

Sandy Post

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Paying For The Service

The Post this week received two letters to the editor commenting on the good work done by members of the Hoodland Fire Department in putting out a fire that could have easily destroyed the Hoodland Women's Club building. The letters are well deserved and we are happy that damage was limited in the building which is virtually the center of activity for the mountain area.

One of this week's writers urges voters to remember what the firemen did when a new tax base is put before voters later this year. We also think they should remember that one firefighter, David Ligatich, needlessly suffered smoke inhalation and was sent to Gresham Hospital because the department did not have the equipment it needed to provide oxygen to him as he volunteered to go in and fight the blaze.

A Discouraging Turnout

Supporters of Mt. Hood Community College obviously are discouraged by Tuesday's election defeat. A \$2.5 million special levy lost by 100 votes.

Discouraging as must be the outcome, the turnout was even worse. In Multnomah County, for instance, only 9.3 percent of registered voters made it to the

Bergland on Farm Policy

The federal government is not insensitive to farm problems but Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland doesn't agree with striking farmers.

He told a meeting of newsmen in Washington, D.C., last week that a number of crops—dairying, soy beans, turkeys, pigs etc.—are doing well. Cattle farmers are making money for the first time in three years although they admittedly have a lot of debts to pay off.

Cotton and wheat remain the two soft spots.

Bergland says the current strike action among farmers stems from high grain prices of the early '70s. Based on the expectation that these

No To The Death Penalty

There are some issues that should not be decided by initiative. Like who should be killed.

Yet three Oregon legislators, citing pressure from their constituents, have begun a petition drive to get the necessary 46,000 plus signatures so the people can decide if they want to reinstate capital punishment.

"The Oregon Legislature has not allowed the voters an opportunity to determine for themselves if they want the death penalty reinstated," the trio wrote in a recent letter.

To that, we say good. We've heard many of the arguments—pro and con—concerning the death penalty. But it makes no difference what the

A City in Trouble

It doesn't take much perception to see that New York City is a town in trouble.

Deeply-rutted chuck holes are everywhere, even on the freeways. Garbage litters side streets; collections apparently are being made only on the main avenues. Mounds of dirty, grey, melting snow are everywhere. Subway cars are covered with graffiti, inside and out.

The trouble, of course, is financial. The city for years spent

But Hoodland residents especially shouldn't forget that when they vote, they are voting to protect themselves. Firemen work for the people and by providing the financing for an improved fire district, the people will be helping themselves.

If the budget committee gives the budget its seal of approval on March 27, it looks like an increased tax base of \$150,000 will go before voters later this year.

Maybe voters should look at it this way: Estimated damage to the Hoodland Women's Club was \$25,000. County officials have estimated that the total value of the Hoodland Women's Club structure is at about \$225,000. Therefore, Hoodland firemen saved \$200,000 of the taxpayer's money last Sunday. That more than pays for a new tax base of \$150,000 with some money to spare. (SL)

Win, lose or draw, a turnout of only 8,500 voters is disheartening. We hope the college board sets another election at a time when other issues also are on the ballot. A single-issue election, like Tuesday's just doesn't draw the voters.

prices would continue, farmers invested heavily in land and equipment. Then prices fell.

Farmers want a return to the abnormally high prices of the early '70s, a level the government finds difficult to justify.

Bergland warns that all the grain policies in the world aren't as important as the weather. One bad summer, he said, would wipe out whatever surplus we have in either wheat or corn.

Bergland ducked a question on government subsidies to tobacco farmers. "You can't mix economics and health matters," he said, adding that "tobacco was a \$6 billion crop last year."

sociologists and statisticians say about the death penalty.

Our opposition to it is that it is wrong to take another life.

Period. Perhaps the fine legislators could also allow the people the "opportunity" to throw the switch, or line up the cross hair sights of a rifle on the criminal's heart or release the valve that allows the gas to seep into the death chamber.

