

MAYOR SAYS TOWN UNFAIR TO DEVELOPER

Focal, town talks uncertain

Haltom Hills council and planning board have not been "one bit fair" in their dealings with S.B. McLaughlin Associates Ltd., the development firm that is suing the municipality for \$27 million over its refusal to let the firm build a residential subdivision south of Georgetown, according to Mayor Tom Hill.

Mayor Hill made the comment at last Tuesday's council meeting after several councillors balked at the idea of town officials getting together with representatives of McLaughlin and its subsidiary, Focal Properties Ltd., to discuss their mutual problem.

The majority of council were either opposed or hesitant to accept a written invitation from the developer to meet with company officials and debate McLaughlin's proposal to build some 1,740 homes on land the firm owns south of Silver Creek off Mountainview Road.

In a letter to Mayor Hill, McLaughlin's vice president of Ontario operations, Ernest Bodnar, noted that the town appeared to express "some willingness" to meet with the company in local media reports. He welcomed such a meeting "in any forum that you and your council would deem appropriate."

"There seems to have been some breakdown in communications," Coun. Booth commented when the letter was placed before council. "It appears from this letter that we're the ones who are going cap in hand and beg-

Petition circulated supporting developer

At least one Georgetown resident is anxious to see discussions begin between Haltom Hills council and Focal Properties Ltd.

Ab Tennant, owner of six Toronto companies began circulating petitions several weeks ago urging council to sit down with Focal and see what could be done to settle their differences out of court and save taxpayers money.

"I live in Georgetown and pay my taxes in Georgetown," Mr. Tennant says. "All they are doing is wasting taxpayers' money on lawyers. No one has tried to sit

down and talk it out. They just listen to the lawyers. It'll be in court if nothing is done soon to stop it."

Mr. Tennant says he put out two to three dozen petitions before he went on vacation and has seen nothing on them since.

"I haven't really been pushing them" he says, "but the response is good so far as I hear."

After reading The Herald story on Focal's proposal to council that they sit down and talk over their differences Mr. Tennant wonders if his petition may have served

its purpose. "Council knew the petition was out," he says, "because I told quite a few of them and some of them have read it. They know it's around and it is an election year, after all. Maybe they're starting to think."

"They're going to have to realize that it's going to be built on down there, at least part of it. I think eventually this town will be ordered to let Focal get going on it (the Silver Creek project). I know in fact that the minister of housing is in favor of the project and can't see why this town is fighting it."

ently read about council's "willingness" to meet with McLaughlin in the press "before I got to him".

"The letter just does not represent what we've been led to believe (by Mayor Hill)," Coun. Booth maintained. "And I for one would say that we've been very fair with S.B. McLaughlin".

Coun. Les Doby pointed out that because of the impending breach of contract lawsuit McLaughlin intends to bring against the town, it would be unwise for council to meet any company representatives unless the town solicitor was present.

"Is the solicitor running this town or are we?" Mayor

representative concerning the possibility of the two parties meeting.

Mayor Hill told the representative that the best way to bring the meeting about was to write to council. He commented that he agrees with "a lot of the wording" in the letter and believes that council and planning board have "not been one bit fair with McLaughlin".

Coun. Booth contended that Mr. Bodnar's reference to the local media as the source of his information, and not Mayor Hill, represents "a slight" against the mayor.

Mayor Hill simply responded that Mr. Bodnar appar-

Hill demanded. Coun. George Maltby stated that council treats all individuals and groups who approach it fairly, requiring them to simply apply for an audience with council at a pre-appointed time and date.

Council, he added, has always been willing to meet with McLaughlin.

Mayor Hill observed however, that in several unofficial meetings between town and McLaughlin officials, the discussion never "got down to the nitty gritty", despite the fact that the dispute between the two corporations is preventing the town from acquiring and building "lots of things" that are badly needed.

Coun. Russ Miller expressed dismay at the arguments circulating around the council table over the developers' request. "The town should instead be attempting to expedite a solution to the entire affair, he said.

"It doesn't matter how he approached us," he said. "Let's not delay this any longer. There's a lot of questions I'd like to ask".

