

### The Gate City Journal

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Copies.....10¢  
 In Malheur County, Oregon, and Payette and Canyon Counties, Idaho:  
 One Year.....\$4.00  
 Six Months.....\$2.75  
 Elsewhere in the U. S. A. Per Year.....\$5.00  
 Six Months.....\$3.00

Published Every Thursday at Nyssa, Malheur County, Oregon

Entered at the Post Office at Nyssa, Oregon, for Transmission through the United States Mails, as a Second Class Matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

## WHY I VOTE

The blood of free men stains by ballot sheet. Whatever others may do, I shall not carelessly make my mark. I vote not because I can, but because I must. Those that died for this, my voice in my Government, had a right to expect that I would prepare with every faculty to use it wisely, honestly, and courageously. They did not die that blind partisans, or the reckless might make a game of free elections.

Only my secret heart knows whether I justify the definition of "Voter" as they wrote it in the reddening sand. If I love my country as they did, I question my qualification again and again.

I carefully study the issues and candidates to determine not what is best for me or my minority, but what is best for my country.

I will not be confused or deceived by propaganda, slogans, or histrionics. I shield my eyes to the glitter of personalities, purge my mind of passion and prejudice, and search diligently for the hidden truth. I must be free of all influence save that of conscience and justice.

I vote as if my ballot alone decided the contest. I may lose my preference, but I will not throw away my sacred vote. For within the booth I hold in my humble hand the living proxy of all my country's honored dead. - Reprint from annual report for the American Bar Association on "American Citizenship" by Ralph Bushnell Potts.

**SUNSET VALLEY** - Mr. and Mrs. Jim Langley have received announcement of the arrival of a grandson born Oct. 19, 1968 to Dr. and Mrs. Rex Langley of Talhina, Okla. The infant has been named Troy Stuart, and is a grandson of Mrs. Sarah Hobson of rural Nyssa.

### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NOTES

Members of the Couples' club of Faith Lutheran church will meet at 8 o'clock this evening, Oct. 24, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kassman, at 605 N. Second street.

According to Pastor Orville Jacobson, eight young people from Faith Lutheran church will dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ on Sunday, Oct. 24, during the 'Rite of Confirmation.' The young people have undergone intensive training for the past two years under the pastor's supervision.

The students are Ronnie Schoen, Brent Richesin, Dan Nichols, Sharlene Kido, Patty Ross, Pat Neely, Joe Nelson and Greg Michael.

### ADRIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Presbyterian meeting will be held Friday morning at the Southminster church in Boise. There will be a coffee hour at 9:30, followed by a meeting at 10 o'clock. Those planning to attend are asked to take a sack lunch.

The youth groups from Parma, Homedale and Roswell will meet with Adrian youths at 7 o'clock Sunday evening, Oct. 27 at the Adrian church.

### TRICK OF TREAT FOR UNICEF

From 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31 young people from the community will be calling at each home for a "Trick or Treat" for UNICEF.

UNICEF is the only United Nations agency exclusively concerned with the well being of children.

The budget provides aid to basic health services, it assists nutrition projects, supports education and vocational training, and trains local personnel to assist their children. Not one cent is used to administrate these great services.

The young people are asked to meet at the following places for the area they will canvas: Fourth-sixth grade at Nyssa Christian church; junior high students at St. Bridget's Catholic parish hall; high school students at St. Paul's Episcopal church.

After the door-to-door collection, the young people will return to the place where they began for Halloween parties. Pastor Orville A. Jacobson of Faith Lutheran church is this year's chairman.

### FHA GIRLS BEGIN MAGAZINE DRIVE

Members of the Nyssa chapter of the Future Homemakers of America have launched their annual magazine drive which started Oct. 23 and will run until Nov. 27. Business manager for this project is Patty Lowe, and team captains are Becky Blaylock and Shirley Cleaver.

According to the rules, the losing team will be forced to treat the winning team with a banquet to be held in December. Proceeds from the drive will go to purchase a refrigerator for the conference room in the Nyssa public library.

### AHS CALENDAR

TODAY - 3 p.m. AHS band marches in the Idaho District 3 marching festival at Caldwell.

TODAY - 8 p.m. Bonfire and Freshman talent show.

Oct. 25 - 3 p.m. Homecoming parade through Adrian.

Oct. 25 - 8 p.m. Varsity football Wilder at Adrian.

Oct. 25 - Following game Homecoming dance with The Sun of Caldwell. All alumni welcome.

Oct. 28 - J.V. football at Middleton.



### MALHEUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Oct. 18 - To Mr. and Mrs. Camelo Espinoza of Nyssa, a 6 pound, 4 ounce girl named Leticia.

Oct. 21 - To Mr. and Mrs. Haken Anderson of Harper, a boy.

Oct. 23 - To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gustavson of Nyssa, a girl.

### HOLY ROSARY HOSPITAL

Oct. 18 - To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hines of Nyssa, a boy.

### METHODISTS PLAN SPECIAL SERVICE

Members of the WSCS of Nyssa Methodist church will participate at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 in the annual Week of Prayer and Self Denial service to be held in the church parlor.

