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Also in this section:

- Obituaries C2
- Opinions C4
- Weather C5

Nov. 23 1990

Hill leftist martyr, but not a hero

Anniversaries and candlelight vigils are important to the political ritual of the left; they offer the opportunity to generate myths that distort history. On Monday an anniversary gave the faithful an excuse to gather in Salt Lake.

November 19 was the 75th anniversary of the execution of Joe Hill. Hill — described as an itinerant laborer-poet who was also a radical labor activist — was convicted of murdering Salt Lake grocer John G. Morrison during a robbery in January, 1914. Morrison's son Arling shot and wounded the assailant during the robbery; the following night Hill was treated for a severe gunshot wound.

The case against Hill relied heavily upon circumstantial evidence. Furthermore, Hill's background as a Swedish immigrant (Hill was an alias; his original name was Joel Hagge-lund) and his involvement in the labor movement generated some concern about the fairness of his trial. Hill became the focus of a letter-writing campaign to persuade Utah Gov. Spry to commute Hill's sentence to life imprisonment.

Predictably, Hill has become an icon to the left. There may have been reason to entertain misgivings about the justice dispensed upon him; however, the left seized upon the ambiguities of the case and used them to devise a comprehensive conspiracy theory involving the Utah Construction Company, the Utah Copper Company, and the LDS Church.

According to the revisionist history, Hill was a martyr in the struggle against the forces of ignorance and exploitation. To this day, Hill inspires the faithful to compose hymns in his memory, and his works are considered by them to be sacred writ.

Among the groups represented at Monday night's vigil were the Socialist Worker's Party of Utah and the Utah branch of the ACLU. Also present was Salt Lake attorney Ron Yengich, one of several professional civil rights lawyers who can be found in loose orbit around Utah's leftist nucleus.

It is significant to see the ACLU in its native element. The union began as the legal adjunct to the radical labor movement,



Will Grigg

At Home

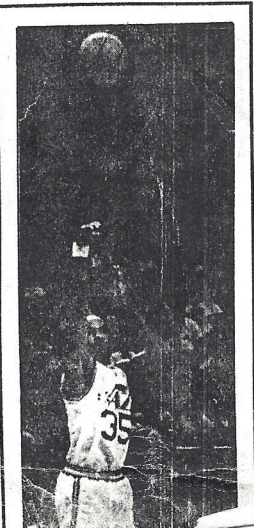
and it remains faithful to its origins. At the vigil it could be found standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Socialist Workers' Party — but how else would we expect to find a pair of siamese twins?

From the perspective of the true believer, the blood of a martyr is an enduring testimony against evil. Those who burn incense at Joe Hill's shrine (Monday's vigil concluded with a candlelight procession to the Joe Hill monument in Sugarhouse Park) believe that his death left an indelible stain upon Utah, a state steeped in conservatism. Prominent among Utah's supposed sins is the state's overwhelming support for the death penalty.

Steve Banick, Utah Death Penalty Repeal Co-ordinator for Amnesty International (AI was a co-sponsor for the vigil) laments the fact that there is formidable support for the death penalty in Utah (90 percent in one poll). Banick bewails the fact that The U.S. is the only industrial nation, with the exception of Japan, to still use the death penalty. This is true. It is also true that the U.S. is the only nation — industrial or otherwise — that is governed by the American Constitution, which provides for the death penalty no less than four times (three times in the Fifth Amendment, once in the Fourteenth Amendment).

The burden imposed by the Constitution is that society must ensure the satisfaction of due process. There is little reason to believe that the bargain-basement Lenin who called himself Joe Hill was denied due process.

Joe Hill is Utah's contribution to the dreadful pantheon of leftist martyrs — Sacco and Vanzetti, the Rosenbergs and the like. For many years to come, Hill and his comrades will continue to inspire those for whom it is an article of faith that America is incorrigibly evil.



Local

Dameron facing Landfill, clean air, development

By ROBB HICKEN
 Herald Staff Writer

Three critical issues may be facing the new director of Orem Public Works and all three center on the environment.

Ott Dameron, named as new Public Works Director, said the landfill, clean air and development will all confront the city's future.

"Orem is in the middle of its growth," Dameron said. "It's not a problem, but it's going to be challenging."

