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A simple resolution

We know of a good New Year's resolution everyone can keep. It won't take long and you only need to do it once — unless, of course, you have more than one telephone.

When Jan. 2 comes, be sure to put the new fire number near your telephone so you will have the emergency service number close at hand when you need it. Sandy Fire

Fighting the Bureaucratic Maze

Republican gubernatorial candidate Roger Martin hit the proverbial nail on the head last week in remarks on land-use planning.

He said the problems encountered today in dealing with overlapping and often conflicting government agencies have almost made it impossible for the average person to own a new home.

No longer do you pick out a lot, arrange your financing, get a building permit, and build your house.

Now, you have to run a whole gauntlet of agencies...LCDC, DEQ, CRAG, Boundary Review, city and county planning commissions etc.

A Welcome Sight

Knowing the months-long drought which has afflicted Southern California, it was with pleasure we watched the Los Angeles Rams and the Minnesota Vikings slither around in the muddy goo Monday.

That much goo meant a lot of rain, a whole lot, and Southern California has been desperately short of precipitation for nearly two and one-

Special Surcharge Unprofitable?

Did Oregon make a mistake when it slapped a surcharge on out-of-state users of state parks?

Apparently so, judging from results of a study recently completed in the State of Washington.

The State Parks and Recreation Department considered a similar surcharge there but decided to wait until early returns were in from Oregon.

Now in, those returns indicate attendance of out-of-state visitors has dropped 16 percent since Oregon instituted the surcharge. (One-third of all campers are from out-of-state.)

Figuring that the average out-of-state camper spends an average of \$37.80 per day for meals, gas, recreation etc., Oregon thus has

A Tough Opponent

A headline in the newspaper read "Environmentalists attack automobile."

They couldn't have picked a tougher foe. If you ask the average American to name one item he simply couldn't do without, inevitably he'd answer the family car. Or possibly his television.

Everything the environmentalists say is true...highways destroy homes, pollution from autos and buses is a health hazard, the average American spends more on transportation than on food.

But the automobile is an absolute

Peace in 1978?

No one expects a quick settlement in the Middle East but very real progress may occur in 1978.

Meetings currently under way are a most hopeful sign. Contacts have been made, conversations are being held which a few short months ago would have been totally inconceivable.

As long as Begin and Sadat are talking, they're not fighting, and

District 72 is working to make people aware of the change by sending out new phone stickers and advertising its change.

Don't wait until it's too late to find out the fire department's new number. Write 668-7474 in your phone book and keep the number by your phone. (SAL)

Even then the answers aren't always conclusive.

Martin put it very well when he said there should be one place where a person could go to get the necessary approval. "It shouldn't be necessary to run all over town, buffeted from one agency to another. One call should do it all."

Multnomah County is trying to implement a one-call system on the county level but this covers only some of the agencies involved. Martin is right when he wonders out loud if we're becoming over-planned, over-organized.

half years. It may have ruined the football game and kept some 8,000 fans at home, but we suspect everyone—even confirmed sunbathers—were glad to see it come.

Closer to home, early snow already has ski resort owners painting rose-hued pictures. After last year's snowless winter, they deserve all the snow they can use.

dropped about \$379,000 worth of income per year. About \$202,000 was picked up from the surcharge, thus a net loss of roughly \$175,000.

After digesting these figures, Washington decided to forego any surcharge. Not only will the state be money ahead, but there has been no indication that Washington residents are all that excited about out-of-state users.

"There just hasn't been any demand" (for a surcharge) said a Parks Department spokesman.

Perhaps Oregon should take another look at its policy. It unquestionably has generated considerable ill-will on the part of out-of-staters and apparently is costing all of us money.

necessity in our mobile way of life. We could get along without cars—we could get along without most anything—but at a cost that thus far is unacceptable.

The trouble with the environmentalists in their battle against the car is their failure to provide alternatives. They can stop highways—as they've done in the Portland area—through political muscle, but they can't move people.

Until and unless they can come up with workable alternatives, the automobile is going to remain with us.

current talks thus far seem realistic, if not conciliatory.

Many other trouble spots remain in the world—most notably South Africa and Rhodesia—but the Middle East is the most dangerous. If peace does indeed come there in 1978, it will be a year of unequalled brilliance.

We should all hope and pray for that sort of year.

County comments

The year's rating: mediocre

by Bill Sanderson

The year 1977 will not go down in history as our greatest. Only those who have had particularly bad luck will call it the worst year ever.

If there was ever an average year category, 1977 might possibly qualify for a place in that column—someplace a little above a median line dividing the average from the mediocre.

Of course the things that make a year stand out away from the others of its century, era or grouping, may not become apparent except through the light of subsequent history.

The effect of a bad year may be another whole year in becoming apparent, and this is not just hindsight. The 1973-74 distress of Watergate did not start with the break-in at the National Democratic Headquarters. It started in 1972 with the election of Richard Nixon.

Single events, unless they are of catastrophic or of world-shaking importance, seldom make or break the historical importance of a year. However, they do often become "markers"—a convenient method of dividing time into "before" and "after" important events.

It's like 1492, before which the world was flat and Christopher Columbus had not yet performed his famous egg trick. After that year the Spanish Christian Kingdom, for the greater glory of God and the enrichment of His faithful servants in Spain, destroyed a civilization and culture considerably above and ahead of their own in some respects.

