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Fire Destroys Junior-Senior High Schools

A fire which broke out early last Wednesday evening, June 5, in the Nyssa High School gym quickly destroyed all of the junior high school, several classrooms in the senior high school, the gym, library, cafeteria, band room, industrial arts shop and other school facilities in the large two-school complex.

First sighted as a wisp of smoke coming out of the gymnasium roof about 7:30 p.m., the flames soon erupted into a roaring inferno and devoured most of the building within an hour. All that was saved was a 35 year old structure, the older part of the high school, which was built in 1939. Eleven classrooms remain in this building.

The old building was saved by heroic action on the part of Nyssa firemen, who were helped by fire trucks and crews from Adrian, Ontario, Payette and Fruitland. Crews from Parma, Vale and New Plymouth were on standby. Built of solid brick construction, it lasted after the newer wood and brick veneer buildings were entirely consumed.

The fire apparently started in the balcony area of the gym from malfunction of an electrical outlet, according to investigating officers and the state fire marshal. Earlier reports of seal-coating were not correct, and apparently any possibility of arson has been ruled out.

Superintendent of Schools W.L. McPartland estimated that damages could run as high as 2 million dollars to buildings and contents, but

the exact figures will not be known for several weeks. The schools' insurance policies are based on replacement costs, and values were updated in March of this year according to Bernard Eastman, the district's agent of record. The insurance adjuster has assured the school board that they can expect to be reimbursed on full replacement value.

Nyssa Fire Chief Delbert Malloy said that over 50 firemen from Nyssa and the adjoining communities helped with the fire fighting, with ten fire trucks involved. Also helping quell the blaze were two agricultural spray planes dispatched by Ontario Flight Service, who made several passes over the buildings dropping retardant.

Homes immediately across Adrian Boulevard were endangered by the fire, which was fanned by a stiff breeze which set grass fires several blocks from the blaze. Home owners used garden hoses to keep their roofs wet, and they escaped with only minimum damage. A large plate glass window in the Larry Saito home across the street broke when water struck the hot window.

School board members wasted little time in getting into action, with an emergency session called for Wednesday night at 10 p.m. while the fire was still raging. Board members met again Thursday evening with an advisory building committee that has worked for over two years with preliminary planning. The purpose of these meetings

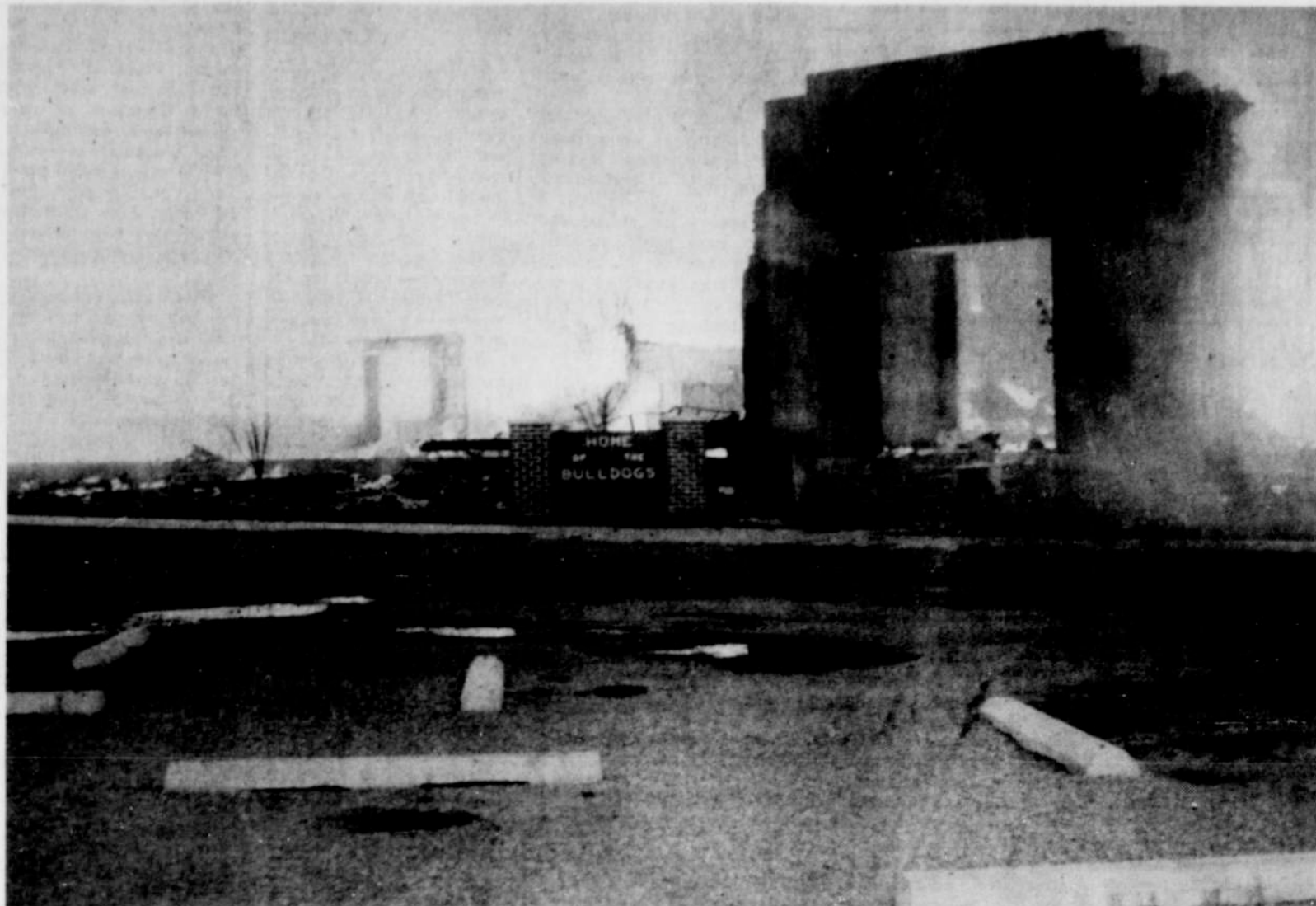
was to discuss possible steps necessary to get back in operation.

