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Kelso residents take board to task

by SCOTT NEWTON

Members of the Sandy Elementary District's board of directors and parents discussed the reassignment of four principals for an hour and a half Thursday evening, with patrons urging board members to keep an open mind and reconsider the change.

In a specially-scheduled meeting July 9, the board announced an administrative realignment that gave new assignments to principals of the district's four schools, which are Kelso, Sandy and Firwood grade schools and Cedar Ridge junior high.

At the meeting July 25, the board adjourned to executive session at about 9 p.m. to discuss personnel. Twenty minutes later the meeting was opened back up, but the more than 50 people in attendance had left. Members of the audience, and board members, didn't know at the time the board went into executive session whether the meeting would be opened back up.

"After considering the information that was presented to us, I think we should stand firm on our decision (to reassign building principals)," said Dennis Traxler, chairman. Sharron Cox and Dorothy Mills agreed and a formal motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was held to give the public a "chance to provide input," Traxler had said in opening remarks. Two board members were absent. Barbara Herget was at a seminar and Ron Berglund was on vacation.

Traxler pointed out early in the meeting that the individual merits or faults of administrators would not be discussed. Discussions of personnel matters are protected by state statutes.

That didn't stop people in the audience from discussing the merits of individual administrators — or criticizing them.

Judy Warren, formerly principal at Kelso School who was reassigned to Firwood School, was described as having a special "talent" by JoAnn Opp.

Opp said Warren has established a "one on one love" with the students. "She can ask every one of them personal questions," Opp said. While other administrators may have skills in curriculum development or other areas, "you can't teach a love for kids. We've got that at Kelso, and we don't want to lose it."

Others were critical of Randi Leuthold, who will move from Cedar Ridge to Kelso.

Diane Seibert, who has had four children attend Kelso, said none of her children had any problems with school until they reached "this

gorgeous hall of education" — indicating, with a sweep of her arm, Cedar Ridge. Two of her children have been "beat up" at Cedar Ridge, she said. "We don't want thugs at Kelso. Judy has them under control."

"I don't want someone who can't control children to be in control of our school."

The topic of the quality of the individual schools was brought up, and Superintendent Clark Lund said Kelso and Firwood students regularly score higher in achievement tests than students from Sandy Grade School and Cedar Ridge. There are some "socio-economic" factors behind those test scores, Lund said.

Darrell Shepherd, who was moved from Sandy Grade School to Cedar Ridge, said they had a 25 percent turnover rate at Sandy Grade School last year.

All schools score above state and national averages on achievement tests, Lund said. "There is no classroom or grade level below average in the district."

A number of people asked why the change was being made, wondering if there were problems the public wasn't being told about. "Problems at one school are not the reason for a change," Traxler said finally. "Believe me."

The parents, most of whom were from the Kelso area, expressed dissatisfaction with not having been given warning of the change, and about being left in the dark as to why the decision was made.

Traxler had said earlier that new job assignments would be good for the individual administrators and the system as a whole. A new job environment can contribute to new ideas.

The principals were asked how they felt, and Verne Buhler, Sandy Grade School principal who has been at Firwood School for 19 years, said he believes the strengths of the individual administrators will stay at the schools while "new input" can help improve the system.

"I think it will work out," Cox said they gave the issue a great deal of consideration, and feels the decision was based on what will be best for the entire district.

"I feel very strongly that if we didn't think this would provide a better educational set up, we wouldn't have done it," Cox said. She urged parents to give the new system a try, to be "positive, not negative."

Parents will be giving the system a try, whether they want to or not, and have promised to evaluate Kelso School under its new administrator. "You'd better believe we're going to monitor this program," Cathy Hutchinson told the board.



Frances Meinig Loundree is crowned by her daughter, Beverly McOmie, at the pioneer picnic. Also pictured, from left to right: Milton Meinig, Linda

Meinig, Loundree and her daughter, Loundree's son, Lorne, and Melvin Haneberg.

Picnic does indeed have long history

by PAULA BURNS

The Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association held its 59th annual picnic recently, but according to Melvin Haneberg, the first group of pioneers actually got together 100 years and 25 days ago.

Melvin Haneberg, president of the Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association, told The Post that he located a letter in the archives at the city of Portland written by Isaac W. Smith, a confederate general. According to Haneberg, the city of Portland hired Smith to go into the headwaters in the Sandy area and choose an adequate river with the best route to Portland.

