

# The Sandy Post

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## A river's guardian

### Diack watches the Sandy and its life

by SHARON NESBIT  
Post writer

Though he lives only seven miles from downtown Gresham, Sam Diack sometimes has an elk or two drop in for dinner.

"The rough part of this whole thing is sitting in the hot tub and watching the elk graze," says Diack with a wry grin. As manager of Sandy River Gorge Nature Conservancy lands, Diack looks after the elk and almost everything else with fur, feathers and leaves that lives in the 600 protected acres spread along the river canyon from Dodge to Oxbow parks.

It is not as cushy a job as he makes it sound. For one thing it pays very little. What, with a river to babysit, osprey to oversee and a bunch of beaver whose logging philosophies differ from Diack's, the preserve manager has his hands full. But the rewards come after work when he and his wife, Connie, relax in the hot tub and watch as Roosevelt elk come warily, one by one, out of the timber to dine on gourmet grasses planted especially for them.

That works both ways. Diack also has the thrill of standing by and watching a bobcat eat his chickens.

"If they get out they get got," he says, turning some understandably nervous Rhode Island Reds out of their hen house. "But we forget that the bobcat was here first," he adds philosophically.

He had to adopt the same attitude when the elk trampled his newly seeded lawn. "Only lawn I've ever planted in my life," he says, shaking his head. An 800-pound bull elk can leave a considerable divot in a lawn.

Sam Diack grew up on the Sandy River acreage he now cares for. His father, Sam, and his uncle, Arch Diack, bought the land in 1941, built summer cabins along the river and brought their children up to love and respect the place.

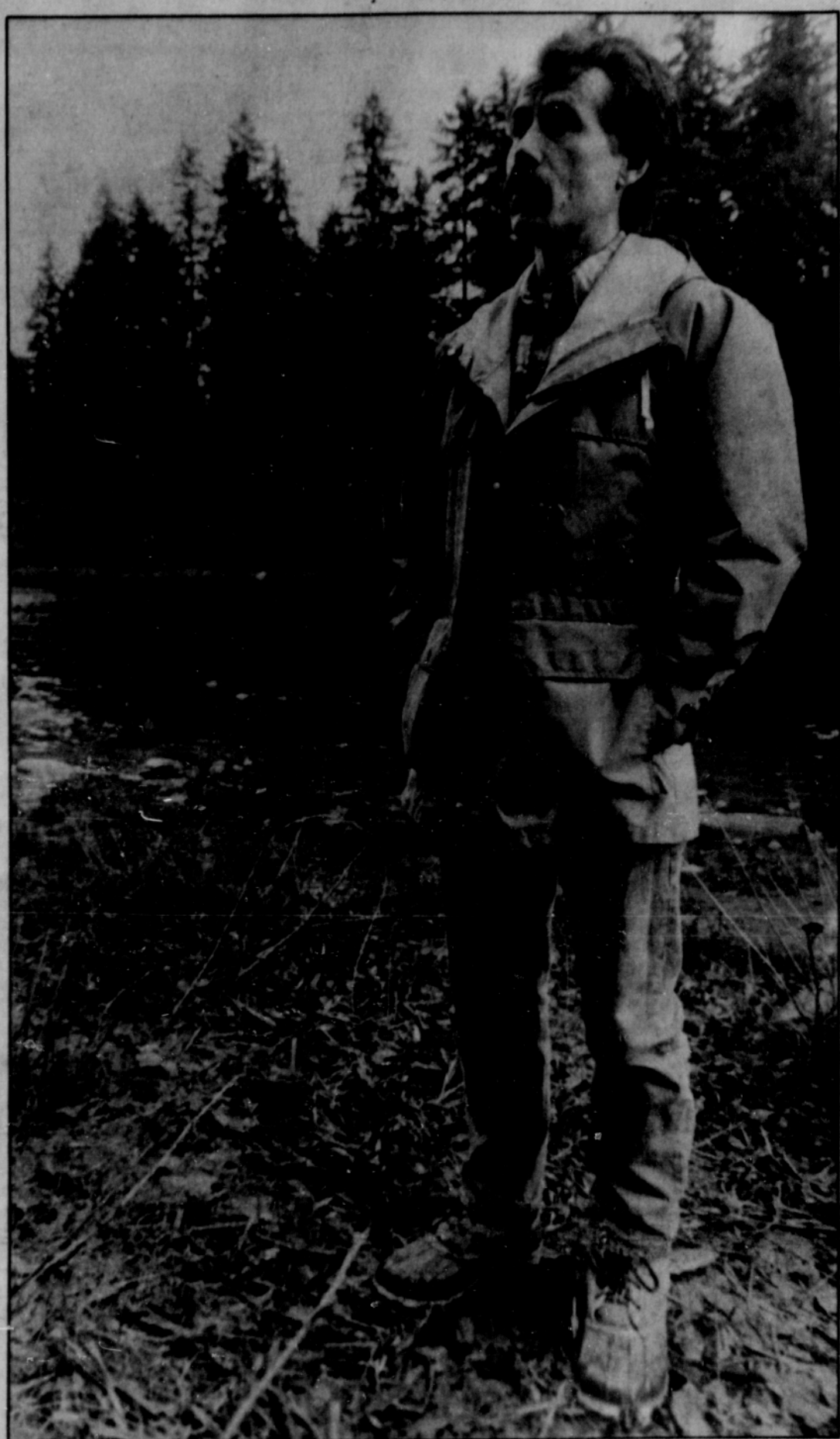
"We learned what a day's work was all about," recalls Sam Diack, now 43. The Sandy River lands were more than a vacation spot. The Diacks ran cattle on the property, butchered their own beef and pork and lived off homemade butter and home-grown eggs.

