

Firefighter says job lacks glamour

Regardless of what anyone says, fighting forest fires is not glamorous, according to Sandy resident Jeff Jaqua, a traffic engineer for the U.S. Forest Service who spent a month in Southern Oregon this summer fighting fires.

All forest service employees who can pass the physical fitness exam are expected to fight fires should the need arise, Jaqua said.

Even though it was hard, dirty work, Jaqua called it an interesting experience.

Jaqua is a traffic engineer who is responsible for the signage, striping and traffic-flow studies on the 4,000 miles of road maintained by the forest service in the Mount Hood National Forest. He also is known for his work as president of the Sandy Mountain Festival committee.

Jaqua gave a presentation about his firefighting experiences at a dinner meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Sandy last week.

Of the month he spent in Southern Oregon, he spent 2½ weeks fighting the Galice fire in the Siskiyou National Forest. The fire destroyed over 22,000 acres.

In all, fires in southern Oregon national forests burned more than 170,000 acres, said Jim Torrence, regional forester.

On a normal day, members of Jaqua's crew of 12 women and eight men would get up at 4 a.m. and ride a helicopter to within hiking range of a "fire line." After working 14 hours, they would hike up a 1,600-foot incline to get to the helicopter launch pad for the ride back to base camp.

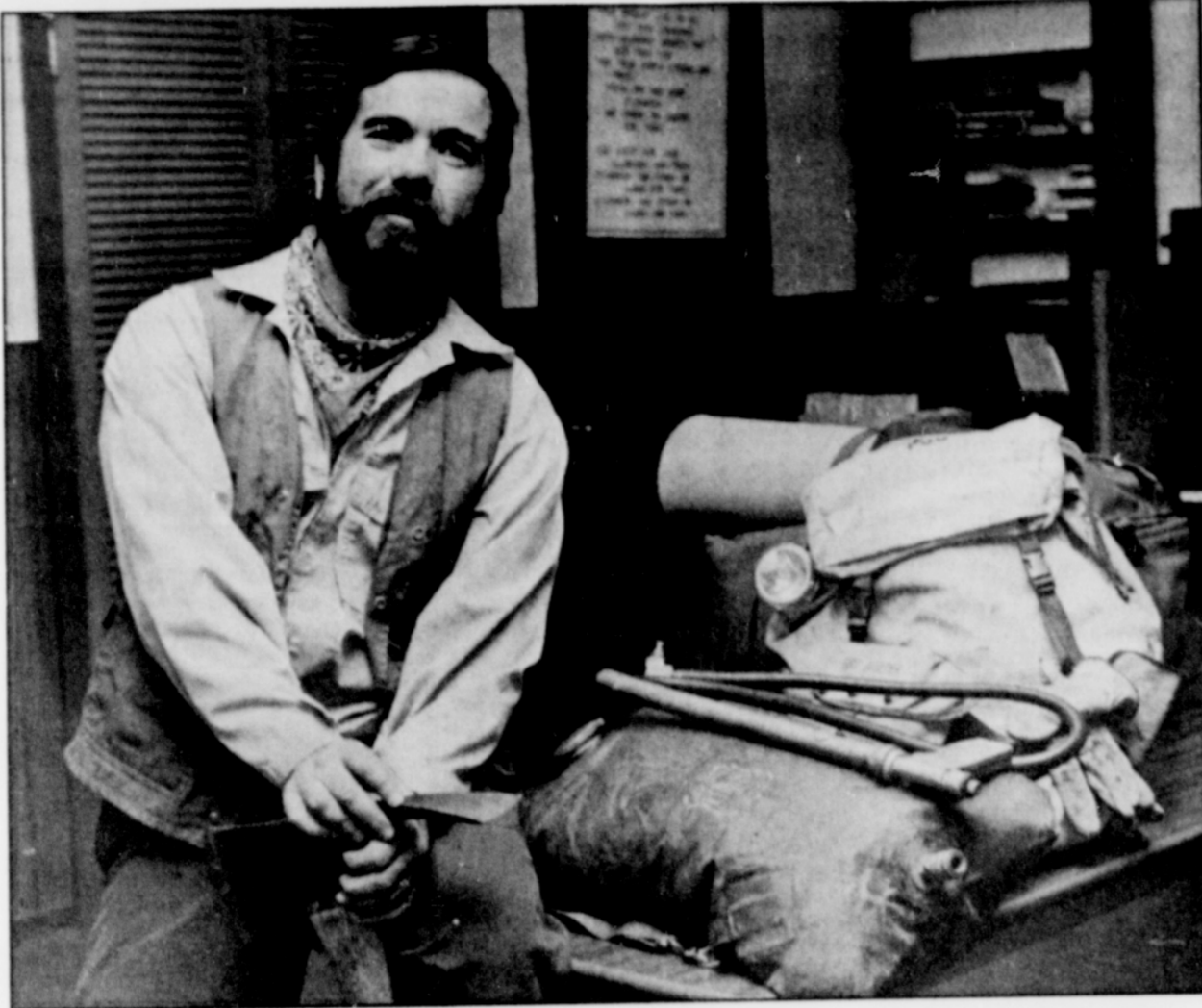
On a good night, a person had the luxury of taking a shower.

