

around the county

Welches voters face registration difficulties

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Concerned Residents of Welches (CROW) and the Corridor Area Mountain People (CAMP) are having a hard time getting voters registered.

Dennis Cox, an organizer of CAMP, which has joined with CROW, said that they are working to get registered voters to sign their petitions because registered voters "pull more weight." CAMP, a group which represents residents outside the proposed city of Welches, and CROW, which represents people living in the proposed city, are opposed to the incorporation of the area.

Cox said that mountain residents who are attempting to get registered are having difficulties because of the "unorthodox requirements" of the Clackamas County Elections Department.

"We have a lot of people with correct mailing addresses," said Cox. "Some even have house numbers that are recognized by the

Hoodland Fire Department and the post office delivers mail to them. But yet, the county is not recognizing these addresses in their voter registration process."

John Kauffman, superintendent of records in the elections office, said that requiring tax lots is "a normal part of the process in the mountains."

He said the Secretary of State issued a directive requiring this years ago.

Kauffman said that a post office box merely shows that someone put down money for a box. A star route only shows there is a clump of mailboxes on the road.

"It doesn't show where a residence is located," he said. He added that the situation is also complicated because there is a sanitary district, a school district, a water district and a fire district.

Some people live in areas that are comprised of several different districts.

"We're at the mercy of the post offices," Kauffman said. "Until someone purely defines where people are, and design a system of prov-

ing it, the tax lot requirement will remain. We won't honor any system that the post office won't recognize."

He said that he doesn't know who was responsible for the address problems, but said that last year when the roads were renamed and renumbered by the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) workers, "they did not coordinate their efforts with the U.S. Postal Service." As a result "a person's mailing address may be in Rhododendron, when he may actually live in Zigzag."

Cox cited a number of examples where renters are renting from landlords that are in favor of the proposed city, and are having a difficult time in getting the legal description of the property they are residing on. He said that the property owners realized by giving this information they "would only be cutting their own throats" because their own renters would be in a position of helping to vote down the proposed city.

Kauffman said that if anyone attempts to keep a

person from registering to vote by not providing the legal description of the property they are on, that it would be a violation of Oregon Revised Statutes 260.665. lot identification is just a unique problem to the mountains."

Kauffman recommended that CROWCAMP utilize the Hoodland Fire Department, which has a complete set of maps showing tax lots.

"We are not trying to make it difficult for them," Kauffman said. "We are just trying to be precise. Requiring voters to supply their tax

Cox could not say what the impact the registration problems will have on the petition drive except that "it is and will continue to delay the process." He said that there at least 12 people, so far, that have had problems registering to vote.

He said that unless the problem is solved quickly, the residents' right to vote is in jeopardy.

Cox said that they could

allow anyone, including non-registered voters, to sign the petition, but feels that their signature would not "have the same validity as the signature of a registered voter."

"If the Boundary Commission decides to extend the boundaries of the proposed city, then not only would it be put to a vote of the people in just the Welches area. Rather, it could even be

from Brightwood through Rhododendron. But if the people can't register, they won't be able to vote. And if they don't vote, then the city of Welches could become a reality."

Don Carlson, director of the boundary commission, said that they will probably include the areas extending from Brightwood to Rhododendron as part of the new city, according to Cox.

'Living Off the Land' workshop is planned

"Living Off the Land" is the title of a one-day workshop sponsored by Mt. Hood Community College Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room 1710 on the Gresham campus.

The workshop is designed to teach the basic homesteading survival techniques. Subjects will include choice of a homestead, animal and human shelters,

growing and harvesting your own food, soil science, gardening, making top quality soap, drying, canning and preserving food.

The registration fee for this workshop is \$10. For more information about the workshop, contact the MHCC community education office at 667-7428.

Health division needs volunteers

The Clackamas County public health division needs volunteers to staff a new child health care clinic in the Boring area.

The clinic will be held every other month on the fourth Thursday.

If interested in volunteering, call 665-8470 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and ask for Susan.

Toll-free calls can be placed through the courthouse at 668-3510, extension 470.

Red Cross needs teachers

Nursing and Health Services of the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross needs volunteer health education instructors to teach courses in babysitting, parenting, preparation for parenthood (pre-natal), vital signs, home nursing and good grooming.

To arrange for an interview with the local Oregon Trail Chapter representative for Nursing and Health Services, call 243-5272.

