

# The Odyssey Times

The Only One We've Got

Vol. 1, No. 6

Always Free

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY! Popular Program Celebrates First Decade

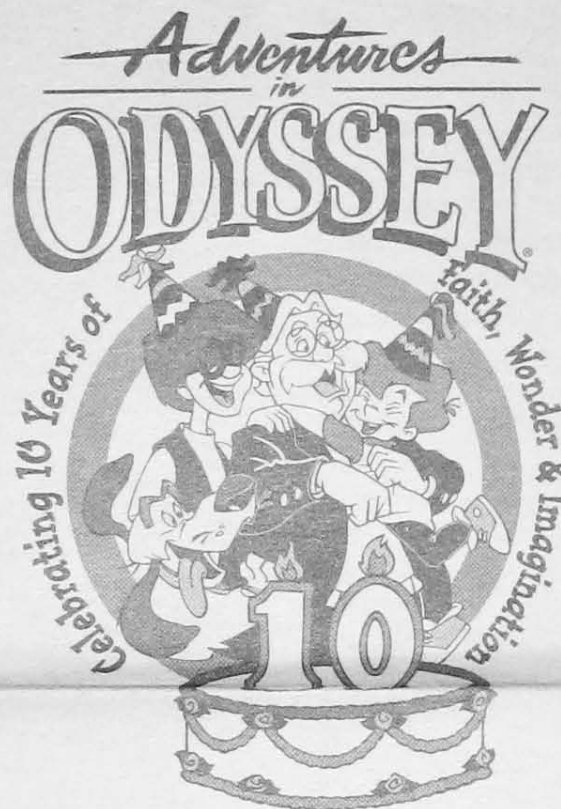
by Mark Trade  
Odyssey Times

*Adventures in Odyssey*, a successful radio drama based on our town, is celebrating ten years of production. Local citizens and guests will be treated to a wide-ranging plethora of events and retrospective festivals in honor of this milestone. The city council has also issued a proclamation for "Adventures In Odyssey" month, to be honored at City Hall and all other public facilities. Outgoing Mayor Tom Riley said at the press conference, "We have reason to be proud of this tenth anniversary. The program has done us—and people everywhere—lots of good."

Begun in 1987 as a bold experiment in radio, *Adventures In Odyssey* has integrated drama, comedy, fantasy and mystery into a tightly woven pattern of lesson-based entertainment. Not only does it comprise the radio program, which has become a mainstay for listeners throughout the world, but it has also launched a popular animated video and book series, a

study Bible, figurines, T-shirts, games and puzzles. Plans are also underway to expand the "franchise" into interactive realms like CD-ROM and the Internet.

John Avery Whittaker, upon whom the main character of the show is based, applauded the spiritual values and high production standards of *Adventures in Odyssey*. "I was a little uneasy when the producers first approached me with the idea. I mean, I was flattered that they wanted to base a program around my shop [Whit's End], but there was no telling what they really had in mind. Since then, I have been thrilled with their



handling of the Bible stories, our real-life situations and the comedy. I just don't understand why they made me look so heavy in the videos."

Other local citizens offered testimonies of the program's impact both locally, throughout the country and abroad. Jason Whittaker, who recently

returned from travel overseas, noted that, "*Adventures in Odyssey* is affecting people as far away as South Africa, the Philippines and even Texas. It's on their radios. It's on their videos. It's on their TVs. It's in their cassette and CD players. It's in their libraries.

It's... [We got the idea. - Ed.]"

Jason Whittaker said that, at one point, *Adventures in Odyssey* even saved his life. "I was vacationing in Bosnia and someone tried to... [deleted for national security reasons]. Fortunately, I had an *Adventures in Odyssey* cassette in my shirt pocket and it protected me. I was fine. The cassette was ruined, though. I wonder if I can get it replaced? It was one of my favorites called *A Name Not A Number*."

Jack Allen, the new proprietor of J&J Antiques, praised the work of the program. "I don't know how they come up with such good stories again and again. I wish my life was half as interesting as they make it out to be."

The only criticism of the program came from Bart Rathbone, who complained that the producers have completely exaggerated some of his personality traits. "If I were as bad as all that, would I be standing here talking to youse now? I'd be in jail!" When we pointed out that he was, in fact, on court probation, he said, "No comment."

A complete listing of events celebrating the anniversary will be printed in this newspaper in days to come. A special schedule can be found in today's edition.

## Office of Mayor Up For Grabs

by Noah Webster  
Staff Writer

With incumbent Tom Riley's surprise announcement that he will not seek another term, the office of mayor appears to be up for grabs.

It is a unique situation in Odyssey. For the first time in recent memory—perhaps since the town was founded—there is no clear front-runner in the race. Sources close to local businesswoman Margaret Faye privately say that she has expressed interest in the office, as has previous candidate and now ex-convict Bart Rathbone. But according to local political analyst Simon Garfinkle, no candidate has captured the voters' fancy.

"In Tom Riley, you had a candidate who was home-grown," says Garfinkle. "That's a tremendous advantage in a small town like Odyssey. People here love to vote for a person they know, and who they believe reflects their values. But neither Bart Rathbone nor Margaret Faye has that kind of local background or following."

That's significant, says Garfinkle, because it could lead to voter apathy. "When the people can't get behind a candidate, what they're really saying is that the election is irrelevant—and by extension, that government itself is irrelevant. That leads to a very poor turnout at the polls."

But potential candidate Margaret

Faye believes it may be discrimination, not apathy, that could keep voters away in November. "If I decide to run," she says, "I would be the first female candidate in this town's history. That's a pretty big pill for folks to swallow—maybe too big. It's hard to teach old dogs new tricks."

