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Storm flattens trees, leaves homes powerless

by DAN DILLON

Wednesday morning Portland General Electric crews got to the "mop-up" stage after a four days of work returning power to some 12,000 customers in the Sandy district who were affected when winds, as high as 71 mph, ripped through the area early Saturday morning.

The storm uprooted trees, blew down a machine shop and numerous traffic signs and knocked out power for the entire Sandy PGE district.

and Cindie Spurgeon who live on Chase Street got a double dose early Saturday when two trees fell on their house, toppled by the winds.

The first tree, which fell about 3

a.m., landed on the roof over the main part of the house, causing damage to the roof and eaves.

The second tree, a large fir, fell about a half hour later and demolished the garage, pinning the front end of a small pickup truck under its trunk. It narrowly missed the second family car which was parked next to the pickup in the driveway.

Cindie said the house is just six months old.

In the Cottrell area, Marvin Mosbrucker of SE 347th Avenue got up at about 2 a.m. Saturday morning to chase a garbage can lid he heard the wind blowing. When he stepped outside, he saw the wind lift his 22-by-60-foot machine shop and throw it

over "like throwing a rag," he said.

Mosbrucker said the power of the wind was awesome and pointed to other buildings in his area, built around the turn of the century which escaped the storm unscathed.

He said it would cost \$5,700 to replace the 16-month-old metal building. It was built in six sections. After the winds, only one section was standing.

PGE District Manager Bob Kallen estimated Wednesday that power had been restored to 99.5 percent of the utility's customers in the district, which includes Boring, Estacada, Eagle Creek, Sandy and the Mt. Hood area.

Power went out at about 3:15 a.m.

Saturday morning when the most violent winds hit.

Kallen said crews were able to restore power to the core areas—Sandy, Estacada, Boring—by late afternoon Saturday. "We were lucky to get the core areas back so fast," he said.

The last area where power was restored was in the McCabe Road and Jadron Road area. Those customers' lights came back on at about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Despite the length of power outages in some areas, Kallen said that "the vast majority of customers were really super and we appreciate it. I'd like to thank them for their patience and understanding."

The Sandy Fire District came through the storm in much better fashion than the storm two years ago which flooded basements and uprooted trees.

"We feel we got off very, very easy this time," said Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher.

He said the district responded to between 20 and 30 public assistances and "probably 15 trees down in various locations," he said.

"We had quite a few public services," Gallagher said, including clearing trees and charging freezers, "but it was nowhere near like it was a couple years ago."

He said stand-by crews were at the main station all day Saturday and

most of Sunday to help with the clean-up.

The Sandy police reported no major storm-related incidents other than a rash of unfounded alarms set off by the high winds.

The city of Sandy has designated a public collection point for storm debris at the corner of Sunset and Toll Drive in a roped area on the north side.

Yard matter and other burnable material from the recent storm can be dumped there from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 22.

Only storm debris and yard material that is burnable is acceptable at the city's collection point.



Photos by Dan Dillon

The machine shop of Marvin Mosbrucker, left, was blown over early Saturday morning by high winds which swept through the area. Monday morning the family cat surveyed the damage. Larry and Cindie Spurgeon got a double whammy from the winds as two trees fell on their Chase Street home. The second tree, pictured, demolished the garage and struck a small pickup parked in the driveway. A second car, parked next to it, was not damaged.

About Alder Creek water

Reliability of samples questioned at hearing

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The quality and reliability of evidence and hints of a conspiracy highlighted health hazard hearings last week for the Alder Creek Water Company.

Attorney Edward Sullivan, representing the Alder Creek Water Users Association, charged that some water samples submitted as evidence by the Oregon State Health Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were unreliable because they were taken either by customers or analyzed by an uncertified laboratory.

Sullivan also objected to evidence taken by samplers who were not present at the hearing. He argued that their absence did not allow testimony about their sampling techniques and that they were not subject to cross examination.