"I meet kids these days who have never spent a night out (in the outdoors) in their lives," Diack says. "When I think of how we played here. We had hidden camps. We'd go out and live in a bush for a couple days and worry people sick. A game of Capture the Flag could last a couple days on 150 acres. It got pretty involved."

It's probably no surprise that Diack, growing up in the woods, turned out to be a hippie in the mid-1960s. "A screaming hippie," he says. He let his hair grow. Got a degree in mathematics. Worked for the Alaska fish and game department for a while. And spent several years with a partner building a 56-foot Baltimore Clipper schooner that they sailed in the Pacific.

"The romance of the Seven Seas isn't really what people make it out to be," he says. "You're mostly cold, wet and scared."

Diack eventually returned home to the Sandy River where, thanks to a small income from investments, he can run his 40-acre hobby farm, care for the Sandy River preserve and still manage to keep the wolf from the door. That's the financial wolf. Real ones, if they lived in the



Sam Diack is an advocate on behalf of the Sandy River.

Staff photo by Terry Farris

gorge, would be welcome.

The preserve got its start when the Diack family donated 160 acres of its property to the Nature Conservancy.

Up on the plateau above the preserve, Sam and Connie Diack live in a tidy, red house situated in green sweep of pasture.

Diack, who regards his property as an extension of the preserve, plants his pastures to the kind of grasses that elk like to browse in. The idea is to keep the 14-member herd from roaming out of the canyon and causing mayhem among the nursery stock that grows in the fields along the edge of the gorge.

But elk are not Diack's only concern. He and his uncle, Arch Diack, spearheaded the campaign that has, for the moment, stopped the Portland Water Bureau from diverting water

from the Bull Run River to run hydroelectric generators.

"I watchdog the preserve and I see what's going on with the river," he says. "I personally look at the river as a kind of mortal thing. Someone has to be an advocate on its behalf."

As a result, part of Diack's daily routine is a tour of the preserve and a visit to the river. "It's up today," he notes, peering closely at rocks along the shore. "It has changed."

He looks for changes, logs that have shifted positions. Trees fallen by beaver. Osprey nests. A subtle shift of the current.

Little things, but important, he says. "The more population there is, the more pressure there is on things like this," he says. "The more people you have, the more you have to take care of something like this."

