

Nyssa Gate City Journal

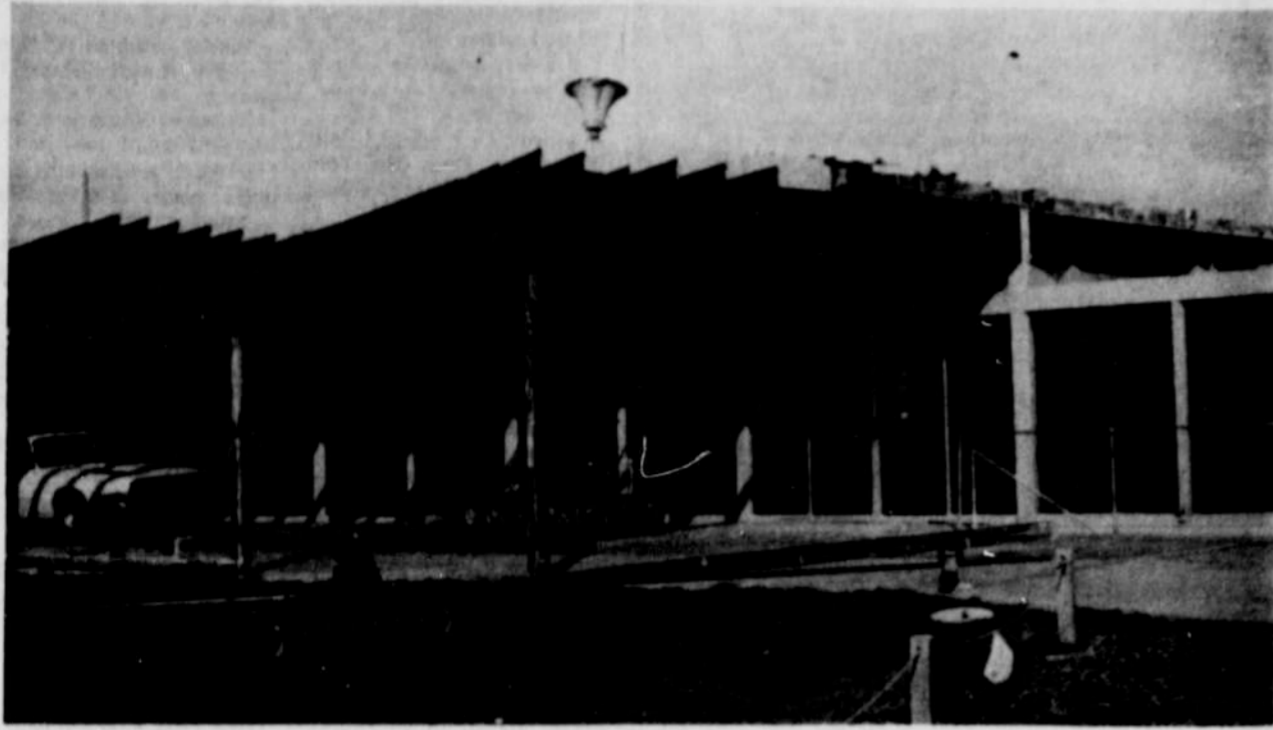
69th Year, 31st Issue

The Sugar City

Nyssa, Oregon Thursday, July 31, 1975

Thunderegg Capital

15¢ Per Copy



THE GOLF CLUBHOUSE ROOF LEFT HERE...



AND WAS DEPOSITED HERE. In the path of the Tuesday storm, this area and the Ontario Airport suffered damage.

Sudden, Severe Wind Storm Causes Extensive Damage

A sudden, severe wind storm tore through Treasure Valley about 2:30 Tuesday afternoon, toppling trees and causing heavy damage in the Ontario, Fruitland, Payette areas.

The storm formed southwest of Nyssa, and almost before people could shut windows in stores, homes and cars, it hit with wind gusts up to 80 miles an hour, and steady winds of 60 miles per hour for half an hour. About one-quarter inch of rain fell in that 30 minutes.

