

The Gate City Journal

DIRICK NEDRY, Editor & Publisher
RUBEN LOPEZ, Shop Foreman



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The Old Oregon Trail

Congressman Al Ullman introduced legislation last week that will have a great impact on this area if passed by Congress. The bill will provide for the establishment of a National Historic Site at Vale.

There are no existing historical parks, sites, or museums dedicated to the Oregon Trail and the emigrant movement along the Trail route, and it is fitting that such a monument be placed in Eastern Oregon where the pioneers crossed the Malheur River and in many cases stopped to rest and recuperate.

Included in the broad plans are restoration of Vale's famous "Old Stone House" to the original condition, completely furnished in authentic style; an information center (museum) to house many antiques and reminders of the early days of historic Malheur County; a park comprising several acres adjacent to the Malheur River, which will be made into a campground for visitors.

Other facilities proposed are a multi-purpose stadium to seat several thousand persons, a building to be used for horse shows and other displays, renewing of old buildings on the proposed development site which takes in three city blocks.

Maintained will be the crossing site of the Malheur River, an event re-enacted during the Oregon Centennial in 1959; an open space of land to be available in the proposed park providing a site for activities such as walking, bicycling, horseback riding, etc.

The park, as proposed, is ideal for community and school gatherings, and will also prove valuable to many gatherings at the county seat.

The first large wagon train moved West from Independence, Missouri in 1843, with almost 900 people, and almost 600 of these were children. More came in succeeding years as news of the 1843 migration travelled East rapidly. Travel over the now rutted path continued in rising waves until 1869 when the first transcontinental railroad was completed.

The trail crossed the Snake River just south of Nyssa near Old Fort Boise. It progressed towards Vale along what is now Lytle Boulevard, and the original trail is now a gully along the road as erosion has gradually deepened it.

The Hot Springs at Vale was a favorite camping place for emigrants and the famous men among them, Kit Carson and Captain Fremont to name a few.

The Old Stone House was built by Louis B. Rinehart and was completed in the fall of 1872. For the next two decades the house was the social center of the early pioneers, and became a popular wayside inn.

The first stage station in the area was set up in the old house when a stage line was established between Boise and Canyon City in 1878. When the Indian War of 1878 broke out, U.S. troops assembled at the Malheur River crossing to intercept the Indians, and many of the scattered settlers moved to the Stone House for safety.

We hope the Congressman gets his bill passed, and there seems to be a reasonable chance that it will pass. Much ground work has been done, and the Vale City Council has passed a resolution "turning over to the Department of the Interior the city owned improved and open space land necessary for the present development of a comprehensive historic, education-recreational center, dedicated to the Oregon Trail and its significance to the development of the Pacific Northwest for public use and benefits."

Oregon History has always been a required subject in Oregon Schools, and to us it has always been the most fascinating part of American History, starting with the Louisiana Purchase, the expeditions of Lewis & Clark, and the "wagon trains". They passed right through here, and most certainly a shrine should be built commemorating the heroics of those who settled the West.

It will be great for Vale, but it will also be great for all of us in this area; and it will be a place where the students of Oregon History in our schools can visit and see where the action really was.

In Memoriam

Rolland Hyde

Rolland Lloyd Hyde, 51, a lifelong resident of Malheur County, died September 14, in Portland.

Services for Mr. Hyde were conducted September 17, at High Chapel by the Rev. Richard Scott of the First Christian Church of Vale. Interment was at Valley View.

Mr. Hyde was born January 29, 1919, at Ontario. He attended schools in Vale where he graduated in 1940.

He worked with cattle and horses at many area ranches. Mr. Hyde also was active in rodeo productions in Eastern Oregon and Idaho.

He served with the U.S. Army in World War II and was with the American Expeditionary Forces in Africa, Sicily and Italy under the command of Gen. Mark Clark.

Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Gladys Hyde, Portland; three daughters, Mrs. Cheri Phelan, La Grande, Crystal Hyde and Mellany Hyde, both of Vale; a son, Clinton Hyde, Portland; two sisters, Mrs. Clarice Kelley and Mrs. Elaine Blackburn, both of Portland.

OUT OF THE PAST

10 YEARS AGO

The Annual Harvest Festival, Krazy Daze, is planned for the first week in October. Fun and bargains are promised for all. Committee members say that plans are progressing "real good".

According to City Manager Art Colby, a dead rat was found by city employee Ralph Lowe Tuesday just south of Chestnut.

The rodent was a gray-black roof rat which is known to be dangerous to small children. It is one of the most destructive species and could cause unlimited trouble if allowed to breed in the vicinity, Colby warned.

He asks that Nyssa residents keep an eye out for these pests and call the office immediately if any are sighted. He also requests that all garbage be covered and old lumber stacked four to six inches above the ground, as these are good breeding places.

20 YEARS AGO

Warren L. (Brick) Atherton, assistant cashier, will assume the duties of J.W. Leslie in the local branch, of the First National Bank of Portland, George J. Mitchell Nyssa manager, announced this week.

Leslie has resigned his position as assistant cashier in Nyssa, effective October 2, to accept a vice presidency with the State Bank of Malheur County, the First National of Portland affiliate in Ontario, Mitchell said.

Officials announced that Art A. Atherton, brother of Warren, has resigned as president of the State Bank of Malheur County to become manager of the large branch of First National of Portland at Salem, effective October 15.

Nominees for officers of the Malheur district of the Ore-Ida Boy Scout council were announced this week. They are Robert Thompson, district chairman; Elden Yergensen, vice - chairman; and Harold (Dusty) Rhodes of Ontario, district commissioner.

