

## Arson, burglary connection checked

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

A recent fire, believed to have been caused by fireworks, destroyed a recreational cabin just east of Rhododendron and raised concerns for the Hoodland Rural Fire Department of potential problems that could arise during the Fourth of July weekend.

However, heavy summer rains dampened the forests and dispelled these fears.

Fire Chief Don Armintrout said that at 2:30 a.m. on June 24 firefighters from his department responded to the report of a structure fire on lot 1 on Forest Service Road 28, just off Highway 26.

Armintrout said a one-and-a-half story cabin "was totally engulfed when the first engine arrived."

Two engines, two tankers, one rescue rig, and a total of 19 firefighters fought to bring the blaze under control, but their efforts were fruitless. The cabin was a total loss. They cleared the scene at 4:50 a.m.

The cabin is owned by Frederick Smith, the owner of the Thunderhead Condominiums in Government Camp. Smith was not at the cabin at the time of the fire.

Arson is believed to have been the cause, and the case has been turned over to Lt. Fred Auger of the Oregon State Police arson division for investigation.

The OSP is also investigating a possible burglary in connection with

this same fire. Armintrout said contents of the house were found outside. He did not know what items, if any, were missing.

Armintrout said a next-door neighbor called the department and reported the fire after having been awoken by what they described as teenage kids yelling and screaming. Next they heard the sound of fireworks going off. When they went to their window to investigate they saw that the cabin was on fire.

Due to the presence of large amounts of illegal fireworks in the Mt. Hood area, Armintrout said the potential fire danger was much greater this Fourth of July than in previous years. During last year's three-day holiday weekend there were about eight incidents of fire that could be attributed to fireworks.

This year, Armintrout said the wet and rainy weather fortunately helped to minimize the fire danger. Such things as skyrockets and firecrackers were openly being used throughout the corridor, including the summer home areas administered by the Forest Service.

Fireworks, outside of such things as sparklers and smoke bombs, are illegal in Oregon. All fireworks are prohibited in National Forests or in summer home areas.

Numerous first aid calls, as well as two incidents involving motor vehicles, however, kept the department busy during the three-day holiday weekend.

On June 26 at 12:30 a.m. a 22-foot

1970 Winnebago motor home caught fire at the Summit Rest Area in Government Camp. It was totally destroyed.

Armintrout said the vehicle's owner, Victor LaCourse of Portland, stopped at the rest area after developing engine problems. Discovering the trouble to be with the carburetor, he attempted to prime it with gasoline.

While he was working on the vehicle, Armintrout said the engine backfired and the one-gallon gas can

caught fire. LaCourse dropped the can and the fire quickly spread.

Armintrout said two engines and two tankers responded but the motor home was totally destroyed.

At 11:47 p.m. that same night rescue personnel from the department responded to a call on Highway 26 in front of the Whistler Tavern, where a car had rolled over.

One person was injured and transported to Gresham Community Hospital by Alpine Ambulance.

## County board to hear final hydro proposal

On June 28 the Clackamas County Planning Commission took final action on the proposed siting criteria for hydroelectric facilities.

Two attorneys, whose specialties are energy and water law, were instrumental in getting the proposed hydro standards amended by the planning commission to insure better protection of recreational areas and fisheries.

Corinne Sherton, a Salem-area attorney representing the the Mount Hood Water Resources Coalition, requested the commissioners adopt the proposed standards for hydros. She said that the adoption would "protect the county's interest in safeguarding its natural resources."

Sherton recommended that the

commissioners include "recreational resources" in the proposed hydro ordinance purpose statement.

Attorney Frank Josselson of Portland, who represented the developer of the Minicahda hydroelectric facility in the Lolo Pass area near Zigzag, reinforced the county's responsibility for maintaining minimum stream flows.

The Oregon Department of Energy wanted such statements omitted from the proposed ordinance.

The proposed hydroelectric ordinance is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners on July 12 at 9 a.m. The hearing will be held at the Courthouse Annex in Oregon City.