Coun. Mike Armstrong sided with Coun. Doby saying it would be "foolish" to meet with McLaughlin while the two parties are in litigation and are awaiting the resumption of an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing into the matter.

Council members are "all scared to death" about the dispute because there is a municipal election in November, he said. He recommended that council first seek the advice of its solicitor.

"I'm not running scared," Coun. Pat Patterson corrected.

"You're not running are you, Pat?" Coun. Walter Biehn quipped, alluding to Coun. Patterson's recent announcement that he will not seek re-election.

Council resolved to follow Coun. Booth's advice and invite the firm's representatives to attend a forthcoming regular meeting of their choosing.

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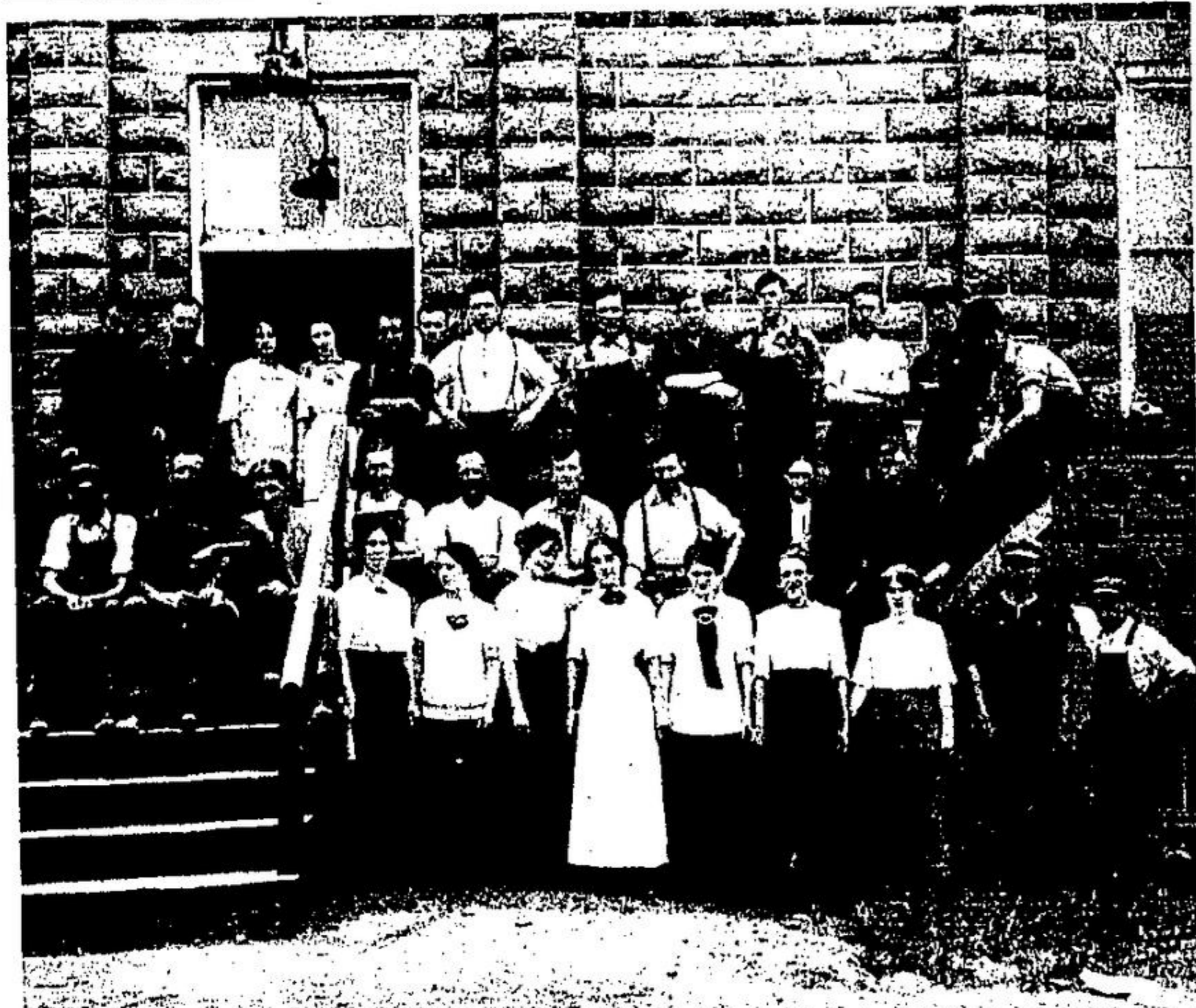
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PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFIED

