

stewart lang

Modify or Entirely Scrap Pacific Playground Plans

I should really begin to put a little more faith in gut-instinct.

While writing the first piece on the environmental controversy surrounding construction of a marina complex at the mouth of the Oyster River, I had certain qualms but allowed some logical arguments of the developer and a notable lack of opposition to the plans by heads of the various governmental agencies involved to sway my judgment.

At the time, while the hassle was just beginning to develop, I said the project was receiving unwarranted criticism from conservationists.

Now that certain additional factors have come to light, it is clear, the plans for Pacific Playground by G. S. Ward Holdings should be either modified or scrapped.

One of those arguments advanced by George Ward, spokesman for the half-dozen B.C. and Alberta businessmen behind the venture, involved the supposed need of a development such as this as a boater's refuge.

He implied the marina complex would provide the only safe mooring spot between Comox and Campbell River in event of stormy weather.

But, as I recently found out, boats have been known to duck into the old booming grounds just northwest of the Oyster River and two other spots to the southeast are also frequently used to ride out squally weather.

Another factor to consider critically is inclusion of a subdivision in the 85-acre development.

Sooner or later, effluent will show up either in the river or along the shore around the river mouth.

Unless there is an adequate sewer system, large-scale housing tracts should be banned completely from the vicinity of lakes and rivers.

There are already indications of pollution stemming from a massive buildup of trailers near Goldstream Park.

Luckily, the provincial lands department has turned down a proposal by Pacific Playgrounds to build a test channel from their boat basin across a strip of foreshore to the ocean — pending an Environment Canada study scheduled for completion later this year.

If the test channel had worked out, plans were to expand this "cut" and fill in an existing connection with the Oyster. Access to the basin is now possible only at high tide.

The foreshore is a recreational reserve, created by Order-in-Council, which obviously wouldn't be the same with a channel bisecting it.

True, a great deal of money has already been invested by the company and the success of many of its plans depends on creating easy access to the basin.

But should developers be given free rein on this basis?

They should have applied for all necessary permission before spending vast amounts of cash.

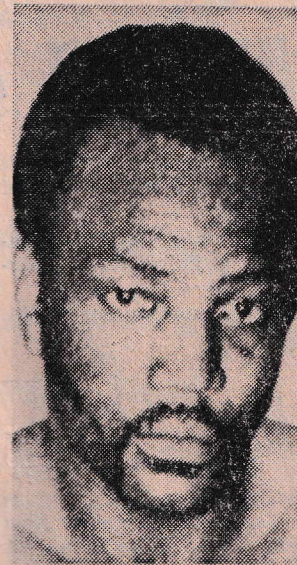
Merely spending that money should incur no obligation on the part of any public agency.

After all, boat launching facilities aren't a rarity on that section of the coast.

But specific runs of pink, chums and coho salmon, sea-run cutthroat and steelhead might become scarce if this particular enterprise is allowed to go through.

★ ★ ★

NIBBLES: The provincial parks branch may be making a mistake by providing shelters for backpackers in the Diamond Head area of Garibaldi Park . . . It might not prove to be an immediate problem, but shelters in various high-use areas of the United States are now being torn down because



OFFER of \$200,000 to defend world light heavyweight boxing title against Pierre Fourie in Johannesburg on Dec. 1 has been accepted by American Bob Foster (above). First racially-mixed-boxing bout in South Africa's history is expected to draw close to 100,000 spectators.

SPORTS MENU

TONIGHT

HOCKEY

6 and 8:20 p.m. — South Vancouver Island Junior "B" League; Saanich vs. Victoria, Memorial Arena; Lake Cowichan vs. Fuller's Lake, Fuller's Lake Arena.

9 p.m. — Victoria Intermediate League, James Bay Athletic Association vs. Stockers North Americans, Juan de Fuca Arena.

8 p.m. — Greater Victoria High School League, Esquimalt vs. Mount View, Sports Centre.

FOOTBALL

8 p.m. — Vancouver Island Juvenile League, sudden-death semifinal, James Bay Athletic Association, Mustangs vs. Saanich Chew Excavating Hornets, Royal Athletic Park.

THURSDAY

WRESTLING

8 p.m. — Professional card, Memorial Arena.

HOCKEY

8 p.m. — South Vancouver Island Junior "B" League, Juan de Fuca vs. Esquimalt, Sports Centre.

8:30 p.m. — Victoria Intermediate League, Stockers North Americans vs. Inghram Hotel Buckaroos, Pearkes Arena.

Honors Captured By Island Riders

LANGLEY — Lindsay Joyce of Duncan, riding "Kalibey," won the intermediate division of the three-day B.C. championship horse trials which ended here Monday.

Jill Yonge of Saanichton placed second aboard "Sir Henry" in the preliminary division after winning the dressage section and Adele McKillop of Parksville riding "Mr.

It wouldn't be surprising, well, to learn the long might have placed a bet of hospital. If he wagers Taylor has made.

Golf, on this day, bounce back and collect.

The seriousness of exploratory surgery last sional died in hospital death severs a link with

From the day he a the few years after his Golf' to many. He was fied as teacher, club-ma

As a player, he q Canada's finest. He w times within five years Vancouver always stir Taylor's round of 61, in at Oak Bay.

A fortunate few fo scores.

In lighter moments, claim the record for no would say, by his intro

Persuaded by A. V. Victoria Club, Taylor l Taylor began to curse l Corsican began to roll in

A gale was blowing N.B. Taylor was gree weather was so cold in station to meet a cousin Rockies, and it was still at Vancouver.

"I finally saw the fi (to Victoria) made the

Tou

By ERNIE FEDORU
Times Staff

Winning golf club pionships at the we wasn't easy for Al M Ted Langlois or Ken Two of the three club went extra distances ar third down to the final ho

Manson, a southpaw, up with a "gimme" bir the extra hole — the 37 defeat Gord Verley in th toria Club final. Manso two up after the morni fell behind three holes stage in the afternoon h covered and forced the hole by sinking a 12-fo on the 36th.