

According to the Oregon State Fire Marshal, in the year 2000, there were 3455 residential fires in the State of Oregon in which 27 civilians were killed. In the same year, according to U.S. crime statistics, there were 170,000 felony crimes in Oregon. Of these, 12,285 were violent attacks (aggravated assault, robbery, rape, murder) and 26,215 burglaries for a total of 38,500 occasions during which people or their homes were attacked.

There are some things that may be very unlikely to happen to any one of us but if they do it is so devastating that it is wise to do all you can to prevent them. So it makes sense to buy fire insurance, but there are people who pay \$1000.00 or more every year for fire insurance but who won't spend a dime on defending their home from criminal attack. Let's see, we are nearly three times more likely to be murdered in Oregon than to die in a house fire and more than 10 times more likely to have to defend against a criminal than to have our home involved in a fire. But, some people spend nothing on protecting their home, themselves, or their families against crime?

To make things a little more concrete, let's presume that the Butte Falls area is average for the state of Oregon. Now, there are about 1200 people in the Butte Falls School District and about 400 residences. So, we might expect one house fire about every couple of years. But every year we would expect about 10 violent attacks and burglaries in the school district. While the lights and the gates and the locks we have been talking about improve the value of your home the insurance, as necessary as it is, is still a dead loss until you actually have to use it. Looked at another way, nobody wants a house fire whether they are insured or not and an insurance policy does nothing at all to prevent the fire. Nobody wants to be criminally attacked either, but lights and gates and dogs and locks and guns

have all been shown to prevent criminal attack! This is a no-brainer.

By the way, we have been talking mostly about home protection. If you happen to own a few acres out of town, here's something for you to think about. This spring a Jackson County sheriff's deputy informed me that Mexican drug gangs have been operating in Northern California for a few years. What they do is to plant very large pot farms and set some Mexican nationals to raise and protect the plants. These guys are handed a couple thousand dollars to live on and told that if they bring the crop in, they will get a new car and several thousand dollars. They are also handed an SKS or an AK-47 and told that if, for any reason, the crop fails, their families back home will all be killed. Everybody knows these guys will actually go through with killing the families and so you figure what can happen. The deputy indicated that the Mexican drug gangs were starting to operate in southern Oregon too.

Well, on November 1, 2005 the Jackson County sheriff's office busted a very large pot growing operation out in the sticks near Ruch. It was being guarded by about a dozen armed men, reportedly Mexican nationals. Now typically what these guys do is to find a water source like a creek or spring and then secretly bury a black plastic pipe to bring water from high ground as far as a mile or more down to the plantation. So, even if they aren't planting pot on your property, they might be taking water from or across it. If this kind of thing continues, it is just a matter of time before we see some real trouble.

Next month, lets' talk about guns and gun safes.

Lowell Nicolaus

Butte Falls Assembly of God

"Isn't it time to meet Jesus?"

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00



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Wishes you and your family

a happy and safe 2006!

We are here for you...

Ray & Mary and Family

865-7800



Town Meeting Schedule
All meetings at City Hall

1st Tuesday of every month at
7:00 Pm-Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00
Pm- Municipal Court

3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00
Pm- Council Meeting

When special, executive or work Sessions are held, it is posted at City Hall 24 hrs in advance. All agendas are posted at City Hall and bulletin board by the general store at least 24 hrs in advance.