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Sandy High Board files suit against Redland

by JOHN KLINE

The Sandy Union High School Board, backed by a vocal crowd of Redland-area sympathizers, voted unanimously Tuesday to file suit against the Redland High School Board to prevent the sudden withdrawal of 200 Redland students from Sandy High this fall.

The action came at a special session of the Sandy board in which approximately 100 parents and students from Redland filled the room to voice disapproval of their board's action last week.

The Redland board had voted last Tuesday to withdraw its students from Sandy High this fall and send them to David Douglas High in Portland.

The decision to file the suit was greeted with applause by the Redland contingent.

"We welcome you to sue our board," said Shirley Dessert, one of several

Redland patrons to speak out against the transfer to the Portland school.

"It would make it all that much easier on us," she said.

The 6-0 decision by the Redland board last week brought on a storm of protest in that area. Organizers against the decision manned a telephone network last Thursday night coordinating a movement to restrain the board from going through with the vote.

"We're burning up the telephone wires," said one protester. "We have to think of the students." Mrs. Dessert said. "It's just not fair to pull them out of the school on such short notice."

The Redland group has hired a lawyer to represent their interests in the matter against the Redland board. They will file a separate court action to keep the students in Sandy.

The suit filed by the Sandy board in District Court would hold the Redland board to its written compact agreed to

last January and signed by both board chairmen. That agreement stipulated that Sandy High would accept Redland students on a tuition basis with the dollar amount "not to exceed \$2,475" per student.

However, an attorney for the Redland board told his clients that since the precise dollar amount was not determined when the agreement was signed, then it may not be legally binding.

A hearing on the suit filed by the Sandy board will be held next Wednesday, July 26, at 1:30 p.m. in District Court in Oregon City.

The Redland board decision last week to withdraw its students came as a surprise to Sandy board members. Redland board members sat in on the Sandy meeting last Monday night and gave no indication that they were considering a move to withdraw their

Sandy school board member Earl Meier of Boring pointed out that the Redland board members listened to the discussion of the Sandy High budget last Monday and sat by as that board voted to resubmit the budget proposal for another election Sept. 19.

"This is more than just a little disturbing," Meier said.

Newly elected Redland board chairman, Kurt Braun, said last week that the board decided to move its students to David Douglas because it offered to take them in for \$300 less per student than what Sandy had offered.

(The coming school year was to be possibly the last that Sandy would accept Redland students on a tuition basis. The board made that decision last month because of expected enrollment increases from the Sandy district in the immediate future.)

Sandy school board member Ginny Brewster corrected a misstatement

which the Redland board had issued to its patrons concerning the early withdrawal of Redland students.

The Redland board had stated that the move "was necessary due to the fact that Sandy's growth (would) not permit any further tuitioning of Redland students."

However, Brewster pointed out that the Sandy board would accept incoming Redland freshmen this fall and would allow upper classmen to continue at the school until their classes graduated.

Withdrawal of the Redland students would mean a loss of approximately \$500,000 from the Sandy High budget this year.

"We would have to rework the entire budget," Brewster commented. "There's no way it could be done in time for the Sept. 19 budget election." Withdrawal would also require a

major reorganization of all student scheduling at the school and a reduction of nine teachers from the staff.

