

MILTON AS I REMEMBER IT:

(Kay Johnson)

The recent article in the Signal regarding the origin of Milton was very interesting and well written. Although I have lived most of my life in this community, I knew little of the history of the mill. I do know that when the mill pond was drained it became a cranberry bog. When I was a child, on extremely hot summer days, it would smoulder and little puffs of smoke would come up. Was this peat dirt or the lumber sunk in the bog? Years later, Mr. Britt purchased a portion of the land and was able to fish out a lot of good timbers to use in building his house.

In 1925, when my family moved to Milton, there were several abandoned or semi-abandoned, large two-story wooden commercial buildings as a reminder of what had been a thriving mill community. They were gradually torn down except for two. One was an old vacant and large hall where boxing matches had been held. The underpiling was very shaky and the town fathers felt it was a real hazard. One council meeting night, there was a terrific wind storm and the building came tumbling down. Years later someone confessed that that the council and other citizens provided a little extra strength to the winds to assist in collapsing the building.

The second was a combined boarding house and meeting hall owned by John Williams and his mother. Johnny was a prominent leader in town, mayor and school board member. The building lasted until John's death about 1950. His insurance business was taken over by James Foster. It developed into Foster Insurance and Realty.

It was said that Milton had ten busy saloons in the early 1900's. The main street, now called Porter Way, was at the bottom of the hill and was the only street that crossed the railroad tracks.

Kathleen (Kay) Johnson

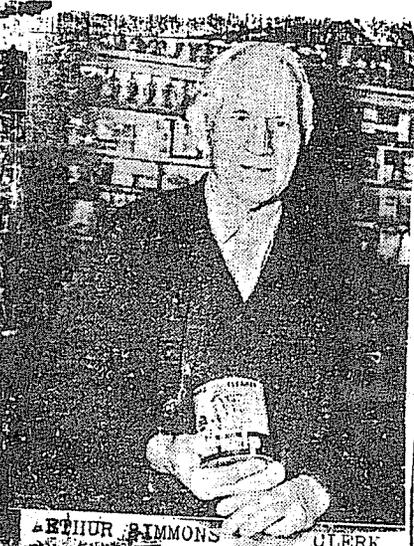
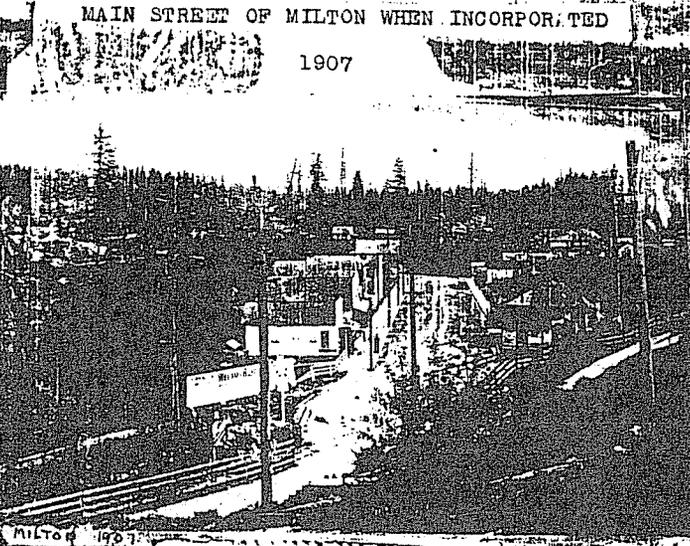
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MAIN STREET OF MILTON WHEN INCORPORATED

1907



CLAUDE WEEKS MAYOR



ARTHUR SIMMONS CLERK



GEORGE WATERS COUNCILMAN



E. P. SHORT COUNCILMAN



C. E. BOYD COUNCILMAN

1517

BANK Milton, Wash. *June 7, 1923* No. 2266

TO THE TREASURER OF THE **Town of Milton**

Pay to *F. A. Anderson* or order *\$320*  
*Three and 20/100* Dollars

Out of the *General* Fund, not otherwise appropriated

For *witness fees marriage Robinson vs. Brown et al.*

ATTEST: *[Signature]* Clerk *[Signature]* Mayor

COUPON

On the *11* day of *December 1923*, the Town of Milton, State of Washington, promises to pay to the bearer at the office of its Town Treasurer, *\$320* Dollars, being one year's interest due that day on Bond No. *12* of the Bonds of Local Improvement District No. *12* of the Town of Milton, and not otherwise provided that this coupon is subject to all the terms and conditions contained in the bond to which it is annexed, and if said bond be called for payment before maturity, this coupon shall be void.

By *[Signature]* Mayor of Milton.  
*[Signature]* Town Clerk of Milton.

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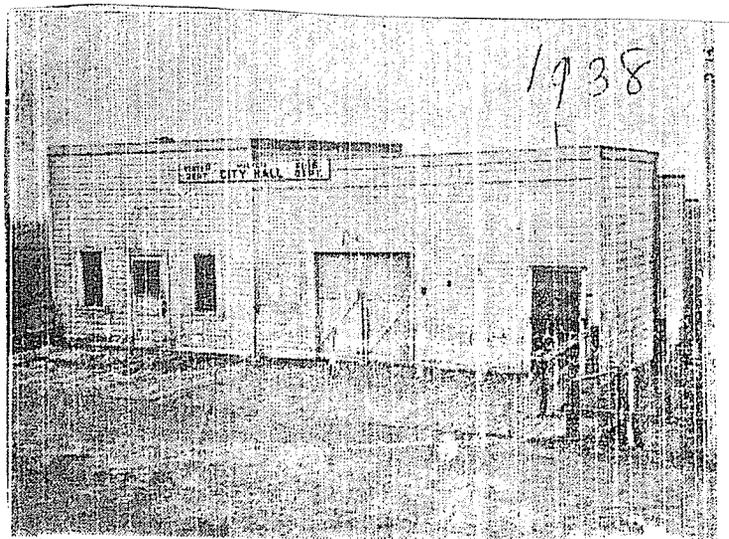
By *[Signature]* Mayor of Milton.  
*[Signature]* Town Clerk of Milton.

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MILTON AS I REMEMBER IT: MILTON -1925

In 1925. there was a small. but very active business district on the main street close to the railroad station---a postoffice Edith Waters postmistress. a barber shop operated by Gladys Lilley. a pool hall. Swanson's boarding house. Simmons Red & White Grocery and a Blue and White Grocery. In 1926. the pool hall and Simmons Grocery burned down. The pool hall was never rebuilt but a substantial new grolery was built and the building is still in use today. I don't know who ran the Purity Store. but one morning the city fathers discovered the owners had locked up the store and left town. Two other families. including the Foxfords. ran the store before it shut down for good.

The city hall. generally used only for council meetings. had only a desk and chairs for seating the council and other citizens. The town clerk. Mr. Waters. collected the water bills at his home on Porter Avenue. The hall was south of town near the wells. North of the shopping are on the main drag. was a most interesting house owned by a retired sea captain. Mr. Wohlmacher. His place was decorated with many souvenirs including a statue of a mermaid on a natural spring that supplied water to his house. On the Fourth of July. he strung high above the street flags from all over the world. I wonder how he got them up there.



This is the old town hall and garage for the fire hall. There were no regular firemen and local citizens drove the truck when there was a fire,

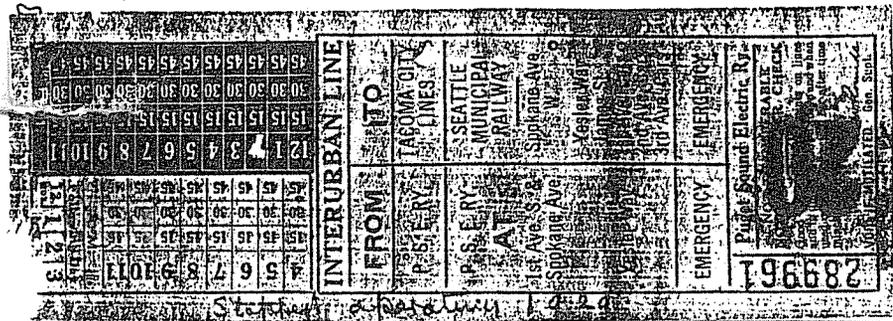
MILTON AS I REMEMBER IT: The Infamous Interurban

The Interurban Railroad ran between Tacoma and Seattle and liter- split Milton in half. Many years ago the Readers Digest printed an article about these highly dangerous railroads powered by an electric third rail. There we only two, one in New England and "our" Interurban. On only one spot was the "third" rail discontinued to accommodate the one and only crossing between upper and lower Milton near the train station. Even though this track ran behind a high dirt bank and then along the south wall of the "Milton canyon", it was not fenced in and gave limited access to the public.

Oldtimers said the only tragedy attributed to the railroad was a boy was killed when a fish hanging from his fishing pole touched the third rail. Dogs were very often victims of the rail.

A large brick powerhouse was built to the north of the railroad station to provide electric power for the railroad. It was surrounded by a well kept lawn and not accessible by road. When the railroad shut down, the building was taken down. It was located just east of the beginning of the Interurban trail and Williams Drive. The Interurban was a life line for Miltonites. They had the advantage of small town life---and could hop on the train for a short trip to Tacoma for work, shopping, business, movies and even a ticket to Pt. Defiance.

