

Sandy Post

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Published weekly Thursdays by The Outlook Publishing Co., Box 68, Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon.

668-5548

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year \$5.00
In Northwest and Pacific Coast States outside Oregon per year \$7.00
Servicemen, any address \$5.00
Outside Northwest and Pacific Coast states, per year \$9.00
In Oregon, outside Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, per year \$6.00

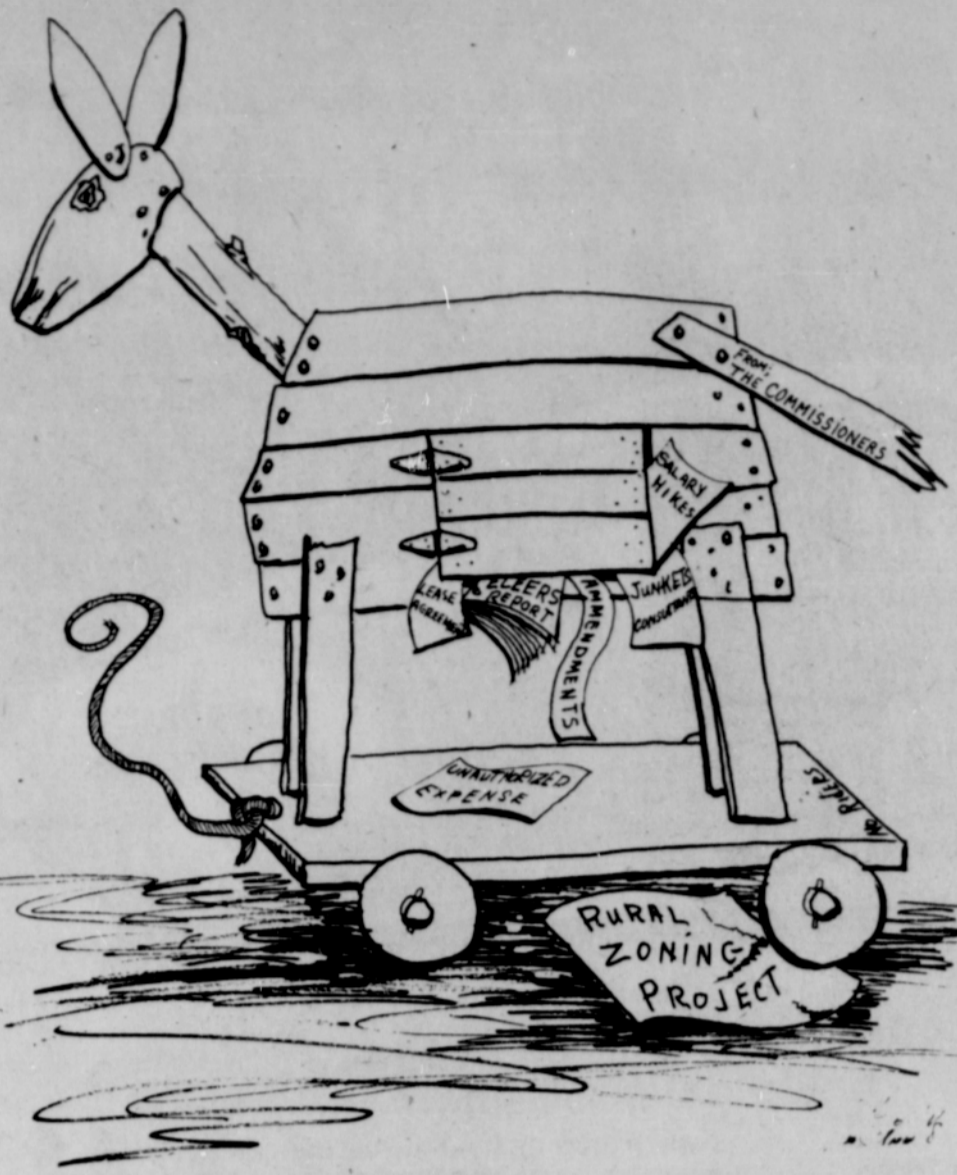
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OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Represented Nationally by U.S. SUBURBAN PRESS INC.

Page 2 Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon 97055 No. 3 Thurs., Jan. 19, 1978

The year of the horse



—and Clackamas County's horse of the year

County comments

This is the year of the horse

By Bill Sanderson

The Chinese, in line with their own inscrutable beliefs and customs, are calling this the "Year of the Horse."

American gamblers, to indicate a one-to-nothing advantage over an opponent in certain dice or chuck-a-luck games, say, "That's a horse on you," and from our own well-filled bin of sayings indicating a variance from the normal we say, "That's a horse of a different color."

We predict 1978 will be a "horse" of a year, that it will be "on" we citizens and taxpayers, and that we can start coloring it "expensive" any time now.

