

# The McKownville Improvement Association

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November 16, 1983

Mr., Kevin Moss  
Town Supervisor  
Town Hall, McCormacks Corner  
Guilderland, New York 12084

Dear Mr. Moss,

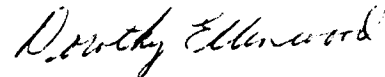
The McKownville Reservoir presently looks like one large mud hole because of the construction of the Crossgates Shopping Mall. One of the requirements of the construction was that Crossgates build retention sites on their property.

It is our understanding that these sites have not been completed. Therefore, the Reservoir is being filled with mud and silt from the construction site. If this continues it may reach a point where the reservoir will need to be dredged.

Enclosed is a copy of an article written by Fred Abele which was published in the Altamont Enterprise. The article expresses our sentiments and I'm sure the sentiments of the residents of McKownville.

We want you to be aware of the situation and hope that you can refer the problem to the proper authorities.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Ellinwood, Secretary  
22 Elmwood Street  
Albany, NY 12203

## McKownville: News And Comment

By FRED B. ABELE

This writer was reminded in response to the recent mention of the McKown's Grove swimming pool that it closed in 1971 as the result of mud and debris washed down from upstream construction then in progress. Through the courtesy of Linda Fisher, owner and operator of the facility for quite a few years, several interesting snapshots were made available from which copies will be made.

History had repeated itself many times as construction without stream protection has taken place in the Krumkill basin. During the early 1950s, silt and brackish water were washed down into the McKownville Reservoir during Thruway construction, nearly putting the reservoir out of business and necessitating dredging the reservoir at taxpayer expense.

Currently the same reservoir is being ruined by the construction of the Crossgates Mall which has obliterated the watershed as it existed, and with utter disregard is permitting untold quantities of silt to wash down the stream with no apparent attempt at stream protection. Crossgates has dumped on McKownville from the very beginning and now they are doing it literally. The blowing sand from their manmade desert fouls the air and the silt fouls the reservoir.

Although no longer in service as a domestic water supply, the reservoir is still classified as one and EnCon and the town should take every action possible to protect it. EnCon, which gave all those permits for construction, has apparently washed its hands of further responsibility. I think they need some prodding.

It should be noted here that during construction of the Northway extension and the Washington Ave. Extension, effective stream protection was achieved through stream protective devices included in the contract by the State of New York which prepared the plans for those projects.

Plans were recently announced for a study to convert the heating and cooling facilities for both the State Office Campus and the State University campus by burning refuse and garbage. While the State Office Campus is located in Albany, the heating plant for the State University is located in the Town of Guiderland and in a thickly populated area of the hamlet of McKownville.

While turning garbage and trash into useful energy is a laudable aim, it has produced undesirable results in other communities

where it has been instituted. Problems of air pollution, odors and soot have plagued neighborhoods in which such fuel is burned. The plant in Albany is a recent example.

It should be remembered that the SUNY heating plant on Fuller Road produced an excessive smoke condition nearly 15 years ago which prompted a number of nearby residents to sell houses and move out of the community when the condition became untenable.

The McKownville Improvement Association should field this one and monitor any plans for such conversion and provide input into them and keep McKownville informed on the subject. The town will likely have very little input on such a project on state property.

A reminder is in order that there are restrictions on lawn sprinkling and outdoor use of water in the summer in the Town of Guiderland, including McKownville. Outdoor use is limited to two hours per day on alternate days between the hours of 7 to 9 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Odd-number dates apply to houses with odd numbers and even dates to even-numbered houses.

The advantage of water provided by the long, wet, spring will be quickly lost if the long dry spell and heat continue. Water conservation is practiced by most, I am happy to say. But this reminder is prompted by the few who do not. If a private well is used, a sign to that effect should be posted conspicuously. It is necessary to conserve water and maintain the pressure at all times for fire safety.

