

Urgent Requests by Readers Bring New Article From Pen of Nyssan Praising Pioneer Era With Present

Many requests after publication of a previous article praising this area's pioneer days, written by Mrs. John E. (Bessey) Nyssa, the Journal is printing another of her interesting stories. She has put in many hours of research, gathering information from the story in her own words. Many incidents are from numerous other areas, including Arkansas and Kansas, states of the Journal publishers.)

Now what remains of this small settlement? Not a hanging gate nor a board. They, too, are completely gone, as is the barefoot boy who trudged dusty roads to bring home the milk cows. All are gone with the insatiable brush of time.

There a small school was the focal point of entertainment and the "literary" was in vogue. Teachers were permitted to correct unruly pupils with little interference from homes. They themselves were patterns for dress and deportment.

As a rule, young women were the instructors, for married ones seldom taught. And it was not unusual for one of the larger boys to court, or attempt to court, the young teachers. No names will be mentioned here. There were no school buses to pick up the small fry on a zero morning, nor for that matter, any morning.

Homesteading families were many, but some did not hold to the end. As far as the eye could see there was only sagebrush. Fields had to be cleaned by hard labor and wells dug to provide water for house use. Water was transported on sleds from the Owyhee ditch to make possible the growth of fruit and shade trees.

Food was the first consideration, but some can remember miles of gallant poplars guarding the roads and forming windbreaks. This was a strong visionary race of men and women with nothing short in their approach to life. They were wonderful people whom residents of today can never repay.

These pioneer families brought children with them and still others were born on the new land and under primitive conditions. Like the tiny one who arrived before Dr. J. J. Sarazin, never opened its eyes to the light of day, and was taken outside a small house and laid in the snow.

Readers of this article may well shudder, living in reach of a modern hospital, but these were frontier days. Some of the pioneer children have scattered to chosen walks of life, but others have remained to carry on in an entirely new world of sewers, irrigation, cement and a plush new way of living.

This writer suggests a drive through the productive rural section of the Nyssa area, while trying to visualize it in untamed acres of pioneer days. With jack rabbits leading uninhibited lives, the settlers used to gather for "rabbit-runs."

This meant corralling hordes of rabbits into a crude enclosure and killing them by hand in almost any manner. Even the children participated, and this would probably cause the present-day psychologist to weep blood.

It did seem a cruel practice to this writer, while witnessing it, but it was an age of survival and rabbits were most destructive. The settlers needed every available source of income.

This was homesteading, and no place for weakness! Rattlesnakes were in this area before the white man and certainly contested their priority. Many were forked up while hay was being loaded and were a menace to assisting young boys.

Sheds held no shiny farm machinery, and long gone are the faithful plodding work horses whose bones now mingle with the soil. Dark, icy mornings and only a lantern lighted the cowsheds which were made of any available wood or sagebrush and straw roofs.

These resourceful people were made so by necessity—and necessity is a drive toward achievement. Oil lamps with their brave flickering flames were the only lights in the tiny homes.

How proud the families were when the first gaily-colored china lamps were available to those early-day mothers who accepted their way of living, although having today's same desire of expression.

Can patrons of today ever give them the homage due their memories? Their patience with heavy washtubs, no hot water and mounds of soiled clothing to be made spotlessly clean on a washboard.

Then there was the mothers' deep regret when calling small lads, often three in a bed, to help with early morning chores. Today, to develop the super-ego into a strong wind, each child should have his own sleeping room and paddock windows to accommodate space for furniture and clothing. What today's youths have missed by having never crawled through an open window in answer to a whistle of a pal next door!

So grew a community! Fences were built and gracious homes replaced crude ones. The Ward house withstood changes throughout many years; but at last it, too, bowed its weather-worn head to progress—a home rich in voices beyond the human ear.

Horseback riding became no longer a means of transportation, but an act of social grace. Weather and work-worn hands learned to handle the automobile. However, this was not always successful, remembering the time J. T. Long took out the display window of Wilson's store on Main street.

The area shed a frontier aspect and a new way of life began! Today's rodeo fans try to regain that spirit—and it is a testimony to those early times. It is almost romance!

The fatal brush of time will go on forever and ever—and be not deceived into believing that today's enjoyments are lasting. The lettering on modern business fronts will soon fade and give way to new ideas.

What can the future hold in material things by improvement over the ones seen today? This writer cannot know, nor even guess—but time is a moving force, not governed by mortal man.

It is only hoped that changes will find people ready, making them stronger men and women, fit to claim inheritance from those patient, hard-working families who homesteaded to make this community possible.

