

Injuries plague holidays

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

America's Bicentennial brought tall-masted sailing ships, huge celebrations marked by picnics, flag-waving parades, fiery displays and nearly 5,600 fireworks-related injuries.

This year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is predicting another rash of fireworks-related injuries, almost as many as 9,000 for the entire year. Oregonians, however, may fare better than most of the nation. The worst they could legally be injured in is the pocketbook.

While bans on various fireworks are in effect in 32 states, Oregon may have the stiffest regulations of all. According to Oregon law, no person can sell, give away or otherwise dispose of exploding fireworks for private use.

It is also illegal to sell oversized firecrackers, such as cherry bombs, M-80s or others that may be over two-and-one-half inches long and more than five-eighths of an inch in diameter. Anyone caught with illegal fireworks could be fined up to \$500.

According to Floyd Dickey, assistant city fire marshal, Eugene's fireworks restrictions are even tougher. Dickey, whose office issues permits for fireworks displays and handles the fire safety inspection, must approve every item sold in local fireworks stands.

The Eugene City Code specifies those fireworks permitted for sale as sparklers, "snakes," and other smoke-producing material that has no visible flame during discharge, doesn't smolder, and doesn't produce enough heat to set any readily combustible material on fire.

Those items not legally sold in the city limits include blank cartridges, firecrackers, Roman candles, cherry bombs, bottle rockets, pin wheels, colored fires and fountains. Toy guns using paper caps are allowed, as long as the toy doesn't emit flame during the cap's discharge.

Already this holiday season illegally obtained fireworks have set off two fires in Eugene, Dickey said. One burnt most of South Eugene High School's oval track and another set a local barn roof on fire.

So far, Dickey says, that is good in comparison to past years. Last year six fires were directly caused by fireworks not approved for Eugene or the state. Two of those fires involved automobiles that appeared to have been deliberately set by fireworks thrown inside, Dickey said.

Oregon's ban on questionable fireworks was based mainly on the safety of those using them. A similar drive to ban private fireworks nationwide was launched in 1973 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). But controversy caused the FDA to quickly drop their recommendation.

In May 1974, the CPSC announced its intentions to ban the sale of firecrackers for private use. Manufacturers and dealers took legal action leaving the ban in limbo for the next two Fourth of July holidays.

Then, in December 1976, CPSC regulations went into effect lowering the maximum charge of firecrackers offered for sale to 50 milligrams of black powder. The previous legal limit was 130 milligrams.

More than 30 Eugene fireworks stands have been selling fire marshal-approved smoke bombs, sparklers and "snakes" since Wednesday. Most of those didn't need a license to sell the items inside the city limits. Only those selling fireworks for a charitable cause must apply for a license.

Baseball fanatics find diversion, 'entertainment' in Eugene Ems

By MICHAEL CONNELLY
Of the Emerald

Summertime in Eugene — biking along the Willamette, trading at the markets and fairs, watching the planets and stars chase one another across the heavens at night, and seeing the Amazon Ems sweep a four-game series and leap-frog to the top of the stack.

If that last tidbit of imagination worked funny things inside your head, it could be that this is your maiden summer in Eugene and you're still getting your feet on the ground when it comes to local entertainment. If the Ems are anything, they're entertaining.

The Ems are Eugene's answer to live professional baseball. They are the Class A minor-league farm club that the World Champion Cincinnati Reds have used as spawning ground for more than three-dozen major league ballplayers in the past 20 years.

Some names are easily recognizable, like Cy Young Award winner Mike Marshall and Cub outfielder Jose (Hot Dog) Cardenal. Others may ring a bell, (Julio Who?), without a recall to notoriety. Whatever the case, Eugene has contributed its share to the pool of major leaguers who've learned the ropes in the Northwest League (NWL).

After a dozen games, a multitude of hits, more than a fistful of walks and too many wild pitches to recall, there seems to be no indication that the 1977 season will prove any less proficient than the past.

Already the parent club Reds have recalled pitcher Paul Moskauer, the ace of the Ems' staff of 1975, and catcher Jack Hudson has replaced him as a part of the Reds' Triple-A farm club in Indianapolis. Hudson had started the season as the Ems' number one catcher.

As the June 15 trading deadline has now passed, most of the clubs can pretty well be assured

that their current roster will remain fairly intact for the remainder of the summer, which means that sports patrons of the NWL in general, and Eugene in particular, will have a chance to view more than 60 potential superstars.

Meanwhile, the dollar-mania which is sweeping big-time athletics has had a not-so-indirect influence on the fortunes of the Ems. When Tom Seaver of the New York Mets pouted and held his breath until he was traded out of the Big Apple, more than a few players found their futures taking different directions than they had been led to believe. When the Reds landed Seaver, one-time staff ace Gary Nolan became expendable, being shipped to the California Angels for Craig Hendrickson, a 19-year old shortstop from Annandale. As is often the case, California's loss is turning out to be Oregon's gain. Hendrickson has provided a solid addition to the Ems' batting attack, covering shortstop with a sticky glove and a strong and accurate throwing arm.

While much of the excitement of baseball centers around batting heroics, most baseball "experts" agree that pitching is anywhere from 75 to 90 per cent of the game, and the Ems are bearing out the validity of this timeworn cliché.

In winning three of their last four outings, it has been the pitching which has made the difference each decision. For example, in the only game lost since last Thursday evening, Ems' hurlers were raked for eleven earned runs, dished out 15 walks, eight wild pitches and were relatively useless save for opposition batting practice.

In direct contrast to this were the three winning performances turned in by the moundsmen. Two complete games highlighted these efforts, one a masterful six-hitter spun by 18-year-old Tony Ortiz, the other an equally fine seven hit, six strikeout gem fashioned by another

18-year-old, Jose Brito. Both are natives of the Dominican Republic, home of another pitcher of certain fame, Juan Marichal. History does not necessarily repeat itself but it certainly has a way of continuing patterns. If this pattern of heady hurling by these young Dominican dandies holds true throughout the summer, Eugene just may be boasting another NWL crown.

The Ems are on the road until Wednesday, when they return for a three-game stint against Salem. Following that short home stand, the Ems don't return until opening a seven game stand beginning with Walla Walla July 16.

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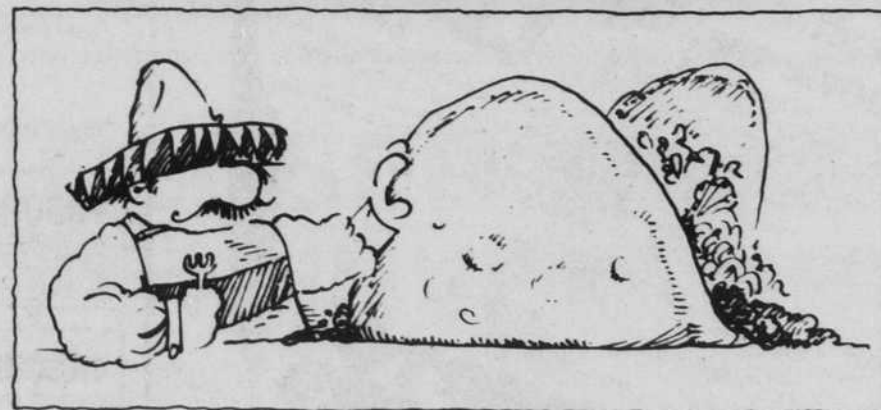


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