

The Odyssey Times

The Only One We've Got

Vol. 1, No. 3

Always Free

Scandal Revealed! Tragedy of Recent Local Events

by Dale Jacobs
Times Editor

The producers of the popular radio program "Adventures in Odyssey" announced that the recent "Whit's End" scandal will be told in dramatic form on cassette and compact disc. Encompassing all 12 episodes of the popular radio series' 25th compilation album, *Darkness Before Dawn* will chronicle the events surrounding the sudden outbreak of vandalism, robbery and political conspiracy that rocked the entire town of Odyssey not so long ago.

"Adventures in Odyssey's" producers said the collection will be made available towards the last half of the year and will touch on all aspects of what happened. "It's a faithful re-telling," spokesperson Paula Peterson said. "The writers painstakingly researched the scandal, including many of the personal details as recounted by the people who were directly involved. Nothing was left to hearsay. We felt it was so important

that the entire album is dedicated to telling the story."

Odyssey's citizens will remember well the mystery and intrigue that began with random acts of violence around our town and ultimately led to accusations of corruption in the Mayor's office and the potential destruction of Whit's End, Odyssey's best-known landmark. Arrests, the involvement of national security agencies, months of testimony at local



trials and prosecutions were the results.

Citizens of Odyssey were mixed in their reactions to the announcement. Mayor Tom Riley said in a press conference that he has every confidence the program's producers will do a good job with the story. "They've done well by us so far, haven't they?" he asked rhetorically.

Others, like Jack Allen of Whit's End, are concerned that dramatizing the scandal might bring back some painful memories for those who were involved. "It was a difficult time, and I'd hate to see it bring back the kind of pain we'd like to put behind us. But if people can learn from

our experience, then I'm all for it."

Jason Whittaker, son of John Avery Whittaker (the owner of Whit's End), is enthusiastic about the project's potential. "There are a lot of valuable lessons in what happened. I should know: I had to learn them the hard way."

"It changed my life," Eugene Meltner, employee of Whit's End and graduate student at Campbell College said. "But it would be inappropriate to go into all of the details as to how."

Bart Rathbone, who was also intimately involved in the events, was unavailable for comment but said anyway that he expected some sort of royalty from the producers for his part of the story.

The producers of the series also said that the album takes the unprecedented step of numbering each episode consecutively so that listeners will play them in order. A "discussion guide" will be included with the tapes and compact discs to help parents draw out important lessons for their children.

Tom Riley Rejects Re-Election Bid

by Jerry Phillips
Times Staff Writer

After days of speculation by the pundits of City Hall, Mayor Tom Riley announced today that he will not seek re-election at the end of his current term of office.

"I think I've had enough," Riley said jovially in a press conference. "I want to get back to my farm and horses."

"We'll miss Tom a lot," Councilman Dave Lambert said with tears in his eyes. "He leaves behind him a legacy of integrity, strength, moral fortitude and a tower of ethical magnitude. He's a pillar in this town."

"Don't mix your metaphors," Riley teased Lambert.

Riley, who denied that the "Whit's End" scandal played a part in his decision not to run, confirmed that it took its toll on him. "Just listen to those new tapes from the Odyssey fellows. You'll hear firsthand what it did to me."

Riley refused to endorse any particular candidate for the Mayor's office, but said that he might back someone later if "the right person came along."

