

Solution considered for bridge problem

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The Salmon River bridge on U.S. Highway 26, near Brightwood, is a killer.

Last year two persons died in an accident that has been attributed to icing problems.

In addition, in the last five years 12 persons have been known to have been injured in wrecks that occurred on the bridge.

Plans are underway to correct the problem of ice on the bridge, but it won't be until summer before work can begin.

Statistics from the state Department of Motor Vehicles show that there have been six accidents that have occurred on the bridge. Not reflected in their records are the number of unreported close calls.

From Jan. 1, 1977 to Sept. 1, 1980 officials from the state Highway Division report that there were three accidents on the 450-foot structure. In two of these accidents the vehicles struck the bridge. In the third, two vehicles collided head-on. A total of seven persons were injured in these mishaps.

Last year, on Dec. 30, the Salmon River Bridge claimed two lives. Joyce Utterback of Sunnyside and Marie Elizabeth Appleton of Banks were killed in a head-on crash. In addition, five other persons were injured.

Also killed were two Doberman pinschers that were riding in the back of a camper. They died when the propane tank exploded when it was struck by the vehicle Utterback was riding in. The impact also caused the gas tanks of both vehicles to explode.

The bridge, which was constructed in 1972, is on a five percent grade. When it rains or snows, the water flows down toward the bridge, and ices up when it reaches the span. Oregon State Police officials say that during cold weather, when ice is present, it can be dangerous for vehicles to cross even when they are exercising extreme caution and driving defensively. Vehicles driving east-

bound, up the mountain, reportedly will slide out of control into the westbound lane of traffic.

Ron Failmesger, regional traffic operations supervisor for the Highway Division, said the problem of ice is the result of wear and tear on the surface, caused by chains and studded tires. The weight of tractor trailers, coupled with their use of tire chains, magnifies the wear on the bridge. These snow traction devices polish the concrete, making the road slicker.

The problem is magnified further, said Failmesger, by the large numbers of tractor trailers that travel through the Mt. Hood corridor. Their weight, coupled with the use of tire chains, helps to wear down the surface of the bridge.

Failmesger said if the use of chains and studded tires were banned, then problems like the one on the Salmon River bridge would not occur. But this is highly unlikely. He said the only place he has heard of where they have banned the traction device is Munich, West Germany.

Ackerman completes Guard basic training

Air National Guard Airman Steven L. Ackerman, son of Richard L. and Eleanor W. Ackerman of Sandy, has been assigned to Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., after completing Air Force basic training.



Steven Ackerman

2 to graduate from University of Oregon

About 800 University of Oregon students are candidates for degrees at the end of the fall term, according to officials in the Office of the Registrar.

Among the 811 degree candidates, 560 are receiving bachelor's degrees, 183 are completing master's degrees, 56 are finishing doctoral degrees and 12 will receive law degrees.

As a money-saving measure, no commencement ceremonies are scheduled. However, several schools, colleges and departments have planned informal receptions to honor graduates and their families.

Included among the graduates are Jean Louise Arthur of Boring, who is receiving a bachelor of arts degree in journalism, and Richard Petrie of Brightwood, who is receiving a master of science degree in counseling.

One student had a person in a canoe scouting out a good Christmas tree from the waters of a lake.

"Highway 26 is the gateway to Oregon's recreational areas," said Failmesger. "A lot of people travel it to get to Mt. Hood, Eastern Oregon, Central Oregon, Bend, Madras and everything east of that."

Traffic counts from the Highway Division reveal that this section of Highway 26, around the Salmon River bridge, is heavily traveled. From one-tenth of a mile east of Sleepy Hollow Road a survey was taken that revealed that 6,300 vehicles are using the highway per day. A good deal of this traffic traveled across the bridge. During good ski weather the traffic could be heavier.

Failmesger, who has been working on the problems since last year's double-fatality, said a solution has been found. The solution to icing problems is a German-patented product called Verglint, which is distributed from Ontario, Canada.

