

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representativeSign evidence of
hard work by club

The changing of the signs at the Sandy VFW Hall — formerly the Sandy Women's Club — may not have been a momentous occasion, but the symbolism shouldn't escape us.

No one seems to know for sure how long the sign noting the Women's Club was up, but the club has been active since 1912.

With more women working, club members readily admit it has been hard to maintain the level of participation they once enjoyed. The Sandy Public Library, however, remains a prime beneficiary of the club's work.

That the Sandy VFW and Auxiliary should take over the facility is appropriate.

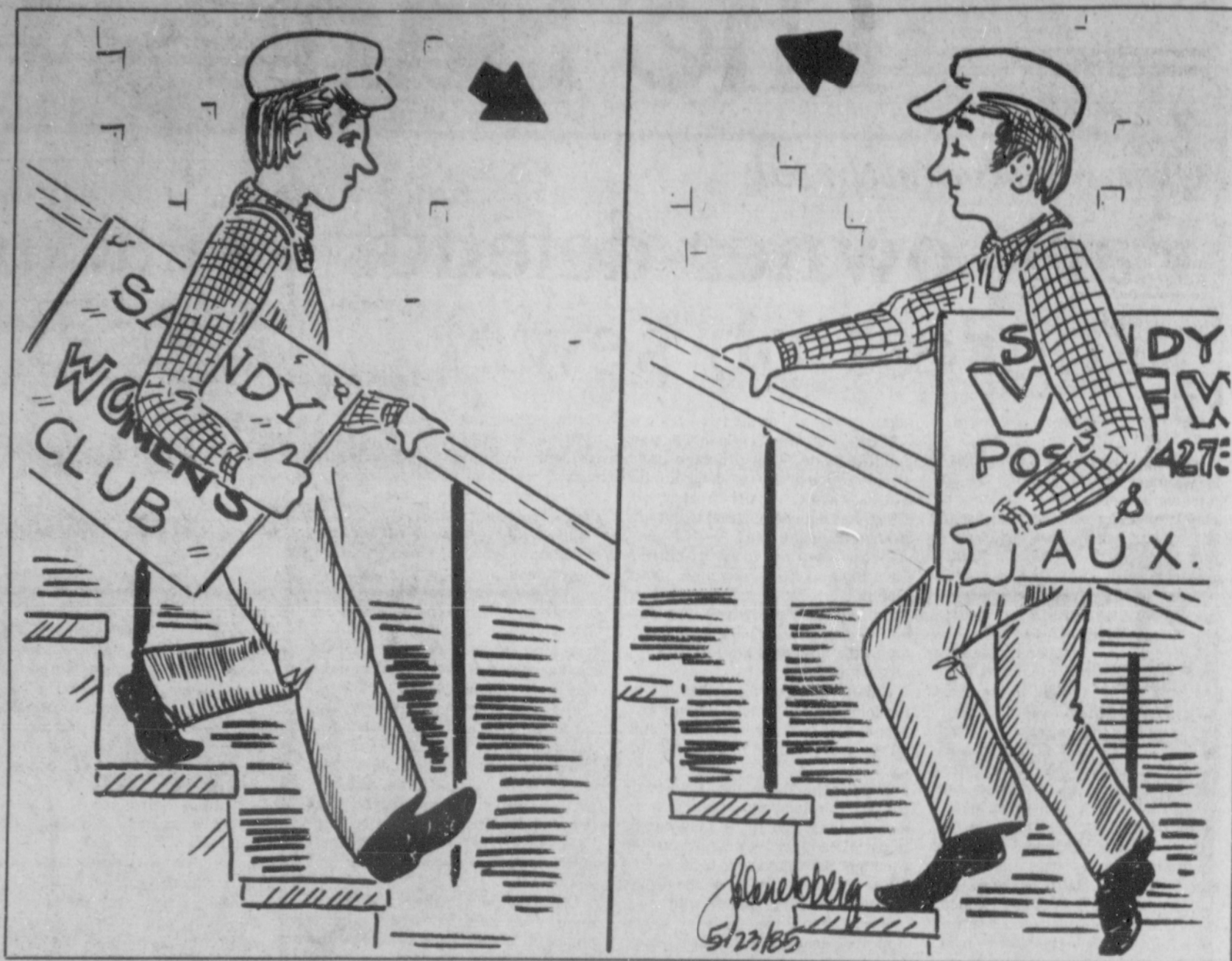
There are many active groups in Sandy, but the VFW and Auxiliary has proven capable of keeping up with the best of them. They provide color guards for funerals and memorial services, sell poppies to provide shelter and care for less fortunate veterans and their families, donate to nearly every good cause in Sandy, and sponsor bike rodeos, scout packs and baseball teams.

All the while, they have been raising money for a building fund, putting together \$60,000 through raffles, dinners, dances and even the sale of ceiling tiles in the Covered Wagon Room. This effort alone is truly worthy of mention.

The money, as stipulated in an agreement at the time of the donation of the building, was turned over to the Sandy Public Library.