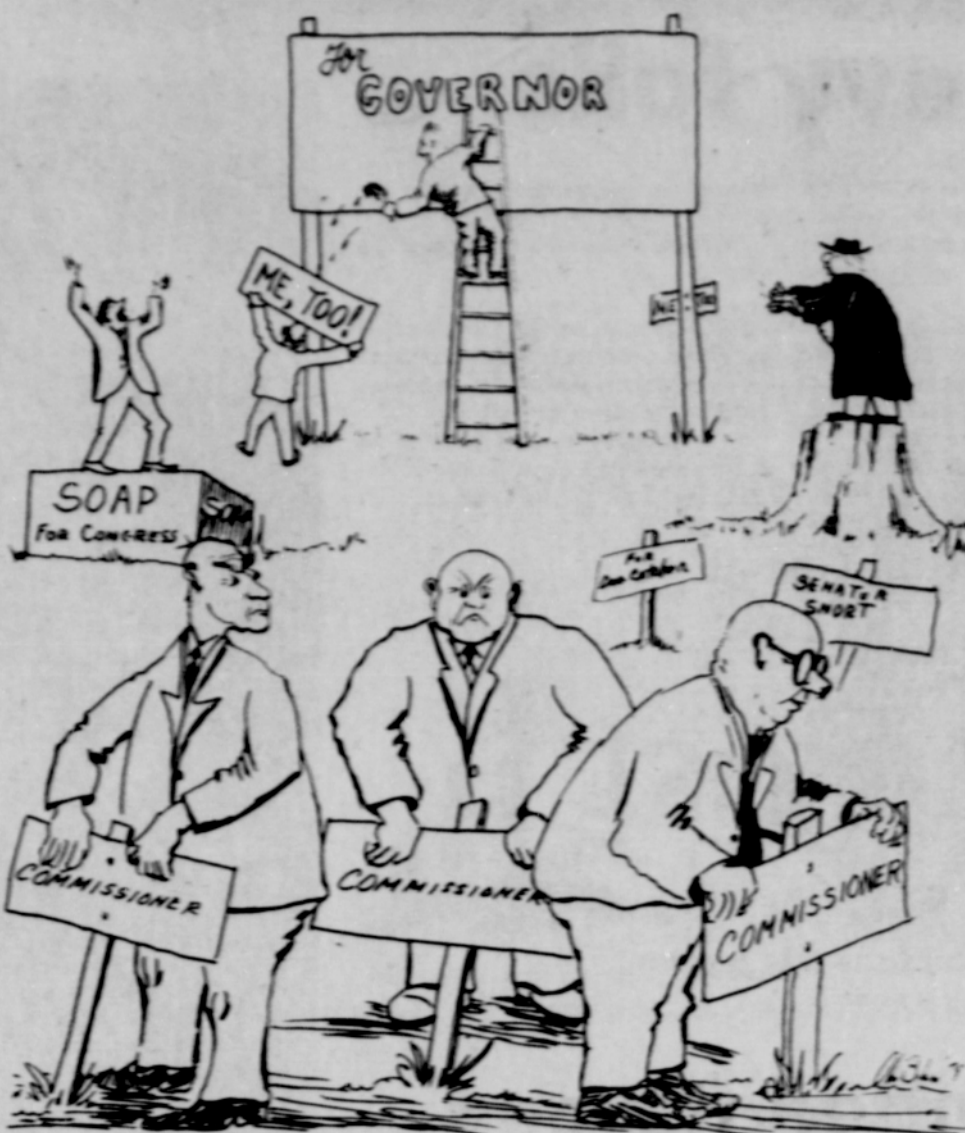
We urge Oregonians to write to Jack Sumner and Bud Byers, both Democrats, and Cecil Johnson, a Republican, and tell them their efforts to give us the "opportunity" to kill another human being are being wasted.

It's one of those opportunities in life we'd rather do without. (TK)

more than it took in and the day of reckoning finally came.

City employees are talking of "restraint" in contract negotiations this year although police and firemen may not go along.

Not everyone is sympathetic with New York's plight, especially when federal aid is suggested. But New York's problems are so tremendous that aid of some sort from the federal government may be inevitable.



letters to the editor

Tri-Met

To the Editor:
There was an article printed in The Gresham Outlook on Citizens for Better Government. The CBT swayed toward the "grid system" but said "We should be getting more for the taxes we pay into Tri-Met," the article said.
Here's what Tri-Met is giving us for our dollar. For \$100,000 plus tax dollars, Tri-Met is advertising to convince us that we need the grid system. A total of \$300 a day is paid to a consultant to train the new general manager Tri-Met recently hired.

The grid tracks will either go down Burnside or Division Street from Portland to Gresham for a beginner. If it goes down Division Street, it will take out many homes and businesses.

Only certain streets can be crossed by car. A spokesman said it would be easier for the elderly but the maps show a long walk between stops.

The cost before inflation is \$1,600,000,000. There are many ideas for raising that money, such as raising employers' taxes, auto license, auto-related taxes, gasoline, sales taxes, lottery, federal funding, increase in general funds and, of course, the property tax. It's our tax dollar.

