

Obituaries

John Price

Former Sandy and Boring resident John Watkin Price Jr. died at a Bend hospital on May 20 at the age of 69.

He was born in Eden, Idaho, on Aug. 12, 1917. He was raised in Eden, where he completed his education.

He then attended radio school in Kansas City prior to going to Nevada where he worked in the mining industry.

In 1938, he was married to Marie Shaddy in Idaho. They moved to Washington where John was employed for Boeing in Seattle and

in the shipyards in Vancouver.

John joined the U.S. Army to serve in the Philippines. After his discharge, the Price family moved to Oregon, where John served in the National Guard at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas. He remained in the guard until retiring in 1976.

Making a home in the Boring area, John worked as a milk farmer. In 1970, the family moved the farm to Sandy.

Marie Price died in 1972.

On Sept. 2, 1973, John married Violet Hopkins in Sandy. They remained in Sandy until 1977, when John retired from milk farming. John and Violet built a home in LaPine

where they spent their summers. They enjoyed traveling to Mexico and Southern California for the winters.

He was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf and traveling.

Survivors include his wife, Violet; a daughter: Cora Dobbs of Sandy; two brothers: Forrest Price of Washington and David Price of Milwaukie; two sisters: Marge Yoder of Oregon City and Ida Rice of Corvallis; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 26, in the chapel of Sandy Funeral Home. In-

terment, with military honors, was at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Vicki Neubauer

Funeral services for Sandy resident Vicki Neubauer will be held Friday, May 29, at 10:30 a.m. in the chapel of Sandy Funeral Home.

Mrs. Neubauer, 33, died of injuries from an auto-pedestrian accident on May 25.

She was born Vicki Lynn Taylor in Bakersfield, Calif., on Feb. 27, 1954. After beginning her education in California, her

family moved to Oregon to live in the Hoodland area. She attended Sandy Union High School.

In 1971, she moved to Estacada where she met Craig Neubauer. They were married on Dec. 31, 1984. They lived in the Gresham and Sandy areas.

She enjoyed swimming, cooking and taking her children on picnics and camping trips.

Surviving is her husband, Craig; two children: Branden and Clifton Walls, both of Sandy; parents: Bobby and Prentiss Edwards of Beavercreek; grandfather: C.H. McKeever of Sandy; brother: Randy Taylor of Estacada; sister: Karen Storey of Beavercreek.

Strawberries ripe; pickers hard to find

by SUSAN ROMANITIS
Staff writer

Workers began harvesting "a bumper crop" of strawberries last week at local farms, more than a week before the picking season usually begins.

But that early harvest also is causing problems for berry growers, who say they are facing a shortage of workers.

"The unseasonably warm temperatures this spring brought on an early bloom and berries are ripening rapidly," said Rick Stevenson, director of the Oregon Farm Bureau's Information and Commodity Division.

Most farmers in East Multnomah and Clackamas counties said they would be harvesting their strawberry crops about 10 days earlier than usual this year. The picking season generally begins around June 1 but can begin as late as June 10.

In addition to a relatively mild winter, the Portland area was hit by record-high temperatures earlier this month. Local farmers said both conditions helped speed up the start of the strawberry-picking season.

Strawberry picking began Thursday at Mark Liepold's farm in Boring and Friday at Jim Fujii's farms in Troutdale and Gresham.

"We do mostly fresh market (sales) so we need to get into the fields a little earlier," Liepold said.

The strawberries at Thompson's Farms in Damascus are starting to ripen and picking there is expected to begin Wednesday, Larry Thompson said. The farm produce stand will open May 27, the same day he opens the property to U-pickers, he said.

A week from today, workers are slated to start picking strawberries that Thompson's Farms plans to sell to canneries, Thompson said.

"The quality of the fruit is looking real good and so is the quantity of it," Liepold said.

Thompson agreed, saying his fields have more strawberries in them this year than any season he can remember. And they are some of the biggest strawberries he has seen in recent years, he said.

"The potential is there for a bumper crop," Thompson said. "There's a bumper crop in the field right now."

What the weather will do over the next three to four weeks and whether there will be enough pickers to bring in the unusually large crop are the big questions now, Thompson said.

"Our growers are finding that there may not be enough workers due to some confusion with the new immigration laws," Stevenson said. "The workers seem hesitant to enter the country."

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation is working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Employment Division to arrange a work force for the harvest, he said.

"I have definitely noticed a decline in the amount of migrant workers stopping by the farm looking for work," Thompson said.

Local farmers said the situation is compounded by the fact that the picking season is coming early, before student workers have finished school for the year.

A third factor also is complicating the picture for local farmers, said Dan Strebin of Strebin Farms in Troutdale. The cooler weather in Eastern Oregon has prolonged a lot of the crops there, keeping potential berry pickers at work elsewhere, he said.

"I can see a shortage (of workers)," Strebin said.

Strebin said he had lined up about 70 percent of the pickers he needed to harvest the strawberries in his fields. He said he was confident that he could secure the other workers he needed, but added, "Things can get to be a mess when everybody's short."

Despite the worker shortage, strawberries will sell for the same price they did last year at the stand at Thompson's Farms, Thompson said. Crates containing 9 to 10 pounds of strawberries will sell for \$5.95, he said.

"I can make money at that and it's a good deal for the person who buys it," Thompson said.

Liepold said he planned to sell crates, each holding approximately nine pounds of strawberries, for \$6.50 at his roadside outlet.



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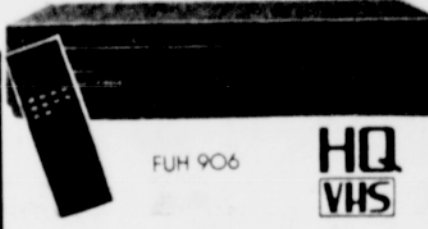
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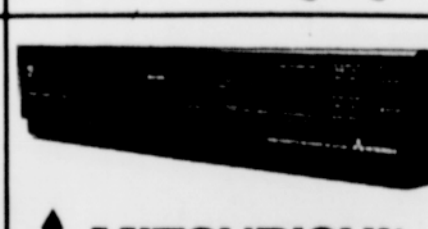
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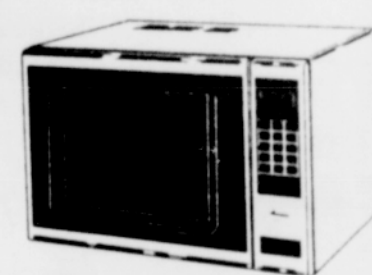
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