

Altamont Enterprise, 1 April 1955, page 1, and 4

(transcription made since page 1 image is bad quality; (?) marks uncertain words; --- unreadable)

539 McKownville Residents Opposed To Albany Annexation; Sign Petition To The Legislature

As the 1955 session of the Legislature moved towards its target date of adjournment of April 1, residents of the McKownville area watched this week for developments in the movement for annexation of their neighborhood in the city of Albany.

An annexation bill, introduced at the request of Albany's Mayor Corning after 60(?) residents produced(?) a petition in favor of such a move, stirred one of the sharpest controversies in the community's history.

A counter(?) petition signed by 539 residents opposed to annexation was filed with the Town Board and transmitted to the Legislature by Supervisor John J. Welsh through Fred W Cross.

The movement in favor of annexation was led by Dr and Mrs Anthony Confrancesco 2 Providence street. A few weeks earlier Mrs Confrancesco had appealed to Mayor Corning to sell water to the McKownville Water District but the appeal was rejected as had been earlier negotiations to purchase water from the city prior to development of the present McKownville supply and system. Mayor Corning readily assisted in the annexation movement in having a bill prepared for introduction in the Legislature.

The petitions against annexation were circulated by volunteers. On some streets opposition to annexation ran as high as ten to one they reported.

The annexation bill, if passed, would call for a referendum May 17 and provide for annexation effective June 1. The bill also provided that the territory become a part of the Albany City School District.

The following is quoted from the bill:

"The bonded and other indebtedness of that part of the town of Guilderland included in the territory to be annexed under this act, or that of any other municipal corporation or school district included wholly or partly within such territory, including principal and interest, which exists when this act takes effect, shall be a charge upon and shall be paid by the city of Albany as the same shall become due and payable to the treasurer or acting treasurer of said town, municipal corporation or school district as the same shall become due and payable in the same proportion to the wh--- ----- -- ----- ----- --- said town, municipal corporation or school district as the additional(?) valuation of the territory to be annexed bears to the whole valuation of such town, municipal corporation or school district, as shown by the last assessment roll of the town of Guilderland made prior to the date when such annexation shall become effective under this act.

"All questions arising as the to the apportionment of any taxes to be borne by the territory to be annexed prior to the date when annexation shall become effective, shall be equitably and fairly agreed upon by representatives of the city of Albany, or the town of Guilderland and any other party or parties interested therein or affected thereby, and such representatives shall have power to adjust any other disputes, differences or matters which may arise because of such annexation and for which no definite solution is expressly provided for herein.

"Within a reasonable time after such annexation takes effect, the city of Albany shall provide said newly annexed territory with a proper water supply, and shall provide a suitable sewer outlet for the same and connect it with the sewers in said territory to dispose of the sewage therefrom, in any manner that the city of Albany may deem proper."

The bill also required consent by the city of Albany.

The Guilderland Town Board indicated no affirmative action would be taken on the bill until Edwin L. Fowler, town attorney, returns from Nassau, British Bahamas.

Immediate opposition to the bill was recorded by the Guilderland Central School Board through William D. Borden, president, and Borden H. Mills, attorney. The former noted the serious effect which loss of 19 percent of the school district's assessed valuation would have on its finances, educational program and its new building plans.

If the Legislature adjourned without action on Mayor Corning's annexation bill, no further steps could be taken unless a new bill were introduced sometime in the future.

AL 1, 1955

(18 PAGES)

539 McKownville Residents Opposed To Albany Annexation, Sign Petition To The Legislature

In the 1955 session of the Legislature, a number of bills to alter the date of annexation of April 1, 1955, to the McKownville area were introduced. This week for consideration in the movement for annexation of their neighborhood in the city of Albany.

An annexation bill, introduced in the House of Representatives by Mayor Corning after the residents had filed a petition in favor of such a move, attracted one of the fiercest controversies in the community's history.

HONOR SOCIETY OF G. C. H. S. REPORTS ON FUND CAMPAIGN

On the evening of March 22 the second annual Foreign Student Fund drive was conducted quite successfully in the Guilderland Central School district in spite of unfavorable weather. As was the case in November 1953, the drive was an example of tremendous organization and magnificent team work on the part of students, parents, faculty and friends. The Foreign Student drive for \$1,500, sponsored by the National Honor Society of G. C. H. S., nearly reached its quota in the three hours of feverish activity on the part of a well trained cast of 125 canvassers who covered eight specific areas comprising the district.

As a result of this campaign, a student from France will spend his senior year in G. C. H. S., and one of the present juniors of the local high school will spend the summer in the home of a European family. Congratulations are in order for Miss Gladys Kniskern, efficient faculty advisor of the Honor Society, and John Meyer of the class of 1955, who is serving his second term as president of the organization.

The eight captains, the large delegation of students who helped them, the interested parents who furnished cars in conjunction with the faculty.

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Annual Dairy Tour Is Set For Next Tuesday

Farmers of Albany county will have their annual dairy tour Tuesday, April 5, according to the schedule.

539 In McKownville Oppose Annexation

(Continued from Page 1)

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"All questions arising as to the apportionment of any taxes to be borne by the territory to be annexed prior to the date when annexation shall become effective, shall be equitably and fairly agreed upon by representatives of the city of Albany, of the town of Guilderland and of any other party or parties interested therein or affected thereby, and such representatives shall have power to adjust any other disputes, differences or matters which may arise because of such annexation and for which no definite solution is expressly provided for herein.

Within a reasonable time after such annexation takes effect, the city of Albany shall provide said newly annexed territory with a proper water supply, and shall provide a suitable sewer outlet for the same and connect it with the sewers in said territory to dispose of the sewage therefrom, in any manner that the city of Albany may deem proper."

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If the Legislature adjourned without action on Mayor Corning's annexation bill, no further steps could be taken unless a new bill were introduced sometime in the future.

A petition signed by 539 residents of the McKownville area, which was filed with the Legislature, is the first of its kind in the history of the city of Albany.

The movement to alter the date of annexation was set in motion by the Albany City School Board. A few weeks earlier the Board had adopted a resolution to annex the McKownville area to the city of Albany. The Board's action was based on the fact that the McKownville area is a part of the city of Albany, and that the city of Albany is responsible for the education of the children of the McKownville area.

The petitioners against annexation were motivated by a number of factors. Some of the most important of these factors are the loss of 19 percent of the school district's assessed valuation, the loss of the educational program, and the loss of the new building plans.

The annexation bill, if passed, would call for a referendum. The bill would provide for annexation effective January 1, 1956. The bill also provided that the McKownville area be a part of the Albany City School District.

The following is quoted from the bill:

"The bonded and other indebtedness of that part of the town of Guilderland included in the territory to be annexed under this act, or that of any other municipal corporation or school district included wholly or partly within such territory, including principal and interest, which exists when this act takes effect, shall be a charge upon and shall be paid by the city of Albany, as the same shall become due and payable, to the treasurer or acting treasurer of said town, municipal corporation or school district, as the same shall become due and payable, in the same proportion as the whole amount of such indebtedness is paid from municipal corporation or school district as the same shall become due and payable."

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