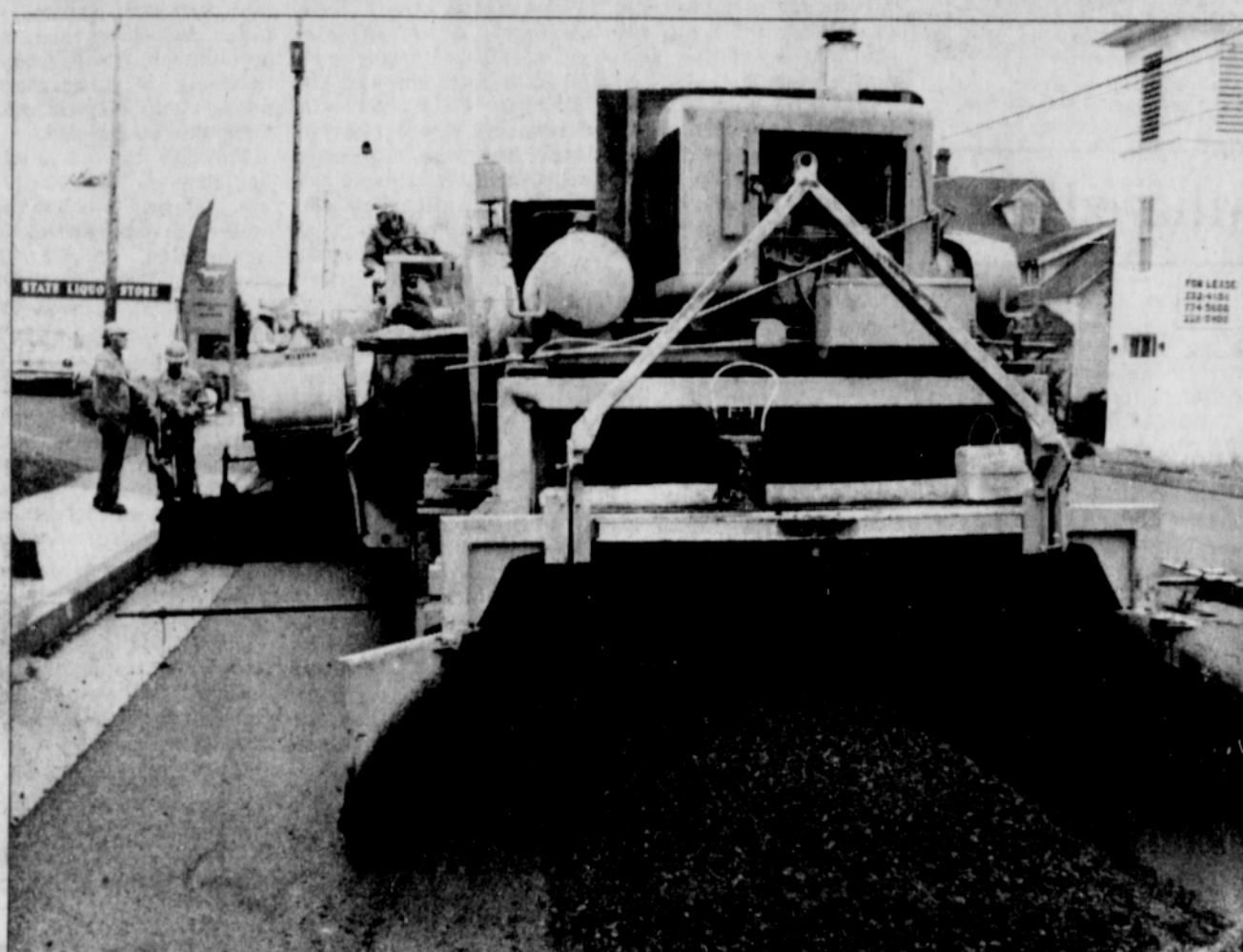
The teachers would likely be first-year employees, according to Sandy High vice-principal Gene Carlson.

All nine have already signed contracts for the year and would possibly have legal recourse against the Sandy board to college salary if their contracts are not honored.

Transfer of the Redland students to David Douglas would also require transfer of their records. However, Carlson pointed out that such a transfer could only be done with the permission of the parents of each student.

"That's not our decision," Peters said, "that's the law."

Several Redland parents indicated they had no intention of giving their permission to make such a transfer.



Highway 26 gets a facelift

THE ASPHALT JUNGLE seen recently on Sandy streets is nearing completion as construction crews are putting the finishing paving touches on U.S. Highway

26 between Sandy and Alder Creek. The \$1.2 million job has been going on since June 1. See story on page 3.

Grocery store strike takes toll on workers and employers

by MARK FLOYD

The labor dispute between Retail Employees Local 1092 and Food Employers, Inc. has had an effect on William's Thriftway, Sandy's only unionized grocery store.

In view of the strike by a number of Portland area clerks, a lockout has been ordered by union officials in an "all for one" supportive move.

As a result, many employees of the Sandy Thriftway have not worked at the store in several days. Thriftway manager John Christensen declined to comment on the dispute saying only that store hours had been reduced and temporary help had been hired.

