

**THE DAM CHRONICLE**

Published every Thursday in the interests of the Bonneville dam area.

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**OUR PROGRAM**

1. Develop a fire protection system.
2. Create a water district and develop lands between Craigmont hotel and Herman creek.
3. Install street lights.
4. Lay down sidewalks—even though they are wooden sidewalks.
5. Urge the federal government to purchase the toll bridge and make it a free bridge.
6. Launch a campaign to make the lake back of the dam the most popular resort on the West Coast.

**These Men And Women Deserve Public Support**

Next Wednesday the people of Cascade Locks will go to the polls to choose their first set of city officials. The men and women elected to office will organize and direct the new municipal government. Quite a number of candidates are running. The names of all appear on page one. In this column The Chronicle presents the names of those whom it feels are best fitted to serve the public.

**MAYOR**

**CAPT. CHARLES NELSON**

Captain Charles Nelson, candidate for mayor, was born in Denmark in 1867 and came to Cascade Locks more than 35 years ago. He has been running steamboats on the Columbia for more than 40 years and is recognized as the oldest pilot in point of service on the upper river. A property owner and substantial citizen, he has given freely of his time, efforts and money for the upbuilding of the community. Gravest charge brought against him since he became a candidate for mayor is the fact that he forced the Union Pacific and other heavy property owners to contribute tax money to the building of the beautiful high school in which the children of the community are being educated. Captain Nelson is universally liked. He has legions of friends on the river, from Portland to Umatilla. No one can truthfully speak ill of him. He is the type of a man who is particularly well fitted to hold public office. He is easy of approach, weighs all problems in balance and acts as common sense dictates. He recognizes the rights of other men, is progressive and unafraid. We have never heard his honest or his integrity questioned.

**CITY COUNCIL**

**JULIUS CARLSON**

Born in Finland in 1880, Julius Carlson has resided in Cascade Locks since 1904. Industrious, honest, progressive, he will serve as a curb on those members of the

council who might wish to spend money before the people as a whole are committed to a public project. A citizen of the United States since 1904, he owns his property, works on the dam. For many years he followed mining and worked in the woods. In late years he has made a home for his aged mother, who passed away only a few weeks ago at the age of 94.

**J. A. MERRILL**

In all of the Bonneville dam area no man is more popular than "Jim" Merrill. Owner of Merrill's Tavern and the famous Merrill pavilion, he is a successful business man. He has served on the school board, taken an active part in civic affairs. Born in Iowa in 1893 he came to Oregon with his parents 32 years ago. For the past 12 years he has been a resident of Cascade Locks. He owns his property, is married and is the father of four children. We believe he would make an idea member of the city council.

**MAX MILLSAP**

Born in McMinnville, schooled in Lebanon, Max Millsap, owner of the Cascade Inn, is a native of Oregon. A graduate of North Pacific college in Portland, he is a licensed pharmacist and has been in the drug business since 1923. As the manager of the Cascade Drug store he built up a wide acquaintance. A trained business man and a property owner in Cascade Locks, he would bring the experience of an active life to play upon the problems of the community. Progressive, fearless, aggressive, he is the type that helps build cities.

**MRS. MAE SILVA**

A native of Minnesota, Mrs. Mae Silva, the only woman seeking a seat in the city council, has been a resident of Oregon for more than a quarter-century and has made her home in Cascade Locks since 1923. Generous, sympathetic and possessed of a strong sense of justice she would serve the community faithfully and well. For the past several years she has conducted the Bridge of The Gods Inn and has hundreds of friends. An experienced and successful business woman, we believe she would be a credit to the community and to her sex.

**CARL EPPING**

A resident of Hood River county for nearly 30 years, Carl Epping is no stranger to the people of the community. He came to Cascade Locks from Hood River. Nearly every one in the upper valley knows him and speaks well of him. He is a successful grocer, owns his property, is a man of good habits, is happily married and would be a credit to a city council in any town or city of the state. We believe he will expend the public's money with the same care that he would expend his own and demand a dollar's value for every dollar spent.

