



RECENT ADDITION of a Sandy Fire District tanker has improved the department's firefighting capacity

by 600 gallons. Firefighter Jim Gallagher is pictured with the new tanker at the Dover substation.

New tanker Fire Dept. bolsters equipment

Fighting fires is not what it used to be thanks in large part to improvements in the equipment used to fight them.

The Sandy Fire District recently improved its firefighting capabilities with the purchase of a 3,000 gallon tanker as a replacement for an 18-year old model.

The new tanker cost the district \$53,000. It has a number of advantages over the old 2,400-gallon model, which was sold outright to

the Hoodland Fire District for \$3,000, according to Fire Chief Bob Rathke.

The addition of the tanker to the Hoodland fleet should better the fire fighting capability of the two fire districts, Rathke said.

In addition to the larger storage capacity, the new tanker has a larger water release valve, compartment space to store miscellaneous equipment, easier access to the frame of the dump tank, and a portable 6x12 foot

"swimming pool" which serves as a storage tank at a fire while the tanker returns for additional water.

But one of the major advantages is the automatic transmission, Rathke said. The new tanker is much easier to drive, and to teach new volunteers to operate. It is equipped with a 350-horsepower motor.

"The difference (between the two tankers) isn't so much in the top speed that we reach," Rathke said, "but in

the power climbing the hills."

"The old one would go around a corner or climb a hill and it would take forever and a day to get the speed going again," he added.

Driving a tanker to Batty Road is the department's longest run. It used to take them 18-20 minutes whereas the new tanker can make the run in 12 minutes.

The new tanker, which weighs 44,000 pounds, will be operated from the Dover substation.

Western lumber production short

PORTLAND — Western lumber production through May of this year has so far almost matched the pace of 1977, according to a summary report issued this week by the Western Wood Products Association.

The group's May Industry Fact Sheet showed this year's production at 7.649 billion board feet, compared with 7.726 billion board feet for the same period a year ago.

The vast inland producing region reflected the effects of

this year's lingering rail car shortage, among other factors, in lagging 4.2 percent behind the 1977 performance for the first five months.

However, the coastal region west of the Pacific Northwest Cascades almost made up for the difference, producing at a rate of 2.6 percent ahead of a year ago. Coast mill inventories were 13 percent higher at the end of May than a year earlier, while inland stocks were up less than 2 percent.

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Move will make room for county

OREGON CITY — The shift of Clackamas County planning offices in September will be more than just physical, says county Environmental Services Director John McIntyre.

County planners will move from the Red Soils area in Oregon City to join the other Environmental Services departments on Abernathy Road Sept. 1.

Besides giving the planners more space to work in, the move will make planning services more efficient and helpful to the citizen, McIntyre says.

At a meeting with citizen leaders Tuesday, July 18, McIntyre said personnel in the planning and developmental services departments will be trained in each others' fields and eventually combined into one unit.

As a result, he said, one person will be able to handle, a request for a building or other permit. The eventual goal, he said, is to establish a "one-stop" permit process. Two other changes should bring more consistency to answers from various deferent members of the planning staff, McIntyre said. New planners will now receive training in all branches of the department before they come in contact with the public, he said.

In addition, McIntyre said, planner Winston Kurth will coordinate planning activities with each other and with those of other county departments.

McIntyre said another goal is for the department to handle more of the negotiation with state and federal departments on a permit, relieving the citizen of the burden of red tape.

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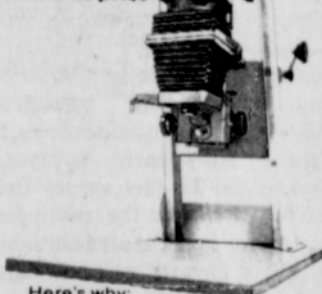


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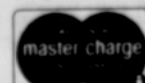
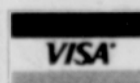
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