

Observing Vancouver

Metro Councilor Blasts Study

Metro Councilor Rod Monroe criticized a vote taken by the Transportation Futures Committee in Vancouver that could lead to placing a third bridge between Oregon and Washington in the Portland area.

The committee recently voted 10-9 to issue a feasibility study that would pursue building a bridge west of Vancouver through wetlands, north of the Columbia River, south through Forest Park. Theoretically it would connect with

the now-defunct Western Bypass. According to Monroe, who chairs the Metro Council Budget and Finance Committee, this study would be a waste of time and taxpayer dollars. "This project has been a boondoggle from the beginning,"

he said. "The plan would wipe out wetlands, habitats for the bald eagle and ducks, and pave a part of Forest Park."

Monroe, who represents Metro on the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Commission, said he

has had a good working relationship with Clark County leaders and will continue to work toward a balanced and environmentally safe bi-state transportation plan.

"If Washington builds a bridge with the guidelines set forth by the Transportation Futures Committee, the residents there better get scuba gear for their cars because the bridge won't be built on the Oregon side and will end in the middle of the Columbia River," he said.

Humane Society Joins In Pet Adoptathon '96

The Vancouver Humane Society is joining more than 700 shelters throughout the United States and Canada for Pet Adoptathon '96, a first-ever effort to bring thousands of homeless dogs, cats, puppies and kittens together with good adoptive families during one weekend. The Vancouver shelter will remain open for adoptions for 36 hours straight starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 4 and continuing through 9 p.m. Sunday, May 5.

"Our goal for this event is to adopt out as many animals as we have available during the week-

end," says Richard Collord, executive director of the Vancouver Humane Society. "We also hope to generate awareness of the shelter's work with animal care in the community."

Prospective adopters can stop by anytime during the 36-hour event. Counselors will be on-hand to help match orphaned pets with loving families. Every adopting family will receive a free starter package filled with lams dog or cat food and helpful information about proper pet care. The lams Company is a national sponsor of the Pet Adoptathon.

The Vancouver Humane Society

is the largest animal shelter in southwest Washington, handling nearly 7,000 animals each year. The Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing cruelty to animals, providing care for homeless and distressed animals, and educating the public about proper animal care.

The shelter is located at 2323 W. 26th Street Extension. From I-5, head west on Fourth Plain Boulevard over the railroad overpass and follow Humane Society signs. For more information, call (360) 693-4746.

Clark County To Fill Vacancy On Historic Preservation Commission

The Clark County Board of Commissioners is recruiting for a county resident to serve on the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission, an advisory board within the Planning Division.

The commission reviews applications for historic tax valuation, maintains the local historic register, identifies historic/landmark buildings and sites, facilitates the

process to nominate properties to the national historic register, and reviews and recommends ordinance changes.

The appointment will fulfill the remaining three months of a one year term and will serve a three year term expiring June 30, 1999. For specific information regarding meeting times, expected time commitment and other commission information please

contact Elise Scolnick, Planner II, at 699-2375 extension 4958.

If you are interested in serving please submit a letter of interest and/or resume by March 15, 1996 to: Clark County Board of Commissioners, Attn: Linda Dygert, Heritage Commission Appointment,

P.O. Box 5000, Vancouver WA 98666 5000

Advice On Vintage Homes Offered

The City of Vancouver's Office of Heritage Services will hold a workshop for people who own or are thinking about buying a vintage home. "How to Evaluate the Condition and Integrity of Your Vintage Home" is set Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon at Grant House,

1101 Officers Row. Dave McKay, veteran old house owner and professional inspector, will conduct the workshop with Jane Morrison, preservationist and Office of Heritage Services coordinator.

McKay will focus on evaluating the condition of a house from rafters

to basement. Morrison will teach participants how to distinguish original features from later additions. "This class will give homeowners information and tools to tackle the evaluation of older homes," says Morrison.

Class size is limited. To pre-register, call 696-8236 or 696-8219.

From Welfare To Work Step By Step

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is heavy on self-confidence building and teaches how to turn what they have into something marketable. The sessions include career assessment and vocational guidance.

Steps offers five-to six week classes for those who want to get a GED and if it takes longer, Adult Basic Education focuses on enhancing employability skills and referrals to longer term educational support.

The program has a computer lab on site and holds classes from basic computer use to database programs it also offers a popular office technician course. There

is a resource room, an AFS office and a representative from the Employment Division on hand. Two mental health counselors and a drug and alcohol counselor are there and once a week, a naturopathic clinic come to the program.

Their holistic approach has led to a highly successful program and is becoming a model for reforming welfare in other states.

Program Services Coordinator Gary Coleman contributes the success of Steps to an honest approach.

