

Meadows employee in critical condition

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Hoodland Rural Fire Department responded to two auto accidents, five chimney fires, a house fire, rescued an injured skier and administered first aid to 14 persons this past week.

November 25 a two-car, head-on accident occurred on Highway 26 in front of Ski Bowl in Government Camp. The Fire Department responded to the call at 5:05 p.m.

Five persons were injured, one critically. Dave Gens remained in critical condition earlier this week.

Gens, a 26-year-old Parkdale resident, was airlifted to Emmanual Hospital by a Lifeflight helicopter, where he was admitted for serious

head injuries. Gens in a full-time employee for the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, where he works as the food and beverage inventory control manager in the winter months and as a computer operator in the accounting office during the summer.

The four other accident victims were transported to Gresham Community Hospital by Alpine Ambulance, where they were treated for minor injuries.

At 11:20 p.m. that same night, the department assisted in a three-car accident two miles west of Government Camp. Passengers involved in the mishaps received only minor injuries, and no one was transported to the hospital, said Fire Chief Don Armintrout.

November 27 the department ac-

tivated its special rescue team to assist an injured skier. Armintrout said the team was dispatched to West Lake Road in Government Camp and brought down a skier with a fractured leg on a Stoke's stretcher, which is a stretcher with skis.

On Sunday, Nov. 27, a fire struck a residence at 19980 East Summertime Drive in the Alder Creek area.

Armintrout said that the fire broke out about 8:15 p.m. after a bedspread came into contact with an electric heater. No monetary value was estimated, but there was extensive damage to the bedroom.

On Nov. 25 the department responded to the first of a series of chimney fires. Armintrout said the fire struck a residence at 55425 F st Kirkwood Drive, and was quickly ex-

tinguished by the fire crew.

At 7:18 p.m. another chimney fire broke out. This one occurred at lot 77 in Timberline Rim. Only minor damages were suffered.

On Nov. 28 a third chimney fire occurred. This one was at 59220 East Highway 26. Armintrout said that although the chimney fire was extensive, the structure suffered no damage.

A fourth chimney fire occurred at 26929 Henry Creek Road in Rhododendron. Armintrout said that the fire was "out on arrival," but praised the occupants for quickly notifying the department.

On Dec. 1 chimney fire number five broke out. At 1:39 p.m. the department responded to an alarm at the residence of John Adams, who lives

just past the north end of Brightwood Bridge.

Armintrout said that the fire escaped the chimney and entered the attic of the house, but fortunately was spotted by neighbors, who called the department. Only minor structural damages were suffered.

Armintrout warned that with the cold weather season upon us, people with fireplaces and stoves—especially airtight stoves—should watch closely for a build up of creosote. If a chimney goes too long without an adequate cleaning, a chimney fire could occur.

Armintrout said that if anyone does have a chimney fire, the first thing they should do is notify the fire department. Next, close off the damper.

"Sometimes the house will fill up with smoke," said Armintrout. "If this happens, open the doors and windows. If there's a lot of smoke, get out of there as quickly as possible."

Armintrout said that continual cleaning is the only way to prevent chimney fires. He said that chimneys should be checked at least every two or three months. However, the type of wood burned, the moisture content of the wood, how often the fireplace is used, and how low the damper is, all have an effect.

Armintrout said that those who heat with airtight stoves should watch their chimneys closely. He said these stoves will "creosote-up real fast, because they were designed to utilize all the solid fuels."

"But the end result," he said, "is that it builds up creosote in the stove pipes and chimney, (creating) a real potential for fire."



It was clear enough Saturday for the skiers on Mt. Hood to get a good look at Mt. Jefferson.



Nita Clifton

Clifton to head county Republicans

Nita Clifton of Boring was recently elected president of the Clackamas County Republican Women's Club for the 1982-83 term.

Others elected include Judy Glawe of Boring, vice president, Charlotte Gilmore of Boring, secretary, and Ruth Odell of Gresham, treasurer.

The group meets the last Thursday of each month, September through May, at 7:15 p.m. at the Boring Fire Hall. The meetings are open to the public.

Mishap only stalls wholesaler of unique chain saw chains

by SCOTT NEWTON

Richard Frady spends a lot of time in bed for a man whose business is doing so well.

In fact, it's been a couple of months since Frady has been out of bed, but that's not by choice.

A broken pelvis, the result of a tractor accident, is keeping him off his feet. And although the accident slowed the growth of his business, his three-person crew is still backlogged.

Frady is the owner of Rapco Carbide Inc., a company that puts carbide teeth on chain saw chains. Frady is primarily a wholesaler, and he has dealership outlets all over the United States. He expects to have the company, which will begin its third year in January, to triple or quadruple its gross sales this year.

"It's a good, small business," Frady said. He said that the market is not large enough for the big companies to get involved.

His carbide chain could cost almost as much as the chain saw a weekend woodcutter might own. His chains are two to five times more expensive than a regular chain.

