

NYSSA GATE CITY JOURNAL

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Thunderegg Capital

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Norma Paulus Boosters Named

Harriet Flanagan, Irene Hobson and Jeanne Skinner, all of Ontario, have been named as coordinators for the Norma Paulus campaign in Malheur County, it was announced by Jack Mills of Mt. Hood, state chairman. They will be in charge of Mrs. Paulus' visit to Malheur County, August 21, which will include stops in Nyssa, Vale and Ontario.

Norma Paulus is the Republican candidate for Oregon's Secretary of State.

NOTICE

Due to vandalism the Nyssa Post Office lobby will be closed evenings. Postmaster Harold Pook said the lobby will be locked at 8 p.m. each evening and opened at 7 a.m. the following morning.

Senator Hatfield Will Visit Nyssa

Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore) will visit Malheur County, August 13 and 14. He will appear in Vale at 5:30 August 13, and at Ontario at 7:30 p.m. for a town hall meeting at TVCC.

Saturday, August 14, the senator will be in Nyssa for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Twilight Cafe. This will be a no host breakfast, and the public is invited to attend and discuss any issues of interest, according to Joe Hobson, Malheur County Republican Central Committee Chairman.



CHARLES HUNTLEY [L] AND CHRIS WHITAKER are two of the rockhounds here for Thunderegg Days. In the excitement surrounding visits by people from such faraway places as Minnesota, New York and Saskatchewan, little attention is sometimes paid to native rockhounds. Both

Huntley and Whitaker are from Prineville, which has its own rock show each year. However, Whitaker said and Huntley agreed, that it is nothing like Nyssa's. The best parts about Nyssa's show, they said are the rock exhibits. "People put on a show here you won't see elsewhere," they said.

Rockhounds Invade Nyssa, Provide Full Week Activities

By Alan Abbey

Thunderegg Days. It's become a magic word, a magnetic word which draws people to Nyssa for five days in August each year. It brings people from all over—Washington, Oregon, California, Minnesota, Saskatchewan, Arizona, Wisconsin—to see, buy, sell, hunt for and trade rocks, gems and minerals.

What is it about rocks that draw people from far away? What is it about rocks that they start out with many people as idle hobbies—and become a way of life? More than one rockhound has said, "It's a bug. You get it in the blood." But there must be more than that.

For one thing, rocks can be exceedingly beautiful. Cut open a rock, polish the face and you are an artist. You have created a thing of beauty. It is original—and it is one of a kind. For there are no two rocks which are ever alike. Emil Wohlcke, Thunderegg Days chairman, is proud over his rare possession of five thin slices of agate which are so alike he can make coat buttons out of them. But, even slices which are alike are scarce. More than once Wohlcke has amazed visitors by showing them two totally different slices of rock—different colors, different textures—and then saying, "They're from the same rock."

But there is more than beauty, too. Charles Huntley, a rockhound from Prineville who is in town for Thunderegg Days, said, "I used to go fishing. I can't wait for fish to bite anymore, but I can dig rocks all day." He said it didn't even matter if he didn't find any in a whole day.

Loving the outdoors definitely has something to do with rockhounding. Talk to a rockhound and you'll find that he also enjoys fishing and hunting and trapping—when he's not hunting, sawing, polishing or working with rocks.

It's a special type of outdoors, too. Rockhounding usually is best in dry, canyon-type, unforested areas like Malheur County. These lands have a special beauty and it takes a special type of person to love a land which is dry, hot and forbidding.

Rockhounds are an eager lot, too. They are eager to show you their rocks—each and every one of them. They are eager to talk about rocks and they are eager to collect rocks. Tell a rockhound that a certain spot has a type of rock very few people have and off he goes. He grabs his equipment, jumps into his four-wheel drive rig and zooms off.

There are a lot of these people in Nyssa this week. Wohlcke said the expects about 75 tailgaters—the real die-hard rockhounds—and another 6,000 will visit the exhibits. Most of the 75 own rock and gem shops, have a diamond saw or two and make jewelry, clocks, tables, bookends, belt buckles and coat buttons from rocks. For them it is a convention. They swap both rocks and tales and tell each other about new rock hunting spots.