Smith explained in his letter that after selecting Bull Run, the next step was to secure water deeds for water rights from all riparian owners. He heard pioneers were celebrating the Fourth of July on the third at Cedar Creek. Smith went to

the picnic because he felt he could get everyone together at that time to secure the deeds.

"I'll have you know, this is to follow a longtime tradition of the pioneers," said Haneberg to the crowd of about 125 people who attended the 1985 picnic on Sunday, July 28 at Nelson Memorial Park. "We hope to continue these for a long time."

Besides providing a good opportunity for the families of pioneers to gather and enjoy a potluck, the annual picnic also provides a time to recognize former kings and queens.

It also recognizes the oldest member present. Don Bodley, 97, was the oldest member to attend this year's picnic.

The highlight of the picnic involves a crowning ceremony honoring the new queen and king of the Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association.

During the crowning ceremony on Sunday, Queen Frances Meinig

Loundree was crowned by her daughter, Beverly McOmie. Her biographical reading was presented by her son, Lorne.

Loundree's father, Paul Meinig, owned Meinig Bros. General Merchandise store. The familiar picture of the store was featured on the front of the souvenir program. Loundree worked at the store as a young girl, and returned to help her father after completing her business degree at Oregon State University. She retired five years ago as a maid at a motel near the Portland airport, and currently resides in Portland.

King Milton Meinig was crowned by his niece, Linda Meinig, followed by a reading by his wife, Frances.

Meinig has been a carpenter all of his adult life. He helped construct 13 churches and 13 schools in Portland. He and his wife moved to Haven, Kansas, in 1959 where he continued in his trade as a carpenter.

When asked how he felt to be back in Sandy, Meinig grinned and said, "I'm meeting a lot of friends today I didn't even know. They know me."

In trying to determine who traveled the farthest, Haneberg said, "The king came from the flat lands of Kansas. Can anyone beat that?"

Howard Berger raised his hand and said that he and his wife, Sara, had a Japanese student, Akemi Hasegawa, staying with them. She came all the way from Japan to attend the pioneer picnic, Berger joked.

When asked what she thought about the picnic, Hasegawa replied, "I have a very good time here."

Dolly Unger also said she was having a good time. "Each one (picnic) is different, but they're all so enjoyable."

At the conclusion of the program, the Meinigs invited everyone to join them for cake and more reminiscing.

Safety, convenience sell widening of 26

by SCOTT NEWTON

Nancy Spencer drives Highway 26 regularly, from Rhododendron and Brightwood to 102nd and Halsey. Thursday nights are not too bad, but other than that...

Spencer, a resident of the mountain for 26 years, is one of the people in favor of the widening of the highway. Though there is some division in the community over the proposed widening — which would be done in two phases — Spencer believes a good portion of the established, long-term

residents of the area support the proposed project. "They want the widening of the road, and it's not for exploitation. It's for safety and the orderly flow of traffic through the corridor," Spencer said.

Spencer, a medical technician and president of the Hoodland Women's Club, regularly sees cars in the ditch on the stretch of highway between Zigzag and Rhododendron, where the trees block out the sun, leaving patches of ice.

She has observed truckers getting a good run up the mountain to avoid

lugging down in steep spots. Safety is a legitimate concern, she believes.

Keith Petrie, executive director of the Mt. Hood Recreation Association, has put in considerable time studying the Highway Division's proposal, and he believes an expanded highway is needed.

People in Portland will not stay home because someone says the highway might be crowded on a Sunday evening, Petrie said. "People have a right to reasonably safe, convenient access to Forest Service land," Petrie said.

Petrie will be one of the people testifying at the Highway Division's formal hearings. One is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Welches Grade School, and at the other at the Gresham High School auditorium on Thursday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

According to Oregon Department of Transportation information, the first alternative is more extensive, resulting in the removal of more trees and allowing for access roads. Cost is projected at \$4.2 million.

Alternative two would still include two travel lanes in each direction, bicycle lanes and a middle turn lane. Cost is projected at \$3.9 million.

The third alternative listed is not to improve the highway.

