



Sandy firefighters and Alpine Ambulance personnel worked for more than 40 minutes last Thursday to revive Craig Ashford, 56, of Portland after the ultra-light aircraft he was piloting crashed at Rich's Airport northeast of Sandy.

Ultra-light crash claims pilot

by SCOTT NEWTON

Betty Ashford said her husband's hobby, and then profession, of flying ultralight aircraft and hang gliders has always made her nervous.

Thursday Craig Ashford, 56, of Portland, died at Rich's Airport in his ultralight aircraft.

The Ashfords had celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary only two days before the accident.

"That's a nice memory," she said. "We had a real nice day. We went to the beach, and drove around. I feel real good about that."

Ashford taught math at the seventh and eighth grade level for about 30 years in the Portland public schools.

About eight years ago he got interested in hang gliding, and about three years ago he started flying ultralight aircraft.

At the time of his death he was selling, teaching and repairing ultralights and hang gliders.

He'd rented an office at Rich's Airport three or four months ago, according to Betty Ashford.

There is a "small community of ultralight pilots" who use the airport regularly, she said.

The Sandy fire department and Alpine Ambulance responded to the call at 9:49 a.m. Sept. 16, according to Bob Rathke, Sandy fire chief.

They were on the scene about 40

minutes, Rathke said. Efforts to resuscitate Ashford were unsuccessful.

Although Clackamas County officials reported no evidence of a heart attack following an autopsy, Mrs. Ashford was reportedly told that a "slight" heart attack was possible.

Ashford suffered a heart attack about six years ago, and Betty Ashford said that he was "always listening to his body." He had been feeling fine before the wreck, she said.

She added, "I think something alarmed him, and it was probably something about his body."

Witnesses told her he was about 300 feet in the air before the crash, and was flying erratically, which would have been unusual for him. The ultralight went down on the west end of the runway.

She is certain there was nothing wrong with the aircraft, made by Pterodactyl (named after the extinct flying reptiles). Her husband sold ultralights made by two different companies, and reportedly liked both, but he was especially fond of the Pterodactyl.

Betty Ashford said she knows her husband checked the frame of the aircraft out especially well Thursday as some people had had problems because of high winds.

Also, the engine had "just been gone over."

She said people respected her husband as a teacher because he

was a "cautious, conservative" pilot.

It was a nice day Thursday, in fact "perfect," with no wind. Ashford, according to his wife, would have probably been flying even if a channel 10 film crew hadn't been on its way to film him as part of a special on dangerous sports.

Ashford had practiced landing his ultralight without the use of the engine many times. Although that's something an experienced pilot would want to know how to do, Betty Ashford said he then did it because it provided a "neat feeling."

He liked to drift down through the elements "like a bird."

"He often dreamt of waving his arms and flying. I guess a lot of people do," Mrs. Ashford said. "I never did."

Ashford is survived by four children. They are Richard, 33; Ronald, 32; Terrie, 25; and Corey, 23.

Mrs. Ashford is currently working toward a master's degree in counseling and psychology.

A group of hang gliders and ultralight pilots will meet Sunday at the Crow's Camp campground, near Cape Kiwanda.

Ashford's ashes will be spread in the sand and trees on a hill that is occasionally used by hang gliders.

"He died the way I know he'd want to," Ashford said. "I feel good about that."

Energy test set at fish hatchery

A project to demonstrate the use of a marine thruster to generate power in a low-head application will get underway soon at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Eagle Creek fish hatchery.

It is one of nine projects designed to develop better, more cost-effective ways to generate electricity with renewable resources, being funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

The BPA plans to spend up to \$3.5 million in fiscal 1983-84 on the projects which were selected from 161 proposed by private firms or individuals. The Eagle Creek project is one of just four selected in Oregon.

The marine thrusters, to be used at the Eagle Creek fish hatchery, are used to maneuver ships and tug boats with jets of water.

The sponsor, Energy Research & Applications, is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service. They are seeking \$350,000 for design and construction costs.

"Each of these sponsors wants to conduct a demonstration project or study that would lead to the use of renewable resources as a source of energy," said BPA Administrator

Peter Johnson. "Four of the projects would utilize biomass resources—principally the vast stores of wood wastes in the Pacific Northwest.

"One could lead to the construction of large wind turbine generators at Cape Blanco on the Oregon coast. Two revolved around the innovative development of low-head hydro equipment."

State police raid marijuana patch

The Oregon State Police raided a backyard marijuana patch in Rhododendron last Friday, seizing 12 plants and arresting two persons.

The raid took place at 9 a.m. at the home of Lloyd Henry Harvey, 33, on Arlie Mitchell Drive in Rhododendron. It was conducted by three OSP troopers armed with a search warrant issued by District Court Judge Robert L. Mills after the plants were observed growing on the property by an

officer. Arrested at the scene was David Wayne Muth, 24, formerly of Portland, who had rented the house from Harvey the past year and a half, according to Trooper John Rizzo. Muth was charged with manufacturing a controlled substance and possession.

He was lodged in Clackamas County Jail and held on \$9,000 bail, but was later released on his own recognizance, according to Corporal W. Headrick of the county jail.

Harvey, who was not present at the time of the raid, was arrested at 3:30 p.m. when he returned to the house where he maintains a room.

Bail for Harvey was set at \$5,500 and he was released after posting the required 10 percent. He is charged with manufacturing a controlled substance.

Rizzo said the seized marijuana plants vary in size from two to five feet tall. The patch was growing behind a bamboo fence located between the house

and a shed. Also seized in the raid were eight to nine baggies of marijuana, said Rizzo.

Harvey is scheduled to be arraigned on Sept. 29 at 9:30 a.m. in District Court. No arraignment date has been set for Muth.

Rizzo said the OSP is increasing criminal and narcotics investigations statewide.

"The OSP is going to be continuing their investigations into any drug violations in the (Mt. Hood-Sandy) area," said Rizzo.

GED courses offer chance to get ahead

Meeting future job requirements is the number one reason Oregonians take the GED tests.

A survey of more than 2,000 Oregon GED candidates conducted in the spring of 1981 showed that 39 percent took the high school equivalency tests to meet future job requirements.

At the time the candidates took the GED, 35 percent were unemployed and 86 percent felt the tests were important in finding or keeping a job.

Area residents have the opportunity now to enroll in GED classes at Sandy High School, sponsored by Mt. Hood Community College.

Classes begin this Monday, Sept. 27, in Room 17 and will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

The GED class is for persons who want to meet the requirements for a high school equivalency certificate, and for those who want to upgrade their basic skills for better employment and self-improvement.

It is a tutorial program

open to all adults. There is no charge for the course and students may enter at any time during the term, although early enrollment is encouraged.

About 9,000 Oregonians—86 percent of them 30 years of age or younger—receive a GED each year. Meanwhile, about 30,000 public and private school students are receiving their high school diploma.

Eighty-one percent of those polled last spring said they took a preparation class, such as the Sandy High School offering, before taking the GED exam. More than 90 percent who took preparation classes thought the classes were helpful.

For more information about the local class, call Mt. Hood Community College at 667-7366, or Sally Works at 663-1057.

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