

# Fire department finishing up investigations

The Hoodland Rural Fire Department is finishing up its investigation of two fires that struck the area last week.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout said that cause of the blaze that destroyed the Sherwood house on East Cannon Street in Brightwood on Jan. 12 has been determined.

The house, a two-story log structure constructed out of tamarack, was totally destroyed and valued at an estimated \$112,000. Armintrout said that he thinks the oil heater is the cause. He said molten metal was found on a cross-member under the house which indicates that the

furnace had malfunctioned.

Reports had been made by a neighbor and a passing Oregon State Police trooper that there was smoke or fog hanging in the trees near the house during the day and evening prior to the fire. This was caused by the fire of a shopping bag woman who was camped near the Salmon River, a couple of hundred yards away. An inversion, which prevents the normal rise of surface air, caused the fire's smoke to hang over the area.

The fire department is also continuing its investigation of an arson fire that destroyed a 1976 Fiat,

which was parked at the Summit rest area in Government Camp.

The car is owned by Francis J. Ribera and his wife, Maxine, of Bend. According to Armintrout, Ribera parked at the rest area on Jan. 7, after

developing mechanical problems. He locked the vehicle and returned to Bend that day.

Armintrout said that the department responded the next morning at 6 a.m. to the area and found the vehicle "fully involved"

when fire crews arrived at the scene. He said that the fire was deliberately set by someone using a high concentration of flammable liquids.

This past week the department responded to five calls and provided first

aid to four persons.

On Sunday at 8 a.m., a two car collision on Highway 26 just east of the Timberline Road junction killed one person. The cause of the accident was bad road conditions due to slush.

On Jan. 15 crews from the department assisted with the wreckage of a Mobil Oil truck and trailer that spilled an estimated 4,300 gallons of gasoline on Highway 26. The accident occurred at the junction of the Highway 26 and Highway 35 exit. Crews were at the scene from 8:42 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.

On Jan. 13 at 1:46 a.m. one engine and a tanker

assisted the Sandy Fire Department with a fire on Cherryville Drive. Later that day they responded to a downed powerline on Arrah Wanna Blvd, which was caused by an arcing transformer.

Fire crews responded to a chimney fire at 8 p.m. at the junction of Lolo Pass Road and the Barlow Trail Road. The house suffered no damage.

## Hoodland Happenings

### PTA membership drive a success

**Thursday, Jan. 21**  
A senior citizens lunch, sponsored by Loaves and Fishes, will be served at 11:30 a.m. at the Welches School library. Transportation and further information is available by calling Maxine Worley at the Senior Center, 622-3331.

The Mt. Hood Pre-school Co-op will hold their monthly parent's meeting this evening beginning at 7 p.m. inside the Hoodland Women's Club on Salmon River Road. The Pre-school's annual auction will be the main topic for discussion.

**Monday, Jan. 25**  
A senior citizens lunch, sponsored by Loaves and Fishes, will be served at 11:30 a.m. at the Welches School library.

**Wednesday, Jan. 27**  
Welches Community School Tiny-toys group meets from 10 a.m. to noon. Call Louise Hoyt, 622-3752, for information and meeting location.

The Mt. Hood Lions Club will hold a general meeting at the club building in Wemme at 8 p.m.

The recent PTA membership drive at Welches school was a success. One-hundred-two parents joined, with a banana split party contest

serving as an incentive for those classes that brought in the most memberships. Mrs. Martin's 2nd grade class, Ms. Thompson's 6th grade class and Ms. Silva's 7th grade class won. The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 at the school.

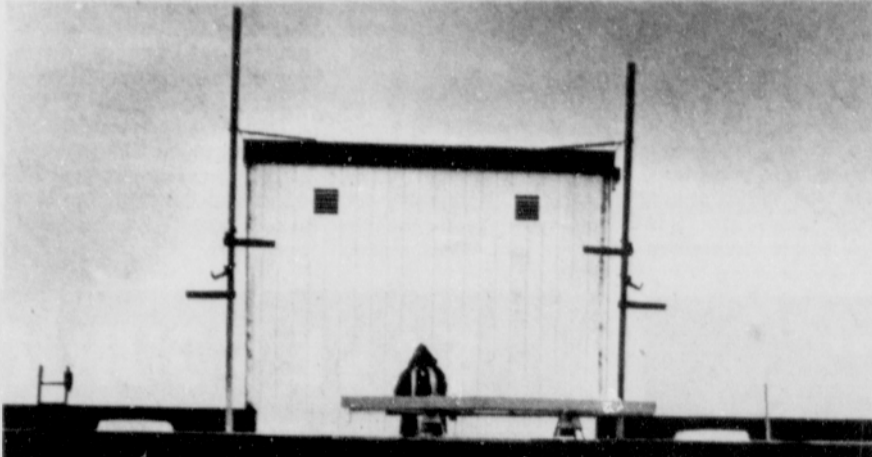
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Staff photo

A worker keeps busy putting siding on the Sandy Elementary School District's aquatic center.

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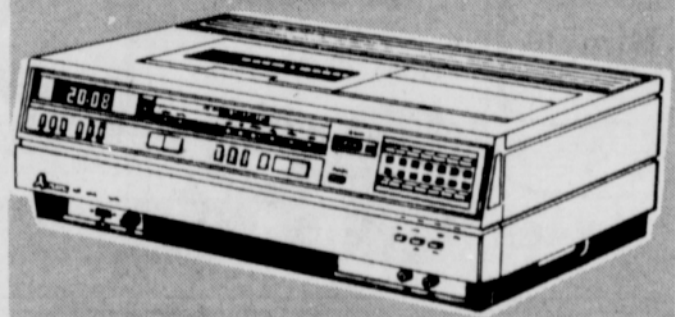
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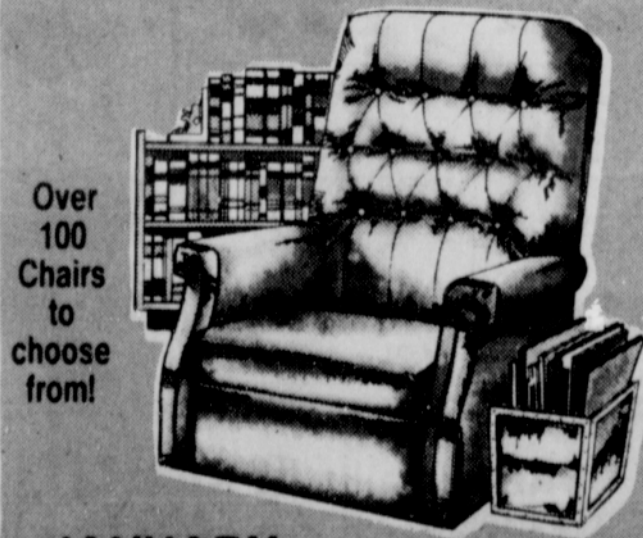
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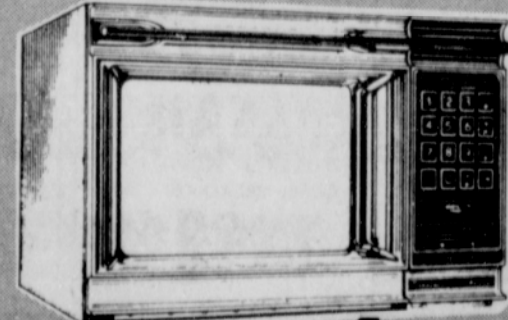
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