

The Odyssey Times

The Only One We've Got

Vol. 1, No. 4

Always Free

Riley Announces Candidacy Amidst Controversy Apple Farmer Wants Mayor's Chair

by Dale Jacobs
Times Editor

Tom Riley, long-time City Council member, announced his candidacy for Mayor last night in a hastily-called press conference at Whit's End. Standing along-side Bernard Walton, his campaign manager, Riley said that his campaign will begin immediately on a platform of "integrity." "My greatest desire is to bring honesty and morality to the city's highest office," Riley said in the Little Theatre at Whit's End.

Riley's entry into the mayoral race pits him against candidate Bart Rathbone, though he denies that Rathbone was his reason for running. Rathbone, owner of Rathbone's Palace, recently attacked Riley and the City Council for "under-the-table special treatment" and "favoritism." He didn't specify who he thought was receiving special treatment or favoritism.

Riley's announcement came as a surprise, partly because of the controversy surrounding his apple farm. It is currently under investigation by officials from the Environmental Detection Agency (EDA) under the direction of Philip Glossman, on special assignment for the State Department of the Interior. Glossman is also a former Odyssey City Councilman.

The EDA allegedly found traces of toxic



chemicals on Riley's property and in his crop of apples.

Riley says that he did not enter the election to combat these charges. He admits, however, that the feeling of helplessness he has had at the hands of "a bunch of bureaucrats" prompted him to think of other citizens who feel the same way. "I'm running for Mayor because I want to do something to help this town," Riley said.

Riley observed that "people have lost faith in their elected officials to do what's right. Too many of them have gone off and tried to do things that will help themselves. People need somebody they can trust to do what's good for them. I'll do my best to earn that trust."

Promoting "personal responsibility" and "less government interference into people's lives" are also goals for Riley, if elected.

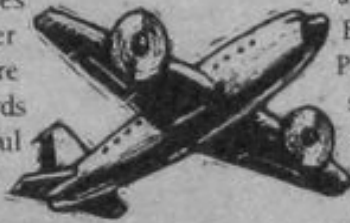
Rathbone refused to comment on Riley's candidacy except to say that he looks forward to "a clean, issues-based, fair fight unless we have to get nasty to win."

This special Mayoral election was called after Mayor Bill Jenkins suddenly announced his resignation "to spend more time" with his family.

[Editorial note: For the latest on this story, listen to the "Adventures in Odyssey" audiocassette Tom For Mayor, Parts 1 & 2.]

Whit Departs For Middle East Mission Hundreds Gather For Farewell Ceremony At City Hall

"I don't think there's anything that's ever touched me any more than those beautiful cards and those wonderful messages and all the love and caring that came along with them. So God bless you all and thank you."



John Avery Whittaker spoke these words to an estimated crowd of 2500 people in an emotional farewell speech given at City Hall. Whittaker, or Whit as he is better known, accepted a position as director of the Holy Land Archaeological Mission. They are headquartered in Jerusalem, with archaeological sites all over Israel.

Whit told *The Odyssey Times* that the farewell ceremony was quite moving for him. "I never imagined so many people would turn out for such a simple goodbye," he said. Whit remarked that he's been literally "swamped with cards and letters" from friends who promised to pray for him in this new adventure.

Whit's opportunity to go to the Middle East began when Dr. Richard Baynes, the former director of the Mission and a close friend of Whit, suddenly passed away from

a heart attack. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Universal Press Foundation, the Mission's sponsoring agency, Whit helped begin the search for a replacement. Eventually, it became clear to everyone concerned that Whit was the most suitable replacement. He explained that "after a lot of prayer and consideration" he decided to take the position. "There comes a time when a change is needed to shake off the cobwebs. I've made some detailed plans for the future of Whit's End and have every confidence that, for Odyssey, the best is yet to come."

Plans include that the proprietorship of the very popular ice cream shop, Whit's End, will go to Jason Whittaker, Whit's son, until Whit returns from his mission after an indefinite period of time.

