



The Concrete Herald

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1968 - THE YEAR THAT WAS

YOU MIGHT call this issue a "no-news-paper" as it fails to bring you anything of interest that happened last week. Instead it gives you a rundown on all the important events of the past year. The reason: your editors are taking a holiday. The only way we have figured out to get more than four or five days at a time is to either skip a paper or put one out in advance, to be mailed the next week. The week between Christmas and New Years will be missed the least, we feel.

So, if you are up to your ears in snow, think kindly of Chuck and Helen, your editorial staff, who should right now be basking on a sunny beach in Hawaii. Ever since my first visit to the islands, courtesy U. S. Navy, I have wanted to go back. That visit was to sail into the harbor in sight of Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach, unload a bundle of Wacs and Waxes, and then sail away again without ever getting ashore. For Helen it is her first visit, and a promised belated honeymoon.

We intend to see all we can, visit a few friends and celebrate the New Year at Waikiki Beach. Our reservations, up to two weeks ago, consisted of everything except a flight home. If there is no paper next week we will probably be trapped because of crowded schedules and in jail from trying to fight our way through the hula girls to hijack a plane. Second thought we may just put a note in a bottle and drop it in the sea in hopes that either creditors or friends might organize a rescue party in a year or two.

THE 1968 REVIEW featured as our news copy this week provides a handy chronology of the year for future reference. It was quite a year for the valley, with the complete change for the future facing us all in the formation of the North Cascade National Park, and the closing of the Lone Star Cement Plant in Concrete. There are arguments of both sides on each, and all now remaining only for time to show which are valid. We do know that the valley can't help but join the general boom that is now sweeping the state.

JANUARY

JANUARY 3—
Glen Chambers and Bill Ruyle took over control of Cascade Supply from C. C. Baughman, who started the hardware business in 1934. George White, pioneer Concrete resident, was taken to the hospital with a stroke. An electric hoist, valued at \$500, was stolen from the Hornbeck Lumber Co. Engagement of Paula Jane Hornbeck to David Coles was announced. Clare Parker, old-time resident of Concrete, died at Monroe. Mrs. Kay Stafford again won the Sweepstakes award in the Garden Club's "Holiday Lane" contest. Governor Dan Evans said that a jeep road may be completed during the year to link Skagit Valley with Okanogan by way of the North Cross-State Highway.

JANUARY 10—
Lone Star Cement Corporation spelled out plans for the phase-out of the Concrete plant at a meeting of company officials with Mayor Margaret Stadlman and local councilmen. The mill was to be shut down in late fall with final stages of shipping probably to continue into the early months of 1969. The entire plant with exception of storage tanks and office build-

HAPPY NEW YEAR

we hope it's bursting
with lots of good things for you!

The Herald Staff

ding 3½ miles on this side of the pass; \$370,000 for construction of a pioneer road for the last six-mile link. An appropriation of \$80,000 was made to construct another 6.7 miles of the Baker Lake Highway from the main Hwy. 20 at Birdview to the present highway near the old Burpee Hill mill site. Mr. and Mrs. David Gustafson escaped serious injury when their car crashed into a railroad car on the siding west of Albert's Serve-U.

JANUARY 31—
The Upper Skagit Valley school board will submit another special levy proposition to the



MRS. ALICE LEONARD
Washington State Mother of the Year

ing would be leveled in 1969. Scattered lots owned by the company will be sold. Acreage will be held by the company for future use. The town accepted an offer from the plant to buy the water system.

Loyal Kloes took the job of part-time deputy.

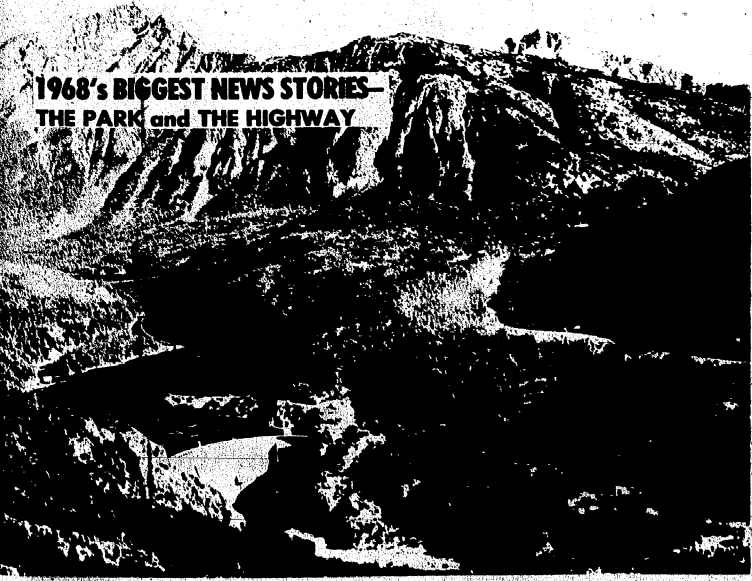
JANUARY 17—
Upper Skagit School District went on a warrant basis. The old high school building will be closed as of the next school year and seventh and eighth-graders moved to the new high school building. Peterson's Texaco station was broken into with about \$150 cash taken. Ray Ross has taken over sole ownership of Valley Ready-Mix with dissolution of the partnership of Ross and B. G. Gregory. Ruth Solomon passed away Sunday at the age of 82.

JANUARY 24—
Acceleration of completion of the North Cross-State Highway was assured with release of \$1 million in federal funds for gra-

voters in the spring. The South Skagit Highway was closed by a slide at Devil's Elbow, just east of the Owenell ranch. Counties of Chelan, Whatcom and Skagit have gone on record officially to oppose creation of a national park in the North Cascades. Schools were opening an hour late to give buses leeway to make their trips in the snowy weather. Mrs. Edith Sloan of Valley Ready-Mix with dissolution of the partnership of Ross and B. G. Gregory, Ruth Solomon passed away Sunday at the age of 82.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 7—
Lone Star Vice President Richard Farrow announced that the company has awarded a general contract for additions to the
(Continued on page 2)



1968's BIGGEST NEWS STORIES—
THE PARK and THE HIGHWAY

LONE STAR CEMENT PLANT CLOSING THIS YEAR

