

Pioneer Viewpoints

In the past several weeks the Big Timber Pioneer has received a half dozen letters to the editor which have not nor will be published. The letters were either unsigned, or signed by what we believe is a fictitious name. The letters bear no address nor telephone numbers.

The policy of this newspaper is that letters to the editor must be signed.

Letters are subject to editing for clarity, length and libelous or slanderous statements. We ask that a letter writer include his telephone number and address in the submission in case a question arises and we need to contact the author.

We welcome and encourage letters to the editor. But we do believe writers should be willing to publicly claim their view by offering their signature for publication as well as their opinions.

Good meeting

Last week's School Night for Excellence meeting at the Big Timber Grade School was poorly attended, which is too bad. The meeting was productive, informative, and challenging.

Not only were education issues at the grade school discussed, but statewide proposals and policies were focused upon.

The session gave food for thought of possible changes in Montana education's future. It sparked interest, besides pro and con comments, on a variety of subjects — gifted student programs, college entrance exams, awarding different levels of high school diplomas.

There were only twelve at the meeting. If you missed it, you missed a good one.

Yarns from the Yellowstone

Country dances

By BYRON GROSFIELD

In some localities nearly everyone, old and young, attends community dances and thoroughly enjoys himself. Baby sitters are not to be had, they wouldn't miss the dance either, so consequently some of the very young break into night life at an early age.

When my son Brin was a baby, my wife and I took him to several Melville dances, it being his first summer at an age of about eight months. We didn't have any fancy portable bed for him but instead placed him among his blankets in a large cardboard box on the pickup seat. We always tried to get to the dance early in order to park up against a porch railing which enabled us to check him between dances. It worked like a charm and everyone was happy.

I've always liked the idea of children accompanying their parents whenever possible. I think that the more they are in each others company, the easier it is to work out any problems that arise.

In the late 1930's a character drifted into the Melville country, breaking horses and wrangling dudes for a living. To my way of thinking he was better entertainment than most of what we see on modern TV.

One time he rode a bronc into Melville for the mail and the lady of the house called up and asked the storekeeper to send out a sack of chicken feed with him. Instead of going to the trouble of tying the sack of feed back of the saddle, he rustled up a galvanized tub, tied his rope to it, put the feed in the tub and dragged it back to the ranch.

Another time this same lady asked him to hoe the garden. Without batting an eye, he replied, "Which horse am I going to ride while I do that job?"

This fellow liked to dance, too, and have fun with the rest of the community. He told about a country dance he had attended before he came to the Melville country. He said, "They played 'They Cut Down the Old Pine Tree' so many times I had to go outside and empty the sawdust out of my boots three times!"

Letter to the Editor

Right claimed to question and learn

To the Editor:

To Max Schroeter...sir, you misunderstand me. I do not challenge Mr. Smoot's right, nor anyone else's, to speak or believe whatever they wish. He and I are both Americans, born free; born with those rights. This current dialogue is of interest to me because Lee obviously spends most of his waking hours thinking about the problems which concern him so deeply. I am questioning him to learn the full extent of his convictions. That seems fair to me.

I admit to having some mistrust of "purity" theoreticians. In 1940, a year and a half before America entered World War II, I became disturbed enough about such talk, as it emanated from Nazi Germany, to enlist in the Navy to do what little I could to combat it. I'm sure you recall, Mr. Schroeter, what obscenity was visited upon the human race by the Nazi swine. With all of their declaration of Aryan supremacy (white Christian?) they did not hesitate to brutalize Norway, Denmark, Holland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, et al.

May we conclude that those nations were not white enough, nor Christian enough to suit the Nazi purists? Many of our Norwegian neighbors could tell us about how lovely it was for themselves or their relatives to live under the heel of the tyrant.

I know you must share with me, Mr. Schroeter, a deep revulsion at the brutality of that murder-philosophy which took the lives of infinite numbers of Jews, gypsies, mental and physical defectives. Please tell us what YOU did to combat that insanity.

