

catherine siegner

# of environmental concern

The Trojan Decommissioning Alliance's Portland chapter held a press conference Friday and said it opposes any attempt by Portland General Electric Co. to speed up hearings on interim operation of the Trojan nuclear plant.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission held hearings in Salem and Portland recently on whether PGE should be allowed to start up the plant while modifications are being made to the control building walls to bring them up to federal earthquake resistance standards.

The board ran out of time during the hearings and will not be able to reconvene until Dec. 11. The plant has been shut down since last April.

PGE lawyers want to continue the hearing process by mail, but

all participants, including TDA, must agree. TDA's Nina Bell summed up the organization's sentiments, "Certainly the closure of Trojan is costing PGE extra money. It is a hidden cost of nuclear power that PGE should have considered before building Trojan."

Eugene's major public utility is having a board meeting tonight at 7:30 at 500 E. 4th Ave. Eugene Water & Electric Board commissioners will hear a report on the preschool Mini-Volt Program and receive input from the audience.

Indians in Southern Oregon and Northern California are fighting a recent federal decision banning salmon fishing on the Klamath River.

Several members of the Yurok and Hoopa Tribes have been arrested for shooting at local

sheriff's deputies and blocking major highways as part of their continuing protest.

The Indians are asking for the right to fish the river, although Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus imposed the ban in August.

Despite treeplanters' objections, seedlings will continue to be treated with the animal repellent Thiram under new state Dept. of Agriculture guidelines.

The Hoedads, a Eugene-based tree planting cooperative, presented testimony at a Salem hearing Oct. 3 urging the department to issue warnings about possible adverse effects from Thiram exposure.

The new guidelines call for treeplanters to wear skin creams, gloves, protective clothing, and to avoid alcohol before and after handling Thiram-treated seed-

lings because the chemical causes nausea when combined with alcohol (much like Anabuse).

An attorney familiar with environmental litigation will speak about the practical aspects of such suits at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in Room 129 of the Law School.

Joseph Brecher has represented the Native American Rights Funds in nine separate suits to control adverse environmental effects from the Four Corners power plant complex in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico.

A new state center to investigate misuse of pesticide and herbicide applications in Oregon has been proposed.

A task force appointed by Gov. Straub suggests the center be operated beginning next year with \$71,590 and five positions.

## Mail rate fine paid by church

A Eugene church has paid more than \$150 in penalty fees for mailing a political endorsement for Republican Fourth Congressional District challenger Jerry Lausmann in late September, a U. S. Postal official says.

Ken Haley, manager of mail classification for the Eugene post office, says a letter mailed Sept. 22 by the Eugene Faith Center church that endorsed Lausmann was not mailed at the proper second class rate.

The letter was mailed to more than 1,000 church members in Eugene at the second class, non-profit rate of 2.7 cents a letter. The letter, which also contained an envelope for contributions to the Lausmann campaign, should have been mailed at a higher rate of 8.4 cents a letter.

Faith Center pastor Roy Hicks, Jr., who sent the letter, endorsed Lausmann as the "Lord's candidate" in the Nov. 7 election. Officials of Hicks' church in Los Angeles said last month the endorsement was against an "unwritten" church rule.

Earlier this month the church paid \$157 to the post office to make up the balance of the mailing rate, Haley says.

Lausmann was defeated last week by incumbent Congressman Jim Weaver, D-Ore., for the second time in two years.

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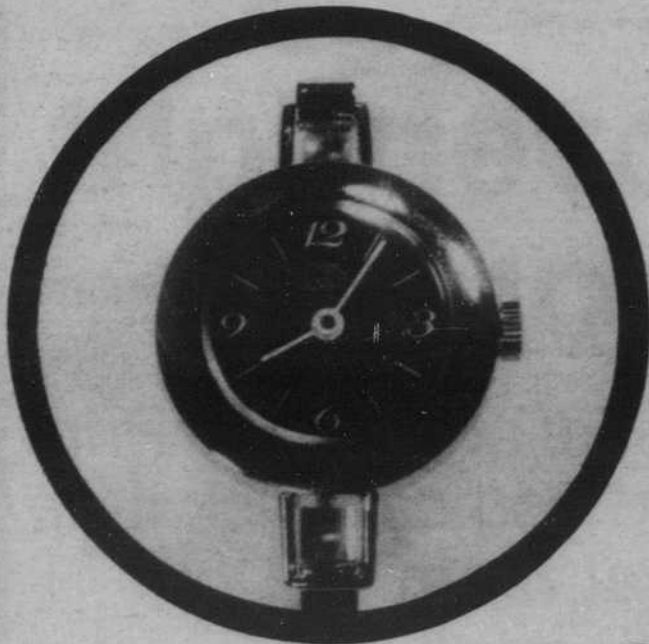
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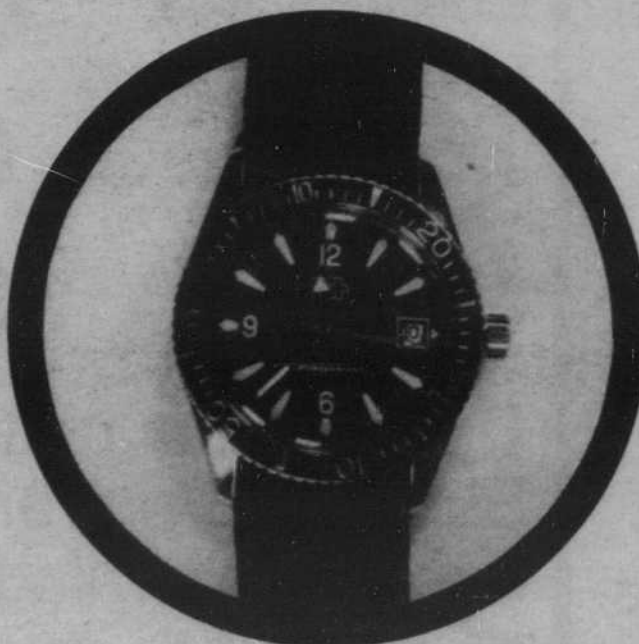
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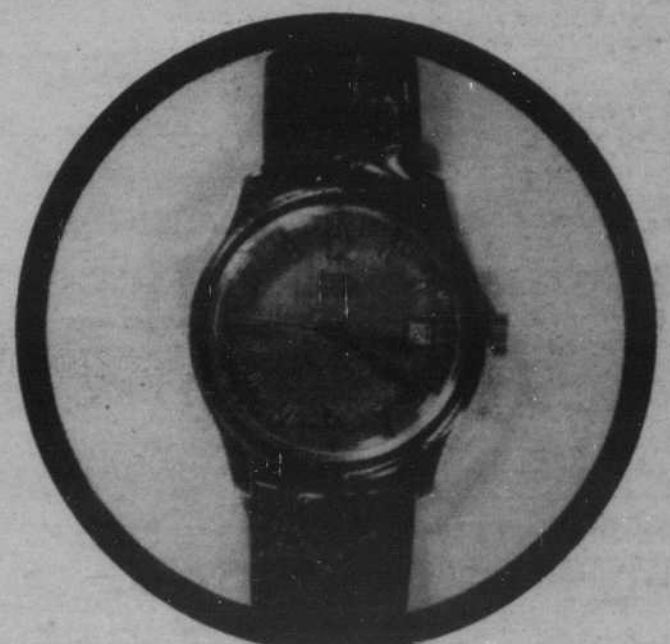
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