"It's not how we manage. It's not our services. It's the quality of respect we have for those we serve," he says.

Always changing, the new welfare wavers will alter how steps works. And the staff is always looking for better ways to get more people into the workforce.

Recently, most of the staff received 90-day layoff notices, an effect of the budget crises in Washington. As long as funding is not firm, the staff has to be given notice. "We're not in panic mode yet," says Coleman. "We'll keep serving our clients to the best of our abilities, but it does make for stressful times."

Nevertheless, they will celebrate their 5,000th hire Friday, April 19 at their 10 a.m. Pod. For them it will be a bash.

Boise Neighborhood Considers Pub

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by this corner and the existence of illegal activities, disruption of businesses by drunks and property damages. I think granting a liquor license is an open invitation for further deterioration."

To this, owner Jeff Stewart and consultant John Thompson say they

hope Easy Street will be a good place to eat and hear music, not a problem bar. Stewart has withdrawn his original request to sell beer and wine to go, and has offered to close at midnight rather than 2:30 a.m.

"We could use a place to have a sandwich, and right now there's no place," said resident Edward T. Durham. "I'm not sure how I feel about a tavern in

the neighborhood, but I'm willing to go with it if it closes by midnight."

Some questioned whether the building can seat 50 people and still have space for a working kitchen. "What kind of food will you serve, cold sandwiches?" one man asked.

"I don't like it. Crime is down now, but whenever a bar opens up it goes right up," said resident, Stan Evenson.

The Road To The White House, And The Road To The Poor House

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

The avenues to power and wealth in this country are not always paved with good intentions—or any intentions at all. The path is often serenely duplicitous. Pretty much the same with poverty, except that even less effort is required.

The tragic death of Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown certainly emphasizes the first instance, not that the super-competent 'Ambassador For Economic Development' was considered to be on track for the highest office in the land. But rather that the unfortunate circumstances forced from President Bill Clinton the admission that an African American was directly responsible for his position; Ron Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee and had promptly moved to unite a dispirited Democratic Party. As a result riches have flowed to the many.

In the second instance we have for our model the blackman who 'implemented' the presidency of Gerald Ford who succeeded Richard Nixon, and whose inept performance led to another Democratic occupancy of the White House, Jimmy what! You don't remember Frank Wills? The dedicated young security guard who discovered the "Watergate burglars."

For better or worse, the course of the nation and indeed the world, was changed that fateful night in 1972 when our lowly-paid, but conscientious guardian of the Democratic National

Committee Offices blew the whistle heard around the globe. A series of events was set in motion that have made some persons famous, some rich, some shamed, some imprisoned, and some absolutely poverty stricken like our most unfortunate Mr. Frank Wills.

Speaking of whom, we may allot the "15 minutes of fame" so eloquently described by Andy Warhol, but none of the largesse and earthly riches received by other actors in the Watergate play, television, movies, talk shows, books, personal appearances — concentrated exposure and exploitation. The last we heard of Mr. Wills, he was lonely, forgotten and middle-aged, still caressing his cat and on welfare, being relatively unemployable after being busted for shoplifting a pair of Nikes. Andy Warhol was still right, I suppose.

Being of an eminently curious nature and particularly upset by this outrageous turn of a fickle fate, I decided to get off a Fax to the man who was right at the heart of things from the beginning; Bob Woodward, chief investigative reporter for the Washington Post Newspaper. This is the man who made a journalistic career out of the Watergate caper. He can tell us, if anyone, just what turn that fickle fate has taken. I'll keep you advised about Mr. Wills.

Looking at our own situations which certainly are less tragic and less world-shaking, but, of course, are very, very important to our indi-

vidual economic welfare. As you are aware, I have devoted the past few weeks to an examination of the state of affairs in education at the basic skills level. And I particularly have emphasized the effective integration into a highly technical workplace that can be accomplished by common sensical approaches — methodologies ... that seem to have been abandoned over the last fifty years.

Several human resource people whose groups I've recently spoken to, called to ask had I seen a particular article in Monday's Oregonian Newspaper for April 15: Indeed I had, "Audit Cites Abuse In Temporary Foreign worker program." It was said that "thousands of immigrants in high-skill jobs are pushing out American workers, and many are illegally remaining in the U.S." The Associated Press dispatch goes on to say that "the program has become a rubber stamp for both skilled and unskilled immigrants seeking to live and work in this country."

This is very bad news for those of us who have been tirelessly working to train and prepare our own youngsters for a viable interface with current realities of technology — and up to now, with some degree of success I might say. We sense the urgency of the situation and are meeting this week-end in Beaverton to consider a response.

Continued next week.

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