If she feels that way, why run? "I haven't said I'm going to, yet," she says with a smile. "But if I do, I'll run for the same reasons anyone else runs: because I believe I have the best ideas for Odyssey's future, and that I'm the best person to implement those ideas."

For his part, Bart Rathbone doesn't have much to say about voter apathy. "I don't care about it," he says. "In fact, if

anything, I might be for it. Apathy may actually work in my favor. I've been accused of being completely uncaring. If the voters are that way, too, then maybe they'll see that we do connect on at least one issue."

The deadline for filing registration papers to become a candidate is next week.

### Weather

The word from our meteorologist in Chicago is that it will be sunny and warm all week. But Tom Riley's horses have been acting very strange lately—and we all know what that means. Therefore:

Monday • Tuesday • Wednesday





## Whit Returns Time of Adjustment for Popular Shopkeeper

by Marigold Substance  
Features Reporter

Few Odysseys will forget the outpouring of affection at City Hall for John Avery Whittaker when he finally returned to Odyssey from his stint as an archaeological missionary to the Middle East. Now that he has been home for awhile, we thought we would check in to see how he is adjusting to Odyssey.

From all appearances Whit's End has changed very little since Whit's departure and his subsequent return. The most popular displays, like the Imagination Station and the Room of Consequence, are still in good working order. Attractions like the Little Theatre, the Library and the "County's Largest Train Set" still enthrall the children and parents who visit. "I'm very happy with how well Jack [Allen], Jason [Whittaker, his son], Eugene [Meltsner] and Connie [Kendall] maintained the shop while I was gone," Whittaker said.

Whit himself seems tanner than before and sports a few more laugh lines around his eyes. He's also more trim than some might expect. "I had a fairly rigorous schedule at the archaeological site. I certainly didn't eat as much as I do when I have more time."

"More time" seems to be the operative phrase for this busy man. Between his duties at Whit's End, his church, local charities and when he travels, one

wonders when he ever has "more time." Whit chuckled when I asked him. "For me, the secret is making sure that I have set times during the day when I can get away from it all—to think, pray and meditate on the Bible. Even if it's only a half-hour or fifteen minutes, it makes all the difference in my outlook."

Outlook is the thing that seems to separate Whit and his shop from other places designed for kids. "For one thing, I don't look down on kids. They're not 'little adults' like some think, but they're also not without intelligence, intuition and feelings. They pick up on a lot more than a lot of people suspect. But at the same time, they aren't mature enough to know how to 'process' what they see and hear. Because of my Christian faith, I believe it's important to help kids develop the equipment—the wisdom and discernment—they need to understand the world around them in a God-honoring way. That means in how they think, speak and behave. Sometimes we have to dig deep to get to their hearts, but it's worth the effort."

Digging deep is something that Whit knows well. As an archaeologist, he won the prestigious "Archaeologist of the Year" Award from the National Association of Middle Eastern Academics for his paper *Biblical Proof in the Dust of Time*. He also found himself in the midst of a scandal that very nearly rocked the international archaeologist



world. "People are making a bigger deal of the story than they should," he says modestly. "I found some manuscripts that had—well, let's say faith-impacting significance. But things weren't as they seemed and it all turned out right in the end. I'm sorry to be so cryptic, but there's not much I can say."

If anyone would know about crypts, it's Whit. "Yes," he chuckles. "My work took me into a lot of tombs and crypts. But it's not like wandering around in a graveyard at night. We find that burial practices can tell us a lot about ancient religions. And through those religions, we get a sense of the people themselves."

I asked him if, now that he's returned, he has a sense of the people of Odyssey and how they've changed. He nodded thoughtfully. "Life is dynamic.

I didn't expect things to stand still while I was gone. However, I've had to make some adjustments to how the people have changed. Connie is far more responsible, of course. She's going to graduate soon—and who knows what the future will hold for her. Eugene is going deeper into his relationship with Christ (and another relationship, I might add). Jack has embarked on a business of his own. Some of the kids I enjoyed seeing have moved on. They've either grown up and gone on to other interests or have moved away. I admit that I'm sometimes anxious about the changes, but I pray a lot and try to put them all into God's hands."

With that, a young customer came in to Whit's End for a scoop of ice cream and some helpful advice about a sick turtle. Whit thanked me for my time and walked away with a smile on his face.

## Reviews

**"In His Steps" Re-told**  
Recent *Odyssey* Novel Explores  
The Meaning of Obedience

by Mark Trade  
Features Reporter

*The Stranger's Message*, the eleventh *Adventures In Odyssey* novel, retells the classic story of people who commit to doing "only what Jesus would do" in any given situation they face. Based on the 100-year-old *In His Steps*, by Charles Sheldon, *The Stranger's Message* "Odyssey-izes" that story by showing the impact such a decision has on Whit, Lucy, Jack and others at Whit's End. Each unexpectedly finds themselves at odds with teachers, administrators, friends and bullies as they struggle to maintain the essence of Christianity in their ethics, decisions and behavior. Though some may find the character of the stranger a little unsettling, the book is an engaging exploration of faith and obedience no matter what the cost. I give it a hearty thumbs-up and recommend it for entire families to read and discuss.

**"Twist In Time" Looks  
To The Future**  
New *Odyssey* Video To Be Released

by Lucy Cunningham-Schultz  
Student Reporter

*A Twist In Time*, the latest entry in the *Adventures In Odyssey* animated video series, is a roller-coaster ride into the future as Dylan learns about consequences the hard way. Do you remember the movie *It's A Wonderful Life* and how George Bailey sees what the world would have been like if he'd never been born? Well, thanks to Whit's Room of Consequence, Dylan gets to see how the world of Odyssey would turn out when he disobeys one important instruction. And boy does he make a mess! I don't want to give anything away, but the Odyssey of the future sure looks bleak—thanks to Dylan. So, for a lesson that teaches how our smallest actions have long-term consequences, I recommend *A Twist In Time*.

