

# Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 years ago

Jan. 23, 1985

## McDonald's chain ponders site in CG

The fast food mogul McDonald's is considering signing and option agreement on a 4 1/2-acre parcel of undeveloped land near the Cottage Grove I-5 exit, according to a high-ranking official at the restaurant chain's regional headquarters in Bellevue, Wash. McDonald's real estate manager Mel Brook said Monday it may take up to 30 days before an agreement is signed, but that a restaurant could be opened here by late summer.

"We really don't know what we're going to do with it," Brooks said of the property. "We want to put a McDonald's there, but we really need time to study it." Cottage Grove attorney Ron Irvine, who represents the owners of the Cottage Grove property, confirmed McDonald's is interested in purchasing the land. "We are now in the process of negotiating an option on the property with McDonald's," he said. "We're waiting for them to return the documents." Brook said while "we're close to a firm agreement with the landowners," Cottage Grove residents should realize a series of hurdles need to be cleared before the golden arches are raised here.

He explained that even if an option agreement is signed, McDonald's will need up to four months for engineering work and to study the feasibility of opening a restaurant in Cottage Grove. Even then, McDonald's may elect to pass up the land — although Brook considers that doubtful. If the nationwide fast-food corporation decides to purchase the land, Brook explained, McDonald's will apply for the necessary building permits from the city. Upon approval from the city, construction on a restaurant could commence. Brook said it usually takes about 110 days to build one of these restaurants once ground is broken.

Though the McDonald's restaurant here would primarily draw local customers, it would likely need to pull from freeway traffic to succeed, Brook said. The heavy tourist trade found in the summer months could prompt quicker action on the restaurant, he hinted. "I would say we would be pushing to open a store by mid-summer" assuming everything proceeds smoothly, Brook said. If all does proceed smoothly, the McDonald's franchise for Cottage Grove will likely be awarded to a Eugene man who is already operating McDonald's restaurants in Eugene, Lebanon and Albany.

## Last year was Oregon's second-warmest on record

BY MARK FLOYD  
For the Sentinel

The year 2014 was the hottest on Earth in 134 years of record-keeping, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported on Friday, continuing a pattern of global warming that is attributed primarily to rising levels of greenhouse gases.

Oregon was not exempt from the warming and logged the second hottest year since records were kept beginning in 1895, according to researchers with the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University.

"We had a warm summer, and now a warm winter and that's where we got our warm year," said Kathie Dello, deputy director of the center. "We are looking at our future right now — warm winters and low snowpacks."

The average statewide temperature in Oregon in 2014 was 49.5 degrees, which is 3.0 degrees above the average for the 20th century. The only hotter year on record was 1934 — when the United States suffered through the Dust Bowl. The average temperature in Oregon that year was 49.9.

Low snowpacks are of particular concern later in the year when less water is available, Dello pointed out.

"Drought continues to be a concern in southern and eastern Oregon, as well as in California," she said. "The temperature outlook for the next three months is pointing toward continued warm temperatures for the western United States."

According to NOAA, the average 2014 temperature across both land and ocean surfaces

globally was 1.24 degrees above the 20th-century average. This was the highest among all years on record dating back to 1880, the agency noted.

Regions that were considered the warmest last year, according to NOAA, included eastern Russia, the western United States, portions of Australia, much of the northeastern Pacific Ocean, segments of the equatorial Pacific, large swaths of the Atlantic Ocean, most of the Norwegian Sea, and parts of the central to southern Indian Ocean.

Philip Mote, director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, said the subtlety of rising temperatures on a global scale can be hard to comprehend, since people tend to view climate based on their personal experiences.

"Most of us relate to climate through what we remember and the week-long spell of near-record cold, snow and ice last February may seem more pertinent or convincing than global mean temperature," Mote said. "But from a physics perspective, global mean temperature represents lots of interesting processes — rising greenhouse gases among them."

"Setting a record like this means those processes lined up this year," Mote added. "On average, greenhouse gas increases make each year roughly .04 degrees warmer than the last — which may not sound like much, but really adds up over time."

At that rate, the temperature would increase one degree every 25 years, and four degrees each century — an alarming rate of increase, scientists say. "And unless emissions of greenhouse gases are curbed," Mote said, "the warming is likely to be faster than that in the future."

## POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

Jan. 12

### Follow-up, N 9th St

A reporting person requested a follow-up on a case regarding a pair of underwear found on her ceiling fan; she has identified a possible suspect.

### Criminal mischief, E Quincy Ave

A caller reported damage to a rear fence that occurred sometime Friday night. There was no suspect info, and the estimated damage was \$20.