For the general public it is a time to gaze at the beauty of cut and polished rocks and gems. It is a time to buy some of the artifacts produced by rockhounds, and it is a time to be in awe of nature and her wonders and the people who are so close to it.

Thunderegg Days began yesterday with registration and the set up of rock exhibits.

Today there is a tour to the Succor Creek Thunderegg Beds. Huntley said that many years ago, when cattle and cowboys would roam the Succor Creek area, "You had to move the thundereggs away before you could put out your bedroll." Today thundereggs are harder to find. It takes digging and sweat.

The Lions Club is sponsoring a barbecue this evening starting at 6:30 in South Park.

Tomorrow there is another tour leaving the South park at 7 a.m. It is for petrified wood. Friday night the United Methodist Church is holding a homemade ice cream and cake social on the Elementary School grounds.

Saturday another tour is off at 7 a.m. This last tour is to Graveyard Point for plume agate. At night it is the Police Reserve's turn to sponsor a party. They are having a watermelon feed, also on the school grounds, between 7 and 9.

For all five days there will be a free rock and gem exhibit in the elementary school. In front of the school will be people with tables who will have rocks and jewelry for sale.

But, let's close on a word of caution. Rockhounding is contagious, insidious in how it creeps into your life and addictive in how it consumes your time and energies. However, it sure is fascinating.

THUNDEREGG DAYS SCHEDULE

- Thursday, August 5:
 - 7 a.m. - Tour to Succor Creek, leaving from South Park
 - 6:30 p.m. - Barbecue at South Park sponsored by Nyssa Lions Club
- Friday, August 6:
 - 7:00 a.m. - Tour to Jamieson Bog, leaving from South Park
 - 7:00 p.m. - Ice cream and cake social held on school grounds, sponsored by United Methodist Church
- Saturday, August 7:
 - 7:00 a.m. - Tour to Graveyard Point, leaving from South Park
 - 7:00 p.m. - Watermelon feed, sponsored by Police Reserve Elementary School
- Thursday-Saturday:
 - Free Rock and Hobbits Exhibit at Elementary School, under the direction of the Treasure Valley Rock and Gem Club, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 - Sunday - Rock exhibit, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WEATHER

Date	Max.	Min.	Prec.
July 28	92	54	
July 29	80	53	
July 30	94	58	
July 31	94	58	
Aug. 1	80	66	.37
Aug. 2	83	59	.03
Aug. 3		55	

Owyhee Reservoir Storage
8-4-76 538,020 Acre Feet
8-4-75 643,860 Acre Feet

Election Tuesday For Nyssa And Adrian Schools, Hospital

Next Tuesday, August 10, is election day!

Nyssa area residents will have three important tax measures which need approval. They are the Nyssa School District budget levy, the Malheur Memorial Hospital budget levy, and the Adrian School District serial levy.

Nyssa School District
The Nyssa School District levy has been cut \$100,455 from the previous budget which was narrowly defeated in June. The reduction comes from a carry over of \$40,000, \$10,000 from a balancing figure of taxes which will not be collected in the current year, and the balance in deferred items.

Superintendent W. L. McPartland said that the cuts made will not affect the educational program, but are items put off until a later date. These include not buying a new school bus, paying off the Sherwood property purchase in four equal installments, cutting out a budgeted amount of \$9,000 for salary increases, and reducing the contingency fund by \$5,000. The amount to be approved by the voters is \$140,954 outside the 6% limitation.

Polis will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Primary Building.

Adrian School District
Voters in the Adrian School District will be asked to approve a serial levy of \$20,250, payable at \$5,750 per year through 1982. This money will be used to purchase eight acres adjacent to the school for future building and expansion.

Superintendent Robert Heppner said that this is the only logical way the school district can expand in the future. The property contains a two bedroom house which

can be rented to defray part of the cost, and the land can accommodate athletic and FFA activities.

Polis will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Elementary School building, Malheur Memorial Hospital.

The Malheur Memorial Hospital District is asking the voters to approve a levy of \$203,845 outside the 6% limitation at Tuesday's election.

Hospital Administrator Jim Mattes said that this is the first time that the board has asked voters to approve an amount outside the limitation since 1965, and it will be a one-time request only.