Barbara Leiter, EPA attorney, said the two samplers in questions are no longer employees of the agency and do not fall under its jurisdiction.

She said they were trained by the EPA in proper water collection techniques and characterized their samples as within the scope of the agency's guidelines and standards.

"While I appreciate Ms. Leiter's testimony regarding the training of the samplers and that they took good samples," Sullivan said, "that is not an adequate substitute for having the samplers here to testify as to their training, their expertise and the samples taken in these circumstances."

He said that if it comes down to the Circuit Court of Oregon, they can be subpoenaed.

At issue, according to Sullivan, is the accuracy and reliability of the data, the quality of the people who took the samples and the laboratory analyses taken. He told the hearings officer that the best evidence must be submitted, but the evidence submitted does not meet that standard.

Hearings officer Charles Leierer ruled that the evidence be stricken.

Sullivan also objected to the

relevancy of samples taken during the time Gerald "Red" Bennett operated the water company. He said that only samples taken during the period of Gene Ginther's receivership were relevant to the hearing.

The EPA countered that the evidence was made relevant by its historical perspective and because if the receivership is not continued (it could end in 1983), then Bennett may again be present at the water company.

"Therefore all of the data which relates to the operation and management of the systems by Mr. Bennett is relevant, particularly in view of the fact that the receivership's final outcome is not known at this time," Leierer said.

Sullivan charged that the EPA and Health Division were ignoring anything after Sept. 26, 1980 when Ginther was named receiver. He said the agencies were pretending that Bennett is still running the company.

Sullivan said that problems did exist in the past, but that his clients would not ignore what happened

after Ginther took over as receiver. He charged Ginther with deliberately ignoring problems in the system so that it might become a health hazard.

"The issues is whether or not when Mr. Ginther joined with the company, there became a health hazard," Sullivan said.

Assistant Attorney General Larry Payette said the state does consider historical background before the receivership. The Health Division felt "the receivership was merely transient in nature and that the health hazard proceeding must look at the existing system as it was and may be in the future."

Hearings officer Leierer ruled that evidence taken by the two former EPA samplers be stricken from the record but said evidence concerning contamination prior to receivership is relevant.

Sullivan attempted to enter minutes of a Health Division meeting held Feb. 23 into the records. The meeting was attended by Health Division and EPA staff who had

testified in the health hazard proceedings, as well as their legal counselors.

One of those counselors, Leo Pearlman, objected to the admissibility of the minutes, claiming that nothing took place which would be relevant at last week's hearing.

"The point is, what preceded the Health Division determining that the hearing ought to be held has really nothing to do with whether or not there is a health hazard in this area," Pearlman said. "That remains to be seen by the evidence in this case—and not by what various people in the Health Division through prior to the time the hearing was ordered."

Sullivan said that up to June 26, Health Division staff did not feel they had enough evidence to initiate a health hazard proceeding against the water company.

"Now I want to find out what was it the Health Division got that made them conclude that there was no case to be made," he said. "I want to find out what changed their minds."

Pearlman replied, "Mr. Sullivan's wanting to bring into this hearing evidence that is completely irrelevant and immaterial to the questions before the hearings officer."

"It will lead us nowhere to go for several hours of testimony as to the debate within the health department as to whether there was or was not, at a time previous, substantial evidence to support the findings of a health hazard in this matter."

Sullivan charged that "the Health Division administrator and higher-ups in the Health Division ignored essential advice from people who were out in the field responsible for enforcement. And because of pressure brought upon them by the Federal District Court, but the U.S. attorney's office, by the EPA and others, including the receiver, brought this matter to a hearing."

The hearings officer reserved his decision on this issue until the next hearing Nov. 30. This will be the fourth hearing in the health hazard proceedings against the Alder Creek Water Company. It began at 10 a.m. at the Mt. Hood Lions Club in Wemme.

Annexation center fees OK'd by city

by DAN DILLON

The proposed annexation of 5.5 acres on the city's western boundary and a new set of user fees for the city's Community Center were approved Monday evening by the Sandy City Council.

