

# Editorial & Opinion

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## Hoodland needs phone link

Newly elected county commissioner Dale Harlan campaigned on it here, while veteran commissioners Ralph Groener and Robert Schumacher have acknowledged its need.

Nonetheless, accessibility to county government officials from this end of the county remains a problem.

Two years ago the board of commissioners agreed to install a second line for toll-free incoming calls to Oregon City offices from citizens in the Sandy area.

The good-faith gesture capped a one-man drive by Sandy political activist Jack Travis (deceased) to secure quick access to Clackamas County officials, without paying for a call or waiting endlessly to get through on a single line.

Well, it's still tough to get through to the county switchboard on local toll-free number 668-3510.

That's better than folks up at Hoodland have it. They can call the "toll-free" Sandy number for the courthouse long-distance and then wait their turn to get through to the switchboard.

True, it's a big, sprawling coun-

ty. Folks on the east end think of Oregon City as a long ways away, which makes it hard to relate to county officials at the other end.

That includes a lot of people up in Welches, Wemme, Brightwood, Zigzag, Rhododendron and Government Camp.

Visits by officials to dark areas of the county would help, of course, as would written communiques from Oregon City to remote constituents through the press or mail.

But that's basically one-way, vertical communication from officials downward. It would be nice to let grassroots citizens at all ends of the county have their say, too.

One way to facilitate this would be a toll-free number Continental phone customers in the 622- prefix could use to call their county offices toll-free...even if they do have to wait and wait to get through the busy switchboard.

If you agree, call your county commissioners at 668-3510 and be patient. If the line's always busy, spend a couple quarters to bend their ears by calling 665-8581. (VB)



Rep. Weaver writes:

## Wilderness matters pressing

The Post gratefully acknowledges essays and written opinions from readers to appear on this page—separate from the unbiased news reports on other pages of this newspaper. Your opinions generally will be printed as letters to the editor, while ours generally will appear as editorials. Occasionally, we are able to print guest editorials. We attempt to print all signed letters of good taste, legible form and reasonable length. Our deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

### Ask your senator:

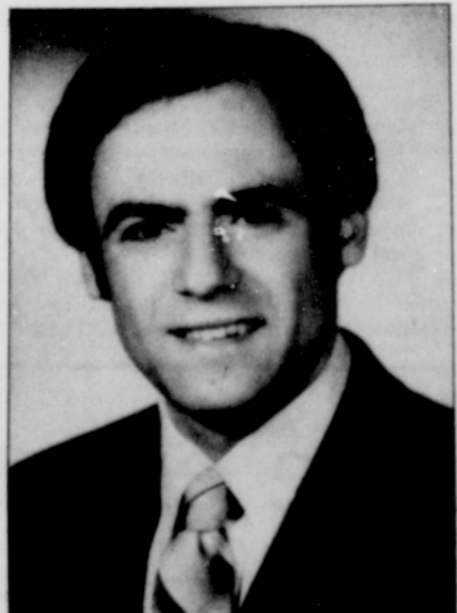
#### Starkovich pledges tax reform

by STEVE STARKOVICH  
State Senator, Dist. 14

My first week as your State senator certainly was one I'll remember for many years. Our first order of business, of course, was to elect a Senate president. Not since 1971 has this procedure been as lengthy and difficult as it was this time. The body finally resolved the question at 7 p.m. Friday, electing Senator Ed Fadely of Eugene Senate president for the 62nd Session of the Oregon Legislature.

Once this was decided, committee assignments could be made. I am pleased to report that I have been appointed to serve on the following Senate committees: Energy and Environment (for which I am vice chairman); Economic Activities; Local Government and Elections; and Trade and Economic Development (I will be President Fadely's alternate.) I feel these assignments are very appropriate and will allow me to work directly on issues of interest to me and of importance to District 14.

Many of you already have voiced your concerns to me, and the one most frequently expressed is bringing about some type of property tax reform in order to help relieve the heavy tax burden on homeowners. I intend to make this a priority in the 1983 session, and will do whatever is necessary to bring about a fair and workable property tax reduction. I will keep you informed about this and



other issues in future columns.

I'm excited about being here and ready to roll up my sleeves and go to work for District 14 and for Oregon.

Please write or call any time with your questions or concerns. I can be reached by calling toll-free 1-800-452-7813, or by writing to me at the Oregon State Senate, State Capitol, Room S216, Salem, OR 97310.

