

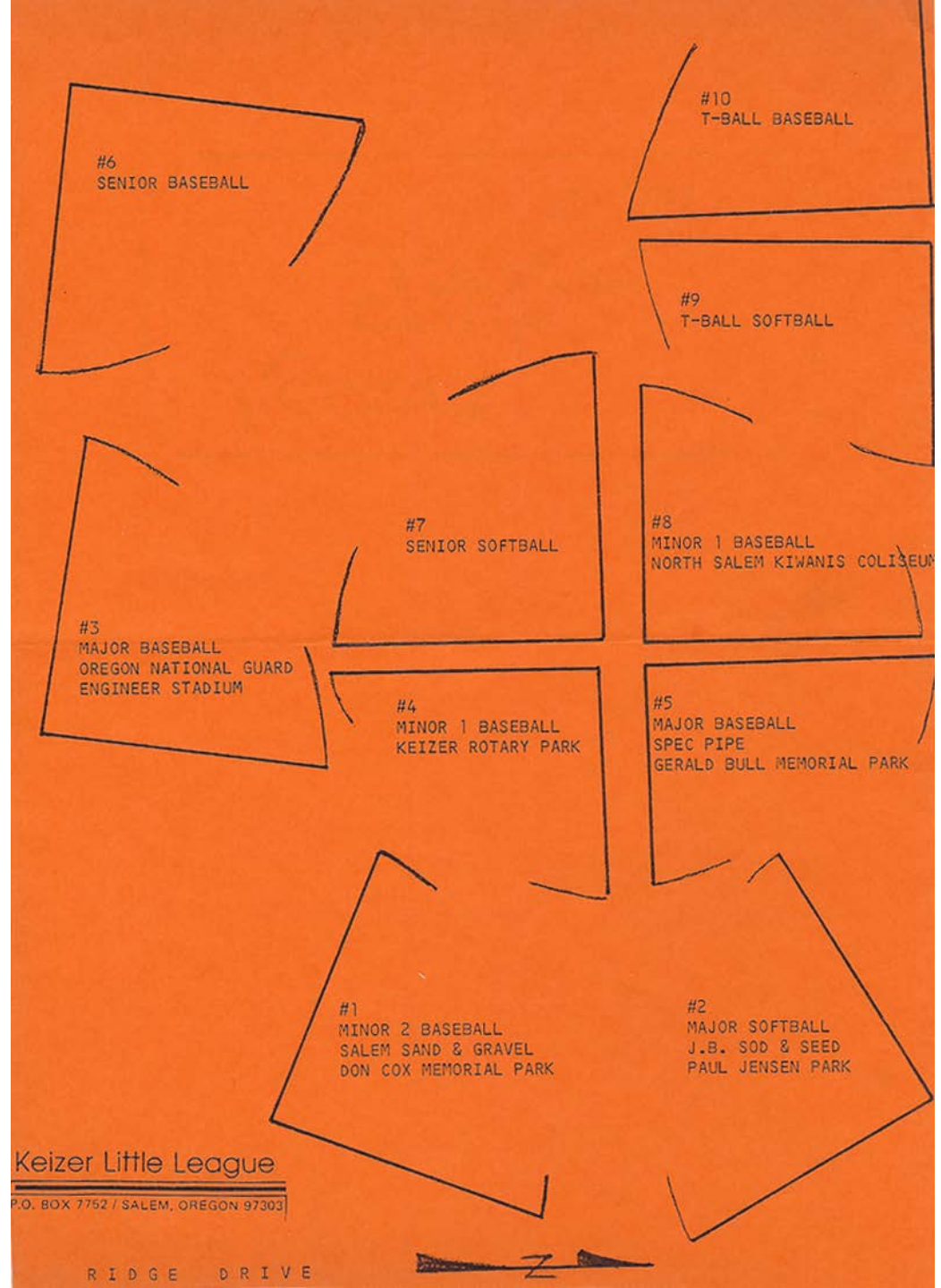
Keizer

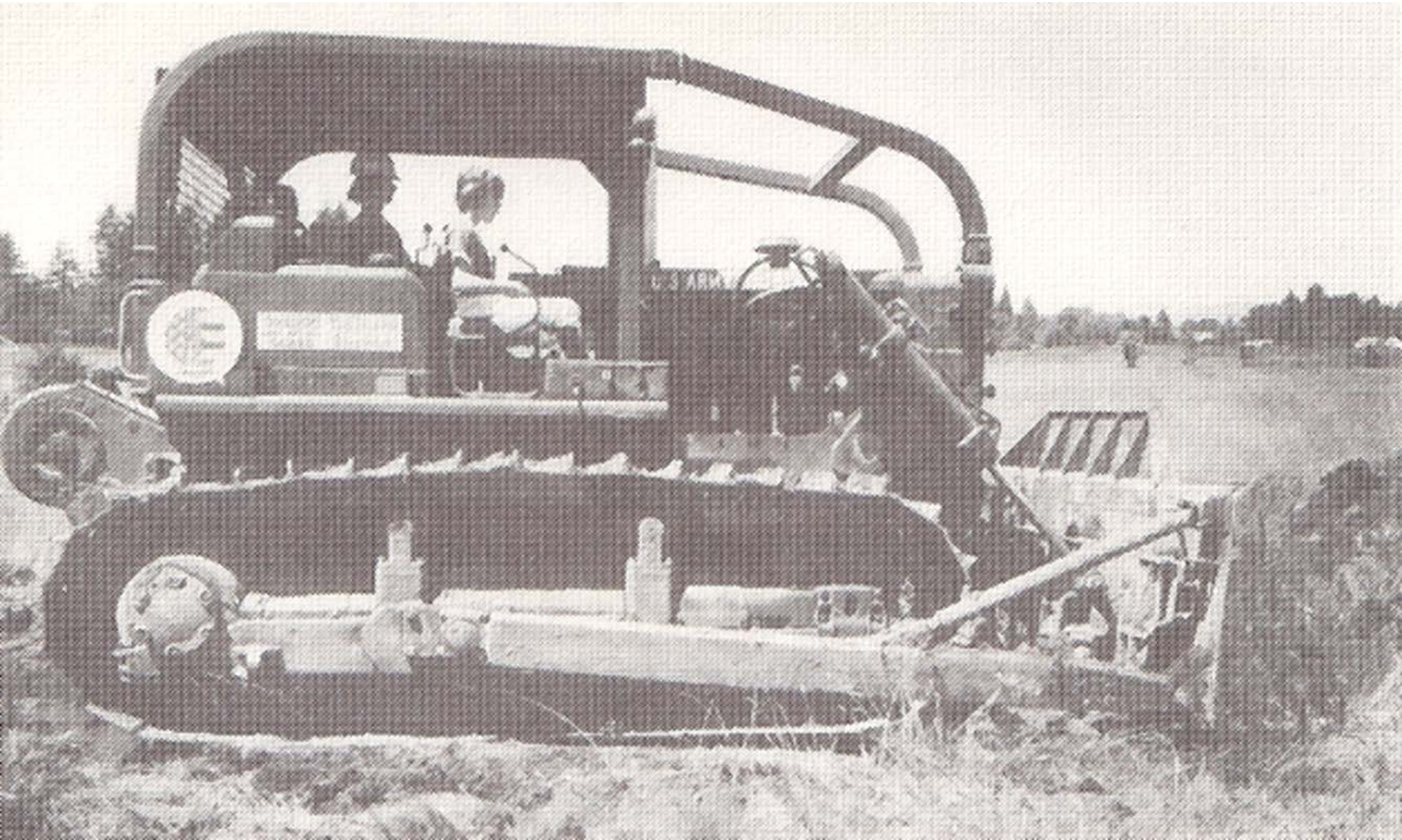
*Little
League*

Field

1979 - A problem needed a visionary solution!

Ray Cox and Rick Kuehn laid out 10 diamonds





Bob Newton brought in the National Guard



Volunteers and crews from the National Guard's 1249th Engineers Battalion went to work in 1980 to turn the Keizer Little League fields into a major park.



Just add seed and water for ten new fields!!

KEIZER LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS
FROM THE BEGINNING

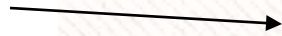


*The fall, winter and
spring of '80-'81
was really fun*



KEIZERTIMES

No work, no play



WANTED

ATTENTION PARENTS! We won't play ball this year if the Little League fields aren't done. Come out Saturday (anytime after 9) and help. Ridge Drive off of Chemawa Road.

Tuesday, April 14, 1981



Del Fisher (left) and Mike Newton mix cement for fence construction at new Little League fields. Opening ceremonies at the fields are scheduled for April 25.

Little League breakfast, opening set

Keizer Little League's annual pancake breakfast will be held April 25 at McNary High School from 8 to 11 a.m.

The breakfast will be followed by opening ceremonies for the new field complex at 2:30 p.m. on Ridge Drive N.E.

Tickets to the breakfast are \$2 Adult, \$1 Child, \$6 Family.

The kids pitched in too!

When this league needed fields, it built them

Keizer's enviable diamond collection

By **WALLY BENSON**
Statesman-Journal Copy Editor

There is nothing little about the Keizer Little League's current project.

Begun on June 14, 1980, the task was to take a barren, undulating 16-acre plot and turn it into 10 diamonds for baseball and softball.

League officials decided to accept the challenge, and yesterday they displayed the fruits of their labor by holding the first games of their 1981 season on the new fields.

The complex is of particular significance because local softball and soccer groups have been burning the midnight oil trying to find existing fields on which to play. Keizer Little League officials took just the opposite approach: When they found themselves with nowhere to play, they carved out their own fields.