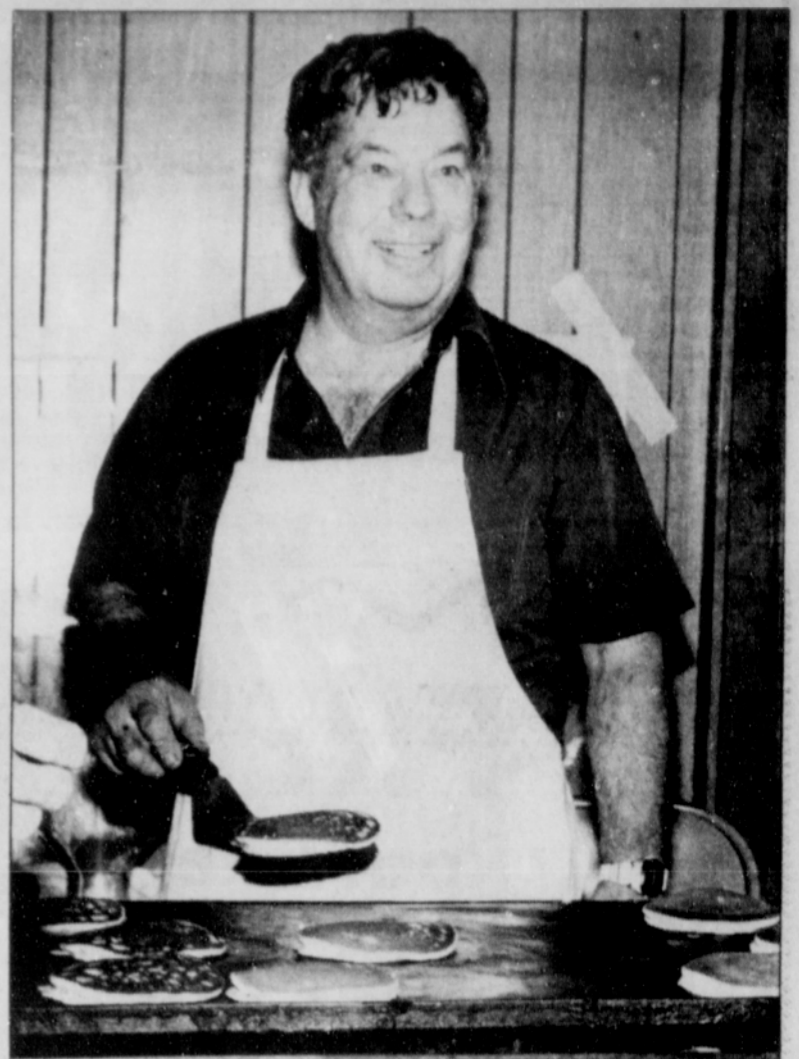


Photo by Scott Newton  
Walter Aeppli of the Mt. Hood Lions Club kept busy the morning of the Fourth preparing pancakes. A good turnout was reported for the annual breakfast.

## Precautions keep women from becoming victims, local says

by GWEN BOGH  
Post Correspondent

When the topic of tear gas sprays dominated the media about a year ago, Camille Schwab of Boring kept abreast of all reports.

Since the news on sprays has died and many have forgotten how intense the controversy was, but Schwab has not.

She is determined to keep consumers informed about tear gas and to remind them that an effective tear gas spray can save a life. She sells a tear gas spray, not for a living but to do what she feels she can do best keep a potential victim from being raped and harmed.

In explaining why she persists in promoting tear gas, she said, "There were approximately 650,000 reported rapes in the U.S. last year. That's 650,000 too many."

"It's extremely embarrassing to those ladies to have to relive these terrible experiences. Most want to forget. Believe me, I know what I'm saying."

"It's humiliating and degrading to know you've become a victim. Fifteen and a half years ago it happened to someone I know very well. She didn't talk about it, not to anyone, until about a year ago. She is still hesitant about who and when, if she explains at all."

"I have an inward driving goal to explain to as many women as possible that they must think about it now. That they too could become a victim. I suggest a tear gas spray that works and a self-defense class that will give them the information and confidence they need. The two things people say

after becoming a victim is, 'It happened so fast,' and, 'I never thought it could happen to me.'"

Tear gas sprays on the market vary in type, size, make and effect. Schwab has found that most people are confused about the differences.

The two tear gas sprays available are CN (chloroacetophenone) and CS (ortho-chlorobenzalmononitrile).

CN was first developed in 1892 by a German scientist. Years following the discovery of CN, two British scientists, B.B. Corson and R.W. Stoughton, developed what Thomas Adams, criminologist at Santa Ana (Calif.) College, considers a stronger tear gas. That's according to his book, "Protect Yourself with Aerosol Tear Gas."

Tear gas is actually not a gas at all, but a "crystalline powder, similar to talcum powder. To get it to its intended target rapidly, it is dispersed as an aerosol cloud of finally divided particles," according to "Characteristics of Riot Control Agent CS," published by the Department of the Army.

Common carriers of the gas are mineral oil, (acetone) base or and water. A product that has mineral oil in its chemical make-up is Paralyzer. One using an acetone base is Chemshield, which Schwab sells.

Schwab claims that brands made with mineral oil are not as effective as an acetone-based tear gas. She says that a tear gas made with mineral oil has "a several second delay. It doesn't have an instantaneous reaction." She said that a few seconds delay could be disastrous.

Gary Harris, director of marketing

for Defense Corporation in Phoenix, Ariz., manufacturers of Paralyzer, said they chose a mineral oil over another carrier because "mineral oil stays on target better."

He said it's thin and lightweight. Many consumers using Paralyzer have written testimonials on its effectiveness and have stated how their lives were saved by using the tear gas. The same is said for Chemshield tear gas.

John Suprack, Portland distributor for Paralyzer, said their product is "as fast and effective as anything else."

