

Timeshare given until Nov. 11 to comply

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Mt. Hood Timeshare of Welches has until Nov. 11 to comply with the demands of the Oregon State Real Estate Commission, or else be forced to halt the sales of their 30-year vacation plan.

In a desist and refrain order issued in October by Gwinn F. William, Real Estate commissioner, five companies related to the timeshare sales were given 20 days to provide necessary information related to consumer protection statutes.

Named was Resort Timesharing Inc. of Welches; Mt. Hood Timeshare Sales Inc. of Portland; Mt. Hood Vacation Club of Welches; Mt. Hood Clearinghouse of Incline Village, Nev.; and American Guaranty Financial Corporation of Portland, which owns the Green Tee Motel that is being purchased for the vacation plan.

In October Jon W. Pegg Jr., of the Washington State Real Estate Division, issued a cease and desist order in that state.

Pegg said deceptive advertising tactics and consumer complaints forced the order. Also, proper licensing within that state was not secured.

Monday, in a telephone interview, Pegg said timeshare is still not

licensed in Washington, and that the main shareholders involved—Carl Bright of Welches and James Vincent and Joe Carribus, both of Incline Village—will have to show up for a hearing and give public testimony. He said that he had talked to a representative of the timeshare operation who said that they would cooperate. He said he demanded a letter stating that, but had not received it.

Pegg said that all sales made in the state can be challenged by buyers until the licensing is secured. He said he is considering sending the matter to the Washington State attorney general's office if the matter is not resolved.

Questions have arisen in Oregon and Washington concerning the use of a direct mail promotion scheme that offers a number of prizes, including a four day, three night cruise to the Bahamas.

Recipients of the prize claim that they were not informed they were to pay their own transportation to Florida until they had made the trip to Mt. Hood and attended a tour of Rippling River-Red Lion.

Representatives of the Better Business Bureau in both Oregon and Washington have been looking into the mailings for the last few weeks.

Last week Robert Love of the Bet-

ter Business Bureau in Portland said that an employee of timeshare informed him they were no longer using the controversial "winnergrams" sent by the direct mail marketing firm, Mt. Hood Clearinghouse of Incline Village. He said that a new firm out of Pittston, Penn., is now sending out "Instagrams." The new company was selected because they can market the plan nationally.

However, last week Portland residents were still receiving the "winnergrams" from the Mt. Hood Clearinghouse. They were mailed from San Francisco.

Love said that he was not aware that the "winnergrams" are still being used. He said that he had requested the company review their direct mail literature with his office, but this was never done. Also, a list of prize winners that have been repeatedly requested have never been received.

On Oct. 29 Dennis B. Atchley, the attorney for James Vincent, who is president of Mt. Hood Clearinghouse and a number of other timeshare corporations in California, Nevada and Oregon, said in a telephone interview from Fallbrook, Calif., that the company will have its problems resolved with Oregon shortly after the first of November.

Atchley, who according to corporation papers filed with the state of Oregon is listed as a member of the board of directors of the Mt. Hood Clearinghouse, said that timeshare filed the necessary papers with state on Oct. 22. He said they are currently awaiting the Real Estate Division's approval.

G. Wesley Preis, an examiner with

the subdivision of the Real Estate Division, said his office has not received all the necessary documents. He said that the timeshare operation has until Nov. 11 or else timeshare sales in this state will no longer be legal.

Atchley, on the other hand, maintains that once the company is of-

ficially registered in Oregon, the Washington problems will be alleviated.

"I imagine that they (the Washington Real Estate Division) are gonna go along with the state of Oregon," said Atchley. "When Oregon lifts the desist and refrain order, so will Washington."

Arson cause of \$47,500 house fire

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The fifth arson fire in two and a half years struck a home along the "old emigrant trail" just off Dewey Avenue in Wemme Halloween night.

Don Armintrout, chief of the Hoodland Fire Department, said the fire broke out at 7:15 p.m. in a vacant house, and was fully involved when firefighters arrived. The blaze was fought with three company engines, two tankers, one rescue rig and 23 firefighters.

Fire department personnel battled the blaze for two hours and 15 minutes. The building was a total loss with the value assessed at approximately \$47,500.

Amintrout said the fire was set, and that flammable liquids were involved. Eye witnesses say that there was a large explosion prior to the fire. A five-gallon, wire-handled gas can was found at the scene.

Armintrout said that this fire "had a similar m.o. (method of operation) to the other fires over recent years."

He said eight similar fires in the Mt. Hood Corridor were also set with flammable liquids, and all occurred between 7 and 8:30 p.m.

The Hoodland fire department and the Oregon State Police arson division is currently investigating the fire and will actively pursue all leads. Armintrout believes that this same arsonist was responsible for

the two fires set at the new Welches Grade School annex while it was under construction, and a fire at a beauty salon at the junction of Highway 26 and the Brighwood Loop Road last year.

The residence is owned by Konrad L. Daas of Portland, who recently purchased it for a vacation home.

Armintrout is urging anyone with information related to the fire to contact his office as soon as possible.

Also on Oct. 31 a serious auto accident occurred two miles east of Government Camp at 5:52 a.m. Two vehicles were involved and hit head on. Three persons were injured, two of them seriously. Black ice was blamed as the cause of the accident.

Building church was secondary to building peoples' lives

by SCOTT NEWTON

Although the new Mt. Hood Evangelical Free Church was dedicated Sunday, it is the building of peoples' lives that is exciting, Pastor Stan Wall said following the afternoon service.

"We've had many that have been on the verge of suicide because of their guilt, and the self-destructiveness of their lifestyles, who have found Christ here, and are just filled with joy and peace and prosperity today," he said.

"Our whole body is full of them." Although it's the people, and not the building itself that counts, Wall did admit a feeling of satisfaction.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "It feels good."

