

## Should The People Know?

I am writing this with the belief that a newspaper has a job to perform in the community and when it becomes supine it might better go out of existence, than remain as a drug to the community, always covering up the "naughty" doings of those entrusted with the care of public property. I believe in telling the good side too, but sometimes the necessity for the truth "no matter who is hurt" becomes an obligation of the newspaper.

In this issue we publish some of the findings of a group of Mill City residents with regards to affairs of their local school board during the past two years.

I want to say here that it is with reluctance that we find that facts were found that I felt it was the right of the people to know, and it is their duty to tend to their business, however distasteful it may prove to be.

We have a duty as citizens of any community, whether we be new in that community or not, to fight for our democratic rights of free speech for ourselves or others, and the freedom of the press to report those facts unhampered by any threats from any source whatsoever.

Some time ago we received photographs of deeds to property, showing that such property had been transferred from the possession of the local school district (129-J) to individual persons, with the claim that the transfers were illegal and had not been authorized by the expressed will of the people as required by laws of the State of Oregon.

I have investigated these charges and searched the minutes of the local school board and searched the back issues of The Enterprise file copies to find where a notice had been published and an election held, but could not find any such evidence.

The apparent result is that state laws governing disposition of school property have been violated, and violated by a school board that had an attorney setting as a member of the board that committed the first offense of which I have knowledge. What kind of a defense can a school board have that is called upon to make an accounting when they had an attorney setting on the board and taking part in such a transaction?

We are being accused of dividing the city into factions over "such a little offense". But the opposite is the truth of the matter. For several years now the citizens of the communities in this canyon have been making attempts to get a union high school, whereby Mill City, Gates, Lyons, and Detroit can combine their resources and build a new union high school that would be a credit to the canyon and an advantage to the young people graduating from such an institution. What has come from those efforts and meetings that have been held? Apparently nothing.

When can Mill City and her sister communities ever get a union high school? They can accomplish that in the near future if we make the effort. But reports have been coming into this office ever since I came here last November that Gates will not join with Mill City, that Lyons will not join with Mill City while the present school board is in power. The point I wish to bring to your attention is that the city has been split wide open long before the present owners of The Enterprise had anything to do with this paper.

I think therefore that the charge that we have split or are splitting the city is false.

I with another gentleman acted as an emissary between this group of citizens and we delivered to one of the members of the present school board a copy of a resignation for the school board to sign. That resignation was written so as to give the school an opportunity to resign and leave the way open for the next board to find agreement with the neighboring districts and thus accomplish the unionization of school districts. I showed that member of the board a copy of the story appearing elsewhere in this paper discussing the transfers of property that were apparently illegally made.

That was last Tuesday (May 2). I felt last week that perhaps to hold the story another week would be just as well, but I was wrong. Before many days had passed most everybody in the city knew something about it, but the people were not being informed fully.

This story affects quite a number of people and I thought that perhaps they could get together and settle the differences but the only thing accomplished was to allow friends of the school board to build a pretty picture of "only a little crime having been committed".

Knowing that the story was being prepared a member of the Lions club presented the following resolution to the club and it was passed and copies sent to the Stayton Mail, Detroit Dam News, and I am informed a Salem paper also received a copy and all three published it apparently without comment.

I herewith publish it in full. It needed comment that last week I didn't want to be forced to make:

THE LIONS CLUB, MILL CITY  
April 24, 1950

This club is a service club in every sense of the word. We try and help

# THE MILL CITY ENTERPRISE

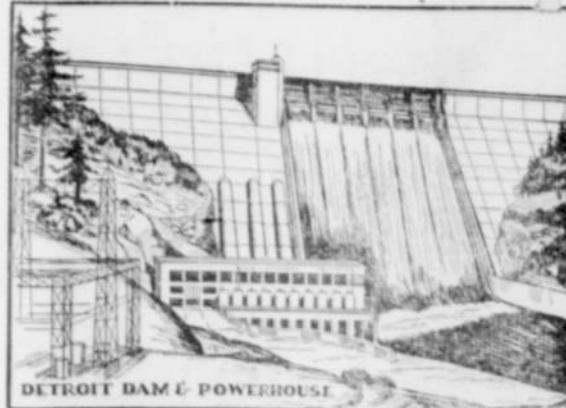
ON THE SCENIC NORTH SANTIAM HIGHWAY — GATEWAY TO THE HEART OF NATURE'S EMPIRE

Vol. VI—No. 19

MILL CITY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1950

\$2.50 a Year, 5c a Copy

Serving:  
MILL CITY  
DETROIT  
ELKHORN  
GATES  
IDANHA  
LYONS  
MEHAMA  
MONGOLD



ROD MILL AND CLASSIFIER FOR DETROIT DAM—Machinery now being installed just above the aggregate storage plant at Detroit dam will function as a rod mill crushing rock into sand and operate as a classifier sorting rock of various sizes. Photo Courtesy Capital Journal.

