

Editorial & Opinion

Sandy in computer market

If you think Sandy's some isolated little market stuck in the dark ages of wood and pulp, think again.

One of this town's relatively new business knocks 'em dead in the big city computer rat race with aggressive, long-armed salesmanship from a base right here at the foot of cozy Mt. Hood.

Rick Johnson, local Radio Shack dealer, formed a separate computer sales outlet with brother Terry nine months ago. Operating in a back shop without window or sign, they've sold 189

computers in less than a year here.

First, explains Rick, they went after the Portland area market with competitive prices. People looking for a bargain were more than willing to drive to Sandy, they soon learned.

Then, they offered plenty of free service. That includes free delivery and set-up.

Now 80 percent of their business is referrals.

So don't dream for a minute that Sandy's out in left field. Sandy's in a perfect position to play the field. (VB)

Mean wrestlers help local kids?

Picture this: Big-time pro wrestlers in Sandy Feb. 14 for a spectaculara titled "Valentine's Day Massacre."

At least that's the entertainment card local soccer coach Barry Fretz hopes to arrange. He's applied for use of the Sandy High gym and contacted his old friend, wrestling standout Dutch Savage. The Dutchman says the date is open.

The wrestling card—if Fretz can work out the details—would help fund new soap box derby races for kids in Sandy this summer during Mountain Festival.

Fretz is working hard to bring these nationally sanctioned races for boys and girls 9 to 15 years of age to Sandy. Because the races could mean a lot for the kids and the entire community, Fretz deserves all the help he can get.

After all, winners from Sandy will represent the town at nationals in Ohio. Salem and Medford are the only two cities in Oregon that presently hold these races and send representatives to the national meet.

Already interest is sparking here. On the first day of sign-ups, 12 young racers registered to compete in the Sandy derby. Fretz expects at least 15 more to register at subsequent sign-up days Jan. 15, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12

from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the former Coast to Coast building in Heritage Square. And, yes, he expects at least seven or eight of them to be girls.

For all youngsters and their parents who think they might like to participate, Fretz will offer an action-packed derby movie 7:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at Sandy Grade School cafeteria.

The Sandy soap box derby will run along Industrial Way in the Sandy Industrial Park July 4.

A sample kit car and derby trophies are on display at Your United Bank of Oregon on Proctor Boulevard in Sandy. All youth will receive a trophy just for participating.

Top local races will win an expense-paid trip to nationals in Akron, which might include free travel by their parents, too, with enough sponsors.

Seeing the promotional value of this derby, the Sandy City Council already has welcomed it with open arms in their official approval.

Other citizens who see the value of this big kids' event here can help, too, by volunteering to operate the derby in some capacity or by sponsoring a local contestant. Simply call Fretz at 668-7028. (VB)

Salem scene:

Tax raid on banks fought

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

If you believe taxes have been a subject of concern in the past for those who pay them, 1983 is liable to skyrocket that concern to new heights.

The increase in tax awareness is enhanced by a grassroots tax repeal campaign of a magnitude rivaling the efforts of those supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. In essence, this new campaign backed by the nation's financial institutions seeks repeal of a law requiring withholding taxes on dividends and interest.

A Catch-22 proposition at best, the new law threatens to cost more than the revenue it is aimed to capture and penalizes Americans who practice thrift.

It's in this atmosphere that the 62nd Oregon Legislative Assembly begins deliberations in Salem that will focus largely on raising some \$600 million in new revenue to match spending proposals.

Actually, there's little real connection between the tax repeal campaign and the work of Oregon lawmakers. The similarities are the general subject of taxation and the time period involved.

The tax repeal campaign is national in scope and seeks to overturn a federal law. And repeal proponents must win their case before July 1. Oregon lawmakers will be struggling during those same months between now and mid-year with prospects of increasing state taxes if present levels of government services are to be maintained.

The tax repeal campaign can't help but make their job tougher.

The repeal target is a previously little understood part of tax legislation enacted by Congress last summer. The part people heard the most about was a 10 percent cut in taxes effective July 1. What they didn't hear about was a 10 percent withholding provision against interest earnings on savings and dividends from investments.