The center of the storm went through the Cairo area, hitting the Ontario Golf Course and Airport, and ripping through the cities of Ontario, Fruitland and Payette. Only minor damage was suffered in Nyssa, consisting mostly of uprooted trees and some crop damage.

Losses are estimated to run into several million dollars, and exact figures will not be available for several days until damage to crops is assessed. Malheur County Judge Roy Hirai said Tuesday night he would ask Oregon Governor Bob Straub to declare the Ontario vicinity a disaster area after 24 area government agency heads met to discuss the damage.

Power was out in Ontario, and by 5:30 p.m. that city was out of water. Idaho Power officials said that a three-mile stretch of 69,000 volt power line was pulled down between Ontario and Nyssa. Dale Adams, Nyssa district manager for Idaho Power, said Wednesday morning that all his crews from Nyssa and Parma are helping with the damage at Ontario.

Only a few individuals suffered damage in Nyssa, Adams said.

Telephone lines were down between Ontario and Nyssa on Highway 201, but Malheur Home Telephone Company kept some lines open at all times. The highway, Arcadia and Clark Boulevards were closed for some time between the two cities.

The wind ripped the roof off of the club house at the Ontario golf course, and deposited it on the lawn. Four hangers were demolished at the Ontario airport, and more than 12 planes were destroyed or severely damaged. One wall of the Gateway Bowl at Fruitland was torn out. One hanger at the Payette airport was destroyed, and three planes were damaged.

Ray Novotny, County Extension Agent, said that onions in fields throughout the area were broken down, and sugar beets were flattened. "How they will recover, we'll just have to wait and see, but it's not

good," he said. The hop fields of Neil Venturacci just west of Cairo were very seriously damaged, Novotny said.

Roofs throughout the valley suffered damage, with the larger storage sheds and commercial buildings taking the brunt of the damage. In the Cairo area, aluminum and metal roofing was strung out through the onion and potato fields for distances up to a half-mile.

Miraculously, there were no reports of serious injuries. An 8-year old boy was blown into the path of a car in Payette, sustaining cuts and bruises, and was taken to the Weiser hospital for treatment.

Old timers said that this was the worst storm in their memory, topping off what most people think is the most unusual spring and summer in memory. Wednesday morning people were cleaning up the mess, thankful that there were no deaths or serious injuries, and that damage was not any worse than it was.

Plans Take Shape For "Thunderegg Days"

by Lake Puett

One rockhound is already in Nyssa, awaiting Thunderegg Days festivities which will begin August 6.

Jack Ray a Concord, California rock hobbyist is an early camper with his trailer parked in the yard of his friend, Emil Wohlcke. Jack at 83, will probably be the oldest "tailgater" in Nyssa this year.

Jack has visited Nyssa for Thunderegg Days for the past six years. He says that he, like Emil, has a yardful of rocks in California and shares the immense love for the hobby and its uses.

Most rockhounds, especially tailgaters, follow a design of rockhunting, trading and processing. Stones which appear as simply rough rocks are a delight to rocklovers when they can be cut and polished to reveal gems. The joys of the discovered secrets inside are part of what make rockhounds emphatic gem lovers and Thunderegg Days an exciting gathering. The other part of the excitement is a dig itself.

This year a countless and unestimated number of gem seekers will converge upon Nyssa to dig the mysterious geodes, for which this area is famous. Registration on August 6, will provide campers from all over the United States with free camping spots at South City Park.

On August 7, the first tour will begin at 7 a.m. to the Succor Creek Thunderegg Beds. A barbecue, sponsored by the Nyssa Lions Club, will be held that evening.

Other tours, to Jamieson Bog, August 8, and Graveyard Point, August 9, are designed to transport rockhounds to hunting sites for a day of digging. All tour groups will leave South Park at 7 a.m.

Council Holds Special Session

The Nyssa City Council met in special session Tuesday evening to review and update the city garbage ordinance. However, due to unavoidable absences of three council members, the review was tabled until all members are present.