## Connellsville Zoo Suffers Financial Woes

The Board of Trustees confirmed rumors today that the Connellsville Zoo is in deep financial trouble and may be forced to close. With responsibility shared jointly by the Connellsville and Odyssey city governments, the zoo has been in a nose-dive since the death of Jolly Jumpers, their popular kangaroo attraction and the loss of Peaches The Lion. Peaches was the center of a fierce custody battle with the Centreville Zoo last year. Authorities at that zoo claimed that Peaches belonged to them since they had commissioned famed safari hunter Dirk Westinghouse to bring them a lion from Africa. Connellsville Zoo maintained

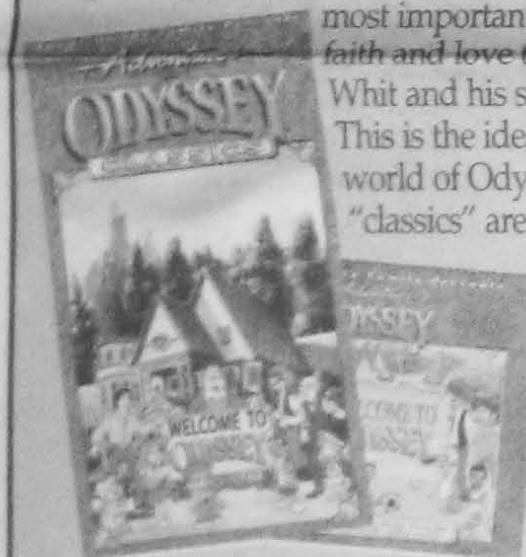
that Westinghouse's will named them as the benefactors of Peaches and that it superseded any verbal agreement with Centreville. The courts ruled in favor of Centreville Zoo. Dirk Westinghouse, who disappeared in Africa last year and is presumed dead, was unavailable for comment.

## Slide-Show Of Summer Travels

Jason Whittaker, who traveled the world extensively this past summer, will show slides of his trip at the Whit's End Little Theatre this Friday night. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## IN THE BEGINNING . . .

The first of the new series, *Adventures in Odyssey Classics: Welcome to Odyssey*, will introduce you for the first time to Whit—also known as John Avery Whittaker—proprietor of an ice cream and discovery emporium called Whit's End that's also the kids' favorite hangout. You'll find out what—and who—was the inspiration behind this unique shop and how Connie and Eugene became employees. But most importantly, you'll be introduced to the faith and love that draw people of all ages to Whit and his special brand of knowledge. (Note: This is the ideal collection for introducing the world of Odyssey to a new listener. These "classics" are re-releases of favorite episodes.)



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(six-audiocassette album)  
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(four-compact disc set)  
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## The Odyssey Times

Publishers: Kurt Bruner, Al Janssen

Fine Print Department:

Editor: Dale Jacobs

Staff Writers & Correspondents:

Dale Jacobs, Mark Trade, Marigold Substance, Lucy Cunningham-Schultz, Campbell Freed, Ramsey Drexler, Noah Webster, Peter Mark Roget, MS Spellcheck

Designer: Rick Mills

Contributing Editors:  
Linda Johnston



8605 Explorer Drive • Colorado Springs, CO 80920 • (719) 548-4668 • FAX: (719) 548-4650

## Meltsner Receives First Holstein Award

Eugene Meltsner, graduate student at Campbell College and employee of Whit's End, was the first recipient of the newly established Holstein Grant at an awards ceremony. Meltsner was given a cash gift by Frederick Holstein, owner of Holstein's Books, for his developmental work on a computer inventory program. Meltsner

accepted the gift on behalf of all future recipients. Holstein said after the ceremony that "investing in the minds of these good students is also an investment in the minds of readers everywhere, who in turn invest in the future of our generations without whom we would have nothing to look forward to."

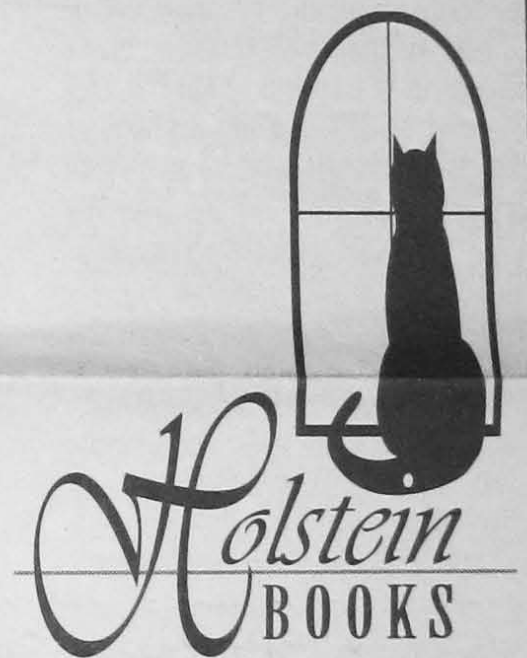
## "Come In And Have A Snoop Around!"

