

Merritt Herald

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MERRITT, B.C. - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1969

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Establishment of instant town opposed by regional district

According to Mayor Allan Collett who had attended a Regional District Council meeting on Friday evening in Kamloops, a letter from Cache Creek was received protesting the establishment of an "instant town" in the Highland Valley and urging the regional district and provincial government to prevent this from happening.

It was decided, Mayor Collett said, that the government and mining company would be urged by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Council to take another look before making a final decision.

The Regional District will send a letter to Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Campbell strongly stating opposition to the proposed town in the Highland Valley by the Lornex Mining Company.

The executive of the Regional District had recommended that the board send letters to all provincial departments stating specific requirements which were to be met prior to the board's endorsement of the building of an instant town. However after studying observations made in a letter from the village of Cache Creek, the members decided to oppose the construction of such a town.

According to a press report of the meeting, Cache Creek reasoned that the use of grazing land for town development would be an unwise move. They felt that the people's needs in this area must come ahead of concessions and considerations for the

operational margin of a large industrial concern.

The letter pointed out that a community of 5 or 6,000 people would require ambulance and fire protection services and it is quoted that the letter went on to say "Surely an extension of existing services is less costly than the establishment of new services."

The community would require hospital services and it was also pointed out, that experiences of the Ashcroft community in attempting to build a new and expanded hospital does not indicate that money is readily available for such projects.

"Ten years of hard work by devoted citizens on the Ashcroft project finds it still not approved for tendering."

The press story quotes the letter as saying further, "We are of the opinion that a government interested in giving good leadership, encouraging citizen participation in community life, assuring the wise use of the tax dollar and at the same time keeping the welfare of the people foremost in their deliberations must forbid the establishment of an instant town."

The letter states further that the experiences of Kitimat, Hudson Hope, MacKenzie and Gold River should be evidence that this sort of development is undesirable and that a passing of a boom leaves a ghost-like town.

"If the location is in a suitable climate and productive area, the town will survive after such a setback, but if not, it will disappear and

our country cannot afford that waste from a town which may disappear.

"Should this instant town be disallowed, then the already established municipalities of Cache Creek, Ashcroft and Merritt would greatly increase in population.

The report said the letter stated that the company involved may argue that it is prepared to finance all costs for services, etc. but it was suggested perhaps these expenditures would be better directed in building in an established town and thus the cost to the company and the various government departments would be less.

The letter pointed out that

new schools would have to be established and at the present, referendas for school expansion across the province has been stalled by the Treasury Board because there is no money available.

The representative from Cache Creek is quoted as saying, "If the ore cannot be developed profitably without a townsite then perhaps it should not be developed at all." He said it is impossible for government departments to guarantee the qualifications set by the Regional District executive and in view of the reasons given by Cache Creek, a stronger stand on the matter should be taken by the board.

\$20,000 worth of mining equipment stolen \$500 reward offered

A \$500 reward has been posted for any information leading to the recovery of stolen property and the arrest and conviction of the thieves.

The property was stolen from the Highland Valley Lode mining camp in the Mamette Lake area over the

Herald deadline for news and adds advanced

In order to facilitate getting our paper out earlier on Wednesday's, we have decided to move up our deadline for news submissions and advertising to 12 noon on Tuesday.

We are concerned that our mail subscribers are not getting their papers until Thursday, long after the Herald has been delivered to the stores and we feel this is not fair. In consideration of our subscribers, we feel our deadline should be changed and we will ask the co-operation of every one concerned. Of course, getting them in on Monday whenever possible will make it even that much better.

has been set up for the grazing of this unit. It would break the seasonal circulation path for the cattle as well as obliterating the spring grazing of one of the chief members of this association, cutting the value of his ranch by 75 per cent.

"The proposed townsite is over 12 miles from the mine, surely they could find a site equally as good much closer to their operation that would have no effect on grazing."

Ranchers of the Mamette Lake area express no opinion in favour or against a townsite in this area. Their chief concern is water and they met recently with Lornex spokesman Mr. Aldridge to receive assurance that this was being taken into consideration.

The town would be getting its water supply from deep wells if it was to be established which would not interfere in any way with the present range supply of water.

Mamette Lake ranchers are also concerned with pollution of their water supply and they will be meeting with the company again on this matter.

The letter from the Tunkwa Lake Ranching Association was received and filed without comment by chamber executive members.

weekend of November 2 or 3 and according to owner Wally McLelland, about \$20,000 worth of equipment was taken.

Mr. McLelland said that it was between crews, one crew had left and another was coming in which left the camp unattended for a week. He had sent one of his men in to check last Sunday morning (November 2) and everything was in order at that time. Mr. McLelland went up again, on Wednesday to check and found thieves had been in with a truck to remove most of the equipment.

