

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

Hotel gets ready for tourists: April '87

With the final touches of a quarter-million dollar renovation project nearly complete, the Village Green Motor Hotel is putting its best foot forward for what officials believe could be an excellent year for south Lane County tourism. "We're looking for a good summer," said Ken Erbes, manager of the 96-room motel for Golden West Property Management Corp. "Reservations are coming in, and we should be ready."

The Cottage Grove landmark, built as a luxury motel in 1960, was purchased by an investor group, the Zed Corp., from Woodard Hotels, Inc. in February 1986. Golden West operates and maintains the facility under a management contract.

In the past 15 months, the motel has tried to update its image and reestablish community ties stretched during a period the motel was on the selling block.

Each of the 86 general rooms and 10 suites received new carpet, drapes, bedspreads and wallpaper, Erbes said, and the heating-cooling systems in each room should be replaced by June.

The two-phase project will cost \$200,000 to \$250,000 before it's finished, he said.

"The hard part of the renovation is over," Erbes said of the room decorating, which closed some rooms during the year of work.

Erbes said the motel's marks after five quarters under new management and own-

ership is favorable. He attributed the success to a good summer season last year, opening the dining room after an 18-month hiatus, increased advertising and promotion, and a solid relationship with community groups and local diners.

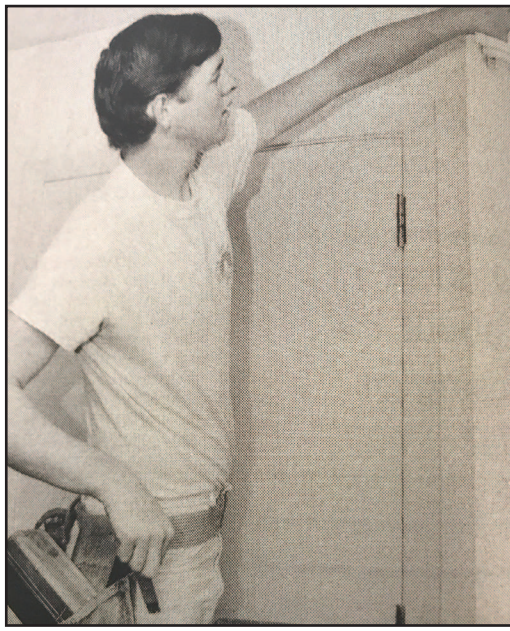
Several service organizations, including the Rotary Club and the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, returned to the Village Green for meetings and luncheons following the sale. Most days find the meeting and conference rooms booked by local groups and those outside the area," he said.

Erbes said support of the "Cascadia" dining room also has been good, and optimism of the coming season runs high enough to add another day to the room's schedule beginning in May.

"We've had increases, both in occupancy and in gross revenues, there's no denying that," he said. "The rapport with the area is more of a reason for increases than general management style.

"And we want that good rapport with the community. Without that local support, the Village Green would survive, but it wouldn't survive as well on a year-round basis."

Survival, in some ways, meant breaking some of the ties with the motel's illustrious



past. Though luxurious in their day, the rooms didn't reflect the needs of today's traveler. And the dining room, once regarded as one of the tops in the industry with its French cuisine and table side cooking, now serves a more conventional menu. "It's not the same (as the Iron Maiden). It's not supposed to be," Erbes said of the dining room.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

April 17

Cottage Grove Police received a call from a woman who said a man had pulled behind her residence and was taking photos of her yard. When she asked why he was taking photos he reportedly replied, "Don't worry about it." and left the scene.

A caller reported a man standing in the street near Birch Ave. yelling profanities to himself. A welfare check was conducted.

A report of stolen soda cans came in from the are of 22nd St. The caller noted it happened in the middle of the night.

Ash Ave. saw a call of a neighbor complaining about multiple calls to police concerning the abandoned vehicles on their property. The caller said they felt threatened and requested police contact.

A welfare check was conducted after police received reports of a man sitting on a bench in the alley behind the armory without moving for nearly two hours.

A complainant noted that their 12-year-old foster child was "out of control" and requested police contact noting that all weapons inside the home had been secured.

A Walmart employee informed police that a man was

using the sink the restroom as a shower and refused to leave the property.

April 16

A resident of Riverfront Way complained that a vehicle has been parked across from their home for weeks.

Police took a report from S. 4th street which noted a woman was peering into windows. When confronted by a neighbor the woman said she was looking for a house for her mother to purchase.

A resident came into the police station to note a heavy-set man was standing in the parking lot of Dairy Mart smoking from a pipe.

Police reported to Gateway for a domestic violence call. A male and female were shouting at each other in the parking lot of the Chevron Market.

A man was reported for having purchased cigarettes legally only to appear to have given them to alleged underage females across the street near Scarpelli's.

CAPITOL BEAT

News from the state legislature and around Oregon

From the legislature

• House Bill 3350, introduced by representative Mark Johnson, would create an office of outdoor recreation within the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The office would cost up to \$250,000 per biennium and focus on luring outdoor activities for economic development.

• Oregon legislators will not take on GMOs this session. Several bills that would have allowed local governments to regulate genetically engineered crops failed to make it out of committee.

• Senate Bill 634 passed the senate on Thursday, sponsored by Ted Ferrioli. The bill would add woody biomass as a source of green energy which would help reduce carbon emissions and create jobs in rural Oregon. The bill passed with unanimous support.

• State democrats filed an ethics complaint against GOP front-runner for the 2018 governor's race, Knute Buehler for allegedly failing to disclose the entirety of consultant payments he had received. Buehler reportedly did not include his relationship with medical company Stryker Corp on his economic statements, or the supposed \$96,000 he received from the company.

From around the state

• A Gresham mother called 911 reporting that her children's father, Jaime Cortinas, was threatening to kill their two daughters and himself. Cortinas had set his SUV on fire, shot at responding police officers and eventually shot both girls, 8 and 11, multiple times before taking his own life.

• The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department announced it would be opening 1,000 additional campsites in anticipation of the total solar eclipse happening this summer. The event had already booked hotels around the state and officials expect hundreds of thousands of star gazers to flood Oregon.

• Oregon State Senator Herman Baertschiger's wife was struck and killed on Interstate-5 by a box trailer as she was walking in the right lane of the southbound side of the interstate near Grants Pass. It is unknown why she was walking in the road. She was 54.

• Willamette Week reports that a new study from think tank Oregon Center for Public Policy reveals undocumented immigrants in the state of Oregon pay \$81 million in taxes to the state every year. The news comes as the legislature continues to try and plug the budget deficit of nearly \$2 billion.

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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY APRIL 20

56° | 38°



SHOWERS

FRIDAY APRIL 21

70° | 46°



PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY APRIL 22

61° | 44°



Showers

SUNDAY APRIL 23

60° | 41°



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MONDAY APRIL 24

61° | 45°



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TUESDAY APRIL 25

56° | 44°



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