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Sandy man advises on 90th birthday

'You can live on memories'

by DAN DILLON

"If I hadn't got married, I guess I'd been a regular stiff. That's what keeps a man going—a good woman."

When Mike Lamb offers a hint for living a good life a long time, it's best to listen. Wednesday the Sandy resident celebrated his 90th birthday.

"Build memories while you're young," he advised. "Then you can live on your memories."

The day before his birthday celebration he shared some of his memories over a few games of pool, remembering his days on the road and on the movie lots of Hollywood, and his 63 years with his wife Josephine, who passed away two years ago.

Born in Kansas, his family moved to Colorado in 1900. When he turned 16, Mike went on the road.

"They put me in a military school. I didn't like that so I went over the hill and quit," he remembered.

He "got me an armload of boxcar" and wound up paying Oregon his first visit in 1910 with 50 cents in his pocket and a hatful of Portland rain. He paid 15 cents for a night's rest in a Burnside warehouse and woke up to see someone rifling through the pants he'd hung over a chair before going to sleep.

"Someone got my 35 cents, my grubstake," he chuckled. But, he hung around Portland for three days, until he landed a job setting pins in a bowling alley for a dime an hour, one hour a day. The profits went for a dozen cinnamon rolls a day, which he lived on for a week until he heard about a pipeline being built near Pendleton, just a train ride away.

Mike pestered the foreman until he convinced him he wanted to work. The foreman pointed to a 60-ton load of gravel, gave him a shovel and put him to work. That lasted a day until blisters got the best of him and the foreman reassigned him.

His new job sent him to Pendleton on the local to fetch two quarts of beer for the foreman and loaf around while he waited for the ride back. After about 30 days, he'd saved up three five-dollar gold pieces.

"I was a millionaire," he said. And like many young men with money burning a hole in their pocket, he set off to look up a girl he'd met in school.

She'd married two months earlier but, Mike said, he didn't want her to know he was put out so he gave her his last gold piece, borrowed a row boat and set out drifting down the Columbia River from White Bluff, Wash., on one occasion narrowly missing a whirlpool that locals told him fed the Lost River which resurfaced in Idaho.

"I tied that boat up in the willows. It's still there, I don't know," he said. He high-tailed it back to Colorado where he was "never so glad to get my feet under my dad's table."

It was then he married Josephine. "When I got married, I never did bum anymore," he said.

He was working as a deputy sheriff in Colorado in 1921 when the movie people came to town to film "Limited Mail," starring Monte Blue. Mike landed a job as a night watchman, guarding props for the production and wound up escorting Blue around Colorado in a Cadillac belonging to the mortuary where he also worked.

"He kind of took a liking to me. Kept giving me dollar cigars," Mike said. "He told me to come to California. I was just married and I really didn't want to go so they left without me."

That winter, however, the palm trees on the picture post cards looked too inviting and he



Staff photo

A member of the Sandy Silver Tones, Mike Lamb practices on his 100-year-old Gibson mandolin.

and his bride went to Warner Bros. studios looking for Monte Blue like the actor had told him to do.

The receptionist was used to people dropping in dropping names and she tried to give Lamb the brush. But just like in the movies, as Mike was pondering his next move, in California without a job, the elevator opened and Blue stepped out. Mike was fixed up in short order.

For the next 25 years, Mike Lamb was a special effects wizard at most of the major studios, working on "Gone With the Wind," "Mutiny on the Bounty," "Captains Courageous," "Wizard of Oz," and countless others.

"When you're in that racket and they finish a big picture like 'Gone With the Wind,' they always lay you off. Then you just go on to the next studio," Mike said.

He helped build miniatures. "They don't burn up a train or sink a ship, they make it all miniature." He simulated disasters. "We made rain, wind, lightning, all that stuff." And he was one of the pioneers in the follow-focus camera before the days of zoom lenses.

"Only four fellas they let run it," he said. "Most anybody could do it, but they didn't want it out. Most everyone had their trade secrets."

Along the way he built door handles shaped like grape clusters for Orson Welles, sponge-rubber revolvers for movie "pistol-whipping" and the first miniature airplane with an operable machine gun.

"When I quit, I quit," Mike said. That was in 1946. Josephine wanted to be close to their son Alvy who'd moved to Sandy and their grandchildren. So Mike packed up his tools and moved north from California.

"I came up here 35 years ago to retire," he said. "Everyone was chopping wood and I had four trades." So, he bought a welder and lathe and set up a machine shop where he worked for 25 more years.

