

# Editorial & Opinion

## Killer bridge let off hook

The Salmon River bridge near Brightwood is a killer, let off the hook another year.

State Highway Division plans to install a lanes separator to stop head-on auto collisions when the bridge ices in winter were killed in review by Department of Transportation.

Regional Traffic Operations Supervisor Ron Failmezger still believes his proposed barricade between lanes could save lives, when eastbound cars skid left into opposing traffic.

Such an accident took the lives of two colliding motorists last year during the holidays. In all, four traffic accidents were reported at the little 450-foot danger bridge between 1977 and 1981.

Transportation officials who reviewed Failmezger's proposed solution, however, concluded the separator might result in even more injuries. Failmezger figures skidding into a concrete separator might be better than a possible head-on collision with highway traffic without a separator, however.

A substitute solution now calls for special new pavement that would thaw the structure. At least, that's what the state hopes to do. Only catch is the work couldn't be done until next summer, when the danger of winter ice is past.

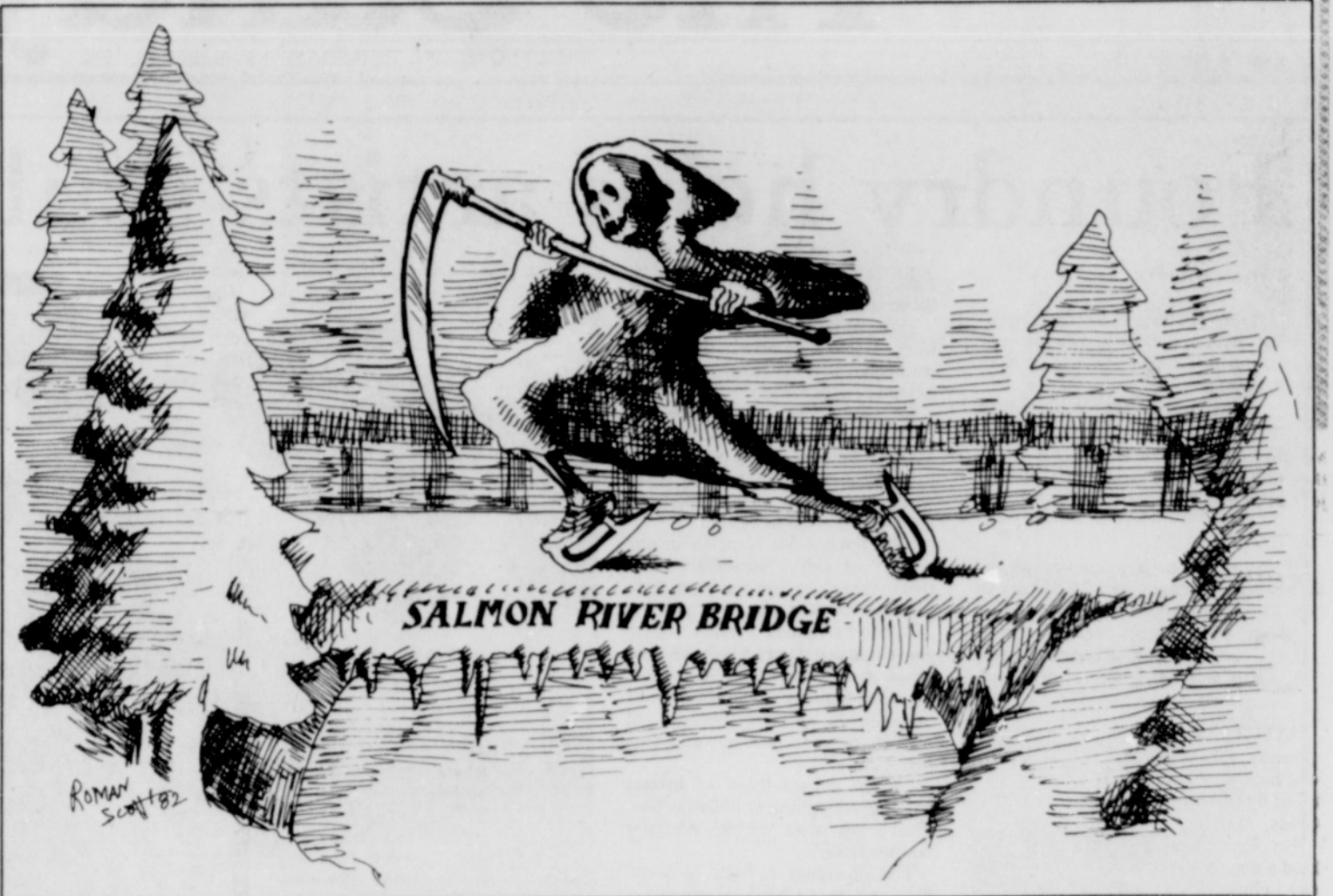
Also, the project cost would skyrocket to more than \$100,000.