The sun shone through the Douglas firs and into the windows of the chapel during the service. It is just far enough from the road that it doesn't seem as though it's next to Highway 26, or across from the Hoodland Shopping Plaza.

"Actually, with just a few exceptions, our people built it all," Wall said. "They cleared the ground, chopped the trees down, sawed 'em

up, peeled 'em. All these trusses were all put together by them," he said, motioning toward the ceiling in the chapel.

"It's a real mountain top experience. A lot of them have been working real hard for a couple of years."

The church was founded by Wall, Steve Bielenberg, Jim Olsen and John Cook. The four of them used to have prayer meetings together early in the mornings.

The prayer meetings expanded to include their families, and has now grown to a church that draws about 150, if the children are included.

About 200 attended Sunday's dedication.

Olsen, Bielenberg and Cook, however, have not been around for some time. They lived in the area in 1976, when the church was founded, but began moving away, any time from less than a year to two years after things got started.

"I think what happened, when I look back on it now, is that I think the Lord sent them here to start the church," Wall said. "Each of them came in for just a short period of time."

And then, different circumstances necessitated their moving. By this time the church had grown somewhat.

"It was scary for awhile," Wall said, "because when they all left, I thought, 'Oh boy, we're going to sink for sure now.'"

"But God just sent the next people in and we went on."

Bielenberg, who lives between Corvallis and Albany and teaches physical education at Scio, had just moved to the area and was teaching and coaching at Welches Middle School when the church got started. He and his wife, Paula, had attended a few churches in the area, but hadn't found one that really met their needs.

He said that he never had pictured what he saw Sunday, explaining that he thinks more in terms of "a month at a time type of thing."

He said, "I couldn't look down the line four years and see that that this could happen, a church of this size with so many people in a structure like this."

Olsen, who works for the Forest Service and was stationed in Zigzag but is now in Portland, said that Wall and his wife, Mary, have "really

shown an interest in the community."

He said, "Stan wanted to be a minister. He wanted to minister to people, and he wanted to do that in a way that God had led him to do."

"I guess God leads you to do things, and that's what we wanted to do, to support him in that."

Olsen had envisioned a church. "When you say a vision," he explained, "that sounds mystical. It's actually a situation in which I thought when we had a church, it would be in the character of the mountain."

Cook, who was superintendent-principal of Welches at the time, and who now is principal at Molalla Primary School, said, "Steve was the one that talked to me first. He said, 'I think I'll go talk to Stan and see if there's any way we can maybe get a church going here.'"

After the early-morning prayer meetings had gone on a while, they started to look for a place to hold services.

They were allowed to use Camp Arara Wanna.

"We didn't know from week to

week which building we would use," Cook said.

During the dedication it was joked about a couple of times that they are no longer a "fly by night" church.

Finally they got enough money together to buy a house, which is now the parsonage, and they started meeting in the basement.

"Then a friend of Stan's came along, who was a carpenter and a builder, and he converted the basement into a sanctuary. He put rugs on the floor, and put some paneling up. We had a pretty nice sanctuary in there that would seat 25 or 30 people comfortably," Cook said.

"But there were times when we got over 100 people in there, packed in and scattered out all over the laundry room."

Cook left the area about this time, and like the others, hasn't had as much contact with the church as he would have liked to have had.

"I probably don't dream as big and I'm probably more realistic than Stan is when it comes to visions," Cook said with a smile. "Maybe I don't trust the Lord as much as he does, but I never envisioned this."

"We were looking for property, and we were looking around here at various places, and almost everywhere we looked something would happen and the doors would be closed and we just couldn't buy it."

"Finally this piece of property opened up, and I didn't think we'd get this because of the proximity to the shopping center and the value of the property."

"They had a meeting here one day, and there were enough contributions to put a down payment on this property."

About Wall, Cook said, "He's very personable, and he motivates you through example. As Steve Bielenberg says, he's a good salesman, a good salesman for the Lord."

"He has that charisma about him that people just want to help and you can tell he's doing it for the Lord. He's not doing it for himself."

About the dedication service, Cook said, "It was very nostalgic for me earlier, especially listening to Cheryl (Adams, who sang "One Day at a Time")."

"She was our singer when we first started," he pointed out.

"It was very nostalgic to listen to that and see what's happened here."

"Most of all, I like to see the informality that takes place in this church. Things just seem to happen. It's not a very formal church. To me, it's just kind of hard to put it into words."

Wall admits to being a salesman. A former district manager for Farmers Insurance, and a stockbroker for a year, he said, "I started kind of late. This is the first church I've ever pastored. And it may be the last one, I don't know," he added with a laugh.

"But I got started late. I really wasn't taught how to pastor a church. About the only thing I had going was that I felt like the Bible was the secret."

"If I could teach the Bible, preach the Bible, live the Bible Jesus could build a church. And that's the way it works. That really is the way it works."

Wall said that the word evangelical pretty well describes what they believe.

"Basically, evangelicals believe two things. They believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, that it's without error, and that it's our guideline for faith and practice in the Christian life."

"(And), Evangelicals believe that you have to be born again, and basically what that means is dying to the old life and (being) born again to the new life in Christ."

"And it happens when you unconditionally surrender your will to the will of Jesus Christ. It's a major transformation, and that's where Christian life begins."

One member of the congregation pointed out that they do not think, now that the church is built, that their work is over.

She most likely agreed with Dr. Irving Hedstrom, superintendent of the Pacific Northwest District of the Evangelical Free Church, who dedicated the building.

He said, "To whom much is given, much is required."



Wyatt Blessing stands at the front entrance of the Mt. Hood Evangelical Free Church. "It's a neat church to belong to," he said.

Photo by Scott Newton