

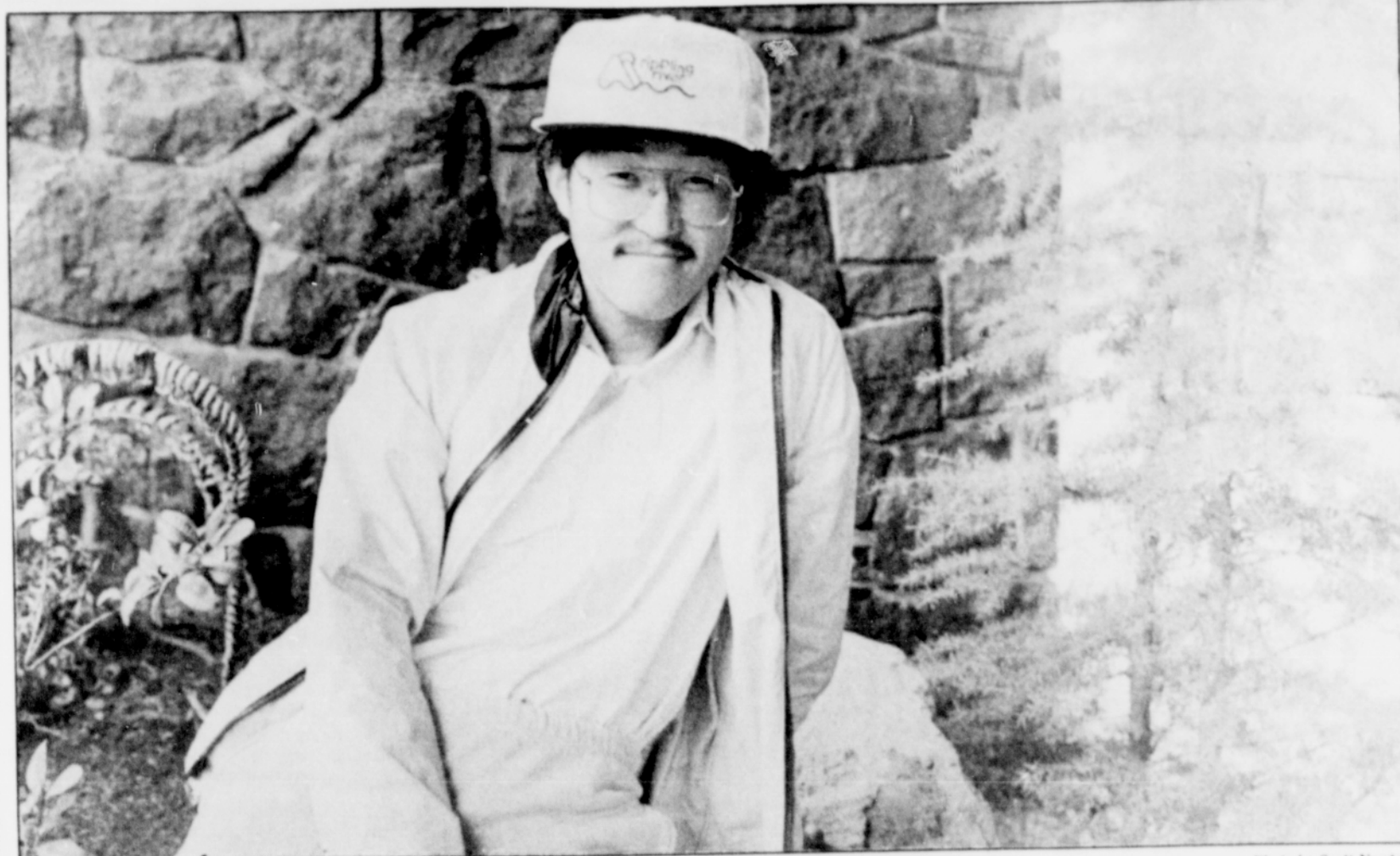


Photo by Scott Newton

Hiroshi Ito can write home with good news now that Rippling River Resort has replaced a bicycle stolen in Portland.

On the road again

Resort helps Japanese tourist recover from near disaster

Hiroshi Ito planned to bicycle all through the continental United States, sending dispatches back to his hometown newspaper about the true character of the people of the United States.

For a time, it appeared his trip was going to end in disaster. When his bicycle was stolen in Portland, he began to make plans to go back home.

