

# Welches officials hope break-ins have ceased

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

After suffering losses up to an estimated \$1,000, Welches School District officials are exploring ways to update the security of the new theft-ridden bus barn.

Construction of the bus barn was completed last spring, and it has been the target of thieves almost from the beginning, according to Kenneth Blackburn, superintendent-principal.

Blackburn said the bus facility has been a constant problem, although the situation has quieted compared to last spring and summer.

He estimated that it has been broken into

somewhere between eight to 10 times, during which time the thieves helped themselves to a "booty" that included gasoline, five bus batteries valued at \$80 apiece, bus tires, fire extinguishers, highway flares, first aid kits and tools.

Blackburn said the district's losses were not covered by insurance.

The bus facility, located just south of the upper-grade building on Salmon River Road, was also a target during construction.

Completion of the facility was delayed as a concrete slab was removed a couple of times due to workmanship and settling, reportedly caused by unsuitable fill material. This left the area

vulnerable for a long period of time. The losses include an expensive metal roof that vanished one night. That loss was covered by an insurance company for the contractor, Glynbrook Construction of Salem.

Other times during construction, equipment parked near the area was vandalized.

Blackburn said he believes the bus facility problem is the result of a combination of things.

One problem is its distance from the school. It is a couple hundred feet away, unlike the old parking area, which was located in a fenced area on the north side of the upper-grade building.

Although there were a

few problems at the old bus parking area, the close proximity to the school and floodlights helped to discourage people who would consider either scaling or cutting the six-foot high cyclone fence.

Blackburn said the new facility also has a six-foot-high cyclone fence topped with barbed wire, as well as floodlights. But because

of the heavy growth of trees on the north side, it is a tempting target.

Blackburn said the thieves have cut the north fence with wire cutters and have helped themselves.

After one theft resulted in the removal of 10 to 15 gallons of gasoline and a battery, Blackburn said he spent a night watching the area from a school window with binoculars. Although he saw nothing unusual, gasoline was stolen that night.

Finally a late-night stakeout by two Clackamas County sheriff's deputies resulted in the arrest of a juvenile and an adult, who had a weed-eater and some other school property in their possession. The juvenile, who was about 16 years old, was turned over to the juvenile court and

the adult is awaiting an April trial.

Almost 1 1/2 years after the arrests were made the thefts ceased. However, Blackburn said the potential of the problem continuing is there unless better security methods are employed.

At the board's September meeting Blackburn presented various proposals to improve security.

The first was to hire Cansler Security Service of Estacada. The office for Cansler Security was headquartered in an A-frame building next to the Zig Zag Inn.

A Cansler Security representative proposed roving security service for the district.

For checks three times a night, seven days a week, the charge would have

been \$400 a month, or \$4,800 a year.

Since submitting the proposal, The Post has learned that Cansler Security has stopped serving the Mt. Hood area due to a lack of customers.

The second proposal was submitted by Gresham Alarm and involved the installation of a sophisticated burglar alarm system. The initial cost would be \$4,404. The company would also monitor the system for a monthly charge of \$18. The first year it would cost the district a total of \$4,620. The monitoring service would cost \$216 per year after that.

Since that meeting the board has made no decisions on the proposals. Since the apprehension of the two suspects, the thefts have ceased.

## Applications being taken

Applications for next year's summer and seasonal jobs for the Forest Service are now being accepted, and will continue to be until Jan. 15, 1983.

A person may submit only one application nationwide to a Forest Service Regional Office or Research Station. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time they report for duty and must be capable of performing arduous work.

Jobs that will be available in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service (Oregon and Washington) include aids and technicians in forestry, range, recreation, fire control, engineering,

surveying, and biological, physical and hydrological sciences.

For positions such as clerks, wage grade (laborers), rappellers and

## Hearing is delayed

The Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan, which was scheduled to go before the Land Conservation and Development Commission last week, was postponed tentatively until Dec. 21.

A spokesperson for LCDC cited a full hearings schedule as the reason for the delay.

One of the issues the county will address concerns the locations of the wetlands in the Mt. Hood corridor, both within and outside the Hoodland Service District.

## Philbin party draws 110 at Oral Hull

The Philbin Christmas party was held at the Oral Hull Foundation in the Rainbow Lodge earlier this month.

About 110 attended. After dinner the Philbin story was read by Howard Berger of Sandy to acquaint newcomers with her

background.

Miss Evangeline Philbin of Portland, a career woman in government, had originated the parties in 1964 and wished to have them continue when she died, and did so by providing for them in her will.

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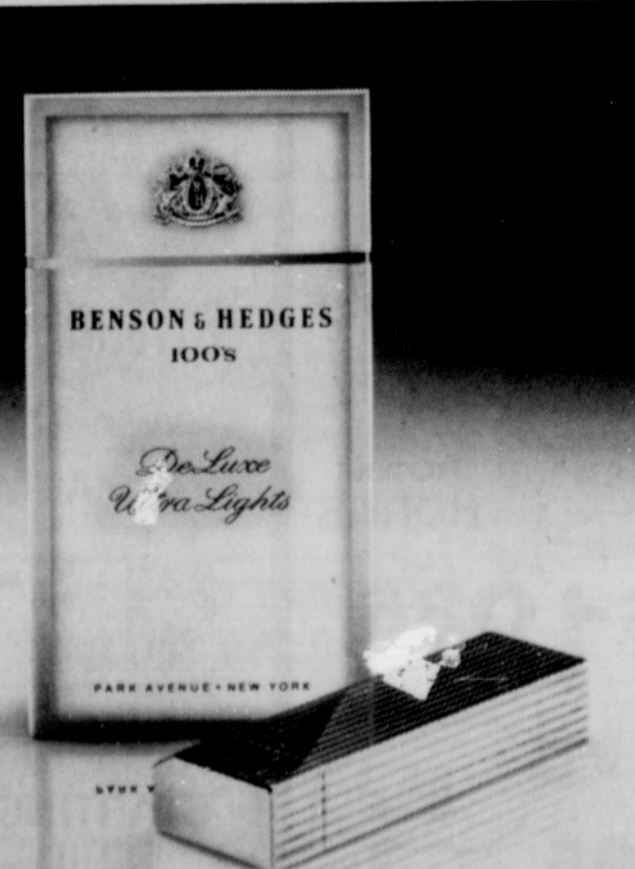
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