When the Interurban closed down<sup>and</sup> was replaced by bus service on both Highway 99 and Milton Way, most of the business moved to upper Milton. When the post office followed, this was the final blow. Dayton's Garage and the former Simmons Grocery were the last to leave.



Milton's first school, a two-room wooden building, located on the hill above the Interurban. One man said the land where the school was built was donated/ <sup>by</sup> the developers because it was a site nobody would buy. In the twenties it was a two-story, four room school. About 1928, the school district, in conjunction with the town, built what was called "the biggest & best" auditorium/gymnasium" in Pierce County. Modern restroom replaced the "outhouses".

At one time, we had a a teacher, Mrs. Long, in the upper classroom and Ethel Short teaching in the lower classroom.

In 1927, during spring vacation, the town suffered a major tragedy- the school lost three fifth grade students. Two drowned in a local pond and one accidentally shot himself. For many years after that, no spring vacation was allowed.

There were both boys and girls baseball and basketball teams.

Ernie Robbins, a good athlete, was not only the school janitor but the boys' coach. Our teacher, Mrs. Long, coached the girls. I can still remember her cramming an over-abundance of girls into her small Model "A" coupe--for a trip to play another school.

Due to the influx of shipyard workers during World War II, the school could not accommodate all the students. Due to a very sad situation, the evacuation of Japanese students (Fife had a very large Japanese population) Fife had extra space and took Milton's 7th and 8th graders. Eventually the two schools were consolidated to be known as the Fife-Milton Dist. but called Fife. In the 1930's, the population of Milton grade school students ran from 80 to 100 per year. When a new grade school was built at its sresent site about 1949, Homer McDowell, a local business, bought the old school and converted into McDowell Apts.

Kay Johnson

attach to page 4

Schools

MILTON GRADE SCHOOL BASKET BALL TEAM - 1934  
(we were the winners of the league.)

(oh yes, they had girls/womens team sports in the "good old days"  
taken on the southside entrance of the original school



left to right: Haruko Iida ((Nakaso), Mildred Ellis (Halley), Hanna  
Kay  
mae Asplund (Ann Paulsen), Kathleen Walden (Johnson), Teola Dufour,  
Betty Lyman (Napier), Dēlores Jolin (Lilley), and Lorraine Blauvelt  
Coach/teacher Anne Long

(This was the second year girls were permitted to wear  
shorts and not those old baggy bloomers that reached  
were always black and reached to just below the knees.)

Kay Johnson

Milton was a good place for kids in the "good old" days.

There was a gigantic school yard with three large swings and a fun but dangerous trapeze.

It snowed a lot then and sledding was allowed on the sloping school-yard. Older boys ran bobsleds across Milton Way, down the hill and almost to the Milton tavern.

There were four resorts on Surprise Lake (High Dive, Seiverts, Neptune, and Clements) where it cost 5¢ to swim. Rowboats rented for 5¢ per hour and canoes were 10¢. If kids had no money, they could sneak via the Spiritulist Camp into High Dive.

Children had a lot of fun on a huge slide in a vacated commercial hay barn on the main street. The bales of hay sliding from the second story for many years had made the slide very slick which added to the fun.

Until the tennis court was built in the lots next to the school there was no place for roller skating but some students, using a broom for balance would skate up and back from Edgewood. Needless to say, automobiles were few and far between.

The school auditorium was a busy place for lots of activities.

The building was full for the yearly 8<sup>th</sup> <sup>grade</sup> graduations--but the fear of not passing the required state exam and that of making a speech before a large crowd took the edge off the enjoyment.

At Christmas, in addition to a special program, there was a huge Christmas tree reaching up into the high ceiling of the auditorium.

Mr. Bradbury, the teachers husband, was always Santa Claus and there was candy for all.

In the summer, children could enjoy playing in the beautiful park-like Milton Canyon and the Sweet Water creek running through it. Too bad, it may be lost to housing development.

MILTON AS I REMEMBER IT:  
CHURCHES

E. T. Short, a prominent Milton citizen in the early 1900's, built a small Methodist Church on his property next to his home.

A large bell was rung to announce services. For years, when the school had no hall for special school functions, the Methodist Church graciously let them school use their meeting place. So when the school auditorium was built, they extended the same courtesy to the Methodists, Just fellowship-- not legalese.

There was a building supposedly a former Lutheran church but it was closed up.

St. George's Catholic School, a home for mostly native American children was just across the King County line and some Milton residents attended church services there. I don't know when the school was closed--but in World War II there was a real shortage of housing the buildings were converted into the ST. George Apartments. The buildings are gone and it is now the Gethsemane Cemetery.

MILTON CEMETERY

For years people has made inquiries about the existence of an old cemetery.

In recent years, some research indicate this was true. (I believe there were five graves). Not aware of

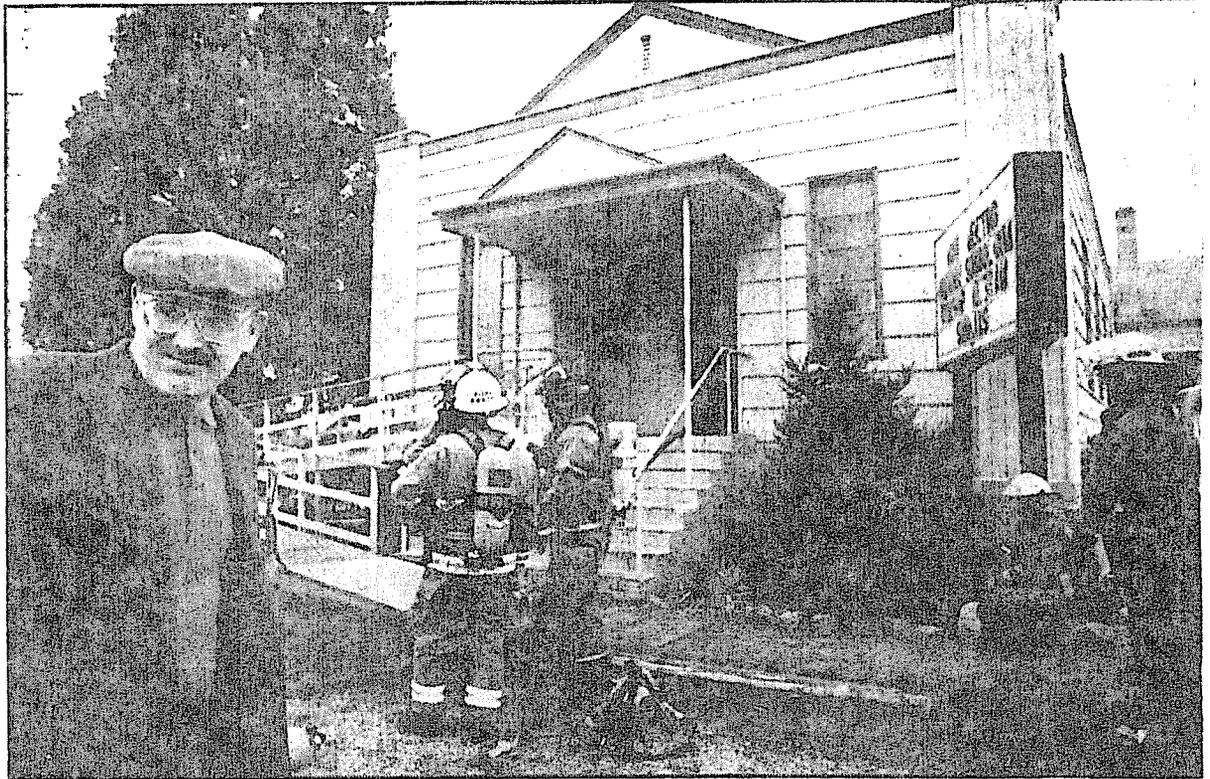
the property history, a small park had been built on the grounds.

A special marker has been placed in respect to those buried there.

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In the 1940's, the Assembly of God built a church on the property of Mr. Hime where Juniper St. joins the highway. In recent years, it, like the Methodist Church, was replaced by a newer and larger building,

REL



Fredrick D. Joe/The News Tribune

Firefighters will burn the Faith Family Church in Milton tonight. The Rev. Jim Buell and his congregation are building a new, bigger church nearby.

## 51-year-old Milton church to be reduced to ash heap

By Steve Maynard  
The News Tribune

If you see soaring flames engulfing a Milton church tonight, don't call the fire department.

At the congregation's request, firefighters will burn the Faith Family Church at 1702 Milton Way to the ground.

The members decided their 51-year-old building is too small and too old to renovate. They're erecting a \$750,000 church nearby and need the space for parking.