**SETH O. CLODFELTER**

Born in Iowa in 1872, Seth O. Clodfelter has been a resident of Oregon since 1888 and a resident of Cascade Locks for the past six years. As a member of the city council he would give the community the benefit of his long years of business experience. He is a large property owner who has willingly paid his share of taxes. As the parent of five children, he has had the satisfaction of seeing them all graduate from college. For many years he ranched in Sherman county and today owns large property interests in that section. A slow, deliberate thinker, he forms his conclusions and cannot be swayed from a course which he believes is in the public interest.

**CITY TREASURER**

**MRS. VERA A. SPRAGUE**

A long-time resident of Cascade Locks, Mrs. Vera A. Sprague is known to practically everyone who has lived in the town for any great period of time. A teacher for many years in the schools, she has taught many youthful voters to read and write. And we believe they will join in electing her city treasurer next Wednesday. Wife of Lester Sprague, she is the mother of two children. No one will question her honesty, sincerity or ability. She and Mr. Sprague own their own property. She would make the town a splendid treasurer.

**CITY RECORDER**

**M. E. TRIMBLE**

Born in Walla Walla in 1886, M. E. (Ed) Trimble is a candidate for city recorder. The office of recorder is a most important one for the reason that the person serving in the position is police judge and will try all minor cases. We don't believe Ed Trimble would attempt to support the

down government off fines collected from the men employed at the dam for he works on the dam himself. He is married, owns his own home. A contractor, he has been employed or the past year by General-Shea. Civic minded, industrious, progressive, he wants to see the district develop.

**CITY MARSHALL**

**COLON MERRILL**

Three good men are running for marshal. Only one can be elected. Colon Merrill is by temperament well fitted for the position. A carpenter by trade, he has been working for the government at the dam. He has the faculty for getting on with folks, and will we believe, be just and honorable in his dealings with fellow men. Sober, industrious, courageous, he may be expected to do his duty as he sees it without making himself obnoxious. It does not occur to us that a little power will go to his head. And he may be expected to protect the children by stopping speeding. He has lived in Cascade Locks for 12 years.

**Speaking of Valuations**

In another column on this page appears a letter from our good friend George Knox, assessor of Hood River county. We read the letter and grinned. George said he did not like the way we wrote up the story of the state tax commission sending a man in to evaluate J. B. Laber's holdings in Cascade Locks.

It is tit for tat, because we don't like the way George levies assessments on the Haskins property and the Laber property. We think George is honest as the day is long, but there is something wrong when property owners up on the hill past the Grandstrom home are assessed \$25 a lot while Laber is assessed \$30 an acre for land that adjoins these lots. And we think there is something wrong when Haskins, who owns the tract of ground where the fox farm is located on the highway, is assessed \$30 an acre on ground which he has consistently insisted is worth several times that figure.

George says it is all a matter of policy, laid down by the state. And here is the kernel in the nut. Under the policy of fixing valuations the state rules that property in towns must be assessed by the front foot. Laber has not broken up the bulk of his property nor filed a townsite plat. Nor has George Knox ever been able to get him to file a plat. Laber knows the law and is smart enough to hold his property intact. When he sells a lot he disposes of it as a parcel. Catch the idea?

Haskins has not been selling town lots, but he has built a number of cabins for rent. He built them on what he insists, and what George Knox accepts, as practically worthless property, although it adjoins the highway. He has been getting \$18 a month for these cabins. The men at the dam have paid through the nose for the privilege of finding a place to live.

The Chronicle believes Laber should pay on a valuation of something like \$100,000. He has enough land to make nearly 1000 residential lots the way he lays them out, and he asks long prices for lots on Main street.

Haskins has sufficient property to cut out hundreds of lots. Should a major industry come to town he no doubt would be throwing town lots on the market. He is paying taxes on a valuation of \$30 an acre.

Mr. Knox says the figures we use are valuations for 1935, and that they have nothing to do with valuations of 1936. We hope he is right for we would blush to believe that George Knox is going to return valuations in keeping

with those of a year ago. However, we shall see.