At stake for the nation's 80 million savers is a sum of at least \$1.5 billion that will be lost, because it will go to the government instead of being available for reinvestment and interest compounding.

There are exemptions. Senior citizens and others with low tax liability can apply for exemptions. But they must make ap-

plication to every institution on each account from which they receive interest or dividends. In the process, they share their limit of their tax liability with a third party—something heretofore unrequired by law.

Financial institutions successfully have opposed such legislation in the past—until last summer. Their concern now is apparent, when one considers becoming a tax collector for the federal government is going to cost them something in the neighborhood of another \$1.5 billion. The added cost, of course, will have to be passed on to their customers and clients.

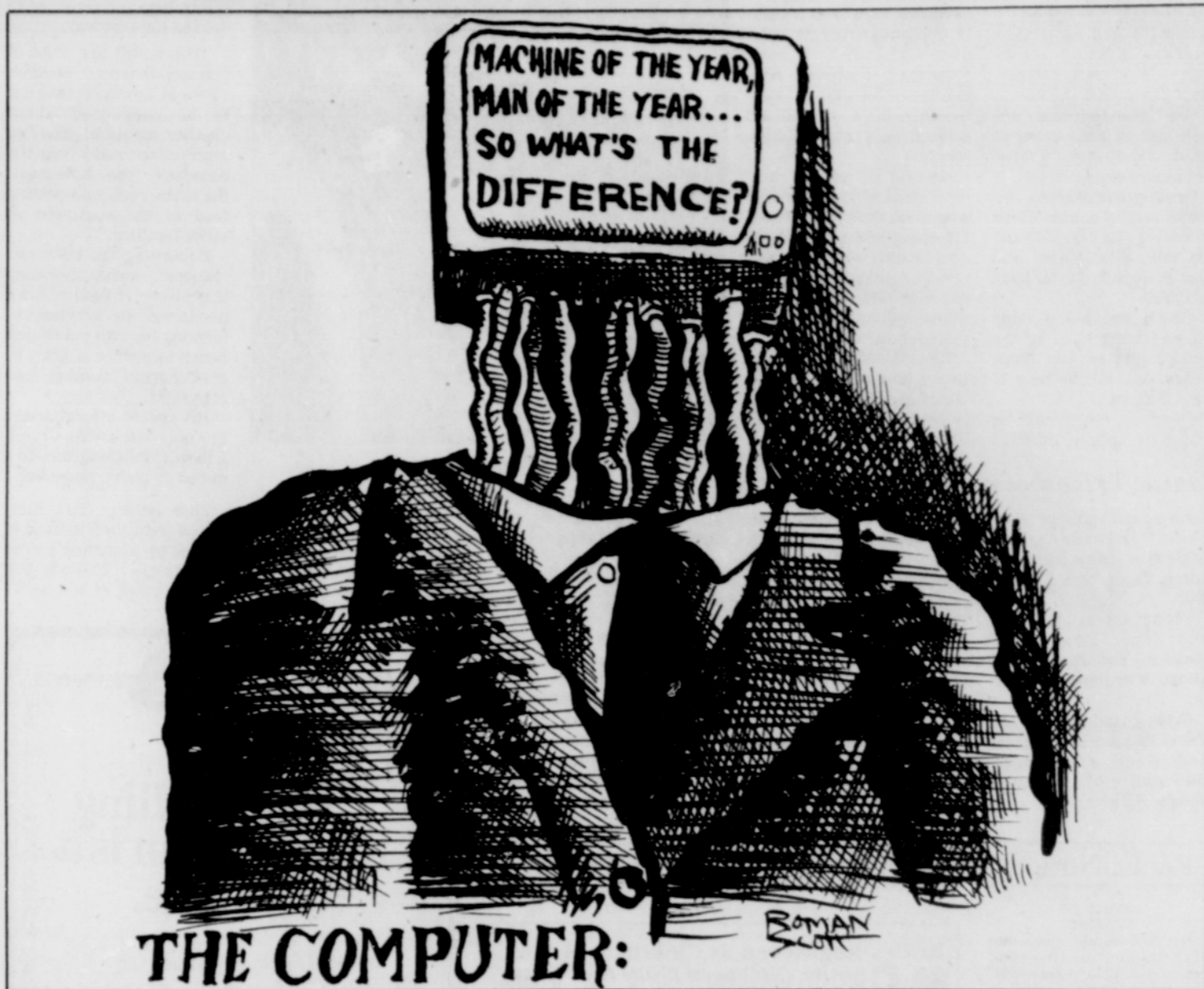
They not only become agents of the government, they probably will be blamed by their savers and investors for the fact interest earnings and dividends are smaller than anticipated.