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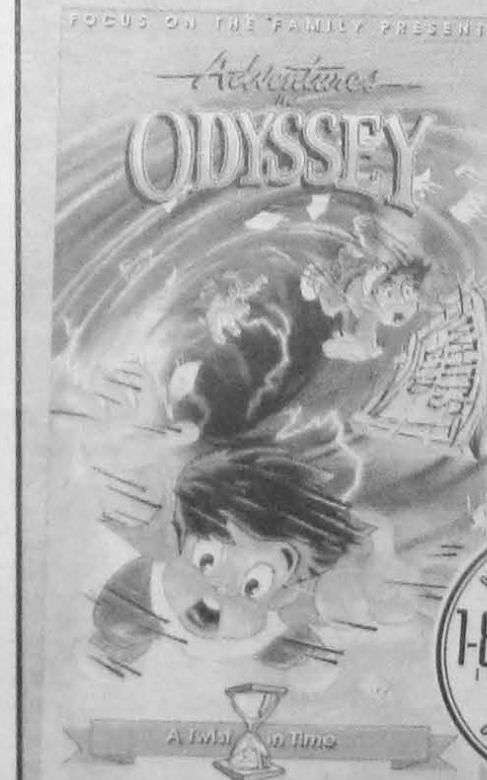
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## A LESSON IN TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

Whit is working on a secret new invention and the suspense is torturing the ever-curious Dylan and Sal. When they disregard Whit's instructions and sneak into his workshop, the boys trigger *A Twist in Time*. But will they take the responsibility to undo the damage they've caused? Through their ordeal, Dylan and Sal discover a powerful truth: every action—no matter how insignificant—has consequences.

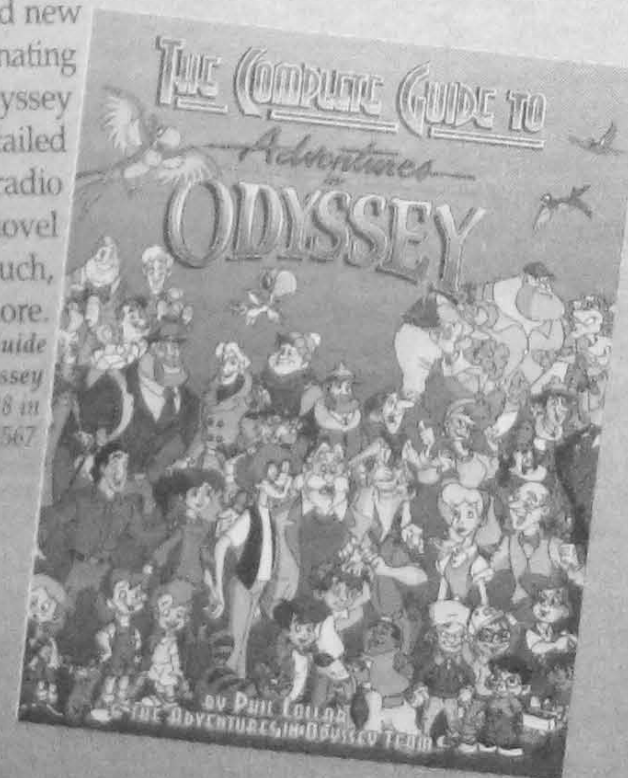


Recommended for  
ages 6 and up.  
*A Twist in Time* video #11  
Suggested donation: \$15  
(\$21 in Canada)\* VT192

## EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT "ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY"

And then some! *The Complete Guide to Adventures in Odyssey* takes you behind the scenes for an unprecedented look at the popular, family-centered broadcasts, videos and novels and the people who create them. In this brand new paperback you'll read fascinating trivia, the history of Odyssey and its characters, detailed synopses of every radio episode, video and novel ever produced and much, much more.

*The Complete Guide  
to Adventures in Odyssey*  
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Canada)\* BF567





# Happy Birthday, Odyssey!

by Dale Jacobs  
Odyssey Times Editor

"It's a place of wonder, excitement and discovery!"

With those words, an era was born—the era of Odyssey.

Adventures in Odyssey turned 10 years old on November 21, 1997. On that day in 1987, two gentlemen named Phil Lollar and Steve Harris came to town to record and air on the radio the stories surrounding a remarkable local gentleman named John Avery Whittaker and the incredible ice cream/discovery emporium he created called "Whit's End." Those stories proved to be so popular that Phil and Steve were soon joined by Paul McCusker, Dave Arnold, Bob Luttrell, Chuck Bolte, Mark Drury and Marshal Younger, who all worked feverishly to keep up with the demand for more stories about Odyssey. Later, Steve Stiles and Bob Vernon brought our town to television with a series of animated videos. Thanks to their efforts, people all over the country and around the world have gotten to know not only Whit during the past ten years, but his employees at Whit's End and many of the folks who live around town as well.

To help celebrate Adventures in Odyssey's 10th Anniversary, we talked with Whit and the gang about their lives over the past decade . . . and their thoughts on the future.

**John Avery Whittaker**

"My goodness, has it been ten years already?" Whit

chuckles as he sets two hot chocolates on a table booth at Whit's End and slides into the seat. The place is spotless and



the air is abuzz with the conversation of eight- to twelve-year-olds. "I can't believe how time has flown!" Whit continues, sipping his cocoa. "It seems like just yesterday that we started recording the shows. We certainly didn't think things would get this big!"

The Whittaker's move to Odyssey came about as a result of a tragedy. Whit's oldest son, Jerry, was killed in the Vietnam War. "I remember where I was when I found out," Whit says quietly, his eyes glistening with tears. "I was in my study, reading a postcard Jerry had sent to my youngest son, Jason. It was the last time we ever heard from Jerry. There was a knock at the front door, and I put the postcard into a book I was reading and set it on the table. At the door were the Armed Forces representatives with the news about Jerry." He pauses

thoughtfully. "You know, I don't remember if I ever gave that postcard to Jason? Maybe I ought to find that book I was reading, huh?"

