

Former Nyssa Writes "Letter From Vietnam;" Criticizes Demonstrations

The following letter was received at the Journal office last week and as the writer is a hometown boy, it was believed that it would be of interest to many Nyssa residents. Byron was born in Nyssa and attended local schools. He is a son of Mrs. Marion Osborn of Caldwell and the late Sam Caldwell. According to his aunt, Mrs. Zack Walker, he went overseas last summer and is currently serving in Vietnam. Mrs. Bill Nicholson, another aunt, also resides in Nyssa.

Chu Lai, Vietnam
May 22, 1966

I am a Navy Hospital Corpsman now serving in Vietnam; I am also a native of Nyssa.

Right now my main concern for writing this letter is really to ease my mind. Here we are always getting the unpleasant news of all the demonstrations going on in the United States. This makes us wonder just how the people from our hometowns feel about our involvement in Vietnam. Of course we like to have the feeling that they are behind us all the way; maybe a lot of the things we have to do here are not right. But these things are only necessary in winning the war.

Sure, the people of the U.S. can demonstrate all they want to; they have the freedom to do so. But I wonder if they realize they are just hurting themselves. They don't hurt us in the least bit, as we know that the majority of the people at home are with us all the way. One can't help but think of what kind of kids we are raising these days. I really don't think they realize that if we lose here, our freedom will be jeopardized more than they realize.

The people of Vietnam have never known freedom. The young people have been raised midst war after war. So how can they help but think we are just another country that has come to conquer them. Slowly but surely we are making them realize and open their eyes to the fact that we are here to help them—not to conquer them.

I know a lot of people are bitter because they have lost loved ones here. But do they stop to think that the person who was lost probably believed in what he died for.

We don't impress these people with all our strength and powerful weapons. There are thousands of people won over by just a few



BYRON CALDWELL
... Speaks From Actual Experience

friendly words. Sure it is a regulation war; the kids even call you Joe, but we don't want to be called Joe. We would rather be called by our names.

But the real reason, I believe, is the fact that we are making friends of the people. They no longer have to hide the Viet Cong; instead they can show us where they are and they will be protected for doing so. These people believe almost all that they are told, so when they hear of the demonstrations back in the "states" we have to almost start winning them all over again.

Some of the older high school students will no doubt have to spend some time here; we are hoping they won't; but if they do, now is the time for them to start understanding the Vietnamese people and their customs. They will find this will help them when, and if, they do come over.

I hope to be home in September; but when I return, I don't want to be remembered as a hero, as I'm not. I just want to be thought of as an American who has done his share in helping a poor people find the freedom they have been searching for all of their lives.

And you can believe me when I say they really deserve it.

If we win out here, we will have won our most important struggle against communist aggression to date. Here we cannot just settle for a truce like we obtained in Korea. If we do, all the young American lives will have been lost again in vain.

If any of the young people there at home have doubts in their minds why some day they may have to come here and fight, I would be more than glad to answer any questions they have, if they want to drop me a line. I am surely not an expert on the subject, but I can speak from a lot of experience in meeting the people. I have met many people who want only to be free like the citizens of the United States. They want to make all Americans their friends.

Yours truly,

BYRON C. CALDWELL
First Medical Battalion
Company A
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Thunderegg Capital
Of Oregon

Nyssa Gate City Journal

Thunderegg Days
First Week in August

VOLUME LIX

The Sugar City

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Direct Memorial Activities at Cemeteries



PARTICIPATING IN JOINT MEMORIAL DAY RITES sponsored by Nyssa and Adrian American Legion units were these area residents. They are (left to right) Commander Charles Steffens, Post 79; Mrs. Rose Toombs, Nyssa auxiliary president who placed the wreath of poppies on the veterans' memorial monument at Nyssa cemetery; the Rev. Arthur Skogan, pastor of Owyhee Community church, who gave the Memorial Day message; Chaplain Wesley Browne and Commander Ted Morinaka of Post 109. Others participating in the joint services included Mrs. Morinaka, who placed the wreath at Owyhee cemetery and members of Nyssa and Adrian CAP units.

Members of the Nyssa and Adrian American Legion units were these area residents. They are (left to right) Commander Charles Steffens, Post 79; Mrs. Rose Toombs, Nyssa auxiliary president who placed the wreath of poppies on the veterans' memorial monument at Nyssa cemetery; the Rev. Arthur Skogan, pastor of Owyhee Community church, who gave the Memorial Day message; Chaplain Wesley Browne and Commander Ted Morinaka of Post 109. Others participating in the joint services included Mrs. Morinaka, who placed the wreath at Owyhee cemetery and members of Nyssa and Adrian CAP units.

