

# Stalled, abandoned cars cause havoc in snow

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

It is said that snow can bring out the best or the worst in people, and those who are in charge of keeping the highways plowed can testify to this.

People in the road plowing business seem to agree that snow poses few problems as far as the actual clearing of the road. The real problems are with people and their vehicles.

Unthinking motorists leave cars parked in the middle of roads, and block driveways and entrances to forest service roads.

Generally these drivers not only pose problems for the road plows, but also to everyone else.

If a vehicle is improperly parked on a state highway or state maintained road, the Oregon State Highway Division will notify the Oregon State Police and ask for assistance, according to John Sheldrake, maintenance operations engineer.

Sheldrake says that the division is not in the enforcement business, nor does it intend to do so in the future. Vehicles parked in such a manner that they interfere or prevent the roads from being plowed are turned over to the OSP.

A radio that allows communication between the highway division and the OSP, said Sheldrake, is kept in the vehicle of the section foreman. This allows better communication, quicker response time, and facilitates

cooperation between the two agencies.

If a problem vehicle is parked in a ski area, and it is not an emergency, the highway division will notify the resort operator and they will attempt to locate the owner to voluntarily move the vehicle before it is towed.

**COMMON PROBLEM**  
Jerry Marshall, director of operations of the Clackamas County road department, said that illegally parked vehicles are common during the winter season, and dealing with them is a routine task for plow operators.

"It's a constant problem, but not out of the ordinary," said Marshall. "Illegally parked vehicles or even abandoned vehicles go hand-in-hand with snow."

Marshall said that usually county plow operators attempt to locate the vehicle's owner so that they can move the vehicle themselves.

If this attempt is unsuccessful and the vehicle is illegally parked, the sheriff's department is notified and the vehicle is removed at the owner's expense.

If it's legally parked, the vehicle will be plowed around. Often, plow operators can be seen "driving in and out" amongst parked cars.

When it first begins to snow, people with cars are likely to do just about anything, according to Marshall.

Some people will get

stuck on a road and just walk away. When this happens, and if someone complains, the county road department will notify the sheriff's department, which will process it.

But odd behavior, like abandoning a vehicle in the middle of a road, is just a part of it, said Marshall.

"It's just one of those things that happens when it first snows," said Marshall, "but after awhile, people seem to get used to the unusual driving conditions."

Marshall said that the county's plowing responsibility is restricted to county roads only, and a few public roads that have bonds posted.

Because a road is located inside the county does not mean it will be plowed.

**KEEPING UP**  
During the recent heavy snows, Marshall said that there were crews working round the clock to keep the roads open. Two 12-hour shifts, with workers san-

ding and plowing, were required to keep ahead of the snowfall.

And yet, there were still complaints about the county not working fast enough.

Compared to the rest of the county, however, the Mt. Hood-Sandy area receives relatively few complaints. The most common complaint is peoples' driveways being blocked due to the snow piled up against them by the plows.

"Oddly, we don't have a lot of complaints about keeping the roads plowed up in the Mt. Hood and Sandy areas, despite the fact that they get that much snow," said Marshall. "Nowhere, does it compare with the complaints in other parts of the county."

A few weeks ago on Henry Creek avenue, on a road maintained by county snowplows, a vehicle was forced to park away from the side of the road due to the snowbanks that narrowed access. The driver learned the hard way about

parking in such a manner.

At 8:50 a.m. a school bus picking up students for Welches Grade School rounded a corner and discovered this and another vehicle parked in the road. The bus driver, determined to get by the vehicles, switched to four-wheel drive.

The bus was forced to push through two feet of plowed snow that covered the side of the road. It was almost clear of the vehicles when the rear wheels caught in a rut and slid into one of the vehicles. According to Ken Blackburn, superintendent, the vehicle's right-rear quarter panel was damaged.

Marshall said that he was not aware that there was a problem on Henry Creek Avenue with any blockages. He said that he was not given any report by the plow operator, nor did he receive any report from the school or even residents in the area.

then we can only assume that everybody must be satisfied," said Marshall. "If we're notified of a problem, then I assure you we will act upon it."

**SUMMER HOME AREA**  
Even those having cabins on land leased from the Forest Service are not immune from these problems. Some owners have complained that they may be able to get into their cabins, but getting back out is sometimes another story.

Blocking the access road is sometimes the vehicle of a cross-country skier or snowshoer.

Herb Evans, information officer at the Zigzag Ranger Station, acknowledged that there are some problems with recreationists utilizing the summer home area around Rhododendron.

"They may not be thinking and do not realize that they are blocking the road and preventing people from getting out," said

Evans. "I'm sure they feel they are far enough off the road, and it isn't intentional."

"Even if they are driving a small car there may be problems," said Evans.

"They may leave some room, but it's just enough for a small car. They don't stop to think that not everyone drives a vehicle as small as their's."

One summer home owner complained that even if the people are prepared with the proper traction tire or device, or even with a four-wheel drive, it never seems to fail that they too will block somebody else in.

"People seem to forget about others and just nose-in and park vertically," said Jeff Stark, a checker at Mt. Hood Food and General in Rhododendron.

## Deane's Auto Repair

Deane Wesselink, owner . . . 34 years experience

**Complete Automotive Repairs:**

- \* Automatic Transmissions
- \* Exhaust Systems
- \* Brake Work
- \* General Tune-up

**CALL 668-4563**  
Open: Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5 p.m.  
1 1/4 mi. east of Sandy  
42007 S.E. Hwy. 26

We service Chrysler motors products: Dodge, Plymouth, Chrysler

## Tax assistance limited but is still available

The Oregon Department of Revenue is limiting its assistance to residents who want help filling out their tax returns, but there is still free help available locally.