There is a meeting March 13 at the Ventura Park School on Southeast 117th Street by the Concerned Citizens Group. Tri-Met will have a representative there for a question and answer session.

It's time to get our heads out of the sand and look around. I'm sick of high taxes and fuel is a poor excuse. We have more fuel than electricity.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jean Hood
2134 SE 174th
Portland

Firefighters

To the Editor:
The Hoodland Women's Club members owe a debt of gratitude to the wonderful firefighters who saved our building.

They were fast and efficient. My personal thanks to these dedicated gentlemen.
I just hope that when the time comes to vote more money for the fire department, everyone will remember what they did for us and vote "yes." Thank you again, gentlemen.

Graetfully and sincerely,
Bj duBiel
President, Hoodland Women's Club

Fire controlled

To the Editor:
It is with deep appreciation that this letter is being written to the Hoodland Fire Department. Each member who helped to save the Hoodland Park building from being destroyed should be told how much their efforts in controlling the fire and clean-up work means to the

mountain community.

The volunteers did a fantastic job; hopefully, the restoration of the A-frame will be in the near future.

Many community services are conducted in the building, such as, Well-baby Clinics; Women, Infant and Children's program. Mt. Hood Pre-school and kindergarten class etc.

Again, thank you for a job well done and to all the mutual aid firemen who responded from Sandy and Boring departments.

Sincerely,
Patti Griffin
Park Advisory Board
Clackamas County
Star Rt., Truman Road
Rhododendron, Ore 97049
622-4653

Endorses Behan

To the Editor:
It would be a step in the right direction to have someone on the school board at Welches School who is

vitaly interested in quality education for our children. I know Leah Behan as a member of the Community School Board and volunteer worker at the Well Baby clinics.

She is an intelligent, vivacious, involved member of the mountain community, and as the mother of two school aged sons, Leah is concerned about quality education at Welches. I heartily endorse Leah for position No. 4 on the school board in the April 4 election.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Wicks
P.O. Box 30
Government Camp 97028

Thanks

To the Editor:
The Sandy Firwood PTA would like to thank all of the parents and teachers who helped at the carnival. Also a very big thank you to all of the Sandy area merchants who donated the prizes.

Sandy
Firwood PTA

Driver's manual available now

The 1978-79 Oregon Driver's Manual is now available at Motor Vehicles Division field office in Gresham.

Official say the 80-page publication has few changes from the previous edition but it includes traffic laws enacted by the 1977 Legislature, as well as sections dealing with

defensive driving, night and bad weather driving, drinking drivers and other related safe-driving topics.

The publication is "required reading" for those applying for an Oregon driver's license for the first time. It also serves as the text for state-sponsored and volunteer courses in defensive driving.

Subdivision requested

A proposal for a nonfarm use permit by Fred Wickersham will be considered Thursday, March 16, by the Clackamas County Hearings Officer.

Wickersham proposes to subdivide three parcels of approximately 2.02, 2.02 and 3.63 acres and construct a residential dwelling not provided in conjunction with

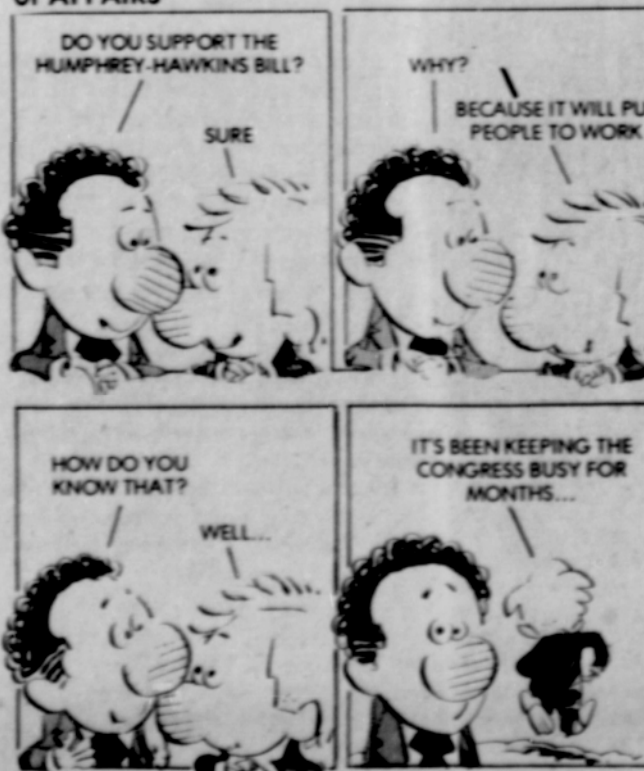
a farm use on each of the 2.02 parcels.

