

THE GATE CITY JOURNAL

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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Simple Rules Can Save Lives

With the advent of the summer water sports season, Edward J. Slezak, chairman of the recreation department at Oregon State University, has listed a few simple safety rules that could save hundreds of lives.

Because of the near availability of water areas in the Nyssa vicinity—such as the Snake river which virtually runs through our back door and Lake Owyhee—we feel these precautions are worthy of space in this column.

The OSU chairman points out that some 7,000 persons will accidentally drown this year in the United States and 75 percent of the deaths will occur in water less than 100 feet from shore. He lists these life-saving guides for swimmers, divers, boaters, water skiers and scuba divers:

Swimmers—Never swim alone; don't swim at night; avoid staying in water too long—30 or 40 minutes at a time is ample length; never take long swims unless escorted by a boat and two good swimmers in the boat; obey all rules and regulations posted at swimming areas.

Divers—Don't dive in unknown waters; dive only in water of sufficient depth—8 feet depth from one-meter boards and 10 to 12 feet depth from three-meter boards; dive only in designated diving areas; look before you dive—check for swimmers in diving area; use protective trunks or suits for fancy diving.

Boaters—Avoid overloading or overcrowding in the boat; wear life jackets, Coast Guard-approved; use boats that are in good condition; never leave an overturned floating boat—wait for help to arrive or direct craft toward the shore; know marine laws governing all water craft.

Water Skiers—Ski in areas free of debris; understand water-skiing signals; two qualified swimmers should be in the tow-boat—one pilot and one "rope" man; make all rescues or returns to boat with motor cut-off; keep a paddle or two in the boat for manual operation if necessary.

Scuba Divers—Obtain expert instruction before scuba diving; never scuba dive alone—always with a buddy; know and understand tricky currents; don't dive beyond safe depth limits; purchase and use only approved equipment that is in excellent condition.

A Youthful Point of View

Despite its obvious shortcomings in failing to fulfill certain generally accepted functions of a high school yearbook, Nyssa's 1966 Tupelo has many praiseworthy aspects. Regrettable is the failure to record, for example, such important events as athletic game scores and the fact that NHS wrestlers under Coach Mel Calhoun this year racked up an impressive list of victories, climaxed by capturing second place in state A-2 mat competition.

It was not the original intent of this writer to offer a critique of the publication. Adviser Margery Nihart and the staff headed by Editor Meriko Atagi are to be complimented, in particular, for a relatively brief rhetorical gem. Appearing as part of the Tupelo's introduction beneath a superb two-page aerial scene of Nyssa by Photographer Ron Schoen is the following, which we believe to be typical of today's youth's increasing appreciation of what they have and enjoy. We also believe it is worthy of reprinting for the benefit of those older Nyssa residents who may not have seen the yearbook or who may have overlooked it.—MWU.

"Nyssa is like any other town in that it has houses, streets, buildings, churches and a school. However, other towns don't always have the warmth and friendliness with which the Nyssa people have been gifted.

"Our town and our school work hand in hand. The school depends on the town for support. The town depends on the school for teaching its citizens.

"We, the Tupelo staff feel that our town should be displayed. It is known to be a small town, but don't you feel that it is the greatest town in the U. S. A.?"

ATTEND CORVALLIS RITES Boise returned home Sunday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Orvil Hickman and Larry, Lynnette Seburn of Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Brown and Marilyn Hickman of Boise attended funeral services for their father and grandfather, F. C. Hickman, who succumbed May 25.

COMMERCIAL CLUB SMORGASBORD

Wednesday, June 8, 1966

Starting at 12 Noon

\$1.50

Brownie's Cafe

Iva Johnson, Owner
113 Main Street Nyssa, Oregon

TRAIL BLAZER



Kangaroo Korner

By MARGIE STAPLES
(From the NHS Bulldog)

It seems incredible to me that it is eight and one-half months since school started, nine and one-half months since I arrived here, and that I will be leaving Nyssa in six weeks. I've never known a year to pass so quickly.

I have had so many wonderful experiences it is impossible to review all of them. There was that surprise birthday party last October, the band trip to California, a white (or nearly white) Christmas, playing in the Pep Band at basketball games, more parties and dances, and our next big attraction, coming soon—Graduation!

