

Feathers

from the Duster

By The Over-time Editor

THE THEME of this edition is "How To Be Happy In a Snow-drift." As winter has settled on us with promise of staying for some time, we feel that nothing could be more futile than to lament the weather man and howl protests at the sky. The way to have your blood pressure and calm the nerves is to roll with the tide. Find something in it to enjoy. For a start we found that our snow is the prettiest and best quality we have had in many years. Clean and white, but more important than that—soft, powdery, fluffy. That is not what we are used to.

Our snow has always been the wet, soggy kind after the first few hours. It didn't brush off like dust—it soaked you to the skin. And it didn't squeak and pop underfoot, or cling to the trees for days like puff balls. We have a new variety and it's wonderful! So while it stays in its present form—enjoy it.

THE CAMERA came out with the first flakes and to fill in the pages empty of news because few people are going out, we have spotted some of them throughout the paper. And to keep the mood merry the captions are not dull, dreary, factual statistics on depth, temperature, and dew-point. All we are trying to do is call attention to the obvious beauty that surrounds our discomfort. Just too bad we misplaced Christmas. It couldn't have picked a better time of white.

AS FOR the gory details, the temperature has been below 32° most of the past week and down as low as 18. Snow depth from a foot in lower valley sections to 47 inches at Baker Lake. The kids, and some older, have been ice skating and bob sledding. A new gimmick is towing kids on rubber inner tubes which go lots of directions. The big disappointment is the snowmobile—snow too deep and too soft to support one.

Add to the happy side for the kids—school has been out during the worst (or best) days.

Now isn't all that nice? And even better to tell about?

Howard Miller Named Co. Board Chairman

Howard Miller, Skagit County Commissioner from the Third District, was named chairman of the board last Monday when the newly elected members, Arnold Hansen of the Second District and Bill Sullivan of the First District took their oaths and their seats at the commissioners' desk.

Miller is the hold-over commissioner. This is the first time in many years the board has been all of one party. All three are Republicans.

The board is now busy getting down to the business of running the county. The resignation of Claude Wilson was accepted and until a successor can be found as building inspector the job will be handled by Ron Donnerberg.

One of the first actions of the new board was to adopt the 1969 budget for the mental health program of \$28,815. They also transferred \$18,000 of gasoline tax money for use on the Baker Lake road.

Miller, up-river last week, said his main problem now is snow. He has had five plows on the upper valley roads and reports they are just now beginning to reach the more isolated roads.



BRONZE STAR FOR HEROISM—

Anker Evans Cited Under Fire

Sp 4 Anker C. Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Evans, has received a Bronze Star Medal for heroism in ground combat from the Department of the Army.

In a citation signed by Col. Lawrence M. Jones Jr., Artillery Acting Chief of Staff, Evans was cited for heroism in connection with military operations in Viet Nam on Sept. 5, 1968.

According to the official record:

"Specialist Four Evans distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 5 September 1968 while serving with the second platoon of Company D, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade.

"On that date, the company was engaged on a combat operation near the hamlet of Da Son when the second platoon came under intense automatic weapons fire from an enemy force of undetermined size. While providing covering fire for the other members of his platoon, Specialist Evans observed one of his comrades seriously wounded by

hostile fire. Disregarding the enemy fire, he moved to aid his injured comrade. Upon reaching the wounded man, he administered what medical aid he could and then yelled back to his position for a medevac helicopter.

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SCHOOL HOURS?

Schools in Concrete will probably open about an hour late until the weather breaks, Supt. Fred Culbertson said this week. Buses have been making their runs this week about an hour later than usual because of icy roads.

Concrete schools have lost five days of school so far when they were closed for a couple of days each week during the last two weeks of heavy snows and bad road conditions. The days lost will eliminate any extra days off for the district during the usual spring vacation.

