

Nyssa Gate City Journal

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Published Every Thursday at Nyssa, Oregon 97913

Second class postage paid at Nyssa, Oregon 97913
under act of Congress of March 3, 1879

MEMBER



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Malheur County, Oregon,
and Payette and Canyon
Counties, Idaho:
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EDITORIALS

Thanksgiving ... How it Came About

Do your children-do YOU-know the origin of the day we call "Thanksgiving," the significance of events surrounding that origin, and their relation to the position we find ourselves in today? If, after reading what follows, your answer is "no," then just possibly, you may be inclined to ask "why?"

It was on November 21 (November 11, according to the old-style calendar) in the year 1620, that a band of "pilgrims" moored "their bark" and founded Plymouth Colony in the New World.

The term "pilgrims" was given to the band by Governor Bradford, the first political leader of the colony, in recognition that this particular group of individuals were on a pilgrimage in search of a place where they might live and worship in a manner not acceptable to the throne and Church of England.

Before landing, the record shows, the members of the expedition met aboard their "bark," the Mayflower, and drew up and signed the "Mayflower Compact," which provided that the colony soon to be established would function according to majority rule and would set up a working model of a commune in the New World.

Explorations were carried out by members of the party and a general debarkation did not take place until December 21.

All houses, stores, and goods were to be held "in common" with each person serving the "good of all" and with private property reduced to personal clothing and individual belongings lacking in the character of economic (productive) goods.

Construction of the first "common house" was started on Christmas day, 1620. It was followed by the erection of other buildings of similar character. All stores were held jointly and distributed on the basis of "need."

The winter of 1620-21 was a hard one but few, if any, of the colonists exerted themselves to the utmost since their requirements were met, at first, out of the common storehouse-regardless of the amount of labor expended. Half of the pilgrims perished that and the following year, and still the threat of death it self didn't seem sufficient to bestir the colony.

In the spring of 1621, Governor Bradford decided to abandon the communal idea. Instead he assigned (today, we would call it deeded) plots of land to each family, informing them that if they wanted anything to eat they would have to produce it themselves.

The change in the outlook of the pilgrim settlement was almost instantaneous, if we may rely on Bradford's diary. Now the men went forth to work with a will. And the women, who before would not think of field labor, now toiled with their husbands, and so did the children.

The result was that when the fall harvest time came, a great abundance of food stuffs rewarded the pilgrims-individually. Arrangements with the Indians, peacefully made, had brought variety to the diet and a kind of security against Indian forays.

To celebrate the occasion, a period of thanksgiving was set aside and a feast day arranged. And that is the day we celebrate today in commemoration of the occasion when our forefathers, starving turned from socialism to private enterprise, from collectivism to family and individuality.

The tendency, increasingly over the years, has been for us to mark this day apart as one of feasting without remembering that Thanksgiving commemorates one of the first rejections of socialism on these shores. (American history, before it was diluted into "Social Studies," showed that Jamestown experienced almost identical difficulties with its communistic beginning and resorted to the same solution.)

Americans are prone to be materialists and to give praise for the material goodies they obtain; but, certainly, the fact of a bountiful harvest in a given instance is not more important than the recognition of the virtues of private ownership and management that made that bountiful harvest possible. It is the latter that should merit our thanks on this day, more than the former.

While it is undoubtedly true that our pilgrim forebears did not themselves fully recognize the enormous philosophic and economic advance they had made, that is no reason for us to shrug it off and assume that prosperity is automatic and will continue regardless of what we do to stifle and impede the concept that made it all possible.

So let us be thankful today. Let us be grateful that the seeds of freedom and private enterprise were planted on these shores by our forefathers and go to work to nurture and expand their growth.

By Jean Evans
Parma, Idaho



Malheur Memorial Hospital

November 19 - Jose Alcor, Nyssa, girl

Holy Rosary Hospital

November 16 - Mr. and Mrs. Harold Seley, Ontario, boy

November 18 - Mr. and

Mrs. Terrance Duncan, Harper, boy
November 19 - Mr. and Mrs. Bill Curtis, Payette, girl
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Norton, Ontario, boy

Paul House

Paul House, 65, well-known Nyssa resident passed away Saturday, November 19, 1977 in Nyssa. Funeral services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at the Lienkaemper Chapel.

Business Closeout

All Toys and Hand Tools 10% Discount.

Parts, Iron & Pieces 25¢ per lb.

20¢ per lb. over 100 lbs.



Alcoholics Anonymous

What Drinking Does To Children

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

One of the cruelest, saddest and long-lasting consequences of alcoholic drinking by parents is the effects such behavior has on their children. Little wonder that 50 percent of the membership of Alcoholics Anonymous (over 1,000,000 sober drunks) is made up of persons whose father, mother, or both were alcoholics. Even that wouldn't be so bad if the children joined AA when they came of age. They must, however, first suffer all the tortures of the damned before they are qualified to join.

When someone enters the doorway of AA, we know, without their saying a word, they have been through hell.

Getting back to the youngsters of alcoholics, a very hep counselor at one of the junior high schools mentioned that one of his boys was sitting aside from the rest of the students with his head in his bowl of soup.

