

New fire chief plans only minor changes

by PHIL CHRISTENSEN
Correspondent

Gene Fisher, new chief of the Hoodland Fire District, is bringing fresh ideas and skills to the job but does not have any plans to make major changes.

"Taking a new job like this," said Fisher, "is a little like jumping on a moving train; you get a foothold and hang on."

Said Fisher of the department: "Everything is moving and going its own way, just as it should be." He has decided to "watch and ride along to see where it's going."

For the past five years, Fisher has served as director of Fire Protection Services in Ketchikan, Ala.

A native Oregonian, Fisher got involved in fire service in Oregon and worked up through the ranks from firefighter to fire chief.

Before taking the position in Ketchikan, he was chief in Rainier, Ore.

Both the job in Ketchikan and Hoodland involved a similar process. Fisher began as one of the many applicants, emerging as the top choice in the end.

Fisher described the process of applying for the Hoodland job. "They set up a series of situations that simulate the actual things you do in the job. Then trained observers watch for certain behavior."

Some of the tests were financial in nature. "You have a budget of a half



Gene Fisher

million dollars and need to cut 20 percent of it. They want to know how you would do this, and then you explain your decisions."

Fisher said the quality of the Hoodland Fire District can be traced to good leadership, an interested and involved board of directors, and a "really good group of employees and volunteers. There really wasn't a lot of need to stop and reorganize things."

He recalled that when he took his post in Ketchikan in 1982, things were not as smooth there.

"The department there was very traditional. Some internal strife had been caused by the real world impacting the traditions of the organization and their inability to change. In that setting, it was really necessary to stop the train. There were some crises."

Even if Fisher is not going to stop the train in Hoodland, he has some immediate plans.

"We want to plan consciously and select the level of service we provide, rather than just throwing something out there because we think we ought to be doing it."

He said they were putting together a master plan.

He explained that the process involves research to objectively measure the quality of service the department provides.

With the aid of some surveys and the comments of interested citizens of the community, the department will determine the difference between the level of service the community wants and the level of service the department is currently providing.

"It's called a gap analysis," said Fisher. You create a plan to, over a period of years, adjust the level of service to the level that's desired.

"If the board accepts that, I suspect the planning process will take six to eight months and the plan will take several years to implement."

He is also looking to recruit new volunteers. "We have a very well trained and professional core group and volunteers, but we could use more. This is especially true in Government Camp. We have a significant need for volunteers there."

The Hoodland district is divided into three regions, with stations in Brightwood, Wemme and Rhododendron. Each has a group of volunteers who live in that area and respond to calls at their particular station.

The fire district covers about 55 square miles.

"We're protecting about \$220 million in property as well as the lives of all people involved."

Emergency medical service will remain a high priority in the district. "Emergency medical calls traditionally run two-to-one compared to fire calls, so there's a tendency for that to become a major focus."

He went on to explain that "the potential loss from fire is so great that there needs to be constant effort to maintain our skills and capacity in that area."

"There's a challenge to maintain your state of readiness when you rarely have the opportunity to use those skills."

"We spend a great deal of time trying to prevent fires and trying to teach people to be fire safe. It's a self-defeating program and it is intended to be that way."

When it comes to fires, Fisher said, "No business is good business."

He said he would be working to replace and update some of the equipment. He has described the budget as stable.

Fisher and his wife, Jane, have been married for almost 29 years. They have three grown daughters and two grandchildren.

Fisher said the "empty nest" was one of the reasons they returned to Oregon.

While he and his wife enjoyed hunting and fishing, a weekend getaway, like "going to Sun River or something of that nature, was out of the question. The only way out of Ketchikan is by boat or air."

"You get island fever," Fisher said. "We decided to get back to

civilization.

"I'm glad to be back in Oregon. Oregon's my home. People in the community have really bent over backward to make us feel welcome. We appreciate that."

WORD PROCESSING SERVICES

- WP Document Conversions
- Dictation/Transcription
- Business & Academic Typing
- Resumes & Editing Services

24 Hour Turnaround Pick-up & Delivery

(503) 668-6508

NEUMAN ENTERPRISES INC.
Sally Neuman
Word Processing

20% OFF Coupon

The Better Sweater

for

Beginning Knitting - Tues. - 10-12 noon
Open Knitting - Tues. - 7-9 p.m.
Kids Knit - Fri. - 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Sat. Seminar - Sat., Nov. 14 - Finishing & Unknitting

Call Colleen Benelli
668-3308
39295 Scenic St., Sandy, OR 97055

20% OFF Coupon

Rates Continued from Page 1.

wiring, which has been deregulated, he said.

Under the commission staff's proposal, one-party flat residential rates would drop from \$12.59 to \$8.70 and the one-party flat business rates would decrease from \$27 to \$20.20, MacKellar said.

But GTE responded by saying the commission's staff has not considered all factors affecting the company.

"The staff has not recognized significant changes which are causing earnings in Oregon to deteriorate," William Rigdon said in a prepared statement. Rigdon is vice president and general manager of the company's "southern area," which includes Oregon.

