

# SUHS students let Santa off with mistrial

by HANK EMRICH

It looked as though astute legal minds would have to be called in to sort out the confusion surrounding the trial of Santa Claus at



Mrs. Claus  
(Staci Lathers)

Cedar Ridge School Monday. Two women claimed to

be Mrs. Claus, and attorneys from one side insisted eight reindeer powered Santa's sled while attorneys for the other insisted there were nine.

The trial was a project of Len Eaton's street law classes at Sandy High School and was presented for Cedar Ridge students in rights and responsibilities classes. Local attorney Judy Grant served as judge in the proceedings, providing the legal mind to correct students' enthusiastic, if not always proper, courtroom manners.

Santa Claus was charged with trespassing, disturbing the peace, pollution and cruelty to animals.

The state of Oregon, represented by students Shelley Daffron, Glenda Dimmick, and Mindy-Kaye Stines, tried to convince the jury that Santa Claus yells

loudly in the middle of the night, disturbing all who have settled down for a long winter's night.

In addition, it was charged that he was cruel to his reindeer by whipping them and making them pull a sleigh filled with many packages through the air over many miles.

The district attorneys charged him with entering homes late at night to steal cookies and milk.

The final charge of pollution, thrown out because there is no specific law on the books, was levied because of his alleged willingness to allow the reindeer to take care of their "basic instincts" any place they wished.

Prosecution and defense each produced a witness who claimed to be Mrs. Santa Claus, with the state's witness saying she loved Mr. Claus but just

wished he would stay home for one Christmas Eve.

Testimony was heard from a reindeer trainer, an elf, a child and a variety of other witnesses. The state presented a somewhat convincing case, despite having photographic evidence disallowed for being of "coloring book" quality. The photos allegedly showed the entire sequence of the events of the evening prior to Christmas.

The case was convincing enough to keep the jury deadlocked for all of 15 minutes before it was announced they were unable to reach a unanimous decision on any of the charges.

"Judge" Grant declared a mistrial, dismissing all charges with the admonition that the state was not precluded from bringing the charges again at a later date.

Perhaps next December.



Prosecuting attorney Glenda Dimmick presents closing arguments. The jury, from left to right: Christine Milne, Lisa Pierce, Nina Kellams, Rich Castille, Ken Jepson, Dana Vedder.

## Post office battles rush

The new post office in Sandy is getting its biggest test yet, and apparently is passing with flying colors.

Holiday mail volume is more than it has ever been, according to Postmaster Arnold Becker, and workers are able to keep up.

"The new facility makes all the difference in the

world," said Becker.

Becker said many employees are working long hours during the Christmas season. The post office is also making an extra mail run to facilitate increased activity.

The Sandy post office is handling approximately 50,000 pieces of mail a day and is also a transfer point

for six other offices.

The busiest time of day for the office is between 4 and 5 p.m., with lines moving swiftly at most other times of the day. There are three full-time clerks in the office, six full-time carriers, two part-time clerks, and four part-time carriers.

"They really work

hard," said Becker. "We really have a dedicated group of employees."

There is still some hope for last minute shoppers and mailers, according to Becker.

"With Express Mail, customers can reach many cities overnight, if mailed by 5 p.m.," he said.

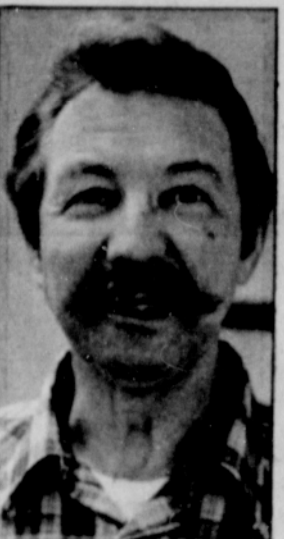
Items weighing up to 70 pounds can be sent by Express Mail. The service includes merchandise insurance coverage up to \$500 at no additional charge. The sender can apply for a full refund of postage if a shipment is late.

The same service is also available at the Boring post office. More information may be obtained by calling the post office in Sandy at 668-4044, or the Boring office at 663-4506.

## Of auctioneers association

### Spence elected president

Paul Spence, a full-time auctioneer who has sold everything from cakes for



Paul Spence

Boy and Girl Scouts to working lumber yard liquidations, was elected president of the Oregon Auctioneers' Association Dec. 11 at Woodburn.

Spence, who lives on Bornstedt Road with his wife, Louise, has been an auctioneer full time for six years.

He owns Paul Spence Auction Service, and in addition is a senior associate auctioneer for the Auction Corporation of America, Portland.

When the economy is good, Spence said the auctioneering business can be good. "In bad times, auctioneering is really good,"

Spence said. Liquidating large outfits doesn't have much effect, but Spence said it "really bothers me" to liquidate a small business.

Spence has lived in Sandy 11 years. He worked as a carpenter for 25 years before becoming an auctioneer.

"You learn something new with every sale," Spence said.

Along with his work, Spence is known for the 15 or so charity auctions he does every year.

The Oregon Auctioneers Association has about 230 members statewide, with about 18 auctioneers working full time.

## Ten Eyck takes top office

Dan Ten Eyck, Sandy cattleman, was elected president of the Clackamas County Stockmen's Association at its annual meeting and banquet on Dec. 12.

Ten Eyck, a producer and breeder of registered simmental cattle, has been active in the association for many years, serving on the board of directors and special committees. He held the vice president's office during 1983.

Hal Vrooman of Boring is a member of the board of directors.

The Ten Eycks manage a farm on Marmot Road that was homesteaded 100 years ago. They were recently nominated for a farm family of the year award by a Clackamas County tree farming organization.

## John Cox completes Army basic

Pvt. John L. Cox, son of Marie and Lynn A. Cox of Sandy, has completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid and Army history and traditions.

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## Season's Greetings

All of us at the Sandy Post wish you the best holiday season. Please note our special holiday deadlines since our office will be closed on Monday following Christmas Dec. 26 and Monday following New Years Day, Jan. 2.

**HOLIDAY DEADLINES**  
News — 5 P.M. Friday  
Classified — 5 P.M. Friday  
Retail — 5 P.M. Friday

Our office will be closed Monday Dec. 26th and Monday, Jan. 2nd

**The Sandy Post**

## Travel Tips

by TOM WEST  
of Damascus Travel Service

### CRUISING MEXICO PART II

**MANZANILLO** - Beach lovers will enjoy Santiago Bay and Las Madas Cove, where yellow sands streaked with black provide a unique sunbathing experience. The main hotel complex is a series of brilliant white buildings combining Mediterranean and Moorish designs. The tropical jungle comes to a climax in Manzanillo. Shadowy and mysterious, it is a lush paradise of scent and color.

**ACAPULCO** - Though a thriving resort, Acapulco maintains its natural beauty - vegetation is exuberant, fragrant and tropical. Since water temperature is always perfect, you can indulge in just about any water sport - swimming, sailing, glass bottom boat rides, even parasailing. As the sun begins to set, you'll begin hearing the sounds of night clubs, outdoor strolling musicians and the irresistible call of exciting discotheques.

**ZIHUATANEJO/IXTAPA** - Nestled at the base of Mexico's Sierra Madre del Sur, Zihuatanejo is a relaxed, easy-going town of brush-covered hillsides and coconut plantations. Craftsmen offer carvings, woven rug and other items to bargain over. The town's many small stores and shops make finding a bargain an intriguing adventure.

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| E78-14 | 28.03 | 43     | J78-15 | 35.84 | 55     |
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| 175R-14 | 28.95 | 41     | E78-14 | 32.95 | 43     |
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