30 YEARS AGO

Ray Morfitt, Frank Wilson, Herb Smith and Norbert Sarazin, all regulars of last year's Nyssa High's football squad will be the mainstays on this year's team.

Over one thousand young Oregon men will be given the opportunity to receive job training in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the October enrollment from Malheur County, according to an announcement by the State Public Welfare Commission. Young men will be selected on the basis of their interest in and ability to profit from the educational and vocational training.

A questionnaire circulated among students of Nyssa High School this week revealed that, out of the 264 students enrolled, 130 want to play some musical instrument, according to Gordon Finlay, instructor of instrumental music.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Editor, The Journal:

We desire to say THANK YOU and tell the citizens of our area about the FABULOUS '72. Our problem is that your print is not LARGE enough or BOLD enough to express our appreciation to the FABULOUS '72.

For many years, we have experienced the unusual friendliness and cooperation of the people of Nyssa but the FABULOUS '72 have shown the old-fashioned sociability of keeping our son entertained during his stay in the local hospital. Not all of the callers were from the class of '72 but it would be impossible to list everyone and we do not know all the students who called on Hal during the four months but we do wish to say THANK YOU for keeping his time occupied. The entire community can be more than proud of the type of YOUNG people we have in this community and the FABULOUS '72.

Thanks to all of you.
Sincerely yours, Kay Brendle

50 YEARS AGO

Kingman Kolony -- The commodious new school building is so near completion that school will commence Monday, the 27th. A library and kitchen are two features of the building.

A serious automobile accident in which several Nyssa people narrowly escaped fatal injury occurred just this side of Ontario yesterday afternoon. An Essex car in which H. Bostic, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pickering, Mrs. Robert Pickering and Mrs. Gorman were going to the Fair became unmanageable and plunged from the road against a telephone pole injuring all the occupants more or less and demolishing the car.

60 YEARS AGO

Mrs. J.M. Jenkins is reaping the returns this year of a few hundred dollars well invested in 160 acres of Nyssa's fertile productive land. Three years ago she purchased the Robert Van Gilse ranch two miles northwest of town for \$12,000, this was \$75 per acre. Today the land is worth \$250 or \$300 per acre, at least, and no doubt she would refuse twice that amount. The first year her prunes sold for \$12,000, the original price of the land. This year her prunes netted (above all expenses) \$12,000. The apple crop is valued at \$15,000 and this is a very conservative estimate. The hay was sold for \$7.50 per ton bringing \$3,300. Many ranchers have done as well comparatively.

Oregon has 40 post offices over 50 miles from a railroad. This is a record in the United States as there is not another state in the Union that can come anywhere near it. Idaho and Texas are tied at 25 for the honors of second place. The present railroad activity will be continued till every section has been tapped.

Work Smarter - Not Harder

BY BERNICE STRAWN OSU Extension Specialist

"Make" more time with odds and ends of time between other jobs or while you're waiting for someone.

Use these bits of time to plan the next job, think out problems or do simple tasks. Keep a list of jobs that take five minutes and squeeze them in at odd moments.

You can also make time by realistically appraising your next problem, we were told by women who attended our Work Smarter Not Harder workshop. Is the job necessary? Are you doing it the easiest way? Or are you following the inefficient pattern because it's the usual way?

It's surprising how many chores shrink in importance under close scrutiny.

Brides -- if your husband complains that his shirts cling when he takes them off, you can spare him this annoyance.

When washing shirts, use fabric softener in the last rinse. Read the instructions on the softener label for the amount to use.

Don't confuse fabric softener with water softener -- these are two different products with altogether different purposes. If you aren't familiar with these products, ask your county Extension agent for a free bulletin, "Be a Better Buyer of Laundry Aids."

Disposable items save time but add greatly to pollution problems. And you pay for their convenience.

Take the disposable diaper, for example. This costs 5 to 6 cents compared to 4 cents for a diaper service. There's very little "visible cost" if you launder them at home.

We're not against convenience but think about which disposable items are most needed. Do you have to use them all of the time?

To remove oily soil from the head rest and arms of upholstered furniture with a soil-repellant finish, use a dry white cleaning fluid. Follow the instructions on the label of the cleaner.

Your county Extension agent really stay clean? In one test, a series of ovens were used. A total of 4 1/2 tons of meat were roasted or broiled in each oven. Each oven was in operation over 375 hours. All ovens were reported to have remained clean.

The racks and glass door had to be scrubbed. If pies or casseroles boil over, this type of soil must be removed. The continuous clean oven cannot handle this automatically.

Continuous clean ovens are different from those termed "self cleaning" in that high temperatures are not required for cleaning.

Do continuous clean ovens really stay clean? In one test, a series of ovens were used. A total of 4 1/2 tons of meat were roasted or broiled in each oven. Each oven was in operation over 375 hours. All ovens were reported to have remained clean.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will hold a "Fall Yard Work and Potluck" Sunday, September 27th, after the church service. It is requested that you wear grubbies to church. Workers of all ages are invited. The potluck will be served at 12:30 p.m.

A Fall Rummage Sale is being planned by St. Paul's Episcopal women. It will be held Sept. 28-29-30 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the church basement.

St. Bridget's News

St. Bridget's CYO group met Monday at 5:00 p.m. and voted to spend Monday morning working on the Church grounds. Following the work party all will join in a sack lunch social.

St. Bridget's Lay Advisory Board met Wednesday Sept. 16 and discussed the Christian Education program of the parish, the use of the Christian Education Building and the financial status of the parish.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Young People of the Christian Church met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ballou Sunday, September 20, for a pizza supper. Approximately nine members attended the affair.

Journal Classifieds Bring Results!

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