

# The Sandy Post

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## Trial date expected in kidnapping case

Arraignment was set June 12 for two men charged with kidnapping and robbery following a series of events that occurred in the Hoodland area last week. It was expected a trial date would be set at that time.

Donald Darrold Tipton, 54, of Weed, Calif., and Thayer M. Smith, 58, possibly from Arizona, were arrested June 3 in Hoodland on kidnapping and robbery charges.

The pair allegedly robbed a couple who were picnicking June 2 in the "Alpine Slide-Mirror Mountain area," according to Wayne Kraft, Clackamas County deputy district attorney.

John Bingham, police officer with the Oregon State Police, said they didn't get "that much money." He added he doesn't know if money was the motive.

The couple, who are not area residents, reported the theft from the Village Store in Government Camp.

The two men abandoned the couple's car, and went to the ZigZag Gun and Ammunition store in ZigZag, where a man was washing his pickup. The man reportedly surrendered the keys to his pickup at gunpoint.

The second kidnapping involved a Brightwood man, Kraft said.

They abandoned the pickup a short time later in the Wemme area and fled on foot.

Smith had hitched a ride and was discovered — riding as a passenger

— at a police checkpoint located near the Inn Between Tavern. The arrest was made just after midnight on June 3.

Later that morning, about 9 or 10 a.m., a homeowner called the Oregon State Police and reported someone on the back steps or back porch of her home, according to Bingham. Law enforcement officials went and arrested Tipton.

He was "hurt, cold and wet" when he broke into the home in Wemme, Bingham said.

Both arrests were made "without incident," he said.

"That was a confusing mess up there, I'll tell you that," said Bingham.

Asked if there were shootings, Kraft said, "The defendants are not charged with doing any shooting."

Kraft said kidnapping in the second degree alleges that people are confined in a way that they are not likely to be found.

Tipton was charged with criminal trespass in possession of a firearm, criminal trespass in the first degree, unlawful possession of a weapon, two counts of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, three counts of kidnapping in the second degree, and three counts of robbery in the first degree.

Smith was charged with two counts of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, three counts of kidnapping in the second degree, and three counts of robbery in the first degree.

## Noted artist back at work

# Woman winning MS battle

by PAULA BURNS

Sunny Eicher, a Sandy area artist, has started painting again after being forced to give up her work about three years ago because of multiple sclerosis.

There used to be a card in the window of her silver Accord LX car that allowed parking in handicapped areas. But the card isn't there anymore "because there just hasn't been much need for it the past six months." She said it feels good to park farther away from a store and be able to walk normally again.

Eicher, a strong-willed and determined woman, spoke confidently about her recovery after a three-year struggle with MS. She was told she had MS on October 29, 1981. Eicher had gone to six different doctors in the course of a year because of excruciating muscle spasms in her legs, and exhaustion. Finally she was diagnosed correctly by Dr. Roy Shank, professor emeritus in neurology at Oregon Health Science University. "When I was seeing all those doctors, they kept saying it was my nerves — I knew deep in my heart I had MS."

Eicher said when the diagnosis was made, "that day marked the beginning of a challenge for me." After nine years of commission work, with 515 paintings scattered throughout 18 states and six countries, she was forced to give up her work for what she thought would be forever. "I felt like someone had cut off my right arm."

During the next six months, she suffered with muscle spasms, double vision, numbness in both legs and right arm, and the dragging of her right leg. At times she was confined to a wheelchair and bed.

Nine months after the diagnosis, her 19-year-old daughter, Renee, was told she also had MS.

Renee was forced to go on the same low-fat diet her mother had been on since MS struck. They were told that the diet, prescribed by Dr. Swank, wouldn't cure MS, but if patients were placed on it early enough, there was a 95 percent chance of keeping them from developing significant disability.

"I am so thankful to have been where I could see Dr. Swank so



Sunny Eicher and painting of the Northern Cascades.

Photo by Paula Burns

early in my illness — to have gotten on the diet as soon as I did. I have no doubt at all if it were not for the diet, I would be totally helpless from my neck down, as fast as I was (regressing)."

During the next two and a half years there was gradual improvement in both Eicher's and Renee's lives. Swank told them the diet would reach its full potential after three years.

Eicher said the last six months have proven Swank correct. Her daughter was recently married and is also working part time.

The only MS symptoms Eicher has are "the fatigue that goes along with MS and occasionally some numbness in my right arm and legs. But that acts as a warning sign to me that I've been too busy, and after 10 hours of sleep, that goes away."

She said it feels good to be active again. "I walk one or two miles a day, do my own housework and some yard work." Eicher, who lives on five acres in a large, split-level home that her husband built 20 years ago, said

she also takes time to feed all the chipmunks, raccoons, squirrels and flock of wild pigeons who appear on her back porch daily. "And we have a new rabbit family that we're so tickled about." She does know her physical limits and said, "When it's time to quit, it's time to quit."

Eicher attributes the diet, sheer determination and her supportive family to her recovery. Her husband, Ronald, a carpenter and construction worker, has supported her throughout the illness. "He has been super great about letting me do the things I felt I could do, and yet being there to keep me from doing things I couldn't without making me feel he was holding me back."

