

Meters here won't pay off

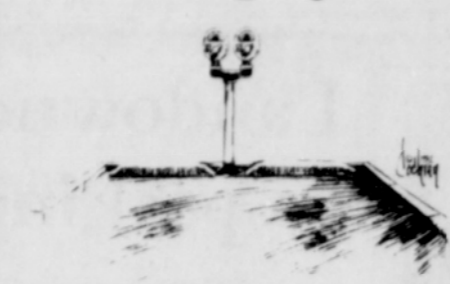
There are lots of losers hovering around the remains of Sandy's Heritage Square parking lot.

The city probably is biggest loser, because all seven adjacent merchants assessed for the local improvement district balked at the increasing costs, finally refusing to pay on basis on city technical and procedural errors.

The property owners brought as much grief to themselves as the city they've financially threatened to break, however. Phase II of a lovely downtown mall parking lot probably won't be completed, and that can't leave merchants who balked happy or proud for long.

There's one victim in the five-year legal squabble more innocent than either the municipality or the assessed property owners, however. That victim is the average Sandy resident who now apparently could be forced to pay for the stubbornness of his city government and downtown stores.

The city might seek to pay off the lot by charging stores to use the lot or charging their customers more directly through parking meters.

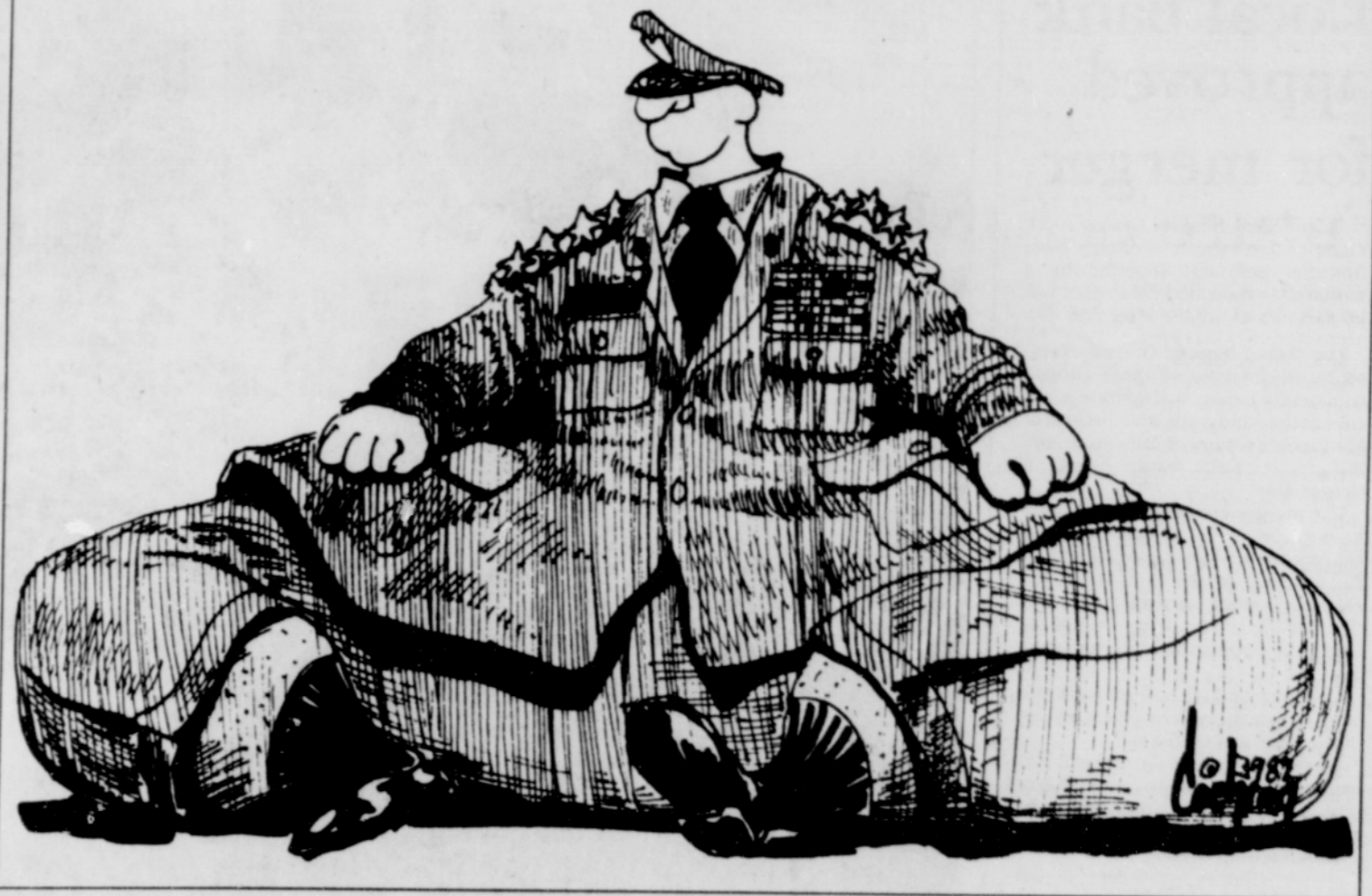


Parking meters might have worked three years ago when the square was filled with customers, but a business slump and a major closure leaves the lot nearly empty lately even during Christmas.

Figuring a 10-year payoff with 11 percent interest, the city would have to collect at least 15 cents from each of 63 parking spots every regular business hour of every business day. That's figuring regular business hours of 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. some 310 business days per year. That's wishful thinking.

The city would be better off to unload the lot in a one-parcel sale to an investor who could do something constructive with it now. It's a choice piece of ground that shouldn't prove tough to sell to a smart business person. (VB)

BOTTOMING OUT



CB'ers radio 'good news, buddy'

State trooper John Rizzo and Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout deserve a lot of credit for organizing a network of CB radio volunteers to listen for trouble on the mountain.

More ears to the ground could save a lot of lives with earlier response to fires, accidents, crimes, downed power lines, hazards and stranded motorists.

A lot of "good buddies" soon will "put their ears on" to Channel 9 to participate in the early-warning program. Eventually, CB'ers would like to monitor trouble spots all the way from Sandy to Government Camp.

