

THE Sandy Post



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Should Lodges Be Taxed?

City Club members will vote Friday on a report which, among other things, suggests that fraternal organizations be placed on the tax rolls.

And not just as a partial rate, but at the full rate charged a homeowner or business, for instance.

The report examined Oregon's tax laws, which it found "riddled with exemptions" and recommended a full-scale study of these exemptions.

It also suggested taxation of fraternal organizations at the full rate but churches etc. at a figure sufficient only to cost of services they received...i.e., fire, police protection etc.

Continued exemption of educational institutions was recommended.

The City Club report goes further, of course, than legislation proposed at

the last legislature.

It also points out that there is a rather common misconception of Oregon tax practice relative churches and other non-profit institutions. Property which they own for non-church use—for instance, a building operated as a commercial venture—is tax at the full, going rate. It is not exempt as many people mistakenly feel.

Only church property actually used for worship services or for a church parking lot is exempt.

We suspect the City Club report presages another full-scale attempt in the next legislature to shift some tax burden to lodges, churches etc. The burden on other taxpayers is such that every tax-exemption is suspect.

We Have a Smog Problem, No Mistake

If you don't think we have a smog problem, we suggest you drive over into Eastern Oregon, look at the sky, come home and repeat the same process here.

We were in the Tygh Valley area last weekend and the sky was so blue, the air so fresh we'd liked to have bottled some.

En route home via the Columbia river highway, you could see signs of

smog as far away as Hood River. Looking west, the sky took on a sort of gray tone, as we neared home almost a yellow cast, all this is marked contrast to the brilliant blue of Eastern Oregon.

John Mosser said in a speech recently that river pollution and sewage disposal were problems which could be licked. He wasn't so encouraging about air pollution. We see what he means.

Traffic Law Changes Noted for Motorists

Oregon drivers will have some new or changed traffic laws to follow beginning Aug. 22, as a result of 1969 legislative action, according to the Motor Vehicles Division, Department of Transportation.

One key change applies to entering freeways or other arterial highways. It requires a driver to yield to traffic already on such roads when a merging or acceleration lane has been provided for his use, unless signals, signs or police officers indicate otherwise.

Another new law adds the term careless driving to Oregon law. It makes it illegal to drive in a manner to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

The law on crossing the center line on highways also was changed. The new law makes it illegal to cross the center line when approaching the crest of a grade or a curve if your view of the road ahead is obstructed a distance which would be hazardous if another vehicle should approach from the opposite direction.

Previously, the law made it illegal to cross the center line if you were within 500 feet of any hillcrest or curve which blocked your view of the road ahead.

A driver's responsibility

when making a left turn to enter a private road or driveway also has been clarified by new legislation. Beginning Aug. 22, the Division says a driver preparing to take this action must signal for a left turn and yield right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction if it is close enough to constitute an immediate hazard.

The state's "U" turn law also was amended to make it illegal to make a "U" turn on the open highway where the driver cannot see the road for at least 1,000 feet in either direction. It also remains illegal to make such a turn on any curve or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade.

In cities, it remains illegal to make a "U" turn between intersections and, under the new law, it also becomes illegal to make such a turn within a city where the driver cannot see the road for at least 500 feet in either direction. (Such turns also may be prohibited at any location by official signs.)

There's also a new law about towing house trailers on highways. It makes it unlawful for a driver to tow a house trailer containing passengers.

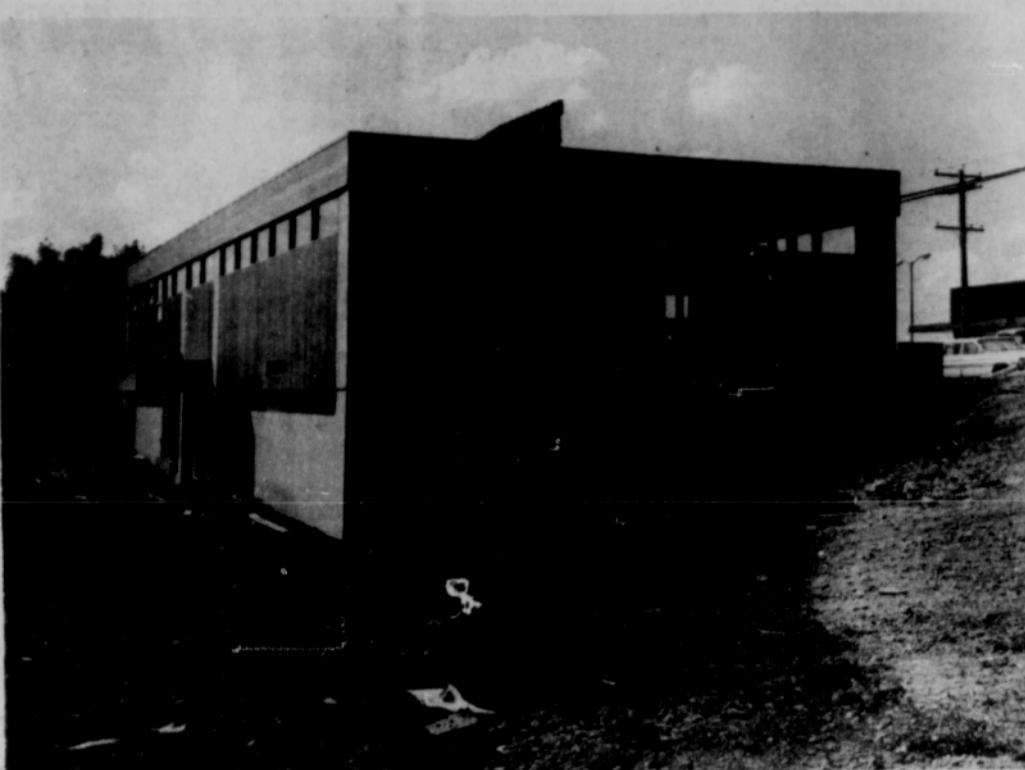
Still another law does not apply strictly to drivers, but to use of the slow-moving vehicle

emblem first approved by the 1967 Legislature. The law was amended this year to make it illegal to use the emblem in any way except on the type of vehicle specified by law—that is, on a vehicle designed for customary use at speeds of less than 25 miles per hour.

