

SPEECH BY GOV. VICTOR ATIYEH
GAZEBO DEDICATION
WILLSON PARK, SALEM
DECEMBER 13, 1982

PREPARED TEXT

TODAY, WE ARE HERE FOR A DEDICATION. BUT WE ARE ALSO
HERE FOR A CELEBRATION.

THE CELEBRATION IS TO RECOGNIZE THE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS OF
SO MANY OREGONIANS WHO HAVE HELPED BRIGHTEN OUR CAPITOL GROUNDS.

IN 1979, I ASKED STATE AGENCIES TO SEEK OUT VOLUNTEERS
TO GIVE THEIR TIME IN PUBLIC SERVICE TO OREGON. GOVERNMENT COULD
NOT MEET EVERY PUBLIC NEED -- AND VOLUNTEER WORK WAS THE BEST
ALTERNATIVE TO A GROWING GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE, THE DEPARTMENT
OF GENERAL SERVICES ORGANIZED THE CAPITOL GROUNDS DONATION
PROGRAM.

THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS OUR CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE
PERSONALLY IN CREATING OUR BEAUTIFUL STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS. IT
CREATES A SENSE OF PERSONAL OWNERSHIP AND PRIDE. GENERAL
SERVICES HAS BEEN HELPED THROUGH THE CREATIVE TALENTS OF GARDEN
CLUBS, PRIVATE CITIZENS, SCHOOLS, AND OTHERS. VALUABLE TIME AND
INVALUABLE RESOURCES HAVE BEEN SHARED HERE TO MAKE THIS OUTDOOR
ENVIRONMENT ONE THAT THE CITIZENS OF OREGON ARE PROUD OF!

DONATIONS TO DATE HAVE PROVIDED PLANTINGS, MATERIALS AND LABOR WORTH OVER \$45,000. IT WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS LIKE THOSE OF YOU HERE TODAY. DONATIONS HAVE INCLUDED:

- A VALUABLE SPECIMEN CAMPERDOWN ELM TREE;
- A NEW ROSE GARDEN TO THE NORTHEAST OF US;
- HUNDREDS OF BEDDING PLANTS AND BULBS FOR THE ANNUAL-PERENNIAL FLOWER PROGRAM;
- THE CIRCULAR FLOWER PLANTS ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF CAPITOL PARK;
- SEVERAL DECIDUOUS AND EVERGREEN TREES;
- AND MUCH MORE.

THE COOPERATION OF MANY PEOPLE HAS MADE IT HAPPEN. SOMETIMES THAT COOPERATION HAS BEEN NEEDED TO PUT ONE DONATION IN PLACE. FOR EXAMPLE, A BUSINESSMAN IN HARBOR, OREGON, DONATED 1,600 LILY BULBS, BUT COULD NOT TRANSPORT THEM TO SALEM. A LOCAL SALEM BUSINESS ANSWERED THE ARTICLE IN THE STATESMAN-JOURNAL THAT ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING THE BULBS TO SALEM. AFTER THE TRANSPORTATION WAS COMPLETE, A LOCAL GARDEN CLUB PROVIDED A FULL WORK FORCE ON A SATURDAY TO DO THE PLANTING IN WILLSON PARK. IT REQUIRED THREE DONORS TO COMPLETE THIS MAJOR DONATION, BUT THEY GOT THE JOB DONE.

EVEN OUR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED! IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, THE FIRST GRADE CLASS FROM SALEM'S BUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLANTED 240 FIBROUS BEGONIAS IN CAPITOL PARK. THESE FLOWERS WERE ENJOYED BY MANY PEOPLE THIS PAST SUMMER.

THE VOLUNTEER WORK HAS EXTENDED TO EVERY FACET OF LIFE ON THESE GROUNDS. FOR EXAMPLE, BROWNIE TROOP #1 OF SALEM HAS TAKEN TIME TO COME DOWN AND FEED OUR POPULAR CAPITOL GROUNDS SQUIRRELS A GOURMET DIET OF DONATED ENGLISH WALNUTS!

MY WIFE DOLORES IS AN AVID HORTICULTURIST. SHE APPRECIATES VERY MUCH THE FINE WORK YOU HAVE BEEN DOING HERE. SHE ANTICIPATES MANY SPRING "SURPRISES" FROM THE BULBS YOU HAVE PLANTED. AS SUMMER APPROACHES, SHE AND MANY OTHERS LOOK FORWARD TO SUMMER SPLASHES OF COLOR THROUGHOUT THE GROUNDS.

