

Kerans assumes role as state Demo leader

By MIKE McLAIN
Of the Emerald

Democrat Grattan Kerans, state representative from District 39 in Eugene, was chosen House Democrat majority whip last weekend, and as such is the only Democrat outside the Portland area in a position of party leadership.

Kerans won re-election to the House Nov. 2 in an election race against Republican Gary Wright.

He was chosen whip at a caucus of the 37 Democratic House members in Salem Saturday.

That caucus also elected Portland insurance executive Phil Lang to a second term as Speaker of the House. Although the formal vote for speaker won't take place until the full House convenes on Jan. 10, Lang's election by the majority party assures his selection then.

Lang was elected following a

short-lived challenge from last session's House majority leader Ed Linquist, a Milwaukie Democrat. Lang was also re-elected to the leader position.

Kerans' whip position is third in the majority party's power structure. The fourth position, speaker pro tem was filled by Portland's Hardy Myers.

Kerans, who will begin his second term when the House meets, said Linquist's challenge was called

off when it was determined that neither he nor Lang could secure the 19-vote majority needed for the speakership without soliciting the support of a nine-member coalition of conservative rural Democrats, which neither candidate wanted to do.

Kerans explained that the conservative group was attempting to "move into a position of leadership" by refusing to initially support either Lang or Linquist, and

the two routed that move with Linquist's withdrawal.

Kerans discounted the speculation of a power struggle between the Portland area and the remainder of Oregon saying, "I had votes from all over the state." But he allowed that there is "of course, a lot of strength from Portland legislators."

His new job, Kerans said, will involve "directing the efforts of the assistant floor leaders on the various votes." He said he will also "Maintain communication and provide information to the Democrats on procedural votes" as well as work with the other party leaders in developing the legislative program.

That program, which he says is already being developed, will focus on state school support, workmen's compensation, new guidelines for the Land Conservation and Development Commission, gas tax and highway maintenance and a further refinement of the state's nuclear safeguards.

Multi-family unit zoning proposal opposed

By TOM JACKSON
Of the Emerald

The Eugene City Council decided not to decide on a city-wide growth related issue Monday night.

The issue was whether or not the city should allow a rezoning proposal which would allow duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes to be constructed in suburban residential (R-A) and single-family residential (R-1) areas. The proposed change stipulates that a minimum of 14,000 square feet would be required for a duplex, 20,000 for a triplex, and 25,000 for a fourplex. The units could be built on an estimated 1,000 sites in the city, most of which are in the south Hills, Willakenzie and Bethel areas.

The council delayed the decision because public comment on the proposal was overwhelmingly opposed to the idea. Three persons spoke in favor and about 15 spoke in opposition to the proposal at the city council meeting.

One person speaking in favor was Betty Niven, the chairer of the Joint Housing Committee, who stressed "this is not a low-income housing proposal." She said the proposal is one of a series of attempts by planners to ease the housing crunch in Eugene. She also cited planned unit development and the broadening of the use of mobile homes as efforts to make housing more accessible.

Niven said the average price of a single family home in Eugene is \$35,000, while the median income is about \$14,000. She said she believes the proposal would "offer the possibility of home ownership, and would benefit the housing supply."

City Planner Jim Bernhard said the proposal would concur with the city's policy of controlled growth since the land within the urban service boundary would be used more extensively.

Opponents to the proposal, which included future city council member Brian Obie and a strong

showing of members of the Crest Drive Citizens Assn., believe the proposal will allow multi-family structures to be built anywhere there is vacant land without regard for the effect on the "livability" of the neighborhood.

Opponents also raised questions of the effect of taxes, schools, and blight, which some of them feel could occur with the change the proposal stipulates.

The city council has directed that the city planning staff and the Joint Housing Committee revise the proposal and return to the council with their findings. However, the revisions will not in all likelihood be ready until January, which means the issue will probably not be decided until after the newly elected council members take office in the beginning of January.

Xmas mail dates set

Deadlines for sending Christmas packages and cards are nearing again and to add to headaches, dates vary, depending on the mail's destination and also whether surface or air mail is being used.