NHS Graduates Receive Scholarships Awarded by Schools, Organizations

Approximately 20 Nyssa high seniors have won scholarships which will assist or make possible college or vocational training, it is announced by Mrs. Harriet Brumbach, NHS counselor.

Miss Toni Fife was recipient of several awards including a National Merit scholarship. She was one of 2000 "Merit Scholar" winners out of 745,000 who took the test and among the 1 1/2 percent of Oregon's winners. Miss Fife also received a state tuition scholarship to Oregon State university and a Sears Foundation scholarship.

By National Merit Foundation regulations, total cash awarded must be approved by the foundation as is necessary to her four-year college education. Miss Fife has received a personal letter of congratulations signed by Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Victor Haburchak was awarded a certificate of commendation from the National Merit Foundation.

Tentative plans call for Bill Brummett of Weiser to serve as announcer with Kok Kokel of Canby, Ore., to perform as rodeo clown.

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Dave and Betty Rieb Change Store's Name

Effective June 1, the market known as Pounds Grocery officially became Rieb's Market after being operated under the former name for approximately 23 years.

The store was given the name of Pounds Grocery in 1943 when it was purchased by Roy and Hazel Pounds.

They operated the business on Bower avenue until 1952 when they sold out to Glenn Adams who continued to use the same name. In still later years, the market was purchased by John and Marvel Hoare and it was still known as "Pounds."

Early this year, Dave and Betty Rieb bought the business and held their grand opening event on April 2, all of which led to changing the store name after operation as Pounds Grocery for more than two decades.

FEW ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MALHEUR OVER WEEKEND

Malheur county, in spite of the national trend of increasing numbers of highway accidents, reported only three minor mishaps with no injuries during the Memorial Day weekend.

Across the nation, a total of 704 persons lost their lives, 503 of whom were killed on the highways. This figure set a new record for the three-day period.

X-Ray Unit to Visit Nyssa, Adrian Areas

Residents of the Nyssa-Adrian area are reminded of the mobile chest x-ray unit which will be in Nyssa Saturday, June 4, in front of the Idaho Power office on Main street. The unit will be open between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., 2 and 5 p.m.

The unit will visit the Nyssa labor camp Tuesday, June 7, from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The unit will be available to residents of the Adrian labor camp Wednesday, June 8, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Chest x-rays are advisable to all adults at least once a year, in order to help detect tuberculosis, other lung and heart disorders before they become extremely serious.

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Youth Suffocates Under Sand Slide Near State Line

A seven-year-old lad, Juan Antonio Escobedo, suffocated Sunday afternoon when he was covered by a sand slide on the Idaho side of Snake river while playing with young companions.

Police Chief F. E. Petrie reported that the youngsters were playing near the incline adjacent to highway 20-26 at the east end of the bridge when the hill apparently started to slide.

The Nyssa Police department, city employees and volunteer firemen were summoned at approximately 4:10 p.m. and with the assistance of the city's back hoe, the lad was uncovered at 4:20 but was pronounced dead on arrival at Malheur Memorial hospital.

Chief Petrie stated that the slide occurred in an area where swallows have made nests in the side of the hill and the bank has been weakened.

Suggests Dynamiting

The Nyssa police chief said that with a donation of dynamite, members of his department could eliminate the hazard by cutting down the steep angle of the hill and destroying the bird nests. He said that before this could be done, permission would have to be obtained from owners of the property and Idaho state officials.

High mass for Juan A. Escobedo was celebrated at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, June 1, 1966, at St. Bridget's Catholic church, with Father Cletus M. Kirkpatrick as celebrant.

The youth was born Oct. 29, 1958, at Blackfoot, Idaho. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalo Escobedo, several brothers and sisters.

EAGLES PLAN INITIATION

A joint installation service for Eagles aerie and auxiliary officers will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 4 at the lodge hall in Nyssa.

A spring formal dance will follow the service.

Awards Presented to NHS Students For Various Activity Achievements

Newell Cleaver, student body president, gave the welcoming address during Nyssa high school's annual class night assembly held Tuesday evening, May 24, in the school cafeteria. Mr. and Mrs. Dee Garner, outgoing PTA co-presidents were presented a special Tupelo award by Meriko Atagi, yearbook editor. Miss Atagi also presented a special copy of the school annual to Clay Jensen, to whom this year's Tupelo is dedicated.

PTA room count award was presented to the sophomore class.

FFA awards were made by Adviser Stan Sisson. Jim Bishop was named the outstanding FFA member and was presented the De Kalb award. Mark Brown of La Grande, state president of Future Farmers of America, presented Mr. and Mrs. Glen Peterson a plaque of five stars.