In talking with the young man after lunch, the youth told him of being crushed and really torn up because his dad in a drunken rage had called his mother a dirty whore at 2 o'clock that morning.

What do you think that does to young people?

Let me tell you about the year my brothers and sisters and I almost made it to the orphan's picnic:

My oldest sister, Carol, came home to find my mom and dad sprawled naked and insensibly intoxicated across the bed. She looked on them with all the loathing and disgust we had all felt at one time or another for these contemptible people who thought they were entitled to our love and respect because they brought us into the world. How can you love someone you don't respect? But, that's another story.

Anyway, Carol very methodically went around the house stuffing toilet paper and rags around the doors and making sure the windows were tightly closed. She then turned on the gas jets on the stove top and the oven, and let herself out very quietly.

She met us one by one as we came home from school and when we were all together, took us over to a nearby park to watch the swans on the lagoon. We dilled and dallied and swung on the swings and finally lingered down the street homeward because we got hungry.

From two blocks away we could see people standing in

Christian

South 5th & Ennis

Saturday, November 26 - Youth Prayer Meet 10 p.m.

Sunday, November 27 - Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

Evening Services 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30 - Debbie's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 1 - Wanda's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

CWF at the home of Arlene Hendricks, 2 p.m.

Friday, December 2 - Good News Club 3:30 p.m. in school Primary gym.

our yard and a police car and firetruck in front of the duplex in which we lived. Our nosy neighbors had smelled the gas, broke the window and had our groggy parents stretched out on the back porch when the police and firemen got there.

Later, Carol told the police in front of my folks what she had done and why. Asked if she hadn't realized that her mother and dad would have died if the neighbors hadn't come to the rescue, she hung her head and said "yes" in a barely audible voice.

Our folks were pretty subdued the rest of the week and not many words were exchanged. There were times when they looked strangely at us and at each other, but there were no more questions. They knew and we knew that they knew.

Well, the poor things are gone now. They got us here and that's about the extent of it. Three of us are left of nine. We finally forgave. To forget takes longer.

Your kids will be doing a good imitation of what you're showing them. Count on it.

For more information, Call 372-3318 or 372-2526.

Golden Age Club Meets

The Golden Age Club met November 16 with nine members and three guests enjoying a potluck luncheon.

The business meeting was called to order by Winona Smith, president. Gifts of money from townspeople and the promise of a Thanksgiving turkey by a local grocer were mentioned. The club is most grateful for all this help and consideration.

Group singing was enjoyed with Thelma Haas and Gertrude DeFrees furnishing the accompanying music.

Guests were Nancy Dunham and Weldean Sparks from the Referral office in Ontario and Edna Lowe.

The club will be having a Bazaar on December 7 at the clubhouse at 113 Green Avenue. There will be numerous items for sale.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Tuesday, November 29 - Adrian City Council, regular meeting, Adrian Fire Hall, 8 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES

St. Bridget's Catholic

North 5th & Locust

Masses: Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Spanish)

Adrian: 9:30 a.m.

Nazarene

Good & South 5th

Friday, November 25 - Prayer and fasting at the parsonage at noon.

Sunday, November 27 - Morning prayer at the church at 7 a.m. Christian Education Classes at 9:45 a.m. Children's Churches and Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m. with Pastor Russell bringing the Message. Choir Practice at 6:45 p.m. for the Christmas Cantata. Evening Gospel Hour at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29 - Ladies Bible Study at Diana Martin's at 9:30 a.m. Babysitting provided at the church.

Wednesday, November 30 Bible Study at the Nursing home at 4 p.m. with Ellis Martin in charge. Prayer meeting, Teen Fellowship, and Caravans at 7:30 at the church.

Missionary Baptist

Ehrgood & North 2nd

Interim Pastor Bill Lowrance

Sunday Services - Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

Sunday evening, BTC, 6:30 p.m.

Worship 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday evening - Prayer and Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.

Park Ave. Baptist

North 3rd & Park

Sunday, November 27 - Sunday school classes for all ages, 10 a.m.

Worship service in the Sanctuary with message by guest speaker, 11 a.m.

Fellowship time downstairs following worship service.

Wednesday, November 30 Bible Study and prayer meeting at Paul Penrods, 7:30 p.m.

A friendly smile, a warm handshake and the words of the Lord await you at Park Avenue Baptist Church on the corner of North 3rd Street and Park Avenue.

Assembly of God

South 2nd & Reece

Ron Wenning, Pastor

Sunday, November 27 - Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship, message by Pastor Wenning 11 a.m.

Care and Share Service, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 1 - Home Bible Study, 8 p.m.

Call 372-5004 for further details.

Bible Missionary

North 2nd & Beech

Sunday - Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Young People 7 p.m.

Evening service, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday - Midweek service, 7:45 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.

Rev. Carl A. Johnson, pastor



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Dave Lefebvre, General Traffic Agent, Lewiston;
Rod Jones, Lead Electrician, La Grande; Tula Adams,
Crew Dispatcher, Hinkle; Nino Alvear, Section
Foreman, Yakima; Donald Williamson, Electrician,
Hermiston; Bill Lamme, Traffic Agent, Spokane;
Phil Barfuss, Planner, Spokane.

We can handle it.
the Union Pacific railroad people

