

If at First You Don't Succeed . . . Try, Try Again!

Success doesn't always happen on the first try. Consequently, succeeding attempts are often necessary to prove successful. That insistence on continued attempts might seem to serve as a motto for John Livermore, a Martin County resident that was active on many fronts.

Livermore is probably most recently remembered for his "Iron Grill" Café on North North Avenue in Fairmont and for his stands involving advertisements in the local media either supporting or condemning the actions of public officials. Not one to ride the fence, he made his opinions known quite vociferously as evidenced in his 1971 advertisement relative to the Luedtke Slough controversy.

John Livermore was born in Swea City, Iowa, and spent his youth on the farm with his parents. After his mother passed away when he was eleven, he moved with his father back to Fairmont which was his father's home. He attended and graduated from Fairmont High School in 1919.

He was involved in a number of business interests in Fairmont including operating the Livermore Ice Company. He constructed an ice house on the Budd Lake shore at Oak Beach in 1937 and sold ice at the Lake Sisseton boathouses for a number of years.

Other business interests included farming, owning a considerable amount of rental property both commercial and residential, amusement park operations, salvage, and boat livery operations.

Having an interest in education, Livermore headed the citizens group instrumental in the construction of both Budd and Lincoln Elementary Schools. The initial intent was to build only one elementary school in the south side of Fairmont, however, opposition led by Livermore prevailed and two elementary schools were finally constructed. He was also at one time the director of a campaign to establish a junior college in Fairmont.

In 1949, Livermore headed the movement toward a "Free Gate Fair." His first attempts proved unsuccessful, however, he vowed to "clean out the deadwood" on the fair board. Finally achieving success in establishing a "Free Gate Fair," attendance and participation greatly improved.

Not one to shy away from politics, he made several attempts at elected public office. He unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Fairmont, the school board, and the state legislature finally being elected to the House of Representatives serving from 1950-1952.

Whether he was loved or loathed, he was an activist for his era. He stood his ground, made his point, and apparently didn't back down. Could he be characterized as being opinionated? Was he objective in his views? Whatever your answer, there was little doubt that he was persistent. It would also seem that he would fit into the broad category of those somewhat colorful and interesting characters from the past that add to the lore of our local history.

For more information on this topic, or to become a member, visit the Pioneer Museum in Fairmont.

BIRDS, BEES POLLYWOGS, FROGS!

I believe I am safe to say we older folks learned all about the birds, the bees, the pollywogs and the frogs from our primers in the first and second grades, not in high school.

Our school board sold Fairmont's people a new over five million dollar senior high school by telling us what fine courses they would have in vocational training for our high school students.

City Dump

Snakes Alive! Now they are spending our tax dollars to tell us we need a stinking, musky smelling pollywog slough in Fairmont, adjoining their new high school, that will discourage any good homes from being built around that area to help pay our skyrocketing taxes.

I can think of only one thing worse to spend our school tax dollars for than a stinking, musky smelling pollywog slough in the heart of our future Fairmont's growth direction. That is another CITY DUMP.

Wise Foresight

Fairmont's City Council is dredging several feet of mud from the bottom of our lakes to assure us of a supply of city water in times of drouth, realizing Fairmonters could not drink mud.

The Council was hard pressed for a place to dump the muddy sludge from Budd Lake, and the Luedtke land was purchased as they would kill two birds with one stone. It was ideally located, also the fill would eliminate the stinking, musky smelling slough from Fairmont's future ideal growth area.

Thinking Taxpayers

CALL THE COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS and tell them what you think on the following subjects:

SHALL THE CITY OF FAIRMONT give up their slough and buy \$100,000 worth of good farm land to dump Budd Lake's sludge on, again raising taxes?

SHALL WE HAVE a stinking, musky smelling slough in the heart of Fairmont's ideal growth area?

SHALL THE SCHOOL BOARD hire a slough superintendent and crew to maintain it as suggested by the biology teacher, AGAIN RAISING TAXES?

Effort

Would it be too much of an effort for the biology teacher to take his class by bus a few times a year out 10 or 15 miles southwest of Fairmont to tell them about the pollywogs and frogs that they learned about in the first and second grades? The cost of such bus trips would be comparatively small.

DID YOU KNOW there is no outlet to this slough into the lake, so fish cannot get into it to spawn?

EVERY TAXPAYER should have the COURAGE to have his say on these subjects that will add MORE TO HIS TAXES.

Call, also corner, your school board members wherever you meet them. Tell them so they understand your thinking about FROG POND TAXES.

Respectfully submitted for your action,

John Livermore

1971



PANCAKES

EAT

MOUNT



N O M I N A T E
JOHN S. LIVERMORE

As Democratic Candidate in the
2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT For
U. S. CONGRESS

59 Years Old - Farming 187 Acres
Former State Representative
7 Years Fair Secretary

Political Advertising Prepared and Paid
For By John S. Livermore in His Own
Behalf.

