

Sandy Post

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A Positive Step

The Hoodland Fire District Board of Directors chose the right man for the job when they named Don Armintrout the new chief for the growing district. Sandy's loss is Hoodland's gain.

Armintrout will provide strong leadership and expertise for the department and both the volunteers and community deserve his respect. We believe this is a good time for Hoodland residents to become more supportive of their fire department and throw their encouragement behind the volunteers.

There's something special about the men who give their time and often risk their necks to save other people's

lives and property. Volunteers—whether they be from Sandy, Hoodland or Boring—need to know that the community appreciates and supports what they're doing and trying to do.

It's a rule of thumb that people get the kind of service and government they deserve. Sometimes those services are better than the public deserves, rarely are they worse. If people want good emergency services in their area they need to make the commitment to see it happen. Hiring Armintrout and instituting some changes in the Hoodland Fire District is a step in the right direction on the mountain.

Football at Its Best

We don't know how many million people watched the USC-UCLA football game on national TV last Friday night but those who didn't missed the best contest in years.

It truly was football at its best. We can't ever remember a more exciting game.

All the more, it reinforced our notion that college ball has it all over professional. You just don't get that kind of electric excitement in the pro ranks. Nor the spontaneous enthusiasm.

A New Kind of Casualty List

Rep. Claude Pepper (D-Fla.) is an active proponent of suggestions that the mandatory retirement age in both the public and private sector be raised.

And as part of his effort to bring attention to the problem, he's starting a new monthly list of forced retirements. His top two nominees this year were E. Clifton Daniel, associate editor and former Washington bureau chief for the New York Times and longtime TV

newsman Eric Severeid. Both reached 65 recently and thus were shelved.

Pepper, who is 77, has introduced a bill which will ban forced retirement of federal workers and extend to age 70 protection given workers against mandatory retirement in private industry.

Pepper plans to issue his list each month, hoping the attention thus focused on the problem will goad Congress into action.

Auction begins holiday season

The Sandy Area Merchants are more than outdoing themselves for their second annual Christmas Auction next Sunday afternoon.

Fifty-five merchants representing a majority of the city's businesses have donated literally hundreds of items for the event which will provide funds for the Sandy holiday activities, this year known as Christmas in Sandyland.

Everything from a pick-up truck

Expense Account Lunch, Endangered Species?

Campaigning for the presidency last year, President-to-be Jimmy Carter made a lot of points inveighing against the expense account lunch.

"Jet airplanes, first-class travel, the \$50 martini lunch. The average working person can't take advantage of that, but the wealthier people can" so said Carter.

Now comes the post-election accounting.