Congratulations are in order to Mrs. Patricia Renshaw of Mercer St., McKownville, on being chosen the new president of the Board of Education of the Guiderland Central School District. Mrs. Renshaw has served as a member of the board for 11 years.

On last Saturday, the annual (since 1928) convention of the Hudson-Mohawk Volunteer Firemen's Association held in Scotia, ended with a spectacular dress parade. The Town of Guiderland was represented by the McKownville, North Bethlehem, Guiderland, Guiderland Center, and Altamont Fire Departments. This writer was part of the contingent from McKownville which entered E56, the 1957 American LaFrance, in the parade.

Recently a special drill was held by McKownville Fire Department on the use of the air bags and accessories acquired by the district. A demonstration of the use of air bags was given at a joint drill held at the Westmere Fire House.

Further drills will be held to demonstrate how these air bags can be used to augment other rescue tools, available in other parts of the town. Each of the town's departments has pledged to specialize in one type of special equipment.

Some thought is being given to equipping E56 as a foam truck once the new truck has been received by McKownville. It is planned to run the old truck out of Station 2 on Arcadia St.

The Abeles also enjoyed the Farm Bureau tour described at length in last week's column. Much of the tour was right in our

backyard, here in the Town of Guiderland. Entering the town by Route 155, one of the points of interest was the site of the first schoolhouse in 1797. Another was Hamilton Union Church (1887), established 1824.

Other sites were the Schoolcraft mansion of 1835, the Gade Farm of 1878, and French's Hollow, site of the woolen and grist mills, water powered, of the early 1800s, and site of the hydroelectric plant scheduled for 1983 operation. Guiderland Center was passed through (and passed over in the tour guide). The Canaday sheep farm is in Guiderland.

Next, the tour passed through Meadowdale which once boasted a railroad station and post office. We hope they continue the practice next year as they did annually for many years.

In previous columns this writer had mentioned that the Great Western Turnpike, now Route 20, built in 1800 through Guiderland, had been surveyed for an electric railway line which was never built beyond the Albany city line.

With a striking bat of contrast, its northerly neighbor, the Albany and Schenectady Turnpike of 1802, now Central Ave. (Route 5), at the turn of the century did experience the fast, smooth transportation of the electric interurban railway. Today, Thursday, July 28, marks the 50th anniversary of the demise of that line.

In the early hours of that day, a Sunday in 1933, the last car, No. 562 (same type as 560 shown in the photo), left the D&H Plaza in downtown Albany and disappeared in the darkness up State St. hill, closing nearly 33 years of this rail link between the two cities.

Few today can visualize the double-tracked high speed car line along the south side of Central Ave., then a two-lane road paved with yellow brick through Colonie. The tracks left the center of Central Ave. west of the crest of the rise beyond Colvin Ave. and returned to the center of the street on State St. in Schenectady in the vicinity of Frank St.

# Town of Guilderland

ALBANY COUNTY, ROUTE 20

GUILDERLAND, N. Y. 12084

(518) 356-1980

KEVIN A. MOSS  
SUPERVISOR

JANE H. SPRINGER  
TOWN CLERK

November 21, 1983

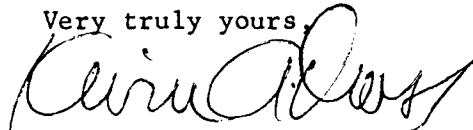
Mr. Charles Sarris  
EnCon Region 4  
2176 Guilderland Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12306

Dear Chuck:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter that I received from the McKownville Improvement Association. As you will note they are very much concerned about the silting of the McKownville Reservoir. If one of your Engineers could take a look at the Reservoir they would see that the fears of the McKownville Improvement Association are not unfounded. I would appreciate it if you would review the situation, have your Engineers look at the Reservoir and see what can be done to stop the silting. I would also be interested in finding out what steps could be taken to reverse the silting which has occurred.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Kevin A. Moss

KAM:sg  
Encl.  
pc: Mrs. Dorothy Ellinwood