

Poet captures essence of Oregon

An hour of poetry and commentary by William Stafford highlighted this week's Northwest Forum.

Stafford, professor of English at Lewis and Clark College, spoke Tuesday in the EMU. He is the author of 12 poetry collections and has had his poetry published by many national magazines and journals. Stafford was presented the National Book Award in 1963 and the Guggenheim Award in 1969. His latest poetry collection, *Someday, Maybe*, was recently published by Harper & Row.

Opening with "In Medias Res," Stafford explained that it was his "most theater-like, dramatic poem." This was followed by "The Moment," a poem Stafford said he had "written into a situation (I) hadn't imagined. 'The truth keeps crowding into whatever I say, I can't write fast enough to keep it away,'" he quipped.

Other poems heard by the audience were "Old Hero," "World Staccato," "Growing Up," and "The Fanatic."

"I once had a job at the Library of Congress," Stafford said in one of his between-poem discourses. "I went in there day after day with a feeling of being baffled by the tremendous amount of information stored in that library. It was a great feeling, but one of inadequacy...it was as if someone had given me a wonderful airplane but I didn't know how to fly it."

"Language—and life—is like that," he said, pointing out that man knows how to use so little of all that is available to him.

that are above all that. Some kind of animal that lives on rain..."

"My Party, The Rain," one of Stafford's closing poems, likened the rain to a neutral political



William Stafford

Photo by James Warberg

In his poem titled "Oregon," Stafford captured the essence of the state with "Trees having their pictures taken...mountains

party which "applauds the tennis courts...it recognizes every face, licks every stone, likes the shape of our state, believes what it touches..."

Alternative community sets up fund to continue

By GEORGE CURL
Of the Emerald

For the past six months, representatives from various groups in Eugene have been holding a monthly Community Meeting, a freewheeling informal forum for sharing energies and discussing the needs and problems encountered by the alternative community.

Out of these meetings at the Growers Market has come the creation of a community sustaining fund—a project designed to provide capital for setting up new community services, along with providing financial assistance to existing service organizations and businesses for expansion or emergencies.

A number of ways to generate money for the fund have been examined. The most persistent idea is to ask local merchants, particularly those who offer goods and services to the alternative community, to contribute an amount equal to two percent of their gross receipts.

The fund has already received an initial \$100 donation from the Walk for Development plus \$150 from the Renaissance Faire. Some concerns were raised at Tuesday's Community meeting about which institution the Sustaining Funds money should be deposited in. A decision was made to put the money into the non-profit Oregon Urban Rural (OUR) Credit Union, since the OUR Credit Union has in the past extended loans to individuals and organizations within the community.

The sustaining fund itself will be a non-profit, tax exempt corporation. The bylaws, as they now exist, provide for semi-annual elections of a five member board of representatives selected for one year terms by the Community Meeting.

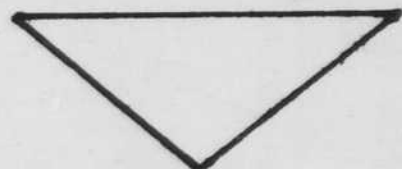
A temporary committee made up of Jim Bowers of the Growers Market, Brian Livingston of the Augur staff and "Diana" from Switchboard have been appointed to manage the business affairs of the fund until the first election in February.

The Board will hold an open meeting on the last Tuesday of each month to hear proposals and requests for use of money in the fund. The Board may take immediate action on emergency proposals, otherwise, the Board's decisions must be ratified at the next community meeting held on the first Tuesday of each month.

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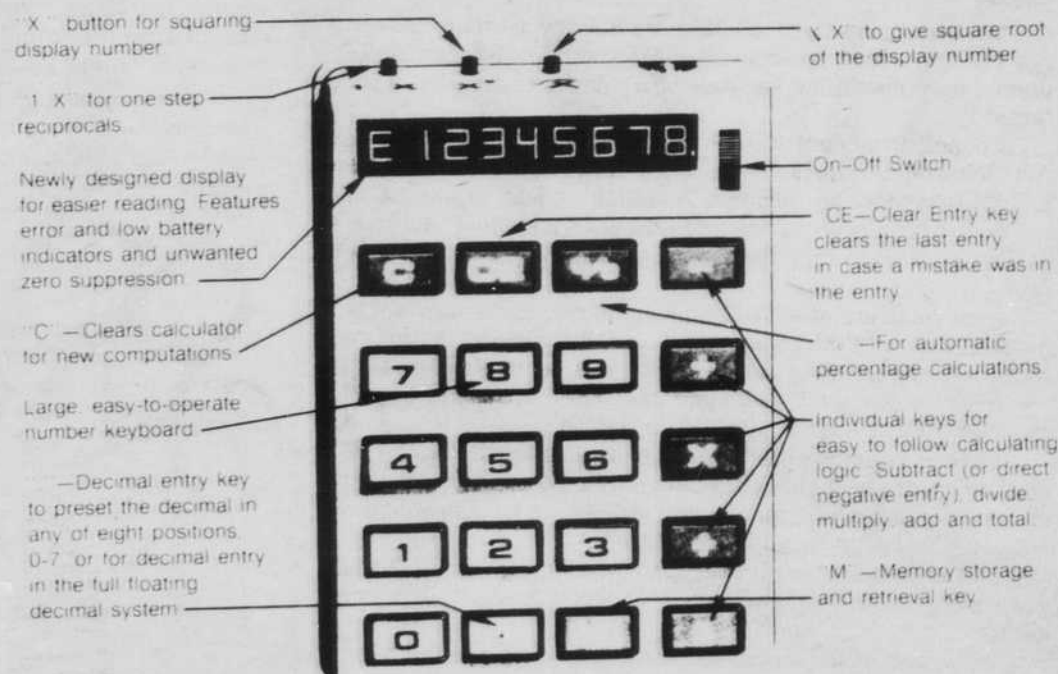
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