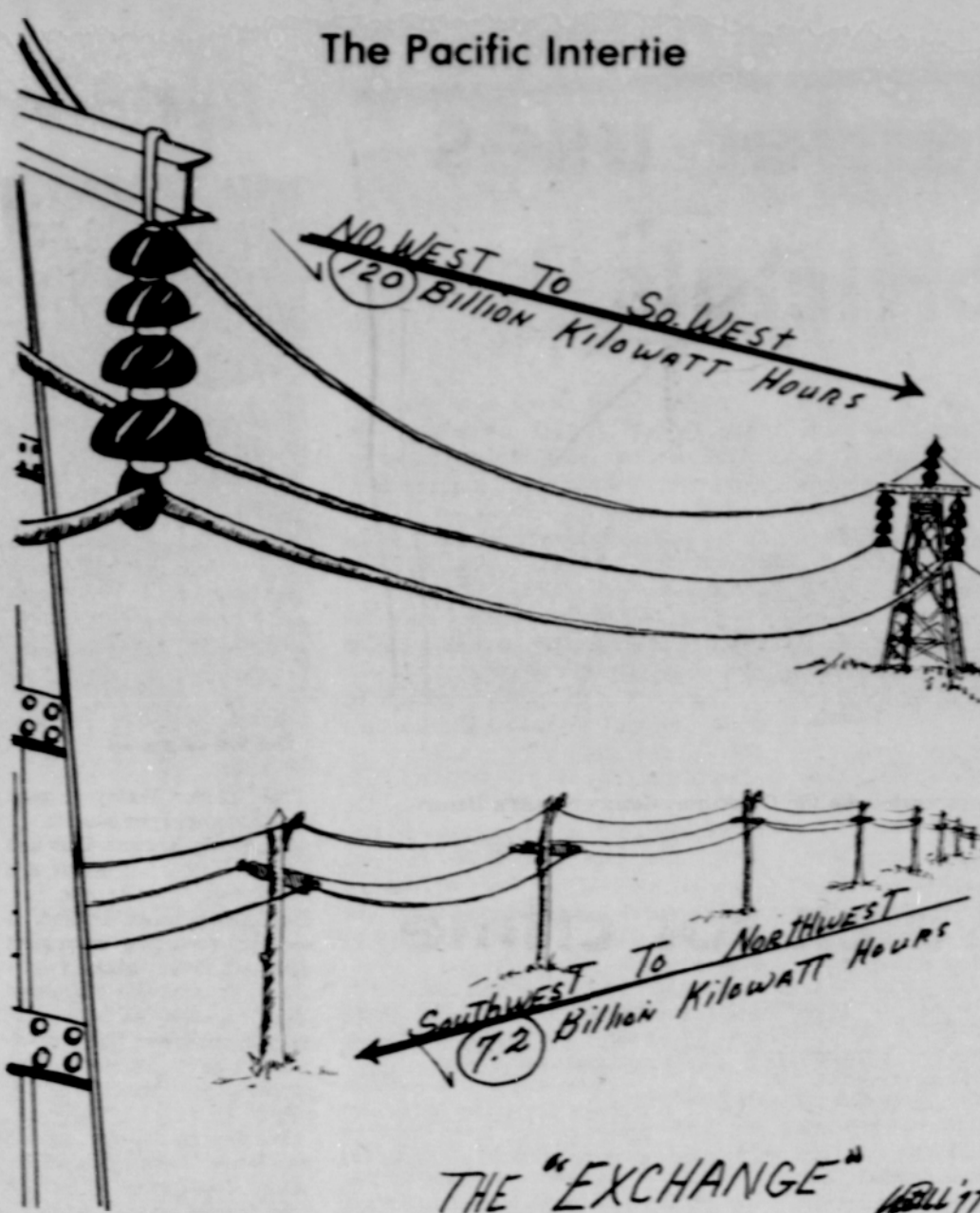
Carter's plan to cut out half of the expense allowance for restaurant meals "conducive to business discussion" is attracting more than the usual amount of flak.

A spokesman for the National Restaurant Association says "It's a pretty short-sighted thing to do when you're trying to stimulate employ-

ment. The 450,000-member Restaurant and Bartenders International Union says 75,000 members would lose their jobs. Carter's proposal "will have top priority" next year, the union promises. Other, similar complaints have been heard.

On the other side are the Ralph Nader people who "oppose the whole notion of someone being able to increase their standard of living with what amounts to tax-free money. Should the taxpayers subsidize this?"

Best guess is that Congress will shy away from any drastic revisions as it did when President Kennedy made a similar suggestion back in 1961. Congress doesn't seem anxious to pick up the tab.



letters to the editor

Needed research

To the Editor: As predictable as the seasons, news accounts appear regularly on the never-ending tragedy of paralysis caused by spinal cord injuries. Across the country such injuries occur on an average of one every 40 minutes - mainly from motor accidents but also from gunshot wounds, sports and falls which can happen to anyone, anytime.

Some victims are well known: Stan Harmon, the Portland police officer shot by a sniper, Rod Peterson, the young Benson student hurt in football, Brian Sternberg, the Olympic pole vaulter paralyzed in a trampoline mishap. The wife of a recently paralyzed Utah police officer, in describing her husband's condition, said, "There is something worse than death and I have seen it." In 1975, a committee of leading medical scientists commissioned by the federal government reported that cure of paralysis is "an accessible goal" and that "vigorous research efforts" should be undertaken. No action on the report followed, however.

Now, at long last something is being done to help past and the inevitable future victims.

After an in-depth investigation requested by the Oregon congressional delegation, the U.S. General Accounting Office reported in October the need for comprehensive emergency spinal cord treatment centers in every large metropolitan area. Prompt care (within four hours) can prevent permanent paralysis in many instances. Efforts are now under way to establish these centers, including one in Portland. (Such facilities already exist in Europe but there is only one of comparable caliber in the U.S. - in Boston.)

In requesting the GAO study and in pushing for research to cure existing paralysis, as forecast by scientists, members of the Oregon delegation have been outstanding. We believe their efforts should be recognized by everyone concerned about the truly terrible sufferings brought on by this dehumanizing condition. We commend our delegation and urge every Oregonian to join them in support of the great cause of preventing and curing paralysis. This is surely one of the most humanitarian of endeavors and we are proud that Oregonians are leading the way toward long-needed action.