Now, there's time for his new 100-year-old buried myrtlewood upright piano. He doesn't play it, but he does play autoharp and mandolin with the Sandy Silver Tones at the Sandy Senior Center.

There's always something to keep him active. "If you don't think I bore with a big auger, when they built this big building over here," gesturing to the Sandy Fire Hall, "they nominated me sidewalk superintendent."

In the basement, the tools from his machine shop days are still turning out toys to play with like cannons. Tuesday he was sitting one in.

"I have a lot of fun down here," he said, showing off his machinery and some memorabilia from the Hollywood days. "It keeps me from going plum crazy."

And there's time for the memories over a friendly game of pool on the table that dominates one part of his living room.

"I don't regret any of it. I had some pretty close calls," he said. "Somehow or other I missed a lot of meals, but I'm making up for it now."

Sandy High unveils \$2.9 million levy plan

Sandy Union High School District budget committee members are getting ready to scrutinize a \$2.9 million operating levy proposal presented to them Monday night.

This Monday evening they will tackle the 104-page document in earnest when they hear proposals from six different department heads. Representatives from the English, foreign language, art, drama, home economics and music departments will present their budget reviews at 7:30 p.m. in Room 50-51 of the high school's Paul E. Tucker Building.

Subsequent budget committee meetings will be held Feb. 3 and Feb. 9 when further department reviews are scheduled.

In his budget message, Superintendent Jack Peters told the budget committee, "We are not proposing any new programs for 1983-84. This document is designed to maintain our present programs for our students."

Citing the economic climate, Peters likened the high school's situation to the situation of Americans during the years of the

American Revolution.

"Two hundred years later, for all the affluence, comfort and convenience of life, most school districts in our state face an anxious, uncertain struggle for economic security."

The proposed budget represents at 14 percent jump over the current year's budget. That is caused by contracted pay increases for teachers and administrators and reinstatement of some items that were deleted after district voters rejected the "B" ballot last fall.

"Staff salaries and fringe benefits continue to account for the largest expenditure from the General Operating Fund, as would be expected from any service-based organization," Peters said.

The district's educators are to receive a 2.5 percent salary increase next year and additional pay based on experience and schooling, bringing the average to a 5.5 percent increase. District administrators are also proposed to receive a 5.5 percent pay hike, if the budget is approved as submitted.

Local residents debut in public service spot

by DAN DILLON

Some faces familiar to Sandy area residents began popping up on a Portland television station this weekend.

The faces belong to members of Bonnie Vorenberg's Arts for Elders program which meets at Sandy's Senior Center. They are appearing a television spot about senior adults and alcoholism that began airing Saturday on KATU-TV Channel 2.

The exposure is the result of a two-year-old program that encourages seniors adults to become involved in the arts, particularly drama and dance.

In the wake of the television appearance local seniors, along with members of the Gresham Senior Center, are now readying for a date with radio station KBOO-FM. They will be on the air performing "Child of Air," a play about two elderly sisters arrested for duck-napping while trying to save city ducks from becoming lunch for lions in the zoo, some time in the coming weeks.

That will involve some actors changing roles and "lots of sound effects," Vorenberg said. The drama group produced the same play for the stage during the fall term.

Along with the radio production, the group will present the play in the

community several times with performances planned at other senior centers where acting groups are beginning.

One of the few professionals in the nation who specialize in arts for elders, Vorenberg got the idea while working on her master's degree thesis at the University of Oregon. Under the auspices of the American Theatre Association, she also conducted the first nationwide search for new plays that feature elder actors in 1982.

Working with the seniors has brought its rewards. "I like it a lot," she said. "It's wonderful."

"They have a lot of life experience that is wonderful. The group doesn't have a lot of art opportunities. I enjoy giving them an arts opportunity."

"I've found the Sandy seniors to be responsive and to have a lot of talent," Vorenberg added. "One of my real joys is to show up on Friday mornings for the class."

The local class is sponsored by Mt. Hood Community College and will alternate meetings between the Sandy and Gresham centers as the actors prepare the production.

Sign-up is continuing for the winter term. The class meets at 10 a.m. Fridays at the Sandy Senior Center.

City plots marketing for industrial boost

Sandy's Economic Development Commission is moving into high gear with a direct marketing strategy to recruit new industry locally.

The city-appointed commission met last week to plot marketing moves, with some happy news about funding.

Sandy's involvement with Molalla and Estacada in the Small Cities Attraction Program got a funding shot in the arm recently when all three cities contributed \$1,500 for joint marketing.

