

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editorBull Run diversion
ill-conceived idea

We wish the city of Troutdale, Arch Diack and other environmentalists and sportsmen luck in talks with the Portland City Council over diversion of water from the Bull Run River.

The Portland Water Bureau plans to take water from the Bull Run headworks, divert it to hydroelectric turbines, and release it into the Columbia River, bypassing the lower Sandy.

It is unfortunate that the plan has come this close to completion before becoming an issue with the public and the media. The Oregon Water Policy Review Board last week issued a permit for the diversion despite numerous objections, including those from a group of state legislators.

The \$2 million turbine system was being tested earlier this week.

How does the diversion affect those of us farther up the river? We are concerned that the reduced flow in the lower part of the river will have a detrimental impact on the spawning of aquatic life, which will affect the entire river system.

There are some restrictions on the Portland Water Bureau's permit. They may draw off water — at the rate of 170 cubic feet per second — only from December through May. Further, minimum flow must be maintained at 1,500 cubic feet per second.

However, the Sandy River does not always flow rampantly from December through May. The low level this year, for example, has exposed gravel bars, which steelhead would use for spawning in other years.

Certainly Mother Nature has its own design for high- and low-flow years, and man, in the name of progress, has already irreconcilably changed the course of nature with dams and other projects.

We are not opposed to progress, but sometimes more can be gained by letting nature take its course. The taking of water from the lower Sandy River — a great natural resource — is an ill-conceived idea, even if there happened to be a demand for electric power, which there isn't.

The so-called energy crisis of 1973 spurred interest in a number of alternatives, and one of great interest locally is hydroelectricity. Hydros certainly have a place in the scheme of things, but not when they endanger fisheries.

People who don't understand the logic behind preserving natural resources do seem to understand economics. Imagine, as an example, what the potential might be for each steelhead in the Sandy River. By the time out-of-state, and even out-of-country, visitors buy licenses and fishing gear, and pay for food and lodging, the potential for tourism — per fish — could conceivably be staggering.

The Portland City Council might also consider that what happens on the mountain affects tourism in the city as well.

We know of Mt. Hood residents who have made individual commitments, hatching eggs in the little streams by their homes. We know of sportsmen who release their catch because they want their children to be able to fish these waters also.

A distant governmental agency has the potential to negate the efforts of many individuals.

The Portland Water Bureau cannot look at its little section of the Sandy River and disregard the rest. The parts of the river are tied together in a sophisticated ecosystem.

Letters to legislators or the Portland City Council stating opposition to this project are in order. Hopefully, we are not too late.

Letters to the editor

Parents thank Kelso
staff for quality care

I would like to relate the experience we had with a school accident at Kelso Elementary. Last September our fourth-grade boy fell from a swing and severely broke his arm. I was called immediately and consequently rushed to school. I found our boy with a splint, and a sling on his arm, lying in the health room with two people monitoring his care. When I arrived at the Gresham

hospital, they commented on the high quality of first aid care our boy had received.

We could not be more pleased with the exceptional care and quality of education our children receive at Kelso School through the Sandy Elementary School District.

Paul and Sally Hayball
Boring

Kiwanis club searches
for free storage space

The Kiwanis Club of Sandy is engaged in many civic projects throughout the year which are supported to a large extent by funds raised from our annual "Fly In" breakfast.

In order to put on the breakfast the club has accumulated over the years a number of tables, benches, stoves and other supplies. We have also constructed a booth which can be assembled for use at the Sandy Mountain Festival and for other fund raisers.

Our problem is that all of these items are presently scattered all

over the place and we are in real need of a central storage location.

If any of your readers have a shed, barn or other dry storage area available, they might want to consider donating its use to the Kiwanis Club. If they have something that might be suitable they could call our storage coordinator, Roger Atkins, at 668-5149 (home) or 668-3566 (work). This would certainly help us serve our community.

Terry Lenchitsky,
Kiwanis Club president
Boring

Policy on letters

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced and signed. An address and telephone number should also be provided, although only the name of the letter writer and the city or area he is from will be

published.

Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter of the letter.



Salem Scene

Lull in Salem allows look at process

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

There comes a time during every session of the State Legislature in Salem when it appears progress slows and folks worry lest lawmakers settle in and make the Capital City their permanent address.

This perceived lull usually occurs about midway during sessions. It's after the initial cascade of new legislation is introduced and well before the frantic rush to adjournment. Actually, it marks the beginning of the grinding tediousness that is what most sessions are really all about.

Nonetheless, as this period begins, some Salem-watchers tend to seek distractions and one involves examining some of the nuts and bolts of the process.

And one such is a drab-looking publication called the "Weekly Cumulative Index to Legislative Measures."

It looks drab because it is. Its 8½-by-11-inch pages of lightweight paper contain listings of all measures currently under consideration and tables of figures representing both individual numbers assigned to each bill and the assigned number of existing laws that would be amended,

repealed or added to by specific bills.

Utterly fascinating reading, really! With it you can check out virtually any subject under the sun. Find the number and a brief description of each bill that pertains to that subject and discover what it would do to existing law.

To those who follow the process, it is a valuable tool.

