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BOB SENEY, FLANKED by his two well-traveled horses, Trooper on the left loaded with pack supplies and Frosty, pauses for a moment near Nyssa while en route to Port Angeles, Washington, the end of a 3,000-mile journey that started in Yuma, Arizona.

Odyssey Through The West — On Horseback

By Merlin Mann

When Bob Seney retired from the Air Force a few years ago he decided to stay strictly on the ground. Literally.

Seney is spending his summer vacation this year traveling around the western half of the United States — on horseback. Seney and his two horses, Trooper and Frosty, passed by Nyssa last week on their way to Port Angeles, Wash., the end of Seney's summer vacation which started back on March 17 when he left Yuma, Arizona.

He and his two horses have been on the road for six months and Seney doesn't plan to roll into Port Angeles until the middle of October. The seven-month trip will have covered 3,000 miles.

Seney and his horses started from Yuma and ventured east into New Mexico before heading north through Colorado, into Wyoming, a corner of Utah and then across Idaho. He crossed into Oregon south of Adrian and is now headed

west along the John Day highway.

Seney stays away from the well-traveled freeways, thus picking the John Day route rather than along Interstate 80 North.

His horses are on their fourth set of shoes since the odyssey began six months ago. One more shoeing will be necessary, Seney said, before they reach their destination.

For Seney it'll be his third extended trip on horseback through the Western U.S. In 1967 he took his first long trip, traveling the sky-line trail from Mexico to Northern Washington along the ridge of the Cascade and Sierra mountain ranges.

In 1970-71 he wandered for 18 months on a 7,000-mile trip that circled the West. Leaving Port Angeles he journeyed east across Northern Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. Turning south he went through the Plains States to Texas. Then it was east to California and north along the Sky-line Trail again. He left in the spring of 1970, visited 14 states and didn't return for a year and a half.

What makes a retired 63-year-old take to the road on horseback? "I don't really know," he said. "I've tried to figure it out myself and I don't know why. I just like to travel and I like to do it on horseback."

So he rides horses to do his traveling. And the trips keep the slender well-built Seney in surprisingly good shape. "I feel real good. This keeps you in good shape," said the red-faced traveler.

His nose was a deep, burnt red, like any nose barely unshaded by the brim of a hat in a hot bright summer. Seney's summer has been particularly hot and dry. "I haven't seen an inch of rain during the whole trip," he said.

But all that will end, he figures, during the next few weeks as he heads into the home stretch through Western Washington.

At night Seney and his horses will catch sleep along the highways or in parks, "wherever there is a little grass." Last week he stayed at Owyhee Junction one night before moving on. He travels six days a week, averaging 20 miles a day, then takes off one day a week for rest.

By the time Seney makes Port Angeles he'll probably have the most well-traveled horse in the country.

"I'll bet money, and give two-to-one odds," he said, "that my horse Trooper has walked farther than any horse in the country." And how far is that? Ten thousand miles and 17 states.

Trooper went on Seney's last trip which covered 7,000 miles and 14 states, then on the present trip which Seney estimated at 3,000 miles (picking up the three Western states he missed on his long trip).

Seney has now ridden through the 17 Western states, a fete few, or possibly no one else in the world, has accomplished.

His next trip? It will be taken, "Oh, I guess, whenever I get the urge."



MALICIOUS DAMAGE at the Nyssa Swimming Pool over the weekend caused city crews many extra hours of work vacuuming the pool and cleaning out the debris before the pool could be used. Water Superintendent Ralph Lowe is shown skimming grass off the surface.

Paint, dirt, manure, grass, pinto beans, oatmeal, glass and other objects were thrown

over the fence, with some of the stuff thrown in plastic bags.

City Manager Henry Schneider said there was absolutely no excuse for such action, as the whole purpose of the pool is to serve the people, and particularly the young people of the community. School P.E. classes are using the pool now, but were unable to use it Monday because of the vandalism.

City Council Approves 24-hour Fire And Police Dispatch Service

The Nyssa City Council moved Tuesday night to provide 24-hour dispatch service with combined functions as both fire and police dispatcher and jailer. A starting date was not officially disclosed although the service may begin within two months.

The Nyssa City jail will be opened to overnight use with the acquisition of the dual duty night dispatcher. Previously, Nyssa has been using Ontario dispatching and has sent prisoners to Vale to be held until the prisoner's case came to court.

The City Council made the move citing the rising costs of transporting the prisoners to Vale as a major reason for the move, in addition to rising costs of meals and boarding, and the cost of home-phone fire telephone lines presently needed for volunteer firemen

and police officers. The council directed Schneider to proceed with the development of specific plans and to establish a starting date so that present services could be phased out in an orderly manner.

