

Sandy Post

Lee Irwin, Publisher

Sue Lafky, Editor
Douglas Gantenbein, Staff Reporter
Caroline Duff, Office Manager
Carl Weaver, Advertising Manager

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Give Credit Where Due

The Clackamas County Historical Society Monday night voted to support a cause we're behind 100 per cent: Naming the new U.S. Post Office currently under construction on Welches Road the Welches Post Office.

Right now plans indicate that the new post office will go by the Wemme name. However, we hope the U.S. Postal Service hasn't cast this decision in stone.

The mountain area has lost many of its post offices through the years—including Welches, Faubion, Zigzag and Rowe. There is also talk about the discontinuation of the Brightwood and Rhododendron post offices, something we would hate to see.

The new post office is really closer to the Welches area than Wemme. And 85-year-old Jennie Welch, long time postmaster for the Welches Post Office, still runs an antique store in the area. Her husband, William Welch, served as postmaster from approximately 1910 until 1940. Then Mrs. Welch served as postmaster of

the well-loved office until her retirement in 1960. Shortly thereafter, the office was closed.

Wemme is named for E. Henry Wemme, a public spirited citizen of Portland who posthumously deeded the Barlow Road to the State of Oregon. Wemme certainly deserves to have an area named after him but we believe the Welch name played a much bigger role in area history. The Welch family homesteaded in the area in 1882 and built a summer hotel that attracted numerous visitors to the area. And the family previously owned what is now Bowman's Golf Course.

Further adding to the historical significance of naming the post office Welches is that Jennie Welch's father, William J. Faubion, was the only postmaster of the Faubion Post Office discontinued in 1932.

Jennie Welch is, in the words of one mountain resident, "a first citizen of the mountain." We agree and would like future history to reflect the Welches heritage.

If you agree with us, write to Portland Postmaster B. W. Luscher, Jr., care of the Portland Post Office. We may make a difference (SAL)

We Want Your Stories

Why do you rewrite my articles? How can I get my story in the newspaper?

These are questions we are frequently asked at The Sandy Post. We want to help so next Tuesday night at 7 p.m. we will sponsor a newspaper article seminar in Rm. 4 of the Sandy Upper Grade School geared especially for the club publicity chairmen. We are interested in getting your local news in the paper

Tri-Met Looks for Alternatives

A blue-ribbon committee currently is studying possible alternatives to Tri-Met's present method of financing.

Tri-Met doesn't have a route that is paying its own way and a few recent cuts in service really have done nothing more than nibble away at the deficit. Additional, substantial cuts will occur unless more money is found.

Two obvious avenues are open. . . increases in fares, and a hike in the business tax. Either would be unpopular and would be implemented only with reluctance.

The business tax can only go so high. Right now, it is at five-tenths of one per cent of payrolls in the Tri-County area encompassed by Tri-Met. It could go to six-tenths but no

Choices for the College

It was just a couple of months ago that Mt. Hood Community College finally gained approval of its 1977-78 operating levy.

Now the College is back at the well again. Board members will decide tonight (Wednesday) what route they'll take for 1978-79.

Three choices are being considered. . . a one-year levy, a new tax base, or a three-year serial levy with a constant tax rate.

The latter alternative, made possible by passage of SB543 during the recent legislative session, offers a new approach. Heretofore, serial levies were for a set, specified amount of money each year. . . say \$1 million.

The new approach doesn't set a money amount but rather a constant tax rate. New construction or increases in appraised value thus are

and want to help organizations get the most out of their publicity efforts.

We'll cover such topics as how to submit an article about a group meeting, planned money-raising project or special event. Newspaper writing has a style all its own and we want to help people write an informative article suitable for the press.

The class is sponsored by the Sandy Community School. (SAL)

higher under Tri-Met's enabling legislation. Practical considerations dictate just how high fare increases can go.

The blue-ribbon committee will report about Jan. 1. Reportedly, none of the proposals considered thus far have met with much enthusiasm.

Some cities—Tacoma, for one—have a household tax: each residence is taxed 50 cents per year or some such minimal figure. Voters in Seattle, however, rejected even that approach in an election earlier this year.

Advertising, inside and outside Tri-Met buses, also has been suggested but this wouldn't generate the kind of income Tri-Met feels it needs.

Coming up with the necessary cash isn't going to be easy.

reflected in the amount of money collected. In other words, tax receipts will increase as the district grows.

We don't know which of the three alternatives the College board will accept. Students favor a new tax base, management groups favor a one-year levy, and classified personnel and faculty favor the new serial levy approach.

Each has its drawbacks, each its advantages. Mt. Hood's present tax base is inadequate to support the College so some sort of decision has to be made.

