

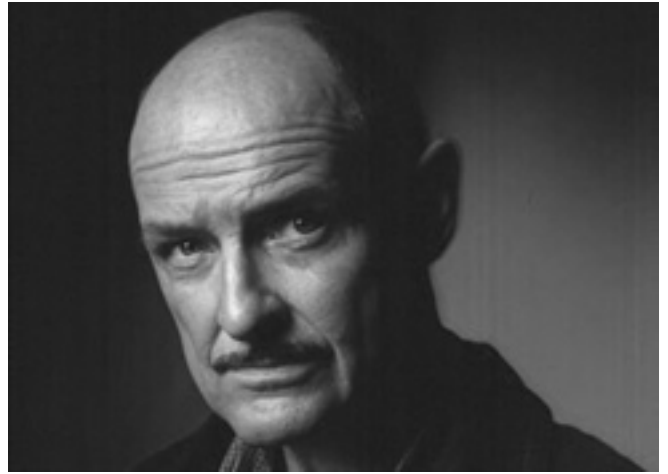
Dwayne Milford Jr.: Family Man, Or Ladies' Man?

By Hanna Greenwood, Staff Writer

TWIN PEAKS, WA— To listen to Twin Peaks mayoral candidate Dwayne Milford Jr. on the campaign trail, you might almost believe that the Milford clan are a loving lot. As anyone who has roots in Twin Peaks will tell you, though, the Milfords have a bit of mean streak. The late Dwayne Milford Sr. and his late brother Dougie were at near-constant odds with each other, verbally sparring not just in private but in public. In fact, Dougie (former publisher of this very newspaper) wrote a scathing editorial about Dwayne during his first mayoral campaign in 1952, even though Dwayne was running unopposed. Many contend that Milford Jr. takes after his uncle in this respect.

The most recent public feud between the deceased Milford brothers was over a woman, the nubile Lana Budding. Ms. Budding came to wed the significantly older Dougie, much to Dwayne Sr.'s chagrin, only to see her newlywed die in their marriage bed. In the aftermath, Dwayne Sr. and Mrs. Budding Milford shared more than just their grief together and soon became engaged themselves. Unfortunately for Dwayne Sr., he met much the same end as his brother Dougie. Apparently, in that respect, the brothers at least agreed on something.

Evidence now shows that Dwayne Milford Jr. might agree with his forebearers on this as well. Mr. Milford Jr. and Mrs. Budding Milford have been spotted all about town, in far closer quarters than you'd expect a mother-in-law and son-in-law to be. Publicly, Mr. Milford has denied all allegations that he and his father's fiancée are in any sort of a relationship, but hiding a scandal like this is easier said than done in a town as small as Twin Peaks.



What goes on behind closed doors, however, is nobody's business. The real question here is, who is really in control of Dwayne Milford Jr.'s mayoral campaign? Lana Budding has been developing something of a pattern, targeting older, powerful men to latch onto, and quickly ingratiating herself into their lives. First she married Dougie Milford, publisher of the local newspaper. Once she lost her erstwhile love, she moved on to his brother, then-mayor of Twin Peaks. In the aftermath of that, she glommed onto her fiancé's son, who not only was editor-in-chief of the Gazette at the time, but was gearing up to run for mayor in his father's stead.

According to witness testimony, Mrs. Budding Milford attempted to use Dwayne Milford Sr.'s clout to win the Ms. Twin Peaks pageant late last month. If she uses Dwayne Milford Jr. the same way she used his father, then is a vote for Milford truly a vote for the whims of the widow Milford?

If Mr. Milford truly has nothing to hide, he wouldn't be concealing this new relationship. And if Mrs. Budding Milford has nothing to gain, perhaps she should consider choosing a partner based on more than their surname alone. If this is the Milford legacy, then it is up to the voters of Twin Peaks to decide whether or not tradition trumps controversy.