

Nyssa Gate City Journal

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Time Really Doesn't 'stand Still'

Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus' recent proposal to limit severely the ownership of land watered by federal irrigation projects in 17 western state (The Packer, August 21) can best be described as antiquated and unrealistic. Fortunately, though, the implications of the proposal do not seem nearly as threatening as we first thought.

For the most part, any anger caused by the proposal should not be directed at Andrus. Basically, he is simply enforcing a reclamation act that has been on the books (but not enforced) since the Congress first passed it in 1902. He is also following a court directive to establish procedures for buying and selling the land. The former Idaho governor may be guilty, however, of perpetuating the romantic myth associated with small farmers and stepping beyond his jurisdiction.

The somewhat confusing situation we now face all began with the National Reclamation Act of 1902, which allowed public land development by providing government irrigation. Under the plan, though, a person could own only 160 acres. Growers, of course, could control more than 160 acres of land by having their wives, daughters or other family members own or lease 160 acre plots.

In 1926 the Omnibus Adjustment Act was passed, and the Secretary of the Interior contracted with state water districts to provide water and maintain structures. The state taxed farmers for the amount of water used. Acreage limitations were strictly enforced through this time.

Over the years various opinions by secretaries of the interior and others have stated that Imperial Valley, Calif. growers were exempt from the act, but no formal ruling was ever issued until recently when a court ruled that these growers are indeed subject to the 160-acre limitation.

Now Andrus has added a key provision that could make things much more difficult. Under the original act there was no limit on the amount of land a grower could lease from another owner, and, of course, much of the land in the Imperial and San Joaquin valleys is leased. The interior secretary, though, now has placed a 160-acre limit on leased land, too.

Developments from now on probably will be gradual and slow, for several reasons. One is the the public has 90 days to request hearings or send comments to the commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior, 19th & C streets, N.W., Washington D.C. 20240 before a final decision is made. A series of hearings is likely.

Second, court appeals and possible law suits by such groups as Imperial Resources Associates, a group of Imperial Valley growers, will probably keep the case tied up in the courts for a year or two.

Third, even if the Andrus proposal was to be adopted without change, the worst that could happen is that growers would have to sell their "excess" land within five years (under the original reclamation act, it is 10 years). We are not trying to minimize the consequences of some growers being forced to sell land, but are simply pointing out that nothing is going to happen overnight.

Several questions remain to this land puzzle. For example, one of the keys to future developments will be the interpretation of the words, "immediate family." In the past this has been interpreted liberally so that even a grower's uncle, aunt or grandparent could own and/or lease 160-acre plots. No one knows at this point whether this will remain the same.

Another major question is whether Andrus overstepped his jurisdiction in putting together his proposal. For example, he appears to us to be changing Congress' intent when he says growers will have only five years instead of ten to sell their excess land.

Another major question is the requirement in the 1902 act that a grower live within 50 miles of his land, in the Omnibus Adjustment Act of 1926 there was no mention by Congress of a residency requirement. The question is, did Congress leave this out because it did not want it in the act, or because it thought that since the requirement was in the original act, it was not needed in the second one?

As to the merits of the reclamation act and the Andrus proposal, the most polite thing we could say is that they are much more attuned to the 19th Century than the 20th. In 1902 when the original act was passed, 160 acres was considered a lot of land, but today there is a serious question as to whether it is even economically feasible to grow some fruits and vegetables on such a small acreage.

By the same token, a requirement that an owner live within 50 miles of his land is totally ridiculous. A grower today may own land in several counties. Again, by 1902 standards 50 miles was a long distance, but today many people commute that far to their jobs in the cities.

As an indication of the impact agribusiness has made on the growing scene, a 1976 survey by The Packer showed that the average acreage grown or controlled by a typical grower subscribing to The Packer is 772 acres. In California and Arizona the figure is a much higher 1,691 acres. Obviously, agriculture has followed the trend of most other industries in that there are fewer but larger units.

Although most of our grower readers have large acreages, we sincerely hope that small growers can continue to be successful. In fact, American agriculture is still less centralized than probably any other industry in the nation.

But, as we have said before, the way to keep small operators in business is by checking inflation and overregulation that drive up costs, and by creating an economic climate that will allow them to help themselves. Not by artificially stepping in and limiting growers to unrealistically small acreage.

