

### NEWS FROM BIG BEND

BY GOLDIE ROBERTS

**BIG BEND** - Mr. and Mrs. Ted Avery were guests of honor at a family luncheon last Sunday in honor of their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Payette Adventist School. The occasion was given by their children, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Walker and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Avery of Weiser. The Averages were married December 8, 1923 at Boise, Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Green of Richland, Oregon returned home with them and were overnight guests.

Mrs. Dyre Roberts accompanied Mrs. David Krause of Nyssa to Nampa last Sunday where they were luncheon guests of Mrs. Marie Douglas and Mrs. Florence Henderlinder.

The Big Bend Home Extension Study Group met Tuesday, for a 12:30 "no host" luncheon with Mrs. Ben Witt. The meal featured several dishes of the South Sea Islands. After a short business meeting, Mrs. Dyre Roberts gave a program for A.C.W.W. featuring the South Sea Islands. Mrs. Ernest Sewell had furnished the centerpiece for the table, a volcano. A gift exchange was held after the program. There were 17 members and three guests.

Mrs. Charles Witt, Mrs. Stan Thomas and Mrs. Sonja Christenson of Utah. Mr. and Mrs. Ronny Bell and children of Kohlotus, Washington and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bell of Hermiston came Friday evening to spend the Christmas Holidays with Mrs. Edythe Prosser.

Mrs. Louise Bailey of Murray, Utah came Sunday evening to spend the Christmas Holidays with her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Don Roberts and family.

Thursday, the Jolly Janes Club held their annual Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. Stan Thomas in Adrian. Mrs. Darrell English was hostess. There was a covered dish dinner at 1:00 o'clock followed by a business meeting. During the gift exchange each member found out the identity of their secret pal for the year. There were nineteen members and four children. Guests were Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Sonja Christenson of Utah and Mrs.

tenson of Utah and Mrs. Myrtle Jones of Middleton, a former member.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross English and Jay of Klamath Falls came Saturday to spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Darrell English and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Thomas in Adrian.

Mr. and Mrs. Delno Brock of Ontario visited Sunday with Mrs. Edythe Prosser and guests.

Friends of Cyrus Bishop of Middleton will want to know he is a patient at the hospital in Wheeler, Oregon where he is receiving treatment for arthritis and is improving slowly. He is a former Big Bend resident.

Mrs. Stan Thomas and Toshi of Adrian called on Mr. and Mrs. Tim Tallman and Michael and Mr. and Mrs. Dyre Roberts Saturday morning.

Mrs. Winifred Bennett and Mrs. Bob Stubblefield of Parma went to Caldwell Tuesday where they took Leonard Carter from the Caldwell Convalescent Center out for a pre-Christmas luncheon.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Greene of Evanston, Wyoming were Saturday night

### Malheur Senior Citizens Debate State Proposals

Ontario - The state's proposal to fund a program which isn't particularly sought by many senior citizens in Malheur County sparked a debate this week.

Meeting in the first official session of the Malheur Senior Citizens Council, about 30 seniors from Vale, Nyssa and Ontario senior citizen centers engaged in a discussion and debate that chairman Ellis White termed "reasonably objective and progressive."

He said, "The state is saying an information and referral service program is the only thing that will be funded for senior citizens in the county."

"We feel we should be able to determine our own program and if that program is different than what the state wishes it should still

overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Avery. They were here for the Avery's Anniversary.

Little Shane York spent the weekend of the 7th at his grandparents, the Robert Calahans, while his mother was recuperating from the flu.

be funded."

"We're trying to resolve the internal dissension that has arisen over this," he said.

An effort, he said, will be made to visit with state officials at a higher level to "determine the facts."

He said an information and referral service appears to be a duplication of similar services offered by social security, public assistance and other state agencies.

Aging planner-coordinator Mrs. Mildred Whipple of Ontario is planning a trip to Salem, White said, to get some answers from the Oregon Division on Aging under the Department of Human Resources.

In addition, the chairman said, "Many senior citizens felt that the Southeast Oregon Council of Governments is attempting to take over the referral service and become the grantee of it and we're not in favor of this."

Funding of the state's proposed program appears to be at the expense of other programs the county seniors feel are more important, he said.

A list of their priorities more or less in order, White said, includes a homemaker service, low income housing, nutrition program such as "meals on wheels or something of this nature," a health program and a telephone assurance program.

"If money is not available for these programs in place of the referral service program the state has proposed to fund," White said, "then we want to determine if the funding could not be split equally between the three

centers to pay low income seniors to operate an information and referral service at each senior citizen center in the three communities."

"On the brighter side," White said, "we have received assurance from the State Transportation Agency in Salem of funding for a senior citizen transportation system."

The funding includes \$7,500 from the state and \$10,000 from the city of Ontario to provide a mini-bus with a hoist lift for wheelchair bound travelers and a driver operating five days a week over an 18-month period.

White said the project is a pilot program selected for

Ontario by the State Transportation Agency.

However, he said, one day a week will be allocated for bus service in Vale and Nyssa, although neither community has contributed to the funding. The bus is expected to operate six to eight hours a day.

White said, "We are hopeful the bus service will start as soon as a mini-bus can be purchased. We are trying to purchase one through the State Purchasing Agency."

Additional funding from both the city of Ontario and the state has been indicated if the busing program is successful during the first 18-month period, White said.



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**Highway Users Are Consuming Less Gas**

Oregon highway users are consuming about one million gallons less gasoline a month as a result of the state's newly imposed 55 mph highway speed limits.

But the reduced fuel consumption is also resulting in about \$70,000 per month less income to the State Highway Division, creating a substantial budget crunch in the Division's operations.

Division engineers measured vehicle speeds at 13 sections of Oregon highways which had previously been governed by speeds in excess of 60 mph. Klaboe said that vehicle speeds have reduced substantially at all the checkpoints. For example, the average speed on portions of 1-80N and 1-5, formerly posted for 70 mph was reduced from 58.60 mph to 54.58 mph.

Division statisticians matched those speed reductions with "composite" vehicle fuel consumptions in arriving at the one million gallons per month savings in gasoline. The "composite" car is a 4,000 pound passenger vehicle and averages, for example, 18.8 miles per gallon at 55 mph and 14.2 miles per gallon at 70 mph--a 4.6 miles per gallon savings.



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