This is the second time this has happened to his camp, Mr. McLelland said. The first time they took all the small equipment. Missing this time is a Long-eared 24 inch straight line diamond drill, an England two cylinder diesel lighting plant, a Monarch jet water pump, an air pump, a stopper and similar articles.

Anyone with information is invited to contact Mr. McLelland at 378-2945 or the local RCMP.

So far only one person has taken out nominating papers

There are only ten days left in which to find suitable candidates for the civic election. So far there are only three people offering to stand for election, two for the two council vacancies and one for two school board vacancies.

Should no one else come forward to be nominated, the two who are running for council will be declared elected by acclamation and an appointment will have to be made for the other vacancy on the school board. It will mean there will be no civic election this year.

Merritt has shown high interest in the past. In fact, at the present time this municipality holds the trophy for

Commercial hockey schedule

The Junior B team has taken the place of the former Coldwater team in the league and the games to be played this week are as follows:

Thursday, November 13, 8:15 p.m.

Steelworkers vs Junior B's

Saturday, November 15, 8:15 p.m.

Princeton vs Steelworkers

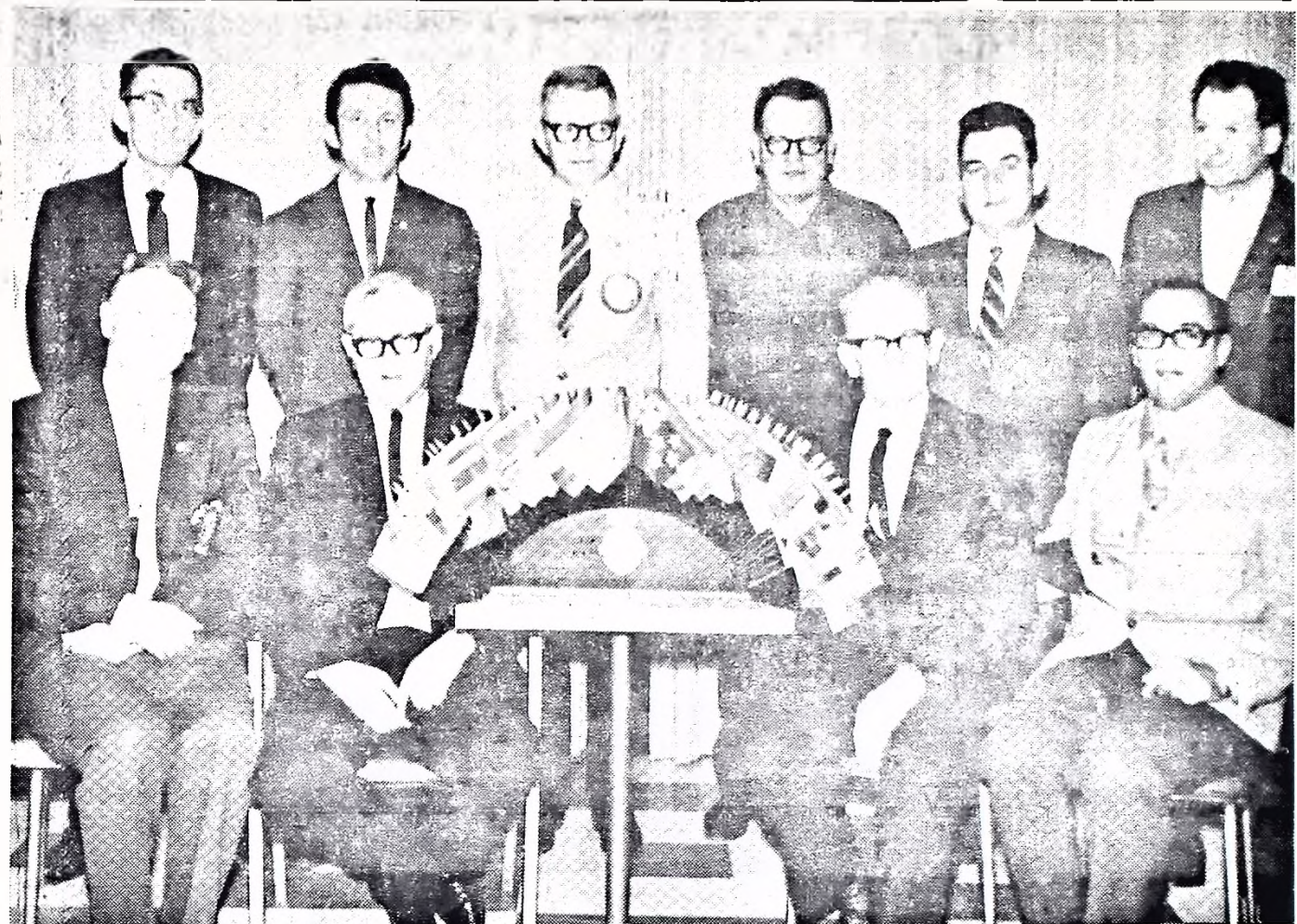
Sunday, November 16, 2:30 p.m.