She has painted 10 projects during the past two weeks. Her 23-year-old son, Ron, who lost part of his left hand in a construction accident five years ago, encouraged her to start painting again. Ron said he has spent the last three years doing carpentry work to prove he can do what anyone else can do with a "whole" hand. "He kept telling me over and over

again, 'You won't know if you can paint again until you try.' So I tried and it's still there — all of it."

She is dedicating her recent painting of the Northern Cascades to her son, with an inscription on the back that will read, "Never underestimate the power of sheer determination."

Eicher said her youngest son, Ryan, makes her feel almost the same way she did five years ago. "When he comes home from school he asks, 'Mom, what have you done on your paintings today?' — just like he used to ask before MS struck."

Eicher plans to continue painting and is tentatively scheduling a showing of her work this fall.

People used to ask her all the time how she felt, and she would usually say fine. "They would say, 'You can't mean that,' and I would tell them it wouldn't make them feel any better if I said I felt lousy, and it certainly wouldn't do me any good."

She smiled and said matter of factly, "Now I can say 'fine,' and mean it."

## Three men arrested after bank robberies

Three men have been arrested in connection with bank robberies in Sandy and Boring and an attempted holdup in Gresham, according to law enforcement officials.

The robberies occurred Friday, June 7. The Boring branch of the Clackamas County Bank, 28500 S.E. Highway 212, was robbed by a lone, white male, according to a press release provided by the Clackamas County sheriff's department.

The man handed the teller a paper bag, demanded money and received it, and got into a dark blue, older model pickup, according to the press release. No weapon was displayed during the incident. The vehicle was last seen traveling north on Highway 212.

About 10:30 a.m. a related, attempted robbery occurred at the First Interstate Bank in Gresham, which is located at the corner of Burnside and 242nd Avenue.

A man entered the bank and "changed his mind, things didn't look right," according to Vicky Velej, special agent in charge of the investigation for the FBI.

Velej confirmed that the three men had consumed alcohol beverages the day of the robberies. "At least that's what they told us," she said.

The three suspects are Buck Charles Short, 25, no address given; Richard Ray DeChenne, 25, of Gresham; and his brother Rodney Jay DeChenne, 20, also of Gresham.

About 1:45 p.m. the Sandy branch of the Clackamas County Bank, 38975 S.E. Proctor Boulevard, was robbed of an undisclosed amount of cash.

According to Ed Storey, CCB senior vice president and cashier, a white male in his 30s, who was about 5 foot, 10 inches with blond-brown hair, received cash from a teller and

left with one or more accomplices in the dark blue pickup described earlier.

"He apparently was not armed," Storey said. "We don't know that for sure."

Storey said he could not verify exactly what happened as witnesses were "kind of excited" following the robbery. He said he would not describe his account of the incident as "absolutely accurate."

"Our staff followed their assigned security procedures, which are designed to provide safety to our employees and customers," Storey added.

Storey said they don't disclose the amount of money taken in a robbery because there is a "cause and effect relationship between running a newspaper article with a dollar figure and bank robberies the next day."

Velej said after the report of the pickup was given at the Sandy branch of the Clackamas County Bank, an all-points bulletin was issued. A law enforcement official saw the pickup, and the suspects were stopped about 3 p.m. near Brightwood on Highway 26 where the four lane turns into a two lane.

The FBI, Oregon State Police, Clackamas County and the Sandy police department worked together on the investigation, Velej said.

The case will be handled by the U.S. attorney's office in federal district court as bank robbery is a federal offense.

The DeChenne brothers are out on bail, Velej said. Short is still at the Multnomah County Detention Center. A detention hearing, at which time Short could be let out on bail, will be held Thursday, June 13, Velej said.

## ZigZag author hooked on helicopters

by TAMI CISSNA

"Listen to the voices of experience, of those who have seen strange lands, excitement, fun, and adventures without precedent..." reads the book jacket.

The book is titled, "Lift Is Where You Find It."

The subject is not helicopters but helicopter people, said Joe Stein, the author. Between its covers lies the meaning of helicopters, not merely its uses.

Stein is a weathered pilot, yet none the worse for the wear. He is as spry as ever.

His life seems one big adventure; yet he is unaffected by a life of success. He is more interested in common folk than the "elite."

He has logged more than 4,500 hours as a career pilot in civil and naval aviation. His career as a pilot began before the modern helicopter came into use. "I'm older than helicopters," he teased.

Stein became a commercial pilot before World War II. He was an instructor and utility pilot in the Navy, flying many types of airplanes.

In 1946, he signed on as aviation editor of the Oregon Journal and flew the first news helicopter, which was also the first used in executive travel. It had a city roof, the Journal building, as its base — another first.

In 1954 Stein joined the staff of NACA, the federal air research agency, now NASA, at its Washington, D.C., headquarters. He became deputy director of public affairs. In

1971, he retired and returned to Oregon.