Firefighters dig a fire line with a tool called a Polaski, which is a combination ax and hoe.

"It digs a nice, fine line," Jaqua said. "It makes a nice crutch, too."

Fire lines vary in width depending on the circumstances. They are designed to stop oncoming fires by removing all combustible material.

After a fire is contained, crews



Jeff Jaqua, who spent a months fighting forest fires in Southern Oregon, displays some of the equipment used by firefighters.

begin the tedious job of mopping up.

Firefighters must sift through the debris of a fire and find any hot coals, wetting them down or digging them out with the Polaski.

Jaqua also described the hierarchy of a firefighting operation, which is designed to coordinate the work of firefighters, heavy equipment operators, medical units, air operations and other groups.

Jaqua said there are three kinds of camps. A base camp has showers, hot meals, telephones and commissary. "It becomes a big ci-

ty," he said.

A spike camp usually has hot meals and, if a person is lucky, hot water.

"Coyote camps are wherever you are when you've got your pack on. You work until you drop and then you sleep there."

The work can be dangerous as well as tedious. While working to control what was known as the Tiller Complex fire, which was in a wilderness area in the Umpqua National Forest, firefighters were digging a fire line while the fire was burning nearby.

They were aware of a tree burning near them, but kept working. Such trees have a nickname: "Widow-makers."

When the tree fell, it came down near Jaqua, knocking him down and trapping his hand. He had to hike out of the area in which he was working and it was 6½ hours before he got to a doctor. His hand required nine stitches.

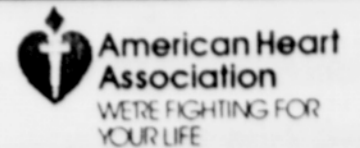
Fighting forest fires may be dangerous and unglamorous, but Jaqua said the people who do the work have a commitment to protecting the national forests.

Nursery owner appeals decision

BORING — An appeal of a staff decision to deny a request by Glen Handy/Handy Nursery Co. will be heard Nov. 4 by a Clackamas County hearings officer.

Handy has asked for a temporary permit to use a mobile home as a residence for a caretaker/watchman at the intersection of Southeast McCreary Lane and Southeast Haley Road in the Boring area.

The matter is scheduled to be heard at 9:35 a.m. in the courthouse annex at 906 Main St. in Oregon City.



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Past generations included in homecoming

Homecoming was a little different this year at Sandy High School. Students decided to invite representatives of each of the past five decades to participate.

Curtis Health, who teaches a "leadership class" at the high school, said students had been discussing the idea of involving past graduates in homecoming. Helen Swails, wife of board member Jerry Swails, suggested at an open house in September that they involve graduates by decades, Heaton said.

Homecoming princesses from past decades rode with current Sandy students in classic cars. The pep

band played music that was popular from that decade when the princesses were introduced.

The queen was Sandy senior Trixie Meier, who was escorted by her father, Gayle Meier, and Mike Sullivan, a senior.

The queen rode in a 1965 GTO convertible driven by Mike Platz. Representing the decade of the 1980s was Brenda Hogan. Her escort was Mike Beck. The band played Whitney Houston's "I Want to Dance."