Those of the younger generation, who read this article, may think well of the present age by enjoying it and its responsible relations to an illusive time.



PRACTICING FOR CROSS COUNTRY MEETS with such schools as Boise, Nampa, Caldwell and Borah are nine members of the cross country team. They are (front row, from left) Donnie Wilson, Rudy Vendrell, Tim Clarkson, Charles Bale, Craig Jamieson; back row, Robert Haile, George Heider, John Shell, Ted Barton and Coach Ralph Aldrich.—NHS Photo.

Livestock Group To Hold Meeting Oct. 21 in Ontario

The annual meeting of the Malheur County Livestock association will be in Ontario Friday, Oct. 21, starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Moore hotel banquet room, according to Merle Cummings, president.

Among the topics discussed will be the emergency feed grain program designed to help those who have been damaged because of drought conditions. Jim Christian, office manager of the county ASCS committee, will explain this program, who will qualify and steps to take to apply.

Larry Williams, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's association, will tell of the activities of the state association during the past year and also of some of the expected activities in the coming legislative year.

Max Lieurance, district manager of the Bureau of Land Management, will give a progress report on their range rehabilitation program.

There will also be a discussion on the findings of the Public Land Law Review commission and other activities as a result of their work.

Committee reports and actions will cover work of the legislative and taxation committee, brand, herd health, junior activities, membership and public lands.

The association will develop resolutions and recommendations to be presented to the Oregon Cattlemen's association Nov. 3-5 in Pendleton.

The annual banquet will be held in Moore hotel at 7 p.m. that evening.

Cummings urges all stockmen to attend and participate.

Final Rites Pending For Jose A. Castro

Services for Jose Angel Castro, a resident of the Adrian area for the past four years, are pending at Lienkaemper chapel. Mr. Castro succumbed Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 19, 1966, following an illness.

He was born Dec. 18, 1884, in Mexico. Among survivors are four sons, Miguel Castro of Adrian; Jose Castro, Nyssa; Manuel and Lupe Castro of Texas; two daughters, Mrs. Suse Ramirez of Texas and Mrs. Teresa Medina of Adrian; 34 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

TUESDAY IN PAYETTE ATTEND BRIDGE SESSION

Nyssans attending a bridge party Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Bernard Frost in Payette included Mmes. Otis Smith, A. C. Sallee, Jessie Morgan, Elsie Diven and R. G. Larson Sr.

Biological Control of Insects, Weeds Shows Good Results in OSU Research

The current controversy surrounding use of agricultural chemicals to control the insects and weeds that threaten man's food supply as well as his health has brought increasing attention to bear on the search for natural, or biological control, of these pests.

Interest in biological control is not new, at least to agricultural scientists.

The first biological control research was conducted at Oregon State university some time before 1913, when a bulletin on insect enemies of the codling moth was published.

Continuing research in the area of biological pest control at OSU during the past years has brought some spectacular successes, according to Paul O. Richter, chairman of the OSU Department of Entomology.

Several Types Explained

There are several types of biological control agents, points out Richter. These may be bugs that prey on other bugs or they could be certain types of fungi, bacterial or virus.

In any case, before the control agents are released, they are thoroughly investigated to make sure they won't turn and attack desirable insects or plants after their job is done.

Since 1924, 30 different parasites have been brought into Oregon to help control 14 insect pests. Most successful has been the use of a parasite fly to help control the earwig, and use of a wasp to attack the woolly apple aphid.

Insects Used Against Weeds

Insects can also be used to help control weeds, Richter noted. In some cases, weeds have been brought into this area from outside the country, leaving their natural enemies behind.

Insects have been brought into Oregon in an attempt to control St. Johnswort (often called goat weed or Klamath weed) as well gorse, tansy ragwort and puncture-vine.

The control of St. Johnswort has been spectacular, and insect pests that feed on gorse and tansy ragwort are now well established. Since 1948, colonies of a small French leaf beetle have been released in many areas of Oregon.

The beetles have practically eliminated St. Johnswort in several areas of both western and eastern Oregon.

Spots Selected Carefully

Studies aimed at biological control of forage insects and of symphylans are receiving increased emphasis at Oregon State university. As other promising insects for biological control become available, they are being introduced into Oregon in carefully selected spots by OSU entomologists.

While biological control will continue to be an important weapon in the fight to protect man's food supply and his health, says Richter, it will not be a substitute for chemical control in the foreseeable future although in some cases it may serve as a valuable supplement to agricultural chemicals in the control of insects and plant pests.

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