

The Times-Herald.

VOL. XXXVII

BURNS, HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON, NOVEMBER 24, 1923

NO. 4

MASS MEETING HELD TO DISCUSS THE DEPOT SITE

Citizens of Burns Express Preference; Resolutions Express Wishes.

Mayor Huston called a mass meeting of the citizens at the court house last Monday evening to discuss the location of the depot. The meeting was called after a representative of Engineer Girard's office had appeared before the city council with the statement that if the location was offered for consideration there were necessary requirements which were outlined. Acting upon this suggestion the city authorities considered it right to call a meeting of the citizens and get an expression before acting.

The meeting was largely attended, many not being able to get into the court room and returned home. It was such a gathering as has seldom been witnessed in Burns and has resulted in cementing the people more completely than any other one thing in many years.

Mayor Huston called the meeting to order and asked those present to name a chairman. J. S. Cook was elected to preside and W. M. Carroll was made secretary. A set of resolutions were introduced for adoption and the chairman announced that debate would be heard.

Among those who responded to their names to speak on the subject were E. W. Barnes, Engineer Girard of the Fred Herrick Lumber Co., Charles B. Foley, I. S. Geer, W. M. Sutton, James J. Donegan, E. J. Rounseville, Robt. M. Duncan, Mayor Huston, Mrs. James Lamphire, Mrs. I. S. Geer, Sam Mothershead, Charles W. Ellis, Lena M. Brown, Julian Byrd and others.

At the close of the debate a motion to adopt the resolutions was carried with but one dissenting vote being offered. This indicated the wish of the people of Burns and the signatures appended to the resolution show who were favorable to having the depot established at some point immediately adjacent to the present improved portion of town.

Mr. Barnes admitted he was prompted by selfish motives in using his influence in having the depot placed at a point south of the fair grounds. He did not announce that he consulted the wishes of the business men of Burns in making this selection. He stated at the beginning of his talk that he was with Burns and had always desired to help in building it up. Later, when on his feet a second time Mr. Barnes said he would not be responsible for his future attitude toward the town if the depot site was moved. He finally said that if the depot site was moved there would be another town.

Mr. Girard said in his talk that the Fred Herrick Lumber Co. had no choice in the matter of a depot site, but that he had been governed by his interest in Mr. Barnes in announcing the selection of the site below the fair grounds because Mr. Barnes had been instrumental in bringing about the development.

Practically every speaker who was on his feet admitted the active part taken by Mr. Barnes in bringing about the sale of the timber and the development to follow and gave him full credit, but they were not there to pay homage to an individual but to express their preference in the location of the depot to the best interests of Burns. They recognized that it was Burns citizens who also aided in the undertaking, putting up their money and giving active support toward the desired result, that they were vitally interested as it effected their investments and business location.

R. M. Duncan called attention to the necessary improvements that are facing the town and the additional expense of a water and sewer system covering such a large area at additional expense and the advisability of keeping the business district as compact as possible. It was a matter of economy at this time besides better serving the business district by having the depot located nearer

In his closing remarks urging the adoption of the resolutions Senator Ellis stated that such a gathering should have been called before in order that the citizens might all have an opportunity to express themselves upon this and other subjects. Mr.

Ellis referred in connection with these general remarks, to a meeting held in the Masonic lodge room several weeks ago at which I. S. Geer presided. The meeting was called by the committee of ten to discuss the matter of enlarging the activities of the citizens by forming a larger organization. Mr. Ellis stated Mr. Geer had said in the course of his introductory remarks that the job had gotten too big for the committee of ten. Mr. Geer challenged this statement and Mr. Ellis had no one to confirm it. However, since the meeting several who were present at the gathering in the Masonic lodge room have stated that Mr. Geer made the remark in substance. This incident is beside the question, however, but was interjected in the discussion. Mr. Ellis intended the reference to indicate that a public meeting should have been had to organize the citizens of Burns for the purpose of taking up matters of public interest in order that all interested might have a voice in the affairs of the town.

At any rate, the result of the mass meeting shows decidedly that the people of Burns are favorable to the depot being placed near the present improved portion as is indicated by the appended names:

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, we residents and citizens of Burns, Oregon, in open public meeting assembled, upon call of The Honorable Walter E. Huston, Mayor of Burns, for discussion of the location of a depot site, and

Whereas, a site for the depot has been proposed at a point South of the present Fair Grounds and approximately one and one-fourth miles South of the present business center of, and at least one-half mile South of the most southerly residence in, the City of Burns, and

Whereas, between the platted City of Burns and the site proposed, as above said, there lies an unplatted tract of land in the name of the Harney County Fair Association, which cannot be platted as it is dedicated to fair purposes only, and also an unplatted 160 acre tract belonging to C. H. Voegtly which we have no assurance will be platted, and

Whereas, a location of the depot South of the Fair Grounds will tend to create a new residence and business center and thereby divide the social and commercial interests of the citizens of Burns, and

Whereas, one of the most important elements in the improvement of Burns is an adequate water and sewer system and that such a system is estimated to cost \$280,000.00 covering the present platted area of Burns, which has an assessed value of, but \$560,000, and that to extend this system to care for the needs of an additional community will so increase the cost of the improvement that bonds could not be sold at any reasonable price if a market could be found, and

Whereas, in the development of Burns, outside capital and business interests are necessary and that with a divided community and development such capital and business interests will be loath to invest until it is determined which community will be the leading business center, and

Whereas, a depot located where it

(Continued on page five)

People Locate Depot Suit Themselves, Says Herrick.