We realize voters traditionally are reluctant to approve multi-year levies but we still like the new serial levy approach. It will give the College some stability as well as catching up with new and/or revalued construction. It's worth a try.

County comments

'Take it...and like it' cry of planners

by Bill Sanderson

It may not be the "fight of the century" but scores of irate Clackamas County citizens are preparing to oppose the efforts of the county's planning bureaucracy to complete the current Rural Zoning Project.

Various citizen's groups are busily preparing petitions to the county commissioners and reportedly to state and regional authorities to save their areas from the "take it and like it" authority of the "planners."

The announced purpose of the Rural Zoning Project was to zone unzoned areas, rezone portions of rural Clackamas County not consistent with the current comprehensive plan or confirm the present zoning.

The four main "areas" of the project were identified as Molalla, Redland, Estacada and Tualatin-Wilsonville, although a number of smaller communities were lumped together in some of the named areas.

Many of the smaller areas quite properly claim distinct differences with the area to which they have been assigned.

The normal problems involved in the land-use planning and zoning processes have been escalated in this zoning project by a deplorable ineptness in its presentation and the always frightening threat of "legal" bureaucratic domination.

When the project was initially announced, the reasons for it were listed as follows:

- State law requires counties to zone land (ORS 215).
- Comprehensive plans and zoning must meet state land use goals (ORS 197).
- The comprehensive plan is the "overriding document"

(Oregon Supreme Court, Fasano vs. Washington County).

—Zoning must complement the plan (Oregon Supreme Court, Baker vs. City of Milwaukie).

Unfortunately for the project, rural people who have slaved a lifetime to carve out a farm, rural home or investment do not take kindly to being told that without so much as a "by-your-leave," planners' decisions have already been made and have already been applied to the old homestead.

And still more unfortunately—or ineptly—the schedule for completing the project seemed to allow citizens only one meeting in September in each of the main areas for discussion of the changes the "planners" were about to make!

A great many people—a clear majority according to some reliable observers—attended the September area meetings hoping to, (1) get more information on some of the basic problems completion of the project would cause, and (2) to find some way to offer their own ideas and suggestions in the face of what they regarded as an economic catastrophe or an intrusion upon their legal rights.

In either case they were short changed. Meeting agendas were carefully printed, spelling but the "one way" communications flow.

Agenda items were closely followed, allowing no response from the floor and ignoring all other points of view.

The meetings were "tellings"—not "hearings." Much of the dissatisfaction with the county's rural zoning

project springs from the use by the planners of such words as "must" and "required" and "permit" and "according to our maps."

Few people who own, care for and pay plenty of taxes on their homes and property take kindly to the presumption that any bureaucratic plan takes precedence over the rights of ownership.

Strong comparisons are being made between the legal "investment" in time and of a family farm or home, and the county employe whose administrative whim, or schedule, or decision, could, if left unchallenged, destroy the scanty rewards of land ownership.

Those opposing the zoning project are not the stubborn, unthinking people who resist even efficient land-use planning.

These are the people who are well aware that the public employe whose wages they help to pay can avoid the vicious side-effects of higher taxes on the land along with impossible limitations on its use, while the landowner cannot.

They are also well aware that a "law" is one thing, and that administrative plans, schedules, meeting agendas and poorly concealed squeeze plays are something less than the "law."

Among those who have most persistently questioned the legality, necessity and methods being used in this project are those in rural areas already zoned.

Planners claim that parts, or all, or most of such areas are inconsistent with the current comprehensive plan and must therefore be rezoned to con-

form with that document.

Actually, areas zoned prior to the adoption of the comprehensive plan were in complete compliance with existing statutes and/or ordinances and were the then comprehensive plan.

There is no evidence that such lands have legally been measured against either the Fasano or the Baker decisions of the Oregon Supreme Court.

It is a fact that some areas were zoned more than three years before the adoption of the current comprehensive plan and by procedures that were far more democratic and in line with LCDC's Goal No. 1 (citizen involvement) than those used in the present project!

Another area of contention between citizens and county employes, (planners, coordinators, etc.) has been that county bureaucrats have not always followed the same regulations they insist must be followed by the citizens.

The size, shape and geographic locations assigned to some "neighborhood" or "community" areas is a case in point.

The county's comprehensive plan which the "planners" use so glibly as a legal reference and guide sets forth, among a plethora of other bureaucratic verbiage, "that the boundaries of the neighborhood specifically define an area of appropriate geographic size and population for effective planning and that these boundaries take into account natural boundaries, commercial patterns, community organizations and historical factors."

It is no secret that the county's planners and coordinators have rarely followed their own regulations in the establishment of neighborhood organizations and making recommendations that such organizations be "recognized."