The improvements would occur from Wildwood to Zigzag, and funding is expected to be approved in ODOT's six-year plan for an additional expansion from Zigzag to Rhododendron in 1987 or '88, according to Dave Simpson, project manager.

Total cost is expected to be from \$7 to \$8 million, and construction can be

expected to take place over a period of about four years.

Simpson said all testimony received will be reviewed, and then he will write a study hearings report. The Highway Division will then make a recommendation and seek concurrence on a plan with Clackamas County. A final environmental impact statement will be prepared. Money will be committed when ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration approve the plan.

One opponent is Michael Jones, a free-lance writer from Rhododendron. Jones told The Post the project will affect the fishery of Bear Creek, which flows under the Faubian Bridge.

The bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, Jones said. In addition, by destroying

the wetland on the south side of the highway and by using culverts, it will hurt the steelhead and coho salmon runs. Other fisheries in the area will be affected as well, Jones said.

In addition, Jones said new information will be released soon showing that the Barlow Trail will be affected in places if an improved highway is built.

Material produced by ODOT says "the project will not encroach upon the remainder of the Historic Barlow Trail." The same handout says the impact on Bear Creek will be minimal.

Concern has also been expressed by critics concerning the removal of trees along the highway.

Petrie, who has worked for Evans Products and the Industrial Forestry Association, said the area in question

is not an old growth forest at all. In addition, it is a "very defective" stand of trees. He said there is rot in the base of some of the trees and that others are infected.

Petrie has walked the highway from one end to the other and said there will be a substantial stand of trees remaining. The area will not look like a clear-cut, he said.

Petrie, who represents the three ski areas and Rippling River — the Mt. Hood Recreation Association is a standing committee of the Hoodland Area Chamber of Commerce as well — believes there are sufficient "caps" to halt runaway development.

The amount of commercial land is limited, he pointed out.

Considering the real estate market, Spencer said she doubts runaway residential development is in store, either.

Critics have also charged that with a "freeway" running through the corridor, skiers and tourists won't patronize local businesses.

That is not true, according to Louie Kaech, chairman of the Portland Area Ski Club Council. He said the Council represents close to 4,000 skiers in 15 clubs from Longview, Wash., to Salem.

Kaech rattled off a list of Mt. Hood and Sandy restaurants, and added, "Everybody enjoys quality food, and if you have quality you are going to get patronage."

Sometimes skiers wait at a resort — Mt. Hood Meadows, for example — and eat dinner before driving down the mountain, Kaech said. If a person

Girl critical following one-vehicle accident

One Sandy girl is in critical condition and another also received injuries in a one-vehicle accident that occurred Monday, July 29 at 6:10 p.m. on S.E. Marsh Road, a quarter of a mile from its intersection with Lusted Road.

The cause of the wreck was "excessive speed" and it was "alcohol related," according to Russ Williams, public information officer with the Clackamas County sheriff's department.

Tammy Sue Newlands, 16, of 18136 Seaman in Sandy, was in "critical condition, very unstable" on Wednesday morning, according to a spokesman at the Mt. Hood Medical

Center.

Marlene Karen Bee, 17, of 17905 S.E. Gerilyn Court, is in "stable and good condition" at Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center. She was the driver.

The other people in the Volkswagen Scirocco included Newlands' sister, Elizabeth Dawn, 18, Susan JoAnn Greenway, 17, of 49855 S.E. Coleman Rd., and Debbie Irene Johnson, 17, of 13425 Bluff Rd.

Williams said the vehicle was north bound on S.E. Marsh Road, hit a ditch on the west side while going around a corner, rolled several times and came to a rest on its wheels. The vehicle was totaled. An investigation is pending, Williams said.

Sandy man charged with attempted rape, robbery

Clackamas County sheriff's detectives Loren Peterson and Luther Ray Miller made an arrest Monday evening in connection with the July 18 break-in and attempted rape at a home on Highway 26 near McCabe Road.

Michael Dee Dale, 25, of 21515 S.E. Firwood Rd., Sandy, was arrested at 9:38 p.m. at his residence, according to Russ Williams, Clackamas County

public information officer.

Warrants were issued charging Dale with robbery in the first degree, burglary in the first degree, attempted rape in the first degree and kidnapping in the first degree, Williams said. Bail was set at \$100,000.

The investigation is continuing, Williams said. A second suspect is sought in the case.