

New Year Day tragedy

Woman dies in fire that destroys home

Mrs. Mary Edna Hutchens, 60, died in the flames that destroyed her South Court Street home here early Tuesday morning, New Year's Day.

The fire was discovered and reported by Lisa Harsin at 2:26 a.m. When the fire department arrived at 2:35 the flames had engulfed the frame structure and it was beyond saving. Firemen were unable to enter the house because of smoke and flames, and were hampered by freezing weather and spectators attracted by the fire.

The body was found at 9:43 a.m. by District Attorney Herman Winter, who was assisting in the investigation of the blaze. She was apparently alone in the house at the time of the fire. The body was taken to Pioneer Memorial Hospital where an examination confirmed it to be that of Mrs. Hutchens.

The precise cause of death will not be determined until a State Medical Examiner arrives from Portland to conduct an autopsy.

Dallas and Lisa Harsin were entertaining friends at a New Year's Eve party when Joan Eckman saw the blaze next door. Greg Greenup, Dave Eckman and Gary Watkins rushed to the burning house. Greenup broke the door open and was forced to retreat before the smoke and heat. He then broke a window at the back of the house, but was unable to gain entry to ascertain if anyone were inside.

Heppner Patrolman Charles Holt had passed the Hutchens residence only 15 minutes before the alarm was turned in, but said he saw no evidence of fire or smoke at that time. Lt. Charles Conaway of the Oregon State Police, Hermiston, arrived about 4 a.m. and began an investigation into the cause of the fire. He was accompanied by Richard Harp, criminal investigator, Oregon State Police, Hermiston. The two remained in Heppner all day Tuesday and Wednesday. Their report as to the cause and nature of the fire will not be available for several days, Conaway said.

Dave Teter, deputy state fire marshal, Pendleton, was expected to conduct an investigation into the fatal fire before the end of this week.

Floyd "Hutch" Hutchens, who has been divorced from the victim for several months, lives nearby, and was notified of the tragedy.

Mrs. Hutchens was born Sept. 28, 1913 in Walla Walla, Wn. She has been a resident of Heppner for about 20 years.

Survivors include four daughters, Mrs. Lillian Majors, King's Valley, Ore.; Mrs. Floellen Conner, Golden Dale, Ore.; Mrs. Cherry Lee McDaniel, Long Creek, Ore.; and Mrs. Larry Angell, Heppner. She had 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is also survived by two sisters, Mae Lane, Aloha, Ore., and Viola Buckenberger, Kennewick, Wn.; and one brother, Robert Gillock, Portland.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Jan. 3, 2 p.m., at the First Christian Church with the Rev. G.E. Nikander officiating. Interment will be at Heppner Masonic Cemetery under direction of Sweeney Mortuary.



A Heppner woman lost her life in a fire that destroyed this South Court Street home in the early morning hours of New Year's Day.

GAZETTE-TIMES

Vol. 90, No. 46

Heppner, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 3, 1974

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Planning to sell land? Use care!

If you're planning to parcel off and sell a couple of pieces of land - or if you're shopping for land - you owe it to yourself to check out Oregon's new subdivision regulation law.

This is the reminder issued by State Rep. Les AuCoin, House majority leader, who sponsored Oregon's new Land Development Consumer Protection Act (HB 2607) which becomes effective Jan. 1.

Registered real estate developers and brokers have been mailed information about the law and the necessary registration and sales

disclosure forms, but AuCoin is concerned about individuals not professionally engaged in the real estate business who might come under the terms of the law but are unaware of its requirements. Penalties for violation of the provisions are severe - up to \$50,000 fine and - or imprisonment for up to two years.

"The aim of this law is two-fold: to control the big-time operators who take advantage of unwary customers in 'sagebrush subdivisions' and similar developments, and to protect all real estate purchasers by requiring a full sales disclosure statement. It is not intended to hurt or inconvenience small landowners selling off a few acres, and they won't be if they are properly informed as to how the law affects them," AuCoin said.

Examples of the kinds of problems the law is designed to correct are suburban subdivisions where new homeowners found sales-promotion

promises of sidewalks, location in a certain school district, and adequate sewage treatment facilities unfulfilled. In some large Central Oregon developments, purchasers did not get the water, roads, and utilities they thought they had paid for.

Specifically, the Land Development Consumer Protection Act: (1) insures that prospective purchasers of land development interests have all pertinent information concerning conditions on and in the vicinity of the property; (2) places the buyer and seller on an equal footing regarding the transaction; and (3) registers land developments, particularly promotional land sales.

Two key provisions are the requirements for public disclosure statements and registration of certain subdivisions.

When a landowner divides property into two or more parcels and thus becomes a developer, he must, unless exempted from the law's

provisions, provide a disclosure statement to every prospective purchaser, if such is requested. All actual purchasers must receive a disclosure statement prior to signing a land sale contract.

The commissioner has the mandatory duty to investigate every application to determine compliance.

