

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor
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Take Sandy off Tri-Met's tax run

Shocking. That is the only way to describe it. Businesses in Sandy and Boring pay \$178,000 for Tri-Met bus service, service that is so non-existent it provides only about 6,000 rides a year.

When Tri-Met comes to Sandy and Boring, it is not making a bus run, it is making a tax run.

We wish we could take credit for coining the term "tax run," but the people of Molalla and Canby, where a similar situation exists, have beat us to it.

State Senator Steve Starkovich — in an attempt to get to the bottom of the dilemma of high taxes and poor service in the district he represents — held a forum in Sandy Tuesday. It was one of four with the others held, or to be held, in Canby, Estacada and Molalla.

We didn't expect to find many Tri-Met backers at the meeting, which allowed for informal discussion.

City Manager Tom Reber, in expressing the Sandy City Council's point of view, said Tri-Met is so ineffective and inefficient that the city would be better off without it. The city, he said, might even be able to attract business by boasting about being out from under Tri-Met's taxing authority.

And everyone agreed with business person Ginna Young, who pointed out that large buses aren't needed to transport one or two people from Sandy to Gresham.

But news about the tax run was almost too much. Sandy and Boring businesses are paying \$178,000 a year via the payroll tax. The 6,000 customers contribute \$3,200 in fares, and the operating cost of the route is about \$41,000. What does it all mean? Tri-Met makes about \$140,000 by running buses to Sandy and Boring.

It isn't even possible to talk about the benefits of mass transit when one is kicking around those kinds of figures. The Sandy City Council is right. The best thing to do would be to dump Tri-Met.

That would require action by the Oregon Legislature, and so frustrated businessmen are advised not to hold their breath. About the best Sandy and Boring residents can hope for at present is that the service improves in September when MAX — the light-rail train — begins operating. Two addition bus runs are scheduled to begin locally at that time.

The only other glimmer of hope is that Senator Starkovich, who is considering a couple of options, can come up with something workable to present to the 1987 Legislature.

One of those options — the most desirable one — is reducing the size of Tri-Met's boundaries.

Reluctant camper appreciates home

by SHARON NESBIT

Why do people take their vacations and go out in the woods and chop wood, squat around campfires and live like primitives?

Because it feels so good when they stop.

Why should a near-normal person leave a house with hot and cold running water, a dishwasher, a garbage disposal, a microwave oven, an electric coffeemaker, an electric range, a washer and dryer, a flush toilet and a shower — not to mention lights — and go off to live in a cabin in the woods where there are none of those things?

Because it makes you appreciate all that stuff when you get home.

At least once a summer we learn to love our home by leaving it.

We get the sleeping bags cleaned and drag out the ice chest and pack grub and grubbies and go for the gusto. We could camp out. I hear there are people who do. But we who crave motorhomes with built-in blenders do not get our gusto by sleeping on the ground. The cabin at Lake Merwin is as primitive as we get.

Edgewater is rustic and charming and has a lake six feet from its front porch. You just know that Henry Fonda and Kate Hepburn stayed there when they weren't on Golden Pond. Inaccessible, except by hiking or boating in, it has been a family cabin for 42 years. No high-tech coffee tables and art posters there. Nothing has survived at Edgewater that isn't comfortable and hasn't stood the test of time.

The porch rails are exactly the right height to prop your feet on. The porch chairs have hand-made coffee cup rests. The art work over the guest bed is a magazine picture of a grizzly pasted in a paper plate. The floor is a collage of bare boards, linoleum and mouse traps.

Edgewater has all the comforts of home except for lights, plumbing, heating, telephones, bathrooms and

pepper. Usually it has the latter but last weekend there was not a speck of pepper in the house. So we did without that, just as we managed without daily shampoos.

Water is something I usually take for granted. Water should come easily at Edgewater. But it doesn't. The first thing you need to know about primitive living is that whenever you reach for a water container it will always be empty. The lake is full of water, water that has to be boiled. To boil it you burn wood. The woods are full of wood. Wood that has to be chopped.

Once a summer we learn to appreciate our home by leaving it.

Without a lot of thought and planning, you end up brushing your teeth and making orange juice with hot water. A cup of coffee brewed in the wilderness is equivalent to an eight-course dinner cooked up at home.

And tastes twice as good.

The thing about primitive living is that you're always doing something. If the stove doesn't need stoking, water needs fetching or dishes need cleaning or fish need catching or clothes need drying or hands need washing.

And you'd better hurry up and do it because when it gets dark the difficulty factor doubles. Try finding your way to a drafty outhouse when the night is pitch black and grizzly bears and tigers are wrestling in the bushes. Rush to the safety of the cabin and you end up sharing your boudoir with a bat.

There's only one thing better than crawling into the snug shelter of your sleeping bag and pulling it up over your head.

And that's going home.

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.

