

Stats show Sandy parade among biggest

Sandy Mountain Festival parade 7:30 p.m. next Thursday shapes up as one of the biggest parades in all Oregon. No exaggeration. The stats tell the tale.

Sandy's little summer parade has grown to 91 entries this year—up from 73 last July, when boosters bragged that Sandy had more floats than Portland's Starlight Parade.

Well, this year there are more floats in little Sandy's parade than the grand Rose Festival parade. Entries here include 24 floats, 70 horses, the National Guard's Oregon Pipe Band that played at the recent inauguration, Shriners and Royal Rosarians.

There even may be a surprise guest or two when floats parade east up Pioneer Boulevard.

Sandy has become confident of itself and its ability to put on quality shows in recent years, and for good reason. Quality artisans and renowned musicians reside here, so the Festival parade committee didn't have to look outside town this year to attract an eminent parade marshal. Sandy's own George Bruns, topcomposer and musical coordinator of Walt Disney Productions for 20 years, more than fits the bill.

So bring the family and guests early to find a spot to see it all and expect to stay a good hour.

After all, this is one of the biggest parades now in Oregon, if not one of the best. Coordinator Shannon Montgomery and her Festival subcommittee deserve much of the applause. (VB)

Oregon redistricting favors Sandy area

The state legislature's eleventh-hour reapportionment—like most political attempts to redistrict—surely didn't please everyone.

Most hurt was Portland, where population declines in a recent 10-year census cost city dwellers three House seats and one and a half Senate seats in favor of growing areas like Clackamas and Washington Counties.

"Ballooning" is the description often applied to bizarre political redistricting to shuffle power, and some of Salem's compromise creations do resemble balloons. Picture those twisty, squeaky balloons that carnies bend into silly-looking animals.

Actually, all the gerrymandering seemed to strengthen the political picture for Sandy, Eagle Creek, Estacada, Boring and the Hoodland area, however.

The Sandy area will sit in the powerful northern end of the ribbon-shaped new Senate District 14, the controversial "helicopter" corridor from the outskirts of Springfield to Molalla, Mill City, Detroit, Cascadia and Sandy. It extends south to West Fir and follows the Cascade Line to Cultus Lake to the east. Insiders say the new district senator likely will be elected from the northern population centers November, 1982.

Political scoffers call the new district a helicopter corridor, because you'd have to cross through another district to get

there—cynically suggested by helicopter.

For Sandy, however, it's a more compact Senate district than present District 28 that extends into eastern Oregon. District 28 Senator Ken Jernsted after elections November, 1982, will represent just eastern counties and laughs when the new district is called large. In general area, he has represented two-thirds of that district as one one-fourth of his present sprawling district.

Best news for the Sandy area in reapportionment, though, has to be new House District 23. No longer will Sandy be in sprawling House District 56 with Hood River and The Dalles, but as population center of a compact, local district with Estacada, Canby, Malino and the Hoodland area. The district follows the forest boundary and extends to Multnomah County and to the Marion County line toward Oregon City.

The more compact, local district puts Sandy in a new role as a population center—a kingpin role likely to produce more home-grown representatives with hometown feelings about priorities.

While current state representatives continue to visit across the mountain and effectively carry our sentiments to Salem, it nonetheless would be helpful to elect new legislators from closer to home. Come November, 1982, we get the chance. (VB)

Salem scene:

Workman's Comp. improves

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Oregon's business climate—although clouded by the current recession—has taken a turn for the better.

The encouraging economic news came from the office of Insurance Commissioner Bill Fritz. He announced an average reduction of 8.5 percent in premium rates charged for government-required workers' compensation insurance, effective July 1.

The most recent rate decrease, added to others over the last 18 months, totals 30.5 percent and reduces Oregon's long-standing national ranking as highest cost state to 10 or 11 from the top.

The latest rate reduction follows previous decreases last year of 5.9 percent in April, another 15.1 percent in July and 1 percent this April.

Consequently, total premium costs—estimated to soar as high as \$600 million last year, topped out at \$549 million. They are expected to dip further to around \$500 million this year.

The latter estimate was made by Workers' Compensation Department Director Roy Green, who pointed out the rate reductions are being achieved in spite of the fact benefits are steadily increasing for covered workers.

Green called the circumstance "astounding" and pointed to several recent developments as responsible. Primarily, he said, the situation is the result of legislation enacted over the last four years. He also credited an increasing awareness and changing attitude of employers regarding on-the-job safety.

The Legislature enacts laws with guidance for regulation of the system, designed to cure and rehabilitate claimants and compensate workers or their survivors in the event of disabilities and fatalities.



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

Employers pay premiums based on hazards inherent to different types of work and the experience of individual employers, in other words, the frequency of work-related injury and illness.

Premiums are determined as a percentage of each \$100 paid in total payroll and involve several hundred classifications. Some employers pay only modest amounts per \$100 of payroll. Others must pay premiums that range as high as 100 percent of wages paid their workers.

The 1977 Legislature reformed the system's appeals procedure, modified some definitions and created the administrative department. Two years ago the Legislature fine-tuned the new processes, and further improvements are under consideration by lawmakers now meeting in Salem.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh created a task force to study the situation after the 1979 session, and many of that body's recommendations are now being considered.