Mobile and base CB operators are urged to help by registering at the main Hoodland fire station in Zig Zag. (VB)

Reader says:

'Oregonians need jobs, not more tax'

Headlines Dec. 2 in Statesman-Journal, "Atiyeh seeking 25 percent Tax Boost," and just last month before the November election the Governor said, "I won't be asking for any new revenue..."

This statement was made after income taxes came up 10 percent, cigarette tax was increased, businesses were required to pay in advance what they thought they would make and employers' money was taken out of SAIF. All these extra taxes were to replenish the government "hog trough."

I know it's easy to criticize, so let me offer some constructive thoughts. Instead of "appropriating money to bring industry into our state," why not encourage the businesses we already have by lowering taxes? Any business—large or small—could hire employees, if they didn't have to donate so much tax money to keep government going.

Atiyeh says, more money is needed to train for high technology. Does anyone know of an industry that doesn't train their own workers, especially their key personnel? Why should the state shoulder this responsibility?

Our young people, workers, are leaving the state. Before long Oregon will be a state of retirees and paper shufflers. The deficit is only beginning. I say, reduce taxes and let industry survive. Give a tax break to anyone hiring employees. Oregonians need work, not more taxes.

Jean Roberts
Mehama

my friend. I love him. I miss him very much. So does my brother. He cried, because our kitten is gone.

Casey
Our kitten was a very special part of our family. Fiesty is part Siamese, has long hair and is very soft and fluffy. He is cream-colored with dark ears, tail, feet and face. He has blue eyes and has a dark line going down his back. Fiesty is a beautiful kitten. He is half grown, knows his name and has loads of personality.

Last Saturday there were a number of people who were getting Christmas trees at Whitlock's on TenEyck Road. Several were interested in the kitten. One family in a blue Ford Courier pickup with two girls were especially fond of Fiesty. They asked

if they could have him. Since we were gone, our uncle told them that we wanted that kitten. Soon after they left, we arrived home and the kitten was gone. We feel he was stolen. Perhaps it was the people in that little pickup, maybe someone else.