A year ago the City of Nyssa upgraded and remodeled the jail, but couldn't hold prisoners overnight with out the 24-hour surveillance on an hourly basis.

The night dispatcher, according to City Manager Henry Schneider, will also handle some administrative chores now handled by fire and police officers, such as fire reports, police shift reports, and police monthly reports which are now handled by officers in their off-duty hours.

Schneider said three new persons would be hired to handle the 24-hour dispatching chores, with a back-up crew of present city hall staff

to the city. At present the city is required to inspect the proper zoning restrictions of a building site and the proper distances between the buildings and streets, but the actual building inspection is done by the state. City Manager Schneider said the state should either do it all, or let the city complete the inspection and collect the funds for doing so. The state officials will meet with representatives of Ontario and Nyssa on Monday, September 16 at the County Library in Ontario.

In other business, the Council heard the third reading of the curb cut ordinance, but requested a minor change and will have one more reading. The code establishes distances pro-

perty owners are permitted to cut in the curb for a driveway. The distance allowed for the curb cut will be not less than 12, nor more than 20 feet per driveway. Two driveways on one building site must be separated by 20 feet.

The council also heard the third and final reading of the amusement machine taxing changes, which alter the payment schedule for amusement machines from a yearly basis to a monthly basis. The ordinance is a temporary one, until the council adopts a revised code for license fees.

It was also reported at the meeting that no one had yet filed candidacy for the city council positions which are up for election in November. Three positions will be open.

Nyssa School Board Takes Two-day Trip

Some members of the Nyssa School Board and school administrators left Wednesday morning for a two-day tour of school buildings through Central Oregon and the Willamette Valley.

In plans announced at the Board's regular meeting Monday night, the group of seven was to leave early Wednesday morning and arrive at Hermiston High School by 10 a.m. Madras would be a 2:30 p.m. target with Redmond scheduled for 4 p.m.

The busy day would be concluded with a long drive to Salem that night. At 8 a.m. on Thursday morning the group was to meet at the State Department of Education. At 9:30 the group would visit Cascade High School and Stayton at noon.

The rigid schedule would be capped with the long drive home again. Those indicating they would go on the trip were Board members Don Engstrom, Mark Hartley, Gene Stunz and Gerald Simantel, plus Superintendent W. L. McPartland, High School Principal Gene Chester and building committee member Dick Tensen.

The purpose of the trip was to study the vocational programs of the schools, the general layout of the schools, and most specifically the size and capabilities of the gymnasiums. The plans for the new Nyssa High School complex were high-centered two weeks ago over the size of the gymnasium the high school should have.

In other business, the school board heard Junior High Principal Dan Martin report that the inventory of the loss in the June 5 fire would be completed in two

NYSSA PTA MEETING

Nyssa PTA will hold its first meeting of the 1974-75 year, Thursday, September 19, in the multi-purpose room at 8 p.m.

The agenda includes an introduction of teachers and the teacher's reception, according to Glenda Barnes, president.

Program will consist of reports from students Terry Fife, Kathy Kunkel and Nina Vanetti, who attended OMSI, a Summer Science Camp at Terraamor, near Coos Bay, Oregon.

Everyone is invited to attend.

WEATHER

DATE	MAX	MIN
Sept. 4	89	46
Sept. 5	85	56
Sept. 6	89	48
Sept. 7	88	48
Sept. 8	90	51
Sept. 9	89	53
Sept. 10	74	49
Sept. 11		50

Owyhee Reservoir storage
9-11-74 419,000 Acre Feet
9-11-73 414,310 Acre Feet

Writing Class Offered

Freelance Writing will be offered by the Treasure Valley Community College Office of Community Education during fall term. The course will be taught by Linda Fillmore, whose experience includes staff writing for the Chicago Tribune and freelance sales to magazines including Ms.

The course content will include writing query letters, selecting a subject, getting the information, interviews, library research, planning and slanting an article, writing the lead, manuscript form and market study. Participants in the class will select at least one subject and develop it through the term into a potentially saleable article. Participants will also be urged to submit their pieces to commercial markets for publication.

The board also approved payment of the bills for August which totaled \$129,836.84, of which a sizeable part will be reimbursed by the insurance claims.



PRINCIPALS IN THE ORGANIZATION of a Port District for Malheur County are from left, Floyd Shelton, Oregon Department of Transportation; County Judge Roy Hirai; Gary

Area Officials Discuss County Port District

Forming a port district in Malheur County was the topic of interest Monday evening as Floyd Shelton, port division, Oregon Department of Transportation, met with county and city officials from Nyssa, Ontario and Vale, chamber of commerce members, and representatives of several farm organizations.

