

For trail-breaking bus driver

One person can make a difference

by PAULA BURNS

During the past two ski seasons, Red Davis has transported employees by bus many times through ice and snow to the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. He has been recognized two years in a row at the Meadows as "employee of the week."

Clay Simon, general manager, recently wrote a letter congratulating him for the honor. "You continue to provide our employees with safe and timely transportation," the letter stated.

Davis said he is committed to keeping the 1975 Bluebird bus on the road and get the Mt. Hood Meadows employees to work on time. He transports about 50 employees per day, Wednesday through Sunday, to the Meadows. He leaves his house in Sandy about 6 a.m. and picks up employees from Wemme, Welches, Zig Zag, Rhododendron and Government Camp. He makes three round-trip excursions each day, the last one ending about 11 p.m.

Davis said it doesn't bother him to drive in hazardous conditions because he was raised in Northern California near Mount Lassen, where he drove in snow and ice.

According to Davis, his passengers don't seem to be bothered by the adverse conditions, either, because some of them sleep on the bus.

He hasn't been involved in any accidents. "We've slipped and slid, but nothing serious."

He said the worst driving conditions occurred last year, when there were about 10 inches of snow on Highway 35, which was not plowed. "I was actually breaking trail," he said.

"With my cheering section rooting me on, we went right up the hill." He said the employees clapped when the bus made it to the top of the hill.

Davis appears to enjoy his job and working with the employees. "I look



Red Davis

Photo by Paula Burns

on them as my kids." He said it is easy to relate to them because he has raised six boys, who now range in age from 17 to 33.

He tries to make the bus ride as comfortable and enjoyable as possible for the passengers. He keeps the bus warm and recently decorated it with a nativity scene and 12-inch Christmas tree with wooden ornaments. He draped garlands on each side of the luggage rack and hung two Christmas mobiles, which were made by his wife, Nancy.

He also jokes around with the employees. "They love to be around

cheerful people and I help them. I try to be positive and cheerful, and if they need an extended hand, I'm there."

When Davis isn't driving a bus, he works as an insurance agent and runs a newspaper route. "Mt. Hood Meadows is just a seasonal job and adds to my income this time of year."

Davis said he has been trying to make ends meet since the time he was involuntarily released from active duty. "The government started reducing the size of the armed forces in Vietnam in the early '70s and I was

one of the paper casualties released. I spent short of 15 years in active duty. The highest rank I had was major. I'm what they call a mustang because I came up from the ranks."

Even though he had originally intended to make the Army a career — he was a Green Beret — Davis said he enjoys what he does now.

In his spare time, he is a volunteer bus driver for the Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind. He transports blind people to various activities and their homes. "I joke with them like I'm the pilot of an aircraft. I welcome them aboard, give them the conditions, tell them where we're landing and wish them a happy trip."

Davis said he likes to make people happy. "I believe and practice that one person does make a difference."

Experience worthwhile

Fenwick receives Eagle

Sean Fenwick is occasionally teased about being a Boy Scout, but it goes in one ear and out the other.

Over the long run, Scouting has been a fun and worthwhile experience, he said.

Fenwick, who is 16 and a junior at Sandy High School, recently received his Eagle Scout award, Scouting's highest honor.

Along with working up through the ranks of Scouting, completing a public service project and appearing before a review board, a Scout must earn 21 merit badges to receive the award.

The easiest for Fenwick were those that were sports related, such as swimming, rowing and canoeing.

Cooking and camping merit badges primarily required common sense. Survival skills are taught, but Fenwick said it is up to the individual Scout to learn such skills.

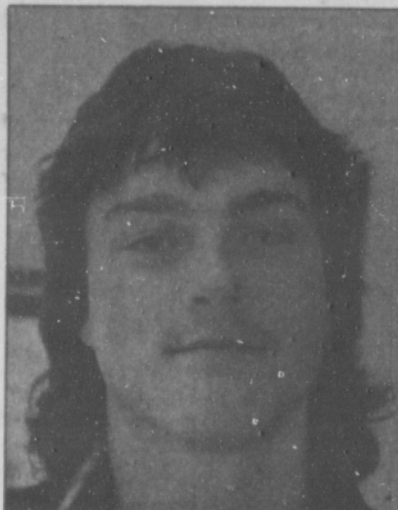
Other merit badges were related to

subjects he studied in school, such as the environmental sciences merit badge, which is similar to biology, or citizenship, which is similar to what is taught in a government class. Fenwick said he has tried to apply one to the other and that "kind of made life a little easier."

For his Eagle project, he collected canned food at the Sandy Mountain Festival two years ago. Coupled with a benefit held by his sister's Girl Scout troop, 131 pounds of food was donated to the Sandy Community Action Center.

Fenwick, a member of Troop 176 in Sandy, said many of the people he started out with in Scouting dropped out through the years. He said his work toward his Eagle might have been more fun if some of them would have stayed involved. Regardless, Scouting has been "a fun experience, worthwhile," he said.

Since attaining his Eagle, Fenwick



Sean Fenwick

hasn't run out of goals. A member of the varsity ski team at SUHS, Fenwick is channeling his energies toward competitive skiing.

Winter classes scheduled

The Sandy Recreation Department's 1986 winter schedule is now available.

One may pick up a copy in local restaurants, stores or banks, or at the library, City Hall or the Sandy Community/Senior Center.

Offerings include Kiddie Kapers,

Kid's Cooking, Valentine's Day Surprises, and Balloon Art for Children, along with a field trip to Snow Bunny Lodge and a spring break get-away.

High school and adult classes, held in conjunction with Mt. Hood Community College, include

Karate/Hapkido, Pottery, Screen Printing, Wood Working and Practical Photography.

Other high school and adult classes, being offered at the Community Center, include Morning Stretch, Aerobics, Beginning Calligraphy, Beginning Cake Decorating, Bread Baking and Basic Beginner Quilts. High school and adult workshops include Color Analysis, Balloon Art, Woodstove Installation and Winter Survival Skills.

Registration is now underway. One can find complete registration information in the winter recreation schedule. Most classes are beginning now or throughout the month of January.

For additional information about the winter schedule, call the Community/Senior Center at 668-5569.

Safety, keeping license goals of 55 Alive program

55 ALIVE/MATURE DRIVING, a classroom driver retraining program designed to help older persons improve their driving skills, is being offered Jan. 13 and 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Gresham Elks, 355 N.W. Division, Gresham.

Developed by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 55 ALIVE/MATURE DRIVING is a comprehensive driver retraining course geared to the specific needs of older motorists.

The course material covers the effects of aging and medications on driving, local traffic hazards, adverse road conditions, energy savings, and accident prevention measures.

Research shows that older drivers are involved in more accidents than their middle-aged counterparts when the record is based on actual miles driven. The physical changes create difficulties when yielding the right-of-way, turning, changing lanes and entering and leaving expressways.

However, research also indicates that older persons can improve their driving abilities through additional training, attention, and practice, enabling them to maintain their driving licenses longer while driving more safely. This is the ultimate goal of 55 ALIVE/MATURE DRIVING. Some insurance companies offer a

reduction in rates for persons completing this course.

Persons 50 years of age or older are eligible to participate in the program and may even qualify to become instructors. The course fee is \$7. The reserve space call Barbara Barton, 666-8745, or Ed Benoist, 281-9602.



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