

The Sandy Post

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Huck would like this fishin' hole

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

Huckleberry Finn may have never fished there, but if Mark Twain's literary creation did exist, he'd probably enjoy the fishing at the u-catch-em pond bearing his name near Brightwood.

The Huckleberry Finn's Fishin' Hole is located about 300 yards off Highway 26 but the buzzing of passing traffic is soon tuned out in the peaceful surroundings where Sherman Beck and his family live.

Beck and his wife Marilyn have nine children, so it's understandable why it is easier to have a fish pond in their backyard than take the kids fishing.

"They put the fish in mostly for the five boys," says Heidi, a junior at Sandy High School, "but I catch a few once in a while."

The pond is more than just for fun however, according to Beck. He says his children have a chance to make some money and learn a little about work and responsibility. Even their 3-year-old helps out, throwing out some of the food at feeding time.

"It gets pretty exciting when the fish start jumping out there," says Beck.

Beck said the primary responsibility for care and maintenance of the pond is with his children and they have worked out schedules with each other to insure that someone is always there to help customers.

The pond is also open evenings for night fishing. Beck said the lights on the pond attract insects which in turn attract the fish, making for "very exciting" fishing.

Andrew, 8, was certain he could catch a fish "almost always" in less than five minutes and was eager to demonstrate.

Although the biggest fish he appeared to be after alluded his hook, he did land a 10-inch specimen with ease, showing skill an older fisherman would be proud of.

Beck said older fishermen do frequent the pond on occasion, recalling an incident where a Portland man had entered a fishing contest and spent almost the entire day fishless on the Sandy River. "He spent nearly three hours pulling the hook away from smaller fish," said Beck. "There was one big one that he wanted."

His efforts weren't in vain, according to Beck, who said the man finally ended up with a 16-inch. The proud fisherman went home confident of winning a trophy, said Beck.

Like Andrew, most people "almost always" catch a fish in five minutes says Beck, although at times the fish can be "very fickle." He says the most impatient fisherman ever waits is hard-



Walter and Andrew Beck try their hand at catching some of the fish stocked in Huckleberry Finn's Trout Farm at their home.

Photo by Hank Emrich

ly more than 15 minutes.

Andrew and his brother Paul, 5, say they don't tire of fishing or eating fish, although Beck says they don't keep most of the fish they catch.

"We let the kids fish whenever they want but about the only fish that aren't turned back to the pond are the ones harmed by hooks," he says.

Thirteen year-old Michael is the most interested in the fish pond and Heidi said it's not without good reason.

"He has a definite Huck Finn personality," she says. "I think

that's why we named it what we did."

Some of the more complex chores at the pond are handled by Mark, 18, a recent graduate of Sandy High.

He built the cage in which fish are harvested by customers with blowdarts. Customers use the blowdart to spear the fish and then net them out. Blowdarts which miss, as they often do, are retrieved by a magnet at the end of a long pole, a nifty invention reminiscent of Huck Finn's ingenuity.

The pond is stocked with about 300 fish, 10 times as many as

intended when it was stocked only for the families fishing enjoyment. The fish are purchased from Brian's Trout Ranch, a commercial fish grower in the Sandy area.

"It's a great experience for the kids," said Beck, "a chance for them to meet different people and learn something."

It's a great experience for the customers too, sitting on benches hewn from logs, watching the waterfall which feeds the pond. One can almost see Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer hand in hand.

Tougher security attacks shoplifts

by HANK EMRICH
Post Correspondent

Grocery stores in the area are attacking a "horrendous" shoplifting problem with a get-tough policy that includes full prosecution and new security people.

"The problem may not be as bad as some downtown areas but it is definitely bad," said John Christensen, manager of Williams Thriftway in Sandy.

Tom Farrell, owner of Sandy Sentry, said the security program, in effect only two weeks, is already showing results.

"It looks like the only way to avoid getting picked up is going to be not shoplifting," said Farrell.

Farrell said an Oregon law giving store owners the right to collect a \$100-250 civil penalty from shoplifters has allowed the store owners the opportunity to spend some money on security measures.

"It's been long overdue," said Farrell of the security measures, "you can see the extent of the problem just by the empty cartons and wrappers left throughout the store."

Cliff Davis, manager of Hoodland Thriftway, also said his store was aided by the statute. "We're not trying to make any money off of it," he said. "We just want to recover some of the tremendous costs brought about by shoplifting."

Davis said stores lose up to 2 percent of their inventory to shoplifters.

"Our normal procedure is to prosecute all shoplifters, regardless of who they are," said Davis.

Christensen and Farrell agree on that policy. "We have been following through on prosecutions for about three years," said Christensen.

"We have been real successful at collecting the civil penalties," he added.

"If you don't pursue a policy energetically, you are just wasting your time," said Davis.

Farrell couldn't explain the motives of shoplifters. "These aren't hungry people," he said. "They are taking things they don't need."

Christensen said most items taken are cigarettes, cosmetics, or small clothing items.

"In the 18 years I've been in the grocery business, I've never caught anyone who didn't have the money to

pay for the item taken in their pocket," said Davis.

Davis said not just removing items from the store is considered shoplifting. "We also prosecute people switching labels to a lower price and those who eat food taken from the store before leaving or paying."

He said the store instituted a policy of no backpacks in the store after he discovered one shoplifter had stashed over \$85 worth of items in his pack.

