

THE Sandy Post

GREAT WAY
TO THE MT. HOOD PLAYGROUND

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Entered at the Post Office at Sandy, Clackamas County, Oregon, as second class matter under the Act of Congress of March, 1879.
Member of Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association and National Editorial Association
Published every Thursday by Outlook Publishing Co., P.O. Box 68, Sandy, Oregon 97055

SUBSCRIPTION RATES		
Annual Subscription in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties	\$3.50	In United States \$4.50
Elsewhere in Oregon	\$4.00	Servicemen and Women \$3.50

Page 2 Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon January 1, 1973

Legal Challenges to Tri-Met

Discounting for a moment the "taxation-without-representation" features of Tri-Met, there is a growing feeling that august board may have painted itself into a corner.

In its almost precipitate haste to begin its tax program, the Tri-Met board may have overlooked points that may later bring legal challenges.

These, in turn, could cloud Tri-Met's ability to get federal matching funds...which is what a lot of this is all about.

Legal challenges to Tri-Met almost certainly will be mounted, soon. One involves Tri-Met's decision that municipalities—schools, cities, water districts etc.—are subject to the tax on employers. Another involves the question of whether banks and other commercial institutions are subject to the tax. Still another might involve the rapidly with which Tri-Met launched its taxing operation.

There is little likelihood that a successful test of Tri-Met's taxing

schemes can be mounted at the polls. Best estimates are that 25,000 signatures would be needed to refer the issue to the people. These would have to be gathered by Jan. 15 and what with the holidays etc., there just isn't enough time.

Thus a legal challenge is the only alternative.

Tri-Met, obviously, has had a lot of very high-powered legal advice. They very well know what they are doing; certainly they are very astute politically in selecting who to tax, timing their activities etc.

But when you get right down to the nitty-gritty, their tax plan is monstrously unfair. It is in complete contravention of what has become nationally known as the "Oregon system," that system which guarantees the people the right to choose the manner in which they will be taxed.

All the political muscle Tri-Met can muster can't overturn that concept.

LETTERS ToThe EDITOR

The Editor

This is my first editorial letter! The subject matter is one I feel very strongly demands consideration by all American citizens who still believe in the democratic method of government.

On Thursday Dec. 18, at 1:30 p.m., Room 36 of the State Office Bldg., Portland, I was present as a representative of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, as an employer, and as a business-management agent. For three hours I listened to arguments, well worded and factual, that set forth the discriminatory and non-equitable features of the "proposed" Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation Districts ordinance to levy a 1/2 of 1% gross payroll tax on employers for payrolls of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties.

Today I am in shock! Not only did the Tri-Met Board disregard the voices at the "hearing" but by their action of passing said ordinance indicate that they sat with "deaf-ears", not hearing because their minds (?) were already set.

I am in shock also because the press, thru its writers, has biased the account of the objections, reasons and validity of arguments against passing said ordinance. To set the record straight: employers

were not against the need, not against a tax fairly assessed, and not against the Board's efforts. Employers were against a tax which is:

1. Discriminatory and unfair as to employer vs. employee.
2. Has an uncertainty of the tax-bite for the future.
3. Erroneously assumes that the measure of profit of any business is in direct relationship to its payroll expense or its gross-sales.
4. Erroneously assumes that all business entities are capable of "passing-on-to-the-consumer" through price increases any and all increased expense of operations including taxes.

If the reader believes that it is just to an employer who in 1968 had an economic profit of \$5,312, after payroll of \$1,223, to be assessed a tax bite of \$6.12 while a 2nd employer who in '68 had a profit of \$7,015 and payroll of \$67,596, to be assessed \$337.98 and then a 3rd employer with a '68 loss of \$5,454, with payroll of \$22,475, to be assessed \$112.38 then truly our concept of equity, justice and fair-play are changing. The above cases are from my client files and not theoretical cases dreamed up to present a point.

The press slanted the account of the hearing by

playing up statements by: Albert L. McCready, associate-editor of the Oregonian and Donald J. Sterling, Jr., editor of the Oregon Journal's editorial page and that of George Brown, Oregon labor leader.

If all reporting is so colored, then the ethics of the news industry of our nation puts us all in jeopardy of control by a minority.

If Tri-Met's actions are not corrected what issue will it next be ramming down the people's throats?

Sincerely,
Ned E. Dyal,
Rt. 2 Box 1679
Sandy
Dec. 23, 1969

Editor

Sandy Post,

I owe Dennis Warren an apology for implications made in my letter to the Editor of Dec. 18. I admit to impulsiveness and excessive rhetoric to make a point, that by now has become obscured by the uproar caused by my remarks.

I feel obliged to publicly apologize because my hastily written letter might have done more to hinder the good work the school is doing than it did to enhance the program. Heaven knows that I feel worse than anybody.

There are ways for everyone to help. You find out what you can do - and do it. As for me, I'll be down at the high school looking for a chance to work up a sweat with the guys!

Kenneth Enz,
Sandy, Oregon

Packwood To Speak

U.S. Senator Bob Packwood will be the speaker at Gresham Chamber of Commerce annual dinner Jan. 9.

The dinner will be at Mt. Hood Community College gym. A reception will start at 7 p.m. with dinner at 8 and Packwood's talk at 9.

Ed Richard, Chamber chairman of the event, said Packwood is expected to talk about economics because he is a member of the Senate banking committee.

The Swinging Choir from Mt. Hood College will entertain. New Chamber officers will be introduced and Gresham Mayor Alan Fisher will give a short talk.

The dinner will be fully catered, Richard said.



SALEM SCENE

SPECIAL 'NON-SESSION' OF LEGISLATURE CALLED

There's a re-run of the 55th Legislative Assembly scheduled in Salem during the third week of January.