It's also a source of amusement for those seeking distraction from what has become routine.

Take the April 1 issue, for instance. It contains 68 pages of bill descriptions indexed and cross-indexed under alphabetic subtitles and 43 pages of bill numbers and corresponding numbers in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS).

The bill numbers and ORS numbers aren't much fun to deal with. Oh, you can add the bill numbers preceded by various lettered codes — HB, SB, HJR, SCM and so on. Those with code letters starting with H originated in the House of Representatives and those starting with S originated in the Senate.

About all you can do with those is add them up and learn that a total of 2,036 measures of all kinds have been introduced so far.

Splitting them up is interesting. Do it and you find out the split is fairly

even — 1,013 were introduced in the 90-member House and 1,023 were proposed in the 30-member Senate.

That's about it as far as the tables of numbers are concerned. At least unless you're a real nut for statistics. That's because you have to wade through volumes and volumes of statutes and annotations in order to continue. And the Legislature's pace isn't that slow — yet.

Most rewarding time-wasting exercise one can perform with the Cumulative Index is to study the alphabetical listings of subjects under which all bills are indexed.

Quickly flipping those first 68 pages reveals this Legislature hasn't concerned itself with everything from A to Z. There are no bills dealing with subjects starting with the letter Q. Furthermore, no bills have yet been introduced involving subjects starting with the letters X and Y.

The absence of X and Y words isn't surprising. Those who pay attention to this sort of thing know that during the two decades spanning sessions from 1957 to 1977 the Assembly only once dealt with a subject beginning with the letter X. That was in 1969, when it considered legislation involving x-rays. Since then, x-rays were considered during three successive sessions beginning in 1979. But there are no x-ray proposals this session.

Subjects beginning with Y fell from favor of indexers in 1983. There wasn't a single Y word in the Index throughout the many weeks of that second-longest session in history. Bills dealing with "youth" had been quite common before 1983. But indexers capriciously lumped them under "children" and "minors" that year. It appears the same thing is happening this session.

And there are all kinds of Q subjects this Legislature could address. Look in your dictionary. Quality is something that might be considered.

Aside from that it's interesting to note the April 1 issue of the Cumulative Digest contained more than six pages of subjects starting with the letter A and more than seven pages of subjects starting with the letter C. That's not surprising when you figure appropriations start with A and compensation starts with C.

Add that to the fact there are two full-time pages of bills in the T-section that relate to taxes.

Together, these rather sober revelations take the fun out of this whole exercise.

Better to not examine Cumulative Digests published on April Fool's Day any more!

Legislative update

Three bills may help Sandy residents

by REP. BOB SHIPRACK

Several bills, including items of interest to Clackamas County residents, are currently being discussed in the Oregon Legislature. Hearings will be held on a bill that would exempt our county from the Metropolitan Boundary Commission.

This regional government was created in 1967 to review all boundary changes of districts and municipalities and also dictate details of the formation of new cities. With the advent of state-wide zoning through LCDC, however, this job

should be turned back over to local officials.

The review demanded by the Boundary Commission can add months to the time it takes for even a simple annexation.

The bill was requested by the Clackamas County Economic Development Commission, which I sit on, and the concept was unanimously endorsed by representatives of the county, cities and local districts. Perhaps we can get rid of this unnecessary bureaucracy.

One of the big problems facing District 23 is the high cost of am-

balance service. In parts of our district it costs as much as \$800 for an ambulance trip. Next week the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee will begin hearings on HB 2807, which would allow the county to franchise ambulance service as well as review and set reasonable rates.

The tri-county area has some of the highest ambulance rates in the nation, and this bill could help ensure service at reasonable rates.

We recently passed a law that would require the governor to send to the Legislature a balanced budget, identifying what levels of spending

and where those dollars would go. If needed, additional revenues would have to be shown and from what source. This was vetoed last session but passed the House overwhelmingly this time and hopefully the Governor will sign the bill this session. I should note that based on our latest revenue forecast there should be no need for any income tax increase and a good possibility for some refund.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other bill, please contact me at: Rep. Bob Shiprack, H292 State Capitol, Salem, Ore., 97310, or call toll free 1-800-982-1211.

Letter to the editor

School wants public input on budget

As chairman of the Sandy High budget committee for 1985, I want to personally invite all interested patrons to attend our public budget committee meetings!

This is your chance to make your feelings known when it counts!

We have three meetings scheduled in the next four weeks and public input will be welcomed at each meeting. The meetings are held in

the school board rooms 50-51 at 7:30 p.m. and I am committed to ending the meetings by 10 p.m.

On April 15 we will discuss the instructional program requests for next year (math, science, social science, etc.).

On April 22 we will discuss the instructional support section: Including athletics and activities, scheduling and attendance, excep-

tional education, guidance and counseling, health, speech, library and district administration.

On May 6 we will discuss the district support services. This includes the business office, maintenance, transportation, printing office, and supplies.

We will then recap the entire

budget and vote to approve or change.

Your budget committee is looking forward to your participation in the budget process so that we will have the best-informed patrons in the state, who will then be able to support the program of our outstanding high school.

Paul D. Buss
Boring