

Ballot petition circulated

Coalition seeks five-member board

by JOHN KLINE

"There is considerable dissatisfaction about the efficiency of our county government," says Sandy-area resident Wilbur Sulzbach. "I think it's time it got to be more representative."

Sulzbach and several other Clackamas residents are spearheading an effort in the county which they think will bring about a more representative government in Oregon City.

They have formed a non-partisan coalition of supporters who are working to change the present three-member Board of County Commissioners to five. The five commissioners would be elected from five districts in the county instead of at-large system now in effect.

"We think it's about time for a better way of doing things," said Sulzbach, a retired school teacher. "There hasn't been much publicity about this idea because of all the other things that have been grabbing the headlines."

"I wish it was more a topic of public debate," he said. "We need the dialogue."

The coalition is called the Committee for Five Commissioners. The members of the group are working to obtain 2,369 signatures of persons who support the idea to have the proposition placed on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. They must have the required signatures by tomorrow (July 7).

Should the group obtain the signatures and the measure pass in the fall, the county government will be aligned into five districts on Jan. 5, 1981. One commissioner from each district would be elected to the board.

An outdated era
Sulzbach points out that no other county the size of Clackamas is still in the three-commissioner era. Washington, Multnomah and Lane counties - the three other counties in the state with populations comparable to Clackamas - have all gone to the five commissioner system.

"No solution is going to be a perfect one," Sulzbach said. "But we've got to keep trying until we find one that better suits our county."

Two of the three Clackamas commissioners

are against the move, Sulzbach said. Ralph Groener and Bob Schumacher claim the expansion to a five-member board would cost taxpayers an additional \$150,000.

Commissioner Stan Skoko has pledged his support for the effort.

Sulzbach feels the added cost of expanding the board to five members is not a valid reason for opposing it.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done in this county," he said. "It might be a good idea to get a few new faces in there who could possibly bring in a few good, new ideas."

"As it is now, it takes a lot of money to get elected to the board," he said. "With 220,000 people in the county, someone has to have a well known name to really have a chance. You can't go around and 'shoe-leather' a campaign."

2-on-1 Syndrome
Sulzbach also believes the move from three to five will give commissioners with a minority opinion on matters more of an opportunity to be heard.

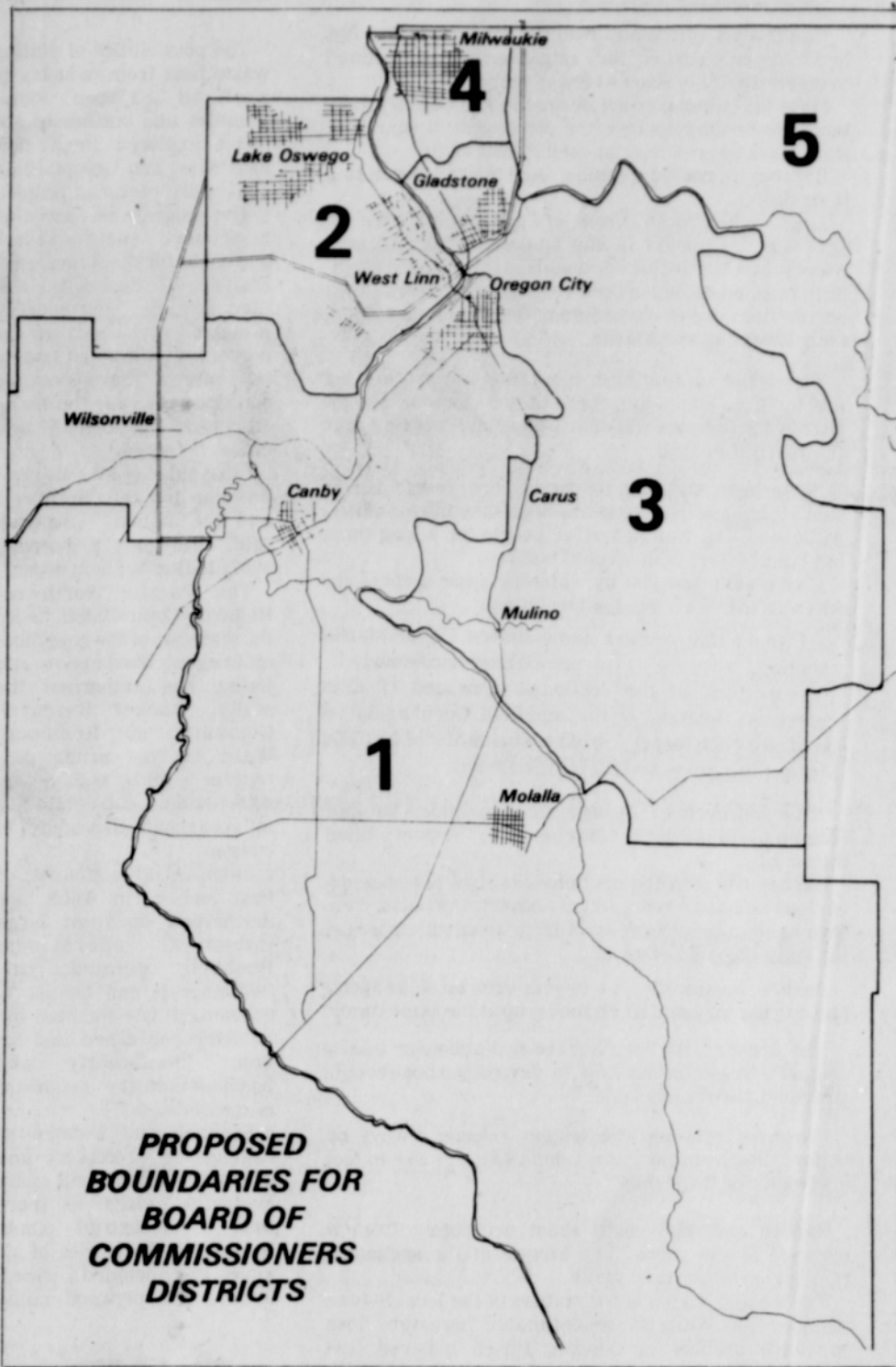
"Anyone who has been around our county government long enough knows about the two-to-one syndrome we have. There are two commissioners now who can decide what to do (about county matters) over lunch and that's that," he said.