This picture which was run in our Pioneer Days issue was identified as Sykes Woolen Mill. Nan Hurst of Aetons has come forward with some names of people which she and her father Harry Hale recognized. Mrs. Hurst says the picture would have been of the Provincial Paper Coating Division staff and must have been taken in 1913 or 1914 before two of the men in left to serve in World War I. She identified these people. Back row: (1 to r.) unknown,

John Leavitt, Jessie Leavitt, unknown, Nelson Tuck, unknown, unknown, unknown, Herman Nette, Henry Frances, unknown, unknown, unknown. Middle row: Bill Merritt, unknown, Jim Costigan, Tom Nette, Chippy Ashmore, Fred McNally, Tom Sykes, and Sam Harrison. Front row: all unknown except Bill Burkenshaw at extreme right. The picture was loaned to The Herald by Larry Wvlds of Stroud.

Glen residents seek town water services

The solution to the dry wells situation in Glen Williams boils down to a matter of whether residents want municipal water and are willing to pay for it Mayor Tom Hill told works committee Monday.

Nine Glen Williams residents have been hooked to a fire hydrant in Mullen Place at the owners' expense since wells began going dry at the end of July, says Stan Marcinuk, a spokesman for the group who claim their wells were effected last year by dewatering operations to con-

struct sewer lines for the Mullen Place subdivision.

Mayor Tom Hill says the region has installed a meter on the hydrant and the fire department put in the hose for residents. Now all the region needs is \$40 for the price of the meter and a letter from two residents saying they'll be responsible for the amount of water used.

So far getting water to the dry wells has cost residents roughly \$200, Mr. Marcinuk

estimates, \$40 for the meter and \$160 for hose and fittings to connect the houses to the hydrant. The cost has been split equally between the residents because they all live within much the same distance from the hydrant. Anyone hooking in after this will have to pay for his own hose, he says.

Mr. Marcinuk says he understands they must have a two-thirds majority of Glen residents in order to get municipal water brought into the village. The question is whether that means a majority on each street or a majority for the whole area.

"If that's just two-thirds of the residents on a street then I'm sure we'll get it (municipal water) for Karen, Alexander and Park Streets anyway," he says. "We'll canvass the whole low end of the Glen while we're at it. Why leave anyone out? It might be a hell of a lot cheaper to do it all in one shot while they're at it than to go in pieces."

Mr. Marcinuk is expecting word from the region in two weeks that will give residents

a rough estimate of individual costs to bring municipal water to the village so that his people can begin a door-to-door campaign with a petition to determine who wants water.

However the mayor told works committee that regional works director Bob Moore hopes to have an engineering study done "by early October" which will give the final costs on the project.

Regional councillors were handed a report recently which put a \$350,000 price tag on bringing water to the village, the mayor said.

Unusual weather conditions have played havoc with pro-ing residents contentions that their problem this year stem from last year's situation, Mr. Marcinuk says.

"Right now we're in the middle of the worst drought in 40 years," he says, "so who can say our wells wouldn't have gone dry anyway. Last year we had the heaviest rainfall in something like 120 years so how do we say our wells wouldn't have come back under normal conditions. We can't prove anything under these conditions."

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Police advise rabies watch

Haltom region police Staff-Sergeant Jason Field advises residents of the Acton area that police have "received quite a few complaints in the past few weeks... about foxes coming up to residences."

Sgt. Field advises residents to call Haltom police if a possibly rabid fox is spotted. He says signs of a rabid fox

include boldness (the fox will come right up to the residence) and a "very shaggy" look.

Watering of the eyes and foaming of the mouth especially indicates rabies.

He advises residents to "get their dogs away as quickly as possible" from foxes if a fox is seen and to phone Haltom region police immediately.