

# Crews finish road work following slides

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

The Clackamas County Road Department is finishing up work caused by slides and washouts, caused by heavy rains and unusually warm weather, which melted snow three weeks ago.

Jack Schwahn, county road foreman stationed at Sandy, said that "almost all of the creeks in the area ran over their banks" on the weekend of Feb. 19 and

20. He also said that "virtually every culvert, at one time or another, overflowed."

Schwahn said that although the Sandy-Mt. Hood area had fewer problems than the Oregon City-Milwaukie area, that there were still some problems.

"As usual," said Schwahn, "we had slides on TenEyck Road, Dodge Park Hill, Lusted Road and around the Aims area. We call

these 'the normals.' Every time it rains heavily, or it thaws, we can expect some problems in these areas."

Schwahn said that the biggest slide occurred a couple weeks ago on Snuffin Road, near Eagle Fern Park.

In the town of Brightwood, a hill overlooking the tavern and the store sent rocks sliding down across the roadway.

Andrea Cabral, of Mountain Country Lane, said that last week while driv-

ing through the town she was nearly struck by a boulder the size of a basketball.

She said the boulder bounced once on the roadway and landed on the opposite of the road.

Schwahn said that the crew removed some large boulders from the road, and that falling rocks are common in this type of weather.

He explained that rocks generally have water behind them and when it freezes the rocks are pushed away from the soil.

"The freeze opens the ground," said Schwahn, "and when it starts warming up its a natural thing for rocks to start rolling."

In Rhododendron, the generally serene Meadow Creek overran the bank in places, and threatened to wash out a log bridge near the mouth.

For the last three weeks road department crews have been repairing road

shoulders and cleaning out ditches and culverts.

Schwahn said that one of the problems with heavy rains is that there is no way the culverts can accommodate that much water.

John Robertson, a general maintenance supervisor who has been assisting the Sandy area office, said that most of the slides in the area have been taken care of.

As of Monday, a dirt slide on a section of a deadend road just off Bluff Road was cleared. He estimated that 15 to 20 yards of gravel would have to be replaced

on the road in order to complete the job.

Robertson said that the problems caused by high water in the Boring area are still being dealt with. He said that as of this week the roads are passable but cleanup work will still have to be done on some of the surrounding ditches and culverts.

Schwahn and Robertson both said that the overall problems of the rainy weather, were "not bad at all, considered." He said that the situation could have been much, much worse.

## \$160,000 motor coach Continued from Page 1

Armintrout said that a total of 33 minutes elapsed from the time the vehicle caught fire to the arrival of firefighters, which was critical despite the quick response time, he said.

Armintrout said it took eight minutes to "knock down" the fire with a total of 3,252 gallons of water.

Armintrout said that there was extensive

damage to the expensive motor coach, but that no damage figure has yet been established.

He said that although the coach was "pretty much a total loss, there was some salvage" to the vehicle.

The fire department cleared the scene at 5:10 a.m. and the coach was removed about 8 a.m. by

Alpine Towing of Rhododendron.

An investigation into a rooftop fire, which burned the cedar shake roof on a log house in Timberline Rim on Feb. 24, has been concluded.

Armintrout said that the damage to the structure is estimated to be about \$5,000.

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