

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
Kimberly Nelson, advertising representative

Dust off plans for pioneer museum

While remodeling an old building the new owner finds business records dating back 30 years or more. In an abandon home, longtime Sandy residents have stored an assortment of logging tools.

Many people have items of historical value that they would gladly donate — if there were a place for such items to be stored or displayed.

At the annual Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association picnic recently there was little talk about the proposed museum, for which over \$20,000 has already been raised. SPHA members have tried for years to generate enthusiasm. Perhaps they enjoyed a picnic without bringing up the tired old subject of a museum.

But elsewhere — as people talk about their vacations — the topic of a museum as a draw for tourists keeps popping up.

Though there is a need for several different kinds of facilities in the Sandy area, a museum has great potential as an economic development project and is Sandy's most immediate need. The right kind of facility, due to Sandy's ideal location, could be a draw of regional interest.

Perhaps various organizations could consider designating some money each year to be donated to a building fund. A leadership role is open, and the job is definitely worthy.

Commentary

Consumers determine course of banking

by KEVIN KELLY

I am often asked what people should expect from the banking world over the next 20 years. New products, computerization, mergers, name changes and even bank failures all have hit the headlines in the last few years and caused endless speculation about the financial services industry.

Before anything else, let me assure you that the financial system is intact and alive and well. Sure, institutions have failed and spectacular announcements have become more commonplace. In general, though, depositors have been protected and a record amount of financial transactions are successfully completed every minute of the day on a worldwide basis.

Closer to home, we see just as much upheaval. Recently, the Legislature opened the state borders to out-of-state banks and invited them to acquire Oregon institutions beginning in July of 1986. Not surprisingly, the third largest bank in Oregon responded by announcing its sale to the Bank of America effective on that date.

What does this new financial environment mean for consumers? Simply more confusion? Not really. The financial world of the future will be one of choices.

Deregulation and technological changes will shape the financial landscape over the next two decades. Deregulation has taken the decision making power out of Washington, D.C., and placed it with the banks and other financial institutions. Ultimately, that means decisions will be made by consumers.

When I first entered banking only seven years ago, government regulators had more to do with banking products than did the bank's management. They decided what we sold, who we sold to and how much we charged for it.

That is the world of the past. Over

the next five to 10 years most — if not all — of these questions will be answered by banks and their competitors.

But who really decides what products get produced? Consumers do. Consumers dictate the products, method of delivery and ultimately even prices.

In the face of consumer desires, even the regulators had to relent and allow banks to pay market rates of interest on deposits. As consumers get more of a taste for change, the pace of product development in financial services should accelerate.

How can bankers respond to consumer desires? That's where technology comes in. If every time someone wants to pay for a purchase, get cash for a babysitter or pay a bill they have to write a check and hand it to a person who hands it to countless other people to process, real consumer choices are going to be limited.

But if automatic teller machines, electronic cash registers, home computer terminals and other technological advances can directly communicate with other computers located worldwide, then the sky is the limit.

