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Man guilty of 'largest' timber theft

A former Sleepy Hollow resident was convicted last Thursday in what federal investigators called the largest timber theft prosecution in U.S. history.

Tim McCoy Henderson, 46, now of Gresham, was found guilty in U.S. District Court on six of seven counts resulting from the theft of 627,000 board feet of timber.

He and his wife, Darlene, are the owners of Henderson Forest Products, the logging firm which was involved in the theft.

Chuck Stuckey, assistant U.S. attorney, said the thefts occurred on U.S. Forest Service land and the Bureau of Land Management properties near Brightwood and Zigzag.

Beginning in November 1979, Henderson and his logging crew cut timber on BLM land along South Boulder Creek. At the conclusion of the logging operation on April 15, 1980, 327,000 board feet of marketable timber had been cut and removed, said Stuckey.

Sometime around Sept. 17, 1981, Stuckey said, Henderson began cutting on Forest Service land along Lolo Pass Road, just north of Zigzag. Before logging was halted by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, 300,000 board feet of timber had been removed.

Most of the logs were taken to the Tacoma-based Cascade Timber Company's Sun Dial log dump on the Columbia River where they were "destined for the export market," said Stuckey. A small quantity was sold for wood chips.

Documents introduced by Stuckey in court indicated that Henderson received at least \$550,000 for logs and wood chips from the logging operations.

Thirty-eight witnesses testified on behalf of the government during the 10-day trial, said Stuckey, including BLM and Forest Service personnel.

FBI agents and members of Henderson's logging crew.

The defense, said Stuckey, produced only three witnesses who all corroborated that Henderson "did not cut the timber on purpose."

"His defense and his testimony on the stand, was he tried his best to find the boundary to federal land and

mark it appropriately so his crew wouldn't cut the wrong timber," said Stuckey.

Stuckey could not say if further charges will be brought against Henderson.

"I've never been in the position to absolutely comment that there will be no other charges filed in connection with the case," said Stuckey.

The jury found Henderson not guilty of damage to federal property, "the lesser of the seven charges," said Stuckey. The remaining six charges are felonies, each carrying a maximum of 10 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine or both.

Stuckey called the Henderson case "a rare one." He said there has been

only two others like it in the last five or six years "but this is the worst."

Henderson faces "a range of possibilities" for the convictions. This includes anywhere from "zero to 60 years in prison, zero to \$60,000 in fines, or both."

Sentencing has been scheduled for Nov. 1.



Emery Reynolds of Portland, center, surveys the damage to his pickup truck after a collision at the intersection of Proctor Boulevard and Strauss Avenue last Friday morning. No one was injured. See story on page 3.

Minnesotan named new city manager

A Minnesota city administrator has been named new Sandy city manager.

Tom Reber, 31, city administrator in Jordan, Minn., was selected last week by the Sandy City Council to replace Roger Jordan who resigned to accept a similar position in Dallas.

"I was impressed with him at the interview," said Sandy Mayor Ruth Loundree. "He seems quite excited about moving out here and becoming part of our city."

"He has a broad understanding and background for a position in this city, even though we're a little bit bigger."

Reber has been city administrator in Jordan since June 1978. That city of 2,663 is a "full-service" city, located south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area in flat, open country, Loundree said. Reber dealt with a seven-member city council as he will in Sandy.

He was responsible for budget preparation and control, and personnel, she said.

"He's had experience in park development and in all types of city administration and in waste water management," the mayor pointed out.

Reber attended Mankato State University in Minnesota where he earned a bachelor's degree in urban and regional studies, and business administration in 1973. He earned a master's degree from the same university in 1975 in urban and regional studies, and management studies.

She said Reber is anxious to leave the snowy, Minnesota countryside and begin his new duties in Oregon. "He wanted to get relocated somewhere on the Pacific coast and get out of that climate," Loundree said.