The master of ceremonies for the farewell ceremony was Mayor Bill Jenkins who said that losing Whit will be worse than when he lost his tonsils at the age of five.

Music for the event was provided by the Odyssey High School Band.

[Editorial note: For more details on this story, be sure to listen to Gone... and... But Not Forgotten in the Wish You Were Here collection of cassettes and compact discs.]

Sports

Upset!

Odyssey Archery team defeats Connellsville, 154-151

Since 1956, the McAlister Memorial Field has hosted the great tradition of Connellsville beating Odyssey in an archery match. But that trend changed this year in a major upset. Odyssey won 154-151.

It was a close match to the end with Connellsville up 151-134. With only one person left to shoot, Odyssey's Robert Skeed stepped up. His twenty-point shot gave Odyssey the victory, and brought home the Friar Tuck trophy for the first time in 38 years.

There was some controversy, however, in the fourth round of the match. A few members of the Connellsville squad claimed that some of the Odyssey athletes were using corked arrows. An investigation will be made into these allegations, but Odyssey coach Clark Lewis is not too happy about it. "This is the finest team Odyssey has ever fielded, and the other

team's whining should not take away from that," he said. "We won fair and square."

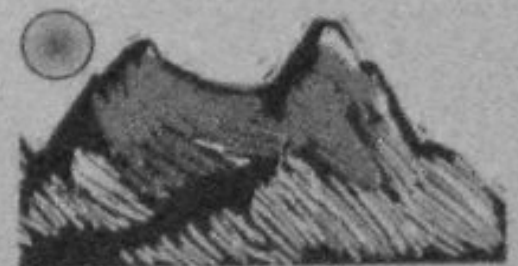
A short parade between 4th and 5th streets on Penrose Avenue will be held at 2:00 PM tomorrow to honor the winners.

New Bible Study

George Barclay, Interim Pastor at Community Church, will start a Bible Study concentrating on family communication at the church, tomorrow night beginning at 7:00 PM. Subjects will include: instilling Christian values in your children, turning devotions from a chore into a blessing, disciplining strong-will sons, and coping with adolescent girls. Refreshments will be served.

Weather

Seasonal winds can be expected in the usual places with characteristic temperatures dominating most of the day until sunset. This evening will see suspicious lows. Temperatures will be in Fahrenheit and Celsius. Sunrise is predicted for morning, and not a moment too soon.



Time Travels With Timeless Messages

Join Mark Prescott on his most recent trip to the Imagination Station for a day of more laughs and fun. **King's Quest** finds Mark searching for a valuable ring and realising a fascinating fact about God. Paperback. Suggested donation: \$5.97 in Canada. HFS-52.

Embark on other spine-tingling ventures by reading the entire "Adventures in Odyssey" book set. Each is loaded with surprises and valuable lessons in faith, family, friendship, and more! Suggested donation: \$25.97 in Canada. HFS-103.

For more information, write to: Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6Z3. In Canada, write Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6Z3.

Odyssey's Crime Rate Up Study Shows Increase in Vandalism

Odyssey's crime rate is the highest it has ever been, according to the Campbell College Sociology Club. According to the Club's findings in a report released today, "Never in Odyssey's history has the crime rate been as high as it was this year, especially in the area of vandalism."

Outgoing Mayor Bill Jenkins attributes the statistic to growth in and around the town. "This happens to all cities that experience growth. It's really nothing to worry about," he said.

The Sociology Club's findings were compiled from incidents reported to the Odyssey Police between October first of the previous year to October first of last year, with seasonal adjustments and a 5 percent curve for error.

The study will be published in its entirety in tomorrow's edition.



King's Quest

Sixth Adventures In Odyssey Novel Captures Past Era

Jack Trade
Reviewer

In Tolkien-like fashion, *King's Quest*, the sixth novel in the *Adventures in Odyssey* series, sends the reader along with our hero Mark Prescott as it propels him to a mysterious world of knights, castles, enchantresses and dragons. While there, Mark learns a valuable lesson about the importance of obedience and the sovereignty of God.

