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Confusion clouds 911 picture two years later

by DAN DILLON

The fire which destroyed a Sandy Heights home last Monday illuminated two points that area fire districts have been trying to make for some time.

People must be aware of what emergency number to call for assistance and renters should make sure their landlords have installed smoke detectors in their rental units.

There seems to be some confusion in the fringe areas between

Multnomah and Clackamas counties regarding 911 (the emergency services telephone number), said Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher. "People aren't sure what number to call."

At the time he discovered the fire last week, the occupant was talking to a Portland resident on the telephone. He asked that person to call 911 and report the blaze.

Unfortunately, the new 911 service in Multnomah County is dispatched through the Kelly Butte center. Sandy's is dispatched by Clackamas County's C-COM.

"We never received any information from Kelly Butte as to when they received the call," Gallagher said.

"There was probably a two to three minute delay" by the time the call had been routed to the proper dispatch center.

That time is critical, he said, because a fire grows 500 times its original size in the first three minutes.

The Sandy area connected with the 911 system on Jan. 1, 1980, but it is "100 percent separate from Kelly Butte," Gallagher said.

In the Sandy Fire District, 911 service is available only to those residents on the 668-exchange. Other exchanges, 663-, 630- and 383-, must still call 668-7474 to report a fire.

One problem is that fire district boundaries don't follow telephone company boundaries. In the Sandy district, there are four different exchanges served by three different telephone companies.

Residents of the Boring district call 663-121 for emergencies. In Hoodland, 911 is in effect for all residents, but those in Government Camp. They call 622-3124 for emergencies.

Last Monday's fire also gave the district its first documented case of the value of smoke detectors.

"If a functional smoke detector had been in place, we would have been alerted long before," Gallagher said. "We could have saved the house."

State law has required that landlords have smoke detectors in rentals since July 1, 1980. Maximum fine for non-compliance is \$250, but is enforceable only on complaint by a renter.

"Had there been a smoke detector, the occupant would have been alerted when the fire was in the smoldering stage," Gallagher said.

Alder Creek solution near as list pared

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The emotional issue surrounding the Alder Creek Water Company moved closer to a solution last week as alternatives to a county water district were narrowed to two.

"Water's emotional," said Gerald "Red" Bennett, owner of the company now in receivership. "In 1958, the last shootout occurred over water rights. It happened just east of the mountains. Two guys, who were related to one another, were going to meet at dawn and have a shootout. They did."

"Today, water is still emotional. It's emotional to the Health Division, the EPA, to the people who have to drink the water and to me, especially when it concerns my water company—the one they want to take away from me."

The Alder Creek Water Users Association have narrowed the alternatives down to a non-profit corporation and a district administered by a board elected by users (a 264 district).

A cooperative was eliminated because of personal liability of potential board members.

Marvin Price, administrative assistant at Ginther and Associates of Beaverton who are receivers of the company, feels a solution is near.

He said that if the users' claim is true, and "they have the capability to form a public entity and operate the water systems themselves, we are all for it."

Price believes the users will select the 264 district because of the financial benefits involved. "It would be in their power to assess all the benefiting property owners to the degree they are benefited," he said.

The water users association has until Dec. 15 to make its decision. Jock Stewart, association chairperson, doesn't feel that it will be adequate time to present the alternative to the five systems served by the company.

Welches occupied wing without formal OK

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Confusion as to who conducts the final inspection prior to obtaining a certificate of occupancy made occupation of Welches School's B and C wings illegal.

"Technically, we were in there illegally," said Superintendent Kenneth Blackburn. The problem was corrected Monday, when the school obtained a temporary 14-day occupation permit.

Leonard Stendes, supervisor with the State Fire Marshal's office, said the final inspection is made to "insure that it has been built in accordance to the plans and meets the fire and life safety requirements of the state statutes."

He said Hoodland Fire Chief Don Armintrout and a Clackamas County

building inspector would have made the inspection earlier, had it been requested.

Stendes said that occasionally some structures are occupied prior to final inspection, "but it's not the best thing in the world to do." He said in the case of the school, with its history of structural problems and arson-set fires, it was not advisable.

The two wings had been occupied about two weeks, according to Blackburn. He said he was under the impression the final inspection had been made.

Blackburn said he reviewed a 13-page checklist submitted by the architect, Richard Gessford and Associates of Portland, that itemized minor things that had to be done. The final inspection was not on the list.

(Continued on Page 3.)

PGE delays building generator at Marmot

Portland General Electric decided this week to delay plans to build an on-site power generation plant at the utility's 68-year-old Marmot Dam.

Instead, the local power company will solve the dam's fish passage problem with a new or upgraded fish ladder and wait on Bonneville Power Administration for acquisition support of a proposed plant there.

Economics plays a big part in PGE's hesitation, according to James Durham, company senior vice president and general counsel.

In its new Regional Power Act role as power manager, Bonneville is looking at practicality of plants projected through 1987.

Bonneville's acquisition program must observe that the proposed Marmot power plant would generate electricity at 8 cents per kilowatt hour, compared to present PGE average rate of 3-4 cents.

So PGE has yet to hear a promising word from Bonneville.

"It's not likely anyone will build now without looking at that mechanism," Durham said of Bonneville's acquisition program and

new high interest charges facing private developers.

Recently the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission renewed PGE's license for their Bull Run project, but required the company provide enhanced fish passage at Marmot Dam.

The dam diverts a part of Sandy River's flow to Roslyn Lake, the reservoir for the Bull Run power plant.

In addition to a diversion structure, Marmot has a fish ladder along its south side. The ladder provides upstream passage for steelhead, coho and chinook salmon that use the river and its tributaries for spawning.