Two new laws relate to truck drivers. One permits a maximum speed of 60 miles per hour on Interstate highways which are posted for higher passenger car speeds than the 55 miles per hour designated speed on the open highway. On non-Interstate highways, the truck speed will remain at 50 miles per hour.

The other new law requires truck drivers to use flares or other signal devices whenever their vehicles become disabled at night. Previously, the flares were required if the truck was disabled and its lighting equipment was not working.

Finally, a new law will subject vehicles to the state's first inspection program. It authorizes Oregon State Police to stop and inspect vehicles to determine if they meet safety requirements. Drivers must stop and submit to inspection where signs are posted and inspections are being given. Defects found must be corrected within 15 days.



SOUTH EAST CORNER of Sandy's new city hall, now nearing completion. Public library will occupy upper level on east and city council chambers the lower level. (Post photo)

AS I SEE IT

BY BOB KAYE



When I was a young feller, I used to hike a good deal in the mountain country in back of Mt. Wilson in Southern California. In those days, there was still a large expanse of rugged and primitive country bisected by a few faint trails on which one might walk the whole day through without meeting another person.

One spring vacation in March, when there was still three or four inches of snow on this high ground, I had taken a long hike alone. I had not allowed enough time and night fall caught me still a couple of miles from camp. As daylight began to fail, I had come out on a fairly level plateau, covered with clumps of brush interspersed with trees and large rock formations. Suddenly, as I hurried across this area, a strange and uncanny feeling of being followed and observed swept over me. The hair on the back of my neck literally "stood up" and goose pimples raced up and down my spine. With snow on the ground it was still light enough to see for a short distance, particularly back along the trail which was fairly straight in that place. I had seen nothing, smelled nothing and yet I knew beyond doubt that something was trailing me.

I stopped, looked back and listened half a dozen times. There was never a thing or a movement to be seen in the absolute quiet. At first I wondered if my imagination was playing tricks but every time that I would resume my way, the eerie feeling would come again.

I finally decided (don't ask me how) that I was being followed by a mountain lion. These animals were not common in that place and I surely never expected to encounter one. They are experts in concealment and are seldom seen even where they are known to be around. If my hunch was correct, my reason told me that I probably did not have too much to worry about even though it was getting darker by the minute. Cougars will seldom if ever attack a man, although, like all cats, they are curious and might follow him for a while. When hungry enough, they will attack horses and a person on horseback in deep snow can be in trouble. But this was not my case.

These reassuring thoughts raced through my mind during this half mile stretch of trail but they really did not help much. I was as jumpy as a hot frog in a forest fire. After what seemed like an endless time, I finally came to where the trail turned down into a canyon and the "feeling" left me as abruptly as it had come.

Back in camp my story met with a certain amount of skepticism, particularly the mountain lion bit, as of course I had seen nothing and cougars were rare. In the light of next morning, I wondered myself if my case of jitters had any real basis of fact. Incidentally

this feeling of doubt, following after the first fine flush of conviction, is an exceedingly common reaction by all who have had a brush with the strange and the inexplicable.

In this instance, I was sufficiently curious to return to the scene of my yesterday's experience to see what I could find, if anything. Sure enough, there were the lion tracks in the snow, at times overlaying my own tracks. They had come out onto the trail where I had first had the "feeling" and had left the trail where it turned down into the canyon and my nerves had settled back to normal. I emphasize that these tracks were the first and only tangible evidence that what I had felt was based on reality. Had this evidence not been available, I should never have been able to say with authority that this experience was more than some sort of mental aberration.

This story illustrates extrasensory perception as between animal and man. In this case I was the "hunted",

the receiver as it were. The question is, how did I become aware that I was being followed by a mountain lion, the moment that it occurred and no longer, when my ordinary senses were entirely unable to provide me with the information? It would make no difference if someone would rationalize that I had somehow seen or heard or smelled without knowing that I did so. He would be satisfied with his "explanation" but it would not be true.

"Now what happened and how I..." and what I did or did not see or hear, I was there and it happened to me. I would simply class that opinion as ignorant and the person holding it is unable to enlarge his concepts beyond with which he had been indoctrinated. I feel keenly about this because all too often, people who have had such experiences allow themselves to be persuaded by "clever" people that what they know to be true just couldn't be so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I wish to thank my many friends that helped surprise me on my 80th Birthday Sunday.

Many friends I haven't seen for 25 or 30 years or more. There were two from Los Angeles, some from Astoria, Salem, Gresham, Troutdale, Estacada, Eagle Creek, and Portland besides from Sandy.

I want to thank the many that brought presents and cards but just to see and talk to them was my greatest joy — It's a day I can relive for a long time.

I am crippled with Arthritis so I don't get around much any more but I can remember this day with great joy for a long time. Thanks to all.

Sincerely,
Isabel (Gray) Wolf
Rt. 2, Box 1050
Sandy Oregon

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VIEW OF WELCHES from foot of Hunchback was taken about 1900. Note rail fence in foreground at east end of meadow. Picture loaned by R. M. Bodely, Sandy, who, as a boy, cut hay in field now site of Bowman's golf course.

right
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