

Welches Road light fully operational Monday

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The new traffic signal at the junction of Welches Road and Highway 26, was officially turned on this Monday.

The new light was ap-

proved by the Department of Transportation at its "Six Year Highway Improvement Hearing" in March 1979, and included in their Wildwood-Zigzag project.

An investigation of this intersection conducted for

a one-week period in August 1979, in which three of the days were during the heavily traveled Labor Day weekend, placed this intersection on the state's priority list.

Also investigated were the intersections of Arrah

Wanna Boulevard and Salmon River Road, but neither could meet any of the state's signal justification standards, which include minimum pedestrian volume, number of accidents and systems warrant.

State Representatives Wayne Fawbush of Hood River, and Jane Cease of Portland, both wrote the State Highway Division in favor of the installation of the traffic light.

The Highway Division, faced with increasing pressure from residents who complained of the number of accidents on Highway 26, said that this

is just one of the steps they are taking to solve the traffic safety problems in the Mt. Hood Corridor. In addition to the light, an estimated \$2 million will be spent on expanding the highway to a four-lane in 1985.

Also, to assist as an interim measure, this part summer maintenance

crews constructed turning lanes on Highway 26 so people could turn onto Welches and Salmon River Roads, and Arrah Wanna Boulevard in order to cut down the incidences of rear-end collisions.

Statistics obtained from the Hoodland Rural Fire Department, show that in 1978 there were 65 traffic

accidents in the Corridor. In 42 of these cases five persons were fatally injured. A total of 28 persons were transported to the hospital with 23 sustaining major injuries and 42 minor injuries.

In 1979, the number of traffic accidents increased to 78. Fifty persons received minor injuries, 28 per-

sons receiving serious injuries and 33 persons being transported to local hospitals as a result. Thirteen people died on the highway that year.

In 1980 traffic accidents along the Corridor totaled 81. Fifty persons were transported to hospitals as a result of their injuries.

Corbett resident AOL chairman

Allan Baker, a partner in Baker Brothers Logging, has been elected chapter chairman of the Molalla Chapter of Associated Oregon Loggers.

The Molalla chapter includes loggers from Sandy, Boring and Eagle Creek.

Baker, a resident of Corbett, will be responsible for leading the monthly meetings of the chapter. He will also represent the chapter's contract loggers at the association's annual convention in Eugene in January.

Mark Luedtke, owner of 4-Point Timber Co. in Estacada, will serve as assistant chapter chairman.

Prior to the election, Donald Crawford of Molalla served as the group's chapter chairman.

Thomas to retire from sheriff's office

December 31 Chief Charlie G. Thomas will retire from the Clackamas

County sheriff's office. Thomas began his career in law enforcement July 15, 1952 with Clackamas County.

He was promoted to sergeant June 30, 1960. On April 9, 1964, he was promoted to lieutenant. He was made captain July 1, 1972 and was elevated to the rank of Criminal Bureau chief on January 1, 1979.

Thomas served in all phases of the sheriff's office during his career. He and Louis C. Olsen, retired captain, were the first two detectives and served as a team until Thomas was promoted to lieutenant-Chief of Detectives. Chief Thomas served as Chief of Detectives until he became the Operations Division Commander as a captain.

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Staff photo

The new Welches traffic light at the Hoodland Park Plaza became operational Dec. 7. The new light, the first in the mountain community, also includes a left-turn signal for westbound vehicles on Highway 26 to turn south onto Welches Road.

Ten Eyck is 4-H alternate

A Benton County 4-H member is the winner of a \$1,000 college scholarship for outstanding achievement in the 4-H gardening program, according to Duane Johnson, acting assistant director for 4-H, Oregon State University extension service.

He is David Phillips, 17, son of Kent and Carmen Phillips of Corvallis. The award was announced at the 60th annual National 4-H Congress in Chicago. Phillips is one of the 28 Oregon 4-H members to attend the event, arranged by the National 4-H Council.

His award was presented by Ortho Consumer Products Division of Chevron Chemical Co., national sponsor of the 4-H gardening program. Phillips was one of six scholarship winners in the program and one of 285 4-Hers from throughout the United States to receive scholarships valued at \$265,000 during the event.

The Crescent Valley High School senior plans a career in the wholesale horticultural business.

Four other Oregon 4-H members were recognized as alternates in the national awards program during the annual National 4-H Congress.

Karen Wheelhouse, Hermiston, is first alternate for the scholarship in the fashion revue program sponsored by Simplicity Pattern Co. Lori Linton, Oregon City, is first alternate for a scholarship in the food conservation and safety program sponsored by Reynolds Metals.

Also named as alternates were Cynthia Davis, Milwaukie, in food preservation, and Patty Ten Eyck, Sandy, in agriculture.

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