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State violations charged in Bull Run dispute

by DAN DILLON

Amid allegations of unfair dismissal practices and abuses of the Oregon open-meeting law, the Bull Run School Board voted last Saturday to renew the contract of teacher JoAnne Rohweder, reversing its earlier decision not to rehire her.

Wednesday evening, the board had upheld its earlier decision not to rehire teacher Diana Smith.

The two teachers had requested public hearings to appeal the school board's March 16 decision not to renew their contracts.

Attorney Wendy Greenwald, who represented the teachers at Wednesday's public hearings through the auspices of the Oregon Education Association, charged that school officials had violated Oregon law in their evaluation proceedings.

She said the law requires school officials to notify teachers of upcoming evaluations, schedule pre- and post-evaluation conferences and allow teachers a time to rectify any shortcomings the evaluation uncovers.

"The problem is that teachers are given these jobs to have an opportunity

to work," Greenwald said. "If their performance is unsatisfactory, they should be given an opportunity to rectify the situation, but (the teachers) didn't get this opportunity."

She also charged the school board had made the decision not to renew the contracts in an unadvertised executive session Feb. 21.

Principal Bob Fones said that at that meeting the board told him to inform the two teachers they might look for other work. "I told them they could look for other work," Fones said.

Oregon's open-meeting law prohibits making any final decisions in executive session. It also states that meetings must be advertised at least 24 hours prior to convening.

Fones admitted that the Feb. 21 session had been unadvertised. "Why tell the public, if it's executive board?" he asked.

Teddy Peetz, who was serving on the school board at that time, said he felt that a vote was taken, but added that he didn't believe the meeting was conducted "under the table." "Finalizing a decision was not the intent of the meeting," he said.

Peetz said a major factor in the board's decision not to renew the contracts was the success of "two outstanding new teachers" signed by the board for the 1980-81 school year. "I got on the bandwagon of getting good, new teachers this year," he said. "I was misled to cast the vote 'no.'"

Smith and Rohweder both would have become tenured teachers next year.

Rohweder, who taught first- and second-graders during the school year, was originally not offered a new contract for reasons that included "failure to provide individual instruction for students of diverse academic ability, failure to effectively instruct a split-level class and failure to demonstrate sufficient self-confidence."

Fones, who had recommended Rohweder's contract be renewed, said, "She appeared to be handling (the split class) well."

Rohweder said Board Chairman Jim Bollerman had observed her class Jan. 20, but "he didn't mention any of the reasons stated." She said that when Fones informed her of the non-renewal Feb. 27, "he told me the vote had been 2-2, and the vote had been broken by the

chairman of the board," she said.

Responding to other board charges, Rohweder said, "I don't feel confident at school because there aren't enough guidelines and when they come in (for evaluations), I don't know what they're evaluating me on."

She told the board, "Your school does not have goals. I have goals because I need them; I don't feel secure without them."

Because the hearing on Rohweder's appeal did not end until 12:37 a.m. Thursday morning, the board voted to reconvene Thursday evening for a decision only.

At that meeting, the board was deadlocked, 2-2, when board member Karen Rollins abstained. When she attempted to re-introduce a second motion to renew the contract, it died for lack of a second. The board then decided to meet again Saturday evening.

Saturday, by a 3-2 vote, the board renewed Rohweder's contract. Rollins, Marcia Hazelwood and Jack Layton voted to renew the contract. Bollerman and Ron Jantz voted against that move.

Smith, who taught the school's special education, Title I and Talented

and Gifted students, was told her contract was not renewed for reasons that included "failure to maintain a positive and constructive attitude and commitment to teaching assignments, failure to demonstrate a positive attitude to professional growth and failure to provide necessary materials one day a week when not at school."

She has indicated that she will appeal the school board's decision in Clackamas County Circuit Court.

Glory Yankauskas, a parent with a daughter in special education and a daughter in the Talented and Gifted program, said, "I think you have to give it your very best shot and I think that is what Mrs. Smith has tried to do." She applauded Smith's involvement that helped her daughter get testing to diagnose her learning difficulty.

Ralph Branson, director of Special Education in the Sandy Elementary School District, observed Smith in the classroom for part of her work at Portland State University. He told the school board, "I would place her in the upper 5 to 10 percent of teachers I have observed."

He added that she is "capable of functioning as a teacher in any resource room in the state of Oregon."

Fones told the board that he placed a "great deal" of emphasis on a letter, written by Marty Rose Stewart who served as Smith's aide, in his decision to recommend non-renewal.

The letter alleged that Smith had been late returning from coffee breaks and let students spend too much time with playthings.