Then Jack Bradley heard of his plight. Bradley is the director of sales and marketing at Rippling River Resort, and he heard about Ito's problems on a Channel 8 newscast.

Bradley recognizes the Japanese as an important part of the Oregon tourism market. He also recognizes the popularity of traveling by bicycle.

If the bicycle had been stolen in New York or Los Angeles, that would be one thing. But Portland, Oregon? Bradley couldn't handle that.

He decided something needed to be done to turn a bad situation into a good one. The end result was that Bradley took Ito shopping last week for a new 18-speed bicycle and camping gear, compliments of Rippling River.

Ito, 24, is a sound engineer in Japan. He has already traveled by bicycle through his country.

He studied English for six years, and was anxious to write articles telling about the United States.

Ito said lots of Japanese see Disneyland, jump on a plane, see the Statue of Liberty, and then fly home thinking they know about the

United States.

"The Japanese people are interested in America, but they really don't know about it," Ito said.

Ito's hometown, Miyako City, has a population of about 60,000, but the newspaper he was sending dispatches to has a circulation in the state of Iwate of about a half a million people.

Ito arrived at San Diego, visited Las Vegas, and traveled through central Oregon, over Mount Hood and down to Portland before his bicycle was stolen. He camps out unless he is near a city, in which case he stays at youth hostels.

"In the U.S., people take an interest in who you are, where you are going," Ito said.

The language is still a barrier, Ito said, and twice he has been knock-

ed over by the wind from trucks. He imitates the sound of the wind and leans as if he is about to fall over on his bicycle; his smile is infectious.

Bradley has been at Rippling River less than two months and his boss, General Manager Scott Candland, has been at the resort about three months. Far West Federal Bank has owned Rippling River for about three years.

Ito was staying at the resort while he waited for his bicycle to be equipped. It was expected he would leave Wednesday.

Meanwhile, he appeared to be making friends at Rippling River. Bradley asked Ito what the most important piece of equipment was they had purchased Friday, then reminded him it was a padlock to lock up his bicycle.

Sandy man charged with rape

Michael Eugene Walls, 32, of 41380 Allgeier Road south of Sandy, has been charged with first-degree rape. He was arrested by Clackamas County law enforcement officials on March 29 and released the next day after posting 10 percent of the \$7,500 bail, according to Russ Williams,

public information officer for the sheriff's office.

The police reports says that the charge is in connection with an incident involving a Sandy woman that occurred in the early morning hours of March 28. The case is still under investigation.

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'Operation Child Find' begun

"Operation Child Find," which is designed to identify handicapped children, is underway in the Sandy area, according to Ralph Branson, director of special education in the Sandy Elementary District.

The Sandy Elementary District is coordinating the Child Find program, and the goal is for all schools in the area to work together in identifying handicapped children.

Federal law mandates school districts to search for handicapped children. The five feeder districts of Sandy High School, along with the Damascus Union School District and Sandy High School, are participating in the program.

"All we want to do is open the system for people to call us up. We'll

get those people to the appropriate district," Branson said.

Though previous Child Find operations have not turned up older children with handicaps, Branson said they are looking for people up to the age of 21.

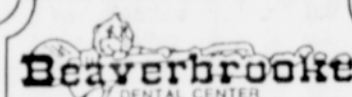
What is more common, he said, is to locate young children who have handicaps.

"If we can identify these children early, we can get training for them and be more successful in treating them," Branson said.

He said parents who notice delayed development in speech or walking, or have children who do not appear to see or hear the way they are supposed to, should be tested. Also, children with abnormal behavior patterns

should be tested.

People to contact include Branson at 668-5541; Carolyn Fones at Boring, 663-7500; Linda Barnes at Damascus, 658-3184; Ann Cobb at Welches, 622-3165; Mark Carlson at Cottrell, 668-5521; Matt Nunn at Bull Run, 668-4411; or Sue Chambers at Sandy Union High School, 668-8011.



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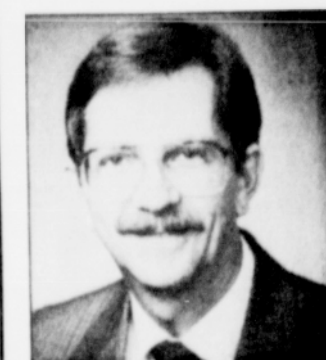
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