The service was initiated in 1887 and focuses on guided mission study. More than 1,541,000 women in 33,000 societies throughout the 50 states are joining in the observance.

Theme of the 1968 service, sponsored by the women's division of the United Methodist board of missions, is "Christ, the Giver of Life."

## AOI DIRECTOR LISTS FAULTS - PROBLEMS OF 1 1/2% LIMITATION

Let us review very briefly the contents of the 1-1/2 per cent limitation. Essentially petition calls for an amendment to our constitution, limiting the total amount of property taxes that all local taxing districts can levy against any parcel of property to 1-1/2 per cent of its market value.

It exempts from the limitation tax levies for payment of principal and interest on bonded indebtedness. It permits the limitation to be exceeded by a vote of the people, once a year, at the general election in even numbered years, and at a comparable date in odd years when there is no general election. However, 20 per cent of the registered voters must vote in favor of the measure, and those 20 per cent must also constitute a majority. The measure gives the legislature authority to implement this constitutional amendment and, finally, it repeals the present constitutional restriction that limits a local government tax levy to an annual increase of 6 per cent.

Let me explain the significance of this last point. The present 6 per cent limit is a restriction on the total amount of money in dollars that each district may levy over the previous year, or more technically, over its tax base, without a vote of the people. In contrast, the 1-1/2 per cent would apply to the combined tax levy of districts and would be tied to the market value of property rather than to the previous year's levy or the tax base. Clearly, this is a limitation on local government, because all the property tax goes to local government -- not a penny goes to the State.

This proposed 1-1/2 per cent limitation's most apparent selling point is that it would reduce property taxes for a majority of taxpayers. For example, property taxes averaged roughly 2.6 per cent of market value in Portland last year. Under this limitation this would, of course, be reduced to 1-1/2 per cent, at least, initially.

On the other side of the coin, the proposal has, at least, six major defects:

1. It would short-change local government as much as \$150 million a year and virtually destroy local control.
2. Almost 40 per cent of the relief granted under this Act can be given to property taxpayers in Multnomah County.
3. It will require massive new revenue sources at a State level if schools and local government are to survive.
4. It could result in higher property taxes for many taxpayers.
5. Oregon's tax structure will be a quagmire of uncertainty during the years of litigation necessary to find out precisely what the vague terms in this proposal mean.
6. After the initial cutback, the measure will actually permit property taxes to go up at a faster rate without a vote of the people than the rate of growth under the 6 per cent limitation.

Let me elaborate on these six points. First, according

Act. Some counties would receive no relief at all.

This brings us to the third problem--that is revenue replacement and distribution. Since this proposal does not provide for another tax source for local government and since we can't absorb such a substantial loss by economy in government, how are we going to replace the loss? Where are we going to get the money?

Proponents argue that we could raise the necessary revenue by increasing the value of property, because it is substantially under-assessed. In saying this, they are asserting that the assessors in the State, County Boards that back them up, and the State Tax Commission that supervises them are not conforming with present laws, which is not, in fact, true.

Oregon is regarded throughout the country as the model state in the administration of the property tax. The examples proponents use are not valid; they will not hold up under even cursory examination. And even if we assume that, in fact, property is substantially under-assessed throughout the State--and that we can pick up the difference, the loss under the 1-1/2 per cent limitation, by increasing the value of property, obviously, taxpayers won't get any property tax relief, because while we would be cutting the tax rate we would also be applying the reduced rate to an increased value. So Oregon taxpayers would wind up with the same tax liability as before.

Another curious thing that proponents of the initiative measure have said: that is, that the property tax in this state is driving industry out of Oregon. On the other hand, they say that business property in particular, in this State is under-assessed and should be increased. The two are directly contradictory.

Others argue that replacing the revenue loss is the legislature's job. The legislature can provide the money. This isn't necessarily so. The proponents are forgetting Oregon's referendum, which the people of Oregon have used repeatedly to void or defeat legislative - enacted tax increases in the past.

It seems questionable, at least, that the people of Oregon would reverse themselves on this occasion, especially when the tax increase they would have to vote on would have to be very substantial if it were to provide enough revenue to keep local government operating anywhere near the present level. By substantial, I mean an 80 per cent surtax on the State personal income tax or a 4 per cent sales tax.

But let's assume that the people would let the legislature raise taxes sufficiently to make up most of this loss. Where would the legislature get the money? Basically, there are four major sources of revenue. Only two of these could be themselves raise sufficient revenue to do the whole job,

and these I just mentioned. First, an increase in the personal income tax for 80 per cent; and secondly, a sales tax that either has a high rate or that taxes food, drugs and services. A third major source of revenue would be the elimination of property tax exemptions.

But you would have to eliminate the exemptions on such property as household goods, motor vehicles and intangible personal property such as checking and savings accounts, insurance equity, etc., because over 80 per cent of privately-owned exempt property is in these three categories. The fourth source of revenue could be increased user charges on such services as water, sewage, etc. This, of course, would not necessarily require legislative action.