Jerry's death nearly tore the family apart, and Whit knew they needed to concentrate on each other—and on their strong Christian faith. The location he chose for them to do that was Odyssey. "Jana (his daughter) and Jason spent their junior high and high school years here," he says. "In fact, Jason used to play in this building when it was the Filmore Recreation Center."

The story of how the Filmore became Whit's End has been well documented in newspapers, books and on the radio. Whit says he really can't add much to the story, except that he thinks his late wife Jenny would definitely approve of what Whit's End has become. "She had such a heart for kids," he says. "If she were here today, she'd be right in the thick of things. Her spirit really pervades the place." Few people also know that Whit's End almost didn't survive.

"When we first opened, no one came in," Whit recalls with a smile. "I think some of the parents in town were sort of wary about supporting a building where their kids would just 'hang out'—and looking back now, I can't say that I blame them. It does seem a rather odd concept." Fortunately, parents soon started changing their minds, and Whit's End became one of the most popular places in town.

Whit begged off picking out a single favorite memory of the past ten years, but he did share some of the moments most special to him. "Hiring Connie and Eugene would have to be right up there . . . praying with Connie when she became a Christian . . . the start of the Imagination Station and Kids Radio . . . discovering all the hidden rooms here at Whit's End . . . traveling to Chicago and Mexico and the Middle East . . . there are so many!"

"I'm truly awed by what the Lord has done here in Odyssey with these stories," Whit says, taking another sip of cocoa. "It is really unbelievable that so

many people around the world would be interested in the goings-on of the folks in this little town. I just pray that He'll continue to use them as He sees fit."



**Connie Kendall**

Stationed behind the counter at Whit's End, Connie doles out ice cream, advice and loads of personality. "I'm so nervous," she says with a giggle. "I've never been interviewed before."

Her nervousness quickly fades, however, when the topics of Whit and Whit's End are brought up. "This place is my home!" she exclaims. "If it hadn't been for Whit and this place, I don't know where I'd be."

Connie started working at Whit's End shortly after she and her mother, June, moved to town several years ago. She credits Whit and the atmosphere at Whit's End with helping her to make the most important decision of her life. "I was born again here," she says simply, "right here in Whit's End! I became a new creation."

Not that there haven't been trials since that moment. "They usually involve a disagreement between Eugene (Meltsner, her co-worker) and me. Sometimes we don't see eye-to-eye about things, and we sort of, well, you know, argue." And what about her infamous curiosity? "Yeah," she admits with a reddening face and a sheepish grin, "that's gotten me into trouble, too. But I can't

help it! I just want to know!"

In addition to her job at Whit's End, Connie has big plans for the future. "First off, I'm going to graduate from high school—and it's about time! It seems like I've been in there forever! I want to go to Campbell County College, maybe to study teaching. I've also got a little side business going called 'Dreams by Constance'. I put together weddings for people—my latest one was for Jack and Joanne Allen. I have lots of plans. But no matter where I go or what I do, I'll always think of this place as home."

**Eugene Meltsner**

"I am most grateful for this interview and wish to use this occasion to clear up a few misconceptions—if not outright fallacies—about myself."

It's never easy interviewing Eugene Meltsner.

"To begin, I would like to



assure all who may be perusing this article that, contrary to popular belief and my artistic portrayal in a certain popular animated video series, I do, indeed have eyes!" He lifts his glasses and blinks several times for emphasis. "They are periwinkle blue and, aside from a slight case of astigmatism and nearsightedness, work quite well, thank you."

Eugene eases back in his ergonomically correct computer chair and crosses his

## This Week's 10th Anniversary Activities:

*Throughout the week:* John Whittaker and Connie Kendall host "Odyssey Talk" on Kids Radio. Stop by and tell them how you feel about our town. Daily 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

*Sunday: 9 a.m.* Special service at Odyssey First Church. Pastor George Barclay, visiting from Pokenberry Falls, will speak on the topic, "What a Difference 10 Years Makes." To be followed by a potluck lunch on the church grounds. All are welcome.

*Monday: 10 a.m.; 2 p.m., 5 p.m.* Penelope McCalister, descendant of

Odyssey founder Hiram McCalister, will narrate a slide presentation on the town's history in the main room of the library.


*Tuesday: 7 p.m.* The Odyssey Birdwatchers Society will present their all-whistling rendition of Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. To be followed by the fireworks spectacle "The Last Days of Pompeii." Odyssey High School Football Field.

*Thursday - Saturday: 8 p.m.,* Harlequin Theatre. R. Edwin Blackgaard presents his one-man show "Come Visit Our Side of the Radio, A Salute to Adventures in Odyssey." Adults, \$12.50; Children \$6.50.

arms with satisfaction. His dorm room at Campbell County College is decorated in a manner typical of an intellectual—textbooks line the shelves, stacks of paper fill every corner and the most prominent item in the room is a large black computer. The only nod to actual humanity are two pictures: one of a lovely young lady named Katrina, Eugene's fiancée, and the other a photo of himself, Connie and Whit at Whit's End. "It was taken shortly after I began working there," he says, a wistful tone creeping into his voice. "That now

seems like such a long time ago."

Eugene was hired on at Whit's End to maintain Whit's inventions and handle the computers. He took to the tasks like the proverbial duck to water, making improvements on the existing machines and creating several inventions of his own. Both the improvements and the originals were almost instant hits with the kids, even if they didn't understand Eugene's rather lengthy explanations of how they worked. Which is the second "misconception" Eugene



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### A POWERFUL LESSON IN TRUTH

When Patti wins a giant teddy bear just as the strangely dressed woman predicted, she wonders if it really is possible to foresee the future. Newest in the "Adventures in Odyssey" series, this plot-twisting tale reveals the importance of discerning truth from fiction. Recommended for ages 10 and up. (Due to the nature of the subject matter, this book may not be suitable for younger readers).