## IWA Votes Strike Shutdown Threatens

The Northwest Regional Negotiating committee through its chairman, J. E. Fadling, announced today that union members on the job throughout the Northwest voted by a large majority, authorizing the Northwest Regional Negotiating committee to call a strike not later than May 15th.

The figures were not revealed but it was known that the Committee sent out more than 40,000 ballots. Fadling said, "All locals did a good job in getting a big vote. The large vote and the great majority favoring strike action, unless our demands are met, means the employers must make a satisfactory offer before May 15th, or the mills, plywood plants, logging operations and other woodworking plants which the committee represents will have picket lines out Monday morning, May 15th."

The demands of the International Woodworkers of America, a CIO affiliate, are:

1. Six paid holidays.
2. A health and welfare plan providing: \$3,000 life insurance with double indemnity for accidental death and dismemberment; \$40.00 per week sick payments for 26 weeks off the job; \$20.00 per week for 26 weeks to supplement inadequate workman's compensation pay;
3. Employer paid hospitalization, surgical and medical care.

## Flight Instruction Now Available, Davis Field

Flight instruction is now available at the Davis airport with a competent instructor in charge, Byron Davis, airport manager announced today. Ralph Nibbler, instructor and a former army flight instructor with over 4000 hours of flight time will be on the field every Friday evening and all day on Sunday. More instruction time will be allotted as the demand grows.

Davis stated that rates for both planes and instructors were among the lowest in the state. Students prices were reduced to \$9 an hour for instructor and plane and \$6 an hour for solo flying.

our city and people in every way. The club is a cross section of the business men and women of the town. We therefore wish to congratulate the school board for their great work and sacrifice in the last few years. Without pay they have given freely of work and time and supervised the building of a fine new school.

We commend any organization or person that works for the upbuilding and good of the city.

Unanimous resolution.  
(Signed) CARL KELLY, Pres.  
JACK COLBURN, Sec.

To some this may appear as a bouquet to the school board, but when it follows the publication of our story about the negligence of the school board in regard to the care of the septic tanks on high school grounds, (which even now is only a makeshift repair job) and immediately prior to the possible publication of this story on the transfer of property, it begins to take on an odorous aroma, especially when it is published in the Enterprise.

## Peace Depends on New Congress, Says Morse Committee

Whether this nation finds the difficult path to world peace or plunges into a war that can destroy civilization may well be determined by the calibre of men we elect to Congress this year, E. C. Sammons, prominent Republican leader, told a radio audience over KEX Wednesday night.

"National and international events move with a terrifying pace today, said Sammons. Answers to problems that were adequate in the 1920's and '30's do not now suffice. If we do not develop new vision, new understanding and new leadership equal to our problems of the present, the American way of life as we know it will vanish.

"As ex-Governor Charles A. Sprague expressed in an editorial in his Salem Statesman recently, "Forces, new forces, tremendous forces are loose in the world today. To ignore them is to invite the whirlwind bearing complete destruction to cherished ideas and ideals. The supreme undertaking is to harness these forces for men's uplift. Few men in the United States are as well equipped for this job as Wayne Morse.

"This opinion of Mr. Sprague reflects the judgment of serious Republicans throughout Oregon. To old-timers, the Morse sponsorship by men like Sprague and Paul Wallace of Salem, Herb Cox of Eugene, Huston Walter of Lebanon, Phil Hitchcock of Klamath Falls, ex-Governor Jay Bowerman, Bob Dwyer and Jesse Gard of Portland is all the answer needed. To this list can be added the testimony of outstanding members of the congress. In the memory of the oldest members of the senate there never has been a previous case in which which senators have violated their traditional neutrality in primary elections. The reason in this case is the viciousness and unfairness of the opposition."

