

Editorial and Opinion

Industrial Park Answer to City's Woes

With the decline in area logging and the city's need for a broader tax base, Sandy would be wise to consider a second industrial park.

Recent voter rejection of the city budget with bulges to pay for new utilities associated with growth suggests a need to look elsewhere for city revenue, as does the disappearance of mills here.

Gone, too, are many of the loggers. Approximately a half dozen logging firms have slowed down local operations or shut down entirely in the Sandy trading area. Some have moved elsewhere to log, due partly to mills scaling down and shutting down and partly to a partial shut down in the Bull Run Reserve and other parts of the national forest. That's a local payroll amounting to around \$800,000. Come September, the Portland City Council and the Forest Service will issue a joint environmental impact statement to determine the destiny of log cutting in the Bull Run Reserve, deeded to the Rose City years ago as a water shed.

But area logging is generally on the decline anyway. Industrial

Forestry Association projects that 112 forestry jobs are lost annually in a dwindling industry, with another 224 jobs lost in associated trade areas. It's a downward trend expected to continue. The full impact of the Bull Run Reserve's partial shutdown (no new sales) won't be felt until 1980, according to I.F.A. spokesman Mike Sullivan.

So much for logging's future as Oregon's top industry. What of Sandy's future?

New light, clean industry must be attracted here while prices are competitive and land available. Sandy's present industrial park is nearly full with expansion limitations.

The City of Sandy has a golden opportunity to plan a second industrial park with lessons learned from recent construction of the present facility. Besides expansion limitations, present site shortcomings include the way in which equipment and backs of buildings face the highway.

The city's industrial park was a good idea and a first step in the right direction. Now let's take the second step. —VB

Spreading the Word Via the Air Waves

Ever hear of an electric church? That's the tag given the religious broadcasting business, one of the fastest growing entries in the field of electronic media.

There are an estimated 1,200 religious radio stations in the United States today and they're increasing one a week; there are 25 TV stations and they're increasing by one a month.

The number of these religious radio stations has doubled since 1972, and TV probably will double in the next few years. About \$500 million per year is spent on radio and TV time by religious broadcasting.

The biggest religious superstar is Jerry Falwell's "Old-Time Gospel

Hour" from Lynchburg, Va. Others include Oral Roberts, Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong, and Billy Graham.

Falwell began broadcasting 22 years ago. In 1971, revenue reached \$1 million a year. By 1975, that \$1 million had grown to \$1 million per month and by next year it will be \$1 million a week.

The overwhelming source of support of the religious radio programs are the so-called "born-again Christians." Martin Marty, a Lutheran minister and University of Chicago professor of religion, says "They" (the radio evangelists) are healers or positive thinkers...They produce clientele instead of congregations."

A New Car To Cost \$10,000?

A news dispatch from Detroit recently predicted that by 1985, your average new car will cost \$10,000 compared with \$6,500 today.

Or compared with \$495 in 1934.

This writer's father was an automobile dealer and we well can remember new cars selling for \$300 or \$400. An advertisement in a 1934 Outlook we chanced upon recently quoted Fieldhouse and Fancher Chevrolet as offering a new car for "as low as \$495."

Obviously, everything that goes

into a car is enormously more expensive these days. Especially materials and labor costs, plus the various new federal requirements for emissions control, safety, etc.

Industry officials say the average price of a new car is rising slightly less than the rate of inflation. Thus, rising income levels may make it easier for the average wage-earner to afford a new car in the years before 1985.

But somehow, \$495 sounds a whole lot better.

How about Today's Traffic Problems

The new general manager of Tri-Met, Peter Cass, says light rail is the answer to transportation problems in the metropolitan area.

But this "answer" is from 20 to 30 years and several billions of dollars away, he says.

What happens on today's totally inadequate streets in the meantime? That question, the one East County residents keep asking, remains unanswered.



