

# After 19 years of work, it's time to bid farewell

by JOHN KLINE

Ruth Loundree has worn more than a few professional hats in her time. But that's the way it is when you're only one of three employees working for a city of 1,200 people.

In 1959, Mrs. Loundree left her job with The Sandy Post to run unopposed for the City Recorder's office here. Those were the days before federal help provided CETA employees and a broad range of other support funds.

"You pretty much had to rely on what was available to get the job done," she said.

Nineteen years and several job titles later, Mrs. Loundree has decided to step down from her position as Administrative Secretary for the city. She now looks back over a career which saw major changes take place

before her eyes in city administration and facilities.

From a staff of three - herself, the chief of police and the janitor - the city has grown to 33 employees. The city budget has jumped from the \$50-,60,000 range to almost \$2 million.

Mrs. Loundree came to Sandy in 1943. She took a job with the Sandy Post in the early fifties where she was part of a two-man operation which cranked out the paper every week.

"I did a little bit of everything back then," she recalled this week. "I was the Society Editor, ad salesman, poured the lead for the press and delivered paper when they came off on Friday."

Mrs. Loundree ran unopposed for the City

Recorder's job in 1958 when former Recorder Frank Reberg stepped down from the position. The job title was somewhat misleading in that she handled more duties than just recording the official business of the city.

One of the more interesting sidelines of the position was her duties as municipal judge. She was the arbiter on traffic tickets and other minor violations which did not make it to district court.

"It was a funny situation," Mrs. Loundree recalled. "There were times when I would be listening to someone's case in the court and somebody else would come in to pay a water bill."

"So I'd just say, 'Excuse me,' and I'd go over and take the water bill and then come back to hear the rest of the

case," she said.

City hall was then a wood frame building on Shelly Avenue at the present location of TJ's parking lot entrance. It contained offices for the police chief and Mrs. Loundree plus the city council chambers. An adjacent lean-to shelter housed the city's only fire truck.

"It was nothing like what there is now," Mrs. Loundree said. "I can remember a time one winter when it got so cold inside there that the oil stove was clogged. It was 10 degrees above zero and snow was knee-deep around the building."

"So I grabbed the snow shovel, cleaned off the walkway and called in the city maintenance man to fix the stove. I told them that until they got the fire going, I would be at home doing my

work," she said. Preparing the city budgets back in those days was quite a chore for the City Recorder.

"We didn't have a typewriter so we had to make do with what was available," Mrs. Loundree said. "There weren't any copying machines. It was all done with carbon paper."

Plans for the present city hall were made when the state fire marshal condemned the old structure. Voters approved a bond issue for the new building on Pioneer Boulevard and the dedication ceremony for the structure was held in 1969.

Mrs. Loundree assumed her title as Administration Secretary in 1972 after the city's new city charter was revamped. That was one of many changes she has seen as the employe with the longest record of service to the city.

Mrs. Loundree sees two major changes as having the greatest impact on city life in her years at city hall.

The first was enactment of zoning laws in the early sixties. Prior to that time, lending institutions were hesitant to write house loans for new construction.

The second was the passage of the \$450,000 bond issue for construction of the present sewage treatment plant. The facility can handle a population of 5,000 with the capacity to increase to 10,000.

Both items have helped put the city on the road to an expanded population.

Mrs. Loundree is now on an extended vacation leave from her job. She will not officially leave the post until the end of November. She took her last vacation in May, 1973.

For the present, Mrs. Loundree, 65, plans to spend time with her husband, Carl, and to work on the family garden.

"It's going to take a while to get used to not working," she said. "But I think I'm going to enjoy it."



Ruth Loundree



Take one in the face, please (John Kline photos)

It was all for a good cause when Pete Sheppard (left) and Jim Wilhite squared off against one another Sunday armed with whipped cream pies. The two were the high bidders for the pie throwing event at an auction Sunday to raise funds for the newly formed One Way Theater. Over \$400 was raised at the auction in

which merchants in town donated goods and gift certificates which were sold off to the highest bidder. In top photo, Wilhite gets the first crack with a direct hit square on the nose. Sheppard retaliated with a low flying shot to the kisser.



## Man dies in highway crash

A 44-year-old Madras man was killed in a head-on collision in heavy fog on U.S. High 26 Sunday.

Cecil R. Barnhouse died around 8 p.m. Sunday after the station wagon in which he

was a passenger collided with a vehicle driven by Alan C. Gowdy, 48, of Portland. Gowdy was taken to Gresham Community Hospital where he was treated and released. His wife Jean, 47, is listed in satisfactory condition. Clarence Baird, 44, of Parkdale, was driving the car in which Barnhouse was killed. Baird is listed in satisfactory condition in Portland's Emanuel Hospital.

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