That's not to say it was as easy as stealing second off a rubber-armed catcher. Bill Rumpf, Keizer LL president, says the group took its first swing when it obtained a one-year permit from the state Highway Division to use the land for free. The league now has its second such permit, and Rumpf has no worries about keeping up with the permit's conditions, among them that there be no permanent structures and that everybody have access to the fields.

Would that include folks like the Salem Softball Association?

"They've asked if they could use the fields," says Rumpf, "and I told 'em no. For one thing, our seasons conflict, and when ours is over, after July, we'll be working on the fields again.

"Also, the physical dimensions won't allow them to use the fields. Our fences

are only 135 to 200 feet, and they need at least 270.

"We're being a little selfish with these fields," says Rumpf, "but rightfully so."

Indeed. Since June, when the Oregon National Guard got the project to first base by spending its two-week summer camp grading the various levels of the plot, volunteers have spent hundreds of hours digging, putting up fences, raking ... you name it, they did it.

Spearheading the volunteer efforts have been Ray Cox, an engineer for Salem Sand and Gravel and a league manager, and Bob Newton, league field director.

Newton's affiliation with the National Guard helped put the project in motion, and his and Cox's personal efforts have kept it there. They say they've been helped immeasurably by about 10 "rain

or shine" volunteers, with as many as 60 people coming out to help on a recent sunny Saturday.

And what caused the league to go hunting for fields in the first place, putting all these people through all this labor?

"The problem came," says Rumpf, "when we had to get off Kennedy's (junior high school) fields. We had problems with the parents across the street." Those parents complained about traffic, noise, litter — all the things residents near Bush Park brought up to urge the City Council to deny the return of more softball diamonds to the park.

Rumpf says he met with the parents and Gene Hittner, athletic coordinator for the Salem school district, to set up guidelines to get through the rest of last

Turn to KEIZER, Page 6C.

"When they found themselves with nowhere to play, they carved out their own fields."

All the hard work pays off



Statesman-Journal photo by Mike Williams

Among the young ballplayers enjoying the new Keizer Little League

fields yesterday was Rachel Roberts, above.

Keizer . . .

Continued from Page 1C.

year. Then, he says, league officials had to find a new home.

