

'Wings,' city deal curtailed parking

The real parking crunch in the Mall area came at the conclusion of 1975; it "flew" in, one might say, on the Capitol wings.

At that time the City of Salem said that it would not issue a building permit because Mall area parking did not comply. The city agreed to issue a conditional use permit if residential neighborhood parking around the Mall were decreased and if there were no major additional parking structures built. The later was necessary to prevent any further deterioration of the downtown air shed, an air shed which would be strained with the addition of the city's Penny-Lipman parking structure.

Legislative action on parking came in the last couple weeks of the 1977 session, always a hectic time. An amendment to Senate Bill 31, a bill which addressed a wide range of Department of General Services activities, set parking fees in all state-owned parking lots at \$20. For some employees, this would be the first time ever they would pay for their parking. In some cities in the state, state employees would be the only people in town having to pay for their parking.

When OSEA lobbyist Bill Wyatt heard about this, he told then-General Services administrator Larry Sprecher and State Rep. Rick Gustafson, whose committee was considering the bill, that he was opposed to such action, especially as it applied to any parking outside of the immediate Capitol Mall area. Wyatt said that OSEA would oppose such a program until reasonable alternatives were available to state employees who worked in Mall-area buildings.

Sprecher, who now heads the Executive Department, was being hit from all sides, Wyatt noted. State employees want adequate and inexpensive

parking; the Legislative Fiscal Office wants the state's lots to start paying for themselves, and the City of Salem wants to keep Mall-area workers from parking in neighborhood areas.

The immediate result of this meeting was that state institutions were not to be covered by parking fees. There was a problem there, however, as will be explained later.

As to other agreements, Sprecher's and Wyatt's "recollections split." Wyatt maintains that they agreed that all outlying areas would not get parking fees.

Following the legislative session Sprecher moved over to the Executive Department and Corinne Hayes was hired to head General Services. Apparently, however, the agreements made in the halls of the Capitol were not passed along. When General Services wrote its rules recently to implement SB 31, especially those having to do with parking, parking fees were set statewide -- outlying areas and state institutions included.

At an administrative hearing in Portland, attended by very few state employees, and at one in Salem in the Employment Division auditorium, to which Fairview Chapter 57 president Dottie Cobb brought over 400 institutional employees, Wyatt said that the parking fees should not apply to any employees outside the immediate Mall area. He added that the fee does not buy a license to park, but rather "a license to hunt" since the lots are oversubscribed.

At a meeting in Hayes' office in May, she, Wyatt and others reaffirmed the free parking at the institutions; agreed to look at the parking situation for the outlying areas; agreed to a re-examination of ALL parking rules, and potentially planned to hold more hearings.

Grant promoted, resigns

SALEM -- OSEA's first woman president resigned May 23 because of a promotion to a position excluded from collective bargaining.

Marie Grant, 43, a motor vehicle representative in



MARIE GRANT



JON LUCKE

the Motor Vehicle Division's Albany office, started work June 5 as the manager of the mobile van operating out of DMV's Bend office. Jon Lucke, of the Employment Division, has moved up from the vice presidency to act as interim president until someone is chosen by the Board of Directors to fill out Grant's term. Grant recommended, at a special

Executive Committee meeting where she announced her resignation, that Lucke be named president and District 8 Director G. Louis Roberts be named vice president until the General Council delegates elect officers for a new term beginning in October.

"I have mixed emotions about even going," Grant said, "because I feel I'm leaving a job half-done. But I don't feel I can turn down a promotion."

In her new job, Grant will supervise one other employee and will travel 1,500 to 2,000 miles a month between Heppner and Lakeview giving drivers license examinations and issuing vehicle registrations.

Figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that OSEA was the third largest union in the country with a woman president while Grant was in office.

Threatened rights

SALEM -- A threat that you're in trouble if you exercise your rights under the collective bargaining agreement needs to be dealt with immediately. When that happened in the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) recently, OSEA Employee Representative Peter De Luca acted so quickly it caught SAIF management off guard and they reacted in a way which later necessitated an apology from them.

When De Luca was advised of this threat by the OSEA job representative on the scene, he decided to handle the case personally and in post haste. He and the job rep went into the office of the supervisor who made the threat and told him that he probably had invited an unfair labor practice charge.

After De Luca left the ASIF building, OSEA Job representative Ron West was called into the office of underwriting director Wilbur Ewert, where he and underwriting manager Dan Morley, West's supervisor, grilled West. As Ewert and Morley put it in their May 5 letter of apology to West, they "wish to apologize for the extensive questioning of Mr. West that occurred on March 3, 1978. . . .; for any conduct from which Mr. West concluded that he was in trouble for contacting OSEA or in accompanying Mr. De Luca in his visit that day to see Mr. Ewert; for any statement which indicated to Mr. West that he or any other employee does not have the right to contact OSEA or should not contact OSEA about any acts which they feel may be unfair labor practices; for directing

that Mr. West explain the difference between a grievance and an unfair labor practice, and for directing Mr. West to prepare a written memo for delivery to Mr. Morley the following week which defined an unfair labor practice and a grievance and explained the difference between them."

That letter of apology was the resolution of OSEA's unfair

labor practice complaint that SAIF management had intimidated employees from exercising their rights under the contract and SAIF management's counter unfair labor practice complaint. Prior to the unfair labor practice hearing, the two sides decided that a letter of apology would be the most appropriate resolution.

The OSEA News dates listed

The OSEA News will be published nine more times between now and the end of the year. Basically, The OSEA News is published every three weeks on Thursdays.

Here are the remaining publication dates:

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	November 2
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