Women's club

legal staff, the park department, and a member of the planning commission staff, will come to the Women's Club and answer questions.

"It will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to get answers," Knapp told the group. "When they are pin-

ed down in front of all of us, they won't be able to tell each of us a different story. We won't get one answer from one, and a different answer from another."

The meeting ended with tense tempers. Many stated that they are upset that the lease and the boundary ques-

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tions were not openly discussed with the entire membership. As a result, more speculation to whether the current situation was deliberate or an oversight, is arising amongst the membership. Perhaps the Nov. 9 meeting will clear the air.

Hey Baby, drink your Milk.

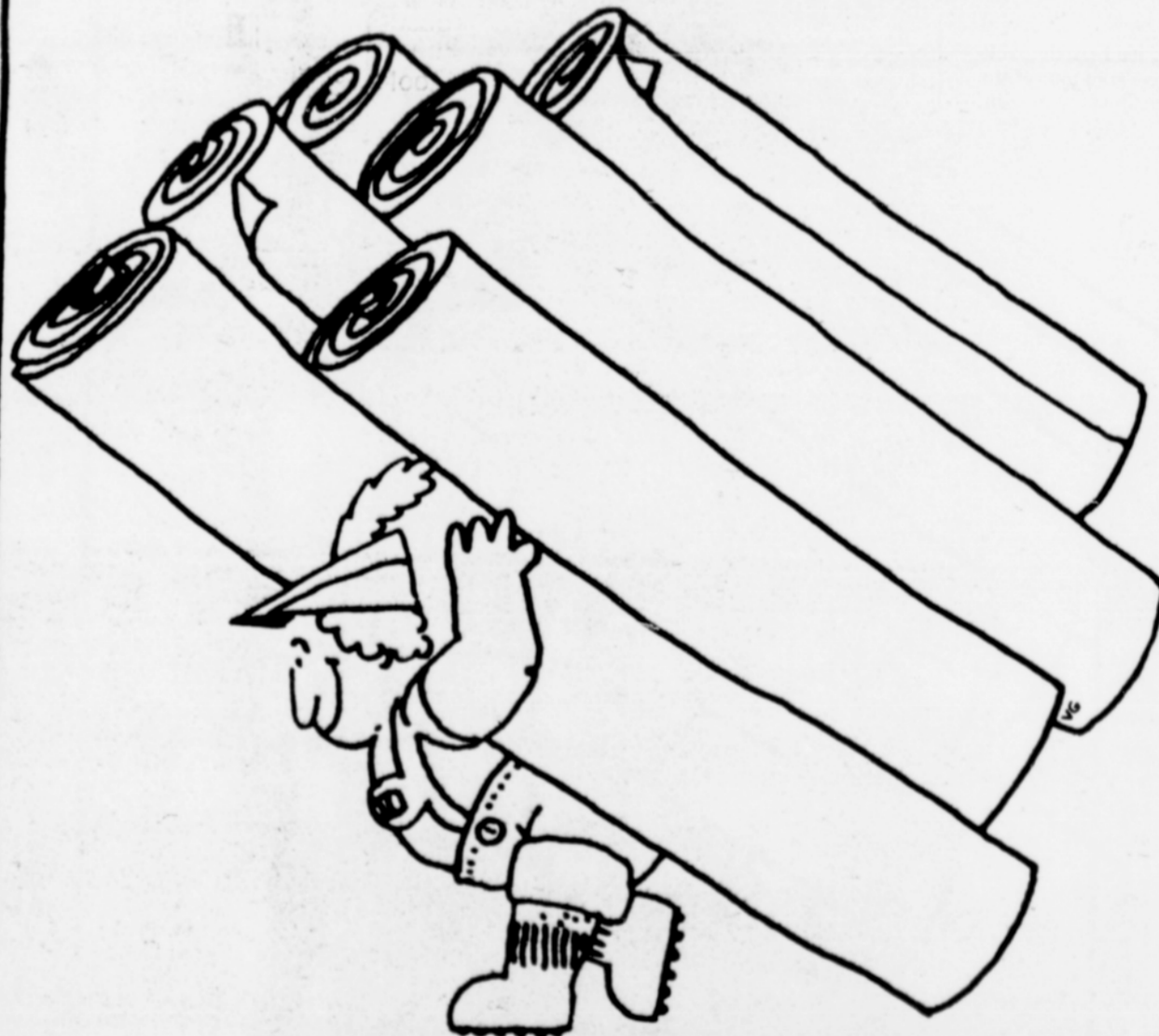
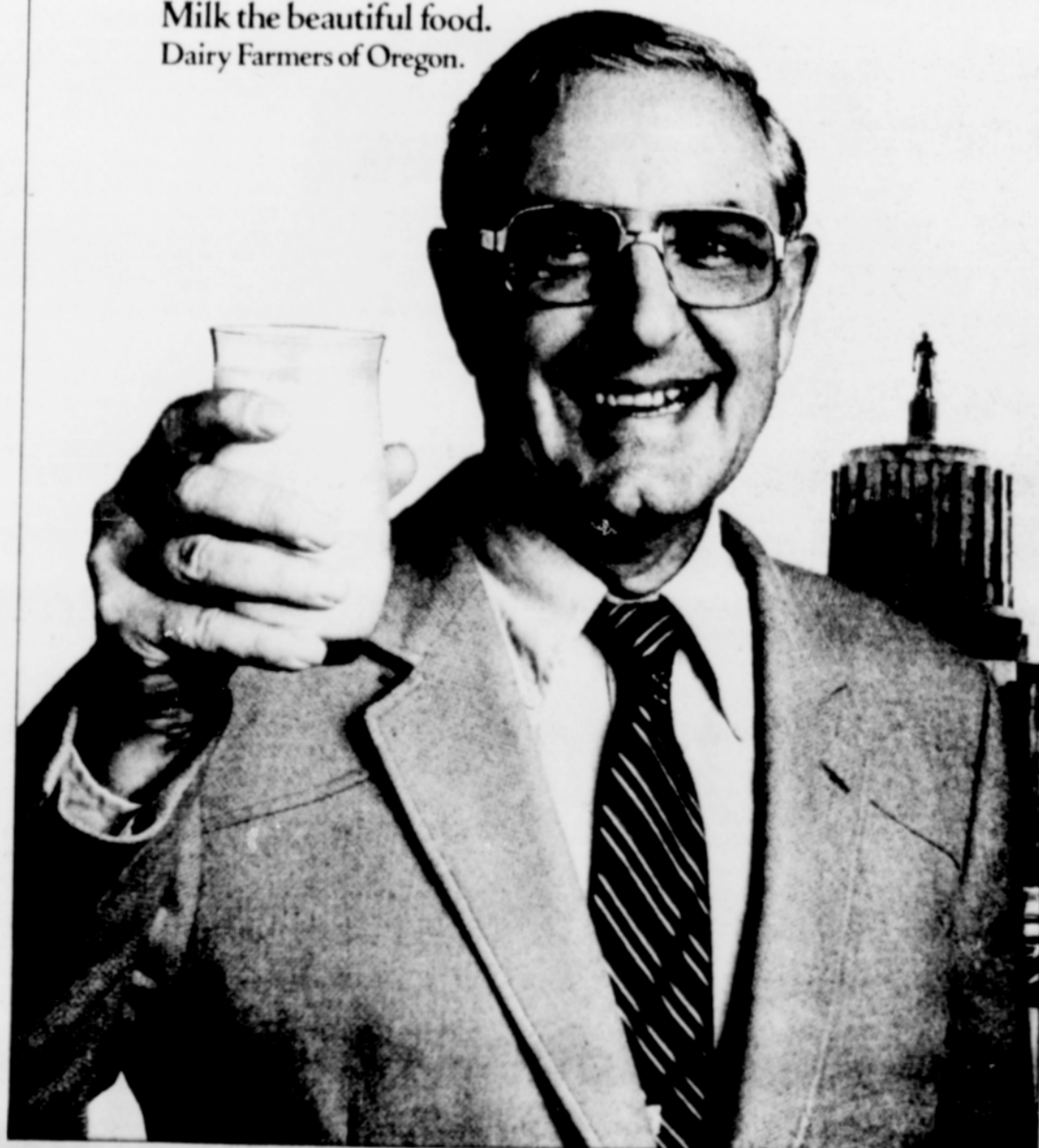
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So whatever your age, set some governing rules in your own diet. Like plenty of nutrition-filled milk.

Here's to all you beautiful babies drinking your beautiful milk!

Nutrition source: Nutrition Education Services/Oregon Dairy Council.

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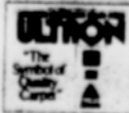
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