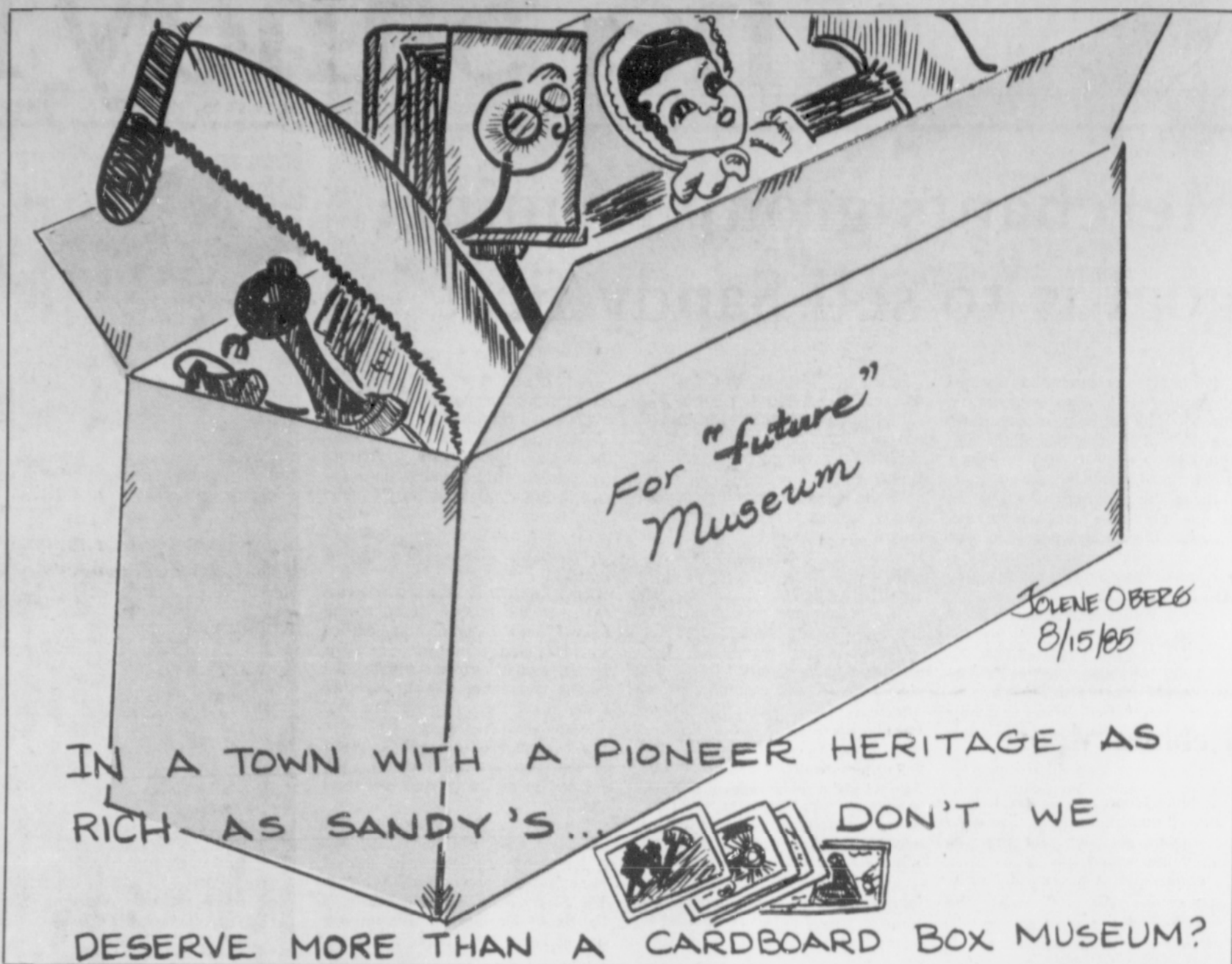
Consumers will demand new ways of handling financial transactions and financial institutions will be able to do it.

Giant banking or other financial institutions will not rule the world in the year 2000. Consumers and technology won't allow them to. Technology is getting cheaper and consumers are getting pickier.

Some customers always will be willing to pay a little extra to avoid a high-tech, paperless world. Others will find comfort in the convenience of a shopping center approach.

This, of course, will be the beauty of the future. No regulators will dictate how you handle financial transactions and store and expand your wealth. You will.

Kevin Kelly is an economist with U.S. Bank.



State of the state

Highway Division stretches resources

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

One of Oregon's most exciting money-saving ideas was tried out recently on highways in central and south-central Oregon.

It involved recycling used materials in much the same way that you and I recycle our newspapers and bottles — but on a far grander scale.

A giant, 1,000-horsepower milling machine literally ground up existing highway pavement at the sites and returned the pulverized pavement to the roadway as a fresh overlay.

This on-the-road processing, used on Highway 20 between Sisters and Redmond and on U.S. 395 and State Route 140 near Lakeview, saves an estimated 75 percent or more of usual road overlay costs.

