

Richland-Nagasaki Disappointed

I am deeply disappointed in reading councilman Larry Haler's statement regarding the Japanese sister city idea. Being a resident in Richland for 1½ years, I have generally enjoyed the friendliness of the Tri-City community despite the overwhelming burden of our nuclear cleanup job at hand.

Councilman Haler says, "They're asking us to apologize. ... Please! Are we not all sorry for the killings a bomb and war create? Especially after the recent occurrence in our own United States, I believe most of us — really everyone — need to apologize and face forgiveness regarding the facts of our nuclear age. A peace park museum is a

marvelous idea, and bonding with Japan as a sister-city is even more intelligent.

If we are indeed intent upon nuclear cleanup, how about beginning with some deep-rooted emotional cleanup and allow peace to prevail! Personally, I do not see the establishment of a peace park as an apology. It is much more than that; it is enlightenment.

Councilman Haler should step off his pedestal and realize times have changed greatly. For Richland to survive, we must change dramatically, too.

CHRISTINE TITPS
Richland

Los Alamos banks at peace statue idea

By the Associated Press
and the Herald staff

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Standing on a grassy median at the edge of town, Ginger Welch can look past the plateau and see the snowcapped mountains that isolate the birthplace of the atomic bomb.

Welch said the median, which serves as a gateway to the Atomic City 30 miles northwest of Santa Fe, would have been a perfect setting for a peace statue suggested five years ago by Albuquerque elementary school pupils.

Instead, the idea generated controversy and hard feelings, and the County Council this year rejected it.

"A lot of people opposed to it may have felt that somehow this was being placed here as a punishment," said Welch, a councilor.

The statue, a bronze globe, found a home anyway, at the Albuquerque Museum. It will be dedicated in August — the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan.

An estimated \$45,000 was donated for the globe, which is now being cast.

Caroline Gassner, the Arroyo Del Oso Elementary School teacher whose students came up with the idea, hopes the globe can also be used as a traveling monument for peace. So do students.

"We want people to know this is still an innocent idea," said Dana Kaplan, 14. "We're not trying to malign anybody or incriminate anybody."

To some, the work in Los Alamos helped shorten World War II and keep peace through the Cold War. But the scenic town of 12,000 tucked away in the Jemez Mountains still struggles with its legacy as a key contributor to the Atomic Age, and it remains a focal point for protests against nuclear weapons.

“Those children ... were making a very definite statement about wanting peace.”

— Ginger Welch,
County Councilor, on the peace statue

Councilor Morey Pongratz, a space scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory since 1975, believes the statue would stigmatize the city and the money could be better spent.

"Money spent on a statue detracts from money spent on the true injustices of the world," Pongratz said.

Welch disagrees.

"Those children ... were making a very definite statement about wanting peace," she said. "And who better to do this than at the place where the nuclear age was born?"

For the pupils, the project became a bigger lesson than Gassner could have imagined.

"This is teaching the kids how to compromise, it's teaching them how to deal with people of all ages and ideologies," the teacher said.

Welch said the statue served a useful purpose by stirring one of the more feverish arguments she's seen in her 37 years in Los Alamos.

"I felt this statue was an issue that allowed Los Alamos to reach out, not in a defensive way, but to demonstrate that certainly peace has always been the primary mission of this community," she said.

In Richland, a proposal from peace activist Jim Stoffels to seek a sister city relationship with Nagasaki met similar coolness from the city council for reasons similar to those of the Los Alamos council.

Plutonium from Hanford was in the atomic bomb that exploded over Nagasaki.

former Fremont who waited on us at the Hanford House when we had breakfast on your trip before last.

good for the wheat movement, of course.

April showers bring record rainy month

By the Herald staff

If April showers bring May flowers, then this month should be the prettiest ever in the Mid-Columbia.

That's because we just went through our wettest April.

A whole bunch of cold fronts kept dropping rain here, said Dana Hoitink, chief meteorologist at the Hanford weather station operated by Battelle-Northwest.

So 1.54 inches of rain fell in April on Hanford, breaking the 1969 record of 1.22 inches. A normal April soaks up 0.41 inch.