We now understand the VFW plans to cast a lifesize bronze statue to serve as a "Veteran's Memorial." A person has to wonder what they are going to come up with next.

Yes, it's just a sign, but it represents a lot of hard work for VFW and Auxiliary members.



Salem Scene

Orderly Assembly
now looks unlikelyby JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Early indications the 63rd Legislative Assembly would enjoy an orderly and productive biennial session in Salem this year are now clouded by a combination of events.

Some are indigenous to the system, some represent normal hazards that disrupt otherwise harmonious conditions and others reflect on the difficulties encountered in achieving consensus among 90 independent individuals.

Most of the elements for success seemed apparent when the Assembly first convened on January 14. Leadership was in place. Common goals were embraced by partisan leadership in both House and Senate. And a spirit of cooperation appeared to rule as both chambers concentrated on achieving revenue reform and stability for financing public education.

In just 13 weeks the Legislature's sales tax package emerged and was referred to voters for their consideration next Sept. 17.

Budget-writing Ways & Means Committee was proceeding on a schedule that would enable the Assembly to adjourn in another nine weeks and go home in mid-June — missions accomplished.

But it's not working that way. And a growing number of observers suspect not enough members are heeding the advice of Dr. John Kitzhaber, who shortly after becoming Senate President prescribed: "Generous and expeditious doses of significant accomplishments while the 63rd Assembly sits in Salem."

Despite urgings to curb the numbers of measures considered this session, this Assembly has exceeded the number introduced last session. And of the 2,170 under consideration, only 164 have passed both the House and Senate.

With only four weeks to go — if indeed this Assembly does adjourn in mid-June — that means as many as 700 measure will have to be rammed through the process if it matches production of recent previous sessions.

And the prospects for that kind of production are not good.

Bill production for the last three weeks has only been about 20 per week!

The reasons, as stated earlier, are several. The indigenous reasons include game-playing that is part of the

process. Often this involves gutting bills and stuffing them with other material that barely meets any test for relevance.

An original bill to establish maximum load limits for certain vehicles, for instance, now provides elected officeholders with a \$20 discount for vanity license plates. Another example involves bills regulating wine coolers and plastic milk jugs — two separate measures with provisions that have been amputated and grafted into a total of three measure that make following their progress a near impossibility.

The normal hazards that always plague the Oregon Legislature often involved revenue projections for the coming biennium — figures that are vital when it comes to establishing budgets.

The mid-May projection is the last good guess lawmakers have for that purpose and this year's outlook is worse than previously anticipated.

And it is skewed further by a revelation that the state has exceeded its statutory "revenue cap" and likely will have to return some \$71 million to income taxpayers in the form of tax credits next year.

Anything short of returning the over-collected money is viewed as a serious threat to chances of passage of the sales tax next fall — let alone becoming serious threat to the credibility this Assembly so desperately seeks.

The third "difficulty" being encountered by this Assembly is an apparent inability to make up its mind on how to achieve other avowed major accomplishments.

Little progress is being made toward resolving water-related proposals. Economic development — the buzz-phrase for three sessions — remains mired in a swamp of indecision. How to spend lottery revenue is just as elusive. And little progress has been made toward budgetary and legislative reform — twin goals of House Speaker Vera Katz.

All of the foregoing does not bode well for those rosy expectations that accompanied this Assembly when it first convened on the second Monday of January.

Statesmanship is the term applied when lawmakers describe the attribute most responsible for achieving legislative success.

One suspects it might even take a little prestidigitation to pull this Assembly's rabbit out of the hat.

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.

The news deadline of noon, Tuesday is also the deadline for letters to the editor.

Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives from local residents. We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.

Personally speaking

Traditional grandmothers on way out

Has anyone noticed the age of grandparents is getting younger?

This phenomenon is a natural conclusion to earlier marriages. Opponents of teen-age marriages should legislate to have a statement put on all marriage licenses that says: "Warning: Early use of this document could result in premature grandparenthood."

Attention needs to be drawn to the pitfalls of becoming a grandparent while still in our 30s. If we aren't careful the traditional grandparent will have to be put on the endangered species list.

I remember my grandmother. Her delicate face held many wrinkles and was framed by a soft halo of silver curls. The extent of her play was pretending to sit on us if we were in her rocker. She always wore cologne and dresses. She would have felt insulted to go to the supermarket

without her hat and gloves. A nice traditional grandmother!

Now if my granddaughter was describing me it would go something like this: "Grandma's skin is freckled

to be a problem to your kids.' My aunt and uncle are five and seven years older than me and the three of us gang up on grandma and tickle her until she squeals for mercy."

'Avenge yourself!

Live long enough to be
a problem to your kids.'

ed and we have pimples together. Her dark hair is cut in an afro and she wears hoop earrings. Jeans and sweatshirts are her uniform. I remember once she wore a dress and three people fainted. Her favorite sweatshirt is purple and says, 'Avenge yourself! Live long enough

Now I ask you! What kind of an image is that? "Grandma smells like Safeguard" just doesn't sound the same as "Grandma smells good."