We don't want to give the story away, but Mark goes to our very own John Avery Whittaker for help with the latest twist in his estranged parents relationship. Whit wisely sends Mark into the Imagination Station where he encounters a series of adventures designed to give Mark a deeper understanding of his world. Readers may wonder how the action connects with his problems at home. You can be sure that all the questions are answered by the end.

King's Quest tips its hat to the best elements of popular fantasy without becoming a cliched spoof. Mark Prescott brings a modern child's sensibilities to the story to help readers grasp a lost age of courage and chivalry, sadly unfamiliar to many now.

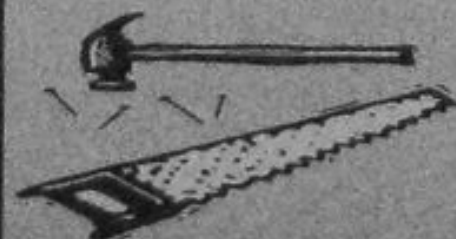
I have it from a reliable source at Focus on the Family Publishing that *King's Quest* may complete the "Mark Prescott" cycle of the *Adventures in Odyssey* novels. Readers may want to read the first five to appreciate the richness of Mark's experiences in our fair town. They are (in order) *Strange Journey Back*, *High Flyer With a Flat Tire*, *The Secret Cave of Robinwood*, *Behind the Locked Door* and *Lights Out at Camp What-a-Nut*. New titles in the series are forthcoming.

Editorial note: For more about Jason Whittaker, be sure to listen to his adventures on the "Adventures in Odyssey" audiotapes of A Name Not A Number, Parts 1 and 2 and Red Wagons & Pink Flamingos—just for starters.

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The Odyssey Times

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Sites Around Odyssey

The Room of Consequence at Whit's End

Because of the immense popularity of the Imagination Station at Whit's End, few people are aware of another equally exciting invention there. It's called the "Room of Consequence" and involves using the imagination for time travel in a different direction: to possible futures.

"It's a look into what might happen if you follow a particular course of action," Jack Allen, co-manager of Whit's End, explained. "For example, if your parents tell you not to do something and you want to do it anyway, the Room of Consequence will give you a peek at what might happen to you as a result."

But the Room of Consequence isn't simply an adventure of cause-and-effect. "Jason has toyed with it a little and figured out a way to actually let kids play out certain kinds of adventures like they're real. For instance, one girl who was hooked on a soap opera went into the Room of Consequence and got to play her favorite character on the show. She learned that, with all the lies, back-stabbing and betrayals, soap operas aren't very healthy for you. I don't think she watches it anymore."

The Room lives up to its name by being just that: a room. "Once you go through the door, almost anything can happen," Allen smiles. Allen confesses that he doesn't know exactly how the Room of Consequence works. "Whit created it and Jason has been refining it and, honestly, it's all computer chips and code numbers to me. All I know is that it helps the kids."

Whit's End is open from 9 AM to 9 PM every day, except Sundays and holidays. Admission is free.

Editorial note: Adventures in the Room of Consequence can be heard on the Adventures in Odyssey episodes called For There Is The Kingdom, Supremely Devoted, Into Temptation and Why Don't You Grow Up? And some of the best and most popular Imagination Station episodes can be heard in the cassette/compact disc collection called Chronicles, Kings & Crosses, Canada previously released material.

Go West, Young Man is advice worth taking

Video Review

by Lucy Cunningham-Schultz
Cub Reporter

It's non-stop action in the wild, wild west with the eighth "Adventures in Odyssey's" video *Go West, Young Man*, where Dylan Taylor and Eugene Meltsner take a trip in the Imagination Station. There they meet the quirky residents of Tuttleville and the notorious Dalton boys in a showdown that tests Dylan's courage to the limit.