### Shoplift, Walmart

Complainant reported that a theft occurred at 11:30 p.m. the night before and that he has video of the incident. The stolen

property is approximately 120 pieces of silver and stainless steel jewelry valued at \$2,404.

### Criminal mischief, S 6th St

Caller reported three broken windows on the south side of the building. There was no suspect, and the estimated damage was \$900-\$1000.

Jan. 13

### Burglary, Harvey Rd

Caller said she had just returned home from a trip and found her residence burglarized. Numerous items had been taken, including an iMac computer valued at \$1500.

Jan. 16

### Suspicious condition, Dari Mart

Reporting person said that a young boy came into the business asking for directions to the coast, saying that he was going to walk there. The reporting person was concerned for the child's welfare.

Jan. 17

### Follow-up, Police Station

Complainant brought a small, plastic baggie containing two hairs he found in his vehicle that do not belong to him. It was determined that the hairs had no evidentiary value and were disposed of.

### Unlawful entry into motor vehicle, Blue Sky Dr.

Caller reported multiple things missing from his vehicle, including a Sony digital camera (\$900), a Compaq Presario laptop (\$100), an Acer Aspire laptop (\$500) and miscellaneous clothing (\$100). There was no suspect info.

Jan. 18

### Animal injured, S 6th St and Lincoln

A reporting person said that there was a possibly dead animal in the intersection at the location. The officer contacted the owner at the scene, who then removed the animal from the roadway.

## OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

did not work out and Blum's runner had to bribe suspicious farmers and curious riverboat pilots to retrieve it.

That summer, Blum tried to smuggle some dope into San Francisco in two big steamer

trunks but lost the claim check to one of the trunks. He was followed by two accomplices, one of whom got busted with a full 250 pounds. By the time the thumbfingered drug-runners finally straggled back home to

Portland, they discovered someone had stolen 800 more than pounds of opium from a gang member's house. Apparently the word was out on the street.

A little later, 1400 pounds of dope were chucked off the Wilmington and successfully retrieved and hauled to a gang member's house, as they often did, in the middle of the night. This evening was special, though, because the gang member's wife had gotten into a feud with one of the neighbors, who had been just waiting for them to bring in another big load so she could call the cops on them. Luckily, when she did, she got hold of a friend of Blum's

at the police station. So Blum ran down and introduced himself as a detective, took her information, thanked her and told her authorities were on the job. While he kept her busy telling him all about what his gang members had been up to, the gang members themselves were busy loading up a ton and a half of dope and hauling it off to someone else's house.

### Busted

This sort of thing, of course, couldn't go on forever. In December 1893, a grand jury handed down indictments against everyone ... including

Jim Lotan. The charges involved smuggling more than two tons of opium and running a human-trafficking operation smuggling undocumented Chinese laborers into Portland. Also indicted was Seid Back, the most prominent and successful Chinese merchant in the Northwest. Hoping to catch a break, Blum turned state's evidence, was placed on the stand and started singing.

The trial held the city spellbound. But Lotan and Back hadn't much need to worry. The roster of court officers at this trial reads like an excerpt from the Arlington Club directory. Lotan was represented by future Senator Charles W. Fulton. Former and future state Senate President Joseph Simon represented another defendant. Perhaps most outrageously, federal prosecutor John Gearin — who had just been appointed by President Grover Cleveland as special prosecutor for opium frauds — was, in the case of this particular opium fraud, on the side of the defense. The judge was one of Simon's former law partners, and the jury foreman was fellow Arlington Club member Charles Ladd.

The smugglers go free

So the trial ended with a hung jury. The word on the street was that the vote was 11 to 1; jury foreman Ladd had refused to vote to convict his friend. A new trial would have to be scheduled.

But one never was. Before a new trial could be scheduled, Mr. Blum ... disappeared. Odd coincidence, yes?

As for Lotan, the resulting bad publicity does seem to have hurt him ... but not much. The following year, the city relented and bought the aging, decrepit, increasingly unseaworthy Stark Street Ferry from him for \$40,000 — which was still an overpayment on the order of 2,000 percent.

(Sources: MacColl, E. Kimbark. Merchants, Money and Power: The Portland Establishment 1843-1913. Portland: Georgian Press, 1988; Portland Daily Telegraph, 11/27-12/24/1893; Portland Oregonian, 11/29/1893)

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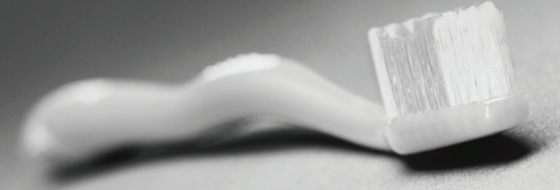
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