A few Aprils have posted just a trace of rain — the latest in 1986.

Hoitink noted we're on track for the wettest year ever.

January through April tallied inches of rain at Hanford, breaking the 1958 January-April mark of 4.34 inches.

Hanford's wettest year — inches in 1950 — posted 4.2 inches the end of April.

Normally, 2.29 inches fall by the end of April.

The driest first four months occurred in 1964, when 0.54 inches.

On the other hand, April was as average as you can get when you look at the thermometer.

The average daily temperature in April was 52.6 degrees, compared with a normal 52.7 degrees.

Two temperature records were set last month.

April 12's high of 47 was the lowest high since a 52 in 1968. And April high of 54 was the lowest high since 1969's high of 56.

■ **WEATHER:**
Today's forecast calls for blustery weather. Page A5.

SHOPS/C1 Socks/C5 TV/C7 Weather/A

Richland shuns Nagasaki

By WILL SWARTS

Herald staff writer

Reconciliation, apology and history collided again Monday night in Richland, as peace activist Jim Stoffels asked for a public meeting to discuss Hanford's legacy and a sister city relationship with Nagasaki.

As they did in January, council members denied the request. They said the history of the B Reactor should be preserved with a museum, that it would be appropriate to have a memorial to the victims of all wars, but the city that made plutonium for the second atomic bomb dropped on Japan should not have a formal relationship with the city destroyed in the blast.

Councilman Jerry Greenfield said to propose such a connection would not be well-received in Nagasaki, according to an acquaintance who has lived in Japan and

Richland. "It would be a loss of face," he said, adding it would be construed as an apology.

While the decision to drop the bombs may have forestalled an invasion of Japan in 1945, saving U.S. and Japanese lives, Greenfield said nobody is celebrating the loss of life from the bombing.

"We don't want to apologize to Japan," he said. "We don't want anything close to it."

Stoffels, a co-founder and officer in the B Reactor Museum Association and World Citizens for Peace, returned to the council after talking to community groups over the last three and a half months.

He said those discussions produced a response that was "overwhelmingly positive and supportive."

Lyle Dyken, a World War II Navy veteran, disagreed.

"Most of the veterans are very much against this," he said. "I can see no way we should honor nothing from Japan."

"We don't want to apologize to Japan. We don't want anything close to it."

— Jerry Greenfield,
Richland city councilman

Councilman Larry Haler said no one called him to support the project, which he would not do because his parents are World War II veterans. "I think it would dishonor their memory, and I will not do that," he said.

Stoffels said the suggestion to form a sister city relationship with the Urakami District of Nagasaki was made in the spirit of reconciliation, not regret.

"It does not involve or imply an apology to Nagasaki any more than the United States has apologized to Japan," he said.

sister city concept

Greenfield asked why the proposed B Reactor Museum and the sister city project were presented jointly.

"Why are two separate organizations so closely joined on two separate projects?" he said, adding a B Reactor museum has received positive feedback in the past.

Stoffels said later the museum project has enjoyed support and the peace park and sister city relationship are still good ideas.

"I am extremely disappointed that the council is unwilling to give the public the opportunity to be heard," he said.

"Saying that B Reactor (Museum Association) should dissociate itself... I'm not going to comment on that."

Ed Frost, chairman of World Citizens for Peace, said he wasn't sure what that group will do next.

"I didn't see any waffling on votes," he said. "I don't think you're going to change those people's minds."

Also Monday, the council:

■ Approved a measure to support the Tri-City Industrial Development Council marketing plan to increase cities' representation in TRIDEC.

If the plan is supported by Kennewick and Pasco, Richland staff will join the other cities and commit \$15,000 to the plan, said Jill Monley, assistant city manager.

■ Voted to accept a settlement between the Washington Public Power Supply System and the Bonneville Power Administration.

The city is not responsible for any of the costs in the lawsuit, which will be settled by having BPA pay \$53 million to Chemical Bank, the bond trustee for the massive 1982 default that occurred when work was stopped on four nuclear power plants.

Other private utilities will pay the bank \$2 million, but Richland is not liable and will be released from any claims by signing the agreement, Monley said.