



*****98365* CAR-PT SORT-051
*01 8004268 Expiration 09/22/99

WILLIAM FUNKE
75 SCOTT CT
PORT LUDLOW WA 98365

The LEA

75¢
48 pages
Wednesday
Aug. 11, 1999

Est. 1889

PORT TOWNSEND - JEFFERSON COUNTY

Vol. 110 No. 32

ORM's future role in Ludlow unclear

By Fred Obee
Leader Staff Writer

It's unclear whether Olympic Resource Management (ORM) will stay to develop Port Ludlow after regulations are approved by Jefferson County for resort expansion.

"Whether Pope Resources does it or not is immaterial," said ORM President and CEO Gary Tucker. "We might take a front, active roll and complete the project or just take an economic interest



Gary Tucker

like we did at the [Heron Beach] Inn."

ORM's long-term position as the developer of Port Ludlow was questioned recently by people debating whether to support a village council.

Opponents said it seemed apparent ORM was pushing the

village council so it would have an entity that would assist in ORM's exit from the community. For evidence, critics pointed to millions spent by ORM to fund a community planning process and documents from 1997 that appear to show ORM proposing the village council to the Lot Owners Association, a group stacked with ORM supporters.

Last week Tucker said none of that was true, but he would not say one way or the other what

See LUDLOW, Page A 4

that directly...

Ludlow: ORM

—Continued from Page A 1

ORM's long-term plans are.

"CLOA came to us and asked us to study in some form a centralized unification other than CLOA," Tucker said, speaking of the Council of Ludlow Owners Association, an umbrella group that formed in an attempt to create one community forum among dozens of homeowner groups.

"We provided outside legal work to be done by attorneys of their choosing. We paid for legal work," Tucker said.

ORM also hired Mike Derrig to organize the planning forums and supporter Ralph Thomas started a local newsletter, the "Port Ludlow Voice," to carry news about the resort community, planning efforts and calendars of events. It also was supported by ORM, Heron Beach Inn and Port Ludlow Golf Course. Early communications were sent to Thomas, who was active with the LOA, critics pointed out, smelling a conspiracy.

Tucker said all of ORM's involvement was driven by social responsibility, not bottom-line profits or exit strategies.

"It is our responsibility," Tucker said, to finish what the company [then known as Pope & Talbot] started in Port Ludlow in the late 1960s. The company saw the need for an expanded resort, and it involved the community to determine how that might happen.

"I wanted to understand what

the needs were in the community," Tucker said. "We spent almost three years in this whole process. It took a lot more time than expected."

As time neared for the vote and as development regulations passed from mediators to a public process, the heat turned up.

North Bay Coalition

The North Bay Coalition voiced opposition to the council idea, and political missives filled the mailboxes, Tucker said. Eventually, Tucker himself weighed in with a four-page attack on the North Bay Coalition.

In the final week before ballots were mailed Aug. 4, ORM's Greg McCary copied letters from *The Leader* critical of the North Bay Coalition and sent them to property owners in Port Ludlow.

All of that was viewed as strong-arm tactics by the organization known in Port Ludlow simply as "the developer."

"If I made a mistake, I'll say I'm sorry," Tucker said. "There was a lot of confusion, misinformation. I finally had my fill of it."

Tucker admits that a plan did exist for a one-club community, with the Beach Club in North Bay going away and inviting all residents to join the Bay Club in South Bay, but he said that idea was discarded when residents said they didn't want to sell the popular gathering spot.