Most Oregonians would agree that it is high time we resolve the RARE II wilderness issue for Oregon. The wrangling over these lands has gone on more than long enough, and has divided us when we need to work together to solve the grievous problems facing us today.

I want to fully explain why Congressmen AuCoin, Wyden and I introduced the Oregon Wilderness bill, H.R. 7340, and why it must be re-introduced this session. I believe I can make it clear the very minor effects that this legislation will have on Oregon's timber-related jobs and economy.

Approximately one-quarter of the BLM and Forest Service timber now under contract in Oregon is not marketable under current conditions. With high-priced contracts under extensions, our mills are depending upon more recently obtained, lower-priced contracts to keep operating. Many of the sales that timber companies have been able to secure at reasonable prices have been made in the RARE II roadless areas.

But these marketable

timber sales are now under the threat of a lawsuit that could be filed at any time. As you know, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled that the Forest Service RARE II process was inadequate, throwing open the door for a lawsuit that could stop all timber sales immediately on the three million acres of Oregon RARE II lands. To the extent our mills depend upon timber supplies from RARE II lands, such action would be a far more severe blow to Oregon's economy than our Wilderness bill.

The Oregon Wilderness bill would prevent this lawsuit while setting aside a very small amount of Oregon's available timber supply for inclusion within the Wilderness System. While our bill designates approximately one million acres as Wilderness, it frees about two million acres of RARE II lands for multiple-use, and removes the threat of legal tie-up. Our bill would leave available for harvest 97 percent of the commercial timber now coming from federal, state and private lands in Oregon. Sixteen billion board feet

(bbf) of Forest Service and BLM timber is now under contract in Oregon, much of it under extensions due to expire this year. Of the total volume under federal contract, between 3.6 and 4.0 bbf, cannot be economically harvested. Therefore, this volume either will be defaulted or terminated within the next 18 months and then re-sold. These impending defaulted or terminated timber sales amount to a backlog that will have to be incorporated into the regular Forest Service and BLM timber sales program. According to the Forest Service, eliminating this backlog will take up to three years.

The Forest Service estimates, for example, that of the 2.6 bbf under contract on the Willamette National Forest, 600 million board feet (mmbf) is not marketable. This nearly equals the annual volume 792 mmbf, offered for sale on the Willamette. Similarly, the Umpqua National Forest estimates 340 mmbf of its 1.5 bbf under contract cannot be harvested because of its high price. The annual harvest of the Umpqua is

393 mmbf. Likewise, the BLM estimates that timber sold at prices about \$100 and \$150 per thousand board feet (mbf) is not marketable under current conditions. As shown by the following examples, substantial amounts of BLM timber cannot be harvested, and will be defaulted or otherwise terminated.

Leaving aside serious questions of road construction problems or suitability of lands for sustained-yield harvests, the timber volumes within proposed (and existing) wilderness areas are obviously insignificant when compared with the volumes that will be offered for sale as a result of defaulted or otherwise terminated timber contracts. In fact, the total annual volume of timber that could be harvested from the lands that our bill places into Wilderness is 194 mmbf, or about two percent of Oregon's 8.3 bbf annual harvest. (Some of the lands on which this figure is based are already excluded from timber harvest.) The lands included in our Wilderness bill would have to be cut at this

annual rate of 194 mmbf for 15 to 20 years before they could produce the volume represented by the unmarketable high-priced contracts alone!

It is abundantly clear that no jobs in the forest products industry will be lost upon the passage of this wilderness bill. On the contrary, jobs dependent upon the harvest and processing of the low-priced sales made in the roadless areas our bill releases to multiple-use will be saved, since the legislation protects these areas from a RARE II lawsuit.

I firmly believe that we can have a healthy timber economy and sufficient wilderness allocations. Adequate funding for better, more intensive management of the commercial forest lands we already have under production, will provide far more jobs than spending the money to push roads into wilderness. Resolving RARE II, as our bill does, will allow us to concentrate on these more productive initiatives.

Jim Weaver  
Member of Congress

### Yesteryear in Sandy:

## Phones, mail, signs 1958 problems

Everything's up to date in Sandy, as in Kansas City. As often noted, today one city seems as modern as the next. Across the land, our public buildings and roads now tend to look alike. Prices also are fairly uniform in restaurants and filling stations. Too, we all see the same television shows and share news instantaneously.

But what were things like in Sandy a quarter century ago? Longtime residents may remember these local stories from the recent past:

JANUARY, 1958:

Mayor Ruben Hoffman and police committee chairman Keith Schneider announced appointment of new police chief Andrew Reeves from California.

