

COP'S CORNER

BY MEL RAY

The past few weeks I have seen a drastic change in our weather. Just a reminder that the streets are going to be slick in the early morning and evening hours. If you didn't know the vandalism at the Falls was solved and the persons responsible have been identified and will probably be doing some community service work to repair the damage.

Volunteer Emergency Personnel, either with the Fire Department or with Mercy Ambulance, need to know that when responding to a call in your personal vehicle you are not a EMERGENCY VEHICLE as defined by the Oregon Revised Statutes. You must obey all traffic laws. Won't do you any good, nor anyone else, if you become involved in an accident.

I hope your family had a very Merry Christmas and will have a prosperous and healthy New Year. (Next year I'll have more lights.)

Butte Falls' Own Thelma and Louise-

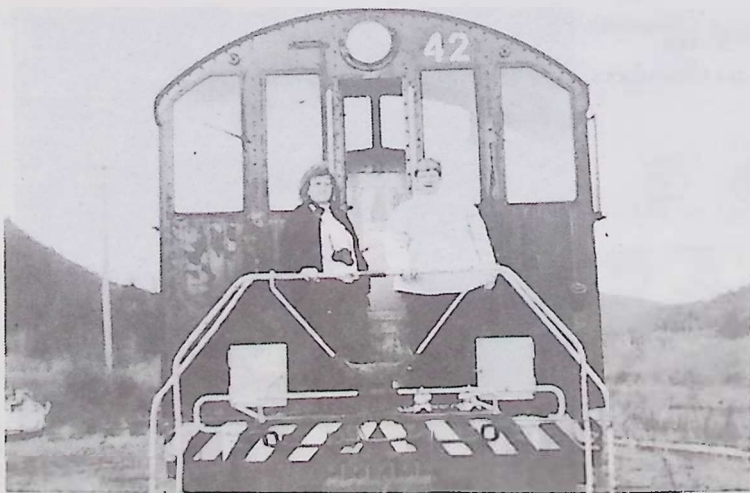
By Cathy Carlisle

Imagine Leroy Thompson's surprise when he answered the phone and it was the Oregon State Police. Little did he know that when he thought his mild-mannered wife, Nancy, and her seemingly innocent companion, Diane Pingle, had left to "visit relatives" they actually embarked on a crime spree that terrorized the I-5 corridor.

But seriously, these upstanding citizens had done nothing more than forget to pay for gas. Nancy thought Diane paid in the store and Diane thought Nancy paid at the pumps, and off they went!

As soon as they were reminded of what they had done, they sent payment of \$12.80, with the next northbound relative. Thank goodness their good names were cleaned.

The only real damage was inflicted on their egos when the station attendants were asked to identify the culprits they described them as elderly. *OUCH!* I think we need to send them some glasses.



Thelma and Louise (l-r) (aka Diane and Nancy) attempting to make a hasty retreat following their brush with the law.

Beware - Don't Drink and Drive

(or *That Ice Tea will get you everytime*)-

By Cory Hamann

Yes, that's right, it happened to me. On 8.27.99 I was pulled over for drinking and driving. Coming home from dinner with family in Shady Cove I was pulled over as I turned left on to Butte Falls Hwy. The officer put his flashlight in my face and told me I had gone over the line twice and therefore I must be "under the influence of alcohol". I tried not to laugh and said "Yes, Officer that ice tea was pretty strong and I did add two sweeteners instead of my usual one." At that time I saw my husband in the rear view mirror coming up the road. I stuck out my chins and said "Well, here comes my husband now, there goes my husband now." Oh, guess I'm on my own for this one. Don later told me that he figured I was speeding and getting what I had coming to me. The officer soon realized that I was not actually drunk and asked me for proof of insurance.

Here is the kicker- my card had expired two weeks earlier (the insurance company had not sent me our new ones yet). He then says that he will have to impound my (NEW) truck or fine me one hundred and seventy dollars! Great, my husband had passed me up and now I would be hitchhiking home. I *lucked out* and he gave me the ticket and sent me on my way. But, I learned three things that evening. Make sure your insurance card is up to date, don't drink ice tea after 7 pm, and you never really know your spouse even after twenty years (which can be kind of exciting at times).

The judge dropped my ticket since I had a letter from our insurance company. They also offered to pay for it if need be.

