

## Malheur Memorial Hospital Faces Financial Difficulties

By James A. Mattes  
Administrator

Most small hospitals in recent years have been plagued with financial difficulties. Many have fallen, victims of the same problems that Malheur Memorial Hospital is facing. These problems and their net effect can be identified, but their solutions are not quite as easy.

Our biggest problem is the poor utilization of the acute hospital and its services. Occupancy, the best measure of hospital business activity, has been below 35 percent since 1967. Business has gradually declined each year since then to its present level of about 20 percent. To state the converse, this means that 80 percent or approximately 27 out of 34 licensed hospital beds are not used. Few hospitals have an ideal 100 percent occupancy, but also, few survive with occupancy as low as ours. Part of our occupancy problem is the nature of the business itself. We are almost completely dependent upon Nyssa doctors, because only physician members of our medical staff can admit patients. Consequently, when patients do not choose to see or are not able to see Nyssa doctors, they usually do not end up in our hospital.

Poor occupancy is not our only woe; other problems have also adversely affected our finances. One is the cost of quality care, which requires expensive equipment and professional personnel. Another is inflation, which has significantly increased our service and supply costs. A third problem is the role that government plays in hospitals and the net cost result. Compliance with government rules and regulations and the increasing write-offs caused by governmental patient programs not paying their fair share of expenses, has helped jeopardize the fiscal viability of small hospitals.

Our hospital is financed through fluctuating borrowing. The financial problems we have been experiencing, cause our deficit to increase and prevent us from providing adequate funds for building and equipment needs. In the past five years there has not been any actual capital expenditures

on the building, and only a total of \$10,100 in equipment purchases. Also, money has not been set aside for replacement or renovation, and depreciation has not been funded for future use.

We have gone to great efforts to contain costs by utilizing technical management tools and developing expertise in accounting. However, very little management control can be exerted over parts of our operation when revenue cannot be increased nor expenses reduced. In our nursing home, for example, about 40 percent of our expenses are for supplies and services which are essentially fixed, even with prudent purchasing. The other 60 percent is for labor, which is entirely controlled when adhering to minimum staffing patterns set by the state. Revenues for government patients, which represent about 80 percent of the nursing home business, are paid strictly on a per diem reimbursement, regardless of what you charge. In effect then, we have little leverage in making significant financial improvements in the nursing home, when both revenues and expenses are controlled by the government

Our only means of generating additional revenue is through newly recruited physicians that hopefully will attract more people to utilize Nyssa's medical services. In order to recruit these physicians, improve our building and equipment, and subsidize our operating loss, we will need an additional \$203,845 in tax revenue. Last years taxes in Nyssa were \$29.09 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property valuation, of which Malheur Memorial Hospital District received \$86. Our board approved budget would raise the hospital's share by approximately another \$2.52 per thousand. This additional tax would be for our 1976-77 fiscal year only.

Many people's lives have been saved here over the years, and local businesses have benefited greatly. On August 10, you will be given the chance to help us help you.

A shabby suitcase, even with a broken handle, can be painted or shined, put on casters, and used as an under-the-bed storage chest.



**AUGUST ARTIST OF THE MONTH** at the Nyssa Public Library is Mrs. Betty White of Adrian. She was born and raised in Vale, and she and her husband Ray operate a dairy farm. They have two children, Angela 7 and Eric 6.

Mrs. White has been painting for about eight years, and she has had no formal training. Her other hobbies are gardening,

especially house plants, sewing, and other arts and crafts.

Among her paintings on display, all of which are done in acrylic and oil, are "Early American Farms," shown above, courtesy of Mrs. John Thiel. Others are "Western Cowboy" and "Sunset on the Oregon Coast." These paintings may be viewed during regular library hours.

## English Class For Migrant Workers

Oregon Rural Opportunities and Treasure Valley Community College have slated their first adult education class in English as a Second Language (ESL) and G.E.D. for migrant and seasonal farm workers in the Nyssa, Ontario, Vale and Adrian areas.

The first class will begin on August 2 and run for eight weeks. Monday through Friday, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The O.R.O. Center is located at 5 Good Ave.

If you are interested in these classes and have not already registered please

stop in at the O.R.O. Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or call 372-3823.