Consistent with the other "Adventures in Odyssey" videos, the story and animation are better than you'd find on any Saturday morning cartoon. It's the kind of show that's a lot of fun (I liked the bull best of all) and has a really important message about doing what's right and keeping your word. I enjoyed it a lot and would've given it five-out-of-five stars, but I still think they're picturing Whit too heavy (though he doesn't look as bad as he used to).

OOPS!

We regret that in yesterday's edition we said that Mrs. Harcourt is a large petunia. Of course, we meant to write that Mrs. Harcourt is interested in large petunias. We also misquoted the discount on batteries at Rathbone's Electric Palace. The ad should have read: Buy one, get one free, with a ten dollar purchase.

Lend an Ear to Friendship and Fun!

There's lots of laughs, love and lessons with *Wish You Were Here*, a collection of new dramas from the popular "Adventures in Odyssey" radio series. You'll have the time of your life listening to them over and over and . . . Suggested donation: \$25 (\$33 in Canada) AL724 (6-cassette album) or CCT24 (4 compact disc set).

Like what you hear? With more than 20 different "Adventures in Odyssey" collections, you can listen to an exciting episode anytime you want! Suggested donation: \$25 (\$33 in Canada) each collection. Among them are *A Journey of Choices* (AL723/CCT23), *Passport to Adventure* (AL722/CCT22), *A Time of Discovery* (AL721/CCT21) and *Chronicles, Kings and Crosses* (AL720/CCT20).

To request these or any other Odyssey titles, write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80905, in Canada, write Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6Z3.



From Where I Sit

by Dale Jacobs
Editor

It seems our pages are filled more and more with stories about government departments who interfere with the rights and business of private citizens. Tom Riley's farm is a case in point. Without a formal complaint from those who distribute or purchase Riley's apples, the Environmental Detection Agency—a bogus tax-waster at best—took it upon itself to survey Riley's farm for potential toxic contamination. Former Odyssey councilman Philip Glossman is credited as the driving force behind this inquiry.

Our readers know well the back-ground on this case.

Some time ago, the Edgebiter Pesticide Company leaked pesticides into the creek running alongside Riley's farm. After a meticulous inquiry by the Environmental Protection Agency and other concerned organizations, Riley's farm was declared entirely safe. The Edgebiter

Company made restitution to all concerned and have since moved their storage facilities to Connellsville. Fine. Case closed.

Why the Environmental Detection Agency should now decide to investigate Riley again, disrupting his business and causing some alarm among his distributors, we can't tell. Philip Glossman's involvement causes us to raise our eyebrows. Glossman is well-known for his dislike of Tom Riley after numerous battles on the City Council. And now that Glossman has taken on responsibilities with the state government, he seems determined to cause Riley more trouble. Readers will remember Glossman's failed attempt to put a major highway through Riley's property.

The Odyssey Times feels that this is harassment of a most heinous nature: victimizing a good citizen in the name of the government. Where are Riley's rights? And where are ours if we allow such things to happen? I suggest we call our state representatives right away to protest this unjustified action.

Hang Onto Your Saddle . . . for a Ride to Biblical Values



Grab yer hat and spur the fun of *Go West, Young Man*, the newest release in the "Adventures in Odyssey" video series. Find out what happens when Eugene and Dylan drop in on the wild west and end up bucking heads with the dreaded Dalton gang! It's a showdown that reveals the importance of keeping your word—don't miss it! VHS only, approx. 30 minutes. Suggested donation: \$15 (\$20 in Canada) V1088.

Don't let the excitement end here! Plenty of thrills await in the other "Adventures in Odyssey" videos. They're fun, wholesome entertainment you can share with your friends! VHS only, approx. 30 minutes. Suggested donation: \$15 (\$20 in Canada) each video.

Other titles include *Electric Christmas* (V1087), *Once Upon an Avalanche* (V1086), *Star Quest* (V1085), *Shadow of a Doubt* (V1084), *Fine Feathered Frenzy* (V1083), *Flight to the Finish* (V1082) and *Knight Travellers* (V1081).

To request these or any other Odyssey titles, write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80905, in Canada, write Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6Z3.



