

Feathers

from the Dust
By The Over-time Editor

THIS WINTER will make for conversation for many years so elaborating it with facts can only spoil the stories later on. All we know is that we couldn't transfer a worse time to transfer the printing of this paper from Mount Vernon to Marysville. A longer trip was acceptable, but not in this kind of weather.

You will notice, we hope, that this issue is much longer than those of the past three weeks. We came home from a holiday to find that our Mount Vernon press procedure had been altered and they had reduced the size of our page.

In the rush of getting back to routine it was two weeks before we realized our paper was shorter by one inch. The third week we knew it but couldn't do anything about it.

Our efforts have been directed for the past year toward trying to increase its size, so the only solution was to find another press room. We did so in Marysville. We hope now to continue experimenting with wider columns and the new format. One day we would like to return to the size that for so many years suited both the Herald and the subscribers. In this day of super-electronics and photography we have to follow the dictates of what the machines will accept. They are designed primarily to make money for the large newspapers and make money for us only when we conform.

Conformity has not been one of the Herald's virtues, so if we occasionally make changes in the appearance, hang on. The content should be familiar.

Jay Thompson Dies Of Cancer At Pasco

Word was received here last week of the death of Jay Thompson, former resident of Concrete, who died of cancer January 5th at Pasco. He was 48 years of age. Surviving him are his wife, Faye, and a stepson Wayne.

Jay Thompson came to Concrete as a steelworker when the cement plant was installing the dust collectors in 1948 and stayed on to become a well-known contractor in this area, doing cabinet work, remodeling and general carpentry.

He was quite active in civic affairs as a member of the Concrete Booster Club and also served as a member of the town council.



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BITTER WINTER COLD CONTINUES IN STATE

Snow storms and bad road conditions cancelled out most club meetings and other scheduled events in Concrete and outlying areas this week. Although Highway 20 was kept open to the lower valley, it was dangerous in many spots and snow was banked to 10 or 12 feet on both sides of the highway in the Rocky Creek area.

The Upper Skagit Community Council cancelled its reorganization meeting originally planned for last week, Jan. 21. The meeting, at which representatives from all civic groups are asked to appear to plan this year's activities, will be rescheduled as soon as weather conditions permit, said Richard Riehl, council president.

Schools in Concrete continued to operate this week, although bus runs were an hour later than usual schooltime. Many schools in the lower part of the valley were forced to remain closed Monday and Tuesday because of impassable roads.

The Marblemount Grade School was closed early Monday morning when the electric power in the area went off. The school is heated by electricity and could not be kept bearable for the children.

The temperature dipped to 6 degrees above zero at Marblemount on Monday morning, 10 to 12 degrees at Birdsview, and 13 at Concrete. Only slightly over an inch of fresh snow fell Sunday in the Concrete area.

The continued cold has frozen most lakes and as of Tuesday floating ice has been observed in the Skagit river.

Small Fire Smokes Up School Furnace Room

School officials found that a fire last Tuesday night in the furnace room at the Concrete High School had smoked the entire interior of the concrete room before it burned itself out sometime during the night. Supt. Fred Culbertson said that the fire probably resulted from clinkers building up in the oil, causing oil to run back into the furnace and igniting. Damage to the room was covered by insurance.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR AT UNITED GENERAL



Alexander Cobbin, new administrator at the United General Hospital, has taken up his duties there and after getting acquainted with the staff and facilities is getting down to the big job ahead. Besides operational procedures he is charged with the responsibility of installing the new Cardiac Care ward in the very near future, then the preparation for equipping and staffing the new 40-bed Extended and Long-Term Care Wing to be under construction later this year.

Jack Bradley To Be C. H. S. Counselor

Jack Bradley has been assigned to the position of guidance and counseling at Concrete High School in conformance to requirements laid down by the State Department of Education in its revised minimum standards for accreditation of Washington state high schools in October, 1967.

Principal Michal Elavsky said that Concrete High School is required to assign a counselor for a minimum of five class periods a day. State Department of Education specifies assignment of a trained counselor on the basis of one counselor for 400 students and the local high school comes within the minimum requirement with an enrollment of just over 280 students.

Besides the five periods a day assigned to counseling, Bradley (Continued on next page)

Miss Susan Buller, Bill French, Married

Marriage ceremony uniting Susan Buller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Buller of Rockport, and Sgt. William French Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. William French of Route 1, Concrete, was solemnized before close friends and relatives last Saturday evening.