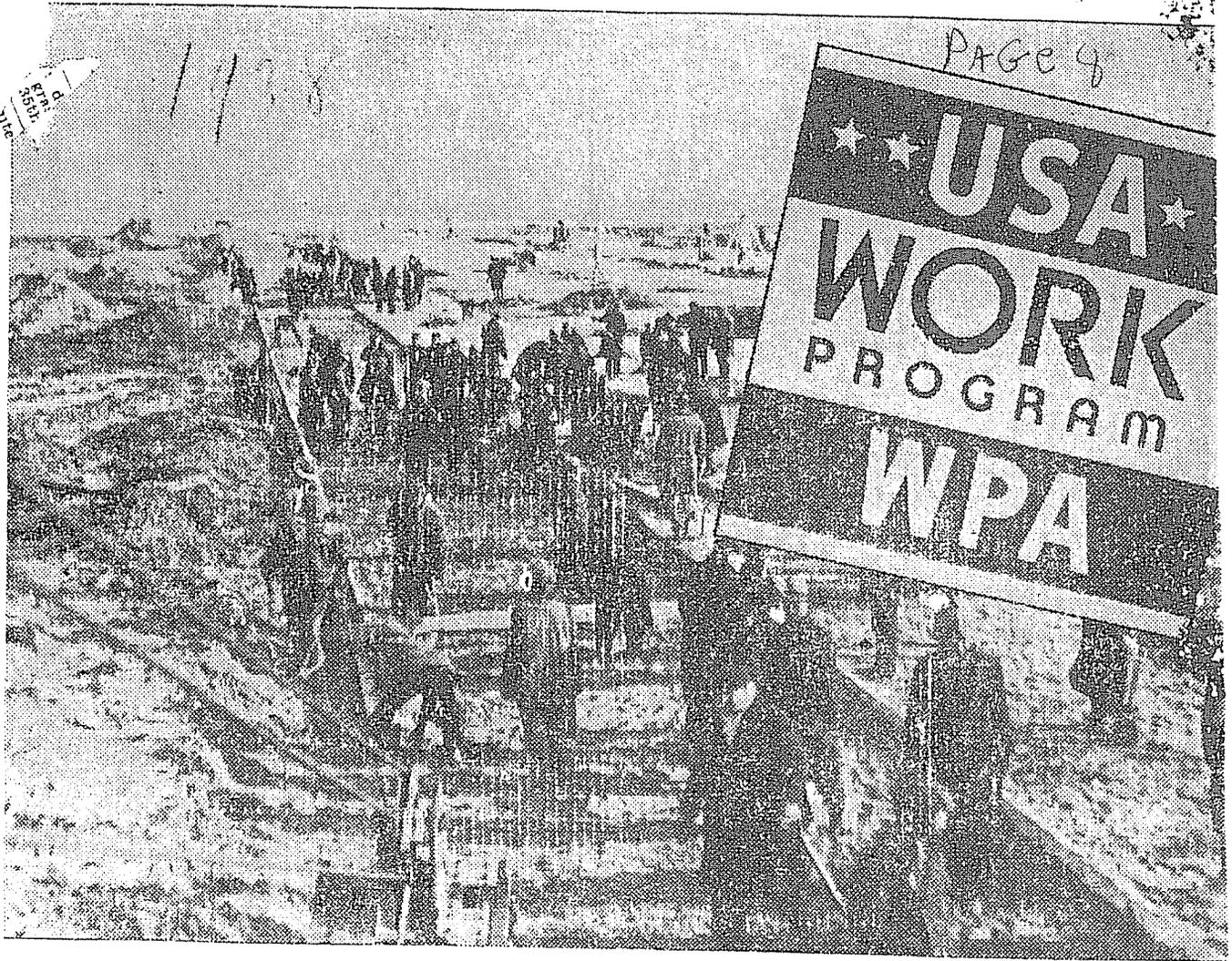
"The building is caving in around our ears," said Sorena Dickman, who's been attending the church for 52 years.

"It's something we have dreamed of for years," said Dickman, who first attended the church as a 1-year-old child with her mother. She became a Christian through Sunday school programs at the church, known for years as Milton Assembly of God. And still, she remains closely involved with what she calls her "spiritual family" as church secretary.

Dickman plans to watch the fire, and concedes she might feel sad when the old building finally goes up in flames.

But she and her pastor say the memories will live on.

"A fire can't destroy the memories," Buell said. "We're providing a greater experience and memories for those that go into our new building."



MILTON AS I REMEMBER IT

During the Depression, in the early 30's. Milton had a large force of WPA workers men (who had lost their regular jobs) made available. it was said by Mayor Kenneth Simmons strong position in State politics. With only picks, shovels and wheelbarrows, they accomplished much. They installed asphalt sidewalks where the wooden ones had disappeared. These too did not last and Milton still has very few sidewalks. Ladies who were head of a household were offered work on sewing projects held in the school lunchroom. Kenneth Simmons was a flamboyant city leader and had no fear in tackling major problems. The lack of adequate funding was often left to others to solve. Mr. Simmons left Milton and was very active in creation of the town of Bonney Lake. As one old friend said. He was a man of action and not just idle words. ((continued.)

## DEPRESSION TIMES

Much of the land platted into acreage was developed as raspberry fields. Some were full-time farmers, other also held a job in Tacoma. This area on the hill was nicknamed "Swede Town" but not in a derogatory manner. Local women and children <sup>had always</sup> worked in the berry fields in the summer, Now in the summer it was an absolute necessity. Most of high school students were picking berries--not only because it was a popular place to meet your friends--but there was no money for school clothes or anything else, except what you earned in the fields. Even though there was little money. there was a lot of fellowship and community spirit. There were several adult classes conducted by qualified persons hired by the WPA. Talent and amateur <sup>shows</sup> sponsored by the very active PTA.

The Community Club held a Saturday night dance in the school gym.. It attracted not only an older crowd but was one of the most popular dances for teenagers in this area. Those in charge could never catch the person who was selling a little "moonshine" during the dance. Years later, it was quite a surprise to learn the culprit was a respected citizen and a member of the dance committee.

Gladys Lilley played drums, George Blair, bango and the Hawkins brothers, saxophone and accordion. . . . . These four made up the "Milton dance band."

During the depression/prohibition era, the gossip was there were seven Milton residents bootlegging. A good way to make a little much-needed cash. When he was in his 90's, one man revealed he had not been the "typical" bootlegger. He lived close to the highway and a fancy restaurant stored their illegal, imported good quality Canadian liquor in his basement. This way, if they were raided, there was no real evidence to be found on their property. He did have one regular customer, a Milton resident who knew his liquor and would drink only the best.

Kay Johnson

## THE END OF PROHIBITION

When prohibition ended, the Milton council banned beer sales within the town limits, but it became a very popular past time for many residents to celebrate by dancing and enjoying a few beers at nearby taverns. Many gas stations installed a bar in the back room.

Just outside the city limits, were three--the Milton Tavern (then a gas station, the White arrow Garage, both on Highway 99, and the Spider Webb (owned by Herman Webb, situated where the coffee stand is now located across from Dr Gustafsons office.

Mr. Epps built a beautiful new tavern in front of his home on Surprise Lake Bud's Tavern started as a small log cabin and was rebuilt by the Robinsons of Edgewood. There was a certain class to these two--bartenders wore white shirts and bow ties and Mr. Epps asked the waitresses to wear long skirts. Lots of miles of dancing were clocked up in these two places.

When the town officials saw that the local grocery store was losing business as customers who included beer in their weekly shopping list went out of town to shop, they rescinded the "NO BEER" regulation. This did not sit too well with the more conservative citizens. Years later the local restaurant was licensed using the same reasoning, and Milton welcomed its first cocktail lounge.

Kay Johnson



# Mayor Walden Retires After 10-Year Tenure

After ten years of service to our community, Mayor Percy Walden is now leaving office, believing it is not good for a man to remain in one office for too long a time. During these years we have seen Milton grow from a small community to one of the most prosperous towns in this vicinity.

Mayor Walden was far-sighted and saw the possibilities of our Town with its central location. Shortly after taking office as Councilman, he encouraged the improvement and enlarging of our water system. This plan was put into effect: Woodpeck pipe being replaced by transite and iron pipe, a new tank at Edgewood being built and just recently a new pumping system was installed and with the aid of a government grant the addition of the large reservoir on 4th Ave. Ten years ago we started with 140 users of water, now we have over 600, including outside users.

The Town now has a light system which is a paying proposition. At the time it was built, it was considered rather a "risky" venture. Many citizens, along with Mr. Walden, went out personally to work raising poles, etc. Many of you will remember seeing them. Our light system has now grown up; then we figured 30,000 K.W., a grand high, but it has now hit the 80,000 mark. During his term, the issue of street lights or no street lights was put on the ballot but unfortunately failed to pass.

In the spring of 1942, Mr.

Walden was very fortunate to add Mr. Arnim (Slim) Petry to his staff. He has been one of the most dependable utility supts. the town has ever had. We were lucky to obtain a man with so much experience in with so much experience in electric and water systems.

After several trips to Fort Lewis and Seattle, he obtained for the Town three trucks of late model for a total of \$500.00. One truck is to be used for the fire dept. and with help of Fire Chief Crandall, we hope soon to have a well established dept.

You have all noticed the large excavation on the corner of 2nd ave. E. and 4th sts. For years, our ex-major had planned and dreamed of the day when Milton would have a City Hall to be proud of, a large structure to serve the larger town Milton will some day be. In this like his other projects he has demanded the biggest and the best and when priorities come thru this will be realized.

Mayor Walden left our town in very good financial condition, the wealthiest it has been, it has eighteen times as much money as ten years ago; and by 1950 all bonds will be paid off and our light and water system will be debt free.