## Woman faces four charges

### Grand jury indicts Foster after drug raid, shoot-out

A grand jury has charged Sandy resident Sandra June Foster, 44, with four counts of attempted, aggravated murder following a drug raid that occurred before Christmas.

Foster and an accomplice, Chris K. Sparks, 26, allegedly fired upon four Oregon State Police officers when they attempted to serve a search warrant on Dec. 23.

It also was confirmed earlier this week that Sparks died of an overdose of cocaine after swallowing a large amount of the drug when police arrived at the house. Sparks had 18 times the lethal amount of cocaine in his blood stream, according to Dr. Karen Gunson, deputy state medical examiner.

One milligram of cocaine per liter of blood is considered lethal, Gunson said. Sparks' blood had about 18 milligrams per liter.

An autopsy revealed Sparks had 11 grams of cocaine in his stomach. Foster told police that she and Sparks were using cocaine and that Sparks ingested the cocaine when police arrived.

The grand jury returned indictments Wednesday charging Foster with four counts of attempted, aggravated murder, two counts of possession of a controlled substance and one count of delivery of a controlled substance, according to Terry Gustafson, deputy district attorney.

There was conflicting information given to the grand jury as to whether Foster actually fired shots at police, Gustafson said. According to Oregon law, aiding and abetting a crime is the same as committing the crime, and therefore the indictment charges her with the shooting.

Foster was still in jail Wednesday following arraignment in Clackamas County Circuit Court. Bail was set at \$100,000 and a jury trial has been scheduled for Feb. 19.

Police raided Foster's home at 39622 S.E. Park St. about 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 23. Foster was arrested following the shoot-out. After police got the situation under control, Sparks went into convulsions. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at Mount Hood Medical Center.

## City asked to lease land for parking lot

The city of Sandy has been asked to spend \$500 a month to keep a parking lot open between the Sandy Sentry and Heritage Square.

The owner of a parcel of land next to the Sandy Sentry had been leasing the property to the store. But the lease has expired and Sentry owner Tom Farrell does not plan to renew it, said Glen Butler of Tigard, the owner of the property.

The land, "tax lot 300," extends from the east side of the Double Dragon restaurant from Pioneer Boulevard to the back of D'S Cycle Supply, 39130 Proctor Blvd.

Butler said Farrell did not renew the lease because he was frustrated by his inability to keep people who patronize other businesses from using the parking area. It would therefore make sense for the city to lease the parking area, he said.

The parking strip had been leased for more than 20 years to grocery stores at the site of Sandy Sentry.

When Butler said he was asking \$500 a month to lease the lot, Councilor Larry Buck said he had a "problem" with that. He said he understood Farrell's position, but the city of Sandy was not obligated to pay for parking for Sandy Sentry's customers.

Councilor Dick Harrison questioned whether Sentry and the Double Dragon would have enough parking

to meet city requirements if the strip was taken out of use.

Reber suggested that the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce try to help solve the problem.

City councilors said they were not ready to make a decision on leasing the property.

In other business, the Sandy City Council:

- Reaffirmed its position on paving parking lots within the city limits.

Council members said a city ordinance requiring all parking lots to be paved was not clear. But it has been interpreted for years to mean that all parking areas must be paved, not just the minimum required to open a business.

An exception is provided, however, for industrial and construction businesses that must store materials. Those businesses may store materials on a gravel lot.

The council approved a first reading of the ordinance, and must approve a second before it goes into effect.

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance allowing the city to seize the profit from crimes such as drug dealing and gambling.

The ordinance is based on state and county models, and allows the city to institute forfeiture proceedings in circuit court for property, money and vehicles seized during an arrest.

## New Year starts with a bad night

### But Good Samaritans finally come to the aid of youth group

The new year started off poorly for Pat Lucas of Corbett and 13 members of the Corbett Youth Group.

On the way down from Timberline Lodge the evening of New Year's Day, the tire chain on Lucas's van began rattling.

She stopped at a service station in Government Camp to try and get some help, but was advised to keep her chains on because there was snow on the highway.