The annexed parcel is on the west side of 362nd Drive, across the street from Sandy Industrial Park. Ben Salisbury, who filed the annexation petition, indicated to city officials that he plans to develop two of the 5.5 acres as soon as possible. The remaining property would be developed over time.

The area would be in a light industry zone, according to the Sandy Comprehensive Plan.

Salisbury presently has a buyer for the two-acre parcel of the property who would have a light-industrial use compatible with the zoning.

At the public hearing Monday to consider the annexation, George Morgan, chairman of the city's Economic Development Committee, lauded the move. "It's one positive step in the direction which the Industrial Development Committee has come up with in its charting of the industrial future of the city." The committee has been studying existing and potential industrial sites in the Sandy area as the city moves to attract new industry to help the city's tax base.

The move to strengthen the tax base also brought praise from Dale Nicholls who urged the annexation because of the broadening of the tax base which the proposed development on the site could bring.

The city council unanimously approved the addition of the parcel, with Mayor Ruth Loundree abstaining.

The annexation must be approved by the Portland Metropolitan Boundary Commission before it becomes final. That hearing is expected to occur sometime during December.

The new set of user fees for the Community Center simplifies the process, basing rental on a per-evening or per-day rate, rather than basing it on an hourly rate.

The revised fee schedule continues the city's plan to make the center available to local civic, service, fraternal and social organizations on a no-charge basis for use of the auditorium or conference room for their meetings. That decision was made earlier in the year by the city council.

In other action, the city council appointed Bruce Samuelson, the architect who designed the local branch of Benj. Franklin, to the city's Design Review Board. He replaces Ivars Lazdins who stepped down because of business commitments. Samuelson's appointment will extend until May 1983.

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Mysterious sewage spill found near Wemme

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

For Larry Hoyt of Welches, Friday the 13th came a few hours early.

Last Thursday, at 6 p.m., Hoyt was returning to his job at Hoodland Thriftway from a dinner break when he hit a pile of sewage sludge near the intersection of Arrah Wana Road and Bright Avenue.

"It looked like light brown sludge," said Hoyt. "Something you'd expect would come out of a sewer pipe."

Hoyt said the sludge covered 30 to 40 yards and ran over the curb to the middle of the road. The sewage was a few inches deep and covered the south side of the road.

"I didn't know what it was until it was too late," said Hoyt. "I couldn't help but hit it. It went all over the windshield and when I started the wipers, all of a sudden I got the stench of sewage."

His wife, Louise, contacted the Hoodland Fire Department on Friday morning and reported the sewage.

Assistant Fire Chief Lane Wintermute drove through the area around the Hoodland Service District treatment plant but could locate no spill.

Dan Culver of Welches, a general contractor and operator of the Hoodland Sewer Hookup Company, said he was not aware of a problem in the area. He said the Hoodland Sewer District's 900,000-gallon-per-day plant will

not go into operation until February and the sewage could be from a pumper truck.

"When you get into that cloak and dagger stuff," said Culver, "I wouldn't even want to guess who dumped the sewage there. But odds are it was probably a honey wagon."

Culver, who has a 24-hour emergency telephone number to deal with sewer problems, said the materials dumped on the road were most likely sludge from a private septic tank. Hoyt described the substance as a mixture of mud and sewage.

"That's what it sounds like, sewage sludge," he said. "That stuff doesn't just fall out of the sky and Ma and Pa Kettle aren't going

to shovel it in the back of their pickup and dump it."

Dick Wixon, Department of Environmental Quality investigator, said his office was not aware of the dump but would look into it. He guessed that the substance Hoyt drove through came from a private septic system, a holding tank or a "pot toilet"—a sanitary outhouse commonly found on construction sites.

The primary concern now, according to Wixon, is to insure that the sewage didn't get into the Salmon River. He said that because no license number was taken it would be unrealistic to think the person responsible could be tracked down and held liable.