

Public Notice

(First Date of Pub.: Wed. May 20, 2020)
(Dates of Pub.: Wed. May 20, 2020)

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, April 21, 2020

A Summary of the Proceedings of the Lyon County Board
9:00 a.m. pursuant to notice the Lyon County Commissioners met with the following members present: Commissioners Anderson, Crowley, Graupmann, Sanow and Ritter. Also present: Administrator Stomberg and County Attorney Maes.

MSP to MSP to approve the agenda with the addition of County Ditch 14 discussion.

MSP to approve the consent agenda.

MSP to declare April as National Service Recognition Month.

MSP to move into the CD 14 Ditch Authority. Motion carried with Commissioners Crowley, Graupmann, Ritter and Sanow voting in favor. Commissioner Anderson abstained from voting.

MSP to set the hearing for CD 14 at 2 p.m. on May 19, 2020 in the Commissioners Room. Motion carried with Commissioners Crowley, Graupmann, Ritter and Sanow voting in favor. Commissioner Anderson abstained from voting.

MSP to come out of the ditch authority at 9:20 a.m. Motion carried with Commissioners Crowley, Graupmann, Ritter and Sanow voting in favor. Commissioner Anderson abstained from voting.

MSP to approve \$11,132 for the Minneota Library project to come from the contingency fund.

MSPto approve the CUP for East River Electric for the replacement and upgrade of an existing substation located in Fairview Township.

MSP to award SAP 42-601-012 to Central Specialties for a total of \$3,064,588.92 and authorize board Chair to sign contract.

MSPto approve the hire of Ted Pesch as Soil & Water summer help with an hourly wage of \$10.00 and starting date around May 18.

MSP to approve the hire of Myranda Gravdal as Recorder summer help with an hourly wage of \$10.00 and start date in approximately 2 weeks.

MSP to approve the hire of Anna Timmerman as Highway summer help with an hourly wage of \$10.00 and start date around June 1.

MSP to approve the hire of Laura Knuston as Assessor summer help with an hourly wage of \$12.50 and a start date around May 12.

MSP to approve the hire of Parker Viaene as Parks summer help with an hourly wage of \$11.50 and a start date upon Board approval.

MSP to adjourn at 11:07 a.m.

A copy of these proceedings are available in the County Administrator Office of Lyon County and also available at www.lyonco.org.

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**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF
ASSUMED NAME**

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333
The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: The 3rd St. Bar and Grill

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NAMEHOLDER(S):
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BALATON, MN. 56115 USA

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Robin Raj Joshi

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Ads due Thursday, May 21 by Noon.

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All ads & copy due Friday, May 22 by Noon
Contact us at (507) 734-5421

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his parents in Balaton until he returned.

“He brought me here and went overseas,” Johnson said. “I’d never even met his folks.”

Unfortunately, 21-year-old Royer was killed flying his combat plane over Germany in early November 1944.

“Americans had propeller planes, but the Germans had gotten into the jet planes,” Johnson said. “Our planes went 400 miles per hour, but theirs were faster. The guys didn’t know that the Germans had jet planes until they went over there. Jet planes were not as maneuverable but so fast.”

A statement from Capt. Bertrum Ellingson revealed that “White Four” appeared to have been shot down after a sneak attack by two enemy aircrafts.

“They said these Germans came out of the clouds,” Johnson said. “They fly in a formation (and Willard) was in the back. They came after him. They said Bill did a loop and when he came out of the loop, the Germans were right on him. They were out of sight by then, so they don’t know what happened but assume he was shot down.”

Johnson said the Germans were no longer taking prisoners at that time.

“I think he may have bailed out,” she said. “He was buried in one of their cemeteries. They wouldn’t have done that if the plane had been in flames.”

Later, Royer was moved to his final resting place at the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial near Liege, Belgium. The cemetery contains 5,329 fallen Americans from World War II and is one of three American war cemeteries in Belgium. Flanders Field and Henri-Chapelle are the other two.