The Rev. Fred Dellinger performed the 7 o'clock ceremony in the Freewill First Baptist Church at Rockport.

Approximately 30 guests attended the reception which followed in the C. C. D. Center in Concrete.

Both of the newly-married couple are graduates of Concrete High School with the class of 1966. The groom joined the Army in August of 1967, working in logging until then. The bride attended Western Washington State College at Bellingham for two years and was employed in a credit and loan association office in Seattle.

The young couple are now on a wedding trip to Seattle and will return to the French home, Route 1, Concrete, where they will stay until the middle of February. Sgt. and Mrs. French then will leave for Ft. Campbell, Ky., where they will be based until Sgt. French's discharge from the Army in August of this year.

George White Dies At 90

George W. White, 90, pioneer resident, teacher and businessman of Concrete, died last Thursday at the Valley Manor Rest Home in Mount Vernon where he had been for several months.

He was born Sept. 19, 1878, in St. Martins, New Brunswick, Canada, the son of Susan and William White. He received his education at St. Martins' public schools and was graduated from the Provincial Normal School in Fredericton, N. B.

He came West in January, 1900, settling first at Everett where he taught school. He was married there in 1905 to his school days sweetheart, Jessie Smith, also of St. Martins. She was the daughter of Capt. and Mrs. David Smith of New Brunswick and was born on board her father's ship off the coast of Peru. Mrs. White preceded her husband in death in 1967.

Mr. White was a teacher until 1920, teaching at Concrete from 1908 until 1915. He also taught at Anacortes and Granite Falls. In 1920 the family moved to Medina where Mr. White entered the mercantile business. Two years later he joined his brother-in-law, H. V. Davies, in establishing the Superior Mercantile Co. in Concrete.

Following Mr. Davies' death in 1924, Mrs. Davies became Mr. White's business partner and together they carried on the business until 1957 when it was sold to Hoovers' Food Center.

Mr. White was the last of the charter members of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. He was a long-time member and Sunday School teacher of the Concrete Community Bible Church. He also served on the local school board for nine years.

He is survived by one son, Dr. David White of Mount Vernon, and a grandson, Steven, now serving with the U. S. Navy.

Private graveside services were held last Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Hawthorne Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Mount Vernon. Memorial services will be conducted this Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Concrete Community Bible Church at 12:30 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the Concrete church.

FIRE DEPT. TURNOUTS

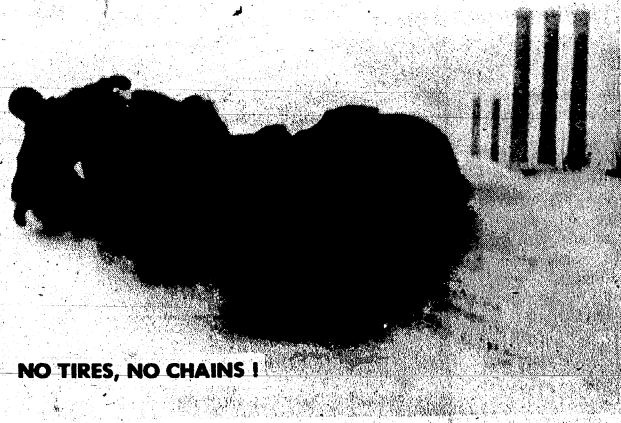
The fire siren will be heard in the Grasmere area on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. when it will be blown to signal turnouts of the Grasmere Volunteer Fire Department, said Chief Wendell McDaniel.

SPECIAL LEVY MEETINGS

First of three public meetings to discuss the special levy for the Upper Skagit Valley School District, which will come before the voters Feb. 11, will be held tomorrow night, Thursday, at 8 p.m., in the Birdsview Grange Hall.

Two other meetings will be held next week. One will be at the Concrete High School next Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 8 p.m., and the other at Marblemount Community Hall, Thursday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.

Board members, lay committee members, and the school superintendent will be present to answer questions and to present the facts about the levy.



NO TIRES, NO CHAINS!

—Concrete Herald Photo

The going thing in sledding is now inner tubes, and the ultimate thrill in this area is the toboggan run at Capital Hill. A banked turn at the lower end keeps the sliders from winding up on Highway 20. Here Short Horn, Kirk Bagby and Ken Coonc take the high side of the turn at about 30 miles an hour on three tandem tubes.