Mr. Walden's prophesy for our town's future is: It will within five years have the cheapest light and water in the state; will have an up-to-date shopping district and will always remain the high-class residential district it now is.

We believe a hearty thanks is due Mayor Walden for the town he has given us.

## It's Milton If You Please! Mayor Walden Complains Not Fife or Edgewood, Sir!

By SAM ANGELOTT  
Tacoma Times Staff Writer

Hilsoner, Percy Walden, mayor of Milton, aving shift shipyard worker, one-man chamber of commerce and real estate expert, sat down and pointed his index finger at a Tacoma Times reporter.

"I want to complain," said Walden.

"What about?" queried the reporter, looking for his book of alibis.

"It's like this," he said. "When anything happens in our town of Milton, do you

reporter, now can you tell me that many water accounts when you only have a population of 1,000.

Walden, quick with the figures explained that Milton water was so "pure and sweet" that people for miles around were buying it. The only provision for being a Milton water customer is: "You lay down the pipe and pay your bills, we'll do the rest."

Another thing that caused the



PERCY WALDEN  
One-man Chamber  
of Commerce

over tell the world about it?"

Before the reporter could answer, Walden did.

"No," he said. "You always say it happened at Fife. Or maybe Edgewood. But never do you say it happened in Milton. It's getting so, when a Miltonite picks up a paper and reads about an accident that happens right on his door step, he finds the credit is given to anybody but Milton. Pretty soon we won't even know there is a Milton."

Adding insult to injury, Walden complained that Milton was the only incorporated town in the vicinity and yet the "suburbs" of Milton get credit for what happens. He said it was going to be like easterners give credit to Seattle when an event really took place in Tacoma.

"Relating the incident," said the reporter, "Mayor Walden seemed to feel that the town should be more active in the community, and that all the work of the town should be done in 1908 and have the town council (Continued on page 12)

# Mark Bryan Is New Mayor

Mr. Mark Howard Bryan, Jr., our new mayor, is one of the youngest mayors ever to be elected in Milton. He will take office June 5th for a four year term.

Howard was born in Milton and attended Milton grade school and graduated from Fife high school in 1940, where he was a popular student and outstanding in football.

His wife, Amy Lee, is a Puyallup girl. We all know her for her splendid work as advisor of Camp Fire Girls group at Milton. The Bryan's are the proud parents of a daughter, little Margaret Joy and have a new home on Lincoln Ave.

We are glad to see a couple from the younger set take such an interest in the civic affairs of our town.

## Edith Waters Elected Treasurer

Miss Edith Waters, a long-time resident of our town, is our new town treasurer. She was appointed by Mayor Walden to serve out an unexpired term. She did her work so well, she was asked to run for this office for the new term. She does her work accurately and promptly and we, the citizens, should be grateful to have someone so capable, (in spite of the lack of city office etc. in which to work), handling our financial affairs.

## New Council Takes Office

Taking office for council were Wellington J. Peterson, welder, West 13th st.; Robert Crandall, fire chief, Lincoln ave.; Clarence Rowan, Sea-Tac shipyard, 5th st. E.; A. L. Etherington, 2nd term, St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Mill, Porter ave. William Blauvelt remained in office.

# VOTE FOR

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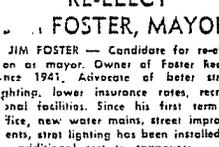
## GOOD GOVERNMENT

In Milton



**CHARLES L. "CHUCK" PREUSS**

COUNCILMAN, 4-YEAR TERM — Resident of Milton 7 years. Former member of Milton School Board. Member of Fife School District Citizens Advisory Council. Platform includes honesty, efficiency in government for the people of Milton and economical government. Member Town Council for four years.



**ARTHUR E. "ART" JOHNSON**

COUNCILMAN, 4-YEAR TERM — Fife businessman. Owner and operator of Johnson Auto Sales, Fife. Many years experience behind his Committee member for Boy Scouts, Assistant Clubmaster and president of the Milton Businessmen's Club. He will support and respect the needs of all residence and taxpayers of Milton.



**LAWRENCE G. DUTTON**

COUNCILMAN, 4-YEAR TERM — Resident of Milton 14 years. His past experience includes road-building and operating heavy equipment. He has served ten years as a member of the Milton Fire Department and did a creditable job for six years as Fire Chief and Assistant Chief. He has also served five years on the Milton Police Department. Well aware of community problems.



**EARL C. TOLER**

COUNCILMAN, 2-YEAR TERM — Long-time Milton resident of 23 years. Has served on the Milton School Board for eight years and five years as chairman. Helped to promote the new school and gym. After consolidation, he served on the Fife School Board. Experience and background help make excellent qualifications.



**RE-ELECT  
JIM FOSTER, MAYOR**

JIM FOSTER — Candidate for re-election as mayor. Owner of Foster Realty since 1941. Advocate of better street lighting, lower insurance rates, recreational facilities. Since his first term in office, new water mains, street improvements, street lighting has been installed.— additional cost to taxpayers.

## WORLD WAR II

The attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, was a shock to everyone, but the people in Milton adjusted to new government regulations, including the rationing of gasoline, sugar, coffee, shoes and tires. There were no new cars until the end war. The large flashing beacon across the highway from what is now Milton school was removed. It was to guide civilian planes from Seattle to Los Angeles. A new watch tower, manned by local residents, to watch for enemy planes was built on the site.

There was a large influx of families from the Midwest seeking work in the shipyards, This caused a housing shortage . Any vacant house was snapped up. Some built a minimally finished house just to have a place to live.

The ship yard worked three shifts. The Century Ballroom put on a Sunday night "shipyard" dance that was the only night off for the "swing" and "graveyard workers." It was a huge success. Earl Toler fixed up an old bus which operated all shifts. With gas being rationed, this was a real blessing. During the war, I was away from Milton for about two years. My husband was in the army. On my return, I was invited to Milton Preschool meeting. All were newcomers, except two old friends, and the president introduced me as a "newcomer" to Milton.

Perhaps because of the gas shortage or the new people feeling more comfortable in a smaller town than Tacoma, Puyallup became more preferable shopping place for Milton residents and that has never changed. Also, our rationing board was in Puyallup.

Kay Johnson

**WALDEN TRIES TO GET LOCAL GAS BOARD**

Uncertain yet as to the result, Mayor Walden has been attempting to have a place established in town to register for gas ration coupons. A storm of protest has arisen in the past because it has been necessary to go to Puyallup. Most folks would rather go to Tacoma, as there is bus service, but no way whatever to go to Puyallup except by wasting precious rubber.

**FLASH MESSAGE FORM**

attach to 13 H

Call your telephone central and say: "ARMY FLASH" (Give your phone number)  
 Central will connect you with an Army Information Center.  
 When you hear: "ARMY, GO AHEAD PLEASE", you say: "FLASH"  
 and continue message you have checked on form below, in the order indicated:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NUMBER OF AIRPLANES	TYPE OF AIRPLANES	ALTITUDE OF AIRPLANES	WERE AIRPLANES SEEN OR HEARD?	YOUR OBSERVATION POST CODE NAME	DIRECTION OF AIRPLANES FROM O. P.	DISTANCE OF AIRPLANES FROM O. P.	AIRPLANES HEADED TOWARD
(Number)	SINGLE-MOTOR	VERY LOW	SEEN		NW N NE W E	(Miles)	NW N NE W E SW S SE
FEW MANY	BIMOTOR MULTI-MOTOR	LOW HIGH VERY HIGH	HEARD		If airplanes were directly over O. P. cover columns 6 and 7 by reporting: "OVERHEAD"		Omit if it will cause delay in report.

RFB-7.2-41-3,000,000

May 7, 1942  
**Push to Get Ration Books**

**More Teachers Aid Here on Final Day**

At least another 40,000 who are as yet unregistered, and who must register Thursday, the last day. "In the excitement we've all overlooked one thing," Waechter revealed. "This registration should give a pretty fair idea of Tacoma's population. Of course, there'll be some Tacomans who, for one reason or another, won't register, but most of them will sign up. When this is all over, we ought to know just about how many persons are living in Tacoma." Waechter pointed out that the books may be used later in the rationing of other articles besides sugar and warned those who haven't registered to bear that in mind. "Just because a person isn't concerned with sugar is no reason he shouldn't register. He might well be concerned with the next article rationed." Waechter again advised that considerable delay can be avoided if the registrant is ready to give the age, height, weight, color of eyes, etc., of each person for whom he is registering. Any adult member of a family can register for all the other members of it, but he must give the vital statistics on each one. Waechter said more delay had been caused by this one thing than anything else.

(Continued from Page One)  
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**AIR RAID SIRENS**

The CAM Manufacturing Co. at Ross, Calif., are manufacturing Air Raid Sirens powered with 7½ Horsepower, 220 Volt, 3 Phase Ball Bearing Motors. The Siren has a 17-inch Aluminum Rotor, and is an unusually powerful Warning Signal. The price of this Siren is \$400.00 F.O.B. Ross, Calif., and a Special Preference Rating Number is obtainable from the O.P.M. for the purchase of this equipment. For further information, communicate with us.

