

Observing

City Water Utility Gets High Marks From EPA For Successful Response To Groundwater Contamination

A fact sheet that will soon be released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that the City of Vancouver Water Utility has done an excellent job, over the past several years, in addressing contamination problems near two of its well fields. The fact sheet will describe activities and EPA investigations and monitoring at Vancouver Water Station #1 (Waterworks Park) and Station #4 (Blandford and E. Fifth Street).

The report and the city's own rigorous testing program confirm that the City of Vancouver continues to supply drinking water that is clean and safe and exceeds all federal and state requirements regarding contaminants. Quality control of the water supplied to city customers is assured through comprehensive daily testing. Some 4974 tests were conducted in 1997.

In 1988, trace amounts of volatile organic contaminants, mostly perchlorethylene (PCE) were first detected in groundwater pumped at Station #4 and Station #1. Station #4 was shut down as soon as practical. Station #1 was not shut down for any appreciable length of time because contamination was well under federal limits. Two water treatment towers, that remove the trace contamination as water is pumped from the aquifer, were erected and put into operation at Station #4 in 1992. Although PCE levels at Station #1 were far below federal limits, five such towers were constructed as a precautionary measure and went on-line in 1993.

The treatment towers at Station #4, which initially had PCE concentrations above the then proposed federal limits, produces water meeting all federal requirements. Measurable

levels of PCE in pre-treated water declined since 1993. The towers at Station #1 have produced water with no detectable PCE.

The City of Vancouver together with the EPA have continued work to locate and eliminate the off-site sources of the PCE. Contamination was found in many places outside the water stations, but few definite sources of the contamination have been located.

Complete water quality information is contained in an Annual Water Quality Report, which has been mailed to all Vancouver Water Utility customers each spring since 1992. For the most recent copy of this report contact, Richard Hoffman, water quality supervisor, at 696-8243. The report is also available on the city's Internet site at:

www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/vanpw/wqr-97/wqr-97.htm

OMSI RECEIVES LARGEST DONATION IN HISTORY

\$3.3 MILLION GRANT LAUNCHES NEW ENDOWMENT FUND

The latest in a string of positive announcements, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry announced recently it is the beneficiary of a \$3.3 million matching grant from the Christine and C.F. Swigert, Jr. Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation. The grant is the largest single donation ever made for OMSI's benefit in the museum's 54-year history.

The donation, plus matching funds OMSI secures on its own, will be placed into a new endowment named the Christine and C.F. Swigert, Jr. Endowment for the Benefit of OMSI. The endowment will be administered independently by The Oregon Community Foundation. It is restricted for the support of building maintenance and improvements, and for the development and maintenance of permanent and traveling exhibits. The endowment cannot be used by OMSI for the

payment of building debt or for day-to-day operating costs.

To secure the full \$3.3 million in matching funds, OMSI must raise 50% of the donation, or \$1.65 million, within a three year period. OMSI Board of Co-chair Harry Demorest will lead the fund-raising effort in the community. To show his personal commitment, Demorest has made the first matching gift of \$50,000.

Christine Swigert, who died in 1990, was one of OMSI's most ardent supporters. She made her first donation of \$15,000 to OMSI in 1957, and continued to support OMSI on an annual basis and for special projects. Her husband Charles F. (Fred) Swigert, Jr., and his brother Ernest made a significant donation to OMSI in 1958 for construction of the Swigert Hall of Science, which was part of OMSI's then new building in Washington Park that opened in September 1959. Fred and Ernest's father,

Charles, founded the Portland steel manufacturing company ESCO in 1913. The family also developed Hyster Company into an international business.

Loren McKinley, who served as OMSI's executive director from 1960 to 1980, remembers Christine Swigert as "a superb friend to OMSI. She would visit regularly and ask how she could help. At Thanksgiving time, she would even bring us homemade pumpkin pie."

The challenge grant was made by The Oregon Community Foundation upon the recommendation of an advisory committee to the Christine and C.F. Swigert, Jr. Fund at OCF. Members of the advisory committee are Hank Swigert, who is Christine's nephew, Steve Schell and Jess Rogerson. Schell was Mrs. Swigert's attorney, and Rogerson was her financial advisor.

POLICE NEWS

Concentrated Curfew Enforcement Results

On Friday, June 26 and Saturday June 27, the Portland Police Bureau conducted curfew sweeps in which a total of 140 juveniles were processed for violation of

the curfew ordinance. Included in the 140, were several juveniles with misdemeanor and felony warrants, and one juvenile carrying a .22 caliber derringer.