Farther down the road, she stopped where other skiers were parked, taking off tire chains. It was discovered that part of one chain — the one that had been rattling — was wrapped around the axle, and efforts to remove it by her 13-year-old son, Jamie, were unsuccessful.

They attempted to remove the jack from the van, but were unsuccessful at that as well. Lucas said she asked some skiers for

help but was turned down.

The members of the youth group were cold and wet, and it was snowing, so they limped down the mountain at 10 miles per hour, listening to the chain whipping about under the van.

At the turnoff to the Mount Hood Kiwanis Club camp, Lucas saw an Alpine Ambulance van, and stopped and asked for help. After a patient was transferred from one ambulance to another, two Alpine Ambulance employees — paramedics Don Whittle and Joe Terleski — got the jack out of the van, took off the tire and removed the chain.

Lucas said she wanted people to know about the good deeds performed by workers for Alpine Ambulance, which is based in Sandy.

Before Lucas could get on her way, the men also had to jumpstart the van. It just wasn't Pat Lucas' night.

### Resident seeks education through travels

## Fred Buhler a globetrotter at age 21

by CHRISTINE BIERMAN

Sandy's Ulrick "Fred" Buhler may hear "Happy Birthday" sung to him in French, Spanish, Dutch, Austrian or, at least, the King's English, in 1987.

Buhler, who has spent four birthdays abroad, will celebrate his 22nd away from home while on a foreign study program.

Buhler returns to London in February to spend six months studying the humanities and, in his case, the architecture of the Old World.

A Brigham Young University scholarship is paying most of the \$5,000 in costs for his six-month-long visit to London, Vienna, Paris and Madrid. He will cover the airfare and possible side trips to Moscow and Jerusalem.

After the program ends, he will spend two weeks in Turkey with an uncle stationed with the U.S. Air Force there.

Buhler, a 1983 graduate of Sandy Union High School, just returned from a two-year mission in Uruguay on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

He spent his 16th birthday on the Matterhorn in Switzerland, his 17th in Rome, his 20th in Uruguay and his 21st in Brazil. His birthday is July 1.

"My mother often wonders where I will be on my 35th," Buhler said.

He said he believes that his travels educate him and promote understanding between nations. He is eager "to go over there and see things firsthand instead of seeing them in a textbook."

Buhler began traveling at age 15, singing with the Denver Mile-High Band and Choir in London, Paris, Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

The next summer, he accompanied his mother, Pauline Buhler, to the Middle East.

After graduating from Sandy Union High School, he attended BYU in Provo, Utah, for 1½ years before leaving on his church mission. He returned in mid-December to spend Christmas with his parents. Buhler is the youngest of four children.

He is majoring in a new field, called computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing, with an eye on a master's degree in architecture. He plans to graduate from BYU in the spring of 1989.

During his upcoming trip, Buhler also will see England's St. Paul's Cathedral, where he sang two weeks before the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

"I love cathedrals," he said, "but that one is just gorgeous."

He plans to focus on Westminster Abbey, which he described as "so old," and Chartres Cathedral, "a funky building." Tourist attractions such as the Tower Bridge and Windsor Castle rank next on his must-see list.

He leaves on Feb. 12 for London, unless the Soviet Union relaxes a recently restricted policy on visas. In that case, he would fly directly to Moscow Feb. 5.

"Moscow and Jerusalem are 'iffy,'" he said.

The program offers a somewhat routine college setting — and demands — at the campus near Hyde Park in London. The 50 students there take week-long field trips monthly to Amsterdam, Madrid, Paris and Vienna.

Still readjusting to the English language during the holidays, Buhler speaks Spanish fluently and Portuguese hesitantly.

"I'd like to learn Arabic," he said.

He chose architecture over the performing arts since it seems to be a more stable occupation, Buhler said. He was active in singing and drama at Sandy High School.

"I don't care where I go in the world, I'm an Oregonian. This is where I want to live," he said, adding with a hopeful tone, "I just hope I can



Ulrick "Fred" Buhler

get a job (here)."

After this jaunt, he may be unwilling to unpack his bags for good.

"I still want to see the Orient and Australia," he said.