They have it now. The Keizer Little League field is located off Ridge Dr., just south of Chemawa Rd. Construction is far from finished — outfield fences are incomplete, no bleachers are installed and several of the fields don't drain properly — but far enough along for yesterday's inauguration.

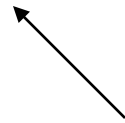
The main beneficiaries of the complex are the 850-900 youths Rumpf estimates make up the 63 teams of the league.

Besides the fields, the complex includes a concession stand and six restrooms. Much of the material for the complex was donated or sold at discount prices by area businesses. Six of the fields will be dedicated today in their names.

Rumpf estimates that without volunteer help the project would have cost \$230,000, but his crew did it for about \$23,000, "give or take a thousand." And all that money came from donations and fund raisers.

By the middle of the week, the project was rounding third and heading for home. The only thing worrying league officials was the weather.

Their concern was unfounded. The skies were threatening, but no rain fell. The opening ceremonies went off as planned, and with the first "Play ball!" the project had made it home.



10 times our investment!



Kind of bare, but ready for play

Not impossible: To build a sports park

When a group of volunteers announced plans for a \$400,000 baseball complex five years ago, there certainly were skeptics.

The volunteer group had about \$40,000 cash and planned to start in the spring and finish in the fall.

And finish it they did, one of the most impressive and complete sports complexes in the Pacific Northwest.

Ray Cox, one of several people who spent an entire summer building the complex, watched last week as the City Council assured volunteers the complex would remain by purchasing the 21 acre site from the State of Oregon.

Cox is a civil engineer employed by Ross Brothers Construction Company north of Keizer.

His involvement in Little League began in 1977 when the oldest of his three sons began playing t-ball.

Cox decided to run for the Little League board and, in 1979, the group, with Bill Rumpf as president decided to go ahead and build the park complex on the state land.

The property, adjacent to the Salem Parkway, was purchased by the state as part of the parkway acquisition. With the construction of the parkway projected at eight years off the league decided to go ahead and invest the improvements in the land.

The National Guard came out and improved the site, using the land to train guard members with heavy equipment.

Rick Kuehn laid out the original nine diamond complex, said Cox.

Then the volunteers went to work.

They fenced the entire property and put rock down for a parking lot.

They put up fence, fence and more fence, said Cox. A concession stand and equipment trailer went in, and the seeding was done in the fall.

Cox, remembers how he and many others spent their vacation time at the fields. And evenings and all weekend.

Kuehn, Rumpf, Bob Newton, Mike Gaynor, Dave Johnson, Mike Hilfiker, Roy Ebel, Larry Horn, Bob Bevens, Don Blevins, Gary Witmer, Gary Gogle, JoAnne Beilke and Del

Fislar spent most of the summer at the fields, said Cox.

Although they are ones he remembers being there almost all the time "on a good day we had 100 people out there."

"I've never been so glad to go back to work on Monday" Cox remembers, "we were out there every Saturday and Sunday for three months."

An example of the heavy labor to be done, he says, was installing fence posts at the lower fields.

Because of heavy rains vehicles couldn't take the cement bags down so the men carried them, 80 pound bags, some 400 yards in the pouring rain. "We were standing in 6 inches of water when we dug the post holes" at one of the fields, he said.

The league is still in debt as a result of the field project, said Cox.

Part of the debt is a loan that Rumpf personally guaranteed for the league.

Another field was added a year later, bringing to ten the number of diamonds on Ridge Drive. Three of the fields are for softball and seven for baseball.

A problem with one of the fields came up a couple of years later when the parkway construction was going full steam.

State officials notified Little League that one of the fields was in the parkway right-of-way and would have to be moved within three days or be destroyed.

I didn't think it could be done,"

said Cox, but about 40 people came out and, immediately following a Friday night game, they went to work.

"We picked it up, fences, base equipment, sod, everything and moved it 50 feet" said Cox. "We built a field in three days." A game was played on the field Tuesday night.

"There are a lot of dads in Keizer who can now make a living installing fence or irrigation pipe" he quips.

Field names, markers and plaques at the complex pay tribute to the many people who helped with

please see page 17

Bill Rumpf used his business to secure a personal loan for construction

The "Dirty Dozen" + 3

JoAnne Beilke

Bob Bevens

Don Blevins

Ray Cox

Roy Ebel

Del Fislar

Mike Gaynor

Gary Gogle

Mike Hilfiker

Larry Horn

Dave Johnson

Rick Kuehn

Bob Newton

Bill Rumpf

Gary Witmer

Rick Kuehn secured a permit to use state property

Dream park, cont'd

the fields.

A sign at the entrance greets visitors with the message "Please say Thank you to Bob Newton and Ray Cox."

Nine of the ten fields are named for those who helped, including one for Rumpf, as president.

Another is named for Cox's late father.

At the time the field names were being selected the board decided one should be named for Salem Sand and Gravel, a firm that had donated heavily to the field work. When Ray's father, Don, passed away about the same time the Salem Sand and Gravel people suggested the field be named in his honor, for the work his son had done on the project.

There are North Salem Kiwanis and Keizer Rotary fields, thanks to large cash donations from those clubs.

Altos Field recognizes donations from that company, and J.B. Sod Field was named because the firm donated all of the seed for the complex.

A large land donation to the league was made by the Reimann family and one of the fields recognizes that gift.

Jerry Bull of Spec Pipe gave the league some \$6,000 in pipe for irrigation, thus a field was named for

him.

The National Guard Field is the ninth field. All of the grading was done by guard members.

There is no field named for the volunteers, for the many thousands of hours of blisters and sweat that parents put into the park to make it happen. Their reward comes from the sounds of youngsters cracking the bat, cheering their teammates and laughing by the hundreds, over something as simple as catching a ball.

Field naming honors

Presidents

Don Cox

North Salem Kiwanis

Keizer Rotary

Altos

JB Sod

Reimann

Spec Pipe

National Guard





Opening Day - congratulations, Bob

First time





US Representative Denny Smith pays tribute



Oregon Representative Peter Courtney cuts the ribbon

Opening day, oh what a day!!