*A Carnival of Secrets #12*  
Suggested donation: \$6 (\$9 in Canada) \* BF588



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A few friends and regulars to *Whit's End* celebrate the tenth birthday of "Adventures in Odyssey"

would like to clear up.

"I would like to correct the completely unfounded reputation I seem to have developed—how, I am quite uncertain, I might add—for extreme verbosity and, to borrow the regional colloquialism, long-windedness. Where these flights of highly erroneous fancy originate I can only conjecture, however, suffice it to say they are outrageous, incomprehensible, ludicrous, fallacious, salacious and lacking in decorum, compassion, generosity and general good taste."

Eugene had much more to say on the subject, but space limitations prevent us from printing it.

**Tom Riley**

"I think the thing I'm most

looking forward to is getting back to farming," says soon-to-be-ex-Mayor Tom Riley. "Being mayor has been a lot of fun—and one of the most difficult and exhausting things I've ever done. It's been an honor, but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't just a little bit anxious to hand over the reins



to someone else."

Tom has lived in Odyssey all of his life. His father and grandfather before him owned the Riley apple farm, one of the town's better-known landmarks. As mayor, Tom guided the city through what was unarguably one of its darkest times, the recent Blackgaard unpleasantness. And now, he just wants to get back to the farm. "It's in my blood, I guess," he says with a grin.

By nature a reserved man, Tom has mixed feelings about his participation in the *Adventures in Odyssey* program. "I was one of the ones to help Whit get Kids Radio back up and running over at Whit's End several

years ago," he says, "so naturally, I think the idea of doing stories on the radio is a good one. I guess I just didn't realize that Whit wanted to put so many of our stories on the air. Not that they haven't been exciting. It's just that some of them may be just a little too personal."

Does this mean Tom will stop appearing in the series? "Not at all!" he exclaims. "In fact, once I step down as mayor, I have lots of stories I'd like to share—mainly about the farm and its history and what I'd like to do with it in the future." He pauses, then grins. "After all, Odyssey wouldn't be the same without the Riley farm, would it?"

## From Where I Sit

by Dale Jacobs  
Odyssey Times Editor

Ten years.

It's a long time. Longer than many marriages these days, sad to say. In ten years, a child can go from birth to the fifth grade and from the fifth grade to college. Each ten years sees at least one senatorial election, three presidential elections and five elections for the House of Representatives. The last ten years has seen the fall of the Soviet Union, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, two probes to Mars, the explosion of personal computers and the emergence of the Internet as a force in our lives.

It has also been the life span of *Adventures in Odyssey*.

Those of us who were around back then had mixed feelings about the project. Some were enthusiastic about the rebirth of radio drama. Others were suspicious that anyone outside of those who live here would be interested in the goings-on of our little town.

But the concept caught on big time. The radio shows were followed by books and videos. Tourism boomed. Odyssey is more popular than ever. Some folks say that's not a good thing, that the place has lost some of its charm. Others want to see that popularity soar even more, with more programs.

We come down on the side of cautious growth. While we like the capital the boom brings, we don't want it to wreck the very reason for its existence, namely the "small town feel" of Odyssey.

It's a difficult tight-rope to walk, to say the least. It's something that needs the input and consideration of all of the town's citizens. And it's something the program producers definitely need to consider as they chart out the next ten years of *Adventures in Odyssey*.

Our best wishes—and prayers—go with them.

## Substantial News Around The Town With Marigold Substance

It seems like a lot is going on around Odyssey these days. . . . Speculations abound about the upcoming mayoral race. Bart Rathbone looks set to announce his candidacy, in spite of astounding odds against his winning because of his trouble with the law. When asked about his convictions, he said he didn't have any. When I clarified that I meant his court convictions for his part in the so-called Blackgaard Scandals he said only: "Hey, if the Mayor of Washington can get re-elected, so can I. It's a guy thing." Meanwhile, my sources tell me that Margaret Faye, Odyssey's most aggressive businessperson, may decide to run for mayor. . . . Former Mayor Tom Riley told me that he's enjoying his "non-political" life and is thinking seriously about a new project on his farm. He hinted that it might be something for kids, but wouldn't specify. . . . Details are sketchy, but there are several

reports that Philip Glossman, exiled from Odyssey, has turned up recently in England. . . . We were thrilled to learn of the engagement between Eugene Meltsner and Katrina Shanks. They haven't set a date for the wedding, but Eugene said that they take their "period of betrothal very seriously and will attempt to discern the best time to exchange nuptials." Meanwhile, I'd like to retract my recent suspicion that John Avery Whittaker and Margaret Faye were also engaged. Though they had been seen together a lot, it was premature to mention their future together. . . . On a happier note, we congratulate Jack Allen and JoAnne Woodston on their recent marriage. I wish them all the best in the relationship and the new antique store. . . . Now, if you'll pardon me, I have to hit the streets to get more hot news for tomorrow's column!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Free Clinic

Having just recently moved our family to the area, my husband and I would like to say thank you to everyone, especially Mayor Tom Riley, for making us feel so welcome. Also, as the town's newly installed official veterinarian, I'd like to remind everyone of the free rabies clinic October 11<sup>th</sup> at our farm, sponsored by the Odyssey Birdwatchers Society and the local chapter of the Humanity Toward Animals Association. Free rabies shots will be given and other vaccines for your animals will be administered at a significant discount. We also need volunteers for this event, so if you can help out, please call the HTAA at 555-9424.