Durham said PGE received very little negative public input on its consideration of an on-site power plant in conjunction with a new Marmot fish ladder.

The company now will work with the state fisheries program, Durham said, for fish enhancement at the dam. It also will pursue Bonneville acquisition approval for a power plant there at a later date.



Sandy got a festive touch Tuesday as art students from Sandy High School painted local business windows with Christmas greetings. Here, freshmen Sarah Bollermann, foreground, and Angie Conibear begin work on their madonna in the window at the Sandy Benj. Franklin branch.

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Injured hiker learned mountain lessons

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

On Nov. 21, Paul Harvey Clinton of Portland ventured alone up Lolo Pass, outside of Zigzag, for the solitude and silence that Mt. Hood in snow brings.

Halfway through his hike, he watched helplessly as the alpine terrain nearly took his life.

It was a typical Saturday for Clinton, 27, one to be spent hiking. Three co-workers at Seven Dees Nursery were to join him hiking the Devil's Creek trail above Rhododendron. They couldn't make it and Clinton was left to hike alone.

Instead of tackling Devil's Peak, as originally planned, he chose McNeil Point in the Lolo Pass area. The new destination was many miles north of where he was supposed to have gone. No one knew of his change in plans.

An experienced backpacker trained in survival and avid mountain climber, Clinton had tackled Mount Hood, Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams. McNeil Point, 6,000 feet high, was to be no major obstacle.

He had climbed it before in good weather. This was winter.

Clinton had not quite reach the top of McNeil when darkness to settle in. That was followed by an unexpected snowstorm. It was 4 p.m. and he started back down the trail, slippery moss covering the rocks.

A short time later, Clinton found himself battling the elements. He slipped in some loose snow that covered the icy rocks and tumbled about 50 feet. The next thing he knew, he was lying halfway in a creek.

"I don't remember what happened after that," Clinton said from his hospital bed at Portland Adventist Medical Center. "I went unconscious."

"When I awoke, I was in pain. My leg was stuck in the snow. I freed it and then crawled out of the creek."

Clinton's right leg was injured. He was cold, wet and dazed, but assessed his situation. He was in a canyon and realized he would not easily be spotted by a ground search or helicopter.

With no other option, Clinton began the long climb back to a better vantage point. By kicking with his left foot and using his arms, he drug himself up about 100 feet.

"After I pulled myself out of the ravine, I didn't have enough energy left for anything else," he said. "So, I crawled into my space blanket and just laid there."

Clinton said that he stayed awake because he feared that if he slept, he would freeze to death.

"I tried to get a fire going, but my matches were soaked. I had a lighter, but it was too windy up where I was laying," Clinton said.

On Sunday, at 7:35 p.m., the hiker's parents, Harvey and Helen Clinton, reported him missing.

The Search Begins

Clackamas County sheriff's deputy Lou Serafin was assigned to coordinate the search, but it was too late to begin until Monday morning. Clinton had been on the mountain two days.

All day Monday search crews, made up of the sheriff's department, the Molalla Search and Rescue and Boy Scout Explorer Post 361, combed the Devil's Peak area searching for Clinton's car.

It wasn't until late in the day that his car was spotted by a U.S. Forest Service employee on Lolo Pass. Nothing more could be done

again until morning.

Clinton said he tried to eat a small piece of pepperoni, but couldn't. He finally forced it down, "but it came back up."

His situation worsened. He began to nod off into periods of restless sleep. He relived what he had been through for the three days.

"I pictured myself falling and in the hospital, both at the same time," Clinton said.

"I thought I was going to die. My body was shivering. I thought I was going to swallow my tongue or have a heart attack."

"I thought about being back home in a nice warm house with plenty of food and being in the company of my family and friends. It pulled me out of it. It kept me going," he said.

The Weather Didn't Cooperate

Meanwhile, an air search seemed impossible because the mountain was soaked in. Forty ground searchers were assisted by Clinton's family members.

Attempting to penetrate the rugged terrain where Clinton was believed to be, an Air National Guard helicopter flew up the Col-

umbia River Gorge looking for an opening in the clouds. Near Hood River, its crew found one and "snuck through."

According to Lt. Lonnie Ryan, information officer for the Clackamas County sheriff's office, air searchers spotted Clinton's brightly-colored space blanket at about 3 p.m. Tuesday in a canyon at the 5,000-foot level.

Unable to land, two paramedics were lowered by hoist.

Unknown to Clinton, two separate ground search crews were making their way to where Clinton lay. If the helicopter had missed him, they certainly would have found him.

Clinton was strapped into the helicopter and taken to Portland Adventist Medical Center where he was admitted shortly before 5 p.m.

He sustained a broken right knee cap, slight dehydration, a laceration of the knee, five stitches in his forehead and numerous contusions. He suffered no hypothermia.

Tuesday, this week, Clinton was listed in serious condition and could receive no visitors.

Some Advice For Hikers

Ryan said Clinton's case was no different than 20 or 30 other searches the sheriff's department conducts annually.

Clinton, however, had done the unthinkable—he went alone.

"It should be a cardinal rule," Ryan said. "Never go alone."

Clinton's father agrees and urges all hikers and mountain climbers to "go in a group, or at least in pairs."

Clinton, himself, recommends that anyone venturing into the mountains to "bring plenty of space blankets."

"A weather radio lets you know of the changing conditions. If I would have had this, I would have known the front was coming in," Clinton said.

"If you're going to be a hiker, take a survival course," Ryan advised. "They are offered through OMSI and the Red Cross. And mountain climbers should always get training through the Mazamas or other organized climbing groups like the Mountain Search and Rescue Club."