However, one of the questionnaires

returned to the company, from the Ponchatoula Hardwood Company in Ponchatoula, La., tells how the company went from sharpening its chain every half hour to every 100 hours.

"The cost versus performance is there," Frady said.

He had just begun to concentrate on the Mount St. Helens area when he got hurt.

"If they don't bark the log, but just brush the big chunks away, they can make maybe three cuts. With my chain they'll go three days before they have to sharpen," he said.

"That's a big market when it's going." The winter weather has pretty much stopped the logging for now.

The man who is producing the chain that can cut through the ash and debris was raised in Morton, a small logging town 22 miles north of Mount St. Helens.

"I used to hunt and fish all that Mount St. Helens area," he said. "Then to go in there and see the devastation is just mind-boggling."

Although he would like to see the area on the mountain itself remain as it is, he added, "There's just millions of dollars worth of lumber going to waste right now. The longer they

wait the more it deteriorates.

"They had just as well get what they can because they're not going to get it all away."

Frady used to work as a staff engineer at the Oregon Graduate Center in Beaverton in the forest products instrumentation laboratory. One of the people working there in metallurgy approached him with the carbide chain idea, and between the two of them they "got things pretty well squared away."

His friend, however, got busy with business involving his machine shop, where they had started making the chains, so Frady was left to find a place of his own.

He lived in Aloha and drove to an industrial site in Clackamas for a little over a year.

About four months ago, acting on a suggestion made by Tom Window, a former Sandy planning commissioner, Frady entered a lease on 40 acres located on Laughing Water Road in the Bull Run area.

Frady's background is in electronics. He's been in business for himself before, as the owner of two television shops, and has also worked repairing and selling computers for automating saw mills and plywood equipment.

One reason Frady's product is unique is the carbide. Most carbide in use today is Tungsten, which was developed for machining metals, and so it has a high heat, low shock environment.

Most carbide, then, shatters easily. The carbide Frady uses, developed at the Oregon Graduate Center, has a low heat, high shock environment.

"You put it on an anvil and hit it with a hammer and all you'll do is leave a mark on your anvil," he said.

At the shop on Laughing Water Road the carbide teeth are soldered onto a chain and then ground eight different ways to get the right angle.

Becky Hansen is in charge of the shop, and is assisted by Jill Remmick and Kelly Laws. Laws recently moved to Sandy. Hansen and Remmick live in Estacada.

About Hansen, Frady said, "She knows just about as much about it as

I do."

"After the last two months, maybe more," added Sue Vlietstra, the company secretary who moved here recently from Aloha.

At the time of the accident Frady was about to hire two more people, but he put those plans on hold when the accident occurred. One of the projects he didn't get done was the installation of the sewer. But, the Rapco Carbide Company may have one of the fanciest outhouses in the area.

"I've got a very, very good crew," Frady said, talking about the things they've put up with since his accident.

Frady and Vlietstra also had nothing but praise for the Alpine Ambulance Service and the Sandy Fire Department. Both arrived on the scene within 15 minutes, "maximum."

"It's a good thing, too," Frady said, explaining that he was bleeding internally. "If I'd have laid down there very long it would have been all over with."

"They were just great," Vlietstra said, "and the neighbors around here

were the same way."

"Of course, it was kind of a terrible way to meet the neighbors," Frady said.

Fortunately, he had things set up just well enough to keep the operation running. And, he's done some things he'd been putting off, like writing warranties and operation manuals.

The prognosis, at least, is good. After 19 days in traction he was put in a body cast. It could come off at the end of next week.

It's going to be a while before he'll be able to get back to doing physical labor, but a complete recovery is expected.

A lot of his time before the accident was spent on sales. Since then he's been busy on the telephone. A press release was recently carried in Chain Saw Age, which is published in Portland (he also advertises in the trade magazine), and the response has been good. In fact, he got one call from a man in Cologne, West Germany. The man is now a distributor.

Frady also advertises in Chain Saw and Small Engine, a New York-based

trade magazine that also goes to dealers.

He's also curious to see what kind of a response he gets from a December advertisement in Alaska Magazine. A representative of the magazine told Frady that 90 percent of its 220,000 readers own or plan on buying a chain saw.

To understand why one of Frady's chains would be of value one only needs to consider that Paul Tuckers' grandsons cut completely through a small rock (maybe five inches in diameter) in a stump, taking out only three of the carbide teeth.

As time goes on Frady discovers more and more uses for his chain. Fire fighters are using it, and occasionally send it back for repairs after hitting nails and other objects. A representative from a company in Utah called to order a loop of chain to be used for cutting coal. Some major chain saw companies are also checking out the chain, as is a Japanese firm.

With everything else going so well, Richard Frady is waiting anxiously to get on his feet, literally.



Jill Remmick, Kelly Laws and Becky Hansen

Staff photo



Sue Vlietstra and Richard Frady

Staff photo