On the international scene a new complaint is being heard from our "friends" on the far-flung American "receiving" line.

We can all recall the daily complaints that one or more of our "friends" was not getting their fair share of our American dollars in loans and grants and goods. Now they no longer complain about the "quantity," they are becoming mightily dissatisfied with the poor quality of all those round, shiny - but not silvery - dollars.

You can hardly blame them. After all, it's getting so that it takes about 10 or 12 of our dollars to buy a \$1.40 barrel of OPEC oil!

Nationally, money-talk in the Year of the Horse reminds one of the kids playing poker with toothpicks - valued at a million dollars each! You've heard them: "I'll bet one million; I'll raise you two million; and I'll raise you TEN million" until all sense of real values has been lost and the game becomes as senseless as the betting and the conversation.

At the state level many of us on the relatively low end of the financial totem pole count our blessings, "after taxes," not before. We are now looking at the biggest property tax statements ever, after a lackadaisical legislature passed a property relief bill that hardly offset the biannual rate of inflation! It did not even satisfy the insatiable appetites of our public spend-thrifts!

And at the county level we have a "horse" of a lot of different colors. After closing down the county libraries for lack of funds our astute county officials spent as much money for an out-of-town "consultant" as it would have taken to have kept the libraries open in the first place!

Parks and county roads are going to pot while the Court House Gang spent a million on an inadequate, badly situated building they will lease, repair and remodel for an out-of-state owner! Citizen's use of the old court house will remain as precarious as ever.

Little can be expected on the Elfers study to bring administrative efficiency to the county. Adding more layers of non-productive administrative authority to the already top-heavy structure will only create more confusion and less efficiency.

In addition to the study itself, its cost, if it is implemented, will become a useless burden on the county's taxpayers in poor services and irresponsibilities for years to come.

Worst of all is the great cost in time and patience and effort to rural land and home owners of the now disabled "Rural Zoning Project".

Legal and planning officials have now conceded (after more than half a year) the possibility that the Rural Zoning Project may not have been conducted in strict compliance with state and county regulations.

Thursday that the county commissioners amend the comprehensive plan. Of course the real question is: are they going to amend the plan to legalize their mistakes, or are they going to amend their mistakes to legalize the Rural Zoning Project? After all, they are only now admitting the validity of citizen reaction to the Rural Zoning Project since it was first started.

In the light of these recent developments an extremely interesting "horse" of still another color gets into the picture with LCDC's opinion that "citizens have had adequate opportunity to participate in that decision-making process as required by LCDC's goal number one."

The Worth of a College Degree

A spate of stories have appeared lately about the improving job market for college graduates, how 1978 should find jobs much more plentiful than over the last few years.

The best fields seem to be engineering, accounting and business. Conversely, the most crowded seem to be law and education.

Whatever the value of a degree in landing a job, the evidence is indisputable that over a person's working life, a degree is worth many thousands of dollars.

Sure, plumbers and electricians

and truck drivers still get the big wages to start, but over the years a college degree will pay for itself many times over.

This is true of even the liberal arts fields where any immediate worth as far as employment is concerned often is difficult to identify. Many firms consider a degree an irreducible minimum, below which they're just not interested.

Higher education may have taken its lumps in the early and mid-'70s but it's back in full bloom today.

A Man to Remember

There are some persons whose names nearly become synonymous with a community. Such was the case of long time Sandy Fire Chief Lyle Seaman, who died this past week.

Seaman was a man who devoted much of his life to the Sandy Fire Department and many remember him as one of the persons who helped put the department in the excellent condition it is in today.

Seaman became assistant fire chief in 1941. That's during the days when the department had two trucks and 20 members. In 1942

Seaman was appointed fire chief and he served in that capacity for 30 years until his retirement in July, 1972. For 18 years Seaman worked voluntarily as fire chief. It wasn't until 1962 that the job became a part time paid position and in 1968 it became a full time pay scale job.

We are grateful for persons such as Seaman who give of themselves for the benefit of the community. Too often we take the fire department and volunteers for granted. We shouldn't. (SAL)

Rape Happens Here, Too

In nightmares—and too often in real life—women are faced with the decision of what to do in case of violent attack. That nightmare became reality for a sorority at Florida State University this week with the tragic slayings of two coeds.

The incidents will probably lead to stepped-up security in college campus residence halls and sororities for a while. Self-defense classes will undoubtedly draw some new students—especially in the southeastern section of the country.

It's hardly feasible for a woman to keep herself under lock and key and never see the light of day for fear of being mugged or raped. Yet, it also is unrealistic for a woman to believe that she isn't

vulnerable to attack. Studies indicate that rape, a crime of violence not sex, is a crime that occurs more often than it is reported. And yes, it even happens in nice places like Sandy.