Mayor Huston is in receipt of a letter from Fred Herrick in which he announces emphatically that the Fred Herrick Lumber Co. has no interest in the depot grounds further than it be placed where the people of Burns want it located. The letter was not given this paper for publication, therefore it will not be quoted but in substance Mr. Herrick writes that he wanted it known that Fred Herrick Lumber Co. will do anything possible to get the railroad into Burns just where it will serve the town and people best; that his firm is playing no favorites. Further he wants every dollar that is going into the enterprise to go to local people, fully knowing his best asset in the future development is the good will of the people.

Some hesitated in expressing their preference in depot location because they did not want to go counter to Mr. Herrick's wishes in the matter. His letter clears this apprehension and leaves the people free to act upon their own judgment.

FRED HERRICK ACTIVE IN IRRIGATION SUPPORT

Writes Expressing Interest in Project and Offers His Personal Services.

Secretary Sam Mothershead of the Harney Valley Irrigation District this week received a letter from Fred Herrick expressing his satisfaction on the report of Mr. Mothershead's conference with Senator McNary in connection with the proposition of asking the government reclamation service to take over the construction of the project. Mr. Herrick assured Mr. Mothershead of his active support in the move and enlarged upon the benefits to be derived from the construction of the system. The gentleman went so far as to state he would go to Washington personally to urge the government to take hold of the undertaking, at the same time asking that all data be gathered supporting the proposition.

Mr. Herrick has displayed keen interest in the general development of this valley and has urged action from the time he first visited Burns. He wants the project to go forward without delay and real work begun. He is a strong advocate and one that we feel will have a good influence therefore it is gratifying to find him ready and willing.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Engineer Abrey of the Public Service Commission of Oregon is in this locality making a personal inspection of the railroad route from Crane to Burns with a view of making a report to the commission and arranging for the necessary hearing as it effects the highway crossings and public roads of Harney county. He is accompanied by a representative of the State Highway Commission who is going over the line with him.

There has been no complaint filed but it is necessary that the Public Service Commission grant permission for the line and in keeping with that necessity the inspection is made. Road Master McGee took them out to the several crossings.

The representatives spent yesterday in going over the line and making inspection an informal meeting was held in the city hall yesterday evening following their return. No difficulty is expected in securing the right for construction of the railroad and the county court states there is no objections in any way to the manner of crossing the highways and roads.

Harry Riley, recently from Bend, has accepted a position as head mechanic at the Service Garage and is putting in a complete equipment for all classes of work.

FATHER AND SON GATHERING IS BIG SUCCESS

Mothers' Club, Schools and Churches Join in Making Observance Fitting.

Between 75 and 100 fathers and sons attended a gathering at the Harney County High School last Saturday evening in observance of Father and Son week. The Mothers Club provided a fine luncheon for the occasion which was served cafeteria style as the number would not permit table room for all who attended. The affair was the result of plans suggested and finally worked out between the Mothers Club, the schools, the churches and fathers and sons.

Principal Sutton of the public school presided and gave an outline of the purpose and object of the observance of Father and Son week. He enlarged on this subject and his opening remarks were well chosen and to the point. He has had charge of so many boys during his twelve years as head of the public school of Burns that he knows boys pretty well and the boys of this community have a deep respect for him.

Mr. Sutton later introduced Principal McDade of the high school, who gave an excellent address without preparation. Mr. McDade is a man who holds the regard and respect of his high school boys. He takes an active part in their affairs along athletic lines as well as in the school room. His remarks were directed to the boys and incidentally to the fathers. Mr. McDade is in the active prime of his life and has a keen interest in the boys and knows their desires.

Dr. D. A. Thompson, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions of this state, arrived from Portland just before the gathering, coming purposely at that time to be present. Dr. Thompson was one of the state committee in charge of Father and Son week observance. He delivered the address of the evening and it was quite inspiring to both fathers and sons. His talk was one that had deep significance in the relationship of father and son; his experience during the world war in France and on the battle front for months, his association with the soldiers and his activities as a minister of the gospel and with the Y. M. C. A. all gave him an advantage in discussing the relationship of father and son, besides, he had attended banquets of this character in former years which aided him in pointing out the many ways that father and son might hold a more intimate relationship to the lasting benefit of both.

The speaker reminded the fathers of their obligations to the son and

also called attention to what the son owed the father. The attitude of both to the schools, to society, to the government where the boy of today is to take up the activities of the nation tomorrow. He stressed the importance of fitting them for responsibilities of life, to improve their minds and physical bodies that humanity would be benefited.