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One doubts that 1977 will even become one of those great pinpoints of history, marking a significant "before" and "after" change in human events.

In international news the continuing saga of the struggles of that hard-nosed group of Jewish adventurers to consolidate their hold on a sizeable chunk of much disputed, much fought-over real estate in the near East could have given 1977 great stature.

However, men and the events they create are somehow related in size and importance.

At this writing only Egypt's President Sadat appears to have been touched by the magic of historical greatness.

The 'til now failure of other Arab leaders and the hard-bargaining Israelis to grasp the opportunity for greatness in 1977 may effectively close off that opportunity for a long time.

For example consider, if you will, the electrifying effect on our world, at this time of the year, of an Israeli, (for the Jews), and Egyptian, (for the Arabs), and an American, (for the Christians) broadcasting a joint announcement to make Jerusalem, unbelievably holy to all three great religions, an internationally "open" city!

The whole, tired, old world would have perked up at that 2000-year-old-dream come true. In the ensuing aura of cooperation and brotherhood, who knows what great things could have happened to humanity?

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Nationally, and sadly, two failures seem to stand out over and above any two successes as important earmarks of the year we have just left behind.

The first has been the abysmal failure of the leaders of this nation to not only tell, but sell the country on the seriousness of the rapidly approaching crunch and changes in our dwindling energy supply.

The second, possibly related in some instances, has been the short-sighted determination of all kinds of groups, factions, minorities and sectors to plough blindly ahead in the face of changing times and changing relationships in pursuit of their own narrow advantages.

The loopholes in the administration's energy program to permit those who already use, or control, more than their fair share of the country's energy was a clear indication to most that "control" of energy, not "conservation" of energy was going to be the name of the game.

Who can blame John Doe, (who has seen a television program in which Senator Russel Long of Louisiana, for example, is shown exerting the

incredible power of the "oil block" and the Senate seniority system to control energy) for going out and buying the gas-guzzling car of his choice?

Nearly a year ago in this column we pleaded for a clear, unequivocal signal from the federal government that its commitment to a national energy program become more than a hollow, public relations propaganda effort. So far, it has not demonstrated any willingness to do just that. Leaders should "lead" from in front, not push from behind.

The second national failure in this year of 1977, is the short-sighted and selfishly motivated programs of groups, factions and minorities that prevents any national program to adjust to the times.

Big industry and big labor play this dangerous game with a kind of insane brinkmanship that bodes ill for all of the rest of us.

During the last few months large blocks of the steel industry has shut down its mills, laying off thousands of workers because (it says) it cannot compete in our own market with lower priced Japanese steel.

Last week, before any official announcement of price adjustment, Bethlehem Steel announced a new raise in its steel prices, and U.S. Steel followed suit.

Quite simply, the labor item in the cost of production in farming and industry is at or near the top of all of the reasons for our present balance of trade deficits. How smart does one have to be to understand that shipping a log clear to Japan in order to get finished lumber back here at a savings in savings is a labor saving device?

As the year ends the so-called "Farmer's Strike" gets into its third or fourth week with steadily decreasing momentum. Although it will fail to accomplish much of its stated goals, do not sell it short as one of the important events of 1977.

As a dress rehearsal of things to come it could be very, very important. There is no good reason to suppose that farmers cannot, in time, learn to use the same kind of tools against us who must have their products that big industry and big labor has been using for years.

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The year 1977 will not rate very high in the State of Oregon for anyone except, perhaps, those with the heaviest investments in Portland's downtown area.

They, at least, have been able to bring about such high-priced commitments to downtown renovation that expenditures of public money to protect those investments in the core area will now continue, almost automatically, for many years to come.

This has been the year when Gov. Bob Straub, Democrat, and two staunch Republicans, Victor Atiyeh and Roger Martin, have all announced for their party's nomination in 1978. The media build-up of former Gov. Tom McCall, (much of which is obviously inspired by McCall himself,) for an unprecedented third term seems, at this point, to worry each candidate more than anything else.

In a classic example of how to have your cake and eat it too, Gov. Straub drove a tractor in the demonstration put on by the striking farmers. He was, he said in effect, in favor of the demonstration but not of the strike!

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In Clackamas County 1977 may well be remembered as the year when a sluggish county government, preoccupied with the exciting business of creating a few more layers of administrative bureaucracy, fat jobs and fatter salaries, finally decided to do something about the quarter-century courthouse bottleneck.

One wonders if it would have happened at all if it had not been for the necessity to find more space for those on the "inside." Neither Clackamas County nor Oregon City officials have ever appeared to show much concern for those from the "outside."

Certainly 1977 will be remembered by many people in Clackamas County as the year in which the 1976 failure to repeal Senate Bill 100 came home to roost.



No, Sir, we do not take silly, old-fashioned things like that any more. You must have one of our blue-and-yellow "recognized" tickets, countersigned by a county extension agent, a planner and three CIACPs, two BABs and one each HUD, FUD, and DUD - what ever that is!



Gov. Straub joined the Farmer's Strike - almost.

The first Christmas card, designed in London in 1843, carried a classic greeting: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you."

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