NDAY, JANUARY 31, 1943

**Here's Time Table On Ration Coupons**

- Keep a Careful Check On Your Coupons
- COFFEE**  
Stamp 28 good until Feb. 3 for one pound per person over 15 years of age.
- SUGAR**  
Stamp 11 good for three pounds until Mar. 15 for each member of the family.
- GASOLINE**  
"A" Book Coupons  
No. 4—Good for period of Jan. 22 through March 21.  
No. 5—Good for period of March 22 through May 21.  
No. 6—Good for period of May 22 through July 21.



**NATIONAL DEFENSE**

You have rooms, house, apartments, or other rentable fill in and mail to:

DEFENSE HOUSING COMMITTEE  
 HOMES REGISTRATION BUREAU  
 419 Provident Bldg., Tacoma

Address of dwelling unit .....

House ( ) Apartment ( ) Room ( )

Dealer, or Agent .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

**TOLER VICTORY BUS**

Good for six round trips to shipyards.

SIGN NAME HERE

Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

HANG ME UP -- I MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

# AIR RAID RULES!

If an air raid occurs in this community you can do your part while protecting yourself. Remember these six simple rules:



- 1--Keep calm and cool.
- 2--Stay home.
- 3--Put out lights.
- 4--Lie down.
- 5--Stay away from windows.
- 6--Don't telephone.

Walk, don't run. Be quiet, don't scream. Don't crowd into public places. If the raid starts when you are away from home, lie down under shelter. Keep your mouth open by rolling your handkerchief and putting it between your teeth. Put your hands over your ears. Protect the back of your head. Don't look up.

In the house, go into your refuge room and close the door. Make yourself comfortable; relax. If bombs fall near you, lie down—a good place is under a table with sturdy legs, or a strong couch turned upside down.

Keep away from windows. Don't look out. Put out all lights you cannot closely screen, so no light reaches the street. The light that's out or covered tight will never guide a Jap!

Revised instructions for homes using gas: Make no attempt to shut off the main gas valve. Simply turn off any stove burners which are lit, not the pilot light. If bombs are falling in your immediate neighborhood or if the house is badly damaged, the main gas valve should be shut off at the meter. Once the main valve is turned off, for any reason, do not turn it on again yourself. Call your local gas company for a trained man.

If an incendiary bomb hits your house, leave the bomb alone for a full minute, as it may be explosive. When approaching it, keep shielded. A galvanized garbage can lid is a practical shield. Put the bomb out with sand from your sand bucket. Or, put it out with a very fine spray (never a stream, jet or splash) of water. It will burn out rapidly under a fine water spray—a splash or stream makes it scatter molten metal. When it is out, go back to shelter. The chance that your home will be hit is very small. Keep cool. Stay off the streets.

Appoint one member of the family your home warden to remember all rules. Mother makes the best! And don't wait until a raid to get acquainted with your Air Raid Warden. Consult with him. Take his advice.

Stay quiet indoors or under shelter until the "all clear" sounds.

Don't believe wild rumors. Don't crowd. Don't scream. Don't telephone. Don't start disorder or panic. Do what the Air Raid Warden tells you to do. Be strong, calm, orderly. Beat the aggressors—everyone can help. Do your share!

## POISON GASES

In case of a gas attack obey the six rules listed above. Mustard or Lewisite gas (blistering gases) would most likely be used. Mustard gas has the odor of **HORSERADISH, ONIONS, GARLIC** or sometimes is described as **SKUNK**. The odor varies with the individual. Lewisite smells like geraniums. These gases are in liquid form and are dark brown and oily in appearance. **FIRST AID MEASURES** if touched by either gas are: Dip cotton or cloth in kerosene or gasoline and **BLOT** up the gas. **DO NOT RUB**. Take hot bath in **STRONG** soapy water (5% lye solution if possible). Alcohol or hydrogen peroxide may also be used in case of Lewisite gas. Change all clothes. If eyes are affected use Boric Acid or Baking Powder solution as an eye wash. There are several other types of poison gas but these two are the most likely to be used.

This card has been furnished you by the Board of County Commissioners and the Pierce County Defense Council. Hang it up in your kitchen. Do not throw it away.

Attach to  
Pg. 13  
WW II

## Home Front News Ends with This Special Edition

With this, the last issue of our paper, "The Milton Home Front News" bids farewell and issues this Special Edition for the benefit of Milton citizens and subscribers.

We have gathered together the pictures of those service men that ran in former issues, with the exception of a few we were unable to obtain.

This section contains all of those previously published pictures which were obtainable.

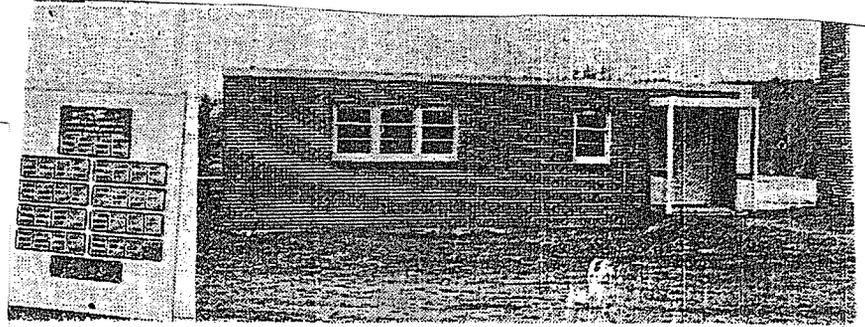
Our gold star boys are designated with a small gold star after the name and we are very sorry that they will not return. We are grateful, however, that the number of gold stars are few and they will be remembered as our "Hero Dead" who gave their lives for their country.

## CLUB GROWS

On May 30, we had forty-seven paid members of the Club, eligible to a year's subscription to our paper. Watch us grow! Every man and woman in Milton should belong to this Club. Come on folks of Milton give us a name for our Club. How would you like the paper called the "Milton Homefront News."

Mark Wells was the first member to submit a name for our Club, and for our paper.

If anyone did not get their paper drop, a card to Milton News, P. O. Box 155 Milton and one will be delivered.



**Memorial to War Heroes**—Saturday night Milton will dedicate its new town hall as a memorial in honor of the Milton men and women now in service. Upper right: the man largely responsible for the new city hall, Percy Walden, one time mayor and now city clerk. Upper center: Arthur J. Simmons, long time mayor and now city clerk. His son, Kenneth, is now a councilman of the town. Simmons moved to Milton in 1905. Upper left: A. L. Petry, law and order in Milton and public utilities director for the valley town. Lower left: the council chamber and the plaque bearing the names of every man and woman who has served and is serving his country in the armed forces. There are 125 men and women in the services from Milton. Lower right: view of the completed side of the new city hall. Behind the chimney at the right is the site of the future auditorium. The auditorium construction will get under way next year if the citizens vote for it in a coming bond issue election. TNT Staff Photos.

# MILTON HOME FRONT NEWS

Published Every Month  
Sponsored by the Milton Fellowship Club

Editor	Robert Sutton
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Publication Manager	John T. McDonald
Rewrite Editor	Elsie Cox
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Circulation Manager	Clarence Rowan
Typists	Hazel Nelson, Dorothy Smiley

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

All subscriptions and ads expire June 30, 1945.  
Membership in the Milton Fellowship Club entitles member to Free Subscription to the Milton Home Front News

One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	1.50
Per Copy	.25

Classified Ad Rates: 25 words for 25c; 2c for each additional word.  
Atlas 8884 P. O. Box 155, Milton, Wash.

## What's Next

As you all undoubtedly know by this time, the original purpose of the Milton Fellowship Club was to build a suitable memorial to our men and women in the armed services. This paper was added later to keep all those in the service in touch with the comings and goings of their home town so that when they come back they will be able to say they really never left home.

The Plaque that was finally chosen as a means of expressing our gratitude to those who are fighting for us is now finished (much sooner than expected), and was officially unveiled Jan. 14th by J. T. McDonald, the founder of the Club. This leaves the Club at present without any immediate goal in mind, so the more ambitious members are looking around for some project that will be worthy of their efforts, can be used as a permanent living memorial to our servicemen and will be a definite asset to the community as a whole.

Suggestions along this line range from a small building just large enough to house our library (for which we obtained almost enough lumber from the old City Hall) to a large community hall where we could have dances, stage shows, movies, dinners, concerts, etc., with a couple of small adjoining rooms for meetings and for the library.

Here we hit some small difficulties, however, for any organization that owns buildings or property should be incorporated, if only to protect the interests of its members. Incorporation, however, greatly increases the scope of a Club's activities and opens up new fields of enterprise.

This is how the Milton Home Front News started which ended with the Milton Memorial Library

Kay

## IDEA TO IDEAL

Every once in a while a bright idea appears on the horizon. At times it is the Milton Fellowship Club. Like all good ideas, the Club has a universal appeal. Its object, in brief, is to keep in touch with our boys and girls, men and women who have left their homes and loved ones and their livelihood in order to serve their country—our country—your country. True, there are numerous organizations, operating on a large scale, nationwide or statewide, which are all doing excellent work in helping the servicemen and women all over the world, either on the home front or in the field.