Because of staff reductions, the number of revenue department offices offering tax help has been cut in half. Assistance will be limited to answering tax questions and providing information, as the department will no longer fill out returns for individuals.

Also, revenue department employees won't visit the 39 temporary locations around Oregon where tax help was provided last year.

Locally, the Sandy Community Center Senior Center offers an assistance program.

Free tax help is available every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the center for local senior citizens.

"We have our own volunteer who comes year after year," said Sandra Potter Marquardt, center director. The volunteer has been trained through the VITA program, she said.

The federal Internal Revenue Service sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA volunteers help fill out income and property tax relief returns for elderly, handicapped and low-income taxpayers.

## Carey joins Sondenaas

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Sondenaas of Sandy have announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Carey Ann.

Carey Ann was born Nov. 10 at Bess Kaiser Medical Center in Portland. She weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 and

three-quarters inches long. Grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Lyons, Portland, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sondenaas, Toledo.

Great grandparents are Mrs. Robert Lyons, Portland, and Mr. and Mrs. John Graham, Toledo.

## Michael Hallgren born

Ken and Deynee Hallgren of Sandy have announced the birth of a son, Michael Kenneth, born Jan. 21, at Portland Adventist Medical Center. He weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces at birth and was 20 and one-half inches long.

Michael Kenneth joins sisters, Paula, 13, and Kari, 11.

Grandparents include Ray and Fern Hallgren of Colton, Marie Calvin, Oregon City and Noah Calvin, Montana.

You can count on us!

To do a better job—  
with "family account"  
insurance

**Sandy Insurance Agency INC.**

39041 Proctor

"Independent & Home-owned"

UNITED PACIFIC/RELIANCE INSURANCE COMPANIES

## 3rd WEEK! THRIFTWAY'S "FIESTA DAYS"!



**ASSORTED PORK CHOPS**

\$1.28 LB.

CENTER RIB PORK CHOPS \$1.58 LB.



**BEEF RIB STEAKS**

USDA CHOICE \$2.98 LB.



**BONELESS BEEF CHUCK POT ROASTS**

\$1.78 LB.

USDA CHOICE VEAL **SHORT RIBS** OR BREAST FOR STUFFING **98¢** LB.

FRESH PORK **LINK SAUSAGE** **\$1.98** LB.

TYSON'S CHICKEN **BREAST** Patties, Hoagies or Chicken-Chester 12 oz. **\$2.88**

STANDING **RIB ROAST** USDA CHOICE BEEF, LARGE END **\$2.78** LB.

CENTER CUT, FROZEN **HALIBUT STEAK** **\$3.98** LB.

FRESH PORK **SPARERIBS** COUNTRY STYLE **\$1.58** LB.

**SIRLOIN END PORK LOIN ROAST** **\$1.48** LB.



**WHITE SATIN SUGAR**

SAVE 51¢

**\$2.98**

FIRST 10 LB. BAG

ADDITIONAL AT \$3.29



**BLUE BONNET MARGARINE**

SAVE 43¢ EACH

**39¢**

EA.

FIRST TWO 1 LB. PKGS. ADDITIONAL AT 59¢



**ROYAL GELATIN DESSERT**

ASSORTED FLAVORS

**19¢**

EA.

FIRST THREE 3 oz. BOXES ADDITIONAL AT 4 1/2.00



**BUDDIG'S Or LAND-O-FROST SMOKED MEATS**

ASSORTED VARIETIES

**2.88¢**

2 1/2 oz. PKGS.

BAR-S **SLICED BACON**

12 OZ. PKG. **\$1.28**

JENNIE-O **TURKEY WIENERS**

12 OZ. PKG. **68¢**

KRAFT, SINGLE-WRAPPED **VELVEETA SLICES** 12 oz. **\$1.89**

KRAFT, GRATED **PARMESAN CHEESE** 8 oz. **\$2.49**

RONDELE, ASSORTED **CHEESE SPREADS** 4 oz. **\$1.29**

BLUE BONNET, SOFT **MARGARINE** 1 LB. TUB OR CTN. OF TWO 8-oz. TUBS **89¢**



**WESTERN FAMILY COLBY CHEESE**

**\$4.88**

2 LB.

SUNMAID **SEEDLESS RAISINS**

2 LB. PKG. **\$2.99**

"WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY SPECIAL" WILDERNESS **CHERRY PIE FILLING**

21 oz. TIN **\$1.59**

"WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY SPECIALS" JOHNSTON'S GRAHAM CRACKER **READY CRUST**

6 oz. **89¢**

WESTERN FAMILY **APPLE CIDER**

HALF GAL. **\$1.59**

DOWNY **FABRIC SOFTENER**

64 oz. **\$1.99**

PILLSBURY ENRICHED **FLOUR**

5 LB. BAG \$1.25 **\$2.19**

AUNT JEMIMA **PANCAKE MIX** BUTTERMILK

3 1/4 LB. **\$1.39**

PILLSBURY **GRAVY MIXES** ASSORTED

5 1/2 oz. ENV. **\$1.00**

LITTLE FRISKIES **CAT FOOD** ASSORTED VARIETIES

4 LB. PKG. **\$2.68**

"SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY"

# THRIFTWAY

HOODLAND  
Welches Rd., Wemme, 622-3244  
Prices effective Wed., Feb. 10 thru 16