No stereotype seems to exist among shoplifters although it appears that kids are not in the majority.

"It varies from transients to business people and it is by no means confined to out-of-towners," said Davis.

"We have apprehended people close to their 80's shoplifting as well as very young people."

Farrell said there have been people caught shoplifting who cannot only easily afford to pay, but also hold respectable positions in the community.

"So far the security people seem to be getting almost all adults," said Christensen.

The security persons are not on the premises at all times but vary their hours so no patterns develop. "I don't even know when they are going to be here," said Farrell, "so it will be hard for shoplifters to avoid them."

The security company is licensed by both the state and the city and Farrell says they are very professional. "They know their job and are making an impact," he says.

Christensen said Sandy police encourage prosecution are always quick to respond when someone is apprehended. He and Farrell praised the department for their willingness to attend court hearings and other work concerning the shoplifting problem.

"They do not treat this as a minor problem," said Farrell.

An added deterrent for shoplifters is the criminal trespass warning given when they are apprehended. They are warned not to enter the store again and if they do they are liable for prosecution for illegal entry or burglary, a crime carrying a stiff jail sentence as punishment. The district attorney has indicated a willingness to prosecute this type of case also.

Timothy Lake camp work completed

Construction of one new campground and renovation of two existing campgrounds on the south shore of Timothy Lake in the Mount Hood National Forest has been completed by Portland General Electric Company.

Ed Kolberg, supervisor of recreation for PGE, said the Timothy Lake campgrounds are among the more popular recreation spots on Mount Hood.

"Most weekends throughout the summer campgrounds at the lake are filled to capacity so those who are able to camp during midweek are encouraged to do so," Kolberg said.

Pine Point, the new campground, contains 25 campsites. Some are large enough to accommodate two or more camping units. A day use picnic area with 10 sites is located nearby. The boat launching ramp and roads at the new campground have been paved.

Kolberg said improvements have been made to the 93 campsites at Hoodview and Gorge Creek cam-

pgrounds also.

"New restrooms and an improved water system have been added. Roads and boat trailer parking areas at the two campgrounds have been paved," he said.

The U.S. Forest Service has made other improvements. Steve Eubanks, district ranger for Bear Springs Ranger District which administers the campgrounds, said, "The two campgrounds have been reforested in areas where ground cover had deteriorated because of heavy public use or where removal of hazardous trees was necessary."

Timothy Lake serves as a reservoir for PGE's 45,000 kilowatt Oak Grove hydroelectric project. PGE performed the work as part of an agreement with the Mount Hood National Forest and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Under the same agreement Harriet Lake campground was built in 1982 by PGE and turned over to the Forest Service.

Anti-drunk driving chapter forming

A MADD chapter is forming in Clackamas County for persons concerned about intoxicated drivers.

An organizational meeting for persons interested in the chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers will be held July 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Commissioners' hearing room, second floor, 906 Main St., Oregon City.

MADD was organized three years ago by Candy Lightner of California whose 13-year-old daughter was hit and killed by a repeat offender drunk driver. Lightner soon learned that drunk driving deaths are considered

by many to be socially acceptable homicides in that judges and jurors sometimes put themselves in the shoes of the drunk driver and think, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

According to statistics recently released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Washington, D.C., drivers under the influence of intoxicants, including alcohol and other drugs, are responsible for 35 percent of the nation's traffic deaths.

An estimated 27,000 died in crashes

involving intoxicated drivers, and an estimated 75,000 others suffer permanent disabilities and disfigurement in alcohol and drug related automobile crashes.

National studies also show that automobile crashes are the number one killer of Americans under 44 years of age; the number one cause of blindness and elipsy in young people, and that the drain on America's economy now approaches \$40 billion annually.

"We know that drunk driving deaths and injuries are

preventable," said Carol Satterfield, state MADD coordinator.

"MADD's goal is to decrease the carnage on our highways through public awareness programs aimed at changing public attitudes and, eventually, driving behavior."

MADD also maintains a statewide support group for individuals and families harmed by a drunk driver.

Persons with questions are asked to call Patsy Faulkner, Clackamas County traffic safety director at 655-8560 or Donna Wyse, chapter organizer, at 654-5171.

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Travel Tips

by **TOM WEST**
of Damascus Travel Service.

WHAT'S DOING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

There's more to see than Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm when you're in Southern California's Orange County. You may know about the Movieland Wax Museum and the Kingdom of the Dancing Stallions, but have you ever heard about the Doll and Toy Museum, housed in a half-scale replica of the White House? Look for it in the six-acre Hobby City, a fascinating group of 23 hobby, craft and collector shops. You and the kids can spend hours admiring the more than 2,000 rare and antique dolls. There's even a puppet theater to delight kids of all ages.

If you happen to be in the Las Vegas area, however, barely 20 minutes away is Old Vegas, a family amusement park where the Old West comes alive every day. A spectacular shootout signals the start of a multimedia production; arts and crafts stores, restaurants, rides and attractions vie for your interest; and there's a recreation of the old fort that once stood on the spot.

San Francisco? Ask us about the Grayline tours of the city and bay and their Muir Woods/Grant Redwoods/Sausalito tour. Also located only 45 miles south of San Francisco is a great family entertainment center filled with fun and adventure. This theme area is known as Marriott's Great America.

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