

Monkey rules Hansen roost

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

When your child acts like a monkey around the house, don't complain to Elmer Hansen. He has had one living in his house for 28 years.

Maggie, as the monkey is known, is a stump-tail maque, brought from the Indochinese mountains when she was a year old.

Twenty-nine-year-old Maggie was once a local celebrity, of sorts. She would often show up with Hansen at a Brightwood soda fountain to share an RC Cola. Maggie was understandably upset when the soda fountain burned many years ago.

Hansen, who retired as a dairyman 10 years ago, operated the Reptile Pit near Brightwood during the 1950s. The pit featured more than 165 species of reptiles and was meant entirely for educational purposes.

"We did our best to make folks comfortable," said Hansen. "We never intended to scare anybody."

Maggie was also featured in newspaper ads of the day, inviting guests to the Reptile Pit.

"She was the only bit of showmanship we had," said Hansen.

A monkey in the house is one thing but having to "winter over" 165 reptiles proved to be a little hectic for the Hansens.

"At one time we had five kids, Maggie, and all the reptiles there," Hansen said. "It provided for some pretty interesting situations."

Hansen first became interested in reptiles when a high school science teacher introduced him to "that fellow from Mutual of Omaha or one of his relatives"—Marlin Perkins of television's "Wild Kingdom".

Hansen gathered rattlesnakes for "that fellow" as part of a research project. The snakes were gathered during hibernation, 25 to a bag. When the bags were hung in



Elmer Hansen doesn't mind having this monkey on his back. Maggie has been keeping the Hansen family company for 28 years.

a warm building, the snakes awoke.

"It sounded like a Russian time bomb, ready to explode in there," said Hansen.

Another aspect of the summer job included checking the rattlesnakes' mouths for disease before the venom was extracted.

Hansen's love for the study of nature is still vivid. "We are making all kinds of new gadgets and we still haven't got caught up learning

about the things that have always been here," he said.

The rest of the family learned to get along with Maggie as soon as they realized that "being from the jungle, Maggie has a whole different outlook on life," Hansen said.

Maggie seems to have adapted to civilization, though she was known to turn out the lights and chase people playfully through the house in her younger days. Her most civil- ized habit seemed to be helping herself to whatever was in the refrigerator whenever she got out of her upstairs pen.

"Female monkeys tend to react better to male humans," said Hansen. "Although she gets along with Mrs. Hansen just fine when they are both in there place."

What is there place? According to Maggie, it's "Maggie, number one; Mrs. Hansen, number two," he said.

Boring crime watch organizing patrols

A group of Boring residents are tired of their homes being burglarized and are organizing patrols to prevent it from happening in the future.

This Monday, March 7, Boring Crime Watch will host Sheriff Paul McAllister in the Naas Building cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. to hear about a similar program in the Colton area that has been effective in reducing the number of home burglaries in that area.

The sheriff will also offer pointers on securing homes and provide tips on what the Boring patrols can and can't do.

The group, which attracted approximately 50 persons to an earlier meeting, is attempting to stop a rash

of burglaries that have occurred in the area in the past year.

Boring Crime Watch hopes to divide the Boring School District into 11 areas, designate area leaders to organize patrols and eventually have two cars patrolling each area each evening.

Area leaders are also considering get-togethers so neighbors will become better acquainted with neighbors and increase the effectiveness of the patrols.

The group is also looking at a way to get radio communication with the Clackamas County sheriff's department so they can be alerted instantly when suspicious activity occurs in an area.

New correspondent joins newspaper staff

An east Sandy resident who studied journalism at Portland Community College has joined The Post as mountain area correspondent.

Henry (Hank) Emrich, 34, will be responsible for news reporting east of Sandy in the Hoodland area to Government Camp.

Emrich studied journalism at Portland Community College, where he edited the student newspaper, The Bridge. He has done free-lance work for several area newspapers and worked as a reporter for the Lake Oswego Review.

Emrich also works in construction in the area and worked for T & E Development Co. of Eagle Creek.

A native Oregonian and Sandy resident for the past 10 years, Emrich is a graduate of Hillsboro Union High School.