I WANT TO EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR GROUNDS. LARGE OR SMALL, YOUR CONTRIBUTION HAS CREATED A WEALTH OF HAPPINESS AND JOY FOR OUR CITIZENS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE STATESMAN-JOURNAL FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COVERAGE OF OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. THEY HAVE AIDED THE PROGRAM BY MAKING OUR NEEDS KNOWN IN THE NEWSPAPER; THEN GIVING RECOGNITION TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER LABOR AND MATERIALS.

NOW, THE HIGHLIGHT OF TODAY IS AT HAND: THE DEDICATION OF THIS BEAUTIFUL GAZEBO. THIS GAZEBO WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE VOLUNTEER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS AND TALENTS THAT SAW THIS PROJECT THROUGH TO COMPLETION.

IT HAS BEEN BUILT TO RESEMBLE A GAZEBO THAT WAS LOCATED NEAR THIS SAME SPOT IN THE EARLY 1900'S. THE OLD GAZEBO, ALONG WITH THE OLD CAPITOL BUILDING WHICH BURNED IN 1935, IS SHOWN ON THE PROGRAM FRONT. THE GAZEBO OR BANDSTAND, AS MANY PEOPLE CALLED IT, WAS GIVEN TO THE CITY OF SALEM AROUND 1910 BY JOE ALBERT. AT THAT TIME, WILLSON PARK BELONGED TO THE CITY. MR ALBERT WAS A LOCAL BANKER, PHILANTHROPIST, AND CIVIC LEADER.

THE ORIGINAL GAZEBO WAS A TWO-STORY STRUCTURE. IT WAS ENTERED THROUGH A DOOR ON THE FIRST STORY, WHERE A STAIRWAY RAN TO AN UPPER STAGE. ACCORDING TO PHOTOGRAPHS, THE OLD GAZEBO WAS ABOUT TWENTY FEET ACROSS AND FORTY FEET HIGH FROM THE GROUND TO THE TOP OF THE SPIRE. OLD PICTURES SHOW IT IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS AROUND THE PARK. IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN BUILT OUT OF WOOD, EXCEPT FOR THE CUPOLA -- WHICH WAS PROBABLY BRASS OR COPPER. THE RAILING AROUND THE EXTERIOR APPEARS TO BE A WOOD LATTICE DESIGN.

THE OLD GAZEBO WAS USED FOR PUBLIC BAND CONCERTS, CHOIR CONCERTS AND WEDDINGS.

WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT FINALLY HAPPENED TO THE OLD GAZEBO. SOME SAY THAT IT WAS DISMANTLED AROUND 1936 OR 1938. SOME SAY THAT IT WAS SOLD TO A LOCAL FAMILY WHO USED IT AS A PLAYHOUSE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THE IDEA OF RESTORING THE OLD GAZEBO CAME UP IN 1980. GENERAL SERVICES STAFF FIRST SPOTTED IT IN SOME OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING PROVIDED BY CECIL EDWARDS. GENERAL SERVICES THEN ADDED A GAZEBO TO THEIR GROUNDS MASTER PLAN, AND THAT ADDITION WAS APPROVED BY THE CAPITOL PLANNING COMMISSION IN 1981.

IN 1981, THE STATESMAN-JOURNAL PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE DESCRIBING THE MASTER PLAN AND THE PROPOSED GAZEBO. THE WILLAMETTE CHRISTMAS ASSOCIATION CONTACTED GENERAL SERVICES TO FIND OUT HOW THEIR GROUP COULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT. THE COST WAS DISCOVERED TO BE MORE THAN THE FUNDS AVAILABLE. GENERAL SERVICES THEN ASKED THE OREGON STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTING THE GAZEBO AS PART OF THEIR VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM. O.S.C.I. DONATED ALL LABOR -- AND THAT DONATION BROUGHT THE COST OF THE PROJECT WITHIN THE WILLAMETTE CHRISTMAS ASSOCIATION'S BUDGET.

LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION ITSELF. THE WILLAMETTE CHRISTMAS ASSOCIATION WAS ORGANIZED IN 1969. EIGHT SALEM AREA GARDEN CLUBS DECIDED TO POOL THEIR TALENTS TO BRING THE SALEM AREA ONE BIG ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW. THE EIGHT GARDEN CLUBS ARE:

- THE BEGONIA SOCIETY;
- CAPITOL ARRANGER GUILD;
- FIRCREST GARDEN CLUB;
- GROW AND SHOW GARDEN CLUB;
- LITTLE GARDEN CLUB;
- MEN'S GARDEN CLUB;
- ROSE SOCIETY; AND
- WILARK PARK GARDEN CLUB.

EVERY YEAR THE ASSOCIATION PUTS ON A CHRISTMAS GREENS SHOW IN DECEMBER AT THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS. THE SHOW, RECENTLY CONCLUDED, IS THE BEST CHRISTMAS SHOW IN THE NORTHWEST -- RIGHT HERE IN SALEM. IT HAS AN ANNUAL ATTENDANCE OF ABOUT 20,000.

