

The lost years toward solving Cheyenne's trash disposal problems

I have Google-alerts on "trash-to-ethanol," "trash-to-diesel," and "Michael Spitzauer."

The first two because the former mayor and his lieutenants bought into fraudulent presentations on those two potential uses of municipal waste and the third - the man's name - because he was the guy who waltzed into town and turned their heads with what was likely a bogus pitch of being able to turn trash into diesel.

A quick review on the issue of what to do with Cheyenne's trash:

A group called the "Landfill Advisory Committee" held meetings for several years and their objective was to find a solution to what had been described as a very short life of the Happy Jack Landfill. That life is revised each time the end is nigh. A person with a terminal illness should be so lucky as to have their doctor keep revising how long they had to live. They would be around a very long time.

A lot of effort was put in by that Committee, and there were some capable members, to determine a location for a future landfill. Because a former official at Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality had told them that permitting expansion of the current landfill would be problematic - very problematic - they accepted that as a directive that another location had to be found.

That WDEQ individual attended some of those meetings and, at one after the Belvoir Ranch had been acquired for a new landfill location, he finally spoke in public. What he had repeatedly told city employees and Committee members was that he (speaking for WDEQ) was not keen on permitting another trench at Happy Jack because, basically, it was "putting your garbage on top of your water." When pressed, he said he had never told anyone representing this problem that WDEQ would *not* permit expansion of the Happy Jack landfill - just that they'd prefer it be sited somewhere else.

Double liners and leak detection monitoring was discussed and he made it known in that public meeting that those same demands (requirements) would be placed on a landfill at the Belvoir or anyone else. That was something WDEQ was doing to try to prevent or delay contamination of water in the aquifer(s) which were bound to be beneath any landfill location in Laramie County.

Nonetheless, this Committee had proceeded ONLY toward abandoning Happy Jack - they felt their mission was to find another location for a new landfill. They had identified a handful of possibilities and two or three of them involved land then held by Phyllis Atchison and True Ranches. Phyllis did not know this for quite some time and when she learned of the plans to site a landfill south or

southeast of the City, she became involved. When Phyllis was involved, she was involved! She opposed a landfill coming toward her ranch, as did True's.

After proceeding for years in near secrecy, the cat was let out of the bag about this plan by Skip Eshelman, who attended meetings and wrote about them for the Cheyenne Herald.

Once Phyllis and representatives of the True Ranch started to attend the meetings, plans changed. The area known as the Belvoir Ranch had been absolutely eliminated as a potential landfill site. Until the mayor, Pat Collins and Tom Segrave were invited to a Rockies game. Changes were made to exclusionary factors that had eliminated the Belvoir and it was bought for a new landfill.

The geology and distance, not to mention the specific location with notoriously strong winds, made that a very unwise decision from the first. After a great deal of time was wasted, the City came to the same conclusion. Then, the fun began. One after another after another schemers and scammers darkened the doorstep of the mayor and his incompetent department heads. Each time, a wondrous story of how these interlopers could save the City from itself was told. All they were missing were tops hats and canes. Each time, the song and dance was similar, just the lyrics changed.

The first, who had abandoned an Ohio community in the midst of the same pursuit, had no money, no office and no hope. Yet, the City wasted precious time buying into the magic. The simplest due diligence would have disclosed the guy for what he was. He operated out of his house. When he thought he may have hooked his first fish, he did open an office - in an executive suite with one operator handling all calls. Much like one of Cheyenne's unaccredited degree seller.

The next one was an ex-con who mesmerized the mayor and his people with a presentation that was lacking only David Copperfield and an elephant. He, too, could take all of the City's trash, and more, and turn it into diesel. Sure he could. If he's not in prison again, I'd be surprised. Contracts were negotiated and signed. But this guy also had no funding. They came to town, promising to do these projects with their own money. All they wanted from us was our trash. Right.

Then a third one came in and he could turn our trash into pellets. Certainly.

It's too bad our people couldn't recognize frauds when they saw them. There are now cities entering into contracts with legitimate businesses that will fulfill agreements to turn trash into ethanol. Because we bought the yarns, we're too late. Now we're hauling trash to Ault, Colorado.

SUPPORT YOUR CONSTITUTION



Be a part of the first Cheyenne Tea Party Rally
5:30 pm, April 15th - in front of the Capitol

www.the912project.us/group/wyoming

groups.yahoo.com/group/wesurroundthemincheyenne/ ... E-MAIL: pery_m@yahoo.com

The Herald is at the Archives. On microfilm!

Quite some time back, someone from the Wyoming State Archives called and asked me if I would provide them a copy of each issue as it was printed so they could accumulate a collection of the paper. He or she told me they would microfilm the papers so there would be a lasting file. I have my own archives and I offered to bring all of the issues that had been printed to that date and keep them supplied as new ones came out.

Occasionally, I would inquire if they had microfilmed the copies they had been provided so I could proudly announce to the world that the Cheyenne Herald was available at the Wyoming State Archives - right along with the Sun and Leader, predecessors of the disappointing daily newspaper now in Cheyenne.

I didn't understand the mechanics of what they do at the Archives nor how they do it and was a bit disappointed that a reel wasn't available in the drawer along with the other Wyoming papers anyone could access if they had the need or want to spool 'em up and see what they could find.

A month ago, I saw on the Archives website (where they show the availability of newspapers by county in Wyoming) that my Cheyenne Herald had made the list.

Initially, I thought they copied papers onto a reel and then added issues as they were printed. What they do is hold papers until they have enough to microfilm to fill a reel. Reel No. 1 of the Cheyenne Herald runs from our first issue of January 30, 2002 through October 30, 2006. More recent print issues of my publication are available at the Archives (for review, not to take) but it will be some time before Reel No. 2 is in the drawer. Like 2011.

When I started the Cheyenne Herald in '02 (I was going to change the name to the Cheyenne Examiner in the first year but didn't), I had no long term goals, plans or aspirations. But, honestly, it's nice to join other Wyoming newspapers at the Wyoming State Archives. From all time. A hundred years from now, those not yet born can read what has become Cheyenne's best-read publication. Not bad for a barefoot boy from Wisconsin.

Cheyenne Herald - 2009

January 13, 27	July 21
February 17	August 4, 18
March 3, 17, 31	September 2 (Wedn.), 15, 29
April 14, 28	October 13, 27
May 12, 27 (Wedn.)	November 17
June 16, 30	December 1, 15, 29



Always on the lookout for the next Goliath

SANDWICH SPECIALS

thru Thursday, April 2, 2009

Fish Fillet
Large Drink
Large Fries

\$5.25
plus tax

Begins Friday, April 3, 2009

Hot Ham & Cheese
Large Drink
Large Fries

\$5.99
plus tax

Burger Inn
Pershing & Snyder



MAXIE MONDAYS - \$1.25

E-MAIL ... CHEYENNEHERALD@BRESNAN.NET