The rules have been warped to accommodate various persons or groups believed to be compliant with the bureaucracy's plans just as many people believe they have been warped to exclude some hard-headed citizens who know the difference between true democratic process and the tyranny of fuzzy, complicated administrative rules that are generally interpreted for the bureaucrat—by the bureaucrat.

Ample evidence of the above situation is available throughout the county where strange, unusual and unwieldy combinations of former long-standing and historical neighborhoods have been combined to form "Community Planning Organizations" in which only a small per cent of the people are either interested or active.

The opposite is equally true. Many geographically small neighborhoods have either been absorbed by the bureaucratically oriented confederations or left unrecognized because they can not be "handled."

The writer has in his possession a list of persons more or less active in "planning" circles throughout the county who have been actually "evaluated" by a former Clackamas County Citizen Involvement Coordinator.

A handwritten note on this "secret" list is addressed to an officer in a regional

organization. It states that the list is "for you alone because of the evaluations" and contains a "key" to the evaluations.

Although this happened during the incumbency of a former "coordinator" there are no reasons to believe that the urge to "control" is still one of the significant forces behind the county's planning effort.

The various belated efforts of the county commissioners to improve the "planning" have only served to highlight, rather than provide any lasting benefits to the county's wobbly planning program.

While the real benefits of a careful, citizen-oriented planning program have been shrinking from a lack of leadership and a real desire to serve rather than control, the difficulties of imposing this kind of a program upon the citizens have been allowed to multiply until they (and their rapidly escalating costs) have formed a formidable barrier to its success or its acceptance by the public.

More and more citizens are beginning to realize the "insult-to-injury" factor in a public program that limits their freedoms at the same time it takes more and more of their money to support it.

In the matter of costs, an exceedingly sore point has been the planner's stock answer to citizen request that planning studies and programs be tailored to fit each neighborhood or community and its particular problems.

Planners insist that such a course would be too costly and too time consuming.

Citizens (who pay the costs in any case) simply cannot accept that answer. They see both the costs of supporting the program and the much greater costs of its consequences as being their contribution, while the program is being directed and controlled by those who have contributed nothing but the willingness to accept a fat pay check.

In the Molalla area a few citizens are said to be gearing up for an all-out battle to resist the rural zoning program unless more effective citizen participation is allowed.

In the Viola area petitions are being distributed to put the county commissioners on the spot for legal and official explanations of the program that planning employees could not or would not offer.

In the Estacada-Colton area letters and phone calls indicate a rapidly growing coalescence of resistance.

In Redland small groups of neighbors are banding together to explore the possibilities of petitioning the county commissioners for relief from what they believe are unjustified procedures initiated by the planners.

Back of it all is the often expressed fear of bureaucratic domination without adequate protection of the citizen's rights by his elected officials.

Perhaps it is now long past time for the three county commissioners to take a good, careful look at what they have permitted to grow in the county's bureaucratic garden.

Their legal responsibility to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens contains no exceptions not even when that means protecting them from their own employees.

His 'fair' share



Official: But John Q., we're going to let you pay for it.

letters to the editor

Office open

To the Editor:
We wish to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and prayers during this trying time, especially the Sandy Fire Department for their prompt and expert services, which we are sure saved doctor's life.
The dentists associated with the Clackamas County Study Group, which Dr. Lamke has been affiliated with for 20 years, are volunteering their time and services to keep our office open.

The office will be open on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The office will be open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday to answer calls.

Dr. and Mrs. Albert Lamke and family
Sandy, Ore.

CF thanks

To the Editor
On behalf of lung-damaged children throughout the United States, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation extends sincere thanks to the many members of the Portland Metropolitan area who did "everything to help" in the Breath of Life Campaign.

Thousands of dedicated volunteers donated their time in the door-to-door march, and although it is too early for a final tally, indications are that this year's goals will be met when all the money has been turned in.

This volunteer effort will help to support Cystic Fibrosis centers throughout the United States specializing in the diagnosis, treatment and referral of children with CF and other lung-damaging diseases.

To the contributors, we send heart-felt thanks. Your hard

earned dollars will provide much needed funds for research to find a control or cure for cystic fibrosis, a leading genetic killer of children.

Special thanks to the mass media representatives who have helped alert parents to the signs of CF and other lung-damaging diseases and to the importance of diagnosis and comprehensive treatment.

Through the humanitarian efforts of volunteers, contributors and the media, we hope one day to realize a future in which children no longer suffer from cystic fibrosis or any other lung-damaging disease.

When that day arrives, you will have helped make it possible.
John T. Floyd,
Executive Director
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation,
Oregon Chapter
0112 SW Pennoyer,
Portland, Ore. 97201

VFW slates potluck

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will meet at the VFW hall in Sandy this Friday night at

6:30 for a potluck dinner. A business meeting at 8 will feature the district commander and the auxiliary president.



George Morgan
Local Representative

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