Mr. McDade proposed a spelling match between father and son which created a rivalry but of short duration. The sons had the best of it but at that neither side stayed for many of the words pronounced for them to spell.

Much favorable comment was made by fathers who attended this gathering and some of them propose that they should be held often, one father even wants one at least each month. His idea is to make a permanent organization with stated times for the gatherings and have the mothers provide the "eats." Several stated it was the best gathering they had ever attended in Burns and on that was most worthy.

Just following the excellent service of food Mr. Sutton suggested that a rising vote of thanks be tendered the Mothers Club for the fine feed and this was not only given unanimously but also most heartily applauded. The Club is deserving of much credit for the interest taken in the affair as it was hard work and no little trouble to provide for it.

The combination of the Mothers Club, the schools, the church (there being four ministers present) and the fathers and sons was a happy combination and gave the affair the proper setting. Those directly responsible for the gathering are happy in the praise accorded by those attending and have the satisfaction of knowing they have the sincere gratitude of the boys of Burns for showing their interest. The gathering included all the high school boys and their fathers and the 8th grade boys of the public school and their fathers.

WHO IS THE BRIDE?

It has leaked out that there will be a wedding at the meeting of the Eastern Star Chapter on next Monday evening, when one of our prominent young business men will take unto himself a bride—but who is the bride? Her friends say she is one of our charming young ladies but will not disclose her name.

The only way to satisfy one's curiosity is to attend the Chapter Monday evening and witness the ceremony. All members are extended a cordial and fraternal invitation to be present. It is further announced that gifts are restricted to one dish towel from each lady member of the Chapter.

Mrs. Jeanette Richardson left Thursday evening for Salt Lake where she will again spend the winter. Her many friends wish her a pleasant time with relatives and friends.

RAILROAD OFFICIALS

VISIT BURNS YESTERDAY

Discuss Depot Site With Our Citizens; Inspect Ground With Business Men.

General Manager H. V. Platt of the Oregon Short Line unit of the Union Pacific Railroad Co., Chief Engineer Armstrong, F. W. Meyer, auditor, and Mr. Platt's secretary, Mr. Gross, were in Burns yesterday and in company with a large number of local business men went over the ground to consider the location of the depot for Burns. Voegtly's field was inspected and those present discussed the subject with the visiting officers and gave them such information as they asked for. During the discussion of the subject Mr. Platt asked why the tentative location was made below the fair grounds and Engineer Girard said in selecting the location he believed it would serve all practical purposes for Burns and reiterated his consideration for Mr. Barnes in his activities in bringing about the development. Mr. Platt stated that it was the desire of the railroad to locate the depot for Burns as it was already here. He asked as to roads, stock shipments, etc.

The visiting officers were given all the information they asked for and Mr. Armstrong submitted a rough sketch he had drawn of the requirements necessary and discussing it with several he announced he would work out the matter and submit it to Mr. Platt. He announced that within a few days he would make a report of the decision reached.

Mr. Platt asked pointedly where we wanted the depot and was told of the mass meeting held last Monday evening and of what the resolutions adopted unanimously recited. That the people of Burns wanted the depot located at a point within approximately adjacent to the present improved portion of Burns. That the citizens would be satisfied with any location the railroad officials selected with that in view.

The visitors discussed the subject freely with the people and showed a disposition to hear their views, giving respectful hearing to all who desired to talk. There is a disposition to abide by the decision of the railroad officers and look forward with every reason that the matter will be settled definitely without delay.

H. C. H. S.

Yesterday was Visitors Day at the High School. A program was presented which was received with much applause by the many friends and parents present.

The first number was a pleasing song by the High School Glee Club followed by a duet by Frances Hibbard and Katherine Farro. This number evoked much praise. Pauline Desilets, accompanied by Annette Leonard, rendered a violin solo which showed the worth of the performer and was heartily encored.

Sixteen of the students were participants in a spelling contest which was held. The contestants who were selected from the four classes were Louise Desilets, Carroll Skeins, Lucile Brown, Ruby Campbell, Sidney Hotchkiss, John Mothershead, Mae Brittingham, Frances Hibbard, Beatrice Desilets, Herbert Whiting, Winifred Gouldin, Edgar Dent, Wendell Caldwell, Leland Sitz, Jessie Foley, Lucile Skeins.

The classes in order of their standing were 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927.

The individual winners were John Mothershead 1st and Ruby Campbell 2nd. The prizes competed for were furnished by the Faculty.

After the contest a reception for the spellers and guests was held in the Domestic Science rooms, marking the end of a very pleasant day.

Miss Walker, Lucile Brown, Ruby Pouljode, Lucile Skeins, are a com-"Fumbles" show.

Union to arrange for the annual

UNION THANKSGIVING SERVICES AT BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be a union Thanksgiving service at the Baptist church on Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. The citizens of Burns are invited to attend this service on Thanksgiving day and take part in the observance of the day.

HIS 1923 THANKSGIVING DINNER