One of the best presentations around on how to understand the unpleasant topic of rape is offered by Roi Hokinson, head of Clackamas County's Rape Victim Advocate Program. She will be at the Sandy Community School from 7-9 on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to share some thoughts on rape awareness and explore myths about the crime.

The evening could keep you, your daughter or your friend from being a victim. That's certainly worth more than the fee being charged for the class. (SAL)

Timberline: Creme-De-La-Creme

Everybody's favorite—Timberline Lodge—has gained still more recognition during its 40th anniversary year.

On Monday the announcement was made that the lodge dedicated by then President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 has been designated a national landmark.

The title is reserved for the "creme-de-la-creme" of national landmarks and the designation is well deserved for the lodge which has literally drawn millions to the slopes of Mt. Hood.

Timberline has been on the National Register since November 1973. Now it is one of the youngest buildings to be recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Historic Landmarks Program.

Much credit goes to the U.S. Forest Service, Friends of Timberline and RLK and Co. (which leases the lodge) for the work that has gone into making Timberline the special place it is to many of us. (SAL)

Carter and Hatfield: Pals

Visiting with a group of Portland-area newsmen last fall, Sen. Mark Hatfield said "I always have (primary) opposition and I suppose I will this year."

Hatfield was referring, obviously, to the ultra-conservative fringe of the Republican party which never has found the senior senator a comfortable traveling companion.

We haven't heard of opposition to Hatfield this time but will be surprised if we don't... especially after a compilation of

congressional voting patterns shows Hatfield sides with the Carter administration more regularly than do most Democrats.

Hatfield backed Carter 66 percent of the time, contrasted to 57 percent for Sen. Bob Packwood, and 58 percent for Reps. Bob Duncan and Les AuCoin. Only Al Ullman, 2nd district, was more loyal than Hatfield (75 percent).

Hatfield's record also is much more supportive of Carter than it was of Richard Nixon when he was in office.

Student rights

To the Editor:

The latest communication from Sandy High School in regards to instituting a detention study hall where youngsters will be "expected to read, and prepare class assignments," causes me to write this letter in objection.

When we use school work as punishment, we have taken the first steps a society can take to develop in our young adults a dislike for learning.

To force reading also brings a dislike for reading, and to expect students to do physical work in a detention situation creates an atmosphere of a work reform school. The element of "trust" appears to me to be at a low at Sandy, from hall monitors, to calls home if handwritings don't "match." Many parents, including myself, feel that the majority of students do not need monitoring in halls or detention study halls, so why continue such sad practices? Why not expell the troublemakers so students who want to learn can learn in an atmosphere of trust? Federal laws protect our children and give parents the right to choose what method of discipline to use in schools.

Most parents feel that punishment does not solve the problem, causing the majority of students to rebel,

by using terms such as "hall monkeys" or "pigs." It seems to me we are never the wiser for it.

We continue the same outmoded methods of punishment which should have stopped at the grammar school level.

I am starting an organization called Parents for Student Rights. Its purpose is to inform parents that punishment does not work, that putting the student in a trust situation is much better and that forced learning, reading or homework is not conducive to the development of our students learning experience.

You as a parent can say no. Your child does not have to do school work as a "punishment." You can speak out against the practice of "hall monitors" to watch your children for the brief four minutes between classes.

I also have experienced the pleasure of fine teachers in this area, including a marvelous concert at Welches School this Christmas. I am aware of how hard it is to be a teacher—the work involved.

I do not take issue with good teachers, but outmoded rules, situations of distrust and punishment at a high school level. A detention study hall is like self-fulfilling prophecy. Create a detention hall, and in no time

you will fill it! Write the address below for more information.

Parents for Student Rights
Box 244
Rhododendron, Ore.
Glenda Barbre

Concern shown

Dear Sandy Citizens,

On behalf of the "Citizens Committee for a Sandy Community Center," we wish to thank each of you who gave of your time and energy to vote at the City of Sandy's Jan. 10 bond election.

The passage of the Sandy Baptist Chapel bond issue demonstrated this community's progressive leadership in, and concern for, municipal services.

As the benefits of this community center become a solidified part of our community's activities, we can proudly point to the citizens of Sandy and their spirit of cooperation and commitment to improving the quality of life in Sandy.

Sincerely yours,
Ivan Barker,
Howard Berger
Co-chairman

Bull Run water

To the Editor:

A peculiar situation may exist regarding future legal protection of the mid-portion

of the Little Sandy River drainage, a future potential water source for the Portland Metropolitan area. It would take a lawyer to determine this, but here's the way it looks to me:

It is possible that the new Bull Run law actually exempts what is now called the "Bull Run Watershed Management Unit" from need to comply with other laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act. This would mean that no one could challenge the Forest Service for logging in that area without that agency first completing an environmental impact statement.