What the Milton Fellowship Club aspires to do is to make contact with our friends in the service more intimate and personal. A Memorial plaque in the Milton Hall will serve as a mute and constant reminder of our obligations to our relative neighbor at the front. A copy of the Milton News, mailed without charge, will keep them informed on local affairs so dear to the heart of the native son.

Of course you are well aware that any club is no more than the sum total of the activity of its members. Moreover, to convey the spirit of the giver to the receiver, such activity must be spontaneous, willing and cheerful. These virtues are more contagious than any dose of measles you ever had and are much more beneficial and they (the virtues) multiply the power of the gift many fold. So let us give, not of our surplus, but of our utmost, in time, effort—yes, and cash to make the Milton Fellowship Club a powerful medium of goodwill between the home front and the fighting front.

If you cannot make up your mind how much to give in time or money or service, remember there is a way up front, wading waist deep in mud and dodging enemy bullets, just to keep the home front intact.

Both the Club and the Club's Newspaper, the Milton News, operate entirely on a voluntary basis and are non-partisan. In short, no one grinds any axes on your grindstone. However, there is no reason why you should not put an edge on your own battle. Cut out your own inhibitions, indifference and inactivity and get behind this movement with zest. It is good for you, and for your service friends, good for the community.

Family membership costs only five dollars a year and includes a year's subscription to the paper. However, donations in any amount are acceptable.

The Club is yours. Make the most of it. Make the idea an ideal.

# MILTON HOME FRONT NEWS

Vol. I, No. 2.

MILTON, WASHINGTON

Tuesday, June 6, 194

## America Honors her Heroes Here Are Milton's Service Men And Service Women

Donald Blair.  
Tom Blauvelt.  
Vernon Blauvelt.  
William W. Blauvelt.  
Lyle Britt.  
Alfred Bryan.  
Robert Bush.  
Walde R. Carlson.  
A. A. Cole.  
Alexander R. Curtis.  
Donald L. Davis.  
Eugene C. Davis.  
Edward H. Ellis.  
Robert Ellis.  
Chester Emmert.  
R. A. Etherington.  
Raymond Etherington.  
Claude Goodman.  
Rex Haugh.  
Franklin G. Hazen.  
Roy Herting.  
Dean Holt.  
Robert Hegwine.  
Richard Holthusen.  
Noel D. Hughes.  
Henry Jenkins.  
Morton P. Jennings.  
Dick Johnson.  
Erling Johnson.  
Lewis Johnson.  
William Kemper.  
Dewey Kirkland.  
Billy P. Larsen.  
Peter E. Lebert.  
Platt J. Lebert.  
Edward Linbeck.  
Gordon B. Lundin.  
Carl Lundquist.  
Bert Messmer.  
Kurt Messmer.  
Howard Massey.  
Jack H. McDonald.



KILLED IN ACTION

JOHN NYLAND  
LIEUT. IVAN J. SANDELL

Ralph S. Millard.  
Clarence Nelson.  
Robert M. Nelson.  
Sidney A. Nelson.  
Ray Nelson.  
Kenny Neff.  
Kingsley L. Neff.  
Harold W. Ness.  
Gunnard Nyland.  
Willard Ogden.  
Ben Olson.  
Joe Ozier.  
Ralph Ozier.  
Leonard Paddock.  
Donald F. Payne.  
Lucy Payne.  
Walter Rang.  
Charles Robbins.  
Eugene A. Robbins.  
Bob Ruscher.  
George Robbins.  
Wm. J. Robinson.  
Melvin Rowe.  
Stanley Rowe.  
Lee A. Roufs.  
E. Morden Robbins.  
Bayliss Ryan.  
Wm. C. Scholin.  
A. W. Schumock.  
Eugene Scott.  
Wallace Scott.  
Richard Simmons.  
Bob Sproule.  
John Stolen.  
Kjell Stolen.  
Frank E. Stolgmon.  
Arnold Turner.  
R. C. Thorpe.  
Elmer R. Torkelson.  
A. O. Torkelson.  
Richard Walden.  
Gordon L. Watkinson.



May 22, 2006

To: Milton/Edgewood Signal

Letters to the Editor,

Reference article in your May 11 edition re the Milton Library this is how it began. I know because I was an active part of it.

During World War II, the Milton Community Club created the "MILTON HOME FRONT NEWS", a monthly newsletter sent not only to 20 Milton servicemen but to those in Fife, Edgewood .

Jack and Winnie MacDonald were managers, assisted by Robert Sutton, editor, four wives of servicemen overseas, Winnie Mendenall, Edith Stratton, Elsie Cox, and myself, Kathleen Kirkland (now Johnson). Could we be the four young women mentioned in the article?

We printed local news of interest to our military people, news about, letters from, and pictures of our friends, and sons serving in the war. /husbands ns

It was sent free to all military personnel. Local citizens soon wanted to subscribe and local businesses were generous with their support.. The papers realized quite an influx of unexpected revenue and since all time/work on the paper was donated, there was a large sum of money in the treasury--- the club voted to create a World War II. memorial -a library.

It was appropriately named the "MILTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY" and started out in a small room in the basement of the City Hall. I believe it was relocated at the city hall more than once.

Perhaps there are still a few former Community Club members who helped get the first library started-- but we must give the major part of credit to Marion Vimont, my friend and local citizen. for her many years of dedication to the library and for bringing a small-town library to the fine library it was when it was absorbed by the Pierce County library system

Respectfully submitted.

*Kathleen A. Johnson*  
Kathleen A. Johnson  
(Kay)

P.S. (Several years ago when the city planned to start a museum, I donated a collection of editions of the old Milton Homefront News to the city for that purpose They may still be on file at the city hall.)

cc. Natasha Jaksich



Ms. Kathleen A. Johnson  
PO Box 603  
Milton, WA 98354

253-922-1224

# MILTON BEGAN AS "MILLTOWN"

By FRANK HERBERT

At the turn of the century there was a noisy, roilsome little mill town about five miles north of Tacoma. The mill with its screaming saws was established at the foot of a steep hill upon which were crowded, almost trunk to trunk, all- and lumber-ready fir trees.

Stretched back from the mill was a dirt road, a plank sidewalk and along the walk a line of sawdust-floored shacks, a hotel and a land of tiny, ill-kept shanties of the mill workers.

One could buy a ticket on the Tacoma-Seattle Interurban railroad to reach this community or a horse and buggy from one of Tacoma's numerous livery stables and travel the rutted road which wound out south of the tide flats and salt water inlets. The Interurban ticket read "Milltown" and the infrequent weather-beaten signs on the road carried the same name.

After 1907, though, the Interurban tickets were changed to conform with the name adopted when this community was incorporated as a town. The road signs were changed as well. In "Mill-

thum society and the Rose society.

Among projects this club has undertaken will be landscaping of the city hall, now in the process of construction.

This hall, set on a point which also commands the valley view and overlooks the Tacoma-Seattle highway beyond, will be unique among structures of its type.

When completed, sometime this summer, this building will be a combined city hall and city center with an auditorium, kitchen and stage. Planned in the auditorium is a giant fireplace.

In the completed city hall part of the building the town's government already is established. In addition, every Tuesday and Friday afternoon the council chambers are turned over to two doctors from Puyallup for consultation with local patients. The doctors, E. F. McCabe and William Burrows, are now in their fourth week at Milton.

### FIREMEN VOLUNTEER

Local fire protection is cared for by about 20 volunteer firemen under Chief Robert Cranall. The

## Milton Days Festival To Start Tomorrow

MILTON - With a movie queen's knack for hiding her age, the town of Milton, now in its 50th year, bids the completion and spirit of teenage mis.

And this rosy-cheeked vigor goes on display tomorrow and Saturday for Tacoma, Puyallup and the rest of the town's neighbors.

The ninth annual Milton Days celebration will take place smack dab in the middle of the sparkling residential community of nearly 2,000 residents, seven miles east of Tacoma. A half century ago it was a sawmill village of 220.

### Dance Planned

The unravelling of carnival booths and rides for all ages will launch the festivities at noon tomorrow. Site of the yearly merriment is Milton Center, a model hub of stores and services. Visitors will get a choice of free ice cream or coffee. And where early settlers staked timber in 1907, a square dance in the street is planned for 8 to 12.

A children's pet parade will roll at 10 a.m. Saturday, followed by a contest for youngsters as they had bicycle races. The contestants will get free ice cream at 11. But the best, including a baby queen, is reserved for Saturday night.

For the first time, a Miss Milton will be selected from a heavy the town's prettiest girls between 13 and 18. She'll receive a crown during the final evening's special street dance. An orchestra from Tacoma will play through the night. And Milton, proud of its reputation as a country suburb with

every convenience of the city, plans to show off more than its business center. That in itself, however, will prove an attraction to visitors.

Everything is available from A to Z-artichokes in the supermarket to zippers in the general store. For sale, besides stamps in the post office, are cars, drugs, hardware and real estate. There's a restaurant, garage, cleaners and a barber shop where the proprietor enjoys pulling out a camera to get a picture of a boy's first haircut.

For festival visitors interested in seeing all of the community, the Milton Days Committee will provide free transportation and guides both days.

### Tourist Learns

The tourist will learn that a spot on the landscape known as Mill Town had some 60 persons at work in its sawmills around the turn of the century. The Big Change began to set in after its incorporation as Milton in 1907.