Also, some \$10,000 was donated by U.S. National Bank's "Are You With Us?" Economic Action Council promotion.

The three cities' \$14,500 economic development funds will be spent on advertisements promoting location of industry here in Oregon Business Magazine, Pacific Business Magazine, Portland Magazine, the Gresham Outlook and The Oregonian.

An additional \$3,000 overrun from a federal block grant to Clackamas County for economic development is also available to the three-cities effort.

That money, Sandy city planner Don Wilson said, will afford a direct targeting of promotional literature aimed at potential firms that might locate in east Clackamas County.

Wilson is supplementing a "Close Enough" agency-prepared brochure to promote the three cities with local one-page flyers on Sandy. The flyers will include a local map, industrial sites, services, tax information and other areas of concern to potential residents.

City manager Tom Reber also is considering a Sandy speakers bureau to hit the road to sell Sandy as a new site for industry.

Sandy's Economic Development Commission members decided not to pursue commercial businesses for Sandy, as opposed to industry.

"Our efforts are geared mainly toward getting jobs here," explained EDC chairman George Morgan, who also represents Sandy EDC in the three-cities effort.

"We'd like to be able to wine and dine them," Morgan said of potential industrialists, "and show them what we have in Sandy. This could include a slide show."

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WEATHER

Extended Forecast: Partly cloudy through Friday with rain at times Saturday and Sunday. Chance of precipitation Thursday 20 percent. Highs, 45 to 55. Lows, 30s to lower 40s.

Precipitation: January Total: 3.86 inches; 0.51 inches above normal.

Troutdale airport

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Sunday	46	39	T
Monday	41	39	12
Tuesday	47	39	04

Fire district ponders dispatch switch

by DAN DILLON

Overcoming technical problems dispatching firefighters to emergencies has Sandy Fire District officials seriously considering a change in dispatch service.

"It looks favorable that we will go that way," said Fire Chief Bob Rathke. A vote is expected at the February board meeting.

If the Sandy district leaves the Clackamas County emergency dispatching system, the only real change would be for patrons in outlying areas who are not part of the 668-

telephone exchange. Those patrons might receive new seven-digit telephone numbers to call for emergency help.

The 668-telephone customers would continue to dial 911.

The 911 situation is crucial to Sandy's decision to join Clackamas Fire District 1 for its dispatching. The county dispatching system (C-COM) would have to transfer 911 calls to the new dispatching center.

When the county goes to a county-wide 911 system, those calls will be transferred automatically.

Cost savings would not be a major factor. Both services bids for the coming year are approximately \$28,000.

Along with improved radio dispatching, that the Clackamas Fire District's microwave system would afford, Rathke said it is important that Sandy be aligned with the same dispatch center that adjacent fire districts—Hoodland, Boring and Estacada—use because of their advanced mutual response system.

Currently, the closest fire station is dispatched to an emergency,

regardless of which district it is in. That eliminates crucial minutes in response times.

Rathke points out that the switch from C-COM to Clackamas Fire District is not aimed at undermining the county system. "They really tried to find the (radio dispatching) problem. I have to give them credit for that," he said.

"Whether we move out or not, we'll always work with the county. That's the nature of the emergency service business. One part can't isolate itself."

Blackburn said the school uses a similar process with an accident report, in which they look at and see how it happened. But, he said, the school has not gone into "accident counseling."

school hours only, he said, there were only four reported accidents. The most recent occurred on Dec. 8 and caused head injuries to a first grader.

"Out of 234 school days, up through the middle of December (1982), we've had one accident on there, about one every 58.5 days," said Blackburn. "(That's) about one every two months. That's if you went to school for 30 days a month."

"That equates to about 46,000 child days out on the playground," said Blackburn. "I don't know what else

involved students running and falling, two involving thrown objects and two occurred when students collided with each other. Another occurred when a student when he ran into a wall."

However, 11 reported accidents involved playground equipment, most involving the school's 'Old Big Toy.'

The Big Toy safety question was originally raised by parent Dawson Hubert shortly after his daughter had broke her arm on that piece of equipment.

Blackburn doesn't feel the Big Toy has a "high accident rate." During

In Welches School District

Playground accidents concern officials

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The rate of playground accidents at Welches Grade School has not been unusually high, according to a district official.

Superintendent Kenneth Blackburn bases his statement on an analysis of accident records, he told the school board last Thursday evening.

During a 14-month period, Blackburn said, there were 19 accidents on the playground. Eight in-