I would never intimate that Lee's goal would be to go to those wild extremes. I am simply curious to have him let us in on his honest views of today's problems as he sees them.

I would like to ask Lee some questions about last week's statement on his racial philosophy and plans to separate the races:

1. Is it possible that Californians who subscribe to your ideas would take a dim view of having all those Mexicans and their extra food stamps dropped on their doorstep? How would you alleviate their distress?

2. If blacks and Jews are to be occupants of those big cities, well, that's a hell of a lot of people, Lee, and I don't know if they can hold them all. Also, must all of the whites established in residence and in businesses in those places then get out and relocate?

3. I think most Jews are white. Must they be forced to live with all of those blacks?

4. I didn't ask you if whites were oppressed. I asked if they were superior in your view, or just different. Please respond.

5. Do you regard that "government racist" act of Japanese internment during World War II as a good or bad policy?

6. Between the Arctic Circle and South Africa there is a fascinating progression of racial and ethnic types. The Scandinavians and Teutons give way to French, Italian and Spanish; there are Slavics, Semites (both Arabs and Jews), North Africans varying from Semite to Negroid, then blacks who are non-negroid (such as Watusi). It proceeds south with many varieties, such as pygmies (non-negroid). Question...At what point in that progression would you draw the line between white and non-white.

7. Finally, in your instructive letter of last week I had a distinct feeling of emphasis on Jewishness, Zionism and Communism, in equal measure. Please elaborate. Are they related?

Oh, and you neglected to answer my question about voting rights for the separated groups in your plan. What if they should gain majority status and vote out the whole deal?

Jack Hines

Letter to the Editor

An Ode to the Hines Smoot

Dear Editor:

Write that letter to the Editor today folks, let us know anything at all you please. Local folks hereabouts call speech impediments — "Foot in mouth disease!"

The pen, much like the shovel, can lead one to an early grave.

Write on, or, wrong, no matter, it's your opinions we all crave.

Whatever you do, don't stop hastily, and tell us that your feud is through.

We ain't had this much entertainment, since the day they installed channel two!

James Edward's Elgas

...S. Credit to Maggi Buttrel for the "coin" of term of what should prove to be a new phenomenon—"Talk-Newspaper". Pick up a pen or pencil and get involved!



American Legion ANNUAL STEAK & LOBSTER FEED

Saturday, February 25
Lobster - \$15/plate Steak - \$10/plate
Tickets on sale now at Legion Club
Reservations by ticket only. First come basis.
Music by HOME BREW.....Dance at 9:00 p.m.



SGHS Gym Completion Project

Open letter to all residents of Sweet Grass County and other concerned people from Duane Long.

As I have traveled around Sweet Grass County, speaking at various rural schools and different places in Big Timber, I have found there are many rumors afloat concerning the completion of the new gym. I would like to take this opportunity to set the true facts before the citizens of Sweet Grass County.

Rumor: The School Board has hired an architect with School Board money.

Fact: The School Board has engaged the services of the architectural firm of Johnson, Graham & Associates of Billings, MT. This is an old established firm that has designed many schools in Montana, Wyoming and other states. The firm was hired on a time and material basis. They will finish designing the entire project and get cost estimates on the completion of the gym with no money up front. They will be paid a portion of their fee as each phase of the gym is completed. They will be paid with money pledged towards completion of the gym. I have personally guaranteed their fee, estimated at \$12,000.00.

Rumor: The School Board is spending money promoting the completion of the gym.

Fact: The School Board has not spent one penny promoting or advertising of any kind. My wife and I, along with a sizeable assist from *The Big Timber Pioneer*, are paying for all promotion advertising, all ads in *The Pioneer*, all the costs of the brochures, etc. In addition, Carol and I are furnishing all people who donate \$100 or more certificates and plaques as recognition of their civic involvement.

Rumor: The gym project will never get off the ground and money given now will lay in the bank, depreciating in value.