Representing the 1930s was Gladys Byrd and her husband Burdette. They rode in a 1931 Model A Ford driven by Jerry Isakson.

Freshman princess was Brenda Forsee and her escort was Steve Modjeski. Music was "Varsity Drag."

Representing the 1940s was Evelyn Headen and her husband Kenneth. They rode in a 1941 Ford sedan driven by Craig Brandt. Sophomore princess was Amy Sah and her escort was Joe Bureau. Music was "Bugle Boy."

Representing the 1950s was Judy Loundree Will and her husband Doug. They rode in a 1957 Thunderbird convertible driven by Terry Smoke. Junior princess was Erica Jones, who was escorted by her

brother, Aaron Jones. Music was "Johnny Be Good."

Representing the 1960s was Barbara Pastega and her husband. They rode in a 1962 Corvette convertible driven by Harold Ayers. Senior princess was Kelli Portinga and her escort was Darren Buckner. Music was "Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band."

Representing the 1970s was Carey Rytel, who was escorted by Chuck Taylor. They rode in a 1971 Cadillac convertible driven by Bill Granstrom. Senior princess was Pixie Meier and her escort was Jeff Ulman. Music was "Staying Alive."

School lunches

Bull Run School
Nov. 2-6

Monday: Fish krispies, tartar sauce, buttered peas, bread and butter, peaches and milk.

Tuesday: Spaghetti, green salad with ranch dressing, french bread, coconut pudding and milk.

Wednesday: Chicken nuggets, rice pilaf, roll and butter, buttered carrots, apricots and milk.

Sandy Elementary District

Monday: Wiener wraps, seasoned green beans, carrot sticks, oranges and milk.

Tuesday: Beef taco with lettuce and cheese, applesauce, cookie, bread and butter and milk.

Wednesday: Hamburger on a bun with lettuce and pickle, Tater Tots, peach cobbler and milk.

Thursday: Beef and bean burrito, buttered corn, fruit bar, bread and butter and milk.

Friday: Pepperoni pizza, vegetable salad, mixed fruit and milk.

Personal Injury

During your life, you will be in pain and be hurting. It may happen more than once. Probably when you least expect it. What's frightening is that no matter how safe or secure you think you are, you just cannot hide from personal injury.

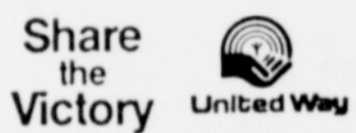
It may be an unexpected fall in your home (where most accidents occur) . . . a car accident . . . picking up something heavy and straining your back . . . a child hurt playing . . . a senior citizen losing his or her balance . . . a job-related accident . . . a week-end athlete thinking he's a kid again and going for the impossible catch causing impossible demands on his body . . . the list goes on and on.

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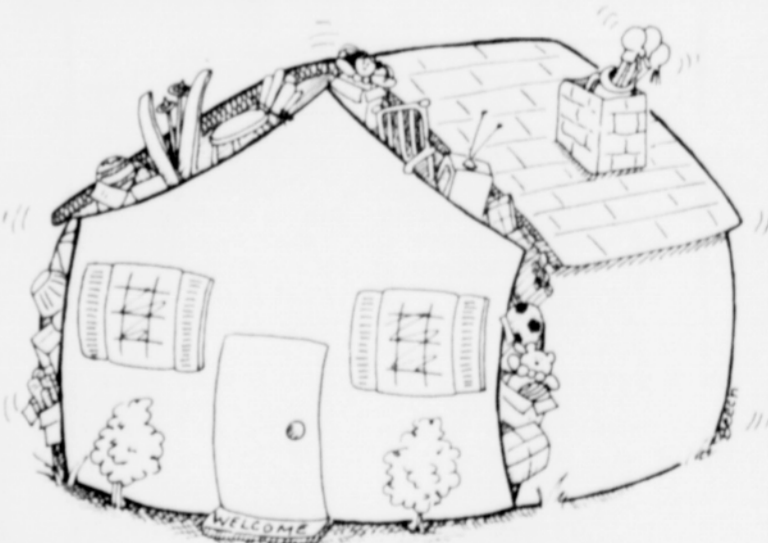
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6 am-2 pm SUN.
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