Bill, Bob and Ray



Keizer Little League Field
Official Ribbon
April 25, 1981
Opening Day Ceremonies



First pitch

Keizertimes Special Section

THIS IS KEIZER!

Keizer Days Section, May 16, 1985

WALK HERE, PLAY HERE,
ENJOY YOURSELF HERE

Please Say Thankyou to:

BOB NEWTON & RAY COX..

THAT THE FIELDS ARE HERE

1980/81/82 KEIZER LITTLE LEAGUE. Board of Directors

Thanks, Bob and Ray

*Bob Newton left this
earth way too early
in a surfing accident;
he will be
remembered always*





*We lost Ray, too, to
a heart attack; we
miss him a lot*

Ray honored in 1991

PAGE 10, SEC. A, KEIZERTIMES, APRIL 25, 1991

KLL: Volunteers thanked

Continued from Page A1

more than 1,000 players and some 80 teams.

The event was a double anniversary, marking 10 years since the park construction began and 20 years since the formation of Keizer Little League.

League president Larry Koeneke started the day with a reminder about sportsmanship — for children and adults alike.

“Remember, Little League is for the kids,” he said.

Koeneke recognized numerous individuals and businesses for their support and help with the park this year. He cited Sue and Ray Miletta for painting dugouts and planting iris; Clint Holland and Rick Kuehn for preparing the fields; Diane Smith for organizing a pitcher day; Jack Hoppe, the umpire director; the league’s board of directors; Finn Stovin and Dan Beans for dugout construction, and all the parents who

helped with the annual raffle fundraiser.

He also recognized three players who sold the most tickets in the fund drive: Danny Nelson, Chris Gwynn and David Godell.

The Rev. Mike Brown gave the invocation at the event, which also featured the recitation of the flag salute and the Little League pledge.

Before tossing the first pitch, Cox told the crowd he felt that the Keizer park is “probably the nicest Little League complex west of the Mississippi” — and he attributed its success to community support.

“This park was built by the community of Keizer, and the community should be proud of it,” he said.

Earlier, Cox recalled the park’s beginnings on what had been a commercial berry field. The National Guard, through the efforts of Col. Bob Newton of Keizer, was enlisted to clear and grade the fields, and

there was never a shortage of parent volunteers for the rest of the work, he said. He noted Rick Kuehn in particular for his contributions.

All three were among a group of volunteers whose battle against the dust and mud in the early work earned them the nickname “the dirty dozen.”

Cox recalled putting in about 30 hours a week on the fields, in addition to working full time at his job with Salem Sand and Gravel.

Since then the park has been improved each year, and volunteers expect it to be a continuing process.

This year, supporters built four new dugouts, put in landscaping along the top fence, and added other finishing touches, such as a new roof for the concession stand.



Ray Cox figures the Keizer Little League complex is among the best in the West, and that's what he told the crowd Saturday during opening ceremonies.

After initial construction, Clint Holland contributed thousands of hours to make the complex the best it could be

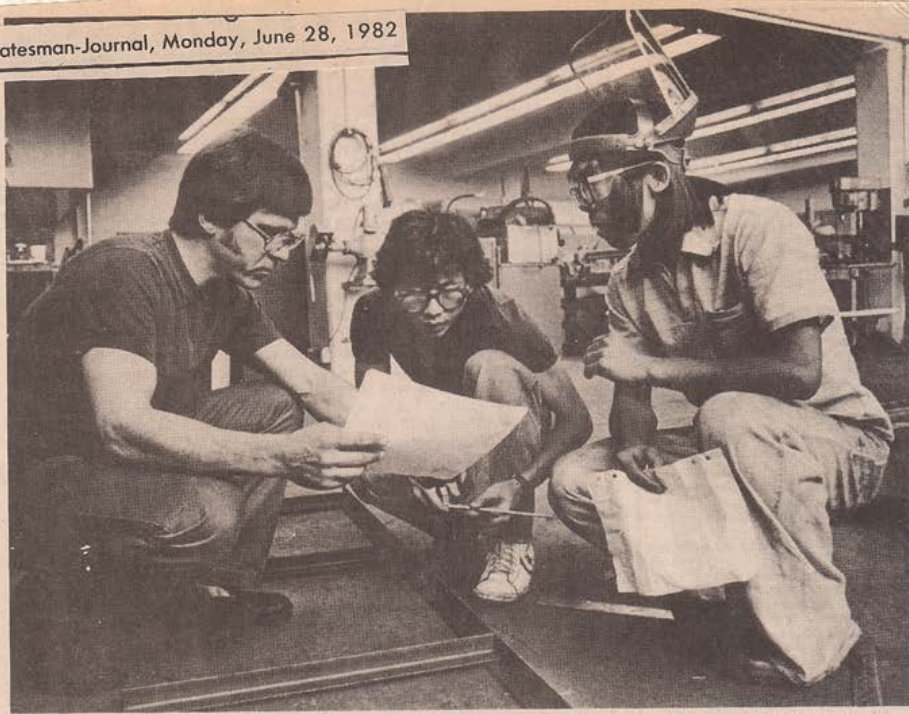
A very special year for KLL



KEIZER LITTLE LEAGUE
1981



Major boys won District 7



Statesman-Journal photo by Ron Cooper

DOWNTOWN PARTY — Jack Rich, left, tells Quoc Kha, center, and Lieu Hung how to build metal bleachers. The two are learning metal

working at McNary High School through the Mid-Willamette Consortium summer youth employment program.



New back stop

Keizer Little League volunteers erected a 20'x70' back stop for the Senior League players Saturday. Gary Witmer and Ralph Stinnet provided the crane, the

McNary High metal works class of Jack Rich built the back stop. About ten people worked all day to put it in place said Little League's Ray Cox.