Improvement of the situation for everyone is apparent for at least two reasons, in addition to the premium rate reductions. The number of workers classified as permanently totally disabled last year was 139, lowest in more than a decade and down significantly from the all-time high of 299 in 1974-75.



Letters to the editor:

'Guns or butter' still priority matter

It is my conviction that citizens need to participate in more dialogue with each other and our government to protect their interests in these critical days.

It appears that we cannot have both "butter" and "guns" and that in national politics our president has chosen "guns." To pay for them he has backed a budget with severe cuts in such social services as child nutrition, health, schools and food stamps among many others.

The president has forced the issue of how we are to live and what kind of society we are to become—not only into national government, but into every state, county, city and school board as well. All of Oregon is cutting people assistance programs.

President Reagan speaks to us about budget cuts and tax cuts. He does not speak in terms of how the social service cuts will affect people, nor does he mention the huge increase in military expenditures that is part of his plan.

He does not discuss with us this major move from being a caring society to one which values people less. He does not alert us to the fact that our military program has shifted from defense and some efforts to defuse the arms race toward first-strike weapons, confrontation and intervention (El Salvador).

Tensions are high, and prospects for a doomsday nuclear war are close. Not only we and the Russians are hostages to nuclear death, but all of Europe as well.

Christians among us may contemplate that we are now a society that puts five million of its most highly skilled scientists, engineers and craftsmen to the inven-

tion and manufacture of weapons designed to kill a hundred to a hundred and fifty million people any afternoon.

In addition, we keep a two million person armed force stationed at home and around the world. These forces have the major function of insuring that the flow of minerals, oil and other natural resources keep flowing our way and that our multinational corporations will find receptive investment climates and docile labor forces.

A special airborne force of 200,000 has been organized to intervene anywhere in the world (especially the Middle

East) with precision guided missiles and other exotic arms. Draft boards now are being organized to insure replacement bodies for this force.

Now is the time to speak for a society that cares for its own. Now is the time to speak for a society that aims for conciliation and peace and hope that our children and grandchildren can live.

W. Pete Sulzbach
Sandy

Schmale quits

There is no funny or clever way to say good bye. It's just one of those words that says it all.

I have enjoyed writing "Bits and Pieces" during the past four years, but the wear and tear of being stretched too far is taking its toll on me. I have to back away from a few projects for awhile, and unfortunately The Post is one I have to drop.

The main reason I started writing the article and continued it on a regular basis is because I felt people should have something to laugh at. I created situations that included myself and members of my family that were usually 80 percent fabrication, but the idea was one that others could relate to and hopefully laugh at.

Once people can laugh at funny things in another person's life, they can usually see the humor in their own. Humor is all around, but sometimes it needs to be pointed out. That's what I tried to do.

I realize everybody doesn't have the same weird twist of humor that I do, and I didn't expect to create more of the same. Everyone has a funny bone somewhere in their body, and I truly hope I tickled a few.

So as I write off into the sunset, keep smiling until you can't see my eraser dust anymore.

Margaret Schmale
Eagle Creek



Legislator's report:

Packwood wants Social Security revamp

BOB PACKWOOD
U.S. Senator, R-Oregon

A fundamental problem facing seniors in Oregon is economic security. For many, that security is dependent on income from the Social Security system.

Recently, President Reagan sent the Congress a proposal to reform Social Security. His goal: to make the program financially sound. No one questions the need to alleviate the fiscal crisis confronting Social Security. The question is how to do so.

The administration's approach to solving the financial problems of the Social Security system is heavily weighted towards two areas: drastically cutting benefits for people who retire early and reducing benefits for people who become disabled.

The over emphasis of the president's program—and its greatest shortcoming—is to reduce Social



Bob Packwood

Security benefits for seniors in several ways. The reasoning behind the presi-

dent's approach is clear, but there are other approaches the president might use that would less drastically impact on seniors.

First, to insure the short-term solvency of the Social Security system, I would allow for interfund borrowing between the Health Insurance Trust Fund and the Social Security Trust Fund. Such an approach would guarantee the financial security of the program, while more long-range changes are going into effect.

Second, we must eliminate the retirement earnings limitation, which this year is penalizing seniors below age 72 one dollar for every two dollars they earn over \$5500. While our economy is boosted by the productivity of all citizens, this law effectively discourages seniors from working.

Third, we must eliminate the mandatory retirement age to let people work as long as they are able.

Fourth, if we are going to reduce benefits for people who retire early, it should not begin until well into the future—many years from now—to allow people to plan for reduced benefits.

Fifth, if we are going to make changes in the Social Security program, these changes must be accomplished by specific benefit increases. Specifically, I believe there are two important elements that should be included:

1. The Packwood-Bradley Long Term Care Bill, which is designed to help seniors and disabled persons avoid placement in nursing homes by providing community based services; and

2. Protections for seniors against the costs of catastrophic illnesses.

Only by changing this system can we guarantee our senior citizens their right to enjoy the comfortable and secure retirement they have earned.