Since federal water projects are involved, there may be some merit in limiting acreage. But if there must be a limit on ownership or leasing of acreage, let's fight to make sure it is set at a level that reflects the realities of 1977 and beyond, rather than 1902.

From The Packer,
Sept. 3, 1977

LETTER TO EDITOR

Editor, The Journal:

The Panama Canal issue is a hot one. Even if we stole it, which is a bald face lie; and if we don't have a right to be there, which is false; and if we don't need it anymore and have outgrown it, which is simply not true; it all boils down to one of two things. Either we choose America or we choose Communist Russia because if we turn the canal back to that dictator in Panama, he and the one in Cuba will sure turn it over to Russia.

As far as a reclamation is concerned we are going to have that either way we go. We better get some intestinal fortitude somewhere in Washington to take care of that when it comes.

We already know now whose side President Carter is on, and if he isn't tried for treason we should keep this in mind come the next election. We know Senator Hatfield is for the give-away, but let us wait and see how he votes. Let's watch all senators and congressmen and if they vote for the canal give-away, we should see that they are out of public office at the latest by the next election.

Yours truly,
D.A. Erickson,
Ontario, Oregon

Editor, The Journal:

I think there is greater reason to "throw out" Bert Lance than there was Nixon. Why do we want Lance to handle our money affairs when he could not handle his own?

Walt Burdette,
Nyssa, Oregon

OBITUARIES

Ray Search

Services for Ray Ira Search 61, Adrian, Oregon, who died of natural causes Saturday, September 10, 1977 at a Boise hospital, were conducted at 2 p.m., Wednesday at Dakan Funeral Chapel by Ralph Canfield, Nampa Regular Baptist Church. Interment was in Canyon Hill Cemetery.

He was born July 16, 1916, at Nirada, Montana and in 1928, moved to Burley, where he was educated. In 1935, he moved to Parma and farmed until 1942 when he moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon. He moved to Adrian in 1959.

Surviving are his father, W.M. Search, Wilder; four brothers, W.M. Jr., Manhatten Beach, California; Burt, Nampa, Vernon, Home-dale and Melvin Search, Lebanon, Oregon; eight sisters, Katherine Vanderdosen, Caldwell, Jane Gullett, Burns, Ore., Sheila Cartwright, Parma, Wilma Mytinger, Walla Walla, Wash., Rilla Rothermich, Pamaona, Missouri, Myrtle Baldwin, Middleton, Nell Crawford, Clackamas, Oregon and Thelma Jones, Oregon City, Oregon; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother.

Memorials may be made to the Mountain States Tumor Institute.

Violet Riggs

Services for Violet Riggs, 68, Nyssa, who died of natural causes Monday, September 12, 1977 at a Nyssa hospital, were conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stake House, Nyssa, by Bishop Laurence Hatch. Interment was in the Nyssa cemetery, under the direction of Lienkaemper Chapel, Nyssa.

She was born August 29, 1909, in Tinkneyville, Illinois. She moved with her family from Illinois to Idaho in 1918. She attended schools in Rigby. She lived in the Teton and Rupert areas before moving to Nyssa in 1938.

She had been active in the LDS church.

Surviving are her husband, Lewis, of Nyssa; three sons, Lewis Kay Riggs, Milpitas, California, Wayne Dale Riggs, Blytheville, Arkansas, Doyle Reed Riggs, Santa Clara, California; a daughter, Linda Manning, Nampa; a sister, Alma Stutzneggar, Gooding; four brothers, E. H. Keller, Pocatello, William T. Keller and Irvin H. Keller, both Rigby, and Ivan J. Keller, Anaconda, Montana; and nine grandchildren.

Christian Church News

Saturday, September 24 - Youth Prayer meeting 10 p.m.

Sunday, September 25 - Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning worship, 11 a.m. Evening services, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 26 - Women's Workday 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 28 - Bible Study & Prayer 8 p.m. Youth Group, 8 p.m. The Duane Friend Crusade is coming for a week of services Oct. 2-9 to be held in the school auditorium.

Southern Baptist Church

A potluck dinner was enjoyed following the worship service on Sunday, September 18 at the First Southern Baptist Church in Fruitland, Idaho.

Visitation nite has been changed to Monday at 7 p.m. If you don't know someone to visit, contact the Rev. Carlson.

The W.M.U. met at the Church on Monday the 19. This was their first meeting after the summer dismissal.