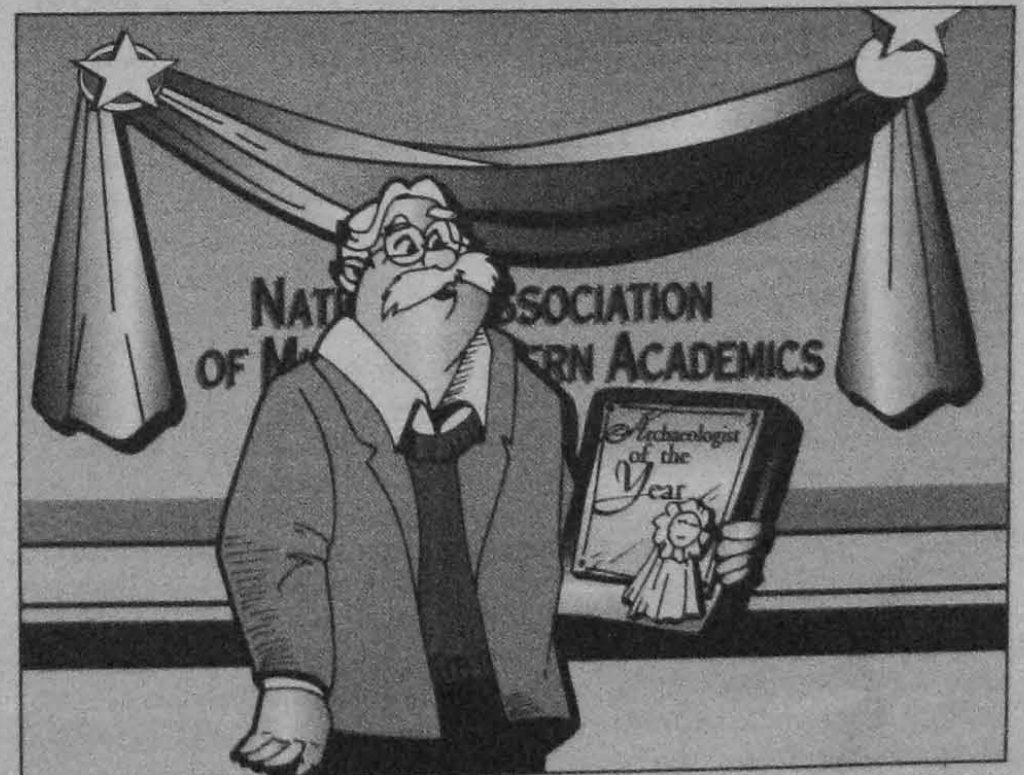
The announcement, which came as no surprise to those closest to Mayor Riley, was made in the McAlister Room at City Hall.

Whittaker Named "Archaeologist of the Year"

JERUSALEM/APS - John Avery Whittaker (better known as Whit here in Odyssey) has been named "Archaeologist of the Year" by the National Association of Middle Eastern Academics. "His work, wisdom and overall diligence at various sites around Israel compel us to present him with this award," Mort Schwabb said in a ceremony at the Jerusalem Museum of Antiquities.

The Chicago-based organization presented Whit with a plaque and a check for an undisclosed sum of money to help further his work in the Middle East. "You're worth a lot more than this," Schwabb said.

Obviously surprised and touched by the award, Whit accepted it with a humble "thank you" and expressed his desire that funding for archaeological work would increase rather than decrease. "We're here because we know that to rediscover our past is to guide us into the future. Technology changes, but the human spirit doesn't. Learning what we can about those who came before us will assist our understanding of ourselves in the present."



Whit was nominated for the award after the publication of his internationally acclaimed paper, *Biblical Proof in the Dust of Time*, an objective examination of how archaeological evidence validates miracles in the Bible.

Those gathered gave Whit a two-minute standing ovation.

Weather

Today will see seasonal temperature averages played out under partly sunny skies. Tonight will be dark and cooler with some unexpected thunderstorms and scattered rain. Tomorrow's weather was unavailable at press time.



"Someone to Watch Over Me" on Video

by Lucy Cunningham-Schultz
Times Staff Writer

Someone to Watch Over Me, a popular episode from the "Adventures in Odyssey" radio series, has been adapted to the equally popular animated video series, it was announced today by Focus on the Family, producer of both series.

"It was such a great story, we had to do it," Bob Vernon, a writer and producer for the video series, said.

Because of the specific needs of animation (as opposed to radio), the story has been altered in several ways. Bob Vernon explained, "The story originally involved Jimmy Barclay, but we changed it to Dylan Taylor since he's the lead character of the animated videos. But it's as exciting as it was before. We kept all the best parts in."