"I Don't Know... Maybe It's My Age... But, For Some Reason I Can't Get Fired Up About Reducing The Capital Gains Tax..."

What other editors say

High costs hit cattlemen

The price of beef will increase again in the fall of the year. Most other food costs will continue to increase.

Despite the fact, Oregon cattlemen are expected to lose money on about one-fourth of the state's 1.6 million beef cattle. A significant number of grain and potato farms as well as apple and cherry orchards also will fail.

The paradox of failure during a time of plenty apparently can be answered by high cost of production and low rate of return for agriculturalists.

That was the consensus of a panel of agricultural representatives last week at the annual meeting of Oregon newspaper publishers.

Among points cited were these: A small family operated dairy requires an investment of \$250,000 to \$500,000, according to Tillamook's Ernie Josi. But, income from milk sales is relatively low, making it difficult "even

at the most favorable rate of interest" for dairymen to turn a profit.

Many dairymen, Josi said, are making an income that can be calculated at between \$3.50 and \$4.00 an hour for their labor.

In labor intensive agriculture, such as fruit orchards in the Hood River area, the cost of labor for the first time in the history of agriculture is exceeding all other costs.

For 40 months before February of this year, 80 percent of all beef cattle operators lost money. Among these were 300 Oregon ranch families who went out of business in 1977.

Corporate farms and speculators are driving up the prices of land, thus influencing property taxes as well as tending to shut-out young people from entering agriculture. Among beef cattlemen, for instance, the average age has increased from 47 years old to a current level of 56.

Since 1950, corporate farms have increased from

two percent of the national total to 10 percent.

In 1977, an estimated 10 percent of lane involved in sales went to foreign investors.

The response to such forces at the production level necessarily will be higher prices. How much higher, however, is a problem both for the agriculturalist and the consumer.

The panelists agreed last week that food costs would need to increase from a present level of 17 percent of family spending to 20 percent before the producer's income, and thus his return on investment, would approach the five or six percent that is considered fair for business and industry.

Clearly, agriculture is having a better time of it this year than in recent times. But, the going still is tough and that means that food costs very likely will continue to rise despite a growing protest.

—Tillamook Headlight Herald

Tax interest is sporadic

Legislatures in California and Massachusetts were so embroiled in controversies this month that they failed to finish their budget work in time for the new fiscal year. In Boston, state workers marched to protest a week without paychecks.

Opponents of Proposition 13 had predicted financial chaos if it passed, and one might expect state finances to get rocky with all the uproar over tax cuts and spending limits. But the state bogged down not because of tax revolts but over public funding for abortions.

It may seem a little strange to have a government start missing payrolls because of a theological dispute, but there's a lesson here about the way politics work. If you take a broad but unfocused public concern like high taxes and set it next to a single issue like abortion, which is intensely fought over by a smaller but well-organized group of people, it's the special issue that's going to get the politician's attention.

Except in very unusual circumstances, high taxes and unbalanced budgets just don't provide the same intense focus for activity as does "right to life" (or women's liberation"). A vast majority may grumble about taxes, but this concern is so diffuse that it can seldom

counterbalance powerful minority pressures on specific issues. All these specific pressures accumulate to produce high spending, but there's rarely a single focus around which to rally a majority for lower taxation.

The rationale for referenda like Proposition 13 is that they provide this focus. As Milton Friedman and others argue, the frustrated majority interested in lowered spending is finally enabled to cast a single vote that would override all the accumulated smaller decisions produced by special interests. This point, we think, explains the national outburst of enthusiasm for the work of Howard Jarvis. Taxpayers finally thought they had

found a way out of their frustrating inability to control their governments.

The trouble is that once the referendum is over again, and if the public isn't watching, not even the state constitutions can stand in the way. In a representative government, there's only one sure way to safeguard a diffuse majority interest in things like fiscal prudence. That is to elect representatives who have shown they will keep it uppermost in their minds. If the voters in California and Massachusetts really want to ease their tax frustrations, they should reward or punish their legislators for the shape of the total budget, not for their stand on side issues.