Supporters of the measure feel the board will be a more representative body if the commissioners are elected from five separate geographic areas of the county.

The present system was established in 1959 by an act of the state Legislature. Prior to that year, the former county court government was concerned primarily with settling land claims and deciding which gravel roads would be paved.

"Now we've got a county government with a budget of \$37-38 million," Sulzbach said. "The cost of electing two new commissioners is nothing compared to the overall cost of government."

"Issues are a lot more complicated than they were when the Legislature set up the present system," he said. "We need some more eagle eyes watching out for things."



PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DISTRICTS

Supporters of the move to expand the present county commissioners board from three to five members would have the county aligned into the districts shown above. One commissioner would be elected from each of the districts.

Tri-Met Board expected to approve zone fares

The Tri-Met board has little choice but to approve zone fares at its July 10 meeting, Bob Murray said Tuesday.

"I'll support zone fares as a temporary measure," said the East County representative to the board. "I still feel it probably isn't the proper zoning, but it's the most simple thing that can be done and still keep the buses operating."

Murray said he also would support Tri-Met's suggested change in its zone fare proposal to allow for a neutral zone between the urban and suburban zone.

The original proposal would divide the Tri-Met district into two zones with an east boundary at 82nd

Avenue and charge 45 cents if riders stay within one zone and 65 cents if they cross zones. All riders now pay 40 cents to ride anywhere in the tri-county district.

The staff suggested a neutral belt so riders near the boundaries would not be charged 65 cents for short trips across zone boundaries. "That was done in deference to Mall 205 and Tektronix (in Beaverton)," Murray said. Representatives from the shopping center and the electronics firm testified at public hearings that the zone boundaries near their locations would affect their businesses.

"They want to move the boundary to (East) 102nd

Avenue to get Mall 205 inside the neutral zone," Murray said.

He and other board members heard complaints at public hearings in Gresham and other suburbs that a zone fare system would be unfair to commuters. Many suggested an across-the-board increase.

"We proposed a return to the flat fare, but we couldn't get it by any of the citizen advisory committees," Murray said. "That's the only alternative to a zone fare in order to get enough revenue."

"We need to do a lot of changing in Tri-Met's financing."

Woman injured

A Wemme woman was injured when her truck left Highway 26 east of Sandy Tuesday morning.

Felisa Rae Macabeo was driving east on Highway 26 Tuesday at 1 a.m. when she fell asleep, she told Clackamas County sheriff's deputies.

The truck left the road, ran through shrubbery in front of the house, and struck a power pole, deputies reported. The truck was a total loss.

Macabeo was taken to Gresham Community Hospital for treatment and released.

obituaries

Donald Miller

Funeral services for Donald B. Miller, 38786 Pioneer Blvd., Sandy, will be held Saturday, July 8, at 1 p.m. in the chapel of the Sandy Funeral Home.

Miller died July 3 while on a fishing trip in Alaska. He was 51.

Born in Ketchum, Idaho, and raised in Tygh Valley, Miller married Norma Brittain in 1948.

The Millers moved to Sandy in 1960, where they raised their four children. Miller worked as a commercial fisherman and as a cabinet maker in the off-season.

