

Letter From Mayor Mouton

Again, as always, I give honor and glory to God and thanks for the precious gift of life...extended each and every day...to you and to me. Nearing the final days of 1985, in retrospect, I think of those who started the journey at the beginning of the year who are not here to witness its conclusion. We all have so much for which to be thankful.

Negotiations for the acquisition of the Ravenswood High School site are nearing closure. The City will put up one million dollars as down payment. Trustees of the Sequoia District want to incorporate a development agreement for the balance of the purchase price. After conversations with my council colleagues and many community residents, I feel we can come up with a good portion of the balance if those who are willing donate \$100 each to a Ravenswood High School Site Acquisition Fund. Just think, if 2000 people are willing to pledge and pay \$100 each by April 1986, we would be able to whittle the outstanding balance by at least \$200,000. Are you willing? Let me hear from you.

On December 9th in the Chambers of the California Supreme Court in San Francisco, attorneys representing the City will present oral arguments in the long drawn out battle over the incorporation vote. God willing, the City will prevail and will finally be able to fully maximize all its energies towards providing community residents the quality and quantity of municipal services they not only merit but truly deserve.

This week, another community resident died as a result of a gun wound...allegedly shot accidentally by a bullet meant for another. I am concerned...there are too many guns in the hands of irresponsible, unstable, and immature people. I am convinced that it would not be too much of a hardship to require that those who carry arms not only register them but take some kind of training to better prepare them for ownership.

Congratulations to Mrs. Myrtle Walker, Reverend James Davis, and Clarence Burley, newly elected trustees of the Ravenswood City School District. With these new trustees joining veterans Brad Davis and R. B. Jones, Superintendent Charley Knight, and committed teachers and parents, the district's goal of academic excellence becomes more attainable.

The City went to court in November against the West Bay Sanitary District to preserve its rights to control what goes under its lands in order to protect the health of community residents. The judge is studying the arguments presented. Our Public Works Department is

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closely monitoring the situation.

The trip to China is an experience I will long treasure. China is a country of vivid contrasts: very modern and yet in some areas, life really hasn't changed during the past several thousand years. The Chinese were very gracious, friendly, and very curious about our mayoral delegates. We finally arrived in Hong Kong, China after a long ten hour non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean and a three and a half hour flight from Tokyo, Japan. We spent several days in each of the following cities: Beijing, Quanzhou, Xi'an, and Urumqi, way out on the western border in the Uyghur Autonomous Region. Severe winter conditions prevented our visiting Lanzhou, as scheduled. We visited the Qian Ling Mausolea and the Bronze chariot horses at Emperor Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum. The food was delicious. Some of the banquets given in our honor had 22 courses. Imagine that! I climbed the Great Wall of China. Yes, I really did.

Although people generally have some idea about the costs people pay for speaking out on issues or for being actively involved in the human struggle, few realize the price paid by the children of activist parents, particularly in communities of color. These individuals reap bitter harvests just because they happen to have the same surname as their parents. I want to publicly thank all of them wherever they may be, and because of a very recent incident, my youngest daughter, in particular, for not "folding under" because of all the harassment, denials, disrespect, vicious untruths, and even false arrests they have suffered just because they happen to carry their parents' surnames. I pray that they will continue to be blessed with the necessary strength and courage to withstand the weight of these unfair burdens; additionally to the perpetrators of these unfair burdens, understand that there's no mountain you can build high enough nor no hole you can dig deep enough to stop committed people in a City on its way!! Yes, God is so good to us.

The lottery makes strange bedfellows; Almost everyone seems to be reaching out for the golden hoop on the merry-go-round. Not being biased, of course, I do hope that the next few lottery millionaires will be East Palo Altans. Sounds good doesn't it!

Long ago prophets foretold that the days would hasten on and that the Age of Gold would eventually come around. The Age of Gold was to be a time when people would know that there was peace over all the earth. In the not too distant future, God willing, there will be an Age of Gold.

I close in wishing each and every one of you a blessed and joyous holiday season and hoping that 1986 is the best year ever for you. Yes, please let there be peace on earth for gentle people of good will.

Peace