Maybe they didn't know there are kids who loved and would miss that kitty terribly.

If you have our kitten please bring him back. If you have seen him, call us at 668-7218.

Willie & Connie Whitlock
Sandy

Salem scene:

Woodstove damper eyed

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Oregon lawmakers have an opportunity for another legislative "first" in the nation, when the 62nd Assembly convenes Jan. 10 in Salem.

The potential pioneering effort involves a subject referred to in the old refrain about keeping the homefires burning. It's likely to arouse considerable interest among Oregonians currently burning something more than 1.7 million cords of firewood a year to ward off winter chill.

In short, the Department of Environmental Quality will introduce a bill to require state certification of woodstoves.

Purpose is to blunt an air pollution trend that's reversing air quality achievements the last decade in major population centers.

Popularity of woodstoves for residential heating has soared in Oregon and elsewhere since the Arab oil embargo in 1973. Subsequent increases in the costs of other home-heating sources in addition to oil—natural gas and electricity—coupled with the introduction of airtight stoves in the mid-Seventies, steadily pushed the use of firewood upward.

Because firewood burning is less fuel efficient than other heat generating sources, air quality has been impacted significantly by the release of tons of residue in the atmosphere.

Environmental quality standards in the Portland metropolitan area succeeded in reducing what DEQ calls particulate emissions from industrial sources from 10 thousand tons a year 10 years ago to less than four thousand tons now.

But beginning in 1975, particulate emissions in the same area from residential woodstoves skyrocketed from less than one thousand tons to above seven thousand tons currently.

Emissions are expected to exceed eight thousand tons by 1984. Furthermore, unregulated woodstove use in the Portland area is expected to exceed 1971 industrial particulate emissions in another decade.

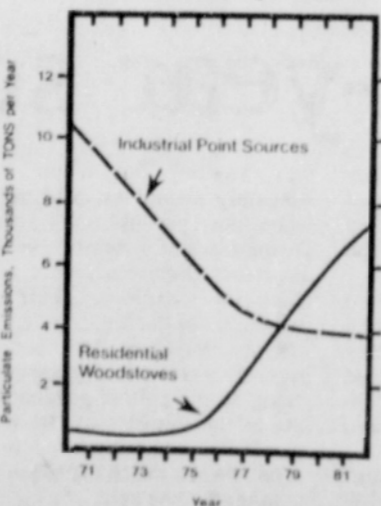
Similar conditions are being experienced in Eugene and Medford areas.

In addition to the obvious health and visibility problems associated with such increases in air pollution, authorities have become increasingly alarmed by the threat to further industrial development in those areas.

State and federal air quality standards prohibit particulate pollution above certain levels. Although industrial pollution of that type has been reduced in an effort to accommodate more industry, woodstove emissions are pushing particulate emissions above what DEQ calls attainment levels.

Non-attainment effectively prevents the

Industrial & Residential Particulate Emissions
Portland, Oregon



development of new or expanding industries that would add—even small amounts of particulates—to the totals in those areas. Considering that creating new jobs is one of the state's highest priorities, some method of controlling and reducing woodstove particulate emissions is bound to attract attention among those bent on economic development.

It's sort of a "Catch-22" situation. Everyone wants clean air. Escalating costs of oil, natural gas and electricity prompt continued use of cheaper wood as a home-heating fuel source. Folks temporarily unemployed or working shorter hours help push the demand for less costly firewood. And continued use of firewood makes it more difficult to provide steady employment producing payrolls that would make use of more costly fuels possible.

Although no other state now has a woodstove certification program, Oregon's plan will draw from experience in Great Britain and New Zealand.

In essence, it will attempt through certification to prevent the sale of stoves that do not meet certain particulate emission standards. Some types of stoves are more efficient than others and only those meeting state standards would be legally useable.

This won't happen overnight. The law could go into effect July 1, 1985, providing DEQ time to establish standards and testing procedures. It wouldn't involve any woodstoves now in service—only those sold after the effective date.