What would happen to America if all our time-honored ideas changed this drastically? Besides, how can you show the proper enthusiasm for a

grandbaby if you have only just come out of the dirty diaper state yourself?

The home of a grandparent should be quiet, the soft ticking of a clock mingling with antique treasures. Somewhere a cookie jar is filled with homemade goodies. My digital clock quietly flashes the minutes while Dolly Parton belts out a song. Somewhere a cookie jar is filled with homemade goodies — but it's not at my house. I may have a sack of Oreos in the bread drawer though!

See what I mean? There are absolutely no similarities between the traditional grandma and me. This trend has to be stopped. We need to preserve the image of grandparents as they were.

Oh, excuse me, there is one tiny similarity I forgot to mention — would you like to see a picture of my granddaughter?

Commentary

Legislator supports rebuilding roads

by REP. BOB SHIPRACK

3 billion dollars! Sometimes it's hard to imagine that amount of money. That is exactly how much money it would take to repair state and local roads here in Oregon. Over 42,310 miles of Oregon roads are in desperate need of repair — repairs that must be made if we are going to continue to attract new industries and new jobs to Oregon.

You can imagine what a company would say to a state that is trying to attract them into relocating but has an antiquated transportation system — a system that would not allow them to transport the goods they produce at a reasonable price. One need only look at the Port of Coos Bay to realize how important highway transportation is to economic development. Coos Bay is one of few deep water ocean ports on the West Coast yet it has been hampered by a poor highway transportation system to and from Interstate 5, making it almost impossible for goods to be transported to and from ships that arrive in the Port.

For years, people have said that Coos Bay would thrive if there was a better transportation system in place to serve the port.

That is exactly what I don't want people across this nation to say about Oregon over the course of the next few years. We must attack this problem head on and we must do it now.

Last week on the floor of the House a measure came to us from the Transportation Committee. It proposed a 1 penny increase in the gasoline tax in 1986 and 1987. What is unique to this plan is that the money is targeted to city and county road repair instead of interstate highway systems, roads that are in very poor

shape in our area.

Although this increase will not cure our road repair problems it will make a significant dent in the problem, allowing us to continue our drive to attract new jobs and industry to the state.

Another bill that I wanted to let you know about this week was Senate Bill 147, which would establish a trauma network in Oregon to coordinate availability of emergency hospital facilities and to increase the efficiency of medical responses to traumatic injuries. The state Health Division would work on a plan for transporting severely injured accident victims to the best available emergency

care facility. Often the closest site for medical treatment is not adequately prepared to help the victim of an auto crash, logging accident or other industrial or recreational mishap.

The bill divides the state into 11 regions and establishes various levels of trauma centers within those areas to handle victims of severe injury. Trauma, which is the medical shorthand for life-threatening injuries, is the leading cause of death for people younger than 40. Last year those accidents claimed 1,200 lives in Oregon.

Last week in the House Human Resources Committee, of which I am

a member, voted the bill out of committee. It will come to the floor of the House sometime this week. I am in favor of this legislation. According to a state Health Division report, no additional tax dollars would be needed to put the plan in operation. Money already exists to provide the communications and hospital equipment necessary. All that is needed is legislative authority to proceed.

We continue to shoot for mid-June adjournment. As always if I can ever be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to call me toll free at 1-800-982-1211.

Letter to the editor

Bike-, Walk-A-Thon successful

The spirit of giving is alive and well in Sandy!

Our community raised more than \$300 at the Cystic Fibrosis Bike-A-Thon and Walk-A-Thon, a figure that represents a lot of dedication and commitment to the fight against cystic fibrosis.

This outpouring of support came from the tired but determined participants, the generous people who sponsored them, and the businesses that provided prizes and underwrote expenses.

Laurels go to the following participants: (Walk-A-Thon riders) Chris Stadstad, Russel Woodcock, Jackie Stamm and Stephen At-

terberry. Stephen rode the farthest, 40 miles. Good going.

Ride-A-Thon participants: Mr. Robert Topliff and Mr. Nicholas Roth with their encouragers, Mr. Paul Brown and Miss Cheri Topliff. Paul walked seven miles with them and Cheri walked all the way to the Rippling River Inn. Ask them about tired feet and Nick's worn out tennies. Sixteen miles plus sunshine.

Many thanks to the following businesses: Rippling River, McDonalds, Calamity Jane's, Dairy Queen, Taco Time, Paola's Pizza Barn, Rainbow Trout Farm, The Flower Garden, Accent on Hair, Our Gang Hair Design and Rosy Beauty

Salon.

Thanks also to VFW Post 4273, who sent Ms. Voriece Blair to help with the registration, and Barry Fretz Jr., who fixed up bikes. And a very special thanks to Mr. John Langston (my husband) who helped and encouraged me and drove walkers trails with punch and water refreshments. Also a sympathetic ear during the weeks of preparation that goes with such events.

The gift all these individuals gave children with CF is the priceless gift of hope that research will one day soon bring positive results.

Ellen Langston Boring