

# The Sandy Post

Vol. 75 No. 35

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1985

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢

## Episcopalians restoring 82-year-old church building

by SCOTT NEWTON

Two Sundays ago 37 people attended mass at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church — not exactly the light summer attendance Father Tom Davidson had expected.

The dirt underneath the church had been scooped out, and the building rested on its pilings. The closing hymn began, "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord."

"It was an act of faith to just walk in our church because there was no foundation," Davidson said.

He had picked the hymn months in advance; there's no way to plan such irony.

The foundation looks considerably more stable now, but the building that houses the Episcopal congregation in Sandy has been undergoing a number of changes. The building is 82 years old, and was originally built as a Lutheran church. It is one of the oldest buildings in Sandy, and may possibly be the oldest building in use.

In July the local congregation — with loans secured through the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and U.S. Bank — purchased the land and building.

Every year an offering is taken for a mission church in western Oregon. The Church of the Good Shepherd, and churches at Florence and Rock Creek, were nominated. Based on church growth, potential and need, Sandy was selected to receive the nearly

\$10,000 gift.

The money is being spent to restore the building to its "original beauty." The nave of the church will seat 80 instead of the current 48, and there will be a full basement with classroom and office space. In addition, parking will be added behind the building, and the lot will be landscaped.

The cross on the church will be cleaned and bronzed, and next summer the exterior of the building will be restored.

The work parties and construction crews are under the direction of Bob Montgomery, a member of the church. Contractors are being hired to do some of the work, and members of the congregation are handling other chores.

As recently as two years ago, the future wasn't so bright for Sandy's long-standing church.

Davidson revealed that when he first came to the area in January of 1984, the bishop had told him the best thing to do in Sandy would be to close the church.

Davidson also serves the Church of the Holy Cross in Boring, and with that church nearby there didn't seem to be that much potential in Sandy.

But the "few faithful" in Sandy held on, and Davidson began to get acquainted with other Episcopalians who were just kind of waiting for the church to get active again.

In addition, the community seems to be growing. At least Davidson is continually surprised at the arrival of new families.

Eighty-seven people attended an Easter vigil mass. "The church holds 48," Davidson said, "so you can figure it out. The church was full." Forty-five attended services the next day.

Obviously, something had to be done. The congregation decided it wanted to restore the church — rather than build a new one, for example — and Davidson lobbied for, and received, a loan from the Diocese.

Davidson will soon ask the Department of Missions of the Diocese to upgrade Good Shepherd's standing from "quarter time" to "half time."

Quarter time means Sandy primarily gets a priest on Sundays for mass, and for emergencies. With a "half time" commitment, Davidson will be able to offer mass during the week, keep office hours and teach.

The Society of St. Paul is selling St. Jude's Home, and Davidson hopes the Diocese will apply St. Jude's "quarter" to Good Shepherd.

Davidson is also pleased with what he considers an enlightened attitude among members of his congregation.

At a goal-setting workshop, one member of the congregation suggested they start holding a mass in Spanish. Davidson, who is chairman of the Hispanic Commission of the Diocese, liked the idea. "I was excited by it," he said.

Davidson visits farm worker camps, and is on call as a

translator for the Mount Hood Medical Center. In December he plans to start administering mass in Spanish on Saturdays for the Mexican community.

Asked if many members of the Mexican community were primarily Roman Catholic, Davidson said, "There is so much need among the Mexican community that the Roman Catholic Church doesn't mind if we reach out to them."

The money to pay for the restoration will come from both the cash gift and from members of the congregation, but Davidson never knows when the next gift will turn up.

A monk, familiar with the congregation in Sandy from years ago, came to his door a short time ago with a bell. St. David's in Portland is donating an organ, and pews have been donated by St. Michael's, also of Portland.

One family, members of the Church of the Holy Cross, donated a kitchen — their old one from a remodeling at home.

Davidson has been given 50- to 75-year-old vestments that are "beautiful antiques and in mint condition." The vestments will go well with the refurbished church, he believes.

Davidson, who has never been involved in such a project, is pleased to have everything running so smoothly. It is satisfying to be restoring a church rather than closing one.

## Veterans memorial elicits emotions

In talking about the Sandy VFW's proposed veterans memorial, it is almost necessary to discuss what it isn't.

It isn't a "war memorial," and it isn't just a tribute to Vietnam-era veterans.

The Sandy VFW Post 4273 and Auxiliary have raised \$2,000 of the \$32,500 needed. Citing the VFW's success at other fund raisers, Bruce Cook, chairman of the veterans memorial committee, is confident they will come up with the money.

"It's just a matter of when, not if," Cook said.

A controversy over where the memorial will be located was media-generated, in Cook's opinion. Thinking of town squares common in the Midwest, Cook said it seemed natural to place the memorial at the "V" on the west end of Sandy. "We were just talking about options, and that was our first choice," Cook said.

Because that property is owned by the state, Cook said the committee now considers a location in front of City Hall as the best option. The idea is for the statue to be visible from the highway.

"It is my understanding in talking to City Council members that that would be acceptable, although final approval hasn't been given," Cook said.

The VFW may receive some help with its fund raising efforts from state and national veterans organizations. The state DVA (Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs) ran a story on the proposed memorial in its magazine, and it is Cook's understanding that a national veterans publication is also planning to run a story.

Cook expects to raise most of the money locally, however. A one-page brochure is being sent out with bank statements by the Clackamas County Bank, and Cook, Middlemiss and Atkins — Cook is an original partner in the insurance agency — will also send out the flyers in its mailings.