Superintendent McPartland said that one of the first order of business will be to hire an architect. This is necessary before any settlement can be made for insurance, and also of course in the design of new buildings. Board members, budget board members and building committee members toured several new schools in Treasure Valley Wednesday, June 12, to get an idea of what other districts are planning for school facilities.

McPartland said that he wished to thank the many students and adults who helped in removing equipment from the high school. Most of the records were saved, and records locked in the junior high vault were undamaged when removed Tuesday morning after several days of cooling off.

The superintendent said that now all efforts will be concentrated on ordering supplies, arranging for housing of the 650 junior high, senior-high students, and then getting on with the planning and eventual construction of new school facilities.

The school board has solicited bids for dismantling and removing what remains of the buildings and debris from the site, some of it dangerous in its present state. Guards have been on duty every night since the fire to keep children and onlookers away from the ruins, and to protect against vandalism.



"HOME OF THE BULLDOGS" sign stands bravely among the ruins.

High School Principal Gene Chester said the next morning that it reminded him of Berlin during World War II.

City Council Approves Budget For Coming Year

Nyssa City Councilmen approved the budget for the 1974-75 fiscal year at their regular meeting Tuesday evening in city hall. The budget call for expenditures of \$683,758.96, an increase of \$108,139.96 over the present budget. It reflects water and sewer plant improvements previously authorized by the voters.

The General Fund expenditures are \$123,995.50, an increase of \$7,817.50 over this year. The budget is within the 6 percent limitation and does not require a vote of the people.

Three appointments were made to the Library Board.

Malheur Memorial Budget Approved

The Board of Directors of Malheur Memorial Hospital approved the budget for the 1974-75 year as presented by the budget committee at a public hearing Tuesday, June 11.

The total budget will authorize expenditures of \$1,004,500, and will require a tax levy of \$24.995. The budget is within the 6 percent limitation, and does not require a vote.

Former Nyssans Head Association Of Editors

Joan Kingsley, employee communications officer at U. S. National Bank of Oregon Portland, has been elected president of the Oregon Association of Editors and Communicators. Mrs. Kingsley is the former Joan Hewett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hewitt, and a graduate of Nyssa High School.

Elected first vice president was Stan Thompson of Pacific Northwest Bell, also a former Nyssa graduate and son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thompson.

Other officers elected were Sylvia Erickson, second vice president; Tom Santee, treasurer; and Delores Chenoweth, secretary.

WEATHER

Date Max. Min. Prec.

June 6	72	47	.16
June 7	64	46	
June 8	75	41	
June 9	81	44	
June 10	86	47	
June 11	95	49	
June 12	55		

Owyhee Reservoir Storage
6/12/74 671,800 Acre Feet
6/12/73 668,220 Acre Feet

Former Nyssa Mayor Dies



Al Thompson, former Nyssa mayor and councilman and long-time resident of the community, died Wednesday morning at Malheur Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Thompson moved to Nyssa in 1903, and was married to Ethel Long on April 26, 1908. He served as city councilman and mayor in the late thirties.

For many years he ran a feed business in Nyssa with his partner, Vest Goshert, and was joined by his son Herschel in 1937. Since 1947 they have farmed in the Adrian area.

Al is survived by his wife, Ethel; Herschel of Adrian; Verna Walters, daughter of Boise; and four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great grand-son.

Services will be held Friday, June 14 at 2 p.m. at the Nyssa Cemetery.

