

# Editorial & Opinion

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1982



## Speak out on new east postal site

Residents unhappy with a McCormick Street site selection for a new post office in Sandy should raise their voices at a city hearing 7:30 p.m. Wednesday or forever hold their tongues.

The Postal Service Real Estate Division has weeded a list of expansion sites here to the Scenic Fruit property, finding acceptable sites downtown lacking.

Many Sandy people—including city hall, have opposed any site outside the core business area. They cite walking problems for senior citizens, driving problems and erosion of the core area the city seeks to strengthen in its comprehensive plan.

"The future location needs to have good access to arterials and must have some proximity to the business community," according to the city's planning bible.

"Because of the activity generated by a local post office," says the document, "the siting of this facility will have a tremendous impact on the city."

It might be argued that the Scenic Fruit property causes traffic problems at the edge of town where Highway 26 traffic speeds increase. In its favor, that site already has a traffic light and is handily located on the main street of town. Yet, there are bound to be traffic snarls, as cars enter and exit the highway at the Wolf Drive and McCormick Street 37,600-square-foot site.

Many residents maintain former church ground at Pleasant

Street and Strauss Avenue would be a better location, although a bit costlier.

What makes the proposed half-mile move east hard to accept, of course, is the lack of door-to-door mail delivery in town. The city has gone through hoops to qualify as a first-class city for in-town delivery, but waits its turn.

So everyone downtown must trudge to the post office. The trips especially must pain senior citizens and mom and pop store proprietors who find time spent commuting to the post office costly bites in their busy days.

Sandy City Council and administrative staff have met with postal representatives from the outset to express the city's outspoken preference for a core area site.

Now the Council, quiet as they mul the site proposal, perch in perfect position to pull the string. That's why public testimony—spoken May 5 at city hall or given in writing to the city planner—is important. Council approval would be required for a conditional use permit for the new postal site. Realistically, the Postal Service was restricted as to suitable sites available close to downtown.

City hall's other obligation—beyond that to residents in the comprehensive plan pact—calls for cooperation with other responsible government agencies where appropriate.

## Ask the superintendent:

### Open campus explained

by JOHN PETERS  
Sandy Union High Superintendent

Question: Why doesn't Sandy Union High School have a closed campus?

Answer: Sandy Union High School is a closed campus. Each student at Sandy Union High School is assigned seven classes every day. In addition, each student has a thirty (30) minute lunch period. During this lunch time our young men and women are allowed to leave the school grounds, either to eat at home or a place of their choosing downtown. They must be in classes other than during this lunch time.

Because we have over 1,200 students, the lunch time is divided into three sections: first lunch 10:44 to 11:14 a.m.; second lunch 11:34 to 12:04 p.m.; third lunch 12:24 to 12:54 p.m., with about 400 students in each section.

Unless a student has special permission and parental approval to leave school at other times than the lunch period, he/she must be in an assigned class. Therefore, with the exception of lunch time, all of our students are either in class or away from the school without permission.

If anyone has a question about a young man or woman seen during school hours, please call the school, 668-8011, extension 230.

Question: How does Sandy Union High School's program of studies compare with that of other schools?

Answer: The State of Oregon minimum requirements for graduation are 21 credits. However, all students in Sandy Union High School must earn 24 credits and must be enrolled in such subjects as English, science, mathematics, health, U.S.



history, civics, government, personal finance, physical education and economics. In addition to these areas, Sandy Union High School offers programs for vocational, general studies and college-bound students.

Recently, we have published study guides for all our classes. These were displayed at a national convention in Los Angeles and since have been requested by many schools and organizations across the country.

A national teacher's organization will include our English study guide in its annual collection. A microfilm company wants to photograph all of our study guides for exchange with other schools. Both Cranstron, Rhode Island, and Phoenix public schools have requested copies of our materials for their districts.

NOTE: Questions for Dr. Peters should be addressed to The Sandy Post, PO Box 68, Sandy, OR 97055. He will answer all questions in this column.

## Personally speaking:

### The 'good earth' isn't what it was

Beautiful spring blossoms on our pear tree at The Post last week told me it was time to reconsider planting a garden.

Tree blossoms and early wild flowers always inspire me to get down on my knees in dirt again, although sometimes I wonder why I bother.

In Sandy rich, red earth greets the gardener with promise of good things to come. Realtor Phil Jonsrud once noted this red component in local soil could make the material ideal for use in manufacturing bricks here. Unfortunately, I tried a garden—not bricks. Now I know the difference. A person can make a brick, but only God can create a plant at a place and time of His own choosing.

I learned this lesson, toiling in the good earth at Brightwood where gardens appear futile on mudflows. Mud and sand stack the deck against the backyard farmer, but only a fool would admit defeat amid such rustic wooded splendor. Or so I thought, with my spirits raised by the sun, wind and air gently caressing the trees.