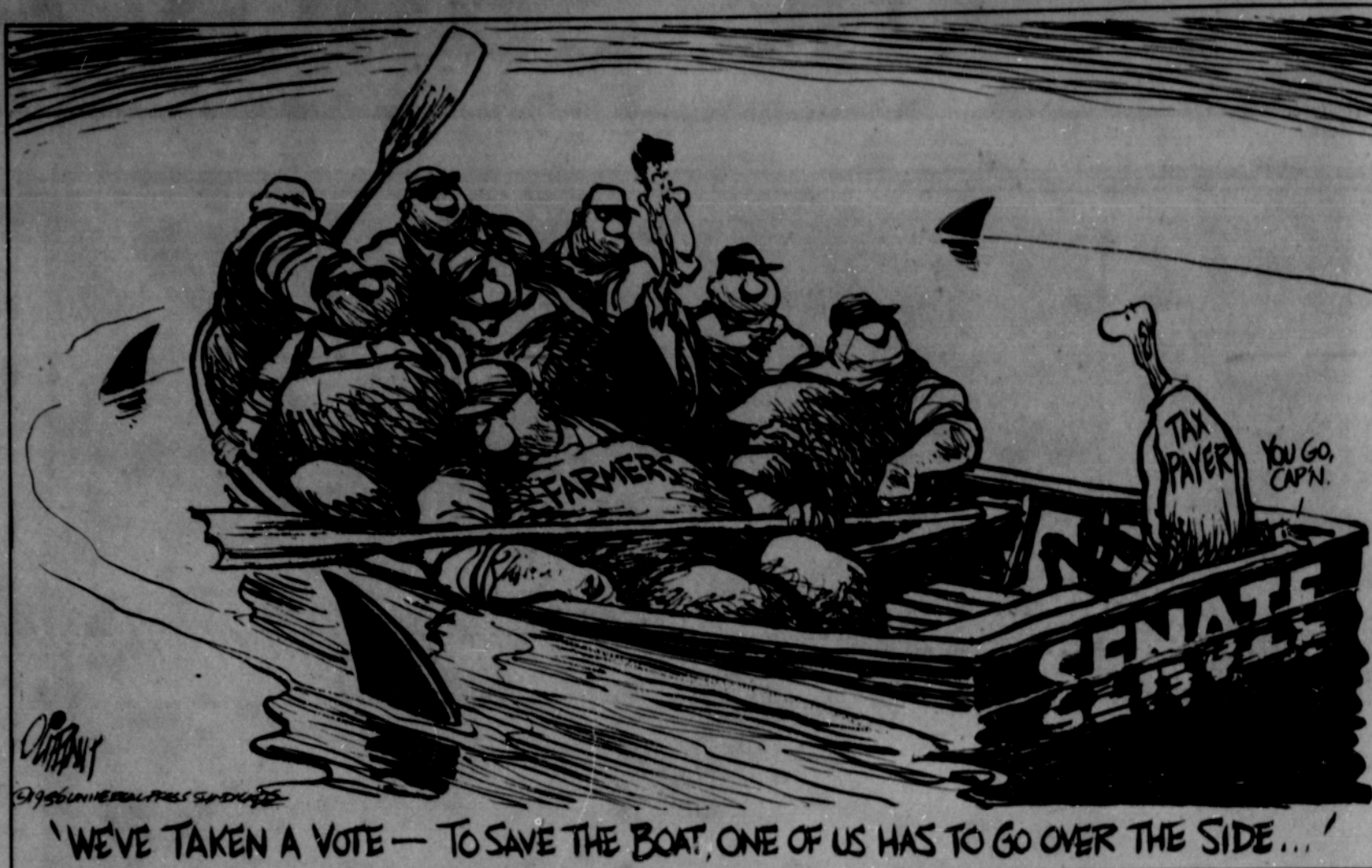
Letter writers may also wish to include a title or office held if it is appropriate considering the subject matter of the letter.

The news deadline of noon, Tues-

day 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 area residents.

We reserve the right to edit letters to conform to style guidelines or for length. A preferred maximum length is 300 words.



Piston Poppers hold Kangaroo Court

by SCOTT NEWTON

Swimming was the cool thing to do 30 years ago, according to a front page story in the Aug. 9, 1956 Sandy Post.

A record number of youngsters, some 150, met for a bus trip to Blue Lake Park, where they took Red Cross swimming classes.

In Brightwood, according to a separate report, about 100 youngsters took classes in the outdoor pool at Cook's Motel.

Dean Gray's Giants, of the Sandy Boys Baseball League, were reported to be razor sharp and ready to go in a challenge game against the Reluctant Dads. "It is rumored that two or three substitute teams of dads will be needed to get through nine innings with the little league whizzes," The Post reported.

Scales of Sandy offered a full line of calf-length skirts for prices ranging from \$5.95 to \$7.95.

Among the businesses urging people to shop in Sandy were Art's Radio and TV, Sandy Drug Co.,

Frederickson Appliance and Meinig's, which told people, "If it Ain't at Meinig's it Ain't in Sandy."

The Piston Poppers Hot Rod club held its weekly meeting at Dick's Shop. Among the items on the agenda: work on their cars and the serving of refreshments. One of the features of the club was a Kangaroo Court; members violating traffic rules were to appear before the court. To date, no members had been called before the jury.