Reber and his wife Nanette have one daughter, Katie. He expects to be on the job locally within the next 60 days.

Couple escapes injury when fuel tank explodes

by DAN DILLON

A Gresham couple escaped injury Monday evening when the gas tank on their 1981 Pontiac Grand Prix ruptured and engulfed the car in flames on Proctor Boulevard, stopping west-bound traffic on Highway 26 for more than 15 minutes.

G.L. and Polly Bell were traveling west on Proctor when Mr. Bell heard a scraping, grinding sound coming from beneath the vehicle near the Sandy Mobil station. He stopped and attempted to back off whatever was dragging underneath the car.

About that time, Fred Stahlman of Sandy opened the car door and told them the back end of the car was on fire.

"They made a hasty exit," said Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher, "and no one was hurt, thank goodness."

Gasoline was burning on the asphalt 30 feet in front and in back of the car when the Bells jumped out, Gallagher said. An unidentified person at the Triple-X Drive-in saw the car burst into flames and called the Sandy Fire Department at 9:12 p.m.

When the first firefighters arrived

on the scene, flames had engulfed the vehicle and were leaping 15 to 20 feet into the air. Two tires blew out in the heat, Gallagher said, and as firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze, the gas cap blew off the car. No one was injured.

After the fire was put out, investigators found a mudflap and bracket from a semi-truck lodged under the vehicle. It had dragged beneath the car, punctured a four-inch gash in the fuel tank and sparked the fire as it raked along the road.

"The mudflap and frame happens to have a license plate," Gallagher

said. The truck was registered to McBreen Trucking of Portland.

He said 17 firefighters responded to the blaze which totally destroyed the car. Gallagher estimated the loss at \$10,000.

Last Thursday evening at 5:41 p.m., local firefighters responded to an alarm for a "possible structure fire" at 46000 Snow Lane, off McCabe Road.

When they arrived, they found a 1970 one-ton Chevrolet truck engulfed in flames.

The owner of the truck, Tony Sageer, told fire investigator that he

had been restoring the vehicle and had been doing metal grinding.

In the process of the grinding, a spark got into the cab of the truck and lit on an oily rag under the front seat. Sageer didn't notice the smoldering rag and went inside.

A neighbor saw smoke above the trees when the truck caught fire and reported the "possible structure fire," thinking the house was burning.

Damage to the truck was estimated at \$2,000, Gallagher said.

(See photograph on page 3.)

Boring home destroyed by arson blaze

An early-morning fire last Thursday swept through a ranch-style house in Boring, causing an estimated \$150,000 damage.

According to Boring Fire Chief Matt Shields, the fire was arson-caused.

He said the owners of the home at 9040 Telford Road, the William Rogers family, were out of town at the time of the blaze. A neighbor heard glass breaking and popping, and when he investigated saw flames through the trees.

Twenty-five Boring firefighters and crews from Sandy and Fire District 10 responded to the 5:23 a.m. alarm. No one was injured, although there was one close call.

The 3,100-square-foot home had a full-size swimming pool in the living room, Shields said.

One of District 10's firefighters fell in the pool, outfitted in full turnout gear and battling the smoke. "If someone hadn't heard him hit the water," Shields said, "I know he would have drowned."

Damage to the building was \$150,000, the Boring fire chief said. Damage to the contents of the home was estimated at \$30,000.

The fire is being investigated by the Oregon State Police Arson Squad. They have been authorized to offer a reward from the Oregon Arson Awareness Fund for any individual who comes forward and helps with the investigation.

Shields said the name of the helper is submitted to the state fire marshal and they may qualify for a reward from the \$5,000 fund. He said the fund is designed to get people more aware of the arson problem and get more witnesses to come forward with valuable information, "like if someone saw a car leaving this driveway at 4:30 or something."

Shields said all tips would be handled confidentially and anyone assisting with the investigation would be allowed to remain anonymous.