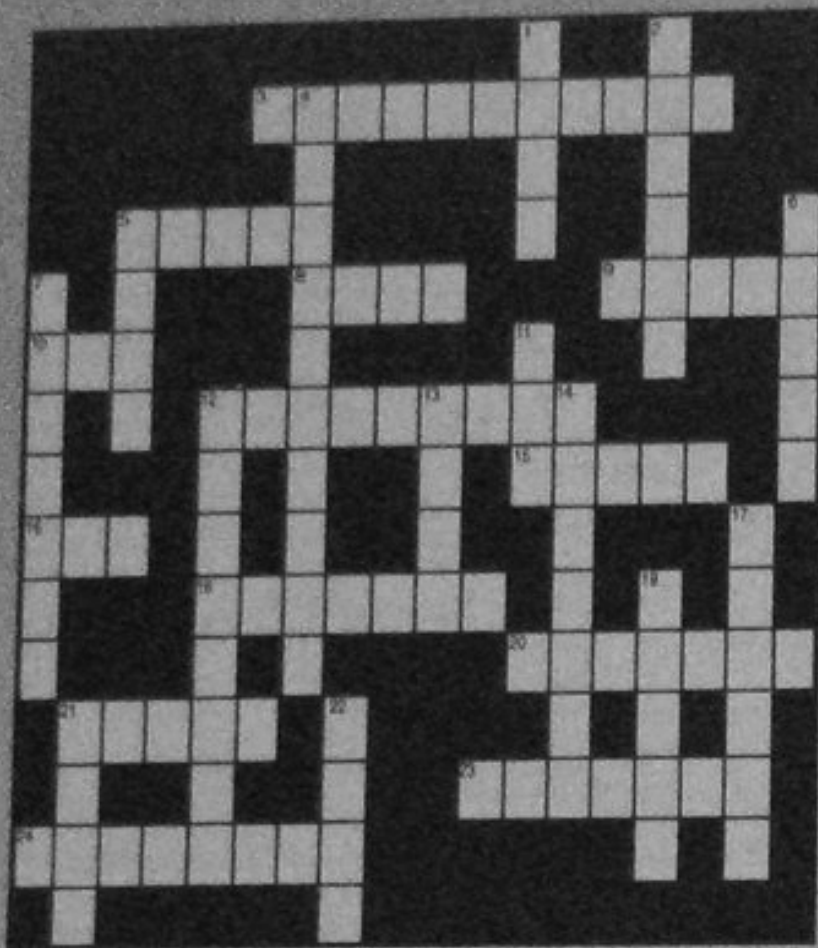
Odyssey Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Imaginary being
2. City where
3. Where in
4. Odyssey Middle School Newspaper
5. The ... of the very first Odyssey episode (3 words)
6. The
7.
8. When the Odyssey
9. What does for a living
10. has a physical disability
11.
12. The musical instrument that Eugene plays
13. State owned by

Down

1. What's only daughter
2. What's End's
3. Where is located
4. and
5. What's who was killed in the Vietnam War
6. Name of Odyssey's league baseball team
7. One way to get your across Lake
8. Odyssey's favorite (3 words)
9. The church that What's End was destroyed by this
10.
11. What is on Sundays
12. Odyssey Newspaper
13.
14.



The Truth About The Times

An Editorial For Those Who Wonder

In case you're feeling a little confused by *The Odyssey Times*, we'd like you to know that it is as real as "Adventures in Odyssey." The articles, interviews and even the classified ads are directly related to "Adventures in Odyssey" in one way or another. The fun is in trying to determine how they're related. Inside jokes and references abound for listeners who know the radio program and cassettes well.

"Adventures in Odyssey" product listings are legitimate and we encourage you to get to know the folks of Odyssey better by ordering what you can.

"Adventures in Odyssey" and *The Odyssey Times* are produced by the Audio Resources division of Focus on the Family under the close scrutiny of Executive Producer Chuck Bolte. Paul McCusker is producer, writer and director; Dave Arnold is production manager; Bob Luttrell and Mark Drury are our production engineers; Phil Lollar and Marshal Younger are writers and directors. Paula Peterson assists the aforementioned. Robert Skeed doesn't exist.