Such growth will place stress on the waste water collection, drainage and the landfill, said Dameron, who is being promoted from his position as Solid Waste/Maintenance division manager. It will also challenge the city's capabilities for ongoing maintenance.

"The new landfill being built by Provo is costing between \$5 million and \$6 million in just preparation," Dameron said. "When (Orem) prepares to build the new North Coun-

ty District, we're going to pre-spend about that same amount maybe more," Dameron said.

He pointed out that while the city is building to what the guidelines are expected to be, there may be some changes made before the North County District landfill is developed.

Along with the landfill, the city will be faced with serious problems in air pollution.

"Already Orem is about as bad as any other city in the state," he said, "and with increased population will create pollution."

He said the new Clean Air Act regulations will be stricter than similar to what is being implemented in California.

"Our exhaust standards will be placed higher as the traffic increases," he said, "and from automobile emissions there will be increased oil and wood burning," Dameron said.

Presently the city will be

Large crowd attend

By ROBB HICKEN
 Herald Staff Writer

It may have been the best-attended SCERA board meeting in recent history, as more than 50 people crowded into the Chamber of Commerce Building Wednesday night.

The crowd, organized by newly-elected board member Dean Dickerson, was there for one thing — to change the members of the board.

Dickerson, a young Orem resident, wasn't pleased with the way things were being handled on the

Sharon Cultural, Educational and Regional Association board, got involved.

He came away the winner of a non-profit organization's election, simply by having more people present at the meeting than the incumbent board member Clyde Weeks.

With hand-shaking, back-slapping enthusiasm, Dickerson said he knew we could do it, I knew we could make a change."

SCERA, organized in 1961, is a non-profit corporation that grew out of the need for re-

Courthouse's purpose

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
 Herald Staff Writer

The old Utah County Courthouse must be used for governmental or quasi-governmental purposes if the bonds issued for remodeling are to retain their tax-exempt status.

Originally, the County Commission sold \$1.8 million in bonds in order to remodel the courthouse as a judicial center to house the 4th District and Circuit courts. The state, however, decided not to house the courts there, but instead contracted with Provo City to occupy a new judicial center to be built at 100 N. 100 West Street. That building has now been dedicated,

and the old Courthouse vacated. Commissioners then asked attorneys to determine if the money could be used to remodel the building for other purposes.

Guy Burningham, deputy attorney, told the commission during a Building Authority meeting Wednesday that changing the bond money would be a complicated procedure.

He said Blaine Carlton, attorney for the bond counsel's office, said the money could be used for other purposes provided that there is no material reduction in the value; that the project would not adversely affect the county

Preservation commission approved

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
 Herald Staff Writer

Formation of a new Historic Preservation Commission was approved Wednesday by the Utah County Commission.

Establishment of the commission will allow Utah County to participate in the Historic Preservation Local Government Certification Program and will enable the commission to apply for matching government funds for preservation of historic areas and sites, after consultation with and approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

The commission will consist of five individuals with an interest, competence or knowledge in historic preservation. Two of the commission members must be professionals, as defined by National Park Service regulations, from the disciplines of history, architecture or architectural history.

The commission will meet twice a year to do business, and will

architectural and archaeological resources within the county. This survey should be updated at least every 10 years.

The preservation commission will review and comment to the State Historic Preservation Office on all proposed nominations to the National Historic Register, and will also report to the office of any proposed action that will destroy or affect a site owned by the state and included on, or eligible for state or national registers.

In the beginning, the five commissioners will serve staggered terms, and from then on will serve two-year terms.

County Commissioners invite the public to make nominations of individuals who might serve on the preservation commission.

Commission Chairman Jeff Beck said he anticipates the first appointments will be made in the year.

missioners approved the rezoning of a portion of Cascade Subdivision in the Sundance area. David Gardner appeared in court for the property owners, as Hopkinson told commission members he had worked out a verbal agreement with the property owner where he will have a turn for his lot.

Planning director Jeff Beck said the rezoning will solve problems with the four-lot subdivision and will bring it into compliance with state code.

County commissioners approved an emergency grant from County Attorney's Office to cover extra expenses involved in a trial. Craig Madsen, chief clerk, reported that the 4th District judge scheduled the Charles Beck homicide case for trial in the year. Beck said he anticipates the first appointments will be made in the year.