Signed,

Dr. Traci Mulligan, Veterinarian

### Dear Editor,

A lot of people have been writing in about the big bones that were found on Bart Rathbone's property a couple of days ago. Some say they think it's Bigfoot, other people think it's a bear. But I'll tell you what it is. Those big bones belong to a prehistoric creature called "Persona Mucha Grande", which is foreign for "really big person." These creatures lived during dinosaur times. Not many people know about them because the government has kept it secret from the American public. They don't want to create a panic, because guess what—they're still alive! That's right, they have existed all this time, except they're not on earth right now. They lived here and ate dinosaurs until there weren't any left. Then they decided to go to other places in the uni-

verse to find some good food. The bad thing about being on earth is that we have the best food in the universe. So they'll be coming back any time now. And guess what their favorite dish will be. . . . Us.

Just something to think about.

Sincerely,  
Jared Pierce

*Editor's note: Last week Jared also wrote in claiming that the average life span of humans is actually 12 years and that all the adults in the world are robots.*

### Disagreement

I would like to heartily disagree with your recent article about the quality of food at Quentin's Quick Burgers. We use only the highest FDA standard meat and low-fat, high-cholesterol oil in our French fries. Your allegations that we are unhealthy and "grease-saturated" was irresponsible journalism. We give the customer what they want. If and when our society changes its dietary habits, then we'll be happy to lead the way into a new era of fast food dining. But until then, we will continue our present menu. (And by the way, we've recently added a new "drive-thru" window to serve our customers better.)

— Jeremy "Biffy" Slugh, Manager

## New Antique Gallery Opens

by Lucy Cunningham-Schulz  
Intern

Looking for a place to buy antiques, study fine art, or have a cup of coffee and a nice conversation?

Then the new J&J Antique Gallery may be just for you!

"J&J" stands for Jack and Joanne Allen, new owners of the gallery. Odysians may remember that Jack ran Whit's End while his boyhood friend and local businessman John Avery Whittaker was in the Middle East. "When Whit returned, I felt a bit out of place at Whit's End," Jack says. "After all, it's his shop. But I've fallen in love with Odyssey and wanted to stay here. I felt I needed a shop of my own."

So he returned to two of his longtime loves: fine art and antiques. "I noticed that the one thing Odyssey didn't have was an art museum. So when I found out that The Antique Emporium was for sale, I thought it was a prime opportunity to combine the two — art and antiques!" Allen said.

Jack bought the Emporium and is currently in the process of setting it up for a Grand Opening later this year. "I want it to be a lot like Whit's End in terms of atmosphere," he says. "People shouldn't feel that art or antiques are too precious or lofty for them to discuss over a cup of coffee. Art and history are for everyone."

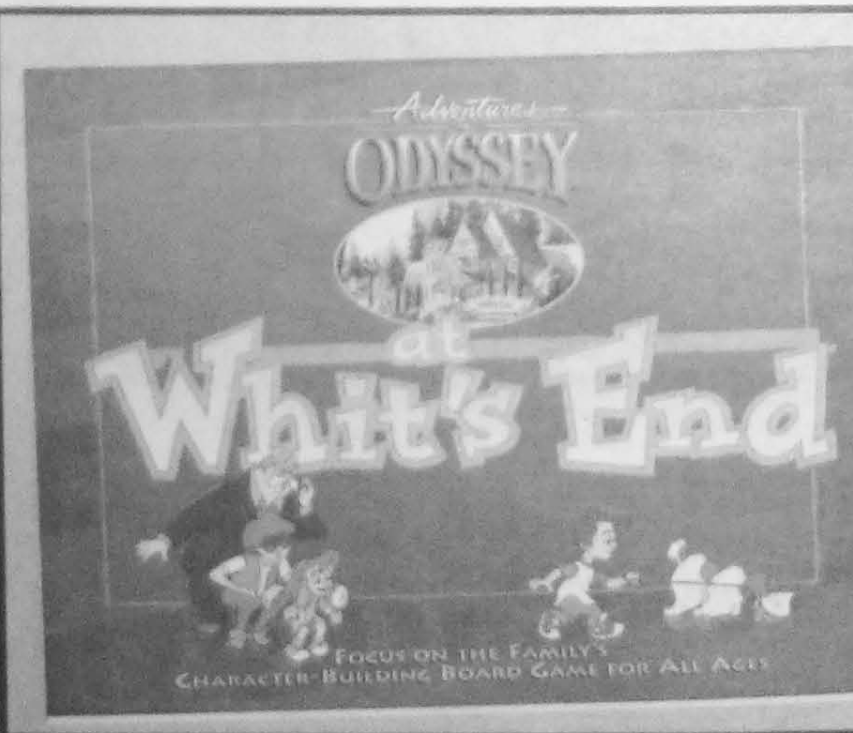
John Avery Whittaker provided quite a housewarming for his friend's new shop: an entire truckload of artwork and other artifacts from the vaults of the Universal Press Foundation! "It'll take me weeks to go through it all!" exclaimed Jack. "But it's a wonderful start to what I hope will be a wonderful gallery, and Joanne and I are ready to get to work!"

## NEW! THE FIRST "ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY" FAMILY BOARD GAME

Welcome to Whit's End, Odyssey's local "discovery emporium" owned and operated by the sage John Avery Whittaker. Enter and you'll be off on an exciting quest for truth, wisdom and, well, just plain fun. It's a fast-paced, room-to-room race that will test your knowledge of history, the Bible and, of course, *Adventures in Odyssey*. Be the first to visit each room successfully and you win!