Field #10 came the next year



One of the prettiest around



Our tools were pretty basic back then



Keizertimes, June 2, 1982

Volunteers move a field

It took a lot of volunteers to move a baseball diamond just fifty feet Memorial Day weekend, a move necessitated by the impending Parkway project. Ray and Bev Cox tried their best to remember all who helped, and said they still came up about 20 short. Among those who spent the three days working on the field were Mike Gaynor, Bob Newton, Don Wiley, Rick and Ricky Keuhn, Del Fissler, Steve Free, Jim Payne, Chuck Riggins, Bill and Billy Rumpf, Roger, Rick and Keith Carter, Bill Bowmen, Jerry and

Tracey Gregg, Ray, Bev and Derrick Cox, Gregg Lentz, the Winkler family, Jerry Patterson, Jim Way, Ed Martin, Mark Dirkx, Larry Tumbelson, George Self, Don Blevens, Hal Brumstead, Jim and Barb Rice, Alice Beach, Larry Peters, Larry Hall, Ed Query, Roy Ebel, Dick Isaak, Mike Hilfiker, Don Grosnickel, Jim Hershbach, Julian Ruiz, Duane Hoffsteder, Bill Logan, Larry Hayes, Pete Winning, Billy Hakes, Dennis Rice, Billy Gallengen, Hal Lowry and Gene Pingery. Whew!

What do you mean, we have to move a field?

*We built it before –
we can certainly
move it!*



and in one weekend

Opinion

Sensational effort that built ballpark continues

by John Ettinger

Darn...I should have taken that "letters are welcome" part off the page last week. Oh well...

The Keizer Little League fields story on page one can't do justice to the efforts of the people who put that sensational park together.



The sign at the park says thanks to two men, Ray Cox and Bob Newton, as it certainly should since they led the charge. But I wish I had a list of all who participated.

Mike Gaynor, the current Little League President, points out that if they had to do it again they'd look at the plans and say forget it. It can't be done.

A half-million dollar project done with volunteers and maybe \$50,000 cash. I got the same impression at a groundbreaking. Upon arrival

Letter from the Editor

there was some 20 acres of brush and mounds and a couple of Little League people with more vision than I explaining that "and over here will be..."

That same kind of outdoor spirit prevails with the parks crew. Our parks haven't looked this nice in a long time, with credit due the parks committee members Tambi Inman, Jim Eckland, Chuck Kerr, Barbara Rowland, Barbara Smith, Dick Isaak, and Heidi Smith.

Now, hopefully, the citizens will get out and help on May 5, even if it is just for an hour, to clean-up the parks, streets, vacant lots, etc. And the merchants on River Road should heed the call too.

★ ★ ★

The complex continued to be a source of community pride

Ballfields offered by state; \$90,000 is down payment

After several months of waiting the city has been notified by the Oregon Department of Transportation that state property on Ridge Drive, where the Keizer Little League fields were built, will be available to the city for \$11,000 an acre.

The park, which Keizer Little League President Mike Gaynor said is worth \$500,000 to \$750,000, was built on land owned by the state. The state purchased the property as when they acquired the right-of-way for the Salem Parkway. With the completion of the new road expected this fall the baseball park land is being declared excess.

Gaynor said that city officials, along with Cub Houck, have been working on the project for some time. He said he felt the \$11,000 an acre price would be negotiable.

The total acreage, said Gaynor, would be about 16.5 for the fields and another 4 to 5 acres "included in the package, which would probably solve our parking problem." The total cost of 21 acres would be about \$231,000.

The 1984-85 city budget, subject to voter approval in May, includes \$90,000 for to be used as a down payment on the park property.

In an April 3 letter to the city the Department of Transportation's J.B. Boyd said "the valuation placed on the land is its bare land value with no valuation placed on the improve-

ments." He said the state would carry a 10 year land sale contract on the property.

Boyd added that "it is the hope of the Department of Transportation that the City of Keizer can acquire this property..."

Gaynor said the Keizer Little League board wants the city to hold the title to the land while his group continues to use and maintain the park.

Mayor Bob Simon said he was unsure when the park land actually could be purchased. "We've gotten two stories, one was that it would be anytime, another was that they would hold it until the freeway interchange is complete."

He said the "city would like to negotiate something lower" than the \$11,000 an acre. He added that he thought the city would "require Little League to pay a part over time" but didn't expect the league to be able to come up with funds right away.

"My main interest is not to lose the benefits of a well developed complex" said the Mayor.

Gaynor said Little League would help, be it through "fundraising, donations, grants, revenue sharing, etc. But at this point we have developed a tremendous \$11,000 an acre bargain recreation facility for the community."

The fields were built four years ago with a "monumental" effort by

volunteers said Gaynor.

"If we had all sat down as a committee and looked at the project we wouldn't have done it. We would have said it couldn't be done." Some key people, including Ray Cox, Rick Keuhn, Bill Rumpf and Bob Newton "and 10 to 15 others who joined in...provided leadership. These guys had vision, they just did it" said Gaynor.

He added that "we built it and didn't ask for help - there's no federal, state or local (tax) dollars" involved.

Gaynor said that Little League doesn't mind the idea of other groups using the fields if the parks go to the city. He said "we want it used more" adding that "they should take an equal responsibility to maintain it."

Some 900 to 1,000 youngsters will take part in Keizer Little League this season said Gaynor, a season that opens April 28.

In a related move the City Council has set April 12 for a hearing on a variance for the league, to allow them to use a 4 acre parcel of Residential-Agricultural zoned land for parking.

The property, located at 1830 Chemawa Road NE, affords a "back entrance" to the Ridge Drive fields. The hearing will be held as part of the 7:30 p.m. council meeting.

The stars continued to align – The City of Keizer was incorporated just in time to buy the property when it was declared state surplus

Wednesday, April 11, 1984

Ed Davis
President
Keizer Little League

Ed,

As per your request, I have prepared an estimate of what it would have cost to have a contractor build the improvements at the Ridge Drive Complex. If a government agency would have let a contract for this work a contractor would have bid around \$375,000.00 as you can see from the itemized estimate as shown below.