Throughout the summer months, the Portland Police Bureau will continue to conduct concentrated curfew enforcement efforts.

Kidnapping

Portland Police Bureau Investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the suspects in a Kidnapping.

On Tuesday, June 9, 1998, at about 9:30 in the evening, two girls ages 12 and 13, were approached by a man and woman in a truck at Southeast 82nd Avenue and Foster Road. The girls were lured into the vehicle with the promise of a job. The two were then driven to an

unknown location where they were molested.

Suspect #1, who said his name was Rick, is described as a white male in his 40's, 5'10" tall, with medium build and sandy brown hair. He was clean shaven and has the name "Ellen" tattooed on his upper chest.

Suspect #2, is a white female in her late 30's, 5'2" tall with medium to stocky build, and shoulder length blond hair with dark roots show-

ing. The truck was described as a conventional style, bright red tractor trailer cab with a sleeping compartment. At the time it did not have a trailer.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.

Along the Color Line-Inside Sing Sing Prison-by Manning Marable

In the United States today, there are over 1.7 million young men incarcerated in federal and state prisons, and local jails. About one-half of all prisoners are African American men. Roughly one-third of all young black males in their twenties are either in prison or jail, on probation, parole or awaiting trial. We know these terrible statistics, but don't always think about the destructive human costs being experienced by this generation of young black men within the prison industrial complex and the racist criminal justice system.

Yet one really can't understand how an entire generation of our young men is being destroyed until you go inside a prison. And several day ago, I spend the day inside one of country's best known and infamous prisons—Sing Sing. Constructed originally in the early nineteenth century, Sing Sing is perched high on the rocky cliffs overlooking the Hudson River, less than forty miles north of New York City. Its notorious death house, located in the remnants of the former prison grounds, was the site of execution for hundreds of prisoners.

I was the guest of the prison education program sponsored by the New York Theological Seminary. The Masters' degree program involves about fifteen to twenty men each academic year, who complete their requirements for positions as counselors, teachers and chaplains' assistants in the New York prison system. The students pay no tuition, but the program received not a dime of government support or funding. Lecturers volunteer their time and services

to the prisoners. I thought I knew what to expect, because I have previously visited and spoken in prisons. But Sing Sing is different.

The entrance for such a huge facility was surprisingly small: a narrow doorway and small chamber, with several armed guards and a walk through metal detector. Behind the first series of barred doors, there were a small cluster of prisoners sitting quietly on several benches along a corridor. I asked the prison chaplain what they were waiting for. He explained that each of them would be waiting for hours, in order to have fifteen minute hearings before the parole board. In fifteen short minutes, they would learn whether they would be released or ordered to spend additional years behind bars.

We walked slowly through the twists and turns of the old building. The chaplain stopped, turned and asked me, "Would you like to see Cell Block B?" I had heard about Cell Block B. About fifteen years ago prisoners in that cell block and seized control for several days, protesting against inhumane conditions. Seventeen prison guards had been taken hostage. The cell block was said to be one of the largest single prison units in the world.