—Wall Street Journal

Another view:

A strange view of lawman's job

Berkely Lent, one of the seven justices on the Oregon Supreme Court, seems to have a strange view of the policeman's job. The judge acknowledges that police work can be hazardous but then claims an officer has no right to protect himself by searching a suspect for weapons.

Speaking of the hazardous nature of police work, Lent was quoted by The Associated Press: "Elimination of the hazard must come through change of law or profession, not through disregard of the law." What he seemed to be saying was that if an officer felt he was getting into a dangerous situation, one way to handle it was to take off his badge and say, "I resign."

Lent made his remarks in a written dissent from a Supreme Court decision to let stand a case from Lane County. According to the press account, this is what happened: Eugene police in 1975 conducted a drug raid on an apartment. Fourteen people inside were searched for weapons. In one's pocket police said they found some heroin. The suspect was convicted for criminal activity in drugs and appealed.

The officer involved said he made the search for weapons based on his general belief that persons involved with drugs often are armed.

But Lent said there was no evidence that the policeman had reason to believe the suspect to be armed. Well, forgive us, but what kind of evidence is required before someone caught in a legal drug raid can be searched? Does an officer have to wait for a suspect to pull a gun or a knife before he can frisk the suspect?

The Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. The courts in the last few years have inferred ever-tighter restrictions from the amendment's simple language. But surely there is still room in the Fourth Amendment for a police officer to make sure he's not about to be shot or sliced up by someone caught in a narcotics raid.

The Oregon Court of Appeals affirmed the drug conviction that came out of this case. The state Supreme Court refused to review the matter. Both courts showed some sense. Justice Lent didn't.

—Albany Democrat-Herald

Letters-to-the-editor

Hello tar, good-bye gravel

To the Editor:

I wanted to express my gratitude to our highway department publicly, as a citizen of Clackamas County, so that the other people on my road and the many roads like it could join me.

I have lived on 287th Avenue for over three years now, and twice in that period of time the little street I live on has been repaired.

It happens in the summer. First a truck drives slowly along, covering the road surface with hot tar. Then another truck comes along behind, spilling enough gravel to completely cover the tar. It looks so nice when the crew has finished and left.

Starting about ten minutes later, a car comes down my

road, and then another, and another. I know because I hear the sound of tires picking up tar-covered rocks and flinging them against the car body, mailboxes, passing cars and children walking on the side of the road. It sounds like a hailstorm on a tin roof.

The tar causes the rocks to stick to the tires long enough to be flung loose with force. Ever try to clean hot tar off of a car?

Ever try to clean hot tar and gravel off of a car?

Ever try to clean hot tar and gravel off of shoes, or bicycles or horses' hooves? This goes on for about a month, and by then passing cars and pedestrians have carried away the road surface paid for by our tax money and we are left again to the peace and quiet of our clean potholes.

Thanks.
Mrs. Jeannie Parker
287th Avenue
Boring

Graham tops God in students' poll

High school students responding to a Ladies Home Journal poll question that asked who has done the most for religion listed Billie Graham first and God second!

These teenagers also ranked Anita Bryant with Adolph Hitler for doing the most harm in the world!

How they could be so wrong on both counts has been explained by a theory that the kids of today gain their impressions mainly from watching television. But that doesn't wash unless it is conjectured that the Lord is kept too much offstage as an unseen prompter in Graham's TV specials and, further, that today's younger set either embraces homosexuality or abhors orange juice.

It's more likely that those youngsters questioned in the L.H.J. poll couldn't resist a fantastic opportunity to shock their elders. That old line about silly questions deserving silly answers applies.

The kids undoubtedly were more prompted to level with the pollsters when asked to pick their current personal idols. The girls chose Kate Jackson, an Angel. The boys, Clint Eastwood, no angel but no paranoid Hitler, either.

—Eugene Register Guard



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