Shelton told the group that considerable economic advantage has been gained by formation of port districts throughout Oregon, and particularly Portland and Umatilla. There are now 23 port districts formed, with others considered. The district in Malheur County would be a dry land district, but there is no difference in their formation, according to Shelton.

County Judge Roy Hirai told the assembly that the

first step in formation of a district is to define the boundary, hire an attorney, and let the people know the facts concerning the formation of a port district. It was pointed out that to attract industry with its economic benefits can be well worth the small investment in tax money needed to form and operate a district.

Discussion brought out the fact that communities on the Oregon side of the Snake River have lost new business to Idaho because of the Oregon tax structure, and because a port district has not been available to help in the financing.

Further exploratory work will now be done by a steering committee towards getting opinions and informing the people of this area.

Lions Broom Sale Planned

Nyssa residents, and people throughout Treasure Valley, should be on the lookout for Lions Club members in their yellow vests next Wednesday and Thursday evenings, September 18 and 19 are the dates for the annual Live, Inc. sale held each year for many years for the benefit of the Lions' sight program.

Most of the usual items will be sold again this year, such as brooms, push brooms door mats, chimes, rugs and tow straps. These items are made by handicapped persons employed by Live, Inc. in Boise.

Jim Robinson is chairman of the sale this year, and asks that Nyssa residents support the Lions as they go door-to-door in this annual sale for a needy cause. In addition to their sight program, Robinson said that the club plans to improve playground facilities in the parks.

Another project in the planning stage are some benches downtown to accommodate elderly citizens who need a rest while shopping.

Cole To Graduate
William B. Cole will be graduating from the DeVry Institute of Technology in Phoenix, Arizona Tuesday, September 17. Guest speaker will be Senator Berry Goldwater. Cole is the son of Mrs. Royce Cole.

County Assessed Valuation Shows Increase

Malheur County Assessor Oscar Bratton said that the new valuation figures and tax rates for 1974-75 have been computed. Malheur County has a new assessed value of \$353,891,358. This reflects a growth over last year of \$25,505,397, an increase of just over seven percent.

Bratton said that the inventory phase-out of 40% (which now includes farm machinery), the processor's, veteran's, mobile homes, vehicles, camper trailers for sale and other exemptions total \$42,725,639, resulting in a net assessed total of \$311,165,719.

Bratton said that in addition to this exemption figure, an estimated \$20,000,000 has been removed from the assessment roll due to "Farm Use" applications and the county zoning which went into effect January 1, 1974. Oregon Law, Bratton said, requires that land zoned F-1 (exclusive farm use) automatically be assessed "Farm Use Value" (income to landlord) instead of "Market Value" (what it would sell for). Lands zoned for other purposes, Bratton said, and used for farming may also receive this "Farm Use" assessment if the owner so desires and makes application with the assessor. An estimated 95% of all farm

property is now under "Farm Use" assessment.

Real property, Bratton said, showed a growth (not including utilities or mobile homes) of \$17,852,576. Personal property (not inclu-

ding mobile homes assessed as personal property) increased \$5,100,431 over last year. Mobile homes, both real and personal property, show an increase from \$4,147,991 to \$4,993,236 for an \$845,245 increase.

Bratton said that of the 44 codes (taxing districts) in the county, 17 codes have a decrease in tax rate and 26 have an increase. One new district had no previous history.

Of all the codes, Bratton said, the Rockville District (Code 37) has the largest decrease from last year's tax rate of \$22.62 per thousand assessed value to \$11.72 for a reduction of \$10.90. Annex District (Code 10) has the largest increase from \$15.88 to \$21.38, a raise of \$5.50. The City of Vale dropped from \$28.30 to \$26.24 while the City of Nyssa increased from \$28.30 to \$29.66 and the City of Ontario increased from \$23.18 to \$24.45.

Utilities, Bratton said, are up \$1,707,145 for a total this year of \$28,366,930. TVCC has a tax rate of \$2.54 as compared with last year's \$2.45. Bratton said that the total ad valorem tax to be collected within the county this year will be \$6,750,888.61. This is to be compared with \$6,286,271.68 for last year.

KRAZY DAZE

The 15th annual "Krazy Daze" will be held next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 19, 20 and 21 according to Bob Wilson, chairman of the Nyssa Chamber of Commerce Merchants Committee.

This is traditionally the largest sales weekend of the year in Nyssa, and merchandise is marked down in every store in Nyssa. Saturday of that weekend salespeople dress in crazy garb, and a parade and other events for the kids is held.

The Journal will again blanket the sales area with a special edition, and advertisers are asked to get their copy in early.

Watch next week's paper for the complete schedule of events, and check each ad for the best bargains of the year and save like crazy.