Evening classes will begin in October.

Chewing gum on clothes can be scraped off easily if first hardened with ice.

## Activities In Arcadia

By Nell Bowers

**MARY WALLINGTON**, now living in the Nyssa nursing home, turned 96 last Friday, July 30. She celebrated her birthday there and was the recipient of a beautiful plant, among other gifts. She has lived in Nyssa for over ten years.

**ARCADIA** - Robin Morrison, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carroll, from Provo, came Friday morning for a weekend visit.

Saturday, Marie Oiles, from Anderson corner visited her niece, Robin Morrison at the Carrolls.

Doyleene Carroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doyel Carroll of Mountain Home, visited overnight with her cousin Robin Morrison, at the Henry Carrolls.

Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carroll took Robin Morrison and Mary, Becky, and Susie Carroll, daughters of Jim and Karen Carroll to Hometown to visit Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Morrison, paternal grandparents of Robin Morrison.

Orville and Mary Carroll and family of Bend, Oregon came Saturday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carroll. They were on their vacation and went on to Brownlee on a camping trip.

Esther Stephens was a guest for supper at the Henry Carrolls, Sunday evening.

Joe Brown called at the Clyde Bowers home Tuesday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Deister of Grants Pass, Oregon came Thursday afternoon, to visit Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bowers. They had been to Thermopolis, Wyoming, on a shake-down cruise with their new 27 foot Winnebago motor home.

Don Bowers visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bowers Friday evening.

Alan Bullard left for Sunday School Camp at McCall, Saturday morning.

Steven Bullard went home with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Jensen, of Boise, Saturday evening.

Pearl Bullard celebrated her 75th birthday, Saturday, July 31. Donald and Connie Bullard and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Jensen and

boys, of Boise, spent the day at the Otis Bullard home.

Saturday morning, Mrs. Henry Carroll received a telephone call from her brother, Euell Wood, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, to tell them of the loss of his daughter.

The girl was an airline stewardess for United Airlines. Her symptoms were like the symptoms of the men that have died from the VA convention in Philadelphia. She lived three days after she became ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Parley Feik went to Rigby and Rexburg last week. They visited Mrs. Feik's sister Edith Hirschi and a brother Abe James. Neither one had been hit by the flood. One nephew and a niece were homeless after the flood and are living at the dorm at the college. The government moved in trailers for them but so far they are not hooked up.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve James visited the Feiks, Saturday. The annual picnic of the Arcadia Sunshine Club was not held Sunday as scheduled because of the weather. It will be held, next Sunday if the weather will cooperate.

### Lightning Strikes Stites Home

Sometime around midnight last Friday evening, the Wayne Stites home on 108 Ennis Avenue was struck by lightning during the storm that passed thru Nyssa.

Mrs. Stites reports their color TV was badly damaged and a fuse was blown to bits. A wall plate was shattered and their telephone is still in bad order.

Luckily, their old black and white TV wasn't plugged in. So she said they will return to the black and white. They are thankful the incident didn't cause a fire.

### Professional Directory

#### Physicians & Surgeons

**Dr. Arthur S. Dole, M.D.**  
Urological Surgery  
Diseases of the kidney, bladder and prostate.  
Phone 372-5269  
20 South 2nd Street,  
Nyssa, Oregon

Hours: Saturday—10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Dr. Brandon Adams**  
Physician and Surgeon  
Phone 372-3809  
Sarazin Clinic  
19 N. 4th Street  
Nyssa, Oregon

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**K.E. Kerby, M.D.**  
**K.A. Danford, M.D.**

Physicians & Surgeons  
Dial 372-2241

HOURS: 9 to 12 noon & 2 to 5 p.m.—Monday thru Friday.

#### Optometrists

**Dr. John Easty**  
387 S.W. 4th Ave.,  
Ontario, Oregon  
Phone 889-8017

**Dr. A. N. Bonde**  
7 North 2nd Street,  
Nyssa, Oregon  
Phone 372-3747

#### Veterinarians

**TREASURE VALLEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
Phone 372-2251  
**Dr. B.E. Ross**  
Nyssa, 372-5257  
**Dr. Robert Derby**  
Parma 722-6537



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