



WE MUST have had the best vacation ever—and I'll tell you why. Any time I can get away from the print shop long enough to get my nuckles white and my fingernails long and clean, it has to be more than a week of leisure. Barring a stay in a hospital you just don't get that kind of loafing time. Next, the local weather was so bad that nobody could be away from it and not be happy, no matter where. To read about the snow and cold under a palm tree adds just a final touch.

Vacations don't come so often in our business that you become blasé. We recommend a trip to Hawaii, one time, for anyone, but suggest you make it soon. The real Hawaii is rapidly disappearing under a forest of high rise hotels to house the thousands of tourists that are coming to see the real Hawaii.

In a few years there will be no secluded coves with sparkling waters and white sands that do not have their own hotel, and swimming pool, and all the artificial trimmings. Some sections of the standard tours are now reminiscent of Disneyland, complete with all the hired charm and glamour that the folders have led you to expect.

The rest is real McCoy, however. You can't make the lush landscapes, seascapes and high volcanic mountains out of plastic. There is beauty everywhere. No more so than our own valley in its own way, but because it is of a different type and new to the eye.

Most noticeable are the visitors who come to see. No longer the idle rich. Old and young of all classes. Teen age newlyweds, old folks in wheel chairs, business men relaxing, retired people too busy to sit still, school teachers, office girls. And all enjoying luxury accommodation on special low-price tours that are a thing of precision to watch. To miss a bus may make you miss an island, but if you follow the set schedule you see everything of interest.

We found the people friendly beyond expectation, food excellent, accommodations to suit the most particular. You don't have to spend a lot of money to have fun. We do suggest, however, that you try to arrange for a bitter winter storm at home the day you leave. It makes the trip talk sparkle with contrast.

ART CLASS

Anyone interested in an oil painting or crafts class is asked to contact Mary Ellen Stauffer at the Baker River Ranger Station by mail or phone, 826-3869 before January 19.

Sam Jones Elected Birdsview Fire Chief

At the annual election of officers at the Birdsview Fire Department meeting on Thursday evening Sam Jones was elected to replace the chief, Ken Hollenbach, who has moved away. Other officers elected were Jack Scales, who is now serving as assistant chief for the third term, Leonard Macomber who replaces Dick Coesens; vice-president, Daniel Dellinger who replaces Ron Coulter; secretary, Dick Coesens who replaces the new chief; treasurer, Thomas Jones replacing Harold Cook; and captains, Carl Nelishe, now on his fifth term, Whitey Melford, who is working on his second term, and John Adams, elected to replace Truman Sparks.

More Transfers Of Valley Real Estate

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamilton of Fort Ord, Calif., have purchased 20 acres on the South Skagit Highway from Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen.

Other recent transactions included the sale of the Loyal Kloes house on Main Street to Mr. and Mrs. Gene Coffell. Both deals were handled by the Two Rivers Realty.

Lions Drop Game To Mount Baker 69-55

Concrete Lions came out second best in last Friday's hoop contest with Mt. Baker, 69 to 55, on the home floor.

Concrete lagged just a few points behind the visitors all the way with the score at the end of the first quarter, 15 to 11, and at the half, 37 to 28. However the Lions rebounded Mt. Baker 39 to 35 with Craig Knechtel high individual rebounder with 13. The local players hit 21 for 70 shots from the field with Baker sinking 26 for 73. Concrete made good on 13 foul shots out of 22 while Baker made 15 for 36.

Scott Culbertson was high point man for the Lions with 14 and Charlie Messer a close second with 12. Craig Knechtel scored 9 points, Larry Comstock and Dennis Brown, both 8, Tim Evans and Mike Kelly, both 2. The Lions had a league game scheduled at Nooksack Valley last night, Jan. 7, and will play Lynden here this Friday, Jan. 10. They will travel to Sultan this Saturday for a non-league game.

Frances Buller, Bill French Are Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Buller of Rockport announce the engagement of their daughter, Frances Susan, to Sgt. William (Butch) French, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill French of Concrete.

Both of the young people are 1968 graduates of Concrete High School. Susan has completed two years at Western Washington State College and is now employed by the Mutual Credit Association, Inc., of Seattle. Her fiancé is serving in Viet Nam. The wedding will take place sometime during this month. After their marriage they will leave for French's new post at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Brother Of Mrs. Chas. Stone Dies In Kansas

Mrs. Charles Stone received word early New Year's Day of the death of her brother, Ralph Gough, who passed away New Year's Eve at his home in Galesburg, Kansas.

He was found in the garage where he had been working on his car by his wife when she became worried by his prolonged absence.

Funeral services were held last Friday afternoon at the Christian Church in Galesburg. Mrs. Stone, the only surviving member of the family, was unable to attend as she had been ill with the flu the last couple of weeks.

Kay Stafford Home Holiday Lane Winner

Mrs. Kay Stafford again won the sweepstakes award in the annual "Holiday Lane" decorations contest sponsored by the Upper Skagit Garden Club. The home of Mrs. Stafford and surrounding trees and shrubs were transformed into a fairytale by myriads of colored lights put up by her sons and daughters-in-law.

Other winners announced by Mrs. Ed Monrad, chairman of this year's contest were: Best home window, Raymond Looten; store window, Puget Power office; decorated tree, Lonnie Fessler; house and yard, C. H. Kemper; entryway, Jack Hoover.

Honorable mentions went to the Don Ross home and to the Charles Ford home, as well as to the Floyd Gardners for their decorated doorway.

Winners in the different classifications each won \$3 in cash, and the sweepstakes winner, \$10.