American Legion citizenship awards went to Darlene Bale and Eugene Brown. Presentations were made by Charles Steffens, commander of American Legion Post 79.

Margie Presents Flag

Margie Staples, exchange student from Australia, presented the student body with the flag of her country, which was accepted by Principal Gene Chester.

Eugene Brown received the Calvin Wilson Memorial trophy. The award was presented by Everett Heldt, president of Nyssa Volunteer Fire department. The trophy is given annually to the outstanding senior athlete. Also considered in making this award

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C. Quinowski To Fill Position Of NHS Counselor

Charles Quinowski, social studies teacher at Nyssa high school, was appointed guidance counselor by the school board at a special meeting held Friday evening.

Quinowski will attend a summer session on counseling at the University of Oregon and will assume his new duties next fall. This will involve counseling at both the junior and high school levels. These are duties which have previously been performed by Mrs. Harriet Brumbach, and she will now devote full time to the library.

Superintendent W. L. McPartland said that he now will have to hire a social studies instructor for the high school, and he still has a vacancy for a primary teacher that must be filled.

4-H Spring Fair Slated June 7-10

About 600 4-H home economics exhibits are expected at the annual Spring Fair which will be held June 7-10 at Ontario high school cafeteria.

Other activities taking place throughout the week include bread, cake, muffin baking and meal preparation contests. Clothing and knitting club members will be competing in contests relating to their projects.

Judges for the exhibits and contests include Mrs. Zedean Ayer, Vale; Mrs. Barbara Brown and Mrs. Nan Humble, Hermiston; Mrs. Ruth Boyd, North Powder; and Miss Betty Elder, John Day.

Highlight of the four-day event will be the style revue and awards presentation which will be held at 2 p.m. Friday. Nearly 200 girls will model garments which they have made in 4-H projects. Older 4-H members will design and construct the stage setting and write the narratives.

Many special awards will be presented as part of the program.

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Gem Club Members Seek Information Concerning Advanced Registration For Thunderegg Days, August 3-6

Nyssa Event to Feature Exhibits, Tours; Snake River Gem Club to Display Stones

Publicity is well under way for Nyssa's first annual Thunderegg Days to be held Aug. 3, 4, 5 and 6, it is reported by Chairman Harold Brendle. Five hundred letters were recently mailed to gem clubs west of the Mississippi and Canadian provinces inviting members to the event.

Brendle also reports that inquiries from club members for advanced registration have been received from Lewiston, Mont.; Kingman, Ariz.; Hawthorne and Blythe, Calif.; Big Fork, Mont.; Elmhurst, Ill.; Amarillo, Texas; and El Monte, Calif.

Nationwide publicity was gained through the Lapidary Journal with a half-page ad in the May issue. In addition to the May publication, the rock hunters' magazine will carry information in the June and July issues. This publication reaches over 40,000 subscribers throughout the United States.

Thundereggs Attract Visitors

Brendle stated that interest in the thunderegg has brought people to Nyssa during the past week from California, Ohio, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Nebraska, Colorado and Texas.

Nyssa Chamber of Commerce and the Snake River Gem club are co-sponsors of the event. Many exhibits of individually-owned stones will be on display during the last three days of the weekend. Tables and booths will be provided where stones may be traded.

Tentative Schedule Listed

The chairman said the following tentative schedule has been planned.

Wednesday, Aug. 3—Registration of visitors at Nyssa Chamber of Commerce office.

Thursday, Aug. 4—Breakfast sponsored by Jaycees, 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Guided tours to Thunderegg beds in Succor creek beginning at 8 a.m. Guided tour to agate and petrified wood areas in Jamieson bog at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 5—Repeat of tours of previous day.

Saturday, Aug. 6—All rockhounds "on their own."

The Journal will carry in future issues all additional information regarding plans and activities as they are formulated by the committee.

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CRAIG FROERER presents a \$10 check to Don Bishop, vice principal at the Nyssa elementary school. The money represents half the profit obtained from a farm project conducted by students at Arcadia school and is to be used to purchase playground equipment there. Others taking part in the venture were Howard Lowe and Paul Kesler (both seated), Gene Bair and Virgil Seward, teacher. Early in the year, two animals were purchased, one a calf the students named Daisy Mae and the other, Troublemaker, a feeder pig. The youngsters borrowed bank money to purchase the animals and cared for them on a plot near the school. Just prior to close of school, the animals were taken to Caldwell for auction. Daisy Mae was sold to the auction company and Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Kesler Jr. of Arcadia returned home with Troublemaker.