Over time, as current high-polluting types of stoves wear out and are replaced with more efficient models that comply with the efficiency standards, the particulate emission pollution problem would be reduced and, hopefully, attainment levels achieved.

Return our kitty

Please give my kitty back. I miss him a lot. I took him to bed at night. I play with him a lot. He is

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. Maximum length is 200 words.



Personally speaking:

Hood ski vacation ideal gift

They should know better than to let me write about what I want. When the sun is shining and the snow is good, skiing is always on my mind.

A ski vacation at Timberline Lodge sounds like a good Christmas present, so I decided to call and find out how much it would cost for someone to get me a gift certificate at the historic old Lodge.

For a mere \$88, plus 6 percent county room tax, I could stay in the Blue Gentian room, one of the three Friends of Timberline theme rooms.

The Blue Gentian being a native wildflower, I tried to imagine the decor. I know it would look nice by the light of a Presto Log in the fireplace (state fire codes apparently do not allow the burning of wood in individual rooms, though wood is burned in the main fireplaces).

Vida Lohnes, executive secretary at Timberline, prefers the Solomon Seal (or Roosevelt) room. The other "theme" room is the Trillium Room.

There are less spendy rooms, too. An economy room, with tax, is \$44.52. There's no fireplace in the room, but one still has access to the heated pool, the slopes, the bars and the restaurants.

Lohnes and Sally Flury, also executive secretary, will make up "art card" certificates to meet



by SCOTT NEWTON

almost any need. For example, a \$250 card could be spent for rooms, in the gift shop, for ski lessons, whatever.

Lohnes only asks one favor. Don't wait till the last minute, and that's not because they aren't glad to do it for you.

By the way, Christmas '83 is already booked up.

Gift certificates are valid for a year, but on winter weekends a two-night stay is required.

Now, about the skiing. With additional lighting, there is a 50 percent

increase in the area available for night skiing, with the increase made on or near the Victoria Station chairlift run.

Another significant change is that, weather permitting, Timberline will have more lifts operating, according to Bill Conerly, ski host.

On weekdays three lifts will be operating, with four on weekends. Two lifts are open at night.

A season pass is \$240, or for \$315 one can get a combination Timberline-Multitorpor pass.

Looking for a less expensive gift? For \$25 (for the season) Ski Keep Inc. will watch skis while the skier warms up in the WyEast Lodge.

The ski security business is new to Timberline, and is helping solve "a big problem." Said Conerly, "That's cheap insurance, really." Timberline's best offer appears to be its two-for-one Mondays. In an effort to attract mid-week skiers, two can ski as cheaply as one every Monday of the season.

At Mt. Hood Meadows Michael Clark, marketing director, tells me the slopes this year are the best groomed "in the history of the area."

Three new cats, at about \$115,000 apiece, are paying off, according to Clark.

Two are Piston Bully 200s, the other is a DMC (DeLorean) 3900, and it does indeed look like

something out of "Star Wars."

Those three new cats join three existing DMC 3700s. With labor, fuel and maintenance, Clark said it costs about \$30 an hour to operate a snow cat.

Clark is quite pleased with the latest Inter-Ski Services white book, the industry "bible." Out of 750 resorts in the country, Meadows ranks 22nd.

A season pass is \$350, and can be purchased at the new Sandy office on Friday, Saturday or Sunday mornings. A less expensive gift would be a season locker rental, at \$50.

Clark said they've always considered Sandy the gateway to the mountain. He said the people of Sandy and the city council were "most helpful" in helping them find a site for the new \$50,000 sign, located at Janz Berryland.

It's the only one of its kind in the Northwest, he said, and they know of only one other like it in the United States (in Colorado).

With the removal of 40,000 board feet in South Canyon—under and near the Daisy chairlift run—the ski area has been expanded 400 percent, Clark said.

I had to ask, if it's raining at The Meadows will that big sign really tell us that "Yes," Clark assured me. Meadows customers want factual information on weather conditions, and he said they'd deliver.