Changes ordered by the Federal Communications Commission and the loss of revenue from extended-area service have reduced the company's earnings, he said.

Rigdon said Tuesday that the commission's staff had failed to take "the negative aspects on cash flow" into consideration when the staff was drawing its conclusions.

He also said the company agreed that the rate of return on investment should drop — but to 12.1 percent, not

10.7 percent as recommended by the commission staff. He said the company was not earning above its currently authorized rate of return of 12.37 percent.

Rigdon said the difference between the company's and the commission staff's position on the change in the rate of return amounted to about \$5 million annually.

Not all of the \$11.5 million increase proposed by GTE would be applied to local telephone rates, company officials reported. Twenty-five percent of the increase — approximately \$3 million — would be applied to rates for in-state toll calls.

If the company's proposal is approved, one-party residential flat rates would increase from \$12.59 to \$14.13 and one-party business flat rates would increase from \$27 to \$36.61. The current rates were established in 1984, Rigdon said.

The company also has asked for approval of a 9 percent surcharge to cover the cost of the inside wiring the company is "giving" to its customers because of laws related to deregulation, he said. The surcharge would expire Oct. 1, 1988.

Fire Continued from Page 1.

More said the fire claimed more than mere possessions. Some material things had special meaning because they were given to her by friends or her mother, she said.

More said her children were always required to participate in fire safety drills. They had considered escape routes in the house they were in.

But the house burned so rapidly, More is sure that if anyone had been asleep, he or she would not have survived.

More, who works the night shift, normally would be asleep at 2 p.m., when the fire occurred. But last Thursday her son Steve, 14, was home from school with tonsillitis.

More opened the door to let the two dogs out, which probably helped fan the fire. As she walked back through the house she smelled smoke, and then saw a wall burst into flames. By the time she had crossed the 10-foot room and called 9-1-1, she was forced by smoke to crawl out of the house.

Steve also got out safely. Richard, 17, and Gayle, 16, were at school at the time of the fire.

More was embarrassed by reports that the fire was started by rodents chewing on kitchen matches. She

thinks it is possible the rodents moved into the house when the field surrounding the house was logged recently.

More had only good things to say for Sandy firefighters. "My personal opinion is they are an asset to Sandy," she said. "Too often, we take things like that for granted."

More, who moved here from Florida three years ago, said she is grateful to her friends for the support they have given her.

Beaverbrooke
DENTAL CENTER

Kenneth G. Claggett,
D.M.D.

39055 Pioneer Blvd.
668-7441

No (Great!) Shakes.

Terumo has miniaturized the fever thermometer technology used in hospitals and developed a computerized thermometer that's hospital accurate and small enough to fit in the palm of your hand.

Computer design means no more shaking! Automatically activated when removed from its protective storage case, it is constructed of virtually unbreakable, washable plastic. A sealed-in lithium battery guarantees years of carefree use. All this makes glass thermometers look pretty shaky. Ask your neighborhood pharmacist.

Terumo® Digital Thermometers.
Advanced technology for a simpler life.

TERUMO
TERUMO CORPORATION
Terumo Medical Branch
Consumer Products Division
P.O. Box 589, Eikon, MD 21921
Terumo Medical Corporation
P.O. Box 400, Eikon, MD 21921
(301) 398-8500
Terumo Corporation Made in USA



Grand Opening Holiday Gift Center.



3 lb. Beef Stick® 10.99

Melt Away Mints reg. 12.99 Cheese Balls & Logs reg. 3.49 **2/5.99**

FREE 1 lb. Beef Stick®

with purchase of gift packs totalling 25.00 or more now through Nov. 25th. reg. 4.99



#66 Beef Stick Snack. Award winning 1 lb. Beef Stick Summer Sausage teamed with 3 oz. Sweet-Hot Mustard, a handy Cleaver and imported Strawberry Bon Bons. **8.99**

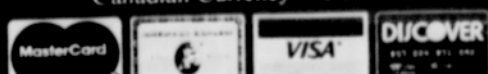


#26 Beef 'n Cheese. Two of our most popular big 1 lb. Beef Stick Summer Sausages with 8 oz. of Natural Edam, 8 oz. Sharp Cheddar, 7 oz. Gouda and Strawberry Bon Bons. **25.99**

Sale prices good through 11/25/87

HICKORY FARMS™

Canadian Currency Welcome



Sandy Market Place Mall
36775 East Hwy 26 • 668-6413

NEWS BREAK!

STONES
Sandy Location only!

G.O.B.® Sale

(* Going Out of Business)

Continues!

Our Entire Inventory & All Fixtures Must Be Liquidated!

G.O.B. SALE HOURS

Mon.-Thurs.	9:30-6:00
Friday	9:30-7:00
Saturday	9:30-8:30
Closed Sunday	

Sale ends when the walls are bare!!

STONES

38980 Proctor Blvd. • Downtown Sandy

CHECK CASH

668-8258