Well, the broccoli took until October, when I managed a few stringy chews before frost took it all. The tomatoes never did change from green to red. Luckily I wasn't staking my winter survival on preserves. Oh, those hearty boysenberry bushes from the nursery withered away, too.

I noted that only wild salmon berry, blackberry, blueberry and huckleberry bushes thrived. So I abandoned the "controlled" garden and replaced the rows of vegetables and flowers with



by VON BRASCHLER

raspberry, strawberry, azalea and rose bushes. Occasionally I water, but that's about it.

Yet planting fills a person with such fascination, I pondered on my knees in the dirt one last time. I held up to sunlight the lifeless roots of one withered plant, dirt still clinging in its frozen grasp.

I was puzzled by a question that took a long time for me to answer. It was as though the sun prompted the notion, but then slowed my sun-baked head from coping with it. I sat transfixed a long while, before a gut-level feeling took control of my legs. I dialed my mother out of state to relate my weird sensation on my knees in the dirt.

An almost psychic woman with a practical approach to life, mother seemed to hear the question before it was stated. Her explanation came almost as quickly.

My family always had been farmers, she reminded me. The good earth was in my blood, in my genes. Was it possible that I was remembering generations of farmers before me?

Then I remembered the photographs in the attic. They were old family snapshots that showed grizzled faces of weather-worn early farmers who wrestled the good earth to eek out a living.

Sometimes the sun, wind and cold rain were kind to them, as they made it debt-free through the year with a bountiful harvest in the storage sheds in hope of good prices. Sometimes nature fooled them. The sun raised their hopes, as it raised their crop tall for bountiful harvest.

Then the winds would come, or the insects would come. Sometimes a sudden hailstorm destroyed their dreams and months of work in one day. The harvest already was spent in their minds, yet now they must replant with limited expectations but just as much hope.

Generations to come will feel these mixed emotions less and less, as the good earth gives way to residential developments, shopping centers, industrial parks, high-rise buildings, golden arches and concrete roads to connect them.

Architects note standardized designs are making our cities look alike, while natural land contours for hundreds of years defined physical personalities of each town and valley. Now Portland's waterway looks the same as dozens of other cities with its concrete overpass superstructure dominating the landscape.

Skyscrapers in Portland look like skyscrapers in other major cities from offshore.

Berryfields and valleys that once distinguished this area now have given way to planned developments similar to towns throughout the nation. Standardized architecture matches standardized planning to make everything similar.

Historians who note each civilization describes itself with its architecture might note our civilization peaked 60 years ago. At least that's the feeling you get wandering old parts of Portland or other cities with grand old buildings rotting away. These were the fancy big brick and quality hardwood buildings that craftsmen and gambling pioneers built to last a hundred years. Perhaps they thought of immortality when they built them. When these visionaries died, however, their buildings died with them. It costs too much to remodel or heat them now.

Today small-minded builders mass-produce boxes to live in and concrete rivers to navigate in planned communities designed to harness the sun and shield us from the rain and wind. This feeling pervades that people can manipulate the atmosphere and control their environment to control their destiny.

But cheaply made roads in dense planned developments give way to time and weather. The roof leaks, and the garden won't grow.

It's enough to make you respect nature and water its wild flowers and bushes.

## Letters to the editor

### Fat taxes, fat government spur mail

#### Nix high tax

In response to your April 22 editorial about John Thompson, Senate Dist. 14 candidate, I wish to reply.

There are a great many of us out here who feel a real need for new "faceless names" to send to the Legislature. We are fed up with the expertise our great experienced lawmakers in Salem have. It took real imagination and brilliance to balance the budget by raising our taxes!

As for John Thompson "inciting the mob," we the "mob" were incited when we received our tax assessments. If John Thompson can add fuel to the fire, more power to him!

It's time our country elects some people who can "arouse the public." Lincoln said in his 1861 inaugural address: "This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it."

Would you presume to call Lincoln's speech "anti-government politics"? Next week will you attack Jean Roberts, candidate for Senate Dist. 14, for her excellent letter to the editor April 22? She, too, is against higher taxes and more regulations!

Think about it. We, the people, ARE revolting, and we have the right, too. In closing, I would like to state (to defer all suspicion) that I am a life-long Democrat and cannot vote for John Thompson in the primary.

However, I do defend his right to run for office, as a new face, and also his right to speak out against higher taxes.

Pic Erickson  
Welches

#### LCDC scorned

I want it understood that I in no way attacked or expressed anger at Vic Atiyeh at the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting. I did, in a good humored way, express to him the frustration and

helplessness that many land owners feel with the many rules and regulations handed down by a faceless and untouchable board, LCDC.

For you who were not there I related the following to Gov. Atiyeh: "Under Old English law when a person transferred his property to another he gave him a bundle of sticks which represented the rights that went with the property. This later became known as the Bundle of Rights and the rights of quiet enjoyment of one's property."