ALL PROFITS ARE DONATED TO WORTHY CAUSES. SEVEN OF THE EIGHT GARDEN CLUBS OF THE WILLAMETTE CHRISTMAS ASSOCIATION HAVE DONATED TWO YEARS OF SHOW PROFITS TO MAKE THIS GAZEBO POSSIBLE.

THE LABOR DONATED BY O.S.C.I. HAS BEEN WORTH 2,650 MAN-HOURS OF INMATE TIME AND 500 HOURS OF STAFF TIME. ALL PARTS OF THE GAZEBO FROM THE FLOOR UP WERE PREFABRICATED IN THE O.S.C.I. VOCATIONAL TRAINING SHOPS.

A CREW OF INMATES WITH CLEARANCE TO WORK OUTSIDE THE WALLS HAS PUT THIS BUILDING IN PLACE. THE EXCELLENT STAFF LEADERSHIP AND TALENT OF THE INMATES IS CLEARLY SEEN BY THE FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP INCORPORATED INTO THIS GAZEBO.

MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO DONATED LABOR AND MATERIALS TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS GAZEBO:

- L. P. COMPANY DONATED A CONCRETE PUMP AND OPERATOR TO PLACE CONCRETE IN THE FOUNDATION WALLS AND SLAB.

• THE U.S. NAVAL TRAINING CENTER DONATED A CRANE AND FOUR MEN TO SET THE ROOF STRUCTURE AND CUPOLA ON THE STRUCTURE.

• TAYLOR ELECTRIC SUPPLY OF PORTLAND DONATED AN ELECTRICAL BOX.

• THE COPPER CUPOLA ON TOP WAS FABRICATED BY ARMPRIEST SHEET METAL.

THIS GAZEBO IS THE SAME SHAPE AND ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE ORIGINAL. HOWEVER, THIS IS A SINGLE STORY STRUCTURE WITH A LOWER FLOOR -- AND IS SAFER FOR CHILDREN WHO MAY PLAY HERE.

THE COLUMNS ARE BUILT FROM WOOD TO RESEMBLE THE COLUMNS OF THE ORIGINAL, WITH FLUTES ADDED FOR A HISTORIC TOUCH.

THE RAILS ARE STEEL WITH A WOOD CAP. THE OLD GAZEBO HAD WOOD RAILS, BUT STEEL WILL LAST LONGER AND BETTER SUPPORT SEATED PEOPLE.

THE ROOF RESEMBLES THE ROOF OF THE ORIGINAL GAZEBO. THE MATERIALS ARE DESIGNED FOR LONG LIFE WITH MINIMUM MAINTENANCE. THE COPPER CUPOLA ON TOP WILL WEATHER NATURALLY TO REFLECT AGE AND SEASONS.

THE GAZEBO WILL BE OPERATED BY OUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES. IT IS AVAILABLE FOR MANY PUBLIC USES, SUCH AS:

- SMALL MUSIC ENSEMBLES;
- SPEECHES;
- DEDICATION CEREMONIES; AND
- WEDDINGS AND RECEPTIONS.

WE HAVE ALREADY HAD A REQUEST FROM A COUPLE TO BE THE FIRST MARRIED IN IT.

OREGONIANS JOIN ME IN EXTENDING DEEP AND SINCERE THANKS
TO:

- THE WILLAMETTE CHRISTMAS ASSOCIATION;
- THE OREGON STATE CORRECTIONS DIVISION; AND
- ALL THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES THAT MADE THIS GAZEBO POSSIBLE.

IT IS A SPLENDED ADDITION TO OUR CAPITOL. AND IT IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE WHEN PRIVATE CITIZENS VOLUNTEER THEIR TALENTS AND HEARTS FOR OREGONIANS.

THIS GAZEBO REMINDS US OF HISTORY, CELEBRATES OUR PRESENT, AND INVITES THE PUBLIC TO USE THESE BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS IN THE FUTURE. THE CITIZENS OF OREGON COULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED A MORE BEAUTIFUL OR APPROPRIATE CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM THE COMMUNITY.

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO CLOSE OUR CELEBRATION THEN TO ADD A FEW WORDS FROM WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:

"HOW SWEET THE MOONLIGHT SLEEPS UPON THIS BANK!
HERE WE WILL SIT, AND LET THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC
CREEP IN OUR EARS: SOFT STILLNESS AND THE NIGHT
BECOME THE TOUCHES OF SWEET HARMONY."

THANK YOU -- ALL OF YOU -- VERY, VERY MUCH.

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