*Legitimate \$365,000
community resource*

	QUANTITY	U/M	UNIT	TOTAL
GENERAL EXCAVATION	110,000	CY	\$1.50	\$165,000.00
FINEGRADING	18	AC	\$1,500.00	\$27,000.00
PERIMETER FENCE	3,300	LF	\$1.50	\$4,950.00
10' CL FENCE	300	LF	\$8.00	\$2,400.00
6' CL FENCE	1,900	LF	\$4.00	\$7,600.00
4' CL FENCE	4,100	LF	\$3.00	\$12,300.00
4' WOOD FENCE	700	LF	\$1.50	\$1,050.00
12' HIGH BACKSTOP	9	EA	\$500.00	\$4,500.00
20' HIGH BACKSTOP	1	EA	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
BLEACHERS	13	EA	\$250.00	\$3,250.00
IRRIGATION WELL	1	EA	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
IRRIGATION PUMP	1	EA	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
DOMESTIC PUMP	1	EA	\$750.00	\$750.00
SEEDING	18	AC	\$850.00	\$15,300.00
INFIELD CUTOUT	10	EA	\$250.00	\$2,500.00
IRRIGATION PIPE	6,000	LF	\$1.00	\$6,000.00
IRRIGATION HEADS	55	EA	\$50.00	\$2,750.00
IRR. VALVES, MISC.	1	LS	\$500.00	\$500.00
8" STORM SEWER	350	LF	\$8.00	\$2,800.00
6" STORM SEWER	200	LF	\$6.00	\$1,200.00
CATCH BASINS	3	EA	\$250.00	\$750.00
DRAINAGE DITCHES	2,500	LF	\$0.50	\$1,250.00
DRINKING FOUNTAIN	1	EA	\$350.00	\$350.00
WATER PIPE	400	LF	\$0.50	\$200.00
PARKING LOT	10,000	SY	\$1.25	\$12,500.00
PARKING BUMPERS	1	LS	\$250.00	\$250.00
CONCESSION STAND	1	EA	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
MISC. BLD	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
EXTERIOR POWER	900	LF	\$1.50	\$1,350.00
SUB TOTAL				\$317,500.00
ENGINEERING % SURVEYING 15%				\$47,625.00
TOTAL				\$365,125.00

If you have any questions I'll be glad to answer them.

Thank you,

Ray E. Cox
Professional Engineer

NOTE - SPECIAL TIME & MEETING PLACE!

A G E N D A

KEIZER CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 6, 1985
McNARY HIGH SCHOOL
7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 15, 1985 - April 29, 1985
4. PUBLIC TESTIMONY - This time is provided for citizens to bring matters to the attention of the Council or to address other items on tonight's agenda, except land use hearings.
5. COMMITTEE REPORTS
6. PUBLIC HEARING - Ridge Drive Park Acquisition
7. PUBLIC HEARING - To consider installation of "NO PARKING" signs along Cherry Avenue north & south of Candlewood Dr. NE
8. PUBLIC HEARING - Intention to Assess for Street and Storm Drain Improvements for the Kamet Court Local Improvement District.
9. PUBLIC HEARING - PARTITION/LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT KP/LLA 85-4, Application of Arleen Olson (Salem/Keizer School District 24J - Purchasers) Proposed Keizer Elementary School Site.
10. ORDER - Granting a Conditional Use Permit, KCU85-2 to Ralph G. Napier to continue a Bicycle Repair and Lawn Mower Repair Home Occupation business at 4015 Filbert Street NE.
11. SALEM/KEIZER URBAN AREA TRANSPORTATION PLAN - Comments for SATS Coordinating Committee Consideration Prior to Adoption.
12. ADOPTION - Annual SATS Planning Work Program for Transportation Planning FY 1985-86.
13. LIQUOR LICENSE
 - a. Via Florencia, 3838-C River Road N.
Class C - Greater Privilege
14. FINAL ACCEPTANCE - Consideration of Final Acceptance and Payment for Oakwood Sewer District Construction - Emery & Sons.

*City Council takes
action in 1985, including
Councilor Bob Newton*




City of Keizer

4823 River Rd. N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303 • (503) 390-3700

COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 6, 1985

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM:  ROY PAYNE, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING - RIDGE DRIVE PARK ACQUISITION

Keizer gets a real deal

ISSUE

Shall the City of Keizer acquire 21.422 acres of land along Ridge Drive north of Keizer Road for park purposes?

BACKGROUND

The Keizer Little League has utilized 16 acres of surplus highway right-of-way, which has been leased from the State of Oregon since 1981. This site currently contains 10 baseball diamonds, which have been constructed by volunteer labor with an estimated value of \$350,000. Since the Highway Project for which this parcel was purchased has now been completed, the State of Oregon Highway Division is required to sell this site and all other associated surplus right-of-way. The State of Oregon initially established the value of the property at \$235,642. Through the efforts of the City of Keizer and based upon an appraisal ordered by the City of Keizer, the state has determined the market value of the 21.422 acres to be \$140,000. The state has also allocated the value as follows:

Parcel A	-	15.433 acres	\$100,500.00
Parcel B	-	5.989 acres	\$39,500.00
TOTAL			\$140,000.00

Because parcel B has federal funds involved in the initial acquisition by the state, the city may only be required to pay 8% on the parcel B value. Therefore, the total expected acquisition cost to the City of Keizer for the 21.422 acres will be \$103,660.

As a part of the 1984-85 budget, the city set aside \$90,000 in revenue sharing funds for the possible acquisition of the 21.422 acre Ridge Drive Park site. To date, \$1,200 of that fund has been expended on the appraisal, leaving a balance of \$88,800.

Big, varied show of support for park purchase

That was quite a show of support at the City Council meeting Monday for purchase of the park land on Ridge Drive.

The community recognized a true bargain, 21 acres with a total value over \$500,000 for about \$100,000. And then we can pay for it with federal dollars.

There was variety evident in the 100 plus attending the meeting, they were not all from Little League even though they may have been reminded of the event by league members. It was nice to see some senior citizens speak up in favor of the park purchase.