Jimmy Barclay, on a hike outside of his new home in Pokenberry Falls, could not be reached for comment. However, Donna, his sister, said by phone, "I'm sure he's glad the story is being made into a movie, but he's gonna be really miffed when he finds out they took him out of it. You know how he is."

She then added: "Just between us, I think it'll sell better without his face all over it."



Odyssey's "Underground Railroad" Story Told Two Historical Events Recounted on Tape and in Books



A Review by Jerry Phillips
Times Staff Writer

In two separate events during the last century, Odyssey was deeply touched by the division between those who supported slavery and those who fought against it.

In 1851, Reverend Andrew Ferguson of Grace Church in Odyssey helped a family of runaway slaves and, as a result, had his home burned to the ground by slave traders from the South. The dramatic story of the slaves' escape to freedom and the resulting conflict in Odyssey has been captured in a three-part "Adventures in Odyssey" radio program called, appropriately, "The Underground Railroad." Included in the 24th collection of cassettes and compact discs called *Risks and Rewards*, "The Underground Railroad" is an exciting and heart-wrenching look at the effects of slavery and the sacrifices made by those who fought it.

But the story didn't end there. In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas had their intense and widely reported debates about the morality of slavery, and the town of Odyssey was divided over the issue. By then

Reverend Andrew had become more active in the Underground Railroad, turning his church into a "stop" on the Railroad. This placed him again in the center of the slavery controversy as he worked tirelessly to help slaves escape to the North. But his work was often hindered by slave hunters who were given legal access to the North to recapture runaway slaves. It is this period of Odyssey's history that has been told in two books of the "Adventures in Odyssey" series of novels.

Books 9 and 10 chronicle the events surrounding the recapture of a runaway slave and his daughter as seen through the eyes of two modern-day Odyssey kids (Jack Davis and Matt Booker) who stumble back in time thanks to Whitt's Imagination Station. They both learn an important lesson about freedom as Matt gets kidnapped by the slave hunters and Jack joins Reverend Andrew on a mission into the South to free him. Book 9 is called *Dark Passage* and Book 10 is called *Freedom Run*.

These adventures are authentically rendered and a must for anyone who cares about our nation's — and city's — history.

Connie Kendall Named Coach

The Odyssey League of Public Sports announced today that the new Coach for the Coyotes will be Connie Kendall, a high-school student and employee of Whitt's End.

"This will surprise some of you," Chuck Ahern, head of the League, said. "But we want to demonstrate how diverse and tolerant we are of placing young ladies into traditionally male-dominated positions."

Connie Kendall said she was honored to be chosen by the League. "I'll do my best to bring victory to our team and our town. Most of all, I hope we'll learn team-manship and how to be courteous players, whether we win or lose."

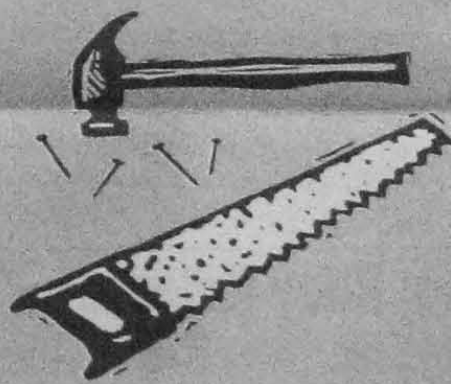
When challenged by Bart Rathbone, a spectator at the announcement, that Connie wasn't qualified to coach because she knew nothing about baseball, Kendall replied that "ignorance certainly hasn't gotten in your way, Bart."

Kendall will take over the reigns of the team immediately. Former Coach Tom Riley had previously resigned due to his responsibilities as Mayor.



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Dave Arnold, Producer
Mark Drury, Production Manager
Rodlyn Davis, Coordinator
Phil Lollar, Writer and Director
Paul McCusker, Writer and Director
and a cast of thousands

By the way, the "Adventures in Odyssey" animated video series is produced by the Film division, the novels are available through the Publishing division and, amoeba wrong, but cell division is overseen by the Microscope division. Chuck Bohle is gone, but not forgotten.

Adventures in Odyssey

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Armageddon in Odyssey! Good and Evil Clash in New Audio Episodes!