If the legislature increases taxes to assist local government under this measure, then we have a distribution problem. That is the problem of distributing State-collected money back to local government in a fair and simple way.

Even if the legislature can overcome the hurdles I have mentioned, it probably could not provide the money in time to head off massive cutbacks, at least initially, at all levels of local government.

The fourth point--Property taxes do not now constitute 1-1/2 per cent of market value in many areas of the State. I think a Tax Commission report, recently issued, showed that 23 per cent of the code areas were below this level, and this is particularly true in rural areas where fewer local government services are performed. In these areas, property taxes could be raised under this provision substantially.

The increase from 1 per cent or 1-1/4 per cent up to 1-1/2 per cent, in these areas, could be without a vote of the people because the 6 per cent limitation, which regulates this kind of growth in tax levies, would be repealed.

Point number five: it would take years of litigation to determine what this proposal means. Just recently the Legislative Tax Study Committee requested the opinion of the State Attorney General on 19 particular issues that have been raised about the 1-1/2 per cent limitation. This will give you an indication of the legal problems that are built into this because of the vague language that is involved.

Here are some of the questions that they have asked and not yet received answers from the Attorney General:

1. a. What is the meaning of true cash value? In subsection 1 of the proposed tax limitation, what is the meaning of it?
- b. Can the legislature define true cash value for property tax purposes as well as for other purposes in the property tax field, such as for setting the standard of value for timber or farmland?
2. a. Does the 1-1/2 per

(Continued On Page 5)

## INSURANCE

FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS  
 \*Life \*Liability \*Auto  
 \*Fire  
 \*Disability  
 Full Protection . . .  
 at Low Cost

**NOLAN FIELD**  
**INSURANCE**  
**AGENCIES**  
 THREE OFFICES TO SERVE YOU!  
 Vale Nyssa Ontario  
 Phone Lloyd Bone Phone  
 473-3157 Ph. 372-3162 889-6990

IF YOU BELIEVE IT'S TIME FOR  
 A CHANGE ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

## ELECT HENRY ESPLIN

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE  
 for  
 MALHEUR COUNTY  
**COMMISSIONER**

- **CONSERVATIVE** :- KNOWS FEDERAL MONEY COMES FIRST FROM LOCAL TAXPAYERS AND IS NOT A GIFT.
- **PRACTICAL** :- REALIZES (LIKE ANY OTHER FARMER - STOCKMAN) THAT TAXPAYERS MUST LIVE WITHIN INCOME REGARDLESS OF HOW IDEAL THE PROJECT.
- **PROGRESSIVE** :- BELIEVES WE NEED BETTER ROADS, BETTER PRACTICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND A BROADER TAX BASE.
- **OPEN-MINDED** :- KNOWS ALL PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS AND WANTS TO HEAR ALL SIDES BEFORE MAKING A DECISION.

Have Been A Resident Of Malheur County 25 Years, Own and Operate A Livestock Farm Near Nyssa, Am Chairman Of Nyssa School Board & A Farm Bureau Member.

## INQUIRE OF THOSE WHO KNOW ME !

(Pol. Ad Paid For By Henry Esplin - Route #2 Nyssa)

### Professional Directory

**Physicians and Surgeons**  
 K. F. KERBY, M. D.  
 K. A. DANFORD, M. D.

Physicians and Surgeons  
 Dial 372-2241

HOURS: 9 to 12 noon & 2 to 5 P.M. - Monday through Friday. 10 to 12 Saturday.

**MAULDING CLINIC**  
 L. A. Maulding, M. D.  
 Physician and Surgeon  
 Dial 372-2216

HOURS: 9 to 12 noon and 2 to 5 p. m., - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 9 to 12 noon, Saturday. Weight labs "By appointment only" - Wednesday.

**DAVID W. SARAZIN, M.D.**  
 Physician and Surgeon  
 HOURS: 10 to 12 noon & 2 to 5 p.m. - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday. 10 to 12 Thursday & Saturday.  
 Phones: Office 372-3365  
 Residence 372-3173

**Optometrist**  
 DR. JOHN EASLY  
 18 North Main Street  
 Nyssa, Oregon  
 -Phones-  
 Nyssa . . . . . 372-2949  
 Ontario . . . . . 889-8017

**Veterinarians**  
 TREASURE VALLEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL  
 Phone 372-2251  
 DR. B. E. ROSS  
 Nyssa . . . . . 372-3552  
 DR. JAMES REILLY  
 Parma . . . . . 722-5848

## Don't Wait 'Til Winter TO HAVE YOUR FURNACE SERVICED.

## LET US DO IT NOW AND IT WILL BE READY FOR WINTER.

# EDER'S

101 N. FIRST NYSSA PH. 372-2266

## FOR FALL PLANTING YOU CAN'T BEAT OUR CERTIFIED NUGAINES WHEAT . . . AND . . . ALPINE OR LUTHER BARLEY

See Us for All Your Feed and Seed Needs!

# FARMERS FEED & SEED CO.

117 GOOD AVENUE NYSSA, OREGON PHONE 372-2201