Strange how such a big, baffling problem. Or is the solution caught up in bureaucratic red tape?

One wonders how neighbors ever tackled problems like a tricky strip of road, before big brother stepped in to throw money at our problems.

We suggest here that a simple, but large caution sign at the Salmon River bridge might be a good first step in preventing accidents there during winter.

Also, if your eastbound auto skids left at the bridge in ice, don't forget to let the Highway Division regional office hear about it at 653-3090. With lives at stake, let's not let them off the hook with their commitment to correct the situation. (VB)



## Mt. Festival makes Sandy proud

If those Mountain Festival bears seem to be grinning, it's because they're proud. Sandy's Festival committee again captured top honors at Northwest Festival Association's annual meeting recently in Yakima.

The committee—represented by Ann Fenwick, Kathie Simonsen, Mary Rutz, Ken Peasley and Darrell Dempster, won a first-place plaque for best program cover. This marks the second consecutive year Sandy's Festival has been decorated by the Northwest Association.

What's especially noteworthy is the fact Sandy's Festival is one of the smallest in terms of budget and active volunteers. In terms of Festival quality and per-dollar payback by quantity of visitors brought to Sandy each July, however, Sandy Mountain Festival stands at the very top.

That's all due to the selfless hard work of a few community-minded volunteers. Sandy can be proud of them and the honor they bring to this community each year. (VB)

## Letter campaign could boost city

Sandy Economic Development Commission, faced with marketing tasks to sell new employers on merits of locating in Sandy, might take a lesson from Seattle.

The queen city mounted a successful, aggressive campaign to woo industry to town a few years back with a simple letter-writing campaign. Call it a referral service, or sorts.

They formed a "Committee of a Hundred" to write testimonial letters to prospective new employers. It was just the sort of personal approach that works.

Sandy could do that, too. It wouldn't require a lot of travel or costly presentations. Yet the community could get involved in a real way.

Good use could be made of the Chamber of Commerce secretary,

who already likes the idea well enough to offer her help in typing and mailing the letters.

Of course, some market search would be required to develop leads on what industrial firms might be interested in locating in this area. Here, again, there's help from the county, state, Port of Portland and even Mt. Hood Community College.

Finding a few community-minded business persons who are willing to jot a few lines in praise of Sandy shouldn't be hard here. Cut-backs by Sandy's precious-few employers, notably in the industrial park, make the need for jobs and economic diversification for shouldering taxes great.

But Sandy also looks great as a site for future business. Here's a chance to shape the future with a stroke of the pen. (VB)

## Letter to the editor:

# Many aided Bull Run dinner success

The Bull Run Community Club would like to extend a sincere thank-you to all the

Sandy area merchants who generously donated prizes for our annual spaghetti

dinner and game night Saturday, Nov. 13. The evening was a great

success due in part to the terrific prizes we were able to offer. The top prize, a \$50

savings bond from Clackamas County Bank, went to Roger Atkins, father of three Bull Run students and a daughter at Sandy High School.

We also wish to thank several residents of our area who contributed prizes and much of their valuable time toward our evening. Of course, a great deal of gratitude goes to our cook, Mrs. Konsella, who expertly prepared the outstanding spaghetti.

Stephanie Leas  
Bull Run Community Club



**LETTERS POLICY**  
The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday. Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives and may edit material lightly to conform to guidelines.