This couldn't be happening in idyllic Odyssey, could it? An unprecedented wave of criminal activity has broken out all over the town, and its citizens are stunned. Theft, shattered windows, graffiti... who on earth is behind this sinister outbreak of lawlessness?



Leave it to the crime-fighting crew of Whitt's End to find out in *Darkness Before Dawn*—the latest series of plot-twisting radio dramas from the "Adventures in Odyssey" audio collection. As Jack, Jason, Eugene and the others encounter the forces of evil, they face a tremendous test of faith, friendship and forgiveness. Will they get through this dark time to see the light of dawn? Listen to all 12 episodes for the answer.

Darkness Before Dawn six-audiocassette album

*Suggested Donation: \$25 (\$33 in Canada) AL728

Darkness Before Dawn four-compact disc set

*Suggested Donation: \$25 (\$33 in Canada) CC728

To request these or any other Odyssey item, write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995. In Canada, write Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4G3.

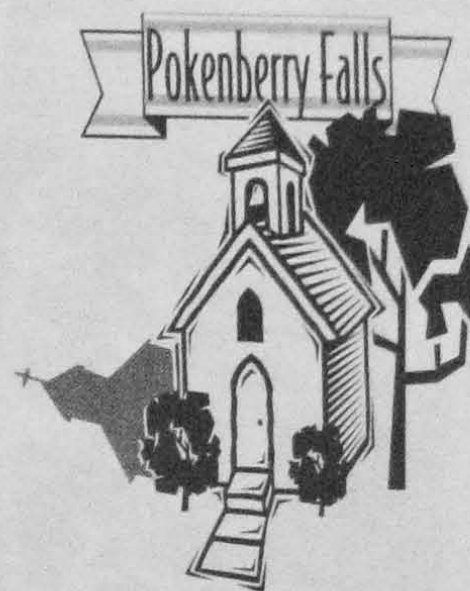


The Barclays of Pokenberry Falls Where are they now?

George Barclay and his family arrived safely in their new home of Pokenberry Falls, New England, according to close friends in Odyssey who have spoken to them. George Barclay, who was interim pastor of Odyssey Community Church, was offered a position with a church in the quaint New England town on the same day as his graduation from seminary.

"Pastor George tells me that everyone is settling in well," Tom Riley said. Mayor Riley knew the family not only as friend but because of his duties as a deacon at Odyssey Community Church.

[Editor's Note: For a dramatic retelling of the Barclays move from Odyssey, be sure to listen to the "Adventures in Odyssey" episodes entitled "Pokenberry Falls, RFD."]



From Where I Sit

An Editorial by Dale Jacobs

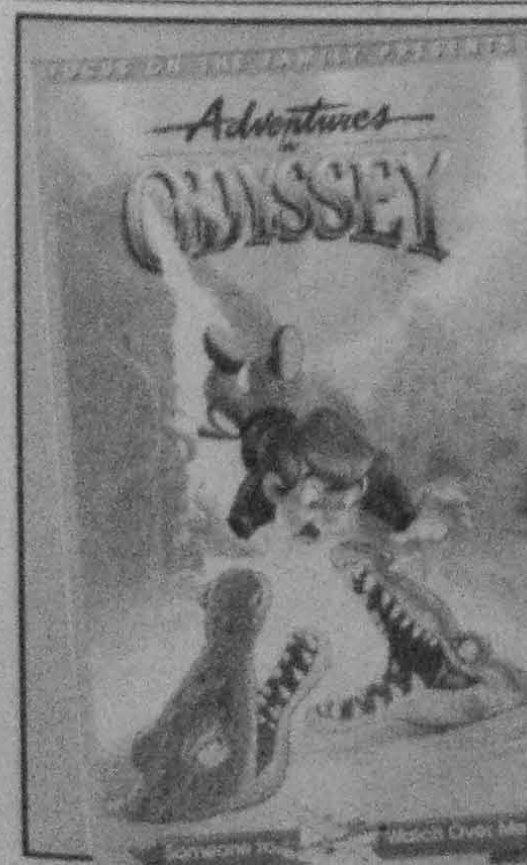
I have to be honest. The release of *Darkness Before Dawn* — the series of radio dramas based on recent events around our town — makes me a little uneasy. Why? Well, like a lot of folks around Odyssey, I guess I'm still wrestling with the question: how could it happen here? It was unthinkable. Vandalism, robbery, political scandal, mudslinging and conspiracy are the kinds of things that happen somewhere else. At least, that's what I used to believe. But now that it has happened here, I must sadly resign myself to the fact that we've joined the long list of towns who have felt the pain of corruption.