Cook is pleased with the work by Gresham artist Steve Retzlaff, who created the clay model of the Vietnam-era soldier. Maiden Bronze, a local company, would cast the statue, which would be eight feet tall.



Veterans memorial

Cook praised the model for its authenticity, including the shirt, which is like the one he wore in 1968. He was a platoon sergeant in the infantry, serving as a "machine gunner, everything."

Cook envisions the statue as expressing the community's patriotism, and said it would be shared by "friends, family and acquaintances" of veterans not only from Sandy but across the country.

Cook would prefer to stay in the background, but admits there are personal reasons for his involvement. He lost some friends in the fighting. "That's why I'm doing it."

## Jr. Miss promoter only acts tough

by SCOTT NEWTON

The girls call her GI Joan.

She demands that the girls make it to rehearsals. She sets early deadlines for their talent presentations, and she makes repeated calls to their homes to remind them of obligations to which they are committed.

And when the Sandy Junior Miss Scholarship program was over last year, she was rewarded with flowers and hugs.

GI Joan is Joan Miller.

Three years ago, stating an interest in helping young women earn college scholarships, Miller began organizing Sandy's first Junior Miss Scholarship program. Three girls participated, but the turnout for the program was considered decent.

Last year there were 11 participants, but the turnout for the program could — in kindest terms — be called disappointing.

But Miller is back, organizing a third program, and she has garnered some of the community's resources: Mike Bailor is serving as photographer, hair styling and make-up tips are being provided by the staff at The Hair Line, and for the second year Chris Noga of Gresham Jazzercise has been helping with the physical fitness routines.

On Tuesday, at the noon meeting of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce, Miller praised local businesses as being "very supportive."

Last year the Sandy Junior Miss organization awarded \$700 in scholarships. "We'd like to see about \$1,000 given away this year," Miller said.

Beth Verheyden, vice president of Oregon Junior Miss, told the Chamber Sandy's program was honored as the most improved last year.

Verheyden, of Boring, stressed that the competition is not a beauty contest, but a scholarship program. High school seniors are judged on how they handle an interview, and for scholastic achievement, physical fitness, creative and performing arts

and poise and appearance.

About \$9,500 was awarded at the state program last year, Verheyden said, and the entire organization gave out \$2.7 million through local, state and the national programs.

The Junior Miss program awards "excellence in youth," Verheyden said.

She told The Post that it is seeing girls gain confidence through the competition that has made Junior Miss worth the commitment to her.

Joyce Conibear said her husband, George, was opposed to the idea of Angie — last year's local representative to the Oregon Junior Miss program — participating in a "beauty pageant."

Jan Jaqua, whose daughter, Mary Russell, was an at-large participant at the state competition four years ago, convinced the Conibears that this program — to call it a pageant is heresy — was different.

Angie had such an "excellent, excellent time" at the week-long state competition in Eugene, that Joyce is helping Miller shoulder the load this year.

Angie, according to Joyce, got to know a lot of girls locally through her participation in the Sandy program, girls outside her immediate circle of friends.

At the state competition, that "closeness and togetherness" remained intact. Joyce said the girls all rooted each other on in the best spirit of sportsmanship. "It is a good, well-rounded program," Joyce said.

Heidi Neel, Oregon's 1985 Junior Miss, agrees. Neel was at Dick and Joan Miller's home last week. Joan invited Neel and Joann Reese, president of Oregon Junior Miss, to Sandy for ice cream sundaes and, more importantly, the opportunity to get this year's participants excited about the opportunities that await.

Neel, of Klamath Falls, will attend college on the shores of Lake Michigan next year at Northwestern University. She garnered nearly \$5,000 worth of scholarships at the state and local levels, and in June

See page 3



Father Tom Davidson at the construction site.

## 19th Century problems still with us today

by DAVID SCOTT

Not every Sunday afternoon provides an opportunity to witness one of the most recognized authors of all American history. The man is Larry Leedy — more commonly known as Mark Twain.

Leedy, 24, entertained about 50 people Sunday in Meinig Park with his portrayal of the Missouri native in the later stage of life.

At first, the small crowd, comprised mainly of young families and senior citizens, didn't know what to expect. After all, most of us aren't used to seeing people in 19th Century garb.

Twain/Leedy ambled onto the stage and silently scanned the audience for a few seconds. Perhaps he found it hard to relate to modern society, outfitted with portable stereos and movie cameras.

Shortly thereafter, the gray-haired character, dressed in an all-white suit and holding a cigar, began his monologue. It was indeed Twain, Midwestern twang and all.

His first topic covered a social issue common to modern man — smoking. Twain claimed he could give up the habit anytime.

"I've done it a thousand times," he exclaimed.

Now the crowd understood him.

Problems that were common 150 years ago are common today.

The giggles were commonplace from young and old alike as Twain continued his anecdotes.

He read a chapter aloud from his Mississippi River classic, "Huckleberry Finn." It told of a boy who could not adjust to society. The youth detested his guardians and ran away.

Twain also joked about money, abolition, old age, politics and religion. Such are the problems of the 20th Century. Who could ever dream that a 150-year-old could relate so well to a world of computers and automobiles?

Leedy, who has performed the act for several years, said he developed some of his mannerisms through a workshop in Los Angeles taught by Hal Holbrook. Leedy's monologue consists of quotations from Twain's autobiographies and lecture notes.

Although his makeup for the Sandy presentation was simple, Leedy said it can take him up to nearly eight hours to perfect the Twain look.

Leedy said he is putting together a full-length show on the works of Mark Twain called, "On the Verge of Becoming an Angel," which would expand his one-man act to a cast of from 20 to 30 people.



Larry Leedy/Mark Twain

Photo by David Scott