Plan to attend the special film "Like a Mighty Army" to be shown at First Southern Baptist in Fruitland on September 25 at 7:30 p.m. This is a dramatic, down to earth, true film of a man in tune with his time—the story of James Kennedy.

Bible Missionary Church

730 North 2nd Street, Nyssa, Oregon.

Sunday - Sunday School, 10 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m. Young People, 7 p.m. Evening service, 7:45 p.m. Wednesday - Mid-week service, 7:45 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor.

Park Avenue Baptist Church

Sunday, September 25 - Sunday school classes for all ages, 10 a.m.

Worship service in the Sanctuary with message by Pastor Dale Mitchell, 11 a.m. Fellowship time downstairs following the worship service.

Gilbert Para

Gilbert Para passed away at his home in Nyssa Tuesday, September 20, 1977. Services are pending at the Lienkaemper Chapel in Nyssa. A full obituary will follow in the next issue of The Journal.

CHURCH SERVICES

Nazarene Church News

Thursday, September 22 - Golden Hour Missionary Chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Connie Windom.

Friday, September 23 - Prayer and Fasting at the Parsonage, noon - 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 25 - Morning Prayer at the church 7 a.m. Christian Education Classes, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service 11 a.m.



Dr. John Knight

Nyssa Church of the Nazarene will be having Special Services beginning Tuesday, September 27 and continuing through Sunday evening, October 2, with Dr. John Knight. The evening services will begin at 7:30 each night. The Sunday Services will be at 10:50 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Knight, a Texas native, began full-time Christian work as a pastor in Mineral Wells, Texas. While pastoring, he served as secretary and treasurer for the West Texas District, and later became the district superintendent.

In 1946, he was elected superintendent of the Florida District, where he served until he became executive secretary for the Department of Evangelism in 1968. He retired from that position in January, 1975. He has been in fulltime Evangelism since then.

The Song Evangelist will be Rev. Meredith Mortimer who is currently Minister of Music at Boise First Church of the Nazarene. His rich baritone voice will add fervor to the services.

The Rev. Bill Russell and the people of Nyssa Church of the Nazarene cordially invite you to all the services 7:30 p.m. each evening.

The Alabaster offering for Missions will be received at morning worship service.

Choir Practice, 6:45 p.m. Evening Worship Service 7:30 p.m. This service will be Sacred Communion followed by a reception for the new members in Manley Hall.

Tuesday, September 27 - Ladies Bible study will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Beverly Hammar.

Tuesday, September 27 - October 2 - Special services with Dr. John Knight with the Rev. Meredith Mortimer, Song Evangelist.

Weeknight Services 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 30 - Men's No Host Prayer Breakfast at the Twilight Cafe at 6:30 a.m. with Dr. John Knight as special speaker. Public is cordially invited.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH NEWS

Sunday, September 25 - Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Morning worship, with message by Pastor Ron Wenning, 11 a.m.

Sunday evening service, 7 p.m.

Friday, September 30 - Evening home Bible study, 8 p.m.

Call 372-5004 for further information.

St. Bridget's Church News

Masses: Saturday eve, 7 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. (11 a.m. is Spanish every Sunday)

Adrian 9:30 a.m. Classes - Grades 1-6 Wednesday, 3:45 p.m. Grades 7-12 Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Missionary Church News

Pastor: Bedford Andrews

Sunday, September 25 - Sunday school 9:45 a.m. Church service 11 a.m. Sunday night, B.T.C. 6:30 p.m.

Preaching service, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28 - Prayer and study of 1 Corinthians Chap. 8, 7 p.m.

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OCTOBER 2 - 9

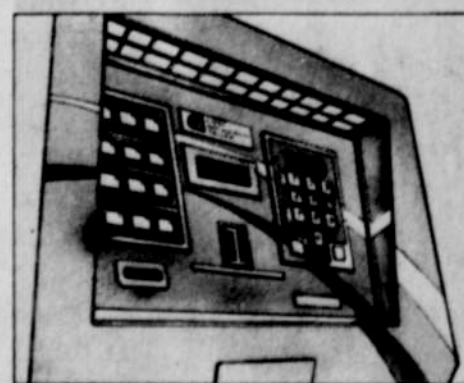
SERVICES: 7:30 P.M. OCT. 2 - 8

CLOSING SERVICE:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 - 2:30 P.M.

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