Sammons concludes with the testimony of Mark Trice, secretary of the Republican party in the United States senate and official officer of that body. He quotes Trice as saying, "That during his five years in the senate, Senator Morse has voted with the Republican majority on a majority of the roll calls taken. During those five years Senator Cordon and Senator Morse have voted together more times than they have voted opposite. In the 79th, 80th and 81st sessions up to March 1st combined, Senators Morse and Cordon voted a total of 568 times. They were in agreement 329 times, or 58%. Up to March 1st of this session, both voted on 22 occasions and were in agreement 20 times, or 90.9%."

"I have brought you these statements, says Sammons, because I wish you to know the truth about the vicious, intentional and inexcusable misrepresentations that have been made in recent newspaper advertisements and leaflets by the opposition."

## WE SEE BY THE ADS:

Coffee, 75c pound.  
Full-Color photographs free.  
Electric clocks \$3.95.  
Kool Aid, 6 pkg. 25c.  
Free Mattress.

## C of C Plan Booster At Inspection Tour

Between 1500 and 2000 Salem persons are expected to visit the Detroit damsite on Sunday May 21st in an inspection tour sponsored by the Salem Cheriens.

The day will be highlighted with speeches from state and army officials. Guest of honor for the day will be the Cherrian Queen and her court. The queen and the royal court will be taken on a tour through the excavation while other onlookers will stand on the excavation rim to hear construction details from Colonel Walsh of the Army engineers and C. C. Davis resident engineer on the construction site. Other speakers will include Oregon's governor, Douglas McKay, ex-governor and Statesman editor Charles Sprague, and Senator Wayne Morse.

Clay Cochran, president of Salem's Chamber of Commerce placed Robert Veness of Mill City on a committee with others to complete details for the tour.

## Information Booth

Mill City's chamber of commerce allotted up to \$150 for an information booth to be placed near the damsite and to serve as a "good samaritan" representative for visitors. The booth, it was believed, would make considerable contribution to good will for canyon communities. The chambers industrial committee met with engineers and officials to complete details for a location. The booth will be completed by May 21st.

Also to welcome the visiting caravan will be a large sign 8 feet square to be placed on the western limits of the city. The sign, was painted by Mrs. Lamphaer and will read "Welcome to Nature's Empire". A large picture of the Detroit dam is also painted on the sign. Committees were selected to place welcome banners along the Mill City streets.

In Tuesday nights meeting a proposal was made to hold the disbursement office of the state unemployment in Mill City. The state makes no provisions for such field offices and should it be necessary for workers to drive to Salem for their checks merchants would stand to lose. D. B. Hill, Jr. headed the committee to raise funds from the merchants to pay the operating cost for such a building in Mill City.

## Air Show Plans

Plans for a breakfast for the visiting pilots at the chamber sponsored airshow July 16th were nearing completion. Menu for the early flyers will be turkey sandwiches, turkey gravy, baked potatoes and coffee. Between 15 and 20 turkeys will be purchased for the event. To add flavor to this year's annual "Breakfast Hop" a committee was selected to determine ways of electing a queen for the airshow. Candidates would be suggested from each canyon community.

Also being investigated for the fun day is the possibility of obtaining a carnival to finish out the day's activities.

## CAR STRIKES BOY

Richard Morris, son of Ray Morris of Detroit, was struck by a car driven by Otto Russell of Detroit late Friday afternoon.

The boy suffered a broken leg. The accident occurred on the highway near the old C.C.C. camp. Mr. Russell was not held.

## Has Local School Board Violated School and State Statutes?

Has the district school board of Mill City (129-J) been violating the Oregon law which carries a misdemeanor penalty for illegal disposition of school property?

The question grew from the action of board members Donald E. Sheythe, Ramon L. Roberts and William Shuey when they executed a warranty deed to The First Presbyterian Church of Mill City, Oregon on June 18, 1949, of a portion of the school district lands.

The execution of the deed, which is now on record, would have been of routine matter but for the apparent

violation of the statutes of the State of Oregon. According to the state law second class districts can not sell the district's land without a majority vote of a legally called special school election.

129-J is a second class school district by statutory standards, to-wit: O.C.L.A. 111-502. Classification of districts. "All districts with more than 200 and less than 1,000 children of school age shall be known as districts of the second class."

District 129-J has an enrollment of approximately 433 which without question qualifies it as a second class district.