Sandy's police chief suspended special courtesy cards issued by former chiefs to allow certain citizens to carry firearms as auxiliary citizen police.

A Sandy sportsmen's association held a banquet for 300 persons, with John Mills chairman.

Postmaster John Metzger reported the Sandy post office was flooded with 100,221 letters and cards during Christmas, up sharply from 65,000 in 1957.



by VON BRASCHLER

A pioneer post office at Cherryville was discontinued on recommendation of congressman Walter Norblad, ending a three-year controversy. The office had served a handful of residents for 60 years, before the Sandy post office began serving the area with a rural route.

Sandy Theatre was showing Omar Khayyam with Cornel Wilde and Band of Angels with Clark Gable weekends only.

Water systems in Rhododendron and Zigzag were condemned

by the state. The Rhododendron system, owned cooperatively by summer homeowners, obtained water from Henry Creek. The Zigzag water supply came from Lady Creek.

The Sandy Chamber of Commerce pushed for posting of street signs throughout the city and encouraged homeowners to post street numbers on their houses.

Since the city had little funds for the street sign project, volunteers from the school and scouts were enlisted.

A Northwest Berry Growers Association was sought for price structuring, after local growers suffered a bad season that paid only 8 cents per pound for strawberries.

A citizens' committee was appointed by the high school board to determine how to modernize Sandy High School to the day's needs and determine how the school stacked up statewide.

Members included Tom Scales, Charles Frasier, Mrs. Matt Shields, Mrs. Ruen Hoffman, Mrs. Hazel Murray, Clyde Sutherland, Melvin Haneberg, Carl Bell, Mrs. Ruth Andersen, George M. Jones and Harold

Reynolds. Teachers included Harvey Hansen, Mrs. Helen Nelson, Frasier and Edith Jemp-tegaard.

Ruben Hoffman, owner of Wright's Supermarket building, purchased land between Strauss Street and Shelley Avenue on Main and announced plans for a modern centralized shopping center in the middle of Sandy.

His plan included a modern drug store, a hardware store, a clothing store, three retail units and expansion of the existing market.

Sandy telephone users were asked to vote for service extension by a Sandy Telephone Improvement Service Committee.

The questions of the day? "Do you favor toll-free extended service with Gresham? Do you favor toll-free extended service with Portland?"

Officials from the state public utilities commission said Sandy users could opt for extended toll-free exchange with Gresham or Portland, although monthly bills probably would increase 75 cents for Gresham service or \$2.50 for Portland service.

(Compiled from files of the Sandy Post, established 1879.)

### Representative's report:

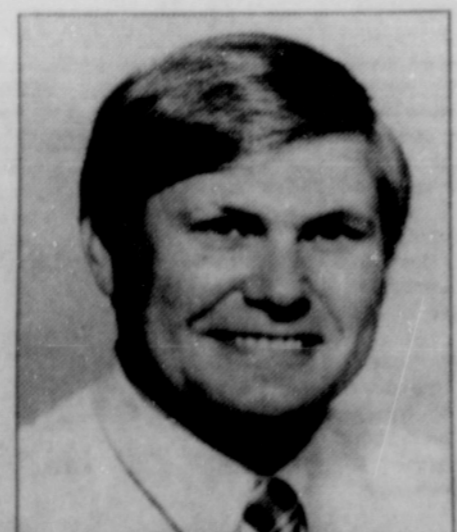
#### Shiprack happy with assignments

by BOB SHIPRACK  
State Representative, Dist. 23

The last two weeks I have spent a great deal of time in orientation meetings. These have covered an examination of the Governor's budget, alternative tax plans and explanations of where our budget money goes. In my committees, State and Federal Affairs and Labor, the briefings have centered on the functions of the Department of Commerce and the Employment Division. Committee hearings have started and bills are now coming through.

The Governor's budget has a projected deficit of \$583 million, which he will attempt to make up primarily through the addition of a 1 percent "net receipts tax." This is a 1 percent tax on personal income before deductions, in addition to the standard income tax. Support for this proposal at this time is very weak. Additional funds are proposed for Higher Education, Corrections and Economic Development.

Several bills have been introduced which deal with the timber tax that we depend so much on. I will closely follow these. Another bill of interest would allow those facing long term unemployment in certain industries to attend vocational classes and



still draw unemployment insurance. I have co-sponsored this and will advise you of its progress.

Do not expect any budget or tax plans before May 15 when the second quarter economic forecasts come in. The state of our economy will govern the outcome of those proposals.