One Thriftway employee who did talk about the dispute feels that negotiations could go on for some time. Nick Roth, who has been both a clerk and a

manager in his 37 years in the grocery business, forecasts Labor Day as the date an agreement will be reached.

"At the beginning, both sides were so far apart they could see no middle ground," Roth said. "They've both given but it doesn't happen overnight."

"Everyone has to save face," he added.

What started out to be basically a wage dispute has recently blossomed into a controversy over working conditions for the retail employees.

Officials of Food Employers, Inc. offered the union a 50-cents-an-hour increase over the next three years. But there is a catch, according to Roth.

"I was surprised they gave us that (the pay hike) so readily," he said, "but they rewrote other parts of the contract."

"They want working conditions at the employers' option," Roth continued.

Among the conditions listed in union grievances are the reduction in the number of paid holidays from seven to two and the possibility that an employee might have to be called in to work an emergency shift or work back-to-back eight hour shifts. The employees believe work schedules should be posted 3-4 days in advance.

While some stores, including Thriftway, have had to cut back services, the locked-out employees may be suffering the most.

"This is the hurting period," Roth said. "Employers will hurt a little in order to strengthen their bargaining position, because in a strike like this, labor is going to suffer the most."

"We're not being hurt too bad," he added. "A couple have been unable to get unemployment because of the lockout and have had to apply for food stamps. After 2-3 weeks, families are going to feel the pinch, though."

Another Thriftway employee, Kenneth Moon, echoed Roth's sentiments about the financial hardships endured by young families of the locked out employees.

"Some of the younger fellows who have families might be kind of hard up when they've been used to expecting a check every couple of weeks," he said.

Council to restudy tax levy proposal

by JOHN KLINE

A move to submit a one-year tax rate levy based on the same budget proposal which went down to defeat June 27 was turned down by a 4-2 vote Monday night at city council.

The meeting was another in a series of sessions in which council members have sought direction from the voters on possible reworking of the budget.

Approximately 60 persons crowded into the council chambers to offer opinions or hear out the ideas of others. Most were senior citizens who came out to support the Senior Center.

Councilmen Bruce Cook and Jim Duff voted to resubmit the one-year levy proposal based on a \$6.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation rate. A similar proposal for a three-year levy was defeated by a 2-1 margin last month.

The four other councilmen decided against resubmitting the same proposal until they have had time to receive further input from the local citizenry.

The budget calls for just under \$2 million in total expenditures; the local portion comes to \$137,000. A tax rate of \$4.37 is projected to fund that amount. The remainder of the rate (\$2.13) is for payoff on long term bonds.

The Senior Center, which is under the Recreation Department in the city organizational chart, has been men-

tioned as a possible target cut area when council offers a second budget proposal later this year.

Several out-of-city residents who live within the service area of the Senior Center (the Sandy Union High School District) argued in favor of its continuation as proposed by Director Dick Halvorson.

"We've paid taxes for a long time," said Louise Shields, a part-time volunteer at the center. "That center means a great deal to a lot of us."

"It's a good feeling when you can serve a person a nourishing meal knowing it may be the only food he may get all day," she said.

Part of the controversy over funding of the Senior Center was pointed out by Mrs. Shields. She stated that it was not entirely fair to city residents that they pay more than their share of the Senior Center's operation while county residents who benefit from the program do not pay local taxes to support it.

"Many of us have talked about some way in which we could pay 100 percent of the cost of the center," she said. "We would like to be able to do that as soon as possible."

"But to have (the program) cut out would be a tragedy."

Another point of contention is the increase in the Recreation and Senior Center budgets from the previous year.

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Great Way To The Mt. Hood Playground

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Loundree announces as fifth mayor candidate

Former City Recorder Ruth Loundree declared her candidacy for mayor of Sandy Tuesday in the Nov. 7 election on a platform of a strong mayor-council form of government.

Loundree, 65, has served the past 19 years in a variety of posts in city administration. She was elected city recorder in 1959 and later served as municipal court judge, administrative secretary and city finance officer.

Loundree is on an extended vacation which precedes her retirement in November from her present post as administrative secretary.

The candidate acknowledged that a return to the mayor-council form of city government here could necessitate a charter revision, but feels "the council and mayor would be more knowledgeable if they had more to do with city government."