Property is located on the south side of Southeast Trubel Road and the west side of Southeast Firwood Road near the intersection of both roads in the Sandy area.

The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in Courtroom 4 of the Clackamas County Courthouse.

the SOVEREIGN STATE OF AFFAIRS

BOYD & WOOD



County comments Scraping bottom of the same barrel

by Bill Sanderson

A year or two ago, in this column, I felt impelled by the results of an election to compare the majority of the voters of Clackamas County to a neighbor of ours of the long-ago.

He fancied himself as a good judge of horseflesh and a shrewd trader, and every year or so he would trade his team of work horses for others. Now in spite of the fact that he always traded just as he wanted to and on his own terms, he always got beat!

With the frank curiosity of the very young, and after a most disastrous trade, I asked my granddaddy how our old neighbor could get beat like that every time.

Granddaddy, who knew a good deal about both men and horses, had a ready answer that satisfied me at the time.

The trouble with our neighbor's horsetrading, he said, was in his timing. Every time he got ready to trade, all of the other horse traders had poorer horses than his. I admit it took me some years to translate "timing" into "judgment," but I finally got the message.

In Clackamas County as election year after election year comes and goes and each one takes away more and more of the rights and privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, leaving us less and less of our most valuable heritage—our right and our ability to govern ourselves. One wonders what we are getting in return. As I see it, we have lost every time we have traded.

As we contemplate the scores and hundreds of officials who occupy positions of authority over us, does it not seem strange that even though we hold general elections every second year, only a very small handful of

those hundreds of officials were elected by us?

In the straight line of representative government within the state we have thousands of "authorities," but we are allowed to elect only three echelons; the county commissioners, our legislative body and the governor.

True, we elect many of the heads of our service organizations at both the county and the state level and originally it was believed that they could and would furnish all of our service needs.

By-and-large, I still think they could, and should. We don't have too much trouble with sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, et cetera. It has not been the elected heads of our county and state service departments that have failed us.

It has been the three levels or echelons of elected officials responsible for the maintenance of our representative government who have sold us down the river of an "appointed" bureaucracy!

As the 1978 candidates file for election and put up their signs and make their promises, how does it feel to know that YOU are going to elect some of them by a "majority" vote, just as you want to, and WE are going to get beat! AGAIN!

Oh, we may get some pretty good service department heads but unless we can reverse the trend toward the irresponsible appointment of non-responsible commissions, authorities, directors and lesser bureaucrats, our hold on constitutional, democratic and representative government becomes weaker with each election as we scrape the bottoms of the same barrels one more time.

Maybe we should consider looking into some different barrels.

Sumner files for re-election

State Rep. Jack Sumner, D-Heppner, filed this week for re-election by petition to his fourth term in the Oregon House of Representatives from District 55. The district includes all of Jefferson, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties and parts of Clackamas, Linn, Marion and Wasco counties.

Sumner, 42, is the owner and operator of wheat and cattle ranches in Morrow, Gilliam and Grant counties and development property in Marion County. He and his wife, Sharon, and their family have their home on a ranch near Heppner. He is a graduate of the School of Engineering at Oregon State University.

Sumner, during his three terms in office has had the opportunity to serve on the committees on agriculture and natural resources, transportation, state and federal affairs, school finance and property tax relief, and during his last two terms, on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means as chairman of two subcommittees.

Last session Sumner served as vice chairman of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, and he was appointed to Oregon State Emergency board during each of his three terms. This 15 member board acts as a mini-legislature during the interim, making decisions concerning fiscal matters.

From page one Fire damages building

firemen. They saved the building," said Bj DuBiel of Welches.

Mrs. du Biel added that until the arson investigation is complete the building will be closed off to the club. In the meantime, she said there are plans being made to use the Mt. Hood Lion's clubhouse.

The Hoodland Women's Club is leased from Clackamas County, the owners of the building. It is used for such functions as local meetings, community school classes and clinics in addition to regular club meetings.

SERVICE WE GIVE!

INSURANCE WE SELL . . .

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



George Morgan
Local Representative

WALRAD INSURANCE AGENCY
Sandy, Oregon 688-4421