The tourist will hear about and meet some of Milton's finest "folks." Now in his 80s, Claude Weeks, the first mayor, came up from California last year and went back shaking his head over Milton's growth. Dr. Ethel Short, a retired school teacher here, is the daughter of one of the first councilmen, F. T. Short.

Mrs. Ethel Waters, whose father, George, was another early councilman, has the first warrant issued by the town. She was once postmaster and town treasurer. The first clerk was Arthur Simmons, also a grocery

owner, who died near Warden, an ex-mayor's unofficial first present clerk. Mrs. has been here near the town. During Earl Toler ran buses to the shipyard. To is Robert T. Willian

### Dutton Ho

The tourist will see some city hall-pub library-community a one-room structure in 1913. The city hall Milton's modern fire headed by Chief La ton.

Milton Days were 1918, along with a new civic build business center.

The tourist will let ton is one of the communities possess light system. It's Power is bought for The amount purcha nry, 1940, was 26.25 In January of this y ure was 644,000.

### Supply Lar

"Finest tasting" at country-not county t The water system als Milton. The supply enough to take care o developments, Town den reports. A new ton reservoir was summer. Another may built if growth contin also supplies water Heights, Jovita. Edg residents along High

The tourist will see new elementary schoo 70 acres of home-bul annexed in the past

two fine chu Methodist and the J God... many hydran recently for protecti ducton of fire insuranc work under way on an the city hall... home ing a panoramic view rounding country... which nearly all the s some type of hardwa

Setback Clai Time has smillett. But there were had nu Fire destroyed most thoroughfare. 30 year other setback came in the Interurban d service.

But the tourist li ton lives in the future Right now it's in the building a community tween the east and w of town. Pipelines for have been laid on the s installation of more s

## MILTON HOME FRONT NEWS

### OH WHERE HAS THE TOWN HALL GONE

In spite of numerous advertisements, and posters, we have seen a number of our people looking around for the Town Hall which had been moved at the conclusion of the last collection period. Rather, we mean the official town offices which have been moved to temporary quarters in the basement of the planned City Hall Building on 2nd Ave. E. Tho, from the looks of things, some hard-working members of the Fellowship Club are seeing to it that most of the old Town Hall will be permanently "gone" in a short time.

The old wooden structure on Commercial Ave. had been serving the Town since 1907 as Town Hall and during the past few years has not been adequate to serve the needs of a growing town. The town will retain the section covering the water supply, but the remainder, which in truth, had become somewhat of a public eyesore and object of much joking, will be torn down by the Club to be used for a temporary library building.

The new structure had been chosen by the engineers as in the most central location to serve all of Milton and when finished will have a commanding view of the valley. When completed it will house the city offices, council chamber, fire department, water and light department shops, town jail and auditorium with stage and kitchen for public use.

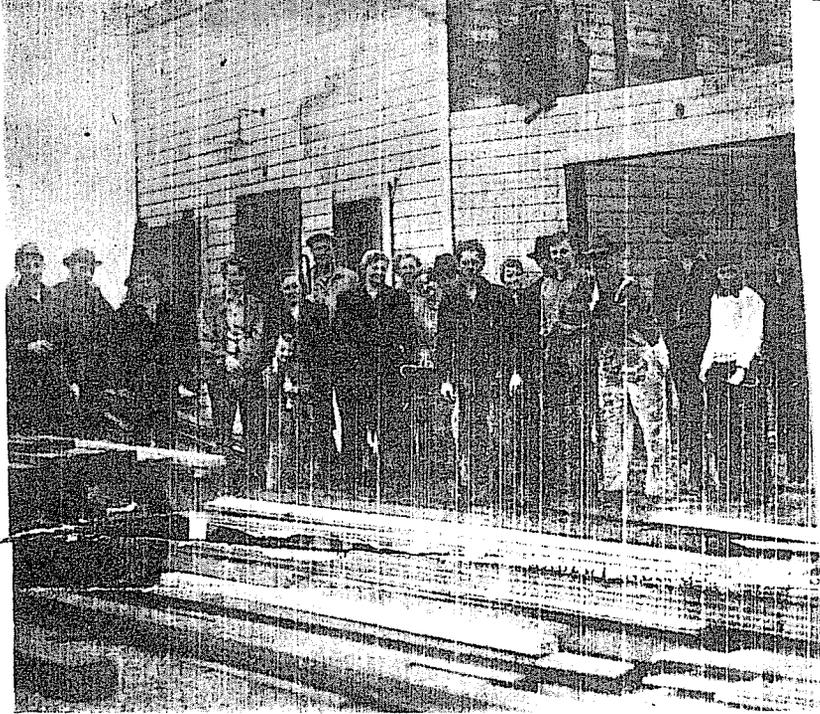
The present quarters though not fancy are adequate and a decided improvement over the old offices where it was impossible to install sanitary conveniences or adequate heating system.

So folks, don't forget if you are looking for the town hall it's up on 2nd Ave. East now

More "How Milton began. Sale of lumber from the old town hall provided money towards the library project.

*Kay Johnson*

### Wrecking Crew



Remember this? This was the beginning of the end of the old Town Hall. The above picture shows the majority of the demolition squad that tore the building and jail apart. For names and further particulars you can consult last February's issue. Incidentally, the lumber salvaged from his building was put up for sale recently

City Manager news

1961

2 pages

# Milton Petition Asks Manager Plan Vote

By ROD CARDWELL

MILTON—The town population 2,212, may decide soon whether to emulate Tacoma by adopting a council-manager form of government.

Mayor Alma Kemper is expected at Monday night's Town Council meeting formally to acknowledge receipt of a petition for the change signed by 282 residents.

Town Clerk Zyntha Fulmer is checking the petition against voter registration rolls to determine its validity.

Mrs. Kemper, if the instrument is valid, must by law issue a statement calling for an election to adopt or reject a switch to government by a professional manager and a seven-man council.

The election probably will be held in the spring.

**20 Per Cent**

Dennis Damis, town attorney, said the petition will be valid if only 160 signers are registered voters. That number represents 20 per cent of the persons who cast ballots in last spring's mayoral election.

Quered by The News Tribune, Tacoma's City Manager David Rowlands—who has no connection with the Milton action—said four small communities in King County have council-manager government.

They are Des Moines, 2,100; Medina, 2,300; Normandy Park, 3,200; and East Redmond, 250 (part-time manager). He pointed out that Puyallup, a Pierce County city, employs a manager, while Sumner has a position known as city administrator.

By Small Towns

Rowlands said his national directory of city managers shows that it is "not at all unusual" for small communities to adopt the Tacoma-type government. He cited Maine and Tennessee as states where the situation is quite prevalent.

If Milton voters approve the change, attorney Damis said, a second election must be held to vote in a new council.

The new form of government and Milton's population in excess of 2,000, would entitle the town to seven council members, instead of the present five, Davis said.

**Would Select Mayor**

The council then would name one of its own as mayor. The position would be chiefly honorary. General policy would be laid down by the council, with the manager in charge of administering it.

Among the many backers of the

move are W. W. Lippert, Howard Bryan, a holdover councilman from the previous administration; the former mayor, James Foster; Harry Askew, Wade Carlson, Charles Frues and William Holmes Jr., all ex-councilmen; Lawrence Dutton, who ran for the council last spring; Robert Ellis, former town employe, and Mrs. Percy Walden, whose husband served many years in Milton government, as an elected official and clerk.

It was made in a letter distributed to residents this week by the Citizens Educational Group of Milton and signed by Bert C. Nelson, Byron Brookhyser and Dennis Noland.

"There appears to be a vicious faction behind this movement to change our government, with a goal to impeach our present mayor in a backhanded manner and at the same time endanger the democratic processes of our town," the letter reads.

Milton voters will decide in a special election March 14 whether the town should adopt the council-manager system. Mayor Alma Kemper scheduled the election after receiving a 282-signature petition asking the change.

The letter issued by the Citizens Educational Group says its "vicious faction" statement does not apply "to the many people who signed the petition in good faith."

The letter presents a case against the change on the grounds that "the powers of a city manager are so great that the council, which appoints him, is limited by law in that it must not interfere with his decisions."

Lawrence Dutton, a backer of the council-manager government, laughed when queried about the letter's charge.

"We are not at all vicious," he declared.

Dutton said proponents of the change could have collected "many, many more signatures" for their petition but didn't try to do so because only 160 were required. That number represents 20 per cent of the persons who voted in last spring's mayoral election.

Dutton said he, as a petition signer, was not satisfied with the present form of government. He said he strongly favored the idea of a professional administrator at the helm of town affairs.

Dutton declined to predict the outcome of the March 14 election.

**Pro Arguments Later**

Another pro-manager resident, who asked not to be named, said a special committee would be issuing information to residents on the need for a change. O. K. Maki, chairman of the committee, was not immediately available for comment.

The letter from the Citizens Educational Group states that the city manager system, once established by voters, must remain in effect for a minimum of six years.

"Should this plan a mayor would be chosen by the councilmen from among their own members (instead of by the people) and given the title of 'mayor,'" the letter states. "He would have no administrative duties, such duties having been taken over by the city manager—even to making all appointments and removals from offices as he sees fit."