Braves vs Junior B

Tuesday, November 18, 8:15 p.m.

Princeton vs Junior B

A reminder that the annual general meeting of the Commercial Hockey League will be held November 21 at the Grasslands Hotel, 8:00 p.m. Election of officers will be on the agenda.



Members of the Merritt Lions Club posed for their picture following the installation ceremonies held at the Valnicola Hotel last Wednesday evening. Front row from the left is Zone Chairman Dr. Meade Sutherland from Kamloops, newly installed president Adrian Theriault, District Governor for 19D Vern D. France from Wenatchee, past president Dr. Don Fietz. Back row, Bob McLachlan, Alex Bukkos, Ralph Graham, Laurie Graham, Ted Taylor and Reg Miller, all newly installed officers.

Warm and dry November 11th brings out large crowd for services

One of the largest crowds in recent years attended the annual Remembrance Day services held on Tuesday, November 11 to honor those who died in wars. The memorial service at the Legion Hall was conducted by Rev. Father Connellan and Rev. M.C.W. Piddington.

One of the reasons why a good sized crowd was in at-

tendance was because it was one of the warmest and driest November 11th's in a long time. The sunshine made standing at the cenotaph more comfortable than it has been in past years.

Following the service in the Legion, a march was made to the Cenotaph at the Court House led by the Merritt Drum and Bugle band and majorettes. Participating in the parade were the RCMP, Elks, Royal Purple, Veterans, Legion and Legion Ladies, Girl Guides, Cadets and Kinsmen.

Wreaths were laid by Bill Hartley for the Provincial Government, Mayor Allan Collett for the Town of Merritt, Mrs. Marie-Anne Duperreault for the Bereaved Mothers, Mrs. Marilyn Neilson for the Legion Ladies, John Lin-

ney for Branch 96, Constable Bill Bailey for the RCMP, Dick Griffiths for the Elks, Mrs. Grace Rix for the Royal Purple, Lyle Linney for the Cadets, Mrs. G. Bedford for the Girl Guides and Bill Torreggiani for the Kinsmen.

The Last Post was played on the trumpet by Jim Fitzpatrick following the 11 a.m. signal by the fire siren. Everyone bowed their heads for the traditional two minutes of silence in memory of the men and boys who didn't return from wars.

BIRTHS

LAMPREAU - to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lampreau, twin daughters born at the Nicola Valley General Hospital on Sunday, November 2, 1969. The first girl, Cinamon Laura, weighed 5 lbs. 7 1/2 ozs. and the second girl, Roberta Jolie, weighed 5 lbs. 9 ozs.

Only slight increase in total school enrolment this year

Total school enrollment this year shows very little increase as compared to the same period last year according to a report issued at the regular meeting of the school board.

Total enrollment at the present time at all schools in the district is 2,320 as compared to 2,303 at the same period last year. Of this figure, 1,615 are elementary children and 705 are high school as compared to 1,600 elementary and 703 high school last year.

Breaking down the elementary school figure to show individual school enrollment, with last year's figure in brackets, they are as follows, Merritt Central 577 (591); Diamond Vale, 367 (367); Nicola Canford, 281 (271); Colletville, 189 (181); Bench, 152 (138); Nicola Lake, 49 (52).

The principal's reports also lists the following activities. At the Merritt Secondary School there is inter-school volleyball, football, grass-hockey and all clubs are active; at the Central School, there is soccer sponsored by Mr. Palm and Mr. Wiley; a house league sponsored by Mr. Wiley, a drama group sponsored by Mrs. Langridge and a Christmas Operetta is being sponsored by Mrs. Newhouse and Miss Cole.

At Diamond Vale a music program has been started for grades 4 to 7 using recorders with Mrs. Dumville teaching this, a good house system for sports is in operation sponsored by Mr. Keast and Mr. Szachury and a library under Miss Short's direction is functioning well.

At Colletville School, three

soccer games against three other schools have been played and a house system has been started.

There were no reports from Nicola Canford, Bench or Nicola Lake but it is known that activities are also organized in these schools as well, Mr. Ramsay said.

