

# Portland Tribune

**Every Friday, the Portland Tribune puts questions to a prominent or not so prominent local person. This week: Michael Sublett**

By Peter Korn *The Portland Tribune* Mar 3, 2006

**Sometimes the man makes the name, and sometimes the name makes the man.**

Or at least the name makes the man suitable for a Q and A.

Michael Sublett's name wouldn't raise an eyebrow around here if not for the fact that he oversees sales and leasing of Multnomah County facilities as its senior property management specialist. "It's 17th-century French Huguenot," Sublett says. He means the name, not the county properties he handles.

Portland Tribune: Have previous Subletts been involved in the property business?

Michael Sublett: There's a very famous part of the Oregon Trail called Sublett's Cutoff. It's in Wyoming, and while it saved time, it was an arid cutoff, so it wasn't a no-brainer as far as whether to take it or not. There was risk. And it has nothing to do with me cutting off people in conversations. I only wish they had put some property stakes in while they were at it instead of being crazy French fur trappers who were all over the place.

Trib: So your ancestors pursued beaver. Was it inevitable you would pursue property management?

Sublett: It marries two loves, which are government and real estate. And it's the most interesting portfolio I've worked on in my entire career.

Trib: County facilities management is that fascinating?

Sublett: I have on my desk right now a major downtown office expansion, the transfer of a burial ground, the sale of a morgue and a lease to a needle exchange program. I have to negotiate and work with county attorneys to draft a lease and maintain the portfolios of these properties.

Trib: Do all Subletts have minds for property?

Sublett: Typically you'd want to short (bet against) our family's real estate choices. Although I have to say my sister is very smart. She has property in Miami Beach and Paris.

Trib: Have you suffered a lot of ribbing about your name?

Sublett: I grew up in the suburbs. I'd never heard the term until I went away to college, and there were summer sublets. Or later, when I went to New York and there were illegal sublets.

Trib: Any little Subletts running around, legal or illegal?

Sublett: I have a daughter, Meredith Sublett, and she has a real eye for retail. She's 11, and when she goes up and down 23rd she's always noticing which stores have gone in and out. Of course, she loves to shop.

Trib: So, owner or renter?

Sublett: I'm a happy renter. I was a homeowner. I spent too much at Home Depot.

Trib: And might you sublet someday?

Sublett: I would just say that you always want to scrutinize the sublet clause.

Trib: And that would be around Christmastime, right?

Sublett: Santa Claus gives; the sublet clause takes away.

*Peter Korn*