Rising costs and demands on building improvement have created the need for the extra money, Mattes said. The district has lived within its budget for many years, but the federal government is requiring certain building improvements to remain accredited, and they must now be met.

Another need, Mattes said, is the recruitment of physicians. More doctors are required in the district, and the board is making an all-out effort to fill this need.

Polis will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in both the Nyssa Primary Building and the Adrian Elementary Building.

Sample ballots of these three elections will be found in other pages of this issue of the Journal.

Two Made It To Nyssa From Minn., Colo., -- On Horseback

By Alan Abbey

There have been a lot of people traveling across the country this Bicentennial year. The road's lure, the pioneer heritage, is part of America's heritage. To most Americans' little can be more exciting than travel.

But, few Americans, if any, made quite as unique a trip as Ben and Dan Mikaelson, who recently ended their cross-country trip in Nyssa—on horseback.

Ben started out from Bemidji, in northern Minnesota in mid-May. Dan began in Greeley, Colorado, in mid-June. They met up in late June in Buffalo, Wyoming. Their goal was Oregon. Actually their goal was the Oregon Coast but time caught up with them; they have to go back to school soon and Nyssa was their journey's end.

The Mikaelsons' stay in Nyssa was brightened by the open arms and huge welcome they received from Leroy Seward and his family. They said he saw them on the road

and invited them to stay at his house. It was their first time indoors at a dinner table and in front of a television set in more than a month. How genuinely sublime and wonderful it all seemed to the horseback riders. Having been deprived of "everyday" pleasures for so long, they found them to be quite exquisite.

What about the horses? "We feel bad about selling them," they admitted, but they had to do it. "When you walk, talk, sleep and eat with the boys..." Dan's voice trailed off with affection and a little sadness. The horses names are Iroquois who is mostly quarter and Charley, who is mostly Appaloosa.

What now for the saddle-sore two?

They are heading to Chesapeake Bay for a free week on a houseboat. They earned it by completing their trip and following up on a promise made to them by an Army colonel friend of theirs before they left.

Ben wanted to go across the country on a Bicentennial Wagon Train, but he didn't like the people involved with it and decided since he liked horses and camping he would go West on his own. When Dan heard about Ben's intentions, he decided he had to go as well.

They each bought horses—and spent \$1,000 training, licensing and conditioning them. Ben said he had expected the whole trip to cost \$1,000. It ended up costing twice that amount.

Ben set out along back roads. He always tried to stay just off the shoulders and in the ditches. He averaged 50 miles a day until he met Dan. Together they averaged 25 miles a day.

Was the trip worth it? Definitely, they both thought. "It started out as an adventure and became a tremendous learning experience. We ran into a lot more than we expected," Ben said. "We found great people and many different ways of life."



THESE TWO BRAVE AND HEARTY souls traveled cross-country on horseback to end their trip, tired, dry and dusty in Nyssa where they were, taken, by Leroy Seward and family. Ben Mikaelson (left) came from Bemidji, Minnesota and his brother Dan left from Greeley, Colorado. They met in Buffalo, Wyoming.

County Investments Earn Record High

County Treasurer Jean (Pat) Bond reported another record high in interest earned from her investment program during the fiscal year ending June 30 with a total of \$466,994.82. This compares

Firestone Store Names Winners

Winners of the drawing at the Firestone Store Saturday were Maxine Brown, who won the Coleman Cooler, and Joy Adams, who won the digital clock radio.

Marvin Jefferies closed the store Saturday after 30 years in Nyssa. Don Moss was the operator for the first 25 years, and Jefferies the last five. Jefferies said that his plans, and plans for the store building, are indefinite at this time.

with a total of \$315,609.41 earned last year.

School District No. 26, Nyssa, earned the most interest, \$257,782.75, because of the investment of bond and insurance monies for the building program.

Other larger district earnings were School District No. 8, Ontario, \$44,392.22; General County Fund, \$41,318.26; TVCC, \$39,401.58; Malheur I.E.D., \$17,640.42; School District No. 15, Vale, \$11,716.08; and City of Nyssa, \$11,408.84.

