



## Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

**Shh, Anti-Noise Law Going Into Effect**  
Oregon's noise control law probably will be enforced sometime early next year. But don't hold your breath waiting for sweet silence. Chances are you won't notice any difference right away. That is unless you are a motor cycle rider, auto or boat

racing fan, snowmobile driver or happen to live next door to a rock crusher.

It's unlikely many people have homes situated in the latter instance. But there are a lot of cycle riders, racing buffs and off-road recreation vehicle people who will feel put upon by proposed noise-control regulations.

Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission was charged with regulating noise when the legislature enacted H.B. 1669 back during the 1971 session in Salem. The bill became law June 25 that year and EQC authorized development of a program in October 1972.

Now, after a year of study, monitoring existing noises and surveying the problem extensively, the DEQ has promulgated regulations and will conduct public hearings this month or next. Initial airing will be in Eugene Oct. 29, followed by sessions in Portland, Oct. 30; Pendleton, Nov. 5; Medford, Nov. 7; and Roseburg, Nov. 8.

Generally, proposed rules call for initial enforcement Jan. 1, 1974, and imposition of more stringent requirements a year later. Overall, the purpose of the new regulations is to protect noise sensitive areas—meaning residential property—from racket loud enough to disturb sleep or disrupt outdoor neighborhood conversation.

Initial rules cover six areas of involvement: (1) motorcycles and off-road recreation vehicles (2) road vehicles (3) racing events (4) public roads (5) industry and commerce and (6) schools.

The proposals for schools are strictly advisory in nature and suggest volunteer compliance. For practical purposes the suggestions deal with hearing conservation and bear down principally on excessive amplified music at school dances.

In the case of all vehicles, muffler and exhaust noises are the targets. State police are charged with issuing citations to drivers of vehicles altered to create a sound louder than that emitted by standard equipment. Certification procedures for qualifying replacement equipment are yet to be determined.

DEQ expects extensive controversy regarding racing standards and vehicular tracks adjacent to residential areas likely will have trouble complying with the new law. Water skiers and anglers probably won't have any trouble because authorities now are concerned mainly with V8 dry-stack types of racing boats.

Highway engineers may raise lots of questions because standards might be imposed requiring extensive changes in design of new thoroughfares. And there will be new requirements for industry and commerce. But a DEQ spokesman indicated most industrial plants—their operators aware of implications of the law when it was passed two years ago—have already complied or are planning compliance. However, difficult problems will arise in some instances where residential areas have been permitted to grow up around existing industries.

To those unfamiliar with the subject of sound, much of the language in the new regulations is pure Greek. The definition of Sound Pressure Level (SPL) for instance, reads: "200 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the root-mean-square pressure of the sound to the reference microneutons per square meter."

Actually, SPL is measured in decibels—which may be a more familiar term. A unit for measuring relative loudness of sounds ordinarily detectable by the human ear, decibels range from zero to about 130. Ordinary speech at a distance

of three feet registers 60 to 70 decibels, for instance.

And, interesting enough, sounds from two sources don't add up to twice as much noise, nor does the total sound decrease by half when one of two sources is turned off. In other words, two 60-decibel sound sources sitting side by side—both emitting noise simultaneously—don't produce a 120-decibel racket. The increase in noise is hardly distinguishable.

Another interesting factor in the regulations deals with property lines of noise sensitive properties. An offender generally can produce all the noise he wants on his own property just as long as that noise isn't audible at offending levels on noise sensitive properties.

And perhaps the most interesting aspect is that DEQ staff, already heavily burdened by demands of other environmental regulations, probably won't be seeking out many offenders themselves

unless the public complains.

Meanwhile, DEQ's enforcement load has been lightened to some degree by subsequent passage of federal noise control legislation—in particular that involving aircraft and airports. At the same time, Freightliner Corp. headquarters in Portland is working with federal assistance to develop a "quiet truck."

The important thing for most of us to realize, is that imposition of noise control levels won't cover certain things that aggravate us personally. Like somebody's charged with muzzling the neighbor's barking dog or yowling cat. The same neighbor retains the right to sing as loudly as he likes in the bathtub and his wife can still scream at their kids. The stereo in the adjacent apartment is not covered by the new law. Nobody's requiring silencers on hunting rifles or yet muffling train whistles and fire engine sirens.

How's that? New noise con-

trol what? Can't hear ya over the racket.

## Linn County Banking

### Up in August

Bank debits for the 16 reporting banks including Linn County's were up in August 1973, compared to August 1972, the U. of O. Bureau of Business and Economic Research has reported.

Debits for August 1973, totaled \$129,629,000. For July 1973, the total was \$118,333,000 and for August 1972, the total was \$101,628,000.

Oregon, with 425 banks reporting, had a percentage increase of 8.1 in August 1973, as compared with July, 1973, and a 38.8% increase in August 1973, compared with August 1972.

Total bank debits for August 1973, came to \$9,471,481,000. For July 1973, the total was \$8,815,297,000 and for August 1972, the total was \$8,865,463,000.

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## BOWLING



### Stayton Invitational

Name of Team	W	L
Madison-Davis Ins.	17	3
Dery Trucking	11	5
N. S. Real Estate	6	14
Commack Ins.	5	11
Santiam		
Rest. & Lounge	5	3
Laird Ins.	4	12

High individual game — Lillian Meeker 195; high individual series — Lillian Meeker 518; high team game — Madison-Davis 525; high team series — Madison-Davis 1465.