It's called "Legislative Week."

For five days beginning Tuesday, January 20, Oregon's capital city likely will resemble a regular - or at least special, session of the Legislature. The period has been set aside on a trial basis for meetings of Legislative Interim Committees. Virtually all of Oregon's lawmakers will be involved in the meetings - many in several.

Sen. Anthony Yturri (R-Ontario) is generally credited with the idea behind Legislative Week. And it was implemented by the new Interim Committee on Legislative Administration, co-chaired by Senate President E. D. (Debbs) Potts (D-Grants Pass) and House Speaker Robert F. Smith (R-Burns).

Its purpose is to help Oregon's citizen Legislators better plan their private personal and business lives by setting aside a specific period of every month for interim committee deliberations. Without a specified week or period of days committed for the meetings, many Legislators find themselves called to Salem on a helter-skelter basis. Those serving on more than one interim body might make the trip to Salem on a Monday and turn right around and have to come back for another meeting two or three days later.

This problem is compounded by the distance between each Legislator's home and the Capitol Building.

No one seems willing to call Legislative Week a dress rehearsal for annual sessions of the Legislature. But annual sessions are considered an ultimate inevitability and at least one plan tied to yearly sessions fosters convening for one week monthly in order to retain the present amateur standing of Oregon lawmakers and escape whatever onus is attached to the concept of "professional" or full-time legislative office holder.

Meanwhile - and despite the fact Legislative Week is only a trial balloon subject to a later decision concerning permanency the January event poses interesting problems. The question of parking for 90 Legislators has to be worked out. Mail space customarily reserved for lawmakers during regular sessions has been rented to other motorists. State Street meters south of the Capitol Building might be hooded during Legislative Week - but not without a special agreement with the City of Salem.

The prospect of most lawmakers returning to town for a week in January is probably a happy one for many Salem businessmen. Legislative Week could be a boon for some merchants at a time not usually noted for commercial briskness.

And although evening meetings tentatively are scheduled for some committees and subcommittees, many observers figure solons will manage to get most of the business out of the way during the day and leave nights open for a certain amount of customary socializing.

Most dismayed by Legislative Week are members of the press and lobbyists. Reconvening the Legislature - even unofficially, is too big a story for periodic political writers to miss. The Capitol press corps will expand.

Some lobbyists will like the special week for the same reasons put forth by its originators. Others will find it harder to cover committee deliberations because of overlapping interests and daytime sessions followed by night meetings, too.

Regardless of the anticipated merits of Legislative Week for participating lawmakers, it remains a question whether the plan will persist. Interim committees traditionally have operated with a great degree of autonomy. Already some

solons have objected to the newly created Legislative Administration committee presuming to set meeting dates for everyone else.

Nonetheless Legislative Week begins January 20 and Salem-watchers will focus on this most recent innovation of the Oregon legislative process with more than cursory interest.

Two on Carrier

Fireman Apprentice Lindsey H. Duncan USN, husband of the former Miss Linda M. Gratrek of Route 1, Boring, and Disbursing Clerk First Class Carroll D. Davis, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Davis of Route 1, Boring, are serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Ranger off the coast of Vietnam.

The 80,000-ton Ranger is currently in its fifth combat tour in Vietnam and ninth to the Western Pacific. This is her third cruise with Attack Carrier Air Wing Two embarked. Ranger serves as flagship for Rear Admiral James C. Donaldson of Bessemer, Ala., Commander Carrier Division Three.

Retouch Class Listed

A course, "Negative Retouching and Photography Coloring for Profit," will be taught Jan. 12, 19 and 26 at Mt. Hood Community College.

The class will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. in PE 124. A fee of \$10 will be charged.

Learning to retouch and color negatives can be fun and profitable according to Dave Spooner, Director of Community Services. "I'm told that people with these skills are in great demand at photographic studios throughout the area," said Spooner. "Because of this," he continued "we are offering this course."

Cheryl Poff and Dorothy Stasi, both Bruno Studio employees, will teach the classes.

According to Spooner, photograph coloring is "nearly an art of the past since most studios prefer to use color film. Negative retouchers can make very good money during peak seasons, many working in their

Persons may register for this class at the Educational Services Office on campus or at the first class meeting.

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Play Back - - -

(Continued From Page 1)

The old city hall was deserted as offices in the new city hall were occupied and the new Hoodland Park Plaza at Wemme prepared for its opening.

NOVEMBER - The long-awaited toll free, extended area telephone service began with the month.

State Treasurer Robert Straub headed the long list of dignitaries who gathered here for dedication of Sandy's new city hall and library Nov. 15.

Hoodland Park Plaza began its month-long, grand opening celebration and thousands of admiring shoppers visited the new stores.

To further mark the event, the Sandy Post added a special Hoodland Section to its pages with hopes of making it a permanent addition.

DECEMBER - Mt. View Water District's special election on a \$750,000 bond issue for construction of facilities met strong opposition at the polls and went down by a vote of 326-148.

Sandy offered its sewer bonds (\$450,000) for sale but no bids were forthcoming. The council made plans to offer the bonds again early in 1970.

Santa Claus made his annual pre-Christmas visit and Christmas Eve stop in the city and citizens celebrated Christmas quietly in their homes and churches.

At year's end grey skies and rain presented a continuing weather pattern although snow on the higher elevations was accumulating in satisfactory amounts for winter sports. Some lower altitudes are now reporting snow fall...so look out! - the year might still end as it began!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND DECADE TO YOU!



WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

Ring out the old, ring in the new! May 1970 bring to you and your family good health, good cheer, good friends and good fortune. Happy New Year!

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