Park Service Takes Over North Cascades

The National Park Service is now taking over formal responsibilities for the management of the new North Cascade National Park. As of January 1st the new 874,000 acres unit will be under the supervision of Roger J. Connor, who will head up the staff that will be required to control the Park, the Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the Lake Chelan Recreation Area.

A master plan, with specialists in architecture, engineering and resources management will be the first project. The final approval of the planning is not expected until next fall. The plan must coordinate the similar planning done by the Forest Service under their management and the new concept of park development.

Initial staffing of the North Cascades will consist of career employees brought in from other areas of the Park Service, selected Forest Service employees who will transfer to the National Park Service, and some 20 seasonal maintenance and park ranger employees. These will be chosen primarily from this area.

Applications for summer employment will not be accepted before February first. They can then be sent to Superintendent, North Cascades National Park, Sedro-Woolley.

Nathan Roundy Takes State Wrestling Title

Nathan Roundy, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Roundy, won the state invitational heavyweight wrestling championship title at the tournament held last Saturday at the University of Washington.

Around 200 wrestlers from all the junior colleges in the state and junior varsity wrestlers from Washington State University and the U. of W. competed.

Nathan, now attending Everett Community College, placed fourth in the junior college state wrestling meet last year while he was a student at Highland Junior College near Seattle. He will enter this year's junior college meet, scheduled for next month.

Lone Star Employees Make Seattle Moves

Lone Star Cement Corporation men who transferred this week to the Seattle plant were Magnus Miller, who has been plant manager at the Concrete plant for many years; Willy Harris, foreman at the quarry here; and Tom Stokes, quarry superintendent. The Stokes family is now at 2320 No. 161st, Seattle 98133. Mrs. Harris and daughters will maintain the home here until the close of school and the Millers are located in their Seattle home.

Yeah! Winter Came For The Holidays—

Cold—down to 4° below zero was recorded for the area in the days just after Christmas. Then, with the ground well frozen the temperature warmed enough to bring on about a foot of snow. With this blast of winter the residents of this part of the country all suffered the usual unpleasantness of broken water pipes, icy roads, frozen oil lines and lack of heat.

As a result the New Year's celebration proved very quiet with few people braving the elements to hit the usual hot spots for an evening out.

Driving conditions are poor but few accidents have occurred.

A warming trend over the weekend has taken off some of the snow, but more is promised for the coming weekend. Also the weathermen predict a fall in temperature that will equal or come close to the record lows of a week ago.

Folks who are still repairing the damage from the last freeze are warned to get the jobs done and at the same time, prepare to weather the next assault.

Cold Weather Fires Destroy Homes In Up-River Areas

Two families, the Robert Wrights of Marblemount and the Phillip Wilsons at Rockport, lost their homes and all their belongings in fires during one of the worst cold snaps in recent years with icy blizzards raging to make conditions practically impossible for the fire departments answering the calls.

The trailer which was rented by the Wright family in the Jack Martin trailer court at Marblemount was completely destroyed in a fire the evening of Dec. 28. The Wrights and their six children were out of town at the time, spending the holidays in Spokane.

The Martins discovered the fire between 8 and 9 o'clock Saturday evening when they went to the trailer to check on it. The whole interior of the trailer burst into flame when the door was opened, destroying the trailer and the two-bedroom house attached, and all their contents. Martin said that actual cause of the fire was undetermined, although it seemed to have started in the corner where a deep freeze unit was located.

Both the Marblemount and the Rockport Fire Departments responded to the call in blizzard gales of around 40 miles an hour. The Rockport pump

Council Decides To Buy Car

At their regular session on Monday night the Town Council decided on the purchase rather than lease of a new Police car and accepted the bid of Nelson Chevrolet of Sedro-Woolley. The new car will be a "Biscayne" Chevrolet, built to police specifications and was bid at \$2,885 with an allowance of \$565 for the old car. The final figure of \$2,320 will be paid off on monthly installments over a 3-year period. Delivery is to be made within 45 days.

There were four bidders on the new vehicle, two on the same model. Others were Ford and Plymouth models. The bids included transferring the radio and other equipment from the old car to the new.

New Fire Call System

Action was also taken to resolve the fire alarm and fireman call system as proposed by the phone company. The town will lease ten lines, giving a capacity of 20 phones for the department if ever required. The first installation will be of ten, with all having the extra equipment for setting off the siren. The phones will be installed at a total cost of \$132.50 and rental will be \$41.25 a month.

Bill Harris Resigns

A verbal resignation was received by Mayor Stadlman from Councilman Bill Harris, who is leaving the city to work for the Lone Star Corporation in Seattle. Harris, a hold over, will be replaced by Dick Gardiner, according to Mayor Stadlman. The appointment will be made upon receipt of Harris' written resignation.

was frozen on the run and still out of use for the Rockport call two days later.

The call to the Wilson house came on the evening of Dec. 30. Concrete and Marblemount Fire Departments were called to assist the Rockport department, but the Concrete fire truck was the only equipment in operation during the freezing winds, this time blowing about 25 mph.

The Wilsons' two-story frame house and contents were burned to the ground but firemen were able, under adverse weather conditions, to save the out-buildings, including the fruit cellar and a storage shed containing considerable lumber.

The Wilsons, their son, and small granddaughter just escaped the burning building with what they had on.

Rockport Fire Chief Bill Fritzinger said that the blaze probably started around an overheated flue in the attic. Concrete and Marblemount firemen were able to leave the scene about 10 p.m. but the Rockport Fire Department stayed until nearly 2 a.m. to be sure that no live sparks were left.

Rockport women kept the men supplied with hot coffee and sandwiches during the long, cold night vigil.