At Whit's End  
board game

Suggested donation: \$27 (\$38 in Canada)\* CX177





# SPORTS

## Johnson, Coyotes come back to take playoff game from Tigers

McAllister Park—The Odyssey Coyotes scored three runs in the bottom of the ninth to nip the Crosstown Tigers, 3-2, in a playoff game last night at McAllister Park. The hero was Sam Johnson, who ripped a three run homer off Tiger pitcher Bruno Beltzer to seal the victory.

Beltzer had shut down the Coyotes for eight innings, largely due to the mysterious absence of Coyote slugger Johnson, who did not enter the game until the seventh.

"Somebody stole his bat," Coyote coach Connie Kendall said after the game, "and he didn't think he could hit without it. But as it turned out, I think he found out that the secret of his success was not his bat, but himself."



Johnson's bat, his "secret weapon," as he called it, was reportedly a bat once used by major league home run hitter Lefty Grizzell. Johnson was not using the bat when he came to the plate in the ninth inning. With two outs and runners on first and third, Johnson hit a 0-2 pitch over the left field fence.

The Coyotes will play the Waynestown Woodpeckers in the second round of the playoffs on Saturday.

Tigers	AB	R	H	BI	Coyotes	AB	R	H	BI
James rf	4	0	1	0	Cncption ss	4	0	1	0
Crosby 2b	4	1	2	0	Morgan 2b	4	0	0	0
Miles 3b	3	0	0	0	Adams p	3	0	0	0
Beltzer p	3	1	2	2	Foster lf	4	0	0	0
Murphy lb	4	0	0	0	Griffey rf	3	1	0	0
Stills ss	4	0	1	0	Rose 3b	3	1	1	0
Watt lf	3	0	0	0	Johnson ph	1	1	1	3

Nash ph	1	0	0	0	Bench c	3	0	0	0
Thomas cf	3	0	0	0	Perez lb	3	0	0	0
Young c	3	0	2	0	Grnimo cf	3	0	0	0
					Gullett p	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	2	8	2	Totals	3	1	3	33
Tigers	001	001	000	—2					
Coyotes	000	000	003	—3					

E-Foster. DP—Tigers 1. LOB—Tigers 8, Coyotes 2.  
2B—Beltzer, Stills. HR—Beltzer, Johnson. S—Miles.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Crosstown						
Beltzer	8	2-3	3	3	3	2
Odyssey						
Adams	7	7	2	2	3	1
Gullett	2	1	0	0	0	1

Adams pitched to one batter in the seventh.  
HBP—Adams by Beltzer  
WP—Beltzer  
PB—Bench  
T—2:32. A—86.

## Lacrosse Team Beats Checkers Team at Their Own Game

Connellsville—The Connellsville High School Lacrosse team defeated the Connellsville High School Checkers team in lacrosse, then in checkers. Connellsville High has the only lacrosse team in the state, as well as the only checkers team. Because of the lack of competition facing both of these teams, they agreed to play each other in a doubleheader—first at lacrosse, then at checkers.

In the lacrosse game, the lacrosse team won 41-0 in an obvious mismatch of talent. The fired up lacrosse team, led by forward Jose Menudo, scored 10 goals before the checkers team learned how to hold their sticks.

"This was a big game for us, you know," Menudo said after the game. "We'd never played anybody but ourselves, with us being the only team around and all. A lot of people are saying, 'So what. You beat the checkers team.' But I say, 'Hey. We're undefeated, aren't we?'"

The nightcap featured an emotional checkers match-up that ended in a stunning upset. The lacrosse team beat the checkers team, at checkers, 7-6. Checkers team coach Bill Hasselhoff was disappointed in his team's effort. "I wasn't too upset by the lacrosse loss. That's not our game. But I really thought we would beat them in checkers."

The checkers team has not, as of yet, asked for a rematch.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

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

For Sale: One "Transcontinental" model bicycle. Only 3150 highway miles. Call Mike at 555-6459.

Volunteers Needed: For the free rabies clinic at the Mulligan Farm on the 11th. Call the HTAA at 555-9424.

Lost: Washing Machine  
Last seen: On top of my car (when I was bringing it home from the repair shop on 3rd St.)

If found, call Harlow at 555-6875

For Sale: Porridge Blaster and Techno-Trousers. Contact Gromit at 555-WLCE.

Lost: Blue shirt  
Last seen: In the washing machine on top of my car

If found, call Mr. Doyle at 555-6875

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

Free to interested parties: 213 lbs. Kangaroo Chow. No longer needed. Also several lion cub play toys. Inquire at Connellsville Zoo.

Auditions: The Harlequin Theatre will be holding auditions for the R.E. Blackgaard's new production of "Fiddler on the Roof" next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Please do not bring fiddles.

For Sale: Laptop computer. Great condition. It has served me faithfully. Contact E. Meltsner at Whit's End.

Needed: Nuclear meltdown suit. If anyone has a cheap nuclear fusion-safe suit, I need one desperately. Not that a nuclear meltdown in this area is imminent or anything... although I did feel a shudder... Call Glenn at 555-9810

Bonanza Scratch & Dent Sale: Fireworks, some barely used. Call the Electric Palace at 555-BART.

Moving Sale! Furniture, many books, and lots and lots oquality audio/video components. Stop by before we "bail" out! Call Miss Minion at 555-4667.

Lost: 10 feet of rope  
Last seen: Around the washing machine on top of my car

If found, call H.D. at 555-6875

Wanted: Laptop computer in great condition. Call Katrina at 555-3653 or stop by Holstein's Books.

\* 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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