The method should be especially useful for roadways in areas such as much of eastern Oregon that are distant from asphalt plants.

This is only a recent example of how our state Highway Division is wisely spending money from our state gasoline tax, which will in-

crease 2 cents between now and January 1987.

This 2-cent increase — one penny will be added next January, and a second in January 1987 — eventually will yield about \$44 million annually. The state will split this money 50-50 with cities and counties, which will use their share for local road repair.

The gas-tax increase will help Oregon catch up with a \$1 billion backlog of needed highway projects.

The planned projects reflect what Oregonians asked for in 1983 public meetings: modernization work such as straightening out curves, adding passing lanes and putting bridges in to better alignment with roadways.

This work will complement our economy by giving businesses highways for commerce, tourists roadways for travel, and Oregonians roads for everyday convenience.

The full two-cent increase will bring our state gas tax to 12 cents a gallon, still among the lowest in the 10 Western states.

Work paid for by a similar 2-cent-in-2-years increase in the gas tax, voted by the 1983 Oregon Legislature,

has put Oregon's 7,600 miles of highways into their best shape in a decade. Nevertheless, more than 40 percent of our roads are rated as "poor."

The work to be done on these roads will stretch our pennies from the gasoline tax as far as possible.

Besides using the asphalt-recycling innovation I described above, we are stretching dollars in many other ways.

Examples:

- Beginning Aug. 5, the state Highway Division is testing the durability of 14 kinds of asphalt against eastern Oregon's erosive freeze-thaw cycles; the asphalt products will be applied to a seven-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 97, 15 miles south of Bend.

- On Interstate 84 near Hermiston, three inches of worn asphalt is being removed from the right lane. This asphalt is being ground up and will be reapplied next summer to a stretch of road between Echo and State Route 207 — at a savings of 50 percent or more.
- The state Highway Division has

contracted with Oregon State University to do a \$15,500 study to determine the causes of greater highway wear and to design tougher highways that will last longer.

- A Highway Division underwater inspection supervisor, Gerry Test of Salem, recently suggested reinforcing underwater bridge piers with bags of premix concrete (in the past, crane operators always were hired to place heavy quarry rocks). This idea, first used on the Namorf Bridge over the Malheur River east of Burns and on the Caveman Bridge at Grants Pass, is expected to save \$30,000 annually.

To do the best possible job for Oregonians, our highway work is the subject of public meetings across the state (the next series of such meetings will be held next April).

I encourage Oregonians with highway-related ideas to attend those meetings or to comment by writing the Oregon Transportation Commission in care of Fred Miller, Director, Oregon Department of Transportation, 135 Transportation Building, Salem, 97310.

Salem Scene

Atiyeh doesn't hesitate to use veto

by JACK ZIMMERMAN

Among numerous other accomplishments, Gov. Vic Atiyeh likely will be remembered as one of the harshest editors of Oregon's statute books.

That distinction became possible July 15 when he finished blue-pencil scrutiny of some 862 new laws enacted by the 63rd Legislative Assembly.

Acting within the 20-day period following adjournment of the Assembly on June 21 (Sundays excepted), Atiyeh vetoed 32 measures outright and excised portions of three more.

Only the fourth Oregon governor to serve through four biennial legislative sessions, his latest gubernatorial revision of legislative activity brought his total vetoes to 108 — along with four more controversial line-item vetoes.

Considerably short of the 40 he killed and one line-item veto following the lengthy and calamitous 1983 session, the grand total also includes 19 he nixed following the 1979 session and 17 vetoed in 1981.

Only Oswald West appears likely to have exceeded Atiyeh in use of this particular gubernatorial prerogative, according to Senate Historian Cecil Edwards. West already holds the distinction of vetoing the greatest percentage of bills enacted by an Assembly. That occurred following the stormy 1911 session

when 72 were axed out of 233 passed.