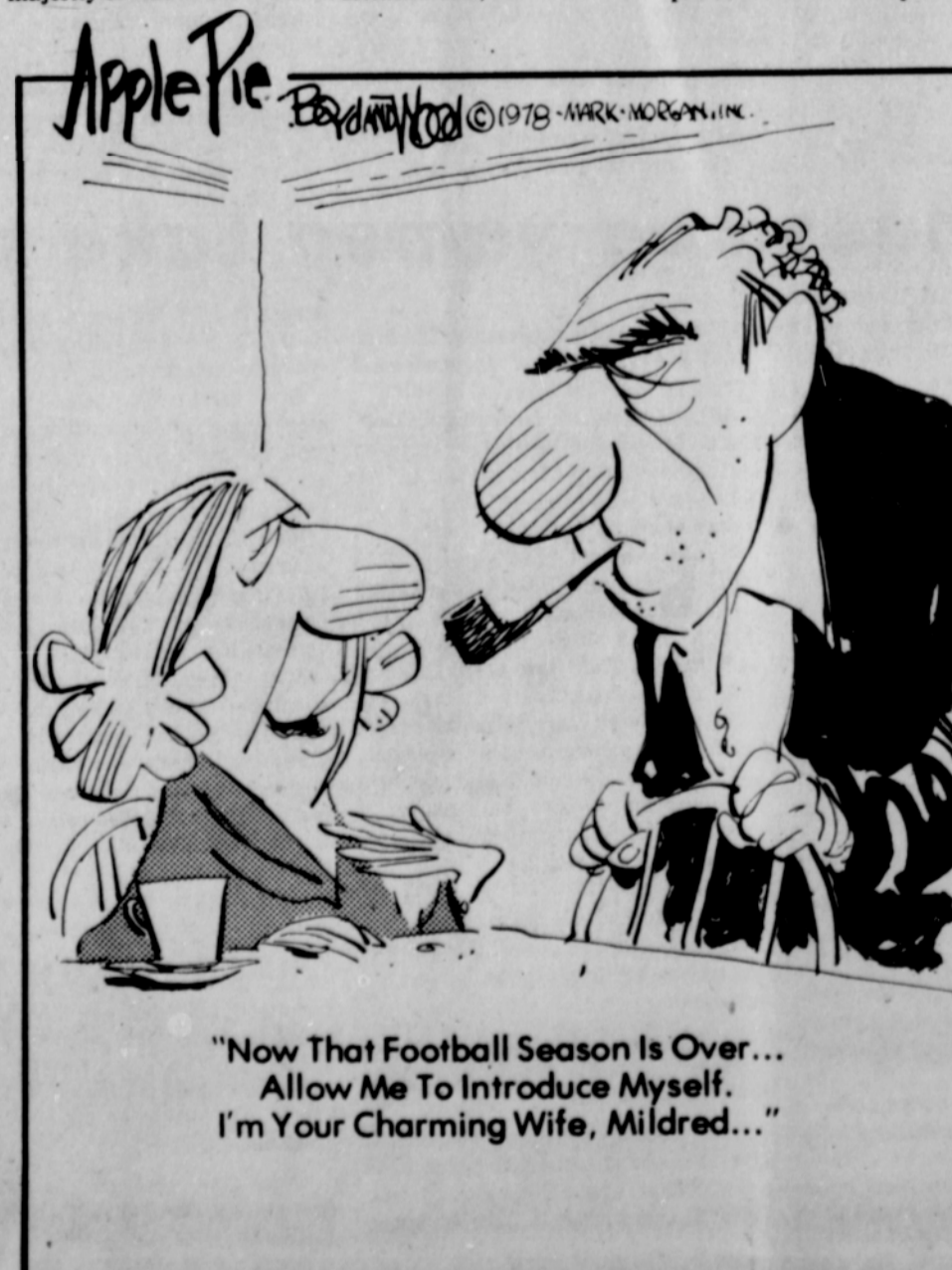
Since part of the mid-drainage of the Little Sandy River has been excluded from the new boundary, the new law doesn't apply to it, and it would not be exempt from whatever laws protect the national forests generally.

I would think that opening up to multiple use a previously protected watershed would be a major action requiring completion of an environmental impact statement. This has not happened, and I think someone should challenge the Forest Service, in court, on this omission.

Anyone wishing to do this could act quickly, however, because on Jan. 30 Judge James M. Burns will hear arguments from Portland users of Bull Run water as to why remaining claims (including the NEPA claim) in the current class action lawsuit should not be dismissed.

A "fact sheet" on Bull Run is now available. It refers to readily accessible documents in the Bull Run Interest Group open file, in the central public library in Portland.

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The personal insurance counsel and advice of a local agent is important to you in planning a complete insurance program.

George Morgan
Local Representative

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