“Bud Carlson was a good friend of Bill’s that lived in Minneapolis, and he said the guys had decided they wanted to be buried where they fell,” Johnson said. “They didn’t want to be shipped back. Bud said, ‘We made a pact among ourselves.’ So, they moved Bill’s body from Germany to Belgium. It’s a huge cemetery where all the Americans that were killed in Europe that weren’t brought back were buried. It is just cross after cross after cross because so many died.”

Looking Back

Before Willard’s death, he, and Lora (Pasero) had dreams of growing old together in Oregon. Growing up on the edge of St. Helens, she lived high on a hill overlooking the Columbia River, with a spectacular view of Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Hood.

“It was such a beautiful sight when sun shone on the mountains,” Johnson said. “Had Bill lived, we’d have been back in Oregon. He

loved it.”

Prior to meeting Willard, Lora had put herself through hairdressing school and worked in the profession in Portland for a few years before moving to San Diego, California.

“I was a hairdresser in La Jolla, a town north of San Diego,” she said. “It’s considered the Palm Beach of the West and is one of the most elite towns out there. A lot of the movie stars would come there. It was an interesting place.”

Johnson said she lived in a large house with a young couple and two others. At the height of World War II, there were rations on a lot of items.

“You had ration books and you could only get however many of certain items,” she said. “You could get one pair of shoes every four months. There was a ration on sugar, hamburger, butter and of course, gas. You could get 4 gallons a week, though farmers could get more because they had to run their machinery. (In Balaton), a lot of people were still using horses.”

Johnson said a lot of people crossed the border to buy gas.

“Four gallons didn’t go that far,” she said. “Tijuana, Mexico is right there, and you didn’t have to give a coupon or stamp down there. The Mexicans were smart. They’d tell you to go around the corner and come back.”

Johnson said she considered going into the service back then, but it wasn’t meant to be.

“I have a punctured eardrum,” Johnson said. “They wouldn’t take me.”

Shattered Dreams

Johnson was 22 years old when her husband, Willard, died.

“Out of the blue, two Army officers came and talked to me,” she said. “It was so sudden.”

Twenty-six days later, their son, Willard Royer Jr. was born.

“I had Bill about two months early,” she said. “I ended up staying here in Balaton with my in-laws.”

Not only was Johnson forced to deal with being a widow and a new mother but also the brutal Minnesota winter.

“It was quite a shock,” Johnson said. “I was used to warm weather and it was cold here. I didn’t even have winter clothes. I had to go buy them.”

A memorial service for Royer took place at Balaton Methodist Church on Sunday, March 25, 1945.

Picking up the Pieces

Johnson learned to have a good work ethic early on in life. She was 6 years old when her mom died. After that, she really had to work hard on the farm.



Curtis Johnson is pictured (second from left) jumping off a ship as part of a physical conditioning obstacle course. The photo appeared in the June 1944 edition of The Mast (United States Maritime Service).

“My sister-in-law used to say I had more happen to me in the first 22 years than most people do in a lifetime,” Johnson said.

Despite the blows she had been dealt, Lora forged ahead, eventually opening her own beauty shop in Balaton in 1946, after in-laws Maurice and Lydia Royer — Maurice had been a farmer and Lydia a teacher — had decided to move off the farm and into town.

“They said, ‘We can help you, and you can help us,’” Johnson said. “I paid them rent. I had a beauty shop in one of the front rooms. That was in the (Dr. Charles) Ger-mo house. (Steve and Sandy Bartz) live there now.”

A few years later, Lora found love again. She and Balaton native Curtis Johnson were married on July 10, 1948. Bill Royer was 4 years old at the time.

“Curtis is the only dad Bill knew,” Lora said.

About a year later, the couple welcomed a daughter, Marcia, to the family. In 1951, they moved out to the country and built a house.

