

They rallied round fires in hiking mini-ordeals

A Sunday afternoon hike turned into a chilling experience for nine people in two separate groups in East Sooke Park when nightfall caught them still far from their destination, forcing them to huddle around campfires for the night.

For at least one of the groups the night—despite the freezing temperatures—wasn't much of "an ordeal".

In fact, Larry Slaght was surprised when a search party organized by Colwood RCMP came across him and his wife Jeana and their two daughters, Sheila and Sandra, both in their 20s, and a Vancouver man, Mike Leask, at about 5:30 a.m. Monday.

"We didn't really require it," the Transport Canada district manager said in a Monday telephone interview from his 2008 Falkland home. They were

all warmly dressed, had a good fire and had taken food along.

At first, Slaght thought the searchers were the other party they could hear that was spending the night by a campfire.

"I thought it was much too early for them to be starting out," said Slaght.

The second group included Duncan Morrison, Janis Riddell, Christopher Stewart and Mandi Saunders, all of Victoria. Both groups were found half a mile apart near Beechey Head Lookout by the five-man search party including a tracking dog that had looked for more than three hours.

Slaght said his group had planned to hike from the Pike Road parking lot to the Aylard Farm lot but ran out of time. When they found themselves in a steep rocky area at about 6 p.m., they decided "to stay put."

Doggy laws reviewed

Sidney council members agreed Monday that a dog faeces problem in the municipality was getting out of hand.

Councillors voted to write Susan Barnard of 896 Lands End Road, promising that something would be done about the situation.

Mrs. Barnard complained in a letter to council that a "middle-aged couple" had recently taken their dog into a children's play area in Sidney and in view of a sign marked "no dogs allowed," permitted it to urinate and defecate by the swings.

"Our (animal control) bylaw is gutless and needs to be reviewed," Ald. Jerry Tregaskis said.

Tregaskis said regional health director Allan Arneil's recent report on children's diseases contracted from animal faeces was "pretty scary."

Another problem, he said, was his relative inaccessibility to reporters in the early months of his administration and a lack of mutual knowledge on his part and theirs.

He said that in the last few months he had taken steps to make sure that reporters and his administration understood each other better.

Media 'irresponsible'

WASHINGTON (Reuter)—President Carter said Monday that U.S. news media had been irresponsible, complicating his early months in the White House.

Carter made his complaint in a television interview with the Public Broadcasting System.

He said two unpleasant

surprises for him were "the inertia of Congress . . . and the irresponsibility of the press."

He added: "Quite often news reports have been inaccurate when I think a simple checking of the facts with a telephone call or a personal inquiry could have prevented a serious distortion."

Nuclear orders nosedive

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Despite a projected increase in the demand for electricity in the United States, only four nuclear power plants were ordered in 1977 and none has yet been ordered this year, the chairman of the Atomic Industrial Forum said Monday.

B.B. Parker of the AIF said not only is there a lack of new orders, but eight orders or options for atomic generators were cancelled in 1977 and five were dropped this year.

"Compared to the 41 orders placed in 1973 and the 26 placed in 1974, this is a source of great concern to the manufacturers of reactor systems and components," he told the

annual meeting of the trade organization.

Parker, retired head of Duke Power Co., said the nation's power companies face a number of economic uncertainties when they plan for expansion. But he said a 34 per cent greater generating capacity will probably be needed by the end of the century if the United States is to maintain its economic growth.

He said only additional coal and uranium-fired plants can meet the extra power requirement.

One significant problem, Parker said, is that the time required to build and license a nuclear power plant is in-

creasing rather than decreasing, adding to the cost of atomic power.

But Parker said nuclear power "still appears economically attractive and environmentally preferable to other modes of steam-electric generation in most areas of the United States."

He said nuclear power's safety record is unblemished and atomic generators have saved consumers \$5.5 billion from 1975 through 1977 compared with the cost of a like amount of electricity generated by plants fired by coal, oil or gas.

Parker said government regulation and politics still

pose the greatest problems for the nuclear power industry.

"As serious and as real as these may be, we can take some comfort in knowing they are subject to resolution by institutional and political means, with really no further need for technical breakthroughs and no expectation of engineering surprises," he said.

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