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Last Will and Testament of Ernie Bonner on leaving planning job

Ernest Bonner

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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
of Ernie Bonner

On the occasion of his passing from service with the City to other adventures in the great beyond, Mr. Bonner wills the following:

To Winell Wood: All the booze and other fine gifts that rich - but unknowing - developers give to me this next Christmas.

To Frank Frost: A short-term lease on my personal roll-top desk at a price he can afford, and the purple and orange tie I got for Christmas to go with the brown suit he wears in presentations to City Council.

To Denny Wilde: All of the plants in my room, and my share of the HCD Budget next year.

To Doug Wright: My fan and my condolences throughout another long hot summer, and Lynn's private telephone number at Tri-Met in case he ever needs a bus.

To Tracy Watson: The secret plan for Portland that the neighborhood associations think I have.

To All Others on the Staff: My roll-top desk

To Mike Lindberg: 4 years and 7 months of phone messages (some 13,416 in all) - stored in the drawers of the roll-top desk now the property of the staff, and 2 file drawers full of OPD reorganization schemes (some dated one month after OPD was formed) with hand-written scribbled comments in the margins (mostly 4-letter). I also have not answered any complaints of improprieties in our budget or personnel practices from the Office of Management Services since June 1976. Those complaints - some are subpoenas - are being shipped to Mike tomorrow.

To George Flerlage: My personally autographed copy of the Zoning Code, which I have not taken the time to update since July 1975. Also, the handsome acrylic plastic loose-leaf notebook in which it is stored, along with my entire collection of loose-leaf notebooks, some 317 in all. And as a contribution to the fine art he has assembled for his office, my copy of the Lynn Bowman Company map of regional industrial sites - a 4-color beauty suitable for framing, and personally autographed by Mort Michaelson and Laila Cully.

To Gus Minden & Rowland Rose': Joint ownership of 9 golf tees located in the second top drawer from the right in the roll-top desk I gave to the staff.

To Sharon Roso: 13 copies of a 35mm slide taken of me getting dunked in the North Portland Citizens' Committee dunk tank at Neighborhoodfair.

To Joan Smith: My copy of the 1942 Planning Commission budget document - one page long requesting a total of \$24,332.31 - so that she may bring that

to everyone's attention during the coming budget years.

To John Russell: Whose interest in historic preservation I applaud - an historic color photograph showing the interior of the Dielschneider Bldg. (his home now) when it was a brothel.

To Joe Voboril: Three orange crates of files and newspaper clippings on the Rivergate Annexation stretching back to 1913, with a memorable quote from Lloyd Anderson's grandfather that he would "...never annex Rivergate to the City - ever - and that's that."

To Ogden Beeman: Some heretofore unseen documents from Lloyd Keefe's files confirming that the State Highway Dept. bugged Ogden's telephone during the fight against I-505, but Ogden never made nor received a call - he was always out of town.

To Sarah Hartley: A draft ordinance making hot tubs an eligible expense in housing rehabilitation programs in the Southeast; and access to the Bureau's duplicating equipment to copy her resume' - she changes jobs more than I do.

To Bing Sheldon: My plain brown tie.

To Paul Cook: My recently negotiated option on the 1st Nat'l Bank Tower - along with all the bad checks I wrote trying to pay for it.

To Hardy Meyers: My personal copy of the 4-color (printed before Connie found out how much that cost) hard-bound 1976 best-seller "The Victories of the City of Portland in the 1975 State Legislative Session." It is one page long - with text on one side and Don Barney's autograph on the other.

To Herb Hardy: All my files on the Oregon International Center project on the waterfront and half my files on Forest Park Estates, along with a bound copy of the verbatim comments of City Council on each of those cases - all of which is now stored on the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th floors of the Bunnell Brothers Warehouse on the East Side.

To Bill Wessinger: My collection of 5,301 Blitz beer labels from Planning Bureau picnics, and 642 T-shirts in my basement (saying Blitz for Blitz) I ordered for a group that wanted to run Blitz for Congress.

To Ocie Trotter & Nick Barnett: All of my sailboat equipment:

1. My work pants - the ones with lead in them - for ballast;
2. A main sail made from 17 years of Playboy centerfolds;
3. A de-mountable gallon drum - for booze - with Bureau of Planning in red, white letters on the sides;
4. A map of Puget Sound showing depths and dangers - as well as all the good bars on shore.

To Dave Shannon: All the subpoenas I will get before Paul Meyer finds out I am no longer the Director.

To Marjorie Gustafson: My copy of Vera Katz's manual on how to do the "Saturday Night Hustle", and my copy of Betty Morten's new book "How to Live Next Door to Chickens in Eastmoreland and Still Have Fun".

To Mike Katz: My good friend and advisor - all of my secret files on other members of the Commission, my next reservation at the Tennis Center for 1 hour at 5:00 p.m. on January 18, 1987. My personal copy of a digest of Chairman Mao's Red Book, including only those passages which can be recited in 3 minutes or less (there is a slightly larger companion volume including all passages of 5 minutes or less - for those who represent groups).

To Neil Goldschmidt: My secret files on Mike Katz. My Neil Goldschmidt for Mayor Tawn sign and my files on the Downtown Plan including a recent letter from Steve Gilley, Mary Burki and Mike Jones expressing their agreement on Gilley's latest proposal to create a downtown Venice by flooding Old Town.

And to the next Planning Director: A great and honorable Planning Commission, a Mayor with vision and energy, and a competent and dedicated planning staff. Give yourselves a hand.

X

Ernest R. Bonner, Director

Signed and dated this 4th day of June in the year of our Lord 1978.

THE CITY OF
PORTLAND



OREGON

CITY PLANNING
COMMISSION

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JOAN SMITH
JOE VOBORIL

22 May 1978

Dear Planner Plenipotentiary (Past and Present):

You have no doubt heard that Ernie Bonner has tendered his resignation as Portland's Big Cheese Planner. Those of us who have been his beneficiaries and who have suffered and exulted, respectively, in both his tribulations and triumphs to these past 5 years should have an occasion to indulge in some harmless panegyrics and zing the dear lad with an encomium or two.

For the purpose of getting a little gushy and expressing to Ernie our collective appreciation for leading us so adroitly through the thickets of city planning, present members of the Portland City Planning Commission are hosting a modest soiree at "John's Place" (John Russell's pad), 71 S.W. Oak Street, at 6:30 p.m., Sunday evening, June 4.

This invitation is extended to past and present Commissioners and to key Bureau of Planning staffers who have been closely involved in the Commission's mischief-making. Spouses (or whatever) are also cordially invited.

Cordially,

Myron B. Katz
President

MBK:ww

Invitations extended to the following:

The Honorable Mayor Neil Goldschmidt
Mike Lindberg

Staff:

Leo Williams
Frank Frost
Vern Lentz
Winell Wood
Tracy Watson
Denny Wilde
George Flerlage
Karen Baldwin
Rod O'Hiser
Doug Wright

Present Planning Commission Members:

Chairman Myron Katz
Vice-Chairman Gus Minden
Sharon Roso
Joan Smith
Sarah Hartley
Joe Voboril
Ogden Beeman
John Russell

Past Planning Commission Members:

Paul Cook
Herb Hardy
Hardy Meyers
Rowland Rose'
Bing Sheldon
Bill Wessinger
Ocie Trotter
Nick Barnett
Marjorie Gustafson
Dave Shannon