Toys were often used as rewards for accomplishments in the classroom, Smith said. Branson seconded that as being a sound and accepted practice in special education where concrete rewards are needed.

The board voted 4-1 to reaffirm its March 16 decision not to renew Smith's contract. Hazelwood was the lone objection.

A third teacher, Helen Swails, will be given a public hearing to allow her to defend her position at Bull Run School at the board's meeting this Monday, June 15. She teaches third and fourth grade and has been with the district for 18 years.

Mountain developer sees Welches as city

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

There is a saying in the Mount Hood area: "If you haven't heard a good rumor by noon, go out and start one."

The latest rumor surfacing consistently in recent weeks has left some area residents in a daze. Welches is going to be annexed into a city.

Carl Bright, developer working with American Guaranty Life Insurance on Rippling River, confirmed that the rumor was true this week and admitted that the new city is his idea.

Bright, a former Alaska and Hawaii developer who hails from Texas, said the new city would probably have a 24-hour police department, its own planning commission and would be governed by five commissioners who would elect a mayor amongst themselves.

There would also be a city attorney whom Bright foresees as being Lowell Njust, the only locally-practicing attorney.

"Lowell would be a likely candidate," Bright said, "because he's well-liked and does a good job of providing legal services for the area."

Bright said the thing that "really motivated the thought of incorporation was the 6 percent room tax for hotels and motels that passed last year."

According to Bright, Rippling River would lose more than \$500,000 after the

entire development is completed at Welches. Because the area is not an incorporated city, "this money would not remain on the mountain and benefit the people, but would go elsewhere in the county."

"It was the day after this tax passed that I came up with the idea, because the county would be taking 6 percent off the top — not off the net," he said.

Bright said that by keeping this \$500,000 in the Welches area, the people and businesses would benefit by self-government and better services and the Rippling River development itself would be enhanced. The owners of the development which includes 502 condominiums and 113 residential homesites, American Guaranty, have wholeheartedly given their support to Bright to pursue the idea of "Welches City."

Bright claimed that by incorporating the area, other sources of monies would be gained for the mountain area. State tobacco, alcohol and gasoline taxes and taxes generated by utilities, such as Portland General Electric, cable television and the telephone company, would also make the new city an economically profitable venture.

In its beginning, the proposed city would have a population of nearly 1,200 people, but Bright indicated that additional annexation would be in the new Welches' future.

Mountain communities, such as Brightwood, Zigzag, Timberline Rim, the Tillikum Woods development and Zigzag Village, would eventually be annexed into the city. Because Rhododendron is too far from the other Sandy River locations, Bright does not believe that it would be included in any of the city's plans for expansion.

Bright said a five-year economic feasibility study is currently being conducted and will be completed in approximately 30 days. At that time, an informational meeting will be held at Bowman's to discuss the merits and benefits of forming the new city.

The developer added that he feels confident that the majority of the residents in the area will be in favor of what could become Oregon's newest city.

Clackamas County Commissioner Ralph Groener, who said he had never heard of the Welches annexation, said the process would be "long and difficult."

He added, "You just don't annex overnight and become a city. There are boundaries to decide upon, not to mention the opposition of the people themselves. They will have their work cut out for them."

Groener may be right. George Sheets, chairperson of the Environmental Committee on Suitability (ECOS) which is opposing a proposed Zigzag heliport, said his organization learned of the new city while conducting research through the county.

"There will be a solid city stretching from Rhododendron all the way down the mountain to Sandy," Sheets said. "We've seen maps with new subdivisions, streets and sidewalks. This mountain has already been violated enough. Is there any way to stop it while we can?"

Bright doesn't think so. With year-round skiing provided by the Palmer Chairlift at Timberline, the area has the potential of becoming the world's most popular ski area.



School's out

Photo by Mark Floyd

Principal Darrell Shepherd bid farewell to students at Sandy Elementary School as they took off last Thursday for the summer.

Two bodies recovered from Mt. Hood

The bodies of two climbers who fell to their deaths late last Saturday were recovered Sunday on the northeast side of Mount Hood.

The dead were identified as Billy Pilkenton, 17, of Newberg and David H. Turple, 52 of Portland.

Turple was one of three adult guides in charge of an outing, sponsored by the Youth for Christ, for 10 boys from the MacLaren School at Woodburn. The members of the group had camped out Friday evening, climbed to the top of the mountain Saturday via the Cloud Cap route and were on their way down when Pilkenton slipped near the 8,500-foot level.

A spokesman for the Hood River County sheriff's office, said Turple tried to save the youth and the two were swept to their deaths down the steep, rocky slope of Elliott Glacier.

