

She finds enthusiasm adds interest to banking

By NANCY BARKER
Staff Writer
"I love my work," enthused
Parm Berg, manager of the
Oregon Trail Savings and Loan

Association in Sandy. "I plan
on working 'til I retire!"
The petite lady banker, who
appears to be right out of her
teens, is also a housewife and

mother. She thrives on the
challenge of juggling a full-
time job with her home
responsibilities.

"I tried staying home, but
I'm just not cut out for it," she
admitted. "I missed people."
Parm feels that her schedule
 dovetails perfectly with that of
her husband, who is a deputy
sheriff for Multnomah County.
One of them is always home
with their children, Derrick, 11,
and Stacy, six.

"Our hours coincide—he
works nights, and I work days.
There are no problems. His
hours are kind of bad, though.
If I wasn't working, I'd go out
of my head!" she laughed.

What is it like being married
to a policeman? (This a loaded
question, and one Parm
frequently hears.)

"I am very proud of my
husband. You have a lot more
respect for a police officer
when you're married to one. It
takes a special kind of person to
be a law enforcement officer.

"Most people judge
policemen from being stopped
and given tickets," she con-
tinued. "Policemen are un-
derestimated; people don't
understand what they're doing.
They don't get the respect due
them."

Parm's high regard for the
law enforcement profession is
partially due to the rigorous
training required. Husband
John, a graduate of the
University of Idaho, took his
police training in Multnomah
County. His younger brother,
Gary, who is following in his
footsteps, now attends the
Portland Police Academy.

"I'm helping him by typing
his paperwork. He gets college
credit for it. I find it very in-
formative."

It was her husband's job with
Multnomah County that
brought the Bergs to Oregon
from Moscow, Ida., three years
ago. Parm had worked in a
commercial bank about two
years at the time, and wrote the
Gresham Chamber of Com-
merce for job information prior
to the move.

"I've been with Oregon Trail
almost three years," stated
Parm, who had trained at the
head office in Gresham, and the
Rockwood branch before
coming to Sandy as manager of
this branch.

She attained this position
after less than four years all
together in the banking
business. Because of her age
and sex, Parm does not con-
form to typical image of a bank
manager.

"Many people are surprised
to find that I'm the manager.
One said, 'you can't be the
manager, you're too short!'"

Although she started out as a
bookkeeper on her first banking
job in Idaho, she became a
teller after just three months.
She much preferred the teller
job, and considers it invaluable
experience.

"I liked it much better than
bookkeeping. Quite often,
people are uneasy working
around money, but I'm not. In
order to be a teller, you have to
have confidence handling
money."

"The main purpose in being a
teller is informing people,"
added Parm. Sometimes a
person has a large amount of
money in the wrong type of
account. We try to find the best
one to suit the customer's



SUSIE COPPER, trainee at the Sandy branch of Oregon Trail, receives instruction from manager Parm Berg. (Post photo)



DESK WORK, such as typing is an indispensable part of banking, even for a manager. (Post photo)



THIS SATISFIED customer feels his money's safe with Parm Berg, manager of the Sandy branch of Oregon Trail Savings and Loan. (Post photo)

needs."
That banking is an exacting
profession is affirmed by
Parm. She is especially aware
of this now that she is a
manager.

"When you're working with
money, it must balance com-
pletely each day. I can't leave
until it does," explained Parm,
who sometimes has had to work
overtime balancing accounts.

This, however, may be a
thing of the past, now that
Oregon Trail has its new On-
Line-Computer System. This
acts as a memory bank which
keeps information about ac-
counts available; it instantly
records deposits and with-
drawals, and adds on interest.
The computer is the first of its
kind in the area.

"It makes balancing a lot
easier," exclaimed Parm.
"Now that everything is
programmed into the machine,
it simplifies bookkeeping. We
are constantly programming it
to take more information."

The new computer system
will help serve customers
better, as well as keep pace
with progress, both of which

are important to Oregon Trail's
manager.

"We're growing with Sandy.
As the area grows, my job
involves more contact with
more people," said Parm, who
enjoys that part of her job. "I
like the people here; they're
like home-town people."

Because of her interest in the
area, she is currently serving
as secretary on the Com-
prehensive Plan for Sandy. She
feels that citizens in the area
should definitely take ad-
vantage of the opportunity to
help in the planning.

"How do they know what
people want? The only way is
for people to attend meetings
and express their feelings!"

Parm's involvement in the
community includes the Sandy
Chamber of Commerce, and
the Mt. Hood Recreational
Association. She likes to try out
ideas which will benefit the
community, such as the
Businessmen's Coffee Hour
which she recently started, and
the carillon chimes, now heard
every day from Oregon Trail.

Whatever spare time she has,
Parm usually spends at the
Berg's new home on one and a
half acres, near Langensand
Road.

"We mainly like to stay
home. My weekends are full,
working in the house. I try to
use my spare time in the yard
and we're planning to redo the
basement," added Parm to her

list of household projects.

Though independent and
efficient enough to manage a
full-time job and family, Parm
who is against extremes, is not
a devotee of Women's Lib.

"I'm all for femininity; a
woman should be a woman. I
think there's a place for
women, and it's not sitting
behind a cab in a truck, or in a
police patrol car."

Parm, who believes in equal
pay, feels that she has been
given equal opportunity and
training, and has encountered
no discrimination.

"If you work for something,
and you're qualified, you're
going to achieve your goal."

Women are better at some
jobs than others, according to
Sandy's lady banker, and
evidently banking is one of
them.

"I enjoy my job—I like being
a manager!"

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Airman Hawkins graduated
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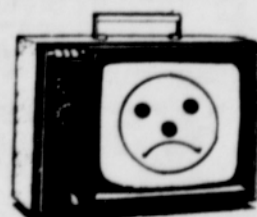
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