Sincerely,
Bob Straub
Governor

Pleas heard

To the Editor: Benjamin Luscher, who makes decisions on postal service in Oregon, has heard our pleas. He has polled the mountain community by mail to choose a name for the new

post office on Welches Road. We citizens find it satisfying to be so consulted.

Let us applaud Luscher for a change in attitude from two years ago when he proposed arbitrary and sweeping changes, closing three post offices and revamping the whole system without fully consulting the residents—the people served.

Let us take caution, too, lest this new facility become the instrument for killing post offices at Brightwood and Rhododendron. Such as they are, we need them, and we must be heard before making further changes. For those who need the reminder, the weather in the past two weeks said it loud and clear, as well as cold. People in the back roads and byways had no mail delivery for two days and more. Others experienced long delays because of deep snow and cold. It proved how ineffective RFD can be in this heavy climate.

No question about it, with weather like that, RFD, such as Luscher has proposed to substitute for our post offices, would not work. It proved our essential need for postal service, complete with lock boxes and window service, right where they are now. Revive Welches, I say, but long live 97049 and 97011!

Joe Stein
Star Route
Zigzag, Ore. 97049

Holiday greetings

To the Sandy Post and the City of Sandy:

I am in the Army in Germany and I get the paper every week. I would like to thank you for sending me the paper by wishing The Sandy Post staff, the area merchants and all the City of Sandy Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Pfc. Donald Vedder
544-74-6677
SVC BRTY 3-84 F.A.
APO New York, 09176

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County comments

Power supplies still manipulated

by Bill Sanderson

The manipulation of the Northwest's vast supplies of electric power has been going on since the Department of Interior's Grand Coulee and the Corps of Engineer's Bonneville dams first came on the line.

For each, the private power companies of the Northwest predicted the horrendous calamity of producing millions of surplus kilowatts of power for which there could be no use or sale.

Politicians were elected to office or defeated by public versus private power vendettas.

Newspaper editorials took up the cudgels in defense of their factories, and considering the perfect view of "hindsight" nearly everyone involved performed in exactly the manner predicted.

Washington state, with the most of its population well served by the great municipal utilities, had no difficulty in opting for the public utilities districts that would have a first claim on federally developed power.

Oregon and Idaho, with much of their available land and population already under franchise to rapidly expanding private utility companies, followed the more conservative line of their powerful power lobbies.

The Bonneville Power Administration took over the job of distributing and marketing all federally created electrical energy in accordance with what were at first, some hard-and-fast, no-nonsense rules.

Of all of the unusual ideas that were put forward by those who favored the development of hydro-electric power as a "private" enterprise (regardless of whose public waters they used to do it with) the short-lived and slightly cockeyed plans for "partnership" dams deserve mention, particularly those being

planned for the main stem of the Columbia and the Lower Snake.

At that time the Corps of Engineers could justify the tremendous costs of building dams like McNary, John Day or The Dalles dams by a costs-benefits equation that made it possible to charge off huge blocks of the initial costs to the improvement of navigation, irrigation and flood control.

That sort of bookkeeping made it possible to reduce the overall costs of hydro-electric development to a manageable level of financing the powerhouse on anticipated revenues.

In no time at all Northwest private utilities were able to glimpse the ideal arrangement. Backed by their conservative, "free-enterprise" friends in politics and the press they started a campaign to become "partners" in the federal dam-building business.

The government would build the dams, and private enterprise would operate the power producing facilities!

I have here a little cartoon produced anonymously first in the Oregon Labor Press, later published all over the country to the tune of many a chuckle during the national 1952 presidential campaign.

Oh yes, about the Northwest-Southwest "intertie" and "exchange" which has been primarily engineered by the Bonneville Power Administration.

I originally planned to illustrate that situation with a cartoon of the "horse-and-rabbit" hamburger—in a fine old "one horse-to-one-rabbit" recipe. Then I happened to remember the "partnership" dams.

It makes little difference who builds the Northwest-Southwest Pacific Intertie.

What really counts is how much each of its "partners" contributes to the power load and which way that power is going.



Martsofs celebrate 40th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Martsof celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Nov. 6 at the home of their son, Kenneth Martsof, Gresham.

The couple was married Nov. 7, 1937 in Abilene, Texas. Hosts for the event were

Charles Martsof and the couple's daughter, Mrs. Ed. (Charlotte) Granger. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Martsof of Gresham and six grandchildren.

Another son, Myron, is in the Navy and was not able to attend.

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