Verglint, said Failmesger, contains calcium chloride. In wet weather the Verglint will give off a solution that will keep the moisture from tur-

ning to ice.

Failmesger said the Verglint will be poured over the bridge's concrete roadway and then paved over with asphalt. Although the Verglint is not supposed to be corrosive, this is being done as a protective measure. This way no salt from the Verglint will be able to seep through to the supports and cause problems.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, where salt is used heavily on the roads to prevent them from icing up, Failmesger said several bridge decks are having to be replaced. However, this will not be a problem in Oregon, where little salt is used.

The use of Verglint shouldn't pose problems for auto bodies, said Failmesger. Salt, as anyone from the states that use it knows, will eat away the underside of a vehicle like acid. The only two states that don't rely on salt, said Failmesger, are

New Mexico and Oregon.

He said the only time the Highway Division will use salt is when it gets really cold. Then a little will be mixed in with the sand.

Verglint is still in the experimental stages, said Failmesger, but it has proven to be successful in California and on the East Coast. It has also been used in Canada for a number of years.

Although it is not official yet, Failmesger said he feels the use of the Verglint on the bridge will be employed next year. The final approval will have to come from the Federal Highway Commission, since gas tax funds will be used for the Verglint. He said, however, that he doesn't anticipate any problems.

If Verglint is approved, Failmesger said it will be used as an experimental program. If used, it would be the first time in Oregon. The cost would be about \$100,000.

However, Failmesger does not see every ice problem on the highway being eliminated. He said he did not believe an application of Verglint could make the "super" on Highway 35, near its junction with Highway 26, safer.

The super was constructed by the Federal Highway Administration with a drainage, or drop, of one-fourth inch per foot. It is reportedly one of the most dangerous curves in the corridor.

Even the Highway Division's own heavy rotary snowplows, which are equipped with chains on all wheels, have difficulty in keeping on the roadway, said Failmesger.

A Merry Note of Christmas Cheer and Joy!

We're sending you this note to remind you, your friends are thinking about you, even at this, our busiest season. We wish you and yours the most joyful Christmas ever and the best New Year you've had yet. Come by and see us again soon!

Elaine Harriett
Virginia Diane
Decker & Scales
Sandy, Oregon

DON'T WAIT!

LEAKY SHOWER OR TUB? We specialize in Water Damage to walls and Floors. Remember a Little Dryrot Goes a Long Way.

R&L CLASSIQUE FLOORS INC.
17302 NE HALSETT PORTLAND
255-6775
CERAMIC TILE • VINYL FLOORS • CARPET
COUNTER TOPS

Brides Registered at Cloudtree & Sun
For the Gift They'll Really Use

December thru April

BRIDE	GROOM
Charla Geissler	Stuart Hughs
Lori Sinclair	Tim Mackey
Kathryn Knudsen	Erik Saling
Jody Kay Goodwin	Rod Dawes

CLOUDTREE & SUN
and School of Cookery
112 N. Main 666-8495

DOES YOUR BUSINESS INSURANCE NEED A CHECKUP?

It's a sad fact. As inflation goes up, so does employee dishonesty. What to do about it? Check your insurance and make sure it has you covered.

And if you're interested in other ideas about keeping your insurance—and your business—healthy, see your independent SAFECO agent soon. And ask about a free checkup for all your insurance.

SAVE WITH SAFECO
SAFECO Insurance Company of America
Member FDIC

Yost Insurance Center
13343 S.E. Stark
256-4217

HAVE AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS—
"JUST LIKE THE ONES WE USED TO KNOW!"

Member FDIC

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BANK

SANDY 668-5501 HOODLAND 622-3131 BORING 663-3000

Merry Christmas from the people at Dairy Queen

Mt. Hood Dairy Queen
17400 Boers, Sandy 648-7454

STONES

FREE Gift Wrapping

ORESHAM, 648-2015 SANDY, 648-8298

OPEN XMAS EVE TIL 5:00

ORESHAM HOURS:
MON. THURS. 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
FRI. 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

SANDY HOURS:
MON. THURS. 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
FRI. 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.