Don Miller, pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church in Portland where Turple was a member, said one of the guides who witnessed the accident said Pilkenton had insisted on glissading down the ice and snow of Elliott Glacier despite efforts to discourage him.

When Turple saw that Pilkenton was out of control, he planted an ice axe and lay flat in front of the runaway boy in an effort to stop him, Miller said.

A patch of fog hid the two at that point, according to Miller, and when it cleared up, all that was left was the ice axe.

Miller said that Turple had made 51 trips up the mountain, most of them with students from MacLaren.

Raw sewage finds way into river

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Stories have been circulating since the fall about raw sewage being dumped or spilled from the sewage holding tanks at Rippling River, leading into a small creek that eventually finds its way into the Salmon River.

This week, those stories were verified by Clackamas County officials.

According to Dave Abraham, utilities director of the Department of Environmental Services for Clackamas County, two sewage spills were reported to his office, the first during the Christmas holiday and the second in mid-March. "The exact dates are not readily available," Abraham said.

Abraham explained the circumstances surrounding the spills are "sort of complex."

He said that Bill Sanders, civil engineer technician from his office, discovered a cap missing from a line leading out of a manhole at the top of the holding tanks that led "downhill" to

the pumping station.

Abraham said that raw sewage flowed into the pump station line, then backed up out of two manholes located just below the holding tanks at the bottom of the hill. Sewage subsequently flowed into a small creek that emptied into the Salmon River.

According to Sanders, a contractor working on the pump station for the county cleaned out the line and plugged it to prevent any further accidents. However, in March another mishap occurred and the contractor was again forced to clean out the line.

Sanders said the contractor replaced the plug. To guarantee there would be no more accidents, "the plug was sealed over with concrete," he said. In 10 months when the sewage treatment plant is completed, the line will be reopened.

However, the manhole with the supposedly plugged line was examined last Friday with Carl Bright, developer at Rippling River, and the plug was not cemented as the contractor allegedly told the county.

Tuesday Dick Wixon, of the state Department of Environmental Quality, visited the site to determine what had actually taken place and who was responsible.

Wixon said he was convinced that the evidence of the discharge, on the hillside leading from the holding tanks to the No. 2 fairway at the golf course, was not related to the spillage that came out of the two manholes, as the county claimed.

"There was an obvious discharge from up here," Wixon said, standing near the southeastern holding tank.

Wixon took a "fecal analysis" to be certain that no other untreated sewage was leaking into the Salmon River. The results will be available in a week.

Meanwhile, Wixon warned Rippling River that any more mishaps would result in a fine if the DEQ is not notified of the accident. Sanders said he believed that DEQ had been notified.

However, it wasn't until Wixon's office was asked for an environmental impact assessment by The Post that they became aware of the problem.

Bruns named marshal for Sandy parade

A Sandy resident who has been nominated for four Academy Awards will lead the annual Sandy Mountain Festival Parade as grand marshal.

George Bruns, who spent 21 years writing music for Walt Disney Productions, will be the honored guest when the annual parade heads up Pioneer Boulevard July 9 at 7:30 p.m. He will also take his traditional spot on the Meinig Park bandstand Sunday during the festival to lead his Pacific Northwest All-Star Dixieland Jazz Band.

The creator of the song "Davy Crockett," which sold more than 8 million records, began as a professional musician and arranger in 1937. He started in motion pictures in 1951 at U.P.A. studio and moved to Disney's studio in 1953. He now works as a freelance composer, arranger and conductor.

During his career, Bruns was nominated for Oscars for his musical scores for "Sleeping Beauty," "Sword in the Stone" and "Babes in Toyland." The song "Love" from "Robin Hood" was nominated for the best song award. Bruns has written the music for more than 200 movies, television shows, cartoons and documentaries. He has also scored more than 100 commercials.

Other movie projects Bruns worked on include "Aristocats," "Absent-Minded Professor," "Jungle Book," "101 Dalmations" and "Son of Flubber."

Queen named for Festival

Sandy retired schoolteacher Florence Schmitz has been named queen of the 1981 Sandy Mountain Festival.

She will preside over the July 11-12 arts and crafts festival in Meinig Park. Coronation will be June 30 at a special Sandy Chamber of Commerce program.

Queen Florence has long played an active role in Sandy Civic Services, Business and Professional Women's Club and Sandy Chamber of Commerce, in addition to Clackamas Associated Chambers of Commerce whom she has served as secretary.

She shares royalty honors with new princesses Helen Lamke, Jan Fox, Pat-sy Wesselink and Erin Fenwick.

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