From a practical standpoint, the new law is exceptionally confusing. It is supposedly aimed at cracking down on tax cheaters. The Internal Revenue Service reports a 96.7 percent compliance rate for payment of taxes on interest and dividends now. Further, the new law contains reporting procedures that virtually eliminate evading those taxes.

IRS also reports 75 percent of all taxpayers receive refunds each year. So withholding on interest and dividends probably won't net the government much new revenue in the long run.

What it really looks like is a \$1.5 billion interest-free loan to the government—at the expense of those whose savings and investments fuel the economy that produces taxable payrolls.

The new scheme is actually a disincentive to save and invest. And considering the fact savings and investments are an integral ingredient in the recipe for recovery from the current recession, its imposition now is extremely ill-timed.



Letters to the editor:

Reader claims private road "open"

Open road

The road just a few feet east of the Alder Creek bridge, six miles east of Sandy, Oregon, is plainly marked E. Alder Creek road. It is an official sign erected by the highway department.

To my personal knowledge it has been an open road for 45 years, and prior to 1924 was a marked forest trail up Wildcat Mountain.

The road is now posted with Private Road signs and warns, No Trespassing, and the road is barricaded about a quarter mile from the highway.

The signs are obviously not official and placed so as not to be seen from the highway.

I protest against private individuals taking over a road which has been open to the public for many years, and blocking passage on such roads by logs.

Dick Cunningham
Portland

Fight bank bill

Many of my customers are just beginning to realize that Congress passed a law last summer to withhold 10 percent of their interest and dividend earnings beginning next July 1.

Banks and other financial institutions have opposed interest and dividend withholding since the idea first surfaced 40 years ago. We still do. Withholding on interest

and dividends will cost America's 80 million savers and investors some \$1.5 billion in foregone earnings on their interest and dividends. It will cost the country's financial institutions at least another \$1.5 billion to put withholding into place.

Although there is an exemption allowed for most senior citizens and low income people, this exemption process is an administrative nightmare in itself. To be exempt, people will have to file a government form with each institution where they have an account. On this form they will have to swear their tax liability is below the ceiling. Besides the obvious invasion of privacy involved here, banks will

be buried under mountains of new and unnecessary paperwork.

The Clackamas County Bank strongly opposes the withholding of taxes from interest and dividends. It is unnecessary and unfair. It's unnecessary because 95 percent of taxpayers already pay the taxes they own on interest and dividend earnings that are subject to reporting when they file their federal income tax return. It is unfair because it will lower their interest earnings by reducing the benefits of compounded savings growth.

In short, the law clearly penalizes the savers and investors. It should be repealed by Congress, and we will need the help of every saver and investor to

achieve this goal. If you agree that this 10 percent withholding law is unfair and unnecessary, please write to your Congressmen and Senators to tell them so. We can get this law repealed, but we must begin now.

Kent Hall
Clackamas County Bank

Third-grade view

Grass is green.
Apples are red.
The sky is blue and beautiful like you.
The sun is yellow like a bowl of yellow jello.
It is spring and the flowers are blooming.

Heather Miller
Third grade
Firwood School

Yesteryear in Sandy:

Pipe was cheap, power costly

Sometimes it's amazing how much a community can change in 30, 20 or even 10 years. Take Sandy, for instance.

This week in January, 1983, big local concerns include the municipal government's search for a bail-out plan for what to do with the city's costly, contested LID parking lot at Heritage Square.

Meanwhile, Sandy Community Players theatrical company are taking their show on the road with dinner theater for the first time. They offer a Gershwin and Porter musical revue Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Alton L. Collins Retreat Center four miles southwest of Sandy on Highway 211. The thespians are experimenting with new stage settings, since they lost their home at the old movie house on Proctor Boulevard. Dinner's at 6:30.