GEORGE CHEMALIS ENDS LONG ILLNESS

A long-time resident of Upper Skagit Valley, George Harry Chermalis, died Jan. 19 at the United General Hospital after being in ill health for some time.

He had made his home in Marblemount area for 50 years and was a former employee of the Superior Cement Corporation, predecessor of the Lone Star plant in Concrete.

He was born April 23, 1897, in Corinthia, Greece, and came to the United States as a young man.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 23, at 2 p.m. in the Lemley Chapel at Sedro-Woolley. The Rev. Carlos Shafer of Mount Vernon, former pastor of Sedro-Woolley Presbyterian Church, will officiate.

Chermalis is survived by his wife, Marciel of Marblemount; a daughter, Mrs. Robert Radake of Mount Vernon; and a son, Charles Atkins of Kirkland, Wash.; a brother, Nick Chermalis, in Greece; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

FIRE DESTROYS BOB DAVIS RESIDENCE

A fire of undetermined origin gutted the house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Davis at Birdsview late last Saturday evening.

The house which is located next to the Davises' store, the Midway Valley Grocery, was unoccupied at the time.

Bill Blunt and Fred Bianchini of Concrete noticed smoke coming from the place as they were driving by around 11:30 p.m. Saturday evening and notified the Davises and the Birdsview Fire Department. Two trucks and 18 men from the Birdsview department, assisted by two trucks and 10 men of the Grasmere Fire Department, answered the alarm. They were at the scene to control the blaze from midnight until 3 a.m.

However, they were unable to save the house or the articles of furniture still in the house. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Council Decides Water Deal Too Uncertain

At a special meeting Tuesday evening of last week the town council again reviewed the proposed purchase of the Lone Star Cement Corp. water system. The final decision was negative, due mainly to the fact that the company will sell only half of the water rights on the spring that furnishes the system.

Another factor was the need for a reserve fund in addition to the \$15,000 cost of the system. About that same amount would be needed in cash for equipment and anticipated repairs. Under the alternative financing plan of revenue bonds the extra funding would not be possible. The deal, however, is still open for further negotiation.

Skagit Ranger Station Personnel Assigned

The reorganization of the Mt. Baker National Forest with the subsequent elimination of the Skagit Ranger District office at Marblemount has resulted in a number of transfers of personnel effective last week.

Those transferred to the Baker River District are Lawrence E. Bates as timber sales officer; Merlene J. Buller, clerical staff; and Charles N. Self Jr., forest worker.

Kenneth G. Gildroy, contracting officer's representative in Bellingham, has moved to the Darrington Ranger Station as district engineer. He is being replaced in the Bellingham office by Theodore J. Hentges, former Skagit district engineer. Also to Darrington from the Skagit District have gone Robert J. Riese, surveying technician; Alvie W. Kratzer, contracting officer's representative; and Sidney C. Jenkins, district packer.

Gerald B. Wood, former fire control officer on the Skagit Ranger District, has accepted a similar position with the North Cascades National Park. Phil Taylor and Gale Alger are also working for the new national park.

Gene B. Crane, engineering technician, has transferred to the Stanislaus National Forest in Sonora, California.

The former Skagit District headquarters at Marblemount has been eliminated and responsibility for this area has been assumed by the Baker River District at Concrete.

GREG GERRITS HOME

Cpl. Greg Gerrits, serving with the First Marine Division in DaNang, Viet Nam, the last year, returned home last Thursday to spend a three-week leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Gerrits. He will then report to Camp Pendleton, Calif., to finish out his service.

Senator Peterson Is Resource Chairman

Senator Lowell Peterson of Concrete will serve as chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Fisheries and Game according to an announcement by Senator Robert C. Bailey (D-South Bend), Majority Caucus Chairman.

Peterson also has been appointed to membership on the Committees on Cities, Towns and Counties; Highways; Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Air and Water Pollution; and on the Committee on Public Institutions.

Inconvenient, But You Have To Admit It Is Beautiful!



Concrete Herald Photo