He has since been writing freelance for newspapers and magazines and was a correspondent for the Washington Post for about two years.

The concept of "Lift" is explained in his introduction.

"You can go anywhere in a helicopter. It flies straight, direct from point to point, not just to the airport outside of town. It has that unique go-anywhere character because rotor-blade wings turn free in the air without otherwise moving. They create lift, and lift gives travel a vertical dimension.

"With free-turning wings, copters can fly slow or stop, high or low; they demand no special facilities — and so, (they are) more like the birds and bees with that dimension. They are unique among vehicles with 'lift anywhere.'"

His book tells of the helicopter performing many tasks successfully throughout the world today through the first-hand accounts of people. Many of its uses are unknown.

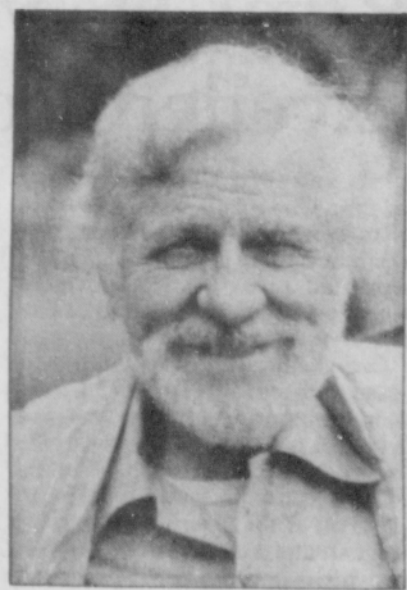
Some of the ground he covers includes:

- Seven presidents who have gleaned benefits from the use of the helicopter — door-to-door service, privacy, security, safety. Each having their own personal style and pretense.

- Rescues of different natures; exiting and climactic. Where the helicopter "mocks the impossible" to make the splendid rescue commonplace. Stein unfolds the dramas.

- Emergency Medical Service as it brings critical care. The helicopter coming for one prime reason, trauma — the physical-psychological "reaction" to injury or sudden illness. Accounts of those who credit their life to the helicopter.

- The spraying of fertilizers and



Joe Stein

insecticides; not to exterminate pests but to "control" them.

- Public services such as law enforcement, and fighting brush fires.

- The Mount St. Helens eruption; helicopters serving scientists, film makers, foresters, law officials, newsmen, weather specialists, sightseers and others.

- Logging. Helicopters lift logs with a minimum of damage to forests.

- Patrolling vital lines for the Bonneville Power Administration, the Alaska Pipeline, and General Telephone; details of people behind the scenes at the BPA.

- The Armed Forces.

The book includes the history of helicopters as well, and the appendix explains how they work.

For the last six years Stein has traveled across the country par-

## Board member-elect files lawsuit

Jerry Swails, former maintenance supervisor at Sandy High School and board member-elect, has filed a complaint against the district for back vacation pay, penalties for violating state statutes and attorney's fees.

The Sandy High School board of directors was briefed on the complaint in executive session Monday evening, and acknowledged the suit during the regular, open session.

Swails was elected to the board in March and will be sworn in at the July meeting. He worked at Sandy High School from 1973 until June 30, 1984, according to the complaint, which was filed in Clackamas County circuit court.

Swails, the plaintiff, alleges that the school district, the defendant, failed to pay him for vacation pay in

the amount of \$8,213.20. The complaint alleges vacation pay is due for approximately 10 days (two weeks) per year for eight years, and 15 days (three weeks) per year for three years, or 120 days total.

Swails was earning \$24,000 a year at the time of his resignation, or \$92.29 based on 21.76 working days per month, according to the complaint.

Included on a check sent about July 20 was 40 days of vacation time at \$71.54 per day, or \$2,861.60.

The complaint says that Swails submitted his resignation June 26, 1984. Angus Anderson, business manager, reportedly asked Swails for his keys and relieved him of his duties. Swails claims to have been "available and willing to work."

Swails seeks \$276.87 for the three days.

Swails claims Oregon Revised Statutes 652.150 were violated, and he seeks \$2,000 as a penalty. The statute requires a person to be paid within 30 days. The Sandy High School District sent Swails a check for wages and vacation pay on or about July 20. The complaint alleges that "when the defendant did pay, (it) willfully failed to pay all compensation earned and unpaid at the time of resignation."

Since endorsement would have constituted acceptance as full and final payment, Swails returned the check.

The complaint also alleges the district failed to compensate him for responding to alarms at the bus garage and stadium, a duty assigned

to him in June, 1981. While other employees were paid for answering alarms, Swails was not, the complaint alleges. The "defendant's violation was an intentional violation," reads the complaint. Failure to pay him was contrary to district policy and the Fair Labor Standards Act, the complaint alleges. He seeks an unspecified amount of overtime pay.

The complaint also asks for "reasonable" attorney's fees and for "further relief as may be warranted after (the) trial."

Swails, a 1940 graduate of Sandy High School, was elected in March, 1985 by 30 votes over Paul Buss (55 to 52; Bryan Tolle, 291). It was Swails' second attempt at a position on the board.

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