I had heard for the past few weeks how seniors would oppose the purchase of more park land. It seemed somehow to make all area seniors sound selfish. If it benefits kids and not seniors then they're not interested.

Same people keep telling me how seniors vote against all the school measures. But the measures pass, with high senior turnouts.

Certainly some seniors, among others, were opposed to the purchase. But not enough to bother to

write a letter or appear at the meeting.

I suspect the senior citizen has, and spends, more time looking at local issues. They have a lot to do with the strong support our Keizer youngsters receive.

Its time to put to sleep the stories that seniors don't support youth.

Back to the park land, the city did a fine job in planning, negotiating, contracting with Little League...in handling the purchase of the park land.

Ray Cox wins the "best speaker" of the night prize with a well thought out presentation about the quality of improvements to the park and views as a parent and citizen of the community. He received a round of applause from the audience, concluding that the city of "pride, spirit and volunteerism" could not ignore such a massive volunteer effort by the citizenry.

Those who have never been out to the Little League fields are in for a surprise.

It is a tremendous complex, terraced, fenced, beautiful. Not just a bit of bare land with backstops.

Children are playing out there

Editor's Letter

by John Ettinger



Wednesday, May 8, 1985

The community really came out for the "\$500,00 for \$100,000 deal"

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25 Cents

City will buy 21 acre park site

by Don Murtha

Keizer Little League won 6-0 Monday when the City Council voted to purchase 21.4 acres of land on Ridge Drive for a city park for \$103,660.

With more than enough funds already set aside it was an easy victory as the Little League boosters turned out by the dozens to cheer for the land purchase.

The city had set aside \$88,000 in Federal Revenue Sharing money for capital improvement in the budget for 1984-85 and an additional \$73,791 in those funds will be available for fiscal year 1985-86.

The property was declared surplus by the Oregon Department of Transportation which had acquired it as part of land purchases for the Salem Parkway. With the Parkway complete the property was up for sale.

Little League has already made substantial improvements to 16 acres of the property through an investment of volunteer labor and donated equipment that created 10 baseball diamonds, and other facilities.

"This park is one of the greatest examples of volunteerism that I know of," Ray Cox told the council in a public hearing preceding the purchase decision.

Cox, a professional engineer, said the improvements made to the land are of "commercial quality."

He pointed out that "the fields were laid out by registered land surveyors, the concession stand was designed and built by a professional building contractor, the underground sprinkler system was designed by a professional irrigation engineer, backstops were designed by an engineer and built by a commercial steel fabricator.

Cox pointed to the city's slogan of Pride, Spirit and Volunteerism to conclude. "When Keizer Little League was building this complex other Little League organizations told Keizer that it was impossible to build more than one field a year with volunteer help. Keizer Little League built nine fields in one year. If the City of Keizer doesn't acknowledge this kind of volunteer effort by purchasing the complex it will have a blemish on its City Slogan that can never be erased."

In written testimony Keizer Little League's past-president and board member David Bauer said since the spring of 1981 volunteer labor and donated material have built seven baseball diamonds, three softball fields, fencing, parking lots and an irrigation system. They said the value of the improvements is estimated at \$350,000.

"Because of these efforts, the community has constructed a 16 acre park that is in use throughout the year," they said.

As a city park the developments will be open to other recreational activities however, Little League will receive exclusive use April through June in exchange for maintenance responsibilities.

The Keizer Little League-City of Keizer contract for maintenance of the park is expected to save the city some \$25,000 annually.

City staff prepared an outline of what would be expected from the league, an outline that was acceptable to the league's board of directors, according to Keizer Little League president Ed Davis.

"We are prepared to enter into a written agreement with the City of Keizer to maintain the 16 acres already developed" said Davis, adding that the league would encourage other volunteer groups to use the park, along with encouraging the development of the additional six acres.

In initial discussions with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the purchase of the property the state valued the land at \$235,642. The city declined the state's proposal and engaged its own consultant to make an estimate.

The city's appraiser valued the property at \$140,000 which the state accepted.

The city got an additional break when it was discovered that because federal funds were used in the purchase of a portion of the property, the price for that portion would be only 8 percent of the estimate, bringing the price for the entire property down to \$103,660.

About fifteen of the 100 plus in attendance spoke in support of the purchase. None spoke against the project and no written testimony in opposition was received.

Jerry McGee, one of the first to testify, told the city he was initially opposed to the purchase because of his concerns about who would hold title to the land, how maintenance would be accomplished, the price of the property and the

fact that it was not a basic service of city government.

"However, there have been many changes" since the city first explored the purchase, said McGee. "The title question has been resolved, the price has been dramatically reduced, the maintenance has been resolved. I now support the purchase because the council took the time to study the issue, to do your homework" said McGee.

Among those who testified and their comments were:

Betty Hartman, "As a senior citizen I heartily endorse this project. To have life in abundance we need parks."

Dave Galle, "What I see is that kids have a focus other than getting themselves in trouble (through youth athletics)...Kids learn to budget their time, a life-long skill."

Jim Nightingale, "All of this is the result of the dreams of people. Let's keep dreaming and one day we might have the Little League World Series right here in Keizer."

Councilman Bob Newton made the motion to approve the purchase of the property with Dick Bauer giving a second. The vote in favor was unanimous at 6-0, with Andy Orcutt absent.



The final piece of this incredible puzzle falls into place



December 15, 1987

Dear Boardmember,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy, happy and enjoying the holidays. As you know when Christmas comes, planning for Little League is not far behind.

We have had a lot to be proud of in Keizer Little League in 1987. We had six district championships and new dugouts, fences and field work made the fields look great. It was the first time in many years we have ended the season with a positive bank balance. We are completely out of debt.

The 1988 season promises to be every bit as challenging and exciting. I know with the talented people we have on the board, it will be another great year in Keizer Little League. I have enclosed a proposed 1988 schedule. Please take time to look it over and we will discuss any changes at our first meeting on January 6.