We don't have any elaborate graduation ceremony in Australia, since the results of the final exams don't come out until after school has terminated. I'm looking forward to May 22, even though it will mean the end of school.

I wish everyone could have the experience of being an exchange student. It might sound like a lonely, scary year, but in such a friendly town as this, and with such a wonderful family as the Nedrys, it's very easy to feel at home.

Has the experience been worth it? From my point of view, it certainly has. Apart from gaining a lot of first-hand information on your country, I think I have gained an understanding of the world in general.

I hope I have also been able to bring a bit of Australia to you. Incidentally, one of the best ways of finding out about your own country is to live in another one for a while.

I want to thank you all for accepting me into your town, your school and your homes.

If any of you should ever chance to come to Australia, please be sure to contact me.

My address, incidentally, is 7 Denman Avenue, Cronulla New South Wales, Australia

LETTER To the Editor

Portland, Oregon
May 27, 1966
Nyssa Gate City Journal
P. O. Box 785
Nyssa, Oregon 97913

Dear Sirs:
Audrey and I are deeply grateful to, and want to thank, the people of Oregon who expressed their confidence in me on May 24.

There is only one real reason to seek the governorship of Oregon and that is to improve the vantage point from which to come to grips with the issues. And you may rest assured that my concern with the issues transcends partisanship or personal whim.

Now that each party has chosen its nominees, I'm anxious to get into the substance of the fall campaign, bringing to all corners of the state my program of progress for people.

Respectfully,
TOM McCALL

ARRIVES FROM FLORIDA
Mrs. Theodore Wheeler of Dalton, Fla., arrived Sunday night to visit her aunt, Mrs. Nora Graham. The latter plans to return to Florida with her niece in approximately two weeks.

VISITS FROM EAGLE
Mrs. Corrinne Haney of Eagle, former Nyssa, recently spent four days in the C. A. Wernick residence.

I would also appreciate hearing from any of you if you feel like writing.

I hope some day I can come back to Nyssa. Many of you will probably be gone, but just to visit with some of you again would be great. But even if I never return, I will always remember my year here. In fact, I know it will stand out in my memory as probably the greatest year of my life.

And I will never forget the friendly little town that made me so welcome.

Vacation School Set For Methodist Youth

An invitation is extended to all children, ages four (kindergarten) through the sixth grade, to attend Vacation Church school during the week of June 6-10 at Nyssa Methodist church, located at Emission avenue and Third street.

According to the Rev. Ralph A. Lawrence, school hours will be 9 to 11:30 a.m. daily. An open house for parents will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 10.

There will be no charge for the school and all are welcome to attend. Activities will include lessons, prayers, songs and other creative projects.

IT'S YOUR LAW

By Oregon State Bar

Beware of Relying On Verbal Leases

Tom and Jane, a young married couple, were going to have a baby. Tom was hard working, but had not saved enough money for a down payment on a house. Their apartment was not large enough for him and Jane, as well as the baby, so he began to look around for another place to rent.

Rental houses were hard to find, but Tom managed to locate one. It was old and in poor repair. The owner told Tom he could have the house on a two-year lease if he would "fix it up."

So Tom painted the place, inside and out, and made all of the necessary repairs. He fixed up the old fireplace in the living room and built a small patio in the back yard.

Three months after Tom and Jane had moved in, they received notice to move out. The owner had sold the house.

Only then did Tom begin to think about his legal rights. Could the landlord do this to him? After all, hadn't he told Tom that he could have a two-year lease?

Tom found out, to his sorrow, that no mere verbal understanding would hold up in a case like this. Only a written lease would be effective for such a long-term rental.

A lease is a contract between the landlord and the tenant, and binds them both. That is why in such situations the renter should have a written lease.

In this case, Tom may be able to collect the reasonable value of the improvements he made to the house, but he cannot force the landlord to keep him as a tenant. He will have to look for another place for his family.

(Oregon lawyers offer this column as a public service. No person should apply or interpret the law without the aid of an attorney who is completely advised of the facts involved. Even a slight variance in fact may change the application of the law.)

GREAT-GRANDSON ARRIVES
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Strait of Traver City, Mich., are parents of a son born May 6 at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The infant is a great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Corey of rural Nyssa.

Classifieds Bring Results!



