

Selection of articles about Rep. August Omtvedt from the Lake County News Chronicle

RE-ELECT

**AUGUST
OMTVEDT**

REPRESENTATIVE
57th DISTRICT

Your Vote Will Be Appreciated

Prepared and circulated by August Omtvedt, Two Harbors, Minn., in his own behalf.



MINNESOTA'S FOREIGN-BORN LEGISLATORS — Seven foreign-born members of the state legislature were among the honored guests at St. Paul's Festival of Nations. Shown, in front of the Greek booth at the festival, are (left to right and countries from which they came): Representatives Oscar

Wistrand, Hibbing—Sweden; Charles Swindells, LaPorte—England; Thomas N. Christie, Minneapolis—Greece; Emil Morberg, Oslo, Minn.—Sweden; Joseph Prifrel, St. Paul—Hungary; Wilhelm Holm, Tyler—Denmark, and August Omtvedt, Two Harbors—Norway.—Associated Press photo.

Omtvedt Gives Views on Water-Sewer Problems



AUGUST OMTVEDT

continuing now up as far as Eighth avenue. The avenue main is connected on all street mains giving excellent pressure. "This is the start of a water purification plan going on since around 1933," said Mr. Omtvedt.

"When we reach the highest point, say Fourteenth avenue or so, the city should build a ground reservoir which would hold a week's supply of purified water, giving the chlorine a real chance to work, and water for emergencies," suggests Omtvedt. This would also be considerably less expensive, he believes.

He does not feel like going along with the suggested plan of moving the water intake to Fishermen's Point and there building a smaller high-standing reservoir probably only holding a 24-hour water supply. "We have the equipment to do the work," said Omtvedt.

Rep. Omtvedt does not believe the city would be asked to assume all the responsibility for pollution in Agate Bay which he thinks may not be pressed too strongly. Besides the sewage from the city there is also pollution from boats and ore loading in the harbor which is "hemmed in" by breakwaters. Sewage disposal, then, is not the first problem to be considered, according to Omtvedt who has long been deeply interested in these problems and draws his knowledge of conditions from his experience as city clerk, mayor and council member.

The state representative goes back to the start of water purification in Two Harbors. In 1911 to 1912 there was a typhoid fever epidemic in the city of a serious nature. The council contacted the state board of health which sent investigators. The water was found to be the cause of the epidemic. At their recommendation a temporary hypo-chloride plant was set up. It was a very crude affair. This plant was gradually improved to the present chlorine treated water plant and water is now tested regularly at the CHC laboratory.

Pending notification, the mayor, president of the city council, city attorney and the chairman of the public works committee will meet with the state water pollution board in St. Paul.

OMTVEDT BUSY AT ST. PAUL

Feb. 6 1941

August Omtvedt, in a letter to the Chronicle February 4, states that he has moved to the Grand hotel, which is centrally located and more accessible to friends and persons who may wish to call on him.

He has introduced his two "big" bills. One to aid Lake county schools, H. F. No. 260 and also H. F. No. 373 for aid to Lake and Cook county schools. Mr. Omtvedt has spent some time in checking in intricate school aid system and has found that there was a bill passed a number of years ago which intended to allow a 5-cent per acre aid to common school districts. However, he found that instead of appropriating enough money to pay this 5-cents an acre, schools have been receiving just a fraction over two cents per acre. The gross earnings tax school aid has not been full for a couple of years. Mr. Omtvedt has supported a reasonable economy but he is absolutely opposed to a cut in the particular school aid.

A bill has also been introduced to abolish the state one-mill levy for road purposes and this particular levy has been used to enable our poorer counties to carry on the construction and maintenance of state aid roads. To quote Mr. Omtvedt, who says "We all agree that the one-mill state road tax levy was the original boost for better roads and this one-mill levy has been, as I see it, a wonderful equalizer."

"The governor is wielding the big stick, says Mr. Omtvedt, "and is said to oppose the increase in the gas tax to four cents a gallon, unless this one-mill levy will be repealed. I feel that the governor is wrong in his stand and I believe that it would be a fine thing if all those interested in good roads and tax equalization would write the governor protesting against the elimination of this one-mill levy. I shall also be glad to get your views on these problems."

The aged problem of what to do about sewage disposal and water purification problems in Two Harbors is reaching the point where something must be done within the next few years, if not sooner, and it's going to cost the taxpayers a mint of money, possibly around the million dollar mark.

That is why city officials are studying plans and have advertised for "qualified consulting engineering firms to submit written proposals stating fee basis for preparing plans and specifications and supervision of the building of a sanitary sewer interceptor and waste treatment plant."

August Omtvedt, state representative, believes the water purification problem comes first and offers what he is convinced will be a cheaper and better solution because it has already been started. He also believes that the cost should be shared by the state from the gross earnings tax. He has appeared before the city council with this suggestion and offered to work with them to that end.

Rep. Omtvedt thinks the state board of health is not informed well enough on just what the city has already done towards the problem which it is pressing. The city, according to Omtvedt, has been gradually expanding the water distribution system by the construction of a 12 inch main from the pumping station west to the D. M. & I. R. water tank,

Last Rites Held For Pioneer

A pioneer resident of Two Harbors, identified prominently for more than a half-century with the civic history of the Lake county seat, widely known throughout the Arrowhead region and highly regarded for unselfish community service in both Lake and Cook counties died on Thanksgiving eve.