“It was a small house, but it had all the amenities like an indoor bathroom, running water, electricity and everything else,” Lora Johnson said. “A lot of people didn’t have that at the time.”

Reflecting back on her childhood, Marcia Wee, who still calls Balaton home, said she and Bill were just like any other siblings.

“I knew he had a different dad, but it didn’t make any difference,” Wee said. “I knew when I was fairly young because we talked about (Willard and his family). Dad would call him his son when he introduced him.”

Bill Royer is a Balaton High School Class of ‘62 graduate. He went on to become a lawyer, though he is now retired and lives in New Mexico.

“I think everything happens for a reason,” Wee said.

The Merchant Marines

Curtis Johnson was born in 1922 to Nels and Ella (Swanson) Johnson. He grew up on the Skandia Stock Farm, which he later owned and operated until his retirement in 1981. He had served his country as a Merchant Marine.

“They trained at Sheeps-

head Bay in New York,” Lora said. “Then when training was done, he sailed on different ships. He went all over. He went to Europe a number of times. The longest trip took six months and was to Europe, the Mediterranean, Suez Canal, down the Red Sea to India and then to South Africa, to Argentina and then home. That was quite a trip.”

Johnson said Curtis would come home for a few months and then sign-on to a different ship. There was one route that he and a lot of other seamen wouldn’t sign up for.

“They were offering \$1,000, which was a lot of money,” she said. “But regardless of how much money they offered them, nobody wanted to go. It was on the North Sea to Russia and there were so many German subs.”

Curtis shared comical stories with his family — like when a petite sailor would slip down an airshaft and sneak liquor from the Officer’s Club — in addition to his least favorite memory.

“He said the worst trip was when they took troops over to England or wherever they took them,” Lora said. “That was a bad trip. Those poor guys. Most of them got seasick. After that, (Curtis) wouldn’t sign-on a ship that took troops.”

Wee relishes the stories her dad told.

“Dad steered the ship,” Wee said. “They called them pilots. And there was a person that helped guide the ships in. The pilots had to do what that person said. One time, this guy said to turn so much left with the ship, and Dad said he asked him, ‘Are you sure you want me to turn left?’ Dad said, ‘OK.’ And he took out the whole pier.”

Wee recalls that her dad sailed on the SS China Victory and SS Woodstock Victory. It was dangerous work as German U-boats sank 145 ships in American coastal waters in the first three months of the war.

“The Merchant Marines were not thought of veterans until later on, but they went everywhere the other servicemen went,” she said. “They didn’t have the guns and stuff, though, so they had to be really careful. I thought that was really interesting.”

Curtis Johnson loved to sail. He and Lora also did extensive traveling throughout the country and abroad.

“He said Brazil was one of the most beautiful places he ever went,” Wee said. “He brought home two trays that you serve food on, and on the back of them are all these butterflies.”

Remembering Loved Ones

Time passes, but the pain of losing loved ones never goes away entirely. For some, the good memories gradually begin to outweigh the sadness as life marches on. Over the years, Johnson and Wee have continued to honor fallen family members by decorating their graves for Memorial Day.

“We take flowers out to Skandia Cemetery, where Curtis and Mark (Marcia’s late husband) are,” Johnson said.

Curtis Johnson’s parents and sister, Vera, who was in the Women’s Army Corp, are also buried there, as are two little brothers.

“One brother was just a couple years old when he died in the 1918 flu epidemic,” Lora said. “Another brother he was really close with was about 6 when he died of heart problems. Those two little boys are buried out there, too.”

Years ago, the family members used to pick flowers, including lilacs if they were blooming, to bring to the local cemeteries.

“We always do fresh flowers,” Wee said. “We used to do a lot of picking of them, but now, I make up the pots. I did that (Friday). We do red, white and blue for Dad and Mark. It’s important to remember the people who were special to you. There are always a lot of good memories that come back.”

Everyone Loves a Parade!

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