A log truck that failed to negotiate a right turn on Highway 211 in Eagle Creek rolled over and killed a woman who was standing in her yard, reported the Aug. 11, 1966 Sandy Post.

Ida May Craw, 56, died instantly in the freak accident. The truck and trailer tipped over after side-swiping a guard rail at the edge of the Craws' front yard. No citations were issued to the driver, according to The Post.

About 745 students were enrolled at Sandy High School for the 1966-67

school year, an increase of about 40 students.

Among the offerings in the classified ads were a two bedroom house on Sandy Heights Street for \$9,250, and a three bedroom house on two acres on Langensand Road for \$23,350.

Richardson Chevrolet was selling a 1963 Volkswagen in "dandy" condition for \$995.

Hudson House coffee sold for 59 cents a pound at the 3 Boys' Market in Sandy.

Debbie Reich, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Reich, spent the summer of 1966 in France. She reported visiting a number of places in England before arriving. Once there, she improved her skills at speaking the language and enjoyed five-course meals. All in all, the trip was "a lot more fun than picking berries" for the summer, she wrote.

The Aug. 12, 1976 Sandy Post reports that Cottrell School was successful in getting its budget passed,

while voters rejected the levy for Sandy Union High School. It was the second election for both districts.

Sandy High School's \$1,461,575 levy was voted down 500 to 421. Cottrell School's \$197,292 levy was approved 105 to 80.

A week later, the high school board announced it would resubmit the same budget.

Clyde Sutherland, superintendent of the Sandy Elementary School District from 1955 to 1967, was honored at a "Clyde Sutherland Day" declared by the Sandy City Council. About 125 people were on hand at the Sandy Senior Center to honor Sutherland, who was 71.

Ivan Barker served as emcee, and read a letter of congratulations from President Gerald Ford. After listing the 11 organizations to which Sutherland belonged, Barker said, "I think he's a joiner."

A bulletin from the Senior Center said Sutherland, "probably more than anyone else," was responsible for organizing the Sandy Senior Center in 1973-74.

State of the state

Office in Tokyo necessary for Oregon

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

Oregon's 15th-floor office in Tokyo's downtown financial district is small, with no more than 800 square feet of floor space.

But after less than two years in business, it already is producing big results.

Let me give you an example: Recently, the office worked with a Japanese home-center chain that is Japan's fourth largest. The stores wanted to buy moldings, millwork and modular furniture.

Our Japan office invited them to visit Oregon, and when they arrived we took them to meet four Central Oregon manufacturers.

The last I heard, this company was ready to begin placing orders of Oregon-made products that will produce jobs for Oregonians.

Oregon manages an office in Tokyo for the same reason companies such as IBM and General Motors have offices spotted around the country: If you want to sell your product, you must go where the customers are.

For Oregon, which does more than half of its international trade with Japan, being represented in Japan and Korea is a must: Twenty-six other states also operate offices in Japan.

Our Japan office works with trade tourism, education, and with companies interested in investing in Oregon jobs.

For example, if a Japanese company contacts our Tokyo office about buying a particular Oregon-made product, we then contact Oregon suppliers to help them get in touch with the prospective buyer.

Some successes:

— A Japanese lumber company that never had imported from the U.S. now buys two containers of dimension lumber and other building materials from a Portland exporter every month.

— A Tokyo fish importer is buying its fourth 40-foot container of black cod from an Oregon supplier.

— A building-maintenance company is importing time-management software from a Corvallis company.

— A Chemical company is buying

recycled plastic beverage containers from a Portland company to be used for making synthetic fiber carpeting.

Likewise, when Oregon manufacturers want to sell a product in Japan or Korea, personnel in our Tokyo office help them scout the market.

At the moment, the Tokyo office is investigating the market potential for Oregon products ranging from pork jerky, snow crab and matsutake mushrooms to lamb, log homes and dimension lumber.

Oregon companies already sell the Japanese products such as frozen processed potatoes, specialty building materials, fish products, auto accessories, dog food and furniture.

All of the examples above, and more, constitute the "bread and butter" of our international trade with

Japan, which amounted to \$4.3 billion last year. Of equal importance is our continuing contact with major companies such as NEC, Fujitsu and Epson — all of whom are now Oregon businesses — as well as our contact with Japanese financial institutions, trading companies and chambers of commerce.

I opened this office in September 1984, and it has clearly given us an edge in the Japanese and Korean markets.

The staff of three full-time employees and one part-time person include the director who has 14 years' experience in working with a Japanese trading company and with the state's International Trade Division in Portland; a trade-development manager who spent 30 years promoting trade and develop-

ing markets for the U.S. government and Japanese companies, and a special advisor who spent 30 years in diplomatic service, including working as a Japanese consul-general in Portland.

As a liaison, the Tokyo office maintains a library of videotapes, slides, photographs, and Japanese-language business information (such as taxes and land costs) about Oregon.

I encourage Oregonians to use this office when they desire help in trading with Japan or Korea.

If you want further information, or wish to visit the office while in Japan, please contact Chris Carlson of the Oregon Economic Development Department, International Trade Division office, 1500 S.W. First Ave., No. 620, Portland, 97201. Or call him at 229-5625.

