to James Orrin Tallman at Imperial, Neb., and in 1931 the Tallmans moved from that state to Idaho. In 1938 they moved to a farm just south of Adrian where they resided until 1962 when they moved to Ashland.

In addition to Mr. Tallman, the deceased is survived by three sons, Eldon of Sacramento, Calif., Merrill and Keith, both of Home-dale; two daughters, Mrs. Carol Scott of Arcadia, Calif., and Mrs. Ruth Dakis of Leadore, Idaho.

Also surviving are 22 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Interment was made in Owyhee cemetery under direction of Lienkaemper funeral home, with relatives serving as pallbearers.

**SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE SET AT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

According to the Rev. Armand Larive, the regular 11 o'clock service for Sunday, Jan. 5, has been cancelled. It will be replaced with a 5:30 p.m. service, "Feast of Light," marking the beginning of the Epiphany season.

Church school students will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3, to rehearse for the special service.

Following the Sunday evening service, traditional Epiphany cake, coffee and punch will be served in the church basement, the Rev. Larive added.

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