Hank Emrich

Clackamas ESD sets small budget hike

The Clackamas Education Service District board approved a general fund budget of \$7.6 million for the 1983-84 fiscal year following the board's budget hearing Feb. 21.

The 1983-84 general fund budget, \$7,639,644, represents an increase of 1.54 percent of the 1982-83 budget, according to ESD Superintendent Bob Burns.

He added that this is the smallest budget increase the ESD has had in the past decade, and may be the smallest increase ever in Clackamas ESD's budget.

Included in the general fund budget is the ESD property tax levy of \$6.9 million, according to Burns. The 1983-84 levy is within the 6 percent growth limit.

In his budget message, Burns said that these small increases represent

the ESD's policy of "budget restraint."

"We're doing everything we can to hold costs down," he said.

In designing the budget, ESD directors were told that there would be no new programs and no new staff, Burns said.

He added that any staff vacancies that come up during the year will be re-evaluated before replacement staff will be hired.

"As funding at the school district level dwindles, schools look to the ESDs to make up some of that loss in services," Burns said.

"Clackamas ESD has a responsibility to provide needed services for county schools, but we also have a responsibility to the taxpayers," he said. "I believe this budget will meet both of those responsibilities."

ODT official outlines highway plans

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

Citizen input will be the difference in any plans the Oregon Department of Transportation has to widen Highway 26 east of Brightwood, according to Vicki Rocker of ODT.

Rocker spoke to the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce Tuesday morning about ODT plans, a long-time area concern. Some residents hope for any expansion of the highway to include a rest stop in the corridor.

ODT's current six-year plan,

adopted in 1980, calls for widening of the highway from the Wildwood area through Zigzag. The state has secured right-of-way for approximately one-half of this stretch, as far east as Welches Road. The state has allotted \$3.5 million for the first phase of the six-year plan.

Public meetings will be held in the fall requesting citizen input concerning the project. "Come and tell us if you agree with standards set. . . and if you want a rest stop or not," said Rocker.

Requests by state Rep. Bob

Shiprack, D-Beavercreek, and Highway maintenance supervisor Harry Woodward have resulted in the ODT considering two five-acre rest stops near the Salmon River Bridge and Miller Road. The proposed rest stop would use five acres on each side of the highway and Rocker could only estimate its cost at "hundreds of thousands of dollars." Money made available by the recent increase in the gasoline tax would be used for both this and the widening project.

Rocker stated that there is always

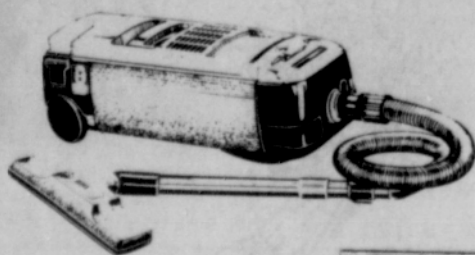
the possibility of variances in standard shoulder width for scenic areas, but stressed that this would depend on citizen input.

"The transportation department has always been responsive to those showing an interest at the meetings," says Rocker.

Chamber member Adrian Shields did not agree with Rocker's statement. "It took a proper amount of (highway) deaths to get something done before," said Shields "and it looks like we are killing the proper amount to get (other improvements)."

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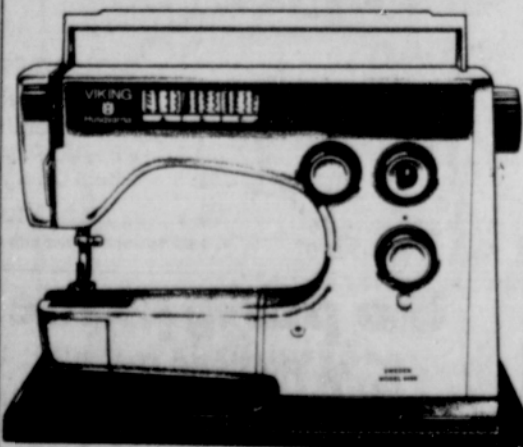


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