## Personally speaking:

# Vocational students 'adrift'

There are some stories that are so obvious a person couldn't miss them if he wanted to.

This is one of them. It appears that the local chapter of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, or VICA, is like a boat without a captain.

Last year there were about 50 members, and the club took third overall in state competition.

Paul Montgomery was the advisor, and Lynn Sondena assisted him. To their credit, VICA was successful.

Sondena can't help but compare the success of VICA to that of this year's Sandy High teams.

Pioneer teams were 26-39-1 this fall. In 1973 and 1974, when Sondena guided the program, VICA members brought home 13 gold medals, two silvers and two bronzes from state competition.

Last year VICA members brought home two gold medals and three silvers. That was in competition against 47 other schools, including the likes of Benson Polytechnic School, Vocational Village and the Owen-Sabin Occupational Skills Center.

When asked why he won't be heading VICA this year, Montgomery said, "The main reason is I don't think I got the support I should have."

That's both "financial" and



by SCOTT NEWTON

year. "All the comments we got from the people who participated were great," said Montgomery.

"They all wanted to do it again."

He admits there were "minor problems." Said Montgomery, "Everybody seemed to get where they were going. Everybody competed that wanted to compete. The judges were there for the most part."

"The only complaints that we heard were from people who wanted, like, coffee set up early in the morning. Things that were peripheral to the main event."

"Things that as far as I'm concerned were the least important."

One of Montgomery's subjects, drafting, was discontinued this year. He looks around and sees less challenging subjects being taught. He claims enough support to justify a drafting program.

Montgomery aired some of his complaints when he appeared before the SUHS Board of Directors in February of this year with an eight-page chart showing the cost of co-curricular activities as compared to vocational education.

He claims the figures showing co-curricular activities receiving more financial support than vocational education were "very accurate." Personally, I could not figure his methodology.

I also would not claim to understand the SUHS budget document, but every question I've ever had about it has been answered to my satisfaction.

Asked if there is friction between members of the vocational education department and the administration, Superintendent Jack Peters said, "There shouldn't be. We've spent thousands of dollars on equipment and personnel out there."

He pointed out the district recently received a \$20,000 federal grant for an after-school vocational program.

He said that since 1968 he's been "very active in vocational education on the state level."

He added, "I believe every student that leaves here ought to have a salable skill. I believe it (vocational education) is an integral part of the whole program."

Principal John McMahan made an effort to guide the VICA program. Four students attended the first meeting, and two attended the second and third meetings.

"I was ready to go whole hog in a biscuit," he said, but the interest wasn't there.

Unless someone in the vocational education department takes the helm, it appears the once-successful VICA program will continue to drift at sea.

## Ask the superintendent:

# SUHS stops quarter grades

by JOHN D. PETERS  
Sandy High Superintendent



**QUESTION:** "I understand that you no longer issue quarter grades. How do parents find out how their children are doing?"

**ANSWER:** In response to faculty and parent concern over our notification procedures, this year we instituted the practice of issuing progress reports. These reports are prepared at six and twelve week intervals and identify a student's grade and level of accomplishment, as well as his/her attendance.

Students receive progress reports from teachers and are then requested to "hand-carry" them home for parental signatures. They are returned to the high school for filing. Semester grades are given in the usual manner, and if during any semester a student is found to be failing or in danger of failing, academic referrals are sent to the home. Progress reports for all students will be sent home again the week of Dec. 6-10.

**ANSWER:** Yes. For the convenience of our patrons, the Board of Directors will hold three information gathering meetings in preparation for Budget Committee meetings at the feeder schools. On Nov. 30, we will be at the Boring Elementary School; on Dec. 2, our meeting will be held at Cottrell School; and on Dec. 6, we will meet at Welches Elementary School. All meetings will start at 7:30 p.m.

(EDIT. NOTE: Questions for Dr. Peters may be addressed to The Post, PO Box 68, Sandy 97055.)

**QUESTION:** "Will the Sandy Union High School Board of Directors be meeting regarding the 1983-84 budget in feeder areas?"