The Council did grant permission to the Amalgamated Sugar Co. to connect their fire alarm system to the City of Nyssa's 24-hour rural dispatch service. They were previously obtaining the service from Ontario.

Following a discussion on swimming pool policy, the Council directed City Manager, Henry Schneider and Pool Manager, Vern Lords to prepare the swimming schedules for the Nyssa pool.

Operational hours of the City Parks were brought to the attention of the Council by Police Chief Alvin Allen. City Manager Schneider was advised to prepare interim park schedules at this time.

Nyssa FFA First In Livestock Judging Contest

The FFA Chapters of Malheur County met at the Fairgrounds recently for their Livestock Judging Contest. Some 150 boys and girls, all members of Future Farmers of America, participated in the competition from Nyssa, Vale, Ontario and Adrian. Top Team for the county was Nyssa, with Ontario

second, Vale third and Adrian fourth.

All teams participated in the judging of Hereford heifers with Vale first; Guernsey heifers with Ontario first; market lambs and ram judging with Nyssa taking the honors. In other contests Ontario took first in the Meets; Nyssa first in Market Steers; and Vale first in Holstein Cows.

The Top Ten High Individuals were Joel Hiatt, Vale; Carl Simpson, Nyssa; Marvin Mosley, Nyssa; Carl Norton, Ontario; Jim Schram, Ontario; Arlene Botts, Ontario; Cindy Allen, Ontario; Mark Goodell, Nyssa; Charles Sims of Nyssa; and Bruce Goodell, Nyssa.

Instructors for the chapters are Joe Witty of Adrian; Al McGrath of Vale; Dave Witty of Ontario and Deryl Leggett, Nyssa.

Wagon Train Rolls East, Will Be In Nyssa Today

By Henry Schneider

It's been a hundred years since the last of the big wagon trains rumbled across desert, mountain and prairie, and the trails were hot and dusty.

Better roads and more paving have changed a lot of that, but by modern standards of comfort, the Bicentennial wagon trek is still a mighty tough grind. The wagons under the guidance of Ken Wilcox, wagon master, broiled in the blistering sun during the journey down out of the Blue Mountains into Farewell Bend.

After setting up camp and starting the evening's program, the train was buffeted by sudden winds, then pelted by a cold, driving rain. On July 29, the trek over the rough terrain to Tub Springs

began in the early morning light.

By late afternoon the skies blackened and again a severe deluge struck the train in full force. High winds and sheets of water whipped the tired travelers, but like their original forebearers the rain failed to dampen their spirits.

"I really enjoyed that rain, I'll take all of that I can get," said Lee Grimes, one of Idaho's official wagon drivers. Ray Bullington, another Idaho driver averred the water felt good after the scorching day.

Earl Flick, Oregon State coordinator, and Lola Bowen busied themselves with the caravan's schedules, allowing more time here and cutting time there.

Wagon Master Ken Wilcox his brick red tan ever conspicuous among other darkly

tanned men and women, worked with Earl on the route from Vale to Nyssa. They deleted a noon stop on Lytle Boulevard and substituted two water stops along the route instead.

"At three and a half miles an hour, we'll make Nyssa for lunch on Thursday," Wilcox said.

Arrangements have been made through Mel Munn to provide a rest area at the Grade School where the train will rest for an hour and a half. Water will be provided from two large tubs sponsored by Nyssa Co-op with twenty-five gallons of lemonade donated by the Nyssa Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Thompson, Idaho State coordinator, reported Lt. Governor Evans, with a party of four would visit Nyssa's First National Bank to await the entry into Idaho by the Train on July 31.

Bruce and Fred Childs are arranging a Stage Coach for Nyssa Council President George Coffman and Chamber President Jake Fischer, to escort Lt. Governor Evans to the campsite and then across the Snake River. On the Idaho side a Sheriff's posse and a large contingent of Idahoans will await with the Lt. Governor to welcome the wagon train into Idaho.

The public is invited to visit the wagon train at their campsite at the grade school but are requested not to park on Main Street or Adrian Boulevard near the school. Close to 75 people are already in the cortege which will make parking difficult.