Meanwhile, back at Heritage Square in town sign-up is progressing for a genuine soapbox derby during Sandy Mountain Festival, with local winners bound for nationals at Akron, Ohio. The Festival sure is growing each July.

The Heritage Square building, itself, has just been sold by Pearl Cejka whose son Joseph ran a Coast to Coast there with brothers Ron and Ralph. New owner is Portland's Mike K. J. Rumpakis who operates an investment firm.

To compensate for lack of the Coast to Coast and once adjacent Country Fair at Heritage Square, the new Sandy Chamber of Commerce board has set as 1983 goal the attraction of a new hardware store and variety store here.



by VON BRASCHLER

Well, that's a potpourri of some news around Sandy THIS week in 1983. But what about this week in January way back 10, 20 and 30 years ago?

JANUARY, 1973:
Local thespian Ken Fox starred in an Eastmond Community Theatre melodrama at Gresham National Guard Armory. The little theatre group earlier was known as Eastmont Players Association. Beer was sold during the play, "The Drunkard," and free popcorn was passed out to throw at Fox who played the villain.

Sandy got its first full-time city administrator in Carl Hatfield, Jr. (Present mayor) Ruth Loundree became Hatfield's administrative assistance, after serving 14 years as city recorder. Joining them at city hall were newly elected council members James Duff (still councilor),

Harry (Ed) Burke, Joseph Astleford, Ruth Howeller and mayor Melvin Haneberg.

Don Armintrout, present Hoodland Fire Chief, was awarded an Aaron Meyers Award for his dedication as president the first year of Sandy Volunteer Ambulance. The 17 volunteers worked their three-quarter-ton Chevy van out of the Sandy fire hall, where firefighters had provided local ambulance service. Members included Mavis and Jeff Yeager, Wayne Taylor, John Day, Sheri Day, Gerald Long, Karen Mitchem, Mike Chestnut, Hank Emery, Ron Berglund, Gary Connelly, Aaron Cooper, Tom Day, Don Blair, Lyle Seaman, Ken Hallgren, Ken Flath, Ronnie Krebs and Marie Seamater.

Sandy's centennial in 1973 was celebrated big with books, pins and music. Steering committee Sandy centennial and Barlow Trail Days included Brother Andrew SP, Marie Schwartz, Dorothy Depro, Ivan Barker, Betty Hartman, Jonsrud, Howard Berger, Georger Howeller and Hazel Murray.

JANUARY, 1963:
Fire claimed Sandy General Store, a landmark since 1911 when Paul R. Meinig built it for larger store space. The burned store had housed the post office, plus a thriving business in groceries, shoes, dry goods and hardware. Heat from the two-day, four-alarm fire cracked two windows on the east side of the Piggly Wiggly Store. Cinders also threatened Mt. Hood Lanes nearby.

Sandy High's basketball team

was on a tear, scoring its seventh consecutive win in a victory over Tigard. The hot hands of Sandy's Dale Carpenter and Carl Sandstrom paced the attack.

The old Hood-Land Telephone Co. met with angry mountain subscribers over claimed inability to get one-party or two-party lines. Hookups up the mountain swelled from 230 in 1958 to 400 in 1963.

JANUARY, 1953:
Beeson Chevrolet of Sandy was purchased by Ralph Richardson of Gresham (now Carlson Chevrolet). It was the second auto dealership change here within a year, as George Koch Motor Co. earlier had been sold to Vic Bowman and Ruben Hoffman who renamed the dealership Bowman-Hoffman Pontiac.

The city of Sandy accepted a \$22,658 low bid for water pipes from Portland's Blyth and Company. A \$65,000 bond election was scheduled to build an adequate water supply for the city.

Construction began on a \$154,753 Sandy Grade School by Canby contractor George Irwin.

Water Koch purchased 5 million board feet of timber on the mountain. The forest service asked that log hauling be completed by end of summer. An additional 20 million board feet of five-year-old timber was made available for sale by an October forest fire.

Local electrical power shortage was so critical, that one moderate-sized pulp mill in the area leased an operated an auxiliary generating facility at a nearby closed sawmill for \$18,000 per month.