He was August Omtvedt, 72, who came to Two Harbors in 1901 from his native Norway and lived in this community until shortly before his death.

During his life span, Mr. Omtvedt served Two Harbors as mayor, city

clerk, clerk of municipal court and president of the Two Harbors city council. He also was chairman of the Lake county board of commissioners and for 14 years was representative in the state legislature for Lake and Cook counties.

In private life, Mr. Omtvedt was proprietor of a grocery and later an appliance store.

During the years he served in the state legislature, Mr. Omtvedt was aligned with the liberals. He was able to secure for the two counties he represented valuable aid for schools and for other enterprises vitally associated with this section of Minnesota.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon in the First Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Omtvedt was a long time member, with Rev. Otto Fillingier officiating. Arrangements were by the Johnson funeral home and burial was in Lakeview cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Hildur, city; two daughters, Mrs. Vernon K. Anderson, Two Harbors, and Mrs. Gordon Olson, Minneapolis; three sons, Fred G., city, and John T. and Jack N., Minneapolis; two brothers, Anders, Echo, Minn., and John, Duluth, and 11 grandchildren.

OPEN FORUM

Ed. Note: The following is a letter addressed to Mrs. August Omtvedt from H. P. Goodin, a member of the state House of Representatives from the 35th district, Minneapolis. Mr. Goodin is a member of the following committees: Crime prevention, education, labor, reforestation and towns and counties and had worked with the late Mr. Omtvedt on many committees.

Dear Mrs. Omtvedt:

We wish to extend our sympathies and offer our condolences in your great loss when the Honorable August Omtvedt was called to a higher office.

This great loss is shared by his many friends in the legislature, in his home town Two Harbors, in Lake and Cook county and the great State of Minnesota, who join you in mourning his passing.

August Omtvedt was indeed a great statesman. His limitless energy and ability was reflected in his endeavors to secure the many benefits that the people of his community and the State of Minnesota are presently enjoying. He held the respect and confidence of all of those with whom he worked regardless of creed or party, and was always there to help those of us who needed a guiding hand. His great knowledge of state affairs and the needs of the people, served many times as a guiding light to many who otherwise may have been led astray.

August Omtvedt should be commended by all the people for his able support of special legislation that gave Lake and Cook counties many of the special aids that have been enjoyed by the people of many other sections of the state, and in addition special consideration because of the large area of State and Federal lands in Cook and Lake counties. His many pleas in support of this legislation served to improve conditions in many other counties who were in like circumstances.

August Omtvedt was always the champion of the little people. His early struggles gave him a background that served him well in his several offices. He was able to bring from those early experiences a burning ambition to make his community what he hoped it could be. To bring opportunities to the coming generations that had been denied him or that he had great difficulties in overcoming. His success is reflected in the great schools, the good roads, the wonderful communities, and the chances of success that have been brought to the many who otherwise may have been bypassed.



AUGUST OMTVEDT

We believe that no greater tribute could be paid to the Honorable August Omtvedt than to name the New Community Hospital at Two Harbors in his memory, dedicated to the unfinished tasks that he so ably championed during his stay with us. His untiring efforts in promoting this project, his able presentation of the needs of his communities, his deep interest in seeing that good medical care be provided for all regardless of their position in life and his great love for his fellow man, should make Lake county and Two Harbors very proud to have such a memorial to one of those truly great public servants, The Honorable August Omtvedt.

Sincerely and with the deepest sympathy in our loss,

Hennepin County Delegation,

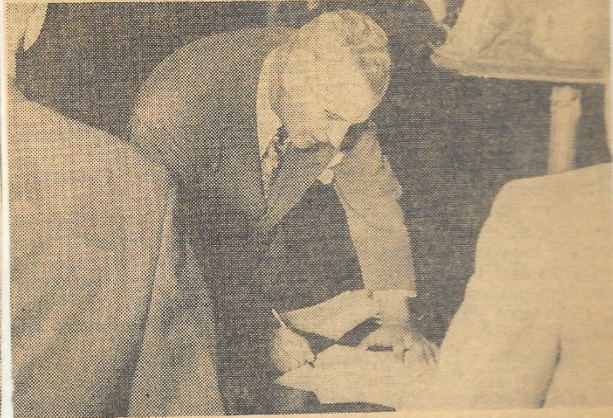
Ed Volstad
Carl Hagland
Leonard Johnson
Herman Kording
Sally Luther
Ted Biernot
Ed Tomyzck
George Murk
Leo Mosier
John Sheates

By H. P. GOODIN, Chairman.



Capitol Deadline

Early today Minnesota legislators were shaking hands in what they thought was a parting gesture upon conclusion of the regular session. The time was 12:15 a.m., despite fact clock on the wall said 11:45 where it was stopped to give legality to overtime bill passing. Then came the surprise . . .



. . . Governor Youngdahl announced he was calling a special session today in order that legislators repass four bills which failed to reach his desk before Monday night's midnight deadline. Some legislators already had left the capitol and had departed for outstate homes.