Post office plans sent back to drawing board

Design plans for the new Sandy post office were dealt a setback last Thursday when the local design review board sent the project's engineers back to the drawing board.

According to City Planner Don Wilson, U.S. Postal Service representatives came to the design review board with a "totally different" layout for the building than was approved earlier.

Board members asked the engineers to come up with plans that more closely resemble the plans approved when the Sandy City Council granted a conditional use permit in June for construction at the intersec-

tion of McCormick and Wolf Drives, Wilson said.

At the time of the conditional use hearing, the plans called for a mansard roof with a flat top. However, the building plans unveiled last Thursday depicted a "totally different change in the roofline and in the windows," the city planner said.

The new plans outlined a gabled roof for the postal facility.

He said the design review board felt that because neighborhood residents near the site had supported the old design at the time the Postal Service applied for the permit and because the original blended easily

with the residential structures, the old design should be re-initiated.

Wilson said the new design modification would have required a change in the conditional use permit and a second hearing before the city council.

As it is now, the project shouldn't be delayed, Wilson said. Site preparation will be allowed.

The review board did approve the site plan, landscaping and interior layout for the new post office.

In other action, the design review board rejected an application filed jointly by Janz Berryland and Mt. Hood Meadows.

The two businesses want to install an electronic reader board on the produce market site. However, the design review board nixed the action, pending study by the city staff and a public hearing before the city council.

That hearing is expected to be held at the council's Oct. 18 meeting.

Under the proposal, Janz would use the reader board during growing season to advertise fresh produce prices. The ski resort would use the reader board during winter months to make public service announcements about road and snow conditions, snow buses and some

School board stands by its new busing policy

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy Elementary Board will stay with its new busing policy

despite some objections that it is creating hardships.

The board adopted a new "half-mile" policy this summer to bring some uniformity to the district's busing, allow earlier school starts and cut costs.

Under the new policy, children who live less than one half mile from a main route have to walk to that main route for bus pick-up. Children who

live more than a half mile are still provided the old service.

The net result of the change is a savings of approximately four hours bus time and 44 miles of travel per day.

However, parents in six pockets throughout the district think the changes are unfair.

At the Sept. 20 board meeting, parents from 370th Avenue,

Keisecker Road, Summertime Drive, Kirkwood Drive and Orient Drive asked board members to reconsider the policy for a variety of reasons—distance children walk, curtailment of service and safety.

The five board members took the week visit those sites—and the pick-up point on Fish Hatchery Road—and last Friday afternoon, in a special meeting, reported their findings to

the parents.

Starting Monday, students who live on 370th Avenue, at the end of Sandy Heights Road, are being picked up at Dubarko Road rather than near Knollwood Estates where they previously walked.

At Keisecker Road, the bus will no longer turn around at the road's intersection with 427th Avenue. That move was begun when a fence was installed at the old turn-around and its proximity to the road made it difficult for a bus driver to maneuver.

The property owner agreed Friday, however, to move the fence back 10 feet and board members reinstated service to the old pick-up point.

The board decided against providing bus service to one child on Orient Drive, near Kelso Road, because it is less than one-half mile to Kelso School which the policy allows for, except in cases of dangerous street crossings.

Reward offered for clues in slaying

The mother of the man found slain in a field near Brightwood has offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the shooting death.

The body of Herbert E. "Gene" Weed, 25, was found by a hunter Sept. 4 about 20 feet from Wildcat Creek Road. He was handcuffed and had

been shot once in the head.

The victim's mother, Mrs. Ross E. Gearhart of Gresham is offering the reward. It may be collected when a suspect is charged with the slaying, she said.

Weed was last seen at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26, as he drove west on SE Powell Boulevard. He was driving a 1974 green Ford Pinto with

no hood.

The next day a man was spotted parking Weed's car in front of 737 SE Union Ave. in Portland. The driver reportedly left the car and joined a man on a motorcycle.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact Detective John Downey of the Oregon State Police.

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