But the fact that it has happened still doesn't address the question: how could it happen here? The more I ponder the question, the more the answer becomes quite clear to me. How? Because our town is made up of human beings and, in spite of what so-called modern thinkers want to believe, humans, by their very nature, comprise a fallen race. Since Adam, we have battled against our

darker selves. History is full of the true nature of man — and it ain't all sweetness and light. For all of the goodness we show to each other as neighbors and friends, there lurks a deeper, sinister force that would like to consume us if it could. Call it what you want, but reliable sources over the years have called it Sin. What happened to us happened because we are sinful creatures.

Fortunately, there are people in our town who represent a greater force than our nature; people who know that in their human weakness can be found an extra-human strength. That strength isn't based on anything man can conjure up (no psychological sleight of hand or "religious" rabbits out of a hat), but on the power of One who sacrificed Himself to free us from our sinful nature: Jesus Christ. I'm not one to get preachy in my editorials, but it's time we owned up to our true selves and opened the way for Someone more powerful to take control.

So, the question isn't "how could it happen here?" but, all things considered, "why hasn't it happened more often?" Meanwhile, we can only hold our breath and wait for the unthinkable to happen again.



Coming
This Fall!

Nazi Pilots, Secret Agents, Galactic Enemies—Oh My!

In the middle of an incredible jungle adventure, the Imagination Station goes a little haywire on Dylan and Jesse. Before you know it, Dylan slips into the crazy world of Nazi fighter pilots, secret agent spies and galactic cruisers—and they all seem out to get him! At each critical moment of *Someone to Watch Over Me*, however, a mysterious figure known only as "Nagle" comes to the rescue just in time. Who is this "man" who knows exactly when and how to help Dylan when all seems lost?

Dylan seems stuck in one Imagination Station adventure after another. Will he ever be able to return to his own world? The climactic conclusion and surprise ending of the newest "Adventures in Odyssey" video will astound you—and keep kids marveling at God's watchful care when things seem out of control. VHS only, approx. 30 minutes.

Someone to Watch Over Me videocassette
*Suggested Donation: \$15 (\$20 in Canada) V1089

To request these or any other Odyssey item, write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995. In Canada, write Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4G3.



TIME TRAVELS, SLAVE TRADERS AND A DARING RESCUE —THE NEW "ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY" PAPERBACK!



Here in Odyssey, anything can happen—and usually does. But who'd have guessed that a simple game of catch would lead to a tumble through history?

When Matt and Jack discover a trapdoor in the yard at Whit's End, their curiosities take them on a *Dark Passage* back to the pre-Civil War South! After Matt is mistaken for a runaway slave and sold at an auction, it's up to Jack to find and rescue him. Will the two friends remain "colorblind" or will racial tensions cloud their outlook? And can Matt be rescued out of the past in time?

It all goes to show when you mix history with mystery—and add valuable life lessons—the results make learning fun for youngsters 8 to 12! *Dark Passage* is another great "Adventures in Odyssey" paperback following the antics of the gang at Whit's End. From Focus on the Family Publishing.

Dark Passage paperback

*Suggested Donation: \$6 (\$8 in Canada) BF564

To request these or any other Odyssey item, write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995. In Canada, write Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 9800, Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4G3.