Thank you for your past years of service and I look forward to your help in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Dave
President, Keizer Lit



*Six District
Championships in 1987
and completely out of
debt*

1987



*Like Disneyland,
the work goes on*







The next generation getting involved



Ray was always there



Bev Cox inspects the new pump house



Marv Nisley movin' dirt



Dave Bauer introducing the fieldhouse concept to league parents



Improvising concrete forms – it worked!



About 1990

Keizer Little League marks 17 years of growth

By Barb Bellin
Keizertimes Correspondent

"Everybody in Keizer is excited about their kids, and they support their kids," said Dave Bauer, a Keizer insurance agent and former president of the Keizer Little League.

That community excitement and support have built a program that current league president Mike Gaynor called "the envy of other Little Leagues."

In the regular season that just ended, Keizer Little League fielded more than 70 teams. About 1,050 Keizer kids age 7-15 got a chance to play ball in their respective divisions.

In both baseball and softball, Keizer Little League's 10 leagues run from T-ball through minors and majors up to the senior leagues. The minor baseball teams are divided into Minor I and Minor II while the senior baseball teams are split into AA and AAA.

"Keizer is the team to beat" in the District 7 Little League, according to

Gaynor. The district includes leagues from Keizer and Salem.

Frank Ambrose, District 7 director, agrees with Gaynor's assessment. He said Keizer has been especially strong the last five years.

Bob Rauen, KLL's current senior baseball AA director, said that "Keizer has been the dominant league of the '80s in both baseball and softball."

Marion Newton, a former KLL secretary and president, pointed out that all but one of the McNary High School Celts baseball team that won the state championship this year were former KLL players. The remaining member had moved to the area more recently.

Keizer teams get a lot of support from the stands. According to Bauer, about 1,000 fans showed up each evening of play this season at Keizer Little League Park, located on Ridge Drive.

Little League backers said that the park complex — with its 10 playing

'Keizer has been the dominant league of the 80s ...'

— Bob Rauen

fields — is unmatched anywhere in Oregon.

Bauer said that throughout the season, between 200 and 250 committed volunteers devoted much, if not most, of their free time to keeping the league's program going. A new facet of the program was Sportsmanship Day, which Bauer introduced this year.

On that day, the team rated highest in sportsmanship from each league received a special sportsmanship pin for each team member.

KLL's exceptional program takes money as well as countless volunteer hours. The current budget is more than \$65,000 and Bauer expects the 1990

budget to hit \$70,000. He said that concession stand sales, directed this season by Jan Koencke and Nancy Peirce provided nearly one-third of this year's budget.

The remainder is from ticket sales and other fund-raising work.

A five-figure budget is a far cry from the "struggle to buy bats and balls" of the early years, according to Linda Nelson.

An early KLL supporter, she remembered that first local Little League season in 1972. The first teams played at Kennedy Elementary School, where volunteers had to put up backstops.

Only six major teams and 12 minor

teams — all baseball — saw action that first year. Newton's records showed that some 220 kids played on those first teams. The softball teams were added several years later.

How did the league shoot up from this small start to its present status as the envy of other leagues?

A key element in the league's success is its outstanding playing complex, league backers said.

In the summer of 1980, the park was nothing but a barrow pit used by the state Transportation Department. A few months later, in April 1981, the players trotted out onto nine new ball-fields.

"A bunch of terrific, caring people" brought about the transformation of the site in such record time said Bob Newton, a Keizer councilor and husband of Marion Newton.

Newton, a colonel who commanded a heavy equipment platoon, said he had expected to lead his men on a two-week maneuver in the Deschutes National Forest. Because

of a change in federal funding policy, the U.S. Forest Service was unable to carry out the plan that would have put the guardsmen to work.

Newton had to find a project closer to home to occupy the soldiers of the 1249th Engineering Battalion, headquartered in Salem. Two projects turned up — a playground for Brush College Elementary School and the Keizer Little League park. The soldiers took on both.

Before the Guard could tackle the Little League project, the league had to lease the property from the state. Among those who made the critical decision to go after such a lease were early league board members including Joanne Beilke, Ray Cox, Rick Kuehn, Bill Rumpf and Don Wiley.

With a lease in hand, the Guard went to work. Newton said that after the initial earthwork, the area "looked like the Gobi Desert." Clair Kilgore brought in his tractor and set to work finishing the fine work.

Please see KLL, Page B2

Looking back, especially at the special 1980's decade

Over 1,000 kids playing
1,000 spectators each evening
250 volunteers
\$65,000 annual budget
All money raised via concessions & fundraisers

1977-1989

30 District 7 Championships
7 State Championships
1 Northwest Divisional Championship



1987 State 2nd Place

This group of girls played for State Championships four times, twice for KLL and twice for McNary (1-3)



*KLL graduates win State Championship for McNary,
1989*



Most successful KLL team
3rd Place, 1991 Major Softball World Series



Celebrating this 1991 team

*Yet another
opening day*





Fields are ready, let's make this place look nice



What are these guys up to?



*We've always been
proud to fly Old Glory*



One of those special times that makes all the work worthwhile

... NAMED THE KEIZER LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD HOUSE IS HERE TODAY
THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS. WE THANK THEM
FOR THEIR SPECIAL SPIRIT OF GIVING TO KIDS

1989 KLL BOARD
APRIL 22, 1989

LARRY KOENEKE	DAVE BAUER
CITY OF KEIZER	LYDON CONSTRUCTION
C. G. LONG	SQUARE DEAL LUMBER
WOODBURN LUMBER	WILLAMETTE INDUSTRIES
RICH PALMER	WOMEN'S HEATING
	TRAVEL

... KEIZER LITTLE LEAGUE
... ROOF & FLOOR COMPONENT
... MARK BA...
... TY MATISKAIN...
... ROAD & DISTRICT WA



Mike Gaynor and Clint Holland, two of KLL's stalwarts



A peaceful day at “the fields” – we hope that will continue