



Staff photo

Message switch

LARRY LaMARSH of Sandy Community Players changes the marquee at the Theatre in Sandy. Former leaseholder John W. Kent III was evicted this week by building owner Jack Meng. The vacated building will be utilized by the local drama group, formerly known as the "One Way Theatre".

Theater 'owner' evicted

by KAYE BARTON BAKKE

Sandy's theater-turned church is apparently once again a theater.

John Kent, operator of the Theatre on Proctor Boulevard since last spring, was evicted last week by Jack Meng, a Gresham resident and owner of the building.

Meng had been granted a Forceful Entry and Detainer court order by Clackamas County courts because of Kent's reported failure to make payments on the lease-option contract he had on the theater building.

The F.E.D. action was granted Wednesday, March 21. It specified that Kent was to remove all his personal possessions from the premises by last Friday or the sheriff's department could impound and store them.

That procedure was carried out Friday and Monday, with deputies hiring a moving van from Sandy Truck Lines.

The action climaxed a series of economic difficulties for Kent. His non-conformist philosophy on booking films attracted few theater-goers, and he recently announced that his business had been granted state recognition as a chapel.

A wooden sign above the theater's main entrance proclaimed the building as "The Church of Sandy". Religious meetings were held in the auditorium

Sunday evenings.

Meng said last week that he had received no lease-mortgage payments since July, 1978. "I've been trying to work out this eviction since last October," he said.

Meng said he hasn't decided what he will do with the building. For the time being, a local drama group will use it for its productions.

Sandy Community Players, formerly known as the One Way Theatre Group, will present the play "Arsenic and Old Lace" starting April 27 in the theater building.

Another play is planned by the group, to be performed later in the spring. "Arsenic" will play Friday and Saturday nights, April 27 and 28, with a matinee

scheduled for Sunday, April 29.

The production will continue the following Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Mike Estes of Mt. Hood Community College is the play's director.

Building owner Meng said an anonymous caller telephoned him last Wednesday evening, after the F.E.D. order was issued by the county clerk.

The caller said that a church in California was raising funds to save the theater, and asked Meng to grant a 90-day extension before evicting Kent.

"The guy told me if I'd hold off for 90 days, he'd make sure the lease was paid up, and I'd get a brand new \$25,000 Corvette for my trouble," Meng said.

Season 'hazardous'

Permits needed as burning nears

A rash of brush fires on nice days lately has kept the Sandy Fire District busy.

According to Jim Gallagher, fire prevention officer, the sudden rise in the number of brush fires is caused by "duff," or dried, dead grass that accumulates over the winter and is particularly flammable.

As area residents begin yard work, they fail to leave a fire trail around their burning piles, and the flames burn out of control.

Residents who plan to do yard work may qualify for an Agricultural Burning Permit if they raise and sell something on their property. These permits may be obtained at the fire station. These permits are good year-round on approved burning days.

This time of year is con-

sidered more hazardous than late in the summer for fire potential. Gallagher said that now people tend to be "a little lax" because they don't realize that the grass dries out faster than it would if it were green.

The Department of Environmental Quality has announced that the spring residential burning season will begin April 13 and continue through May 20. If residents have some trimmings they wish to burn at home, it must be done between these dates, and only on an authorized burn day.

The fire district is notified each morning if burning is to be permitted on that day.

Persons wishing to burn trimming and yard debris at home should follow a few steps. Those who do not already have a Residential

Burning Permit can obtain one at the main fire station in Sandy.

The permit will be valid as long as the recipient is on the property listed on the permit. Permits may be obtained between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. any day of the week without charge.

Each day before burning, the holder of the permit must call to verify that it is an authorized burn day. If it is, the burning permit number and address must be given to the fire department.

In the Sandy area call 668-4622. Aims area, call 375-2225. In the Eagle Creek area call 630-3537.

Burning is permitted only in an area that is away from buildings, fences or combustible growth. People should never burn uncut grass or brush, according to

the fire district.

Piles should be limited in size to less than five feet in any dimension. Do not start or add materials to a fire after dusk. Never burn materials like rubber, plastic, tar paper or asphalt

shingles.

The fire district reminds area residents to make adequate provisions to prevent the fire from spreading and have someone watching the fire until it has been extinguished.

Kick habit in 5 days

The Five Day Plan to Stop Smoking begins this Sunday evening, April 1, at 7:30 at the Adventist Community Center, 17150 University Ave., in Sandy.

"The program is a medically sound, mind-and-body approach for those who want to kick the habit," said Pastor Terry Zull, coordinator of the program.

A physician and clergyman team conduct the informal program over five consecutive nights.

Talks, films, group discussion therapy, and a special day-to-day control pocket manual are part of the techniques which make up the plan.

There is no charge for the series, and interested persons can register by calling 668-7714.

"Many chain smokers who considered themselves trapped by cigarettes found it far easier to quit under a controlled program," said Pastor Zull.

County to hear GTE use request

General Telephone Company will ask the Clackamas County hearings officer for the right to use the old Mt. Hood Stables buildings for a support center for the company.

The hearing will be held April 2, at 7 p.m., in the county courthouse.

The support center will provide the engineering, construction and installation services for General Telephone. Approximately 103 employees would work at the support center, and approximately 80 vehicles would be operated from the site.

The present zoning for the site is Farm Forest, and approval of this application may require an exception from LCDC goals three and four.

The property is on the south side of Highway 26, approximately 600 feet east of its intersection with Haley Road in the Boring area.

In other action, the hearings officer will hear an

application by Robert K. Ives to use an 1,865 square foot mobile home as a permanent residence. Approval of this action may require an exception from the goals and guidelines of the LCDC.

The site is approximately three-quarters of a mile south of the intersection of S.E. Warriner Road and S.E. Bull Run Road in the Sandy area. The present zone is for Transitional Timber.

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