

Rowell graduates to leisure

by CHRISTINE BIERMAN

John Rowell is spending any free time he can spare from running Sandy Farms by flying airplanes, watching television or just plain relaxing instead of attending school board meetings as he has for the last quarter century.

Last month, Rowell began his second retirement from the board of directors of the Clackamas County Education Service District (ESD).

A number of reasons made Rowell, 52, decide against running this year for a third four-year term on the ESD board, he said.

Rowell has served for eight years on the ESD board and, prior to that, for 15 years on the Sandy Elementary School District board while farming 800 acres south of Sandy and raising two children with his wife.

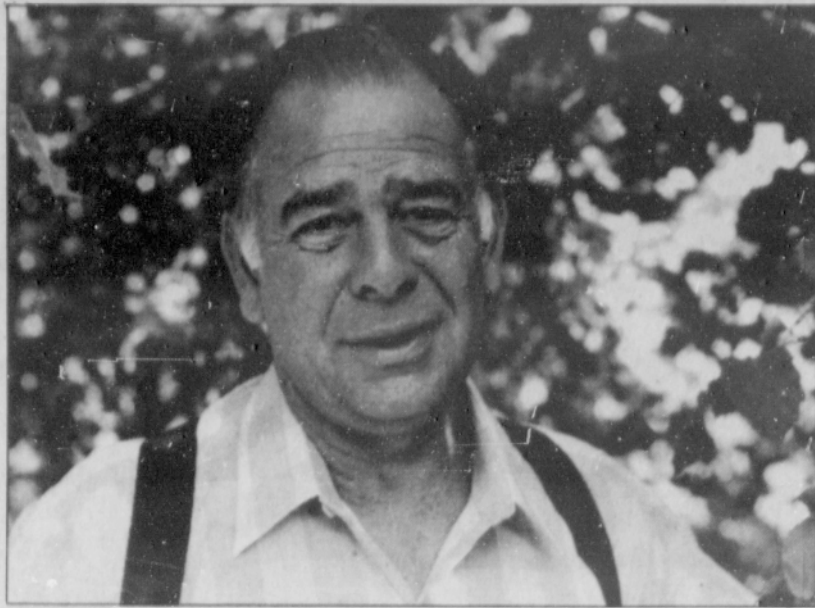
"I don't know how many hours it would add up to," he said, "but I'm sure it would be several thousand."

Rowell is remembered as an active, independent-thinking board member by ESD Superintendent Dr. Russel Klein: "He wasn't one who just came to the meetings and sat back quietly."

"I feel I've contributed what I could, I hope, to the improvement and betterment of education in the (Sandy) district and in the county," Rowell said.

Though not planning to seek office on school boards for the next few years, Rowell said he is not ready to rule out permanently a return to that kind of volunteer service.

He leaves the ESD, unhappy with federal and state laws forcing taxpayers to educate the hopelessly mentally retarded, with school spending that stresses elective classes and athletics at the expense of a basic education, and with state school boundary rules making the edges of districts resemble



John Rowell

"sawtooths."

One of the ESD board's main functions is to hear boundary change requests from students wishing to attend school outside their assigned attendance areas, Rowell said.

"Probably some of the toughest decisions made by the board were boundary changes," he remembered. Visits by the board to each boundary in question and the total decision-making process often consumed more of the board's time, Rowell said, than did policy-making decisions affecting the ESD serving 26 school districts countywide.

He contends that taxing districts should be realigned along natural barriers.

The Marylhurst-based ESD provides a film library, computer services, testing materials, and teacher certification for those school districts.

"A small district can't afford to

buy those for the limited use they get," Rowell says.

A self-described fiscal conservative, Rowell initially became interested in serving on the Sandy Elementary School District Board to track use of taxpayers' money, he said. There also was a concern at the time about education of migrant farmworkers' children, he said.

Now an employer of up to 250 persons at the peak of the harvest, Rowell has been well acquainted with the migrant worker situation since moving to the farm in 1951.

After serving on the Sandy school district board for three consecutive five-year terms, Rowell was asked to run for Zone V (Sandy area) on the

ESD board. Unopposed, he won a four-year term lasting from 1974-1978.

The major change in the district during his first term was a name switch, from the Intermediate Education District to its current title. Accompanying the name change was an increase in services required by the state and federal government, especially for the handicapped students, he said.

Rowell chaired the board during the last year of his first term.

He then lost his first ESD reelection bid to Clayton Wills, a county extension service agent. The three-year span between then and his next try was his first retirement from the board.

During his absence from the board from 1978-81, the district "unfortunately passed a tax base," said Rowell, who prefers regular budget elections. The district has since lived within that tax base.

Urged by supporters to make another run for reelection, Rowell defeated state Sen. Dick Groener for the at-large spot and served from 1981-85. Susan Kinkade of Milwaukie was elected this year to succeed Rowell, said ESD spokeswoman Pat Snyder.

Rowell's departure from school board involvement does not signal retirement from public service period. A former Soil and Water Conservation District director, he serves on the state Caneberry Commission and the North American Red Raspberry Council.

At least, he has one less meeting a month to worry about now.

Sandy offers full recycling program, one year early

The Sandy Transfer Station has already more than met the state recycling law which doesn't go into effect until the summer of 1986, says a Clackamas County official.

Sandy-area residents may recycle the full range of items as called for by the law, says county Community Environment Administrator David G. Phillips.

The 1983 State Opportunity to Recycle Act requires full-line recycling to be offered at all garbage

dumps by July 1, 1986 and curbside collection of recyclables to be available at least monthly for cities with 4,000 or more persons.

The Sandy Transfer Station off of Highway 26 near Shorty's Corner complies with the state recycling act, Phillips said.

Mt. Hood Refuse Removal, Inc., which operates the transfer station, provides for recycling of glass, paper, metals and motor oil not only through drop boxes but through

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- No purchase required.
- Weekly Wednesday drawings will be held beginning July 31 and run through Aug. 28. Weekly matinee drawings will be held beginning July 27 and run through Aug. 17. Grand prize will be awarded Aug. 28.
- To claim a prize, winner must come to the MKC General Offices on the Mezzanine Level of the west end of the kennel club grandstands by the 12th race of either the Wednesday night or Saturday program.
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