

Q. How long does it take to put in curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streets? A. About two weeks beyond when the Herald threatens a story about it.

Not since Claudia Angelos Ryan ran a small ad in the Cheyenne Herald and then was hired as an assistant city attorney a few days later has action come faster on words appearing in this advocacy journal.

On page 8 of the September 26, 2005 Herald, there was a teaser promising a story about the nondelivery of a street (East 7th Street) which had been a condition of approval for an industrial park development - back in 1998.

A visit to the area on October 13th revealed that the street is now "staked" and

construction should begin on this street and attendant issues (drainage, etc.) any day now. The work should have been completed in 1998 or 1999.

Construction plans were finally submitted to the City Building Department on October 5th - seven years after approval of the project. No one could find such plans for a very long time and that is because they weren't on hand, even though city officials claimed they were.

The Herald doesn't even have to do the story to get action anymore. Just "tease" one and presto! Action! What a country.



How about some candor ... maybe a little full disclosure, from the WT-E?

The Sunday, October 2nd issue of the WT-E had a rare inclusion - a column carrying the name of Mike McCracken.

His lengthy column was in response to a letter to the editor (which was never printed as a letter to the editor) which was reproduced (at least in part) within the same column.

The letter was from local attorney Jack Speight and, in it, he agreed with a previous letter from Fred Baggs, in which Mr. Baggs "suggested the WTE improve its paper by having a woman editor."

He made the valid point in his letter that the WTE should practice "what it preaches." They've been ragging on Cheyenne Frontier Days for the last several years because they didn't have a woman committee chair.

McCracken's response was predictable. He believes that the token citizen representative on the misnamed "editorial board," can be a woman and that satisfies the public "demand" for a woman on the paper's editorial board. Hardly.

If that were true, why didn't the WTE give credit to Frontier Days for all the women they had in lesser positions than a chair, but yet filling critical leadership roles?

Obviously, Jack Speight knows the impact members of the public have on the editorial position of the WTE. He has served as one of those members.

He may agree with what other such members have told the Herald about the value such service has. Something similar to John Nance Garner's take on the vice-presidency: "It ain't worth a bucket of warm spit."

To defend the lack of a woman on their real editorial board (which is a one person show anyway - even Mike's opinion carries little weight according to those who have served as the token) McCracken refers to past editors, current lesser editors, and other department heads.

Baggs and Speight were doubtlessly writing about the "editorial" board where subjects to be addressed as the newspaper's positions are discussed. To admit to "intentionally" seeking women to serve as a community representative smacks a little of tokenism. Hell, it smacks a lot like tokenism.

To have a woman on the editorial board would be as simple as adding Cindy Marek. She is an owner of the newspaper and a McCracken family member. She has been with the newspaper for a very long time and is both pleasant and capable. Look no further, Mike.

And when Dennis Curran writes effusive praise for Jerry Jessen (who deserves some praise), he should make it clear that he is on a payroll that Jessen had a major say in for the past several years. It wouldn't hurt to acknowledge that relationship. Then praise Jessen if you want.

Who stands to gain with annexation of separated land?

Will the City set a precedent by annexing distant city-owned land to give them a "jumping off" point so others who would then meet the requirements of the state statute on annexation could annex their contiguous or adjacent land which would then be substantially touching the new city in the county? Is the purpose of this annexation west of the Base to bring that land into the city, to bring it back into the fold so it (partially) can be sold, or to accommodate one of the nearby landowners identified by the symbol ♦ below? Will the county stand idly by and allow the subversion of state annexation law? Each distant annexation opens up another annexation of land next to that one. It is a domino theory that this city administration would be all too willing to start. Who will be next - after the city annexes the parcel they "own" but have a 199-year lease with the USDA on? The Cheyenne Herald is betting that the Parcel identified by No. 5 (which is south AND west of the proposed city annexation) will be annexed next.

- 1 Donald Hunnicutt
- 2 Paul J. Steele
- 3 Developed - Briarwood
Developed - Quarter Circle Five
- 4 Rick Hunnicutt
- ♦ 5 Three Sisters, LLC
- 6 Developed - Shellback
- 7 Cox Ranches, LLC
- 8 Polo Ranch Company
from county assessor's records

The land bordering this annexation which is owned the Polo Ranch and Cox Ranches are only a part of their holdings in the area.

♦ Greatest potential to be annexed and developed based on becoming "substantially touching" with this city annexation.