But this thing of Mr. Laber's taxes goes deeper than it might appear on the surface. Here is some more of it. The Chronicle has made a hard fight for an accredited high school in Cascade Locks. It went to County Superintendent Gibson, threw its strength behind the ladies of the town who wished a third high school teacher.

The county school board has granted the town a third teacher. The high school has become an accredited high school. Parents will not need to leave the community to school their children. But teacher's cost money. The salary of a third teacher runs the cost per pupil up to \$150 in Cascade Locks. That is pretty steep—but worth it.

The third teacher must be paid out of tax money. Her salary will be at least \$1200 a year. Someone must meet it. Mr. Laber is paying this year only about \$550 in taxes on about \$19,000 valuation. If he paid on \$100,000 valuation and Haskins paid in proportion, and if they paid willingly instead of dodging behind a taxpayers league and quit protesting and squirming Laber would pay sufficient taxes to meet the salary of the extra high school teacher.

And there is where the rub comes in. If George Knox fails to lift assessments to a decent figure Laber will get off with a light tax. So will Haskins. And this will mean that the other property owners of Hood River county must pay the teacher's salary.

If Laber was paying on a valuation of \$100,000 his taxes would be approximately \$2,500. The county school board would not then be worried over the cost of the Cascade Locks high school.

The Chronicle dislikes to see Laber sidestep what it feels is a just tax. It believes good schools are more important than the fortune which he might leave to his family. It believes he should pay his taxes willingly and gladly. It believes he will profit by giving Cascade Locks the best high school in the state.

George Knox knows, or should know, that the education of our children outweigh any consideration which the state tax commission might give either Laber or Haskins.

If Laber will abandon his taxpayers league and plat his townsite into lots and acknowledge a fair and equitable valuation on his property the children will have excellent schools and Mr. Knox will have no occasion to write letters to Mr. Laber.

**A SMILE OR TWO**

"Where's old Bill been? I haven't seen him for months."  
"What! Haven't you seen him? He's got three years for stealing a car."

What did he want to steal for? Why didn't he buy one and not pay for it, like a gentleman?

Judge: "But madam, how can you marry a man you know is a burglar?"

Witness: "Oh, I thought he was so quiet about the house."

"Well, Mrs. Govis, and he your husband?"

"Oh, he's doing well. He's a job at the glue factory now."

"Well, I hope he'll stick to that."

Boss: "Doing anything tonight?"

Typist (expectantly): "Nothing."

Boss: "Then you ought to be able to get in on time Monday."

Farmer's Wife: "It was true, that you love me, then why don't you find me?"

Tramp: "Oh, madam, I know love is blind."

"I say, old man," said he to his friend, "I wouldn't let my wife go around saying she made a mistake of me. You don't hear my wife saying that."

"No," replied the other simply, "but I heard her telling my wife that she did her best."

**THE FORUM**

To the Editor:

I do not like the way you set up the article concerning valuations on J. B. Laber's property in Cascade Locks. The inference that I am trying to single out that is not true at all.

I will place on the roll whose figure we determine as just, and naturally it will be higher.

But here is the point I feel clearly understood now and at times—personalities do not count. My personal feelings in any way are not reflected in assessments.

First—because it is not right. Second—any assessor who did so would be a fool.

Mr. Laber was only one of several taxpayers we called on, sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Laber and I wish you would print it too.

I do not live in Cascade Locks. I have friends on both sides of the question, and heaven knows an assessor has enough trouble without rushing in where he has no business to tread.

Sincerely yours,  
GEORGE M. KNOX

(continued from page 1)

**HUNDREDS ARE BEING RETURNED TO WORK AT DAM**

han is now on a barge, ready to dip down to remove the sill. Last night the big monaxhan dragline, opposite the railroad depot, was being out the lower lock approach will be moved inside the crib to dig out the foundations for the dam.

Business men of the entire area have been awaiting the signal of returning property. With other contractors putting on more men, it is expected to jump Bonneville dam's progress this winter from the present 100 to an estimated 3500 or so, though guesses range from 2500 to 4000.