For more information on how this law affects land sales, and for data on exemptions, individuals should write the Real Estate Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Commerce Building, Salem, Ore. 97310, or 136 State Office Building, Portland, Ore. 97201.

Two plants appear certain for 1974

Agreements between Gourmet Food Products of Metolius and the Port of Morrow were ratified in a meeting with the port Wednesday of last week for construction of a new potato processing plant.

Norman Hyder, manager, said he expected to have the plant in operation by Aug. 1, 1974. The plant is expected to cost about \$4 million.

Unconfirmed reports are that Desert Magic expects to also construct a potato processing flaking plant early in 1974 in the food processing park. It would cost about \$2 million.

Energy for these two plants will be provided by electric-fired furnaces. Representatives of the Umatilla Electric Cooperative Association of Hermiston told the port commission that it plans to build a new substation near the new plants. UECA will buy land from the food processors for the station.

A large potato storage facility is also slated to be built early next year by John Prag, a Joseph potato grower, who raised several hundred acres of potatoes in the Boardman area this year.



Newly elected president of the Chamber of Commerce James Bier assumes his duties for this year. Bier, succeeds LeRoy Gardner, who will serve on the board of directors.

Rodeo Princess tryouts Jan. 6

Tryouts for Morrow County Rodeo Princesses was cancelled last Sunday due to the snowstorm.

The tryouts have been re-scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 6, at 1:30 p.m., at the fairgrounds.

Any girl who is a resident of Morrow County and is at least 16 as of Jan. 1, 1974, is eligible to compete for the positions. Sponsors are not needed this year, applicants are reminded.

Girls who wish to try out

should show up at the fairgrounds on Jan. 6. They are asked to call Don Evans beforehand so he may know how many plan to compete, and so he will know who to notify if weather again forces postponement of the event.

Death order commuted

Kathy Zenz sentenced to life imprisonment

Kathy Zenz, 29, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Heinrich of Heppner, was sentenced to death by a Turkish court last Friday, but the sentence was quickly commuted to life imprisonment because of "extenuating circumstances."

Miss Zenz is one of the group known as the Antioch Seven who were arrested on narcotic charges when the three Volkswagen buses in which they were traveling more than a year ago attempted to cross into Turkey from Syria, and hashish was found concealed in the buses.

The others sentenced with Miss Zenz were Jo Ann McDaniel, 30, of Coos Bay, Ore., and Robert Hubbard, 23, address unknown.

Four other girls originally arrested were released on bail of \$3,500 and they left the country in September.

Since the sentence was imposed, Mrs. Heinrich told the Gazette-Times that her phone has been ringing constantly. She has received calls from people in all walks of life, she said, inquiring if there is anything they can do to help the women. The Heinrichs have also been contacted by newspapers in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York inquiring as to what plans they have for aiding their niece.

One of the newspapers suggested that they circulate petitions asking for amnesty and send them directly to

Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.

Sen. Mark Hatfield said the State Department is working on the case, and that he hopes "further appeals will be successful." He is awaiting a report from the State Department as to what efforts, if any, are being taken on behalf of the women.

A spokesman for the Turkish Embassy in Washington said Saturday that the only hope for the three imprisoned Americans is the possibility of a general amnesty by which the sentences could be reduced or the prisoners freed. The last general amnesty was in 1965, and narcotics were excluded from amnesty terms at that time.

Gerald N. Kurtz, a U.S. government health information officer who has talked with many Americans held on drug charges in 30 foreign jails, said he had never heard of a life sentence being imposed on an American.

U.S. State Department statistics show there are an estimated 873 Americans being held in foreign prisons on drug charges, and that Friday's sentences are among the most severe ever handed down to Americans. The longest previous sentence on record for an American was given William Hayes, sentenced to 30 years in Turkey.

One of the Antioch Seven admitted having duped the others to drive the hashish-

laden buses over the border. He assumed full blame and testified to the innocence of the others. All the others have steadfastly maintained their innocence.

The United States in recent years has all but abandoned its nationals abroad in time of trouble, whereas at one time any nation that failed to provide a fair trial for accused Americans, or that inflicted cruel and unusual punishment, ran the risk of retaliation, even war.

In Europe today Americans are warned that if they are arrested on drug charges there is nothing the U.S. government can do except to notify the relatives of their whereabouts.

Mrs. Heinrich received a call from one of the freed girls Sunday. Penny Czarneckie of San Francisco assured Mrs. Heinrich that none of the girls were guilty. "I would have known if your niece were capable of such a crime," Miss Czarneckie said, "after having spent all those months with her."

She said there is a group of citizens in San Francisco working on the case, and that another is doing everything possible on the East Coast.

Miss Zenz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Zenz of Lancaster, Wis., is a registered nurse who had been working in a San Francisco psychiatric hospital before taking her ill-starred trip to Europe and Turkey.

AFTER THE STORM—Before the snows there were the rains. A Gazette-Times photo shows the breaking up of a rainstorm at sunset over an expanse of prairie.