### Koffee Klatchers

Name of Team	W	L
Freres Lumber Co.	15	1
Girod's	12	4
Bob & Bill's	10	6
Frontier Inn	8	8
Ray's Drug	7	9
Earl's Chevron	6	6
Gene's Meat Mkt.	5	7
Ditter's	4	12
Jerry's Tavern	3	13
Riverview	2	6

High individual game — Shirley Sharp 213; high individual series — Shirley Sharp 505; high team game — Freres Lumber Co. 963; high team series — Ray's Drug 2693.

Converted splits — 5-7-9, Dorothy Nye; 5-8-10, Rosemarie Fritz.



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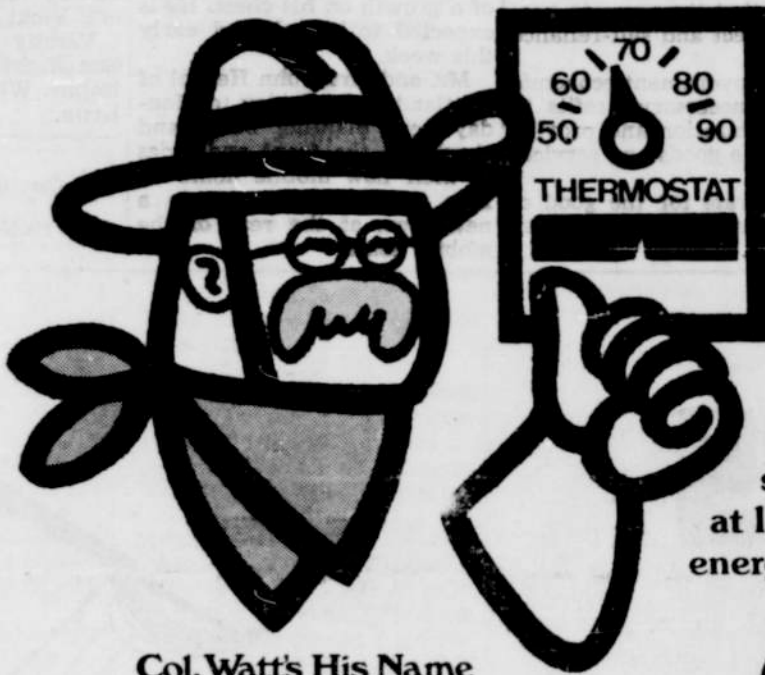
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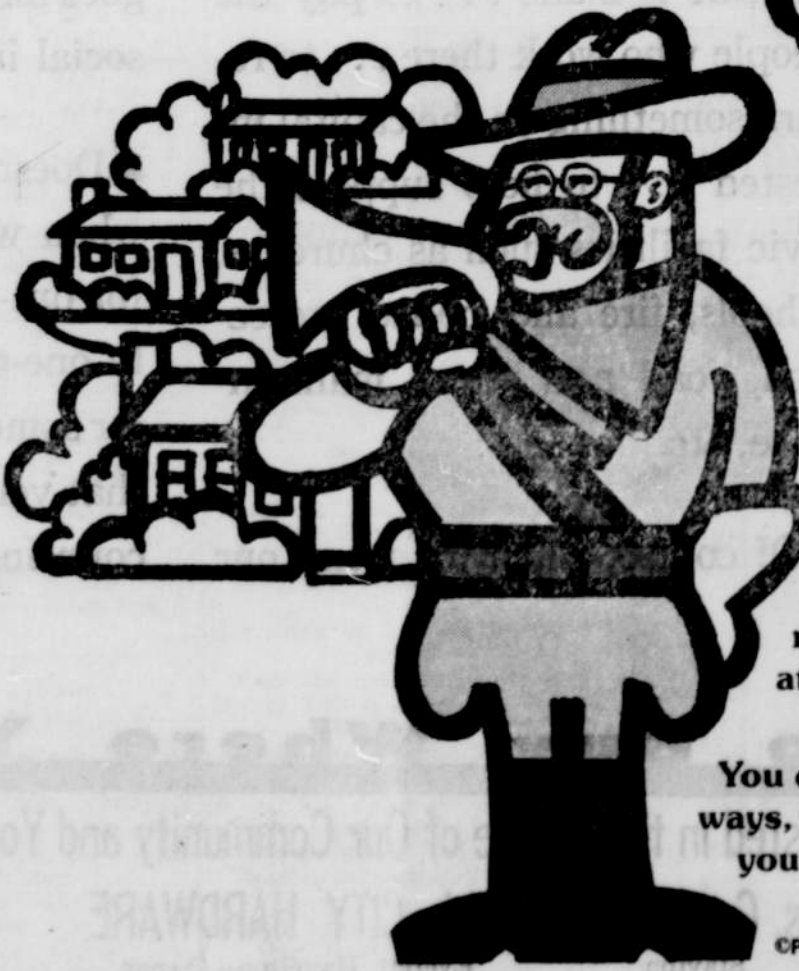
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"Home heating, regardless of the fuel, is the largest energy user. But there are savings right at your fingertips! During the day, leave your thermostat at the lowest comfortable setting. And at night lower it at least 10 degrees for additional energy savings."

"It isn't easy to stay in hot water... your water heater is the second largest energy user in your home. To save energy, take shorter showers or half-full baths and use your clothes washer and dishwasher only when you have a full load!"



"You don't have to hear a bugle call to know when it's time for lights out. Please remember to turn off all lights you don't need. But we don't recommend turning off lights required for safety or security. (And don't forget to turn off the radio and TV when nobody's paying attention to them!)"

You can save energy in many other ways, too. Just remember to... use what you need, but save all you can!

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