Edwards assumes West vetoed enough following the 1913 session to top Atiyeh's total in only half the time because records show 28 vetoes were overridden during that session — a practice that occurs only rarely today because it takes votes by two-thirds of both House and Senate to override.

For instance, the 62nd Assembly only succeeded in overriding one of Atiyeh's 40 vetoes in special session following the 1983 regular session. Law provides that consideration of gubernatorial vetoes is the first order of substantive business whenever the assembly again convenes.

So, considering West's even greater penchant for the blue pencil, Edwards can only assume he vetoed considerably more than the 28 overridden during the 1913 session. Further searching through legislative journals indicates the total that session was as high as 41 vetoes. If that figure stands up to further scrutiny, West's two-session total would be 113!

Meanwhile, Atiyeh claims he wasn't shooting for any records and that his rather severe criticism of legislative activity stems from his 20 years in the House and Senate prior to becoming governor.

Just how strong that criticism can be seen by records indicating veto activity by his recent predecessors. Former Gov. Bob Straub's high-water mark was 20

vetoes in 1977. The late Tom McCall vetoed a high of 16 in 1973 and former Gov. Mark Hatfield, 23 in 1963.

Gubernatorial vetoes — as those by presidents — don't necessarily reflect on the ability of the Legislature or Congress to adequately do their jobs. Political philosophy plays a big part — along with avowed policies of chief executives and potential threats to their power and usurpation of strength from executive to judicial or legislative branches of government.

Governors also are subjected to the same pressures from lobbyists that are exerted during passage of measures through any given session. And it only stands to reason that those pressures may be more successfully exerted on one individual than in obtaining majorities in the 60-member House and 30-member Senate.

A number of Atiyeh's vetoes involved highly controversial bills. Among the 15 Senate bills quashed was one regulating government purchase and use of video display computer terminals, another providing \$5 million for "comparable worth" pay increases and another that would have given the secretary of state the power to conduct performance audits of state agencies. Among the 17 House bills vetoed was the measure calling for divestiture of state retirement funds invested with firms doing business in South Africa, another extending the deadline for filing

lawsuits by Dalkon Shield users and another that would have required the Department of Education to prepare curriculum dealing with the arms race and nuclear war.

At least one of this year's partial vetoes already has sparked controversy. Before last session, governors had utilized only sparingly the line-item Constitutional provision and only when the measure included budget provisions. Armed with an opinion from the attorney general, Atiyeh's 1983 line-item veto involving raising state salaries to enhance early retirement is still tied up in litigation.

Only resolution of that case will determine whether any of them will stand up — including one this session that would have given lawmakers some budgetary control over lottery operations.

In the meantime, a number of would-be laws remain in limbo until this Assembly convenes in special session of the next meets a year from January.

A few seem likely candidates for override — considering that they sailed through both chambers with only token opposition before encountering Atiyeh's final opposition.

Much of what finally becomes part of Oregon's body of law requires several sessions before eventually making the grade. So too do some ideas that run afoul of gubernatorial veto.

Commentary

Senate committed to health care services

by BOB PACKWOOD
U.S. Senate

Recently the Senate voted to continue primary health care services aimed at helping economically disadvantaged people living in rural areas and deprived inner city areas. Primary health care can include, at a minimum, laboratory services, diagnostic x-rays, preventive health services, and emergency care.

These programs, set to expire this year, will now continue through 1988. That means that there will be no disruption in health care to the more than 70,000 Oregonians who benefit from these programs.

In 1944, Congress enacted the Public Health Service Act in order to offer federal guidance and assistance in response to public health problems and concerns across the country.

During the 1960s and '70s, Congress added to and changed some of the provisions under the Act as the public's needs changed.

The three programs under the Public Health Service Act recently approved are the Community and Migrant Health Care Program, National Health Service Corps Program, and the Health Professions Training Assistance Program.

As I stated earlier, Oregonians benefit from all three of these programs. For example, there are seven locations within the state that have community and migrant health service centers. Without question, our health care needs demand that community health care centers and other related health programs be continued.