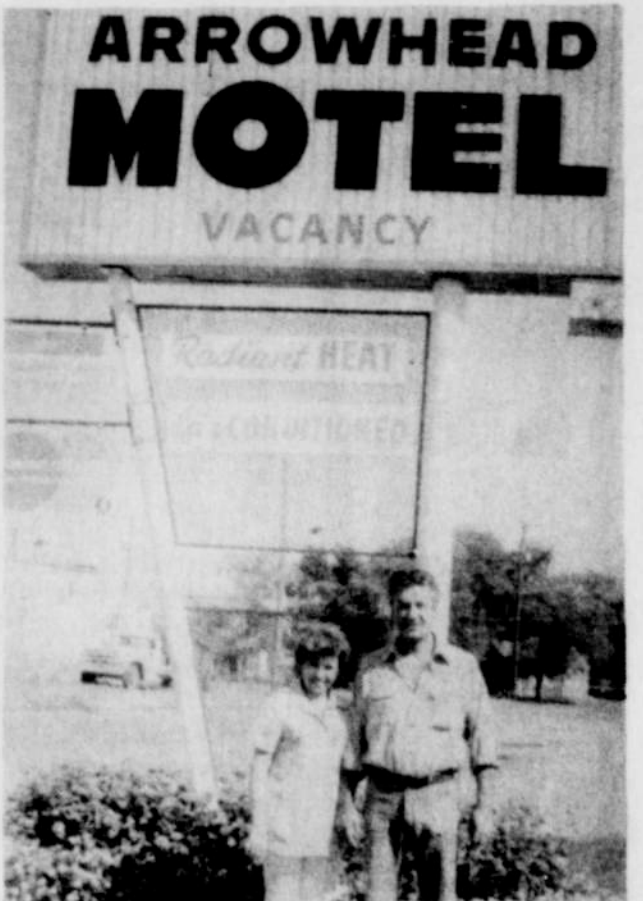
Miss Oregon

Miss Oregon, Shan Moss, has received many additional contributions of cash, gifts and flowers since the first listing was published two weeks ago.

Shan, through her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Moss, wishes to thank all those throughout the community who have been so generous in their support. She is now in Seaside preparing for the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City in September.

In addition to the cash donations of \$88 received at the park during the potluck dinner, new donations are as follows: Nyssa Senior Citizens, \$30; Steve Kerby, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Bart Ostrom, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Moncur, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Al Chadwick, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Walters, \$15; Nyssa Rexall Drug, \$10; Hal Henigson, \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Miner, \$2; Mr. and Mrs. Mary Jefferies, \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mann, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Mel Beck, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hansen, \$2; Wilma Ostrom, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mitchell, \$10; Arlene Brammer, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Peterson, \$10; Stella Moss, \$5; Dr. Emery Skinner, \$5; Farmers Feed & Seed, \$25; Nyssa Co-op Supply, \$50; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Quast, \$5; M & W Market, \$25; and cups; Amalgamated Sugar Company, \$100; Plaza Merchants Association, \$100.

Gifts included Lynn Westcott Golf Shop, tennis outfit; Home Dairies, punch and ice; County Court, camera; Mr. and Mrs. Hiro Kido, banner; LDS Church, floral arrangement; Bishop and Mrs. Gary Thompson, flowers; Mr. and Mrs. Duane Buchtel and girls, flowers; and Curt Lords and Hal Brendle, flowers.



DAN AND BEA HAWKINS are the new owners of the Arrowhead Motel at 710 Emison Avenue. They are from Winnemucca, where they both worked at the casino, she as casino manager and he as bar manager. They have friends up here and since they liked the area, they decided to come here when they found out the motel was for sale. They are remodeling—putting in new carpet and king-size beds, and are opening up the rooms to rent by the week. They have one daughter, Debbie, who is here for the summer. She is a student at the University of Utah. While they are semi-retired, Bea Hawkins said, "We have never worked so hard in our lives."

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Moncur, who have owned the motel for many years, have retired and now live at 209 N. 9th Street, Nyssa, where Wayne will have his rock shop. He was chairman of the Thunderegg Committee for several years, and an active rockhound.