He was a volunteer in the Sandy fire department and was a member of the Sandy Masonic Lodge No. 158 A.F. & A.M.

Miller is survived by his wife, Norma; four children, Dan Miller of Tygh Valley and Shari Copher, Judy Miller and Kristy Miller, all of Sandy; his father, Julius Miller, of Lincoln City; a brother, John Miller of Washington; a sister, Wyona Jones, of Albany; and three grandchildren.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Sandy fire department in his memory.

Robert Gustave

Requiem Mass for Brother Robert Gustave, S.S.P., was held Wednesday at St. Jude's Collegiate Church.

Brother Robert died in Sandy Friday, June 30 at the age of 51.

Born in Portland as Robert Kreyser, Brother Gustave became a resident of St. Jude's Home in 1971. He joined the order of St. Paul a year later as a tertiary.

Brother Gustave is survived by the members of the Society of St. Paul.

Walter Haneberg

Walter A. Haneberg passed away July 4th in Palo Alto, California.

Haneberg was born January 3, 1915 in Bull Run. He attended Bull Run grade school and graduated from Sandy Union high school in 1933.

He resided in the San Francisco bay area since 1937 where he was in the construction business until forced into retirement by aggravation of serious wounds incurred in World War 2 while serving in Germany with the 99th division of the AUS.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and daughter Patricia of Palo Alto; sister Eva Miller of Escandido, California; and brothers Ernest of Portland, Leonard of Seattle, Raymond of Salt Lake City, Melvin of Sandy, Louis of Mollala, and Richard of Spokane.

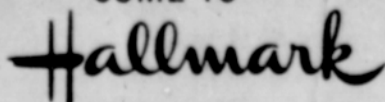
Interment will be at the Valley Oaks Memorial Park in Thousand Oaks, California.

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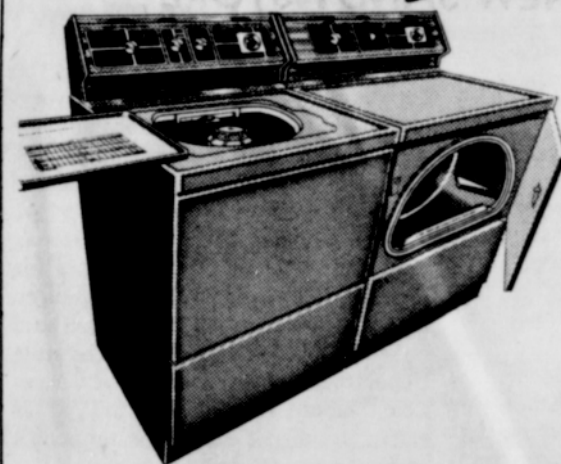
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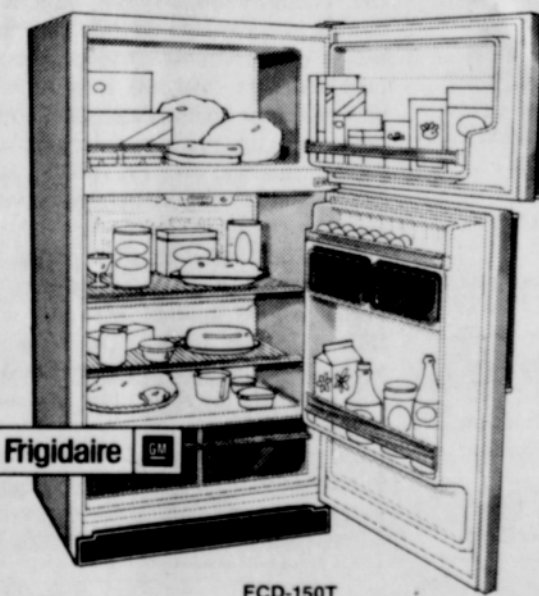
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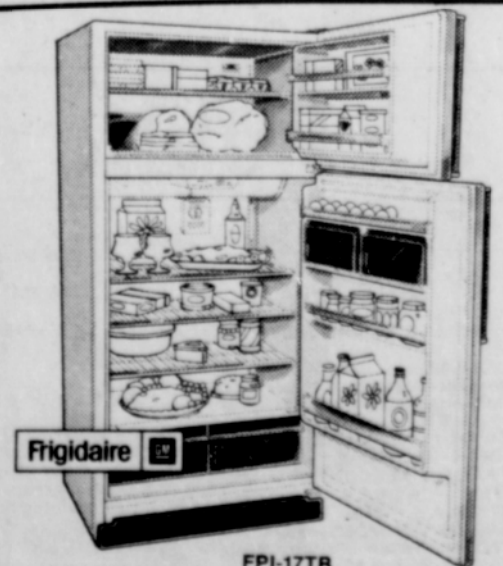
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