The World of Odyssey

A Quick Tour Through the Albums, Videos and Novels For Parents

We're often asked about the different "worlds" found within the "Adventures in Odyssey" videos, albums and novels. There are reasons for some of the differences between the products.

"Adventures in Odyssey" began in 1987 as a weekly radio program centered around John Avery Whitaker, Whit's End and, eventually, Eugene Meltsner and Connie Kendall. The episodes proved so popular that they were assembled in albums containing twelve episodes on six audiocassettes. To date, there are over 21 albums available. Many are also available on compact disc. The radio program continues weekly on more than 1200 stations and daily on more than 600 stations.

In 1991, Focus on the Family released the first "Adventures in Odyssey" animated video. Produced by Focus on the Family Films in conjunction with Word Inc., *Knight Travellers* contained Whit, Whit's End and Eugene, but also introduced characters not found on the radio series: Dylan Taylor and his dog Sherman. The specific needs of animation (versus radio) determined many of the choices made about who appeared in the videos and the kinds of stories that could be told. Thus, the animated videos became a different "world" than the radio/audio programs. There are

now eight videos available, with more in production.

In 1992, Focus on the Family Publishing released the "Adventures in Odyssey" novels. Because the weekly radio program often involved changes and growth for Whit and the gang at Whit's End, we decided that putting all the radio characters in the novels might create inconsistencies and confusion. So we did the next best thing: we set the novels in a time period prior to the radio series. The first six novels chronicle the adventures of Mark Prescott, a new kid in Odyssey, and his encounters with Whit, Whit's End and an invention-in-progress called the Imagination Station. Connie and Eugene aren't included because they haven't arrived yet! New titles are being written and, in time, more of the radio characters may be introduced into the "world" of the novels.

It is our hope that all three formats—audio, video and books—will appeal to your entire family in unique ways, yet still provide the overall encouragement and inspiration "Adventures in Odyssey" strives to present through good stories and important lessons.

Slide Show Presentation

By popular demand, Bernard Walton and Eugene Meltsner have agreed to a second presentation of slides from their recent cross-country trip. Join them next Tuesday at 6:00 PM in the Little Theatre at Whit's End. Admission is free.

[Editorial note: Bernard's and Eugene's cross-country trip can be heard on the *Wish You Were Here* collection of cassettes and compact discs.]

Classified Ads

Help Wanted—Stock boy at Rathbone's Electric Palace. Needs to have knowledge of electronics, circuitry, computers, sales, management, and have at least five years experience in sales and ten years experience in gymnastics. Must be willing to work evenings and nights for relatively low pay. Call 555-2453.

Help Wanted—Cashier at Holstein's Books. I am searching for a person with a good head to go on top of their shoulders, and a face that smiles with both ears. Call 555-7841.



Lost—Poodle. Responds to the name "Pooky Wooky." Call 555-5726.

Found—Beagle. Responds violently to scratching under the chin. Call "Ben" at the Odyssey Memorial Hospital, Prosthetics Ward, 555-7896.



For sale—50' X 35' cardboard cutout of the Greek Acropolis. Perfect if you happen to be putting on a performance of "Ben Hur" in the near future. Call Edwin Blackgaard at 555-1020.

Listen to
Adventures in
ODYSSEY
on the radio.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION Across: 3. Imagination, 5. Dottie, 8. Lucy, 9. Bible, 10. Owl, 12. Whit's Flop, 13. Wrath, 16. Jam, 18. Theater, 20. Janitor, 21. Blind, 23. Ukulele, 24. Electric. Down: 1. Jaws, 2. Connie, 4. McAlister, 5. Dale, 6. Jerry, 7. Coyotes, 11. Row, 12. What-a-Nut, 13. Fire, 14. Private, 17. Closed, 19. Times, 21. Bill, 22. Jack.