## Law Transgressed?

The procedure to be followed according to law (O.C.L.A. 111-1014) in referring to school property and schoolhouses reads:

"They may also sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of any property belonging to the district, when AUTHORIZED to do so by a majority vote at any LEGALLY called school meeting; provided, that the call for such meeting shall have stated that such sale, lease or disposition would be one of the objects of such meeting."

The law clearly points out that any sale or transaction must meet the legal requirements which require that the proposed transaction be advertised in advance of the meeting at least 2 weeks. The law further requires that such advertisement shall be made in a local publication if such exist in the community.

Has the board from district 129-J violated the law by disposing of the district's property without the consent of the people? The property sold to the church and later transferred to relatives of a school board member, was only one of three such apparent violations.

## Penalty for Violation

Was the board's repeated refusal to be responsible to the taxpayers of the district threatened them with a statutory penalty? Again according to O.C.L.A. 111-305:

Violations of school law: "Any member of any school district board or any school clerk who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not less than \$25 nor more than \$100, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than six months or both such fine and imprisonment; . . . and it shall be the duty of the county superintendent to prosecute and carry out the provisions of this section."

The acknowledgment of the warranty deed in question was taken by D. B. Hill, Jr., on the 18th day of June, 1949.

## Don Jenkins Suffers Injury in Accident

Don Jenkins, owner of Jenkins Hardware in Mill City narrowly escaped critical injury in an automobile accident near Silverton early this week.

Jenkins was driving at a moderate speed on his way to Portland where he was to trade in his present pickup when a car ran through a stop sign at the Mollala junction directly in front of Jenkins.

Both cars were serious damaged. The operator of the other car was held for reckless driving.

It was believed that Jenkins suffered a concussion of the lower left mastoid. His condition is improved, however, and he is resting at home.

## Theatre Group Sponsors Amateur Show

The amateur night given by the Idanha Theatre group, for the benefit of the Idanha church was well attended.

The program was held in the auditorium at Detroit with Mr. Hoyt as master of ceremonies. First prize in the adult class was won by Delphine Tucker and Barbara Denton who sang a vocal duet. Second prize went to Johnnie Davis for his piano solo. First prize in the children's class was taken by a group of square dancers composed of Mario Vickers, Mary Sue Palmer, Ruth McDaniel, Marilyn Overholser, Stanley Timms, Richard Calkins, Elvin Egan and Jack Weingerber. Second prize went to Eva Lou New for her piano solo. Judges were Mrs. R. C. Haseman, Mrs. Gordon Skidmore and Mr. Fitzgerald. A moving picture followed the program.

Remember to Vote on May 19th for Your Candidate!

## Final P.T.A. Meeting Will Show Movie

The final meeting of the Mill City Parent-Teacher Assn for the school year will be held at 8 o'clock Thursday evening, May 11th, and will feature a special March of Time movie, "The Fight for Better Schools".

In concluding a very active and successful year, Mrs. Robert Veness, retiring president and program chairman, will install the five incoming officers.

In an appropriate observance of National Music Week, the entertainment will consist of songs presented by the high school girls' glee club under the direction of Miss Hope Baney.

Refreshments will be served by the teachers.

## Fire Season May 15

Fire season in this canyon area will open May 15th, Arlo Tours, Mill City fire chief announced today. Tours stated that permits will be necessary to do any burning and that he will issue such permits in his district.

## Coming Events:

- THURSDAY—  
PTA Benefit show TONIGHT.  
American Legion 2d and 4th Thurs.  
Gates PTA 1st Thursday 8 p.m.
- FRIDAY—  
Presbyterian Mothers' Day Dinner 5:30 to 7 p.m.  
I.O.O.F. meeting.  
Lyons IWA meeting 2nd Friday.  
Mill City IWA meeting last Friday
- SATURDAY—  
Legion Dance at Legion hall.  
Santiam Riders Dance.
- SUNDAY—  
Mother's Day.
- MONDAY—  
Lions club meeting.  
A.F. & A.M. No. 180 stated meeting third Monday.  
Boy Scouts 7:30
- TUESDAY—  
Women's club 8 p.m. 1st, 3rd Tues.  
Santiam Eagles auxiliary 8 p.m.  
Senior Scouts 7:30 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY—  
Lions club auxiliary 8:30, 4th Wed.  
Santiam Rebekah 166—1st and 3rd Wed. at 8 p.m.  
Altar Society meets 2nd Wed.