The arrival and departure time is tentatively between noon and 2 p.m. Thursday.

Auxiliary Plans Farewell For Christensens

The Malheur Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will host a farewell open house for Mr. and Mrs. Gale Christensen on Sunday, August 3, in the nursing home lounge at the hospital from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend.



HERBERT E. BERGAM retired this week after sixteen years with the Nyssa Post Office. He started work as a clerk-carrier in August, 1959.

He was born in Tacoma, Washington and moved to Nyssa in 1942 from Sidney, Montana where he had been in construction and farming. He worked on the Fort Peck dam in Montana from 1935 to 1930, and helped build the Umatilla Ordinance Depot before moving to Nyssa.

Herb and his wife Alice live at 626 North 2nd Street and have five sons and one daughter. Their oldest son, Donald, manages a seed plant in Salinas, California. Lurelle is a teacher in Bakersfield, Calif. Ramon is with the Oregon State Police, and is stationed in Ontario. Marlene is at McFarland, California where both she and her husband are teachers. James works for the Atomic Energy Commission in Richland, Washington. Roger is a counselor in the Salinas, California schools.

Herb's hobbies include rock hunting, gardening, stamp collecting, wood carving and carpentry, all of which he plans to continue after retirement, plus some traveling to visit the children and grandchildren.



JACK RAY AND EMIL WOHLCKE enjoy a bit of leisure time in front of Jack's camper-trailer. Jack, from Concord, California, is an early rockhound in Nyssa for Thunderegg Days. Emil is chairman of this year's event.

Sen. Packwood Fair Chairmen Are County Volunteers

Bob Packwood, Oregon State Senator, will be visiting Ontario and the Malheur County Fair, August 13 and 14.

Packwood will be honored at a breakfast sponsored by the Ontario Optimist Club on the 14th. Ron McKone, President of Optimist, said the breakfast is a no-host affair and is open to the public. McKone said Packwood will speak at the breakfast and then open the discussion to the group. He will have a number of comments to make concerning recent legislation and events in Washington, D. C.

While in the area, Packwood plans to visit the Malheur County Fair the afternoon of the 13. He will leave for Baker following the breakfast on the 14th.

On behalf of the Optimists McKone extended an invitation to all interested individuals to attend the breakfast which will be held at 7 a.m. in the Moore Hotel Dining Room.

All areas of Malheur County will be represented by volunteers at the Malheur County Fair, August 13 thru the 16. Chairmen for the various divisions in Open Class, 4-H and FFA are representative of the entire county.

Scottie Payne of Vale will serve as General Livestock Superintendent; Elaine Russell of Vale will coordinate all Textile exhibits in the Main Exhibit Hall.

The Art and Photography entries will be under the supervision of Mrs. Helen Wasson of Ontario; and the Handicrafts section will be under the direction of Mrs. Ila Mae Mills, Ontario. Steve Piercy of Adrian will be chairman of the Land Products Division. This division which includes all vegetable, fruit, grain and hay exhibits will also be housed in the Main Exhibit Hall. Also displayed in the north end of the Main Exhibit Hall will be the Flowers division which

will be registered by members of the ANK Garden Club

In the 4-H Division, General Superintendents will be Carol Knothe and Ron Mobbey. County Extension Agents. Assisting them will be Allen Baltz of Jordan Valley as Beef Superintendent; Dan Gabiola and John Schram, Ontario, who will handle all sheep entries at the Fair; Dallas Chaney of Adrian who will serve as Swine Superintendent; Chuck Farley of Oregon Slope on Dairy; Ila Sanderson of Vale for Horse; and Mrs. Penny Ankrum of Ontario who will be superintendent for the Poultry and Rabbit Barn.

The 4-H Dog Show, as well as the Open Class Dog Contest will be under the supervision of Jim Atherton of Ontario.

Joe Witty of Adrian will be the FFA Superintendent assisted by Al McGrath of Vale, Deryle Leggett of Nyssa and Dave Witty of Ontario.