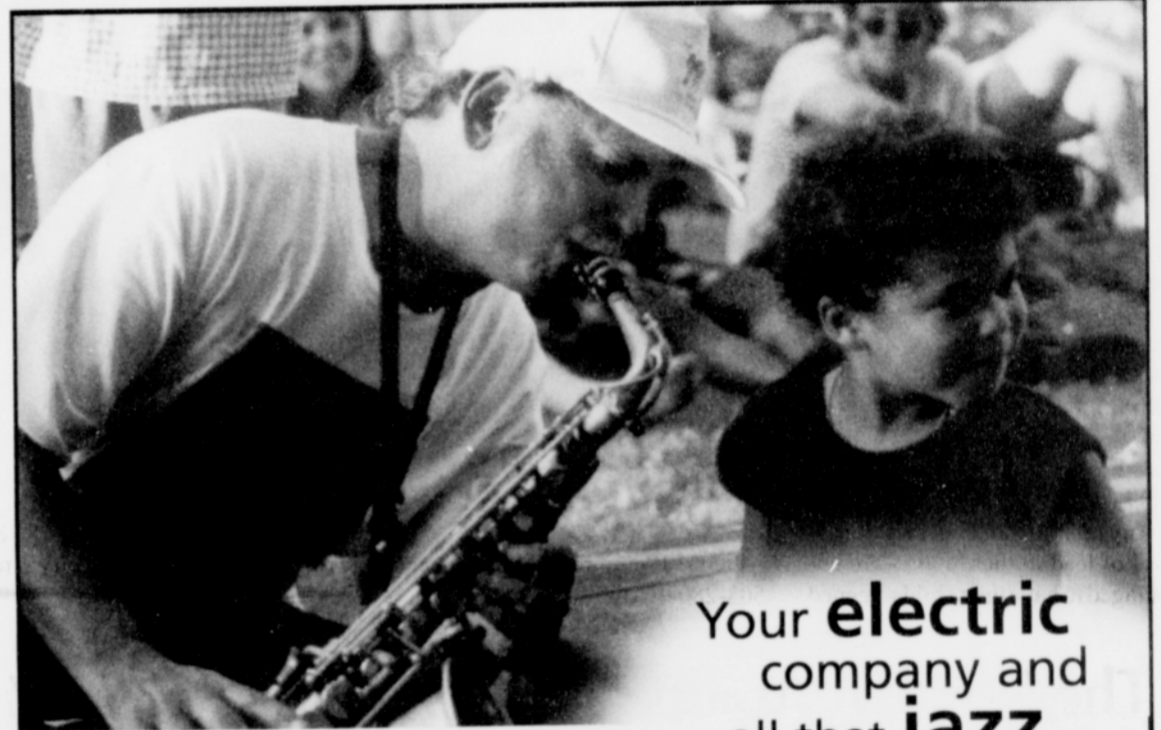
We then walked through a series of double barred steel doors, separated by small interlocking security chambers. Walking through the final door, we came into a vast open space, surrounded by thick concrete walls and ceiling. In the center of this huge room, almost filling up the entire space, was a huge steel cage, five stories high. Each story or tier was comprised of 64

separate prison cells. Floors were separated by small railed catwalks and narrow stairwells. An equal number of cells stood behind this steel wall of cages.

Each cell was a tiny confined space, with barely enough room for a prisoner's toilet, sink and bed. Prisoners were not allowed to place any clothing or items covering the front of their cells, except when using their toilets. In effect, personal privacy was nonexistent. The massive metal structure was like a huge iron and steel echo chamber, where every sound from tier to tier resonated and could be easily heard. For me, there was an overwhelming sense of dehumanization and social control. It would be easy to feel hopeless against the oppressive weight of such cruel power.

Yet somehow hope does survive. The brothers I spoke with that day, as well as others who have taken part in the program, reflect an incredible courage and self-awareness. Most of them were in their thirties or forties, and had been incarcerated from ten to twenty-five years. Typical of them was on thirty-nine year old brother from Brooklyn, who had been imprisoned for more than a decade. During his prison time, he had earned two BA degree, and had nearly completed a Masters of Professional Studies degree. He was actively involved in an anti-violence project among other prisoners.

All of these black men had overcome difficulties and mistakes they had made, and with great moral energy and personal strength they had turned their lives around.



Your electric company and all that jazz.

PGE is your reliable connection to electricity. But we like to be connected with the community in other ways, too. That's why PGE is helping sponsor the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival, July 18-19. Pack up your lawn chairs and head on over—we'll see you there!

PGE is proud to participate in community events like this, because we're more than than the power company. We're also your neighbors.



Portland General Electric

CONNECTING PEOPLE, POWER AND POSSIBILITIES

OREGON CONVENTION CENTER
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JULY EVENTS

Event	Expected Attendance	Est. Economic Benefit
July 2 Diamond Convention G. Duncan Family Reunion	3,600	\$2,242,800
July 9 Diamond Convention Purveyer Family Reunion	8,000	\$4,984,000
July 10 Unraveling The New World Order Prophecy Conference (Local-Open To The Public)	500	\$12,000
July 14 NW Trade Show Management Career Fair (Local-Open To The Public)	1,000	\$24,000
July 16 National Association of Counties	5,000	\$3,115,000
July 26 Pacific Northwest Wedding Showcase (Local-Open To The Public)	2,000	\$48,000
July 30 Diamond Convention B. Duncan Family Reunion	6,800	\$4,236,000
July 31 American Numismatic Association	12,000	\$6,240,000
July 31 Promociones Tropical-Dance (Local-Open To The Public)	3,000	\$72,000

Estimated Total Economic Benefit For The Region For July \$20,974,200