Another brand, Sabre, contains a solvent base. Larry Nance, director of marketing for Security Equipment Corporation in St. Louis, claims that only a second lapse once it hits the skin before it causes a burning sensation. Referring to Sabre's effectiveness, he said, "Ours is immediate. You won't be able to say one thousand and one before it starts to hurt."

Experts describe the pain of tear gas as being similar to having acid thrown in one's face, or having one's face set on fire.

Another source reports tear gas o the face feels like razor blades are slicing it. Schwab explains it as a toothache multiplied 100,000 times.

What is actually happening to the body is the entire respiratory system is reacting to the tear gas. In addition to the temporary burning sensation, the eyes tear and close, the nose runs, breathing is difficult, coughing begins and a tightness in the chest results.

Nerve endings normally covered by fatty tissue are dissolved by the

tear gas. These raw nerves send signals to the brain indicating pain.

Once the fatty tissue is replenished by the body, the effects are gone, with no harmful aftereffects, according to tear gas specialists.

The pain from tear gas may last anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes. First aid that should be administered includes flushing the face with clear water, and being exposed to fresh air. For the best results, stand in front of a fan, letting the air blow directly on one's face.

It is extremely important that the person shot with tear gas not use oils, creams, lotions or salves. If used, permanent skin damage might result.

Prices on the sprays range from \$6 for a small canister to up to \$14 for the larger units.

Schwab has been selling Chemshield tear gas spray with Warren Pingrey approximately three years. They work from their office in Estacada.

Ever since Schwab was first introduced to Chemshield at a fair, she has collected an assortment of material on tear gas sprays.

She intends to put the information she has learned about crime prevention, rape and tear gas usage to work. She has been writing about tear gas in her school district's newsletter. Just recently, she organized a rape awareness seminar with Officer Bernie Justo conducting the class. Schwab said he's an expert on rape prevention.

When Schwab sells her tear gas, a training session follows on the usage of her product. Not all manufacturers of tear gas promote training of

their product, which Schwab feels is important.

"I would like to see training on all tear gas sprays," she said.

Schwab is committed to justifying the product she sells for the sake of saving lives. A major problem, as she sees it, is that the media are disseminating inaccurate information. Television programs "2020" and "Fight Back," as well stations in Portland, have aired stories on tear gas sprays, depicting them to be ineffective.

Schwab said the information they gave was misleading and in part, wrong. She agrees with the inference that there are ineffective brands on the market, but said others are not.

The problem, as she sees it, is that the stories done are generalized. It should be pointed out which brands work, rather than grouping all the sprays together and making a generalization.

Another problem, Schwab said, is that the distinctions between CN and CS gasses have not been made clear. She said CN gas has been documented as causing permanent damage to the skin as opposed to CS, which does not. CS tear gas is temporary, lasting just long enough to incapacitate an attacker.

CN gas, commonly referred to as Mace (a trade name), can "chemically burn the skin," according to Schwab. Supporting that concept is Dr. James Goddard, former U.S. Food and Drug commissioner.

He referred to CN tear gas in a statement reported in the Chicago Tribune in the late 70s as the cause of corneal scars, conjunctivitis, dermatitis, chemical burns and sharp

rises in blood pressure, up to 100 points within seconds.

Disagreeing with the claim CN gas may cause permanent damage is Criminologist Adams.

"Those who market and sell CS tear gas sprays downplay CN to promote their own product. You hear that from CS people because they want you to buy their product," he said in a telephone interview.

"When comparing CS with CN, take CN and multiply by at least two," Adams said.

According to Adams, no one has been permanently injured by a CN tear gas. He said, "I have known of no successful suit" with regard to CN tear gas.

Schwab said, though, she knows of at least one case in Clackamas County where a police officer apprehended a man by shooting him in the face with the tear gas. The man, contending he had been permanently injured from the tear gas used on him, brought suit against the department. According to Chief Bill Brooks of the Clackamas County sheriff's department, there was a "settlement out of court" on that particular case. He would not comment in any depth on the suit but went on to say, "We have discontinued using Chemical Mace better than five years ago" because of the "number of law suits around."

In Multnomah County, police officers will be using tear gas sprays. "We are once again using it," said Chief Randy Amundson. The particular brand they've chosen is Smith & Wesson, a CN tear gas spray.

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If you (or a member of your family or a friend) are a graduate of Gresham High School between 1939 and 1944 and have not been contacted, please phone Pete Carlson at 668-4101 or 224-7964. I will then send you an invitation. If for some horrible and perhaps inexcusable reason you can't attend, please send me your vital statistics & comments of interest at P.O. Box 636, Sandy, Oregon 97055. We need names and addresses.

Because the Class of 1941 must be the most outstanding class in the long history of Gresham High, I will be especially appreciative of all classmates who contact me. We expect to have the largest attendance of the six classes involved, so we need you. You'll enjoy, share & relive an evening of memories, and after all, isn't that what it's all about? So—Let's "GOPHER-it!" (Go for it.)

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