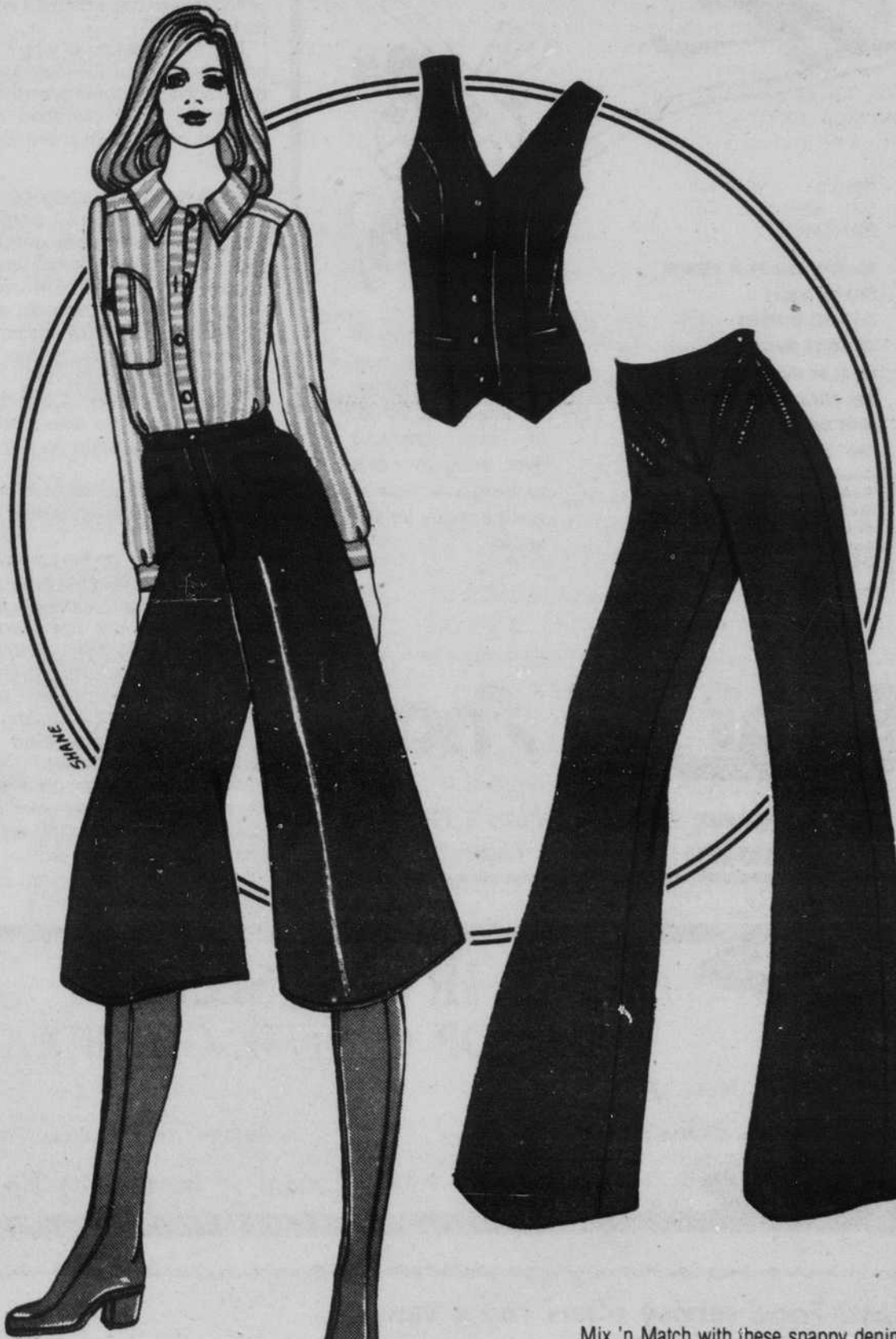
For the Continental U.S., surface parcels must be mailed by Dec. 10 in order for them to arrive by Christmas. Packages sent by priority air must be mailed by Dec. 21, and all cards by Dec. 17.

Alaska and Hawaii have different deadlines. Nov. 30 is the last day to send parcels by surface mail, but packages can be sent by priority air mail as late as Dec. 20. All cards must be sent by Dec. 16.

Deadlines have passed for surface shipping to the Far East, Africa, and the Near East. However, air mail may still be used. The deadline for air mail cards to these areas is Dec. 14, and for air mail parcels, the deadline is Dec. 9.

Europe, South and Central America share common deadlines — Dec. 16 for air mail cards, Dec. 11 for air parcels, Nov. 18 for surface cards, and Dec. 11 for surface parcels.

For Canada and Mexico the deadlines are as follows: Air cards — Dec. 20; air parcels — Dec. 15; surface cards — Dec. 8; surface parcels — Dec. 2.



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