Area ranchers concerned about instant town

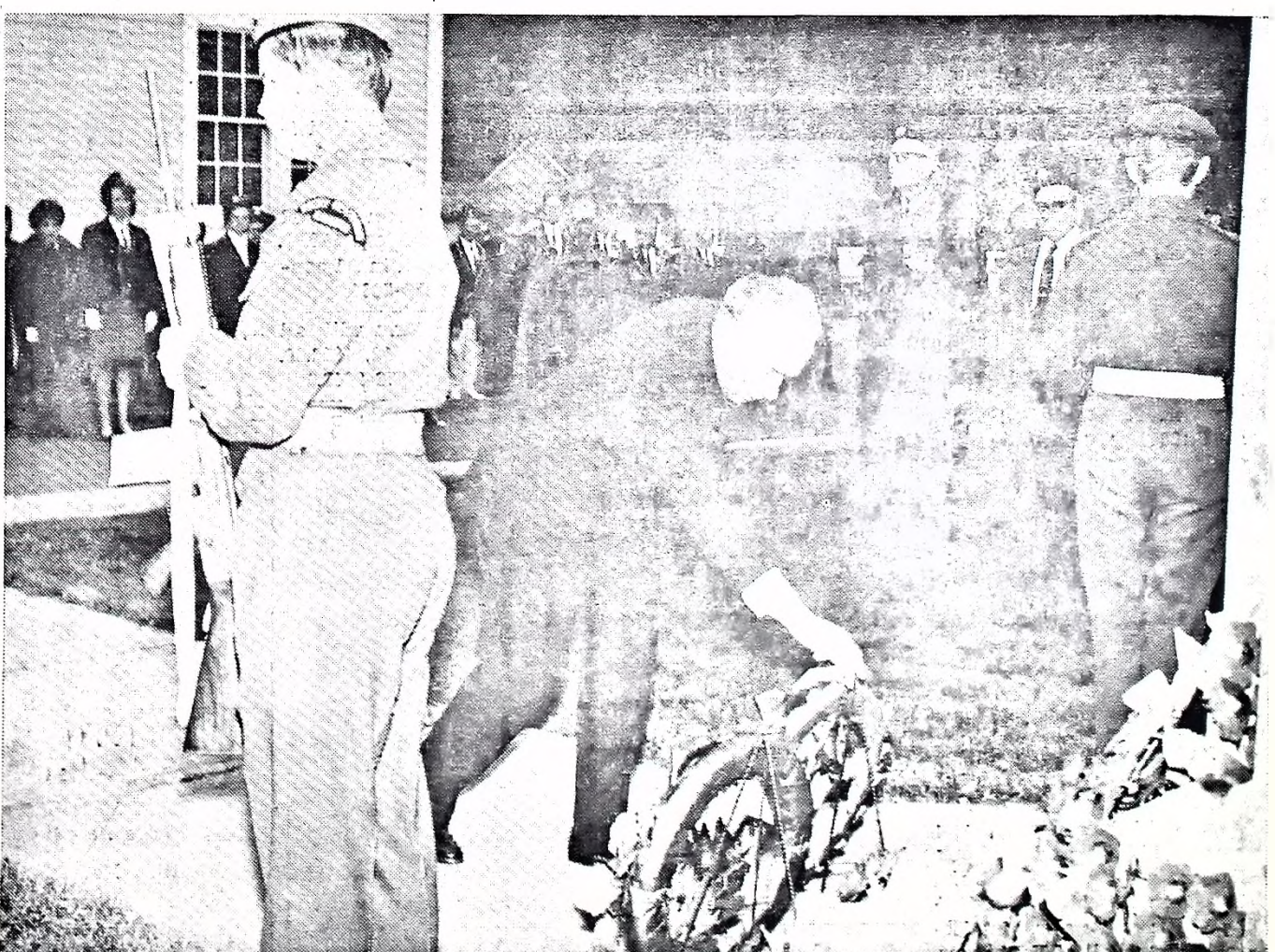
Ranchers in the area where a proposed townsite for Highland Valley employees is being considered are apparently concerned about what it will mean to grazing and water supply.

A copy of a letter sent to the Land Inspector at Kamloops by the Tunkwa Lake Stock Breeders Association was received by the Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce in which the association asked for reconsideration to be made on their behalf.

The letter reads as follows: "Enclosed is a copy of a letter to the Land Inspector expressing the opinion of this association on the Lornex Mining Corporation's application for a townsite in the Logan Lake area.

"The Logan Lake area has been a part of the Tunkwa Lake Stock Range for the last 40 years. This association has managed it with the help of the grazing department. Some of this area has been under fence for over 50 years.

"Allowing this application would ruin the pattern that



Mayor Allan Collett placed a wreath at the foot of the cenotaph on behalf of the Town of Merritt, in remembrance of all Merrittionians who died in wars. A good crowd was on hand to take part in the ceremonies, with larger than usual participation in the parade to the cenotaph.

Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic

THUNDER MUG FOR COMPETITION

LEGION HALL
Monday, Nov. 17, 4:30 - 9 p.m.
Sponsored by Royal Canadian Legion