Bart Rathbone Speaks on Prison Reform

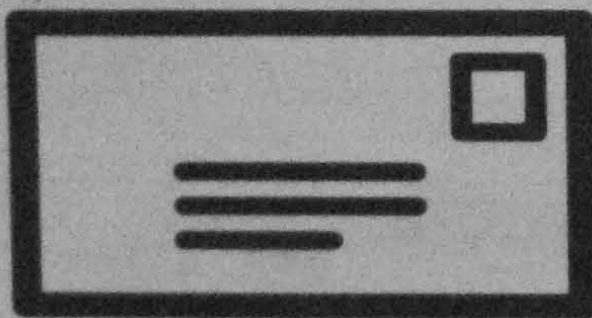
Bart Rathbone will speak on the subject of Justice and Prison Reform at the Antler Lodge tonight at 7:00 p.m.

"I think we're long overdue for this talk," Rathbone said this morning by phone. "Our system of justice is a shambles when good citizens like my son can spend days and days in a detention center with a cable television that only gets 35 channels. It's torture! Somebody's gotta reform this stuff."

Refreshments will be served. Donations will be accepted in lieu of an admission charge.

New Bible Study Announced

Jack Alien, a close associate of Whit's End, will start a Bible study concentrating on the essentials of Christian faith for new believers, beginning Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. at his home (the residence of John Whittaker). For more information, call Jack during the day at 555-WHIT.



You Said It!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

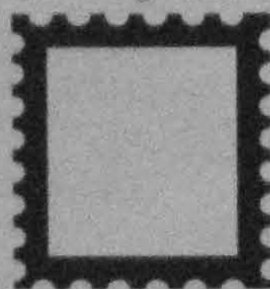
I've been hearing a lot lately about these new gum control laws. I don't understand what all the hullabaloo is about. I've been chewing gum for over thirty years, and it's never hurt me. Lots of people are talking about gum in school, and I understand why people are mad about that (the whole "Squishy Gum Underneath Desks" issue), but a five-day waiting period is going too far.

Harlow Doyle, PI
Odyssey

Dear Editor,

I wanted to dispel and otherwise contain a rumor that has been making its way across a good part of Campbell County for the last several weeks. It is unequivocally untrue that I had any involvement in the Connellsville Zoo scandal last

week. I never actually said that the animals were being ill-treated and were carriers of rare tropical diseases that should be quarantined. I was merely re-quoting a statement made to me by an anonymous source. That I have been working to close the zoo to prepare the way for a state-of-the-art domed horse-racing track is entirely beside the point. I would never resort to such despicable tricks to accomplish my goals. Thank you.



Philip Glossman,
Former Special Assistant to the Government

Classified Ads

Help Wanted: Clerks to work at the former Rathbone's Palace. Under new management! No previous experience necessary. Call Edwin Blackgaard at 555-1020.

Wanted: Any local information about the activities of the Underground Railroad. Call Jack at Whit's End at 555-WHIT.

For Sale: Kirban Carpets. Fine hand made rugs and carpets made here in Odyssey from the Middle East. Call 555-9902.

Wanted: A de-coder or de-scrambler for cable boxes. Contact Rodney Rathbone c/o the Campbell County Detention Center.

For Sale: Engagement ring. Contact Jason at Whit's End. Call 555-WHIT.

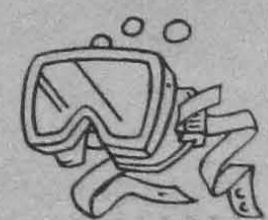


Lost: A lamb. Answers to the name of Shawn. Wears wool sweater. Smells of cheese, eats everything. Contact Wallace at 555-GRMT.



For Sale: Baseball Cards. Must sell fast! Best offer on rare cards! Call Sam at 555-2121.

Services Offered: Weddings, parties, any and all special events can be arranged for you! Call Constance at 555-WHIT.



For sale: Tennis rackets, scuba gear, chess set. Cheap. Call Erica Clark at 555-6269.

* Suggested donations. The Internal Revenue Code allows you to deduct the amount you give to Focus on the Family that goes beyond the value of materials we send you. To help you determine the tax-deductible portion of your gift, we'll show on your receipt the fair market value, along with the total gift amount. Receipts for Canadian donors are issued in accordance with Canadian law.



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