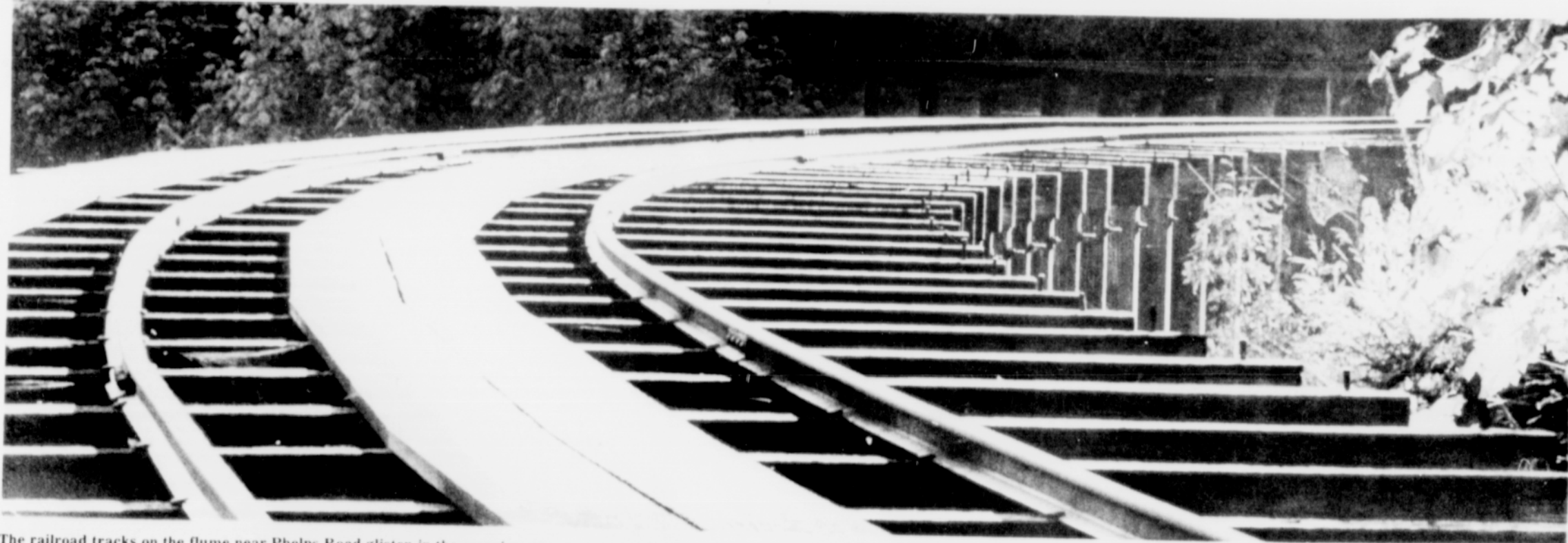


County to test voting computer

A certification test of the Clackamas County computer program to be used for the Nov. 3, 1981 special election, will be conducted on Oct. 29. State law requires that a county using an automated vote tally system have its computer program tested before any election.

The "logic and accuracy" test insures that the computer is counting correctly. After the test is performed, the computer program is sealed in a vault until the date of the election.

Anyone interested in observing this test is welcome.



The railroad tracks on the flume near Phelps Road glisten in the morning sun.

Photo by Scott Newton

Says treatment coordinator

Alcoholism No. 3 killer in America

by VON BRASCHLER

Alcoholism has become America's number three killer, and a recovered alcoholic in Gresham thinks there's no longer any excuse for continued suffering.

Marty Sturdivant, coordinator of Gresham Community Hospital's alcohol treatment center, told the Sandy Chamber of Commerce Tuesday how she knows the disease close up and personally.

Her father died of alcoholism at age 49, and six of her seven siblings went on to become alcoholics. Only three of them including Sturdivant are "recovering" alcoholics.

The disease cripples many people in many ways, and there's an even genetic predisposition toward alcoholism.

Because the illness is progressive in nature, she said, temporary control or even abstinence is short-lived.

"It takes a year to 18 months to totally detoxify someone," she said, "after continually putting a drug into your system. It is our most widely abused drug."

The former St. Joseph's Hospital counselor stepped in with Southwest Washington Hospitals to help reorganize Gresham Community Hospital's alcohol program after some "administrative problems," she said. The St. Joseph's alcohol treatment is nationally recognized.

Sturdivant said Southwest Washington Hospitals is reorganizing Gresham's program on a two-year consulting basis, after which time the local hospital once again will operate its own alcohol program.

Hospital treatment isn't cheap. Cost is \$4,700 at Gresham Community Hospital for a 30-day program.

But good recovery programs for alcoholics and their families who suffer through the disease with them is almost universally available today, the counselor said.

"No one has to deal with alcoholism today with the treatment centers we have available. There's a stigma problem, but I can deal with

that (as a recovered alcoholic)."

One of every eight Americans now suffer from alcoholism, now viewed as a disease and not a mental illness.

"It's amazing how many families have to deal with the disease," Sturdivant said, "and the family goes through the same cycle of anger, denial, resentment and cover up."

The Gresham counselor's own 9-year-old son, she said, once had to undergo therapy to deal with his mother's alcoholism.

"For a family member," she advised, "your only responsibility is to confront the alcoholic in a loving way. Don't anger or insult a person already suffering from an illness."

The alcoholic goes through personality changes, as the system reacts to the drug. At first he's soft-hearted.

"We drink because we wear our heart on our sleeve," Sturdivant said. In later stages, however, the alcoholic is a brittle, hardened drinker.

She encouraged people who drink but think they have no drinking problem to examine recognized symptoms of alcoholism: increased drinking, increased tolerance to drinking, temporary loss of memory, gulping drinks, shakes, loss of friends and personality change (usually more withdrawn).

"People who never have a problem never say 'Yes' to any of them," Sturdivant said.

For the \$40,000 executive perhaps destined for Burnside, people cover up the symptoms, she warned. But there are warning signs.

The early drinker becomes an angry individual with often crazy behavior.

"If a man catches his wife sneaking a drink of milk from a container hidden in the back of a toilet, he's liable to send her to Damask," Sturdivant said.

For some reason, though, society chooses to overlook the problem of a man who sneaks out to his garage to have one more little drink, she lamented.

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