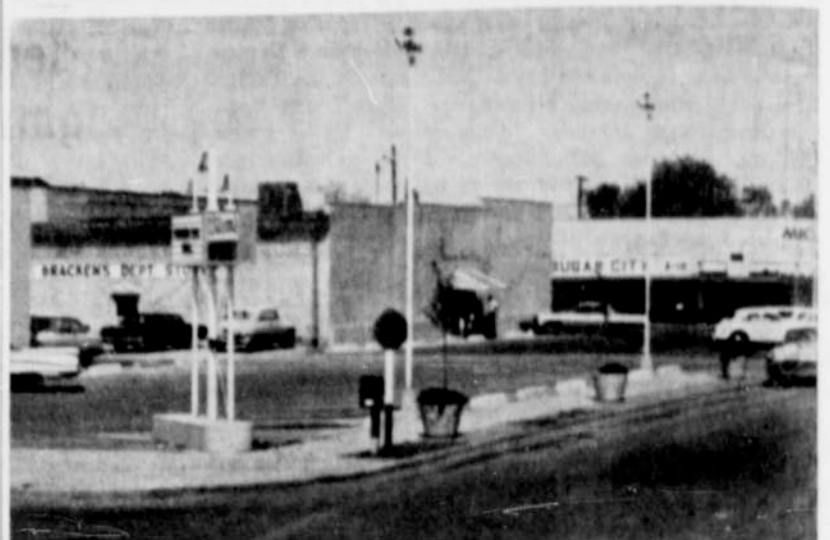
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"THUNDEREGG MALL"—Located in the center of downtown Nyssa. Inspired by the recent dedication of this latest improvement in his hometown, Audrey Ward, an occasional contributor of pioneer-day articles in the Journal, has written the following nostalgic account concerning the history and development of the area located at Second and Main streets.—Schoen Photo.

'From Horse to Auto Parking Mall'

By AUDREY WARD

When I was a small boy, building of the old "Wilson Ditch" which ran through Nyssa was noted as a great stride in progress. It was an irrigation project which pre-dated the Owyhee canal and watered some land along the Snake river and also the townsie of Ontario.

Water was taken out of the river, and the ditch extended a few miles above Nyssa. And, as I said before, ran through town. At the time it was constructed there was no town west of the railroad tracks.

Later as the town expanded on the west side of the tracks, the ditch became a nuisance to the city of Nyssa. It once siphoned the flood waters of the Snake into town and flooded the city. Each east and west street had a bridge over the ditch.

Hitch-Rack Offers "Parking"

This caused some waste property along both sides of the ditch and this land became the first "parking mall" in Nyssa. It consisted of a hitch-rack for horses near the present site of Maulding clinic. There was also another west of the old Hotel Western, which was handy to the Boydell Mercantile firm housed in this building.

At this early date, we raised horses on the range and as they were not salable until broken or trained, we broke large numbers of them to harness or saddle.

Saddle horses were always ridden to town and tied to the rack while we would go to the drug store for hot chocolate or ice cream, according to the season.

Break 30-40 Horses at a Time
The particular horses ridden to town were then ridden home, unsaddled. Another was saddled and we would go back to town under the same procedure. We would break 30 or 40 horses at a time and it would mean a lot of trips to town for several riders.

Sid Foster, the druggist, said he could not only tell when the Wards were breaking horses, but he could also tell just how many

Under these conditions, the city purchased the old "Wilson Ditch" property and filled in the canal. The town of Ontario was mighty happy to get rid of it as it was making a swamp on the land where the college buildings now stand.

Well, what had taken thousands of hours of labor with men and horses to build, the ditch was filled, using thousands of hours of labor with men and horses—and this was the second big step in progress.

Eddie Powell built a garage on the spot which was formerly the bank of the ditch; the Hoxie property was torn down and a service station was built. This was the third big step in progress.

Merchants Purchase Property
Just recently these buildings were purchased by the group of Nyssa merchants, torn down and again the property becomes a parking mall.

Gone are the ditch, hitch-racks, horses and buildings—and the area is much the same as it was before the ditch was constructed years ago. Except now it is blacktopped and cannot produce greasewood any more.

So, I have lived to see the fourth big step in progress at nearly the same location in Nyssa.

NYSSA—Tuesday, June 7

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