Loundree stated that as mayor she would promote a capital improvement program for streets and long-range water planning.

If elected in November, Loundree would be the first woman mayor in Sandy since Blanche Shelley was elected around 1917.

BUDGET CUTS SEEN

Loundree feels that the city budget,

recently rejected by voters, should be revamped and reduced.

"There comes a time when you eat bread, butter and beans, instead of T-bone steak," she said of city finances.

For future city revenue, she sees a need to attract new industry into Sandy.

"There was a time," she said, "when this was known as a mill town, but the city no longer has its mills. We're going to need more good, clean industry to broaden our tax base."

She indicated that new industry might necessitate a second industrial park, "but I think maybe we should be looking at something a little more permanent than recreation-type manufacturing," she said in reference to past tenants.

ON PARKING

Loundree acknowledged lack of downtown parking as a city problem, but said that the city cannot afford at this time to purchase and construct parking facilities at the present cost of land in the city core area.

She said that the chamber of commerce and downtown merchants should lead the way in attracting private investors to develop downtown parking.

"I do not feel the city should condemn property just to build a parking area," she said.

The candidate added that she feels the parking committees of the council and the chamber of commerce did inadequate studies which lacked prices of possible downtown sites.

On the subject of police and the proposed police union here, she feels that the city is "too small for unions."

Problems, she said, could be worked out with negotiations.

City staff meetings, she noted, have been held only infrequently during the past year.

The size of the city staff has grown from three when she joined the city to 33 employees today.

Loundree suggested that there could be more productivity from some city staff workers and that she would probably suggest some shifting of staff functions.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

On the subject of development, Mrs. Loundree stated that there should be more communication between the council and the planning commission.

She also feels that long-range planning must be done to insure the city's future.

"We have the water for the future," she said, "but not the development that will not be required as the city grows."

If you're heading to Seattle for Tut, allow plenty of time

by KAYE BARTON

For Sandy-area residents who plan to visit the King Tutankhamen exhibit in the Seattle Art Museum, Assistant Director of Sandy Senior Center Gretchen Casey has a word of advice: allow yourselves plenty of time.

"Don't plan on sauntering in there, browsing for awhile, and being out in an hour," Casey recommends.

You may not get through that quickly because of the crowds, for one thing — and you may find you want to spend more time viewing the ancient Egyptian relics.

The exhibit is making the rounds of major American cities, bringing "King Tut" (as the monarch is commonly called) treasures within easy driving distance of most American families.

A group of approximately 135 took a bus tour from the Senior Center in Sandy to Seattle Monday. According to Casey, the entire outing took roughly 12 hours. Three buses transported the group.

Ruth Baumbach took the tour and thought it was "well worth seeing." She said she'd passed up an opportunity to see the display when it was in Chicago last year, but this year changed her mind.

"When we were riding on the bus I'd look at the long legs of some of the tall people all cramped up and I was glad I was short," she said. "But when we got into the museum, they could see much better than I so it balanced out in the

long run."

Verona Gardner was full of superlatives as she described the display. "It was fabulous — it was super!" she beamed. "I'd love to see it again — in fact I may do it, on my own."

Gardner and Casey described the intricate craftsmanship of the treasured objects buried in Tutankhamun's tomb, and both expressed the desire to see more than they were able to on their first visit. They were limited in part by the crowds, in part by their own fatigue.

The museum allows 600 people to view the exhibit at one time. The original plan was to permit 1,000 viewers, but museum officials found that the body heat of so many people raised the temperature of the rooms to a point above the safety level for the treasures. The exhibit is under careful temperature and humidity control to

preserve the relics.

Alice Olson was impressed with the material value of the items displayed and she felt that the problems with organization of people and cars would be worked out as the exhibit progressed. "After all, we were there on only the third day of the exhibit," she said. "I think it will be better later on."

Edith Weidman recalled the layout of the display as the most impressive feature. Visitors progress down a long hallway, as if they are actually descending into the ante chamber of the tomb. Inside, the displays are found in four separate rooms. Each room is darkened, with only the displays themselves lit.

Several of the participants agreed with Casey: The museum officials say it takes an hour to see it all — but if you want to enjoy it, allow yourself at least two hours after getting in.

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