Drivers License Examinations

Drivers license examinations will be held at the Nyssa Library Meeting Room between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on July 10, August 14 and September 11.



CANDIDATES FOR MALHEUR COUNTY DAIRY PRINCESS visited the Nyssa Chamber of Commerce Wednesday at their regular meeting at the Twilight Cafe. They are, from left, Vickie Schaffel, Vale; Debbie Bradfield, Vale; Heidi Kennington, Ontario; and Mrs. Frances Rempel of Vale, who is vice president of the Oregon Dairy Wives.

Plans Readied For Nyssa Nite Rodeo

Nyssa will be putting on its 29th annual Rodeo, June 21 and 22. Marchelle Davis from Adrian was chosen queen for the event along with her princesses Jill Jackson from Nyssa and Karen Danilson from Ontario.

Preceding the rodeo, there will be a parade through downtown Nyssa. The line up for the parade is at the Depot at 6:30 p.m., with the parade beginning at 7:15 p.m. The parade will feature old-timey cars and farm machinery. There will be several wagon teams including Striker's team, "Dirty Sally" will be a special guest. The Sheriff's Poses of Malheur County and Canyon County will also be appearing.

Mr. Lyle Buhler, clown for the Rodeo, will be giving free rides to kids on his pet mule

for two hours prior to the Rodeo. The Inland Empire Carnival will also be there for the public's entertainment.

Stock for the Rodeo will be furnished by Ralph Stevens of Midvale. Contestants can sign up at Farmer's Insurance June 17-18 from 12-6 p.m. There will be \$100 added prize money to the seven main events. In addition to regular events, Local Steer Stop Roping, and a Wild Horse Race will be featured each night. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.00 for children 6-12 and under 6 can get in free.

On both days there will be jackpot team roping from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturday only from 2-4 p.m., there will be Junior Barrel Racing for ages 14 and under. Entry fee for this event is \$2.50.

Ten Girls Compete For Miss Malheur

Ten girls have announced intentions of entering the Miss Malheur County scholarship pageant June 27 in Ontario. Kerry Iseri, general chairman for the Jaycees who are sponsoring the affair said names will be released in the near future.

Guest artist appearing will be Miss Oregon of 1971, Lynn Grenz who delighted audience at an earlier appearance here with her rendition of "The Old Woman Who Swallowed the Fly."

A tea is planned for the contestants June 12 and a

cock party will be staged June 15. Shan Moss of Nyssa, current Miss Malheur County who will enter competition at Seaside this summer, will be present at the parties.

The girl winning the coveted title in June will accompany Miss Moss to Seaside for the Miss Oregon Pageant as a part of her preparation for appearing there next summer. The Miss Oregon pageant is slated for July 9-13.

Advance ticket sales will begin soon Iseri noted.

Summer Band Will Be Held

Ralph Werner, band instructor, reports the Summer Band Workshop will begin Monday, June 17 as planned and will continue until July 12.

Members will meet at the Old Gymnasium by the Elementary School. He asks that pupils who have music stands to please bring them. Anyone interested in participating who hasn't already registered, may register Monday, the 17th.

The Workshop is for Elementary, Junior and Senior High School Students and will include Beginning Band, Intermediate Band and Private Lessons. Cost of the Workshop is \$12. Beginning Band is scheduled for 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. Intermediate band from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Monday thru Friday.



JOSEPH S. MAUGHN, Nyssa, left, received an Award of Appreciation from the Oregon State Department of Veterans' Affairs in recognition of service rendered to the department. Maughn has been Malheur County Veterans Service Officer for the past 11 years.

On hand to make the presentation was John K. Clark, District Representative for the Department of Veterans' Affairs, as Mrs. Maughn looks on.



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE PASTOR William M. Russell, newly arrived in Nyssa to replace the Rev. Robert Manley, is shown with his wife Connie and daughters Tammy 16, left, and Carla 15. Tammy will be a senior in high school next year, and Carla a sophomore. The Russells have a married daughter Colleen, who is married to Sgt. Gordon, in the Army at Denver, Colorado. Another daughter, Rhonda 18, has finished high school and is staying with her sister for the summer in Denver. The Gordons have two children.

The Rev. Russell came to Nyssa from Eagle, Idaho where he served in his first pastorate for six years. He exchanged pastorates with the

Rev. Manley, who is now in Eagle. Originally from Bend, Oregon, he worked in the sawmill there for 15 years. The Rev. Russell started at Northwest Nazarene College in 1966. He worked as a custodian of the College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa for two years, then accepted the call to Eagle while finishing college. He was ordained in 1970. The Russells celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary last year.

Tammy left for Burley Monday morning to work with Nazarene youth there for several days, then will leave for Switzerland on June 22 as a delegate to the International World Youth Conference (see story on page 2).