After saying this, I gave Gov. Atiyeh a bundle of sticks, asking him, "Please deliver these to the LCDC Board, as they have taken most of my property rights and might as well have my sticks too."

For further clarification two of the rights I have become more recently concerned with are the right that a person may give property to his children that will be buildable and usable in the future, and the down zoning of property without specific notice or an effort to let the property owner know this is happening.

The Senior Citizens Apartments we recently built would not be feasible under the newly adopted plan, as the density has been severely decreased. I was never given individual notice that this was happening.

For these reasons plus many more subjective and ambiguous situations by LCDC I am working hard to have an initiative giving citizens the opportunity to limit their powers. It would also cut out this "pass the buck" situation that these land decisions are the fault of someone else.

As Gov. Atiyeh asked me: "Are the things you're concerned about the fault of LCDC or some local government agency?" I called the county and told them that it was all their fault—not LCDC—and they didn't agree with that statement at all. But if LCDC's powers are limited, at least we will be able to figure out who is responsible for the laws we must live under.

If you would like a peti-

tion to sign or would like to carry one, please call me at 668-6286.

Ginny Brewster  
Sandy

#### Trim fat govt.

"Trimming the Fat" in the Clackamas County Commissioners office encompasses more than reducing social services, etc. Despite a budget deficit of \$175,000, the commissioners approved a weight-loss program at the cost of approximately \$57,000 to trim fat off county officials who evidently are eating too high on the hog at the public's expense.

Proponents rationalize that the program might prevent a politician's demise while in office, thereby saving the county a costly widow pension. If an official is indifferent to county problems and uses public funds for personal privileges, he already is dead at the polls, as far as my vote goes.

I understand the wife of one of our commissioners has lost 96 pounds on the program, thanks to her husband's elected office. I don't care if she wears a petite size 10 or is bursting the seams of a size 24½ dress. That is her problem, not the county's.

Perhaps the board of commissioners should institute a policy the military has used successfully: Reduce or be discharged from service. It might teach them to diet without county assistance, if they want to continue in public service.

It is time the public demanded the weight-loss program be discontinued. It is an extravagant and unconscionable act of misusing county funds.

Donna E. Pyle  
Wilsonville

#### Fair's fair

I would like to report an oversight in the article that reported the Democratic candidate's Fair held at the Sandy Masonic Temple April 18 and reported in the April 22 edition of the Post.

On the whole, your reporting of the Fair was good. However, two candidates present were not mentioned: Lane County Commis-

sioner Jerry Rust, who is the most viable candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Oregon and who came up from Eugene to meet the local people, and former Clackamas County Surveyor John Keeley, who is again running for the same office.

In reference to candidate Rust—since he has not had the ballot box and media exposure on the same scale as some of the other candidates for Governor, he may not get the nomination May 18. However, he is a man to watch. I, for one, see a great future in higher political offices for this able man.

Margaret Ann Fielding  
Brightwood

#### Post cited

Recently my wife and myself purchased a home in Sandy and picked up a copy of the Post. We fell in love with the community here several months ago and decided that when we bought our first home this was where we wanted it to be.

I just felt compelled to write and offer my congratulations on what is one of the best community newspapers I have ever seen. Formerly I was the advertising artist and editorial cartoonist for "the Hillboro Argus. Presently I am one of the advertising artists and cartoonist at The Oregonian and Journal, so I am always scrutinizing any newspaper I can get my hands on.

Normally in a community this size the newspaper tends to be a bit ragged—either on the editorial side, advertising side or the way the newspaper looks graphically. However, the Post reeks (if that is the proper word) of professionalism. The look and content of your newspaper belies the size of the community it serves.

Once again, I wanted to congratulate you on a very fine effort. From my first impression, it's an effort that serves its community well, which—after all—is the primary function of our

business.  
Dan Adams  
Sandy

#### Vote, parents!

I am disappointed at the results of the recent Sandy Elementary budget levy election. The outcome was especially disturbing in light of the fact that, according to a recent review of county voting records, a large percentage of parents with school-aged children are not even registered to vote.

Who is responsible for the education of the children, if not their parents? If all parents registered and voted in the interest of their children, the budget could easily pass. It was defeated by approximately one hundred votes.

We should all realize that, even during these difficult times, the children are the most important investment in the future.

Amy Craig  
Sandy

#### School aided

I would like to thank all the school board members of Bull Run School District 45 for their concern for the education of all children who attend public in the Bull Run area.

I am aware of the amount of time that is required of school board members and public comment to which they are subjected. I am thankful that there are people who are willing to stand up for what they believe.

Public education currently is the target of much public criticism. Public education is the only tax over which citizens have the ability to exercise direct control. Education is one discipline that has as many approaches as there are people in the world and therefore can be subjected to an infinite amount of criticism.

My thanks and prayers to Jack Layton, Jim Boilerman, Karen Rollins, Ron Jantz and Marcia Hazelwood for their concern about our children—America's future.

Al Klascius  
Sandy