Mayor Kemper and councilmen have stated in council meetings that they will gather information on both sides of the issue for presentation to the public.

"Should voters approve the change, a second election would be required for the purpose of electing a new council. The new type government would entitle the town to seven councilmen, two more than now."

Backers of the change include James Foster, former mayor; Howard Bryan, present councilman; and Harry Askew, Wade Carlson, Charles Frues and William Holmes Jr., all ex-council members.

At present the city has a commission form of government, with a mayor and two commissioners. There currently are 19 cities in the state with mayors and councils. The chamber's letter pointed out. It said "we believe a council-manager form of city government can produce an even higher caliber program and supervision than we are so fortunate to enjoy currently."

# Milton City Manager Argument Waxes Hot

MILTON—Opponents of a drive to introduce the city manager form of government here have charged that "there appears to be a vicious faction behind this movement."

The charge drew chuckles, first, and then a stout denial from the other side.

It was made in a letter distributed to residents this week by the Citizens Educational Group of Milton and signed by Bert C. Nelson, Byron Brookhyser and Dennis Noland.

"There appears to be a vicious faction behind this movement to change our government, with a goal to impeach our present mayor in a backhanded manner and at the same time endanger the democratic processes of our town," the letter reads.

Milton voters will decide in a special election March 14 whether the town should adopt the council-manager system. Mayor Alma Kemper scheduled the election after receiving a 282-signature petition asking the change.

The letter issued by the Citizens Educational Group says its "vicious faction" statement does not apply "to the many people who signed the petition in good faith."

The letter presents a case against the change on the grounds that "the powers of a city manager are so great that the council, which appoints him, is limited by law in that it must not interfere with his decisions."

Lawrence Dutton, a backer of the council-manager government, laughed when queried about the letter's charge.

"We are not at all vicious," he declared.

Dutton said proponents of the change could have collected "many, many more signatures" for their petition but didn't try to do so because only 160 were required. That number represents 20 per cent of the persons who voted in last spring's mayoral election.

Dutton said he, as a petition signer, was not satisfied with the present form of government. He said he strongly favored the idea of a professional administrator at the helm of town affairs.

Dutton declined to predict the outcome of the March 14 election.

**Pro Arguments Later**

Another pro-manager resident, who asked not to be named, said a special committee would be issuing information to residents on the need for a change. O. K. Maki, chairman of the committee, was not immediately available for comment.

The letter from the Citizens Educational Group states that the city manager system, once established by voters, must remain in effect for a minimum of six years.

"Should this plan a mayor would be chosen by the councilmen from among their own members (instead of by the people) and given the title of 'mayor,'" the letter states. "He would have no administrative duties, such duties having been taken over by the city manager—even to making all appointments and removals from offices as he sees fit."

Mayor Kemper and councilmen have stated in council meetings that they will gather information on both sides of the issue for presentation to the public.

"Should voters approve the change, a second election would be required for the purpose of electing a new council. The new type government would entitle the town to seven councilmen, two more than now."

Backers of the change include James Foster, former mayor; Howard Bryan, present councilman; and Harry Askew, Wade Carlson, Charles Frues and William Holmes Jr., all ex-council members.

# Milton Plan No Basis for Official Letters

MILTON—There is no basis for the letter from the Citizens Educational Group of Milton signed by Bert C. Nelson, Byron Brookhyser and Dennis Noland, which charges that there is a "vicious faction" behind the drive to change the town government to a council-manager form, town attorney Dennis Damis said today.

The statement was made in a letter mailed to residents by the Citizens Committee for Managerial Government, headed by W. W. Lippert, town manager.

A special election will be held to decide whether to change to a council-manager government if a majority favors the change. A second election will be necessary to elect a new council.

**Eligible to Run**

The public officials who have been elected to date will hold office until such time as a new council shall be elected," the letter states. "Any and all of the present officials wishing to run for election under the new form of government know they are eligible to do so. The Citizens Committee for Managerial Government hopes they will."

Opponents of the change charged in an earlier letter of their own that a "vicious faction" appeared to be behind the drive for council-manager government, "with a goal to impeach our present mayor in a backhanded manner and at the same time endanger the democratic processes of our town."

**Letter Replies**

Today's letter from the Citizens Committee for Managerial Government replies:

"Any 'vicious faction' at work as has been suggested, could only be one that would try to hide the true facts of the council-manager form from the citizens."

"The letter asserts that 282 persons signed the council-manager petition. (Continued on Page 17A)

(Continued From Page One)

"to safeguard against the administration of municipal government by amateurs."

The letter states the committee has received data from the University of Washington's Bureau of Governmental Research and from Washington State. The study has shown that small communities across the state are adopting council-manager government at a rate far in excess of the letter contends.

**State Law**

Although the plan was used as early as 1906, the state law mandating it was not passed until 1941. The law states that any city with a population of 2,000 or more may elect a council-manager form of government. The law also provides that a city may elect a council-manager form of government for a six-year period, with the option of extending the term.

The letter says that once the system is in place, it is doubtful it would be abandoned until the experts advise a more effective form of government.

**Selection of City Manager**

A council is comparable to a school board's action in picking a superintendent, the purchase being to name the best qualified administrator. Funds will allow the letter states.

The councilman, who are direct representatives of the people, adopt all policies, and the trained and experienced city manager carries out the policies," the letter reads. It says the manager serves at the council's pleasure without a definite term and may be removed at any time.

The letter begins as something of an apology to what it terms "the citizens who felt 'left-out' at not having been asked to sign the petition which asked for the special election. It was impossible to contact everyone who wished to sign," the letter reads, adding that only a limited number of signatures were required. The petitions carried 282 names, although only 160 valid ones were necessary.

Lippert, co-chairman of the pro-manager campaign, has lived in Milton approximately 12 years and is a taxi truck driver. Maki, a 24-year resident, is a construction worker.

John A. McDonald, who presented the petition, has lived here more than 20 years, once served on the school board and is in the insurance business. Mrs. Anne M. Holmes, secretary of the Citizens Committee for Managerial Government, is a former teacher, a past secretary of the Milton Planning Commission and active in civic affairs.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER

# City Manager Plan Pondered In Centralia

CENTRALIA. (Special)—Read at Tuesday's meeting of the city commission was a letter from the Chamber of Commerce suggesting consideration of a council-manager form of government for Centralia. Mayor Vern Cain said he would appoint an advisory committee later to study the proposal, and asked city Attorney Don Schnatterly to act as legal adviser to it. The letter suggested the advisory group also consider the possibility of raising the city's classification from third to second class.

At present the city has a commission form of government, with a mayor and two commissioners. There currently are 19 cities in the state with mayors and councils. The chamber's letter pointed out. It said "we believe a council-manager form of city government can produce an even higher caliber program and supervision than we are so fortunate to enjoy currently."

History said that the millworkers lived in "west" Milton but apparently the mill owners did develop a long the length of what is now 10th and 11th Avenues in Milton. In 1925, there were several large old homes scattered throughout that area--one identified as a former doctor's home and office. In the area of the present city hall and Iris Street, you can still find a number of "once identical houses built for millworkers, remodelled, updated and still lived. One has been my home since the 1960's. Perhaps, with the current owners, these houses could be tagged for identification for the 100-year celebration.

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In the early days, streets were named on city maps, but no street signs were up and no houses numbered. Directions were given to delivery men and others by referring to the proximity of some landmark, business or the home of some well known citizens. One time this caused a big, big problem. The retiring (old) mayor had a new home, the new mayor sold his old home. Linoleum orders for the "new mayor's old home" was put down in the "old mayor's new home. (Right over a brand new floor too.) There were several very mad and unhappy people.

## AS I REMEMBER MILTON

In most things, there comes a time for repair, remodel or update and so it was with the town of Milton.

First, it was the replacing of the old wooden water mains which were leaking.

In the 1930's, the light <sup>system</sup> ~~sys~~ was in dis-repair. Poles that were leaning after a storm, were left with live wires hanging for several days. A real danger, So, after much controversy Milton built it own light system with power from Tacoma.

Over the years as Milton grew and demand for water increased, additional water tanks were constructed and customer service was expanded to nearby communities.

First a garage dump was created and shortly thereafter garbage collection service was begun.

Many streets were upgraded and paved. WPA built asphalt sidewalks that did not last. Street signs were installed and houses numbered.

A major project was installation of sewers. Opinions were divided. If you had sandy soil--septic tanks worked well, but in area of clay soil they did not--costly to maintain and a health hazard. The plan failed the first time, but succeeded on the second.

There is always a pro and con on changes and it is the right of each person to express their opinion. (some of the articles we compiled will show this.)

One might say "'So What'--they had 100 years to do it. But facts will show the Town of Milton, ( now a City) was far ahead of most other small towns in accomplishing these services.

We should be proud of ourselves.

KAY JOHNSON

This article was in the Tacoma News Tribune this March 23, 2007 - I bet the high school mentioned was the only one in Tacoma at that time.

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### LOOKING BACK

A SOUTH SOUND HISTORY THROUGH WORDS AND PICTURES

100 YEARS AGO TODAY: MARCH 23, 1907

Frank Kendall, a pupil at Milton school, won first prize in the declamatory contest at the high school. His selection was "How John Quit the Farm" by James Whitcomb Riley.