Fact: Nothing could be further from the truth. As soon as the architect has completed the final drawings and they are approved by the School Board, work will commence at once towards completing the gym. The locker rooms will be the first priority. There is enough money already pledged to complete this portion of the gym.

Rumor: Completing the gym could cost as much as \$450,000.

Fact: When the new school was built, the projected cost of the entire gym was \$637,100. At that time there wasn't enough money for the entire gym to be finished, so the shell was finished at a cost of \$322,000. Also, at that time, the gym could have been completed for about \$315,000 based on the estimates. We won't know the exact cost until the final plans are drawn and the cost of each phase of the project is determined. At such time, these figures will be made available and published in *The Pioneer*.

The hard facts are:

The shell of the gym is already completed. Considerable work has already been done on the inside. **The completion of the gym can never be done for less money than now—1984!**

Rumor: The money spent finishing the gym will disappear out of Sweet Grass County, going into Billings, Bozeman and elsewhere.

Fact: Wrong. -Every penny that can be spent in Big Timber will be spent here. All the material that can be purchased locally will be purchased here. We will also be using all the local help that can be utilized on this project.

Rumor: A gym costs a lot of money for just a few boys to run around in playing basketball.

Fact: During the past year, 123 out of 190 students participated in at least one sport. They all used the locker rooms and held workouts in the gym area. If you count the drill team and band, you can add another 20 students not included above, to make it 75 percent of the student body. Also, when you add the 9th and 10th grade P.E. classes, you have over 90 percent of the students using the gym.

Rumor: They didn't plan for a stage and don't have room for one in the new gym.

Fact: The gym was designed for a portable stage, one that can be set up and dismantled in an hour's time.

Rumor: On a project this size, everyone in Sweet Grass County will have to help.

Fact: This rumor is true. I do need the help of every citizen in Sweet Grass County and I will be contacting everyone, seeking your support. I will also be contacting out of county corporations that pay taxes in Sweet Grass County and people that derive money from Sweet Grass County but pay no taxes in Sweet Grass County.

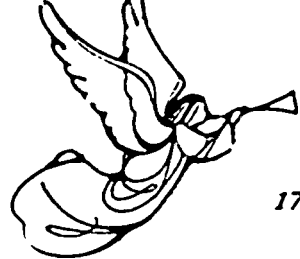
By April 1, 1984, we will have the final plans drawn and costs obtained to finish the gym. At that time I will be actively engaged in contacting everyone, seeking your support in obtaining the needed funds. I will be spending as much time as is required raising the money, working with the architect and co-ordinating the work towards completion of the gym.

All of us working together can pull this off. It will something all citizens of Sweet Grass County can be proud of.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you.
Thank you,
Duane Long
Box 67
McLeod, MT 59052
Ph. 932-6397

This ad is paid for by Duane Long and the Big Timber Pioneer.

It's 60 Years for
FRANK & GUDRUDA SARGENT
We're really proud of them and invite you to celebrate this anniversary with all of us — Sunday, March 4, 1984 — Congregational Church in Big Timber — 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.



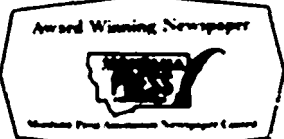
Helen and Bill Gordon
Bill and Phyllis Jim and Alice Bob and Merle

17 Grandchildren 5 bobbies & wives
11 Great Grandchildren

We're serving lefse, oyster soup and some other stuff, too.

THE BIG TIMBER PIONEER

Dale C. Oberly
Publisher



Becky Oberly
Editor

Established in 1887 — The Official Paper of Sweet Grass County
Pioneer Publishing Company, Big Timber, Montana
The Big Timber Pioneer (USPS0519-6000) is published every Wednesday by Pioneer Publishing Co., Big Timber, Montana. Second class postage paid at Big Timber, Montana. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Big Timber Pioneer, P.O. Box 190, Big Timber, MT 59011

Subscription Prices
Sweet Grass County, Reedpoint & Springdale \$13.00 one year
Out of County \$15.00 one year

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