

The Concrete Herald

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Winters

From the Duster

By The Overtime Editor

WHAT IS SO rare as a perfect day in February. Bright and sun-temperature in the 60's. This is the picture in the upper valley over the weekend from Saturday morning through Monday. Like the flowers that blossom for a warm sun the motorists come out from under their winter coats and swarmed up the highway to enjoy the first appearance of spring. It may snow seven days deep next week, but we've had spring-like a few days as could ask for in April.

The weather also brought the staff out from under the covers with visits to Baker Lake on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday spent on the back roads of the upper valley toward Dungeness. Our wanderings led us finally to the end of the Sulphur road and the Sulphur Creek Camp where we ate our lunch in the sun at a brand new table above the river. The site is in excellent shape and in the process of being expanded with dozens of new individual camp sites, complete with tables and benches and fireplaces.

Sulphur Creek and Downey Creek, which we had not visited in a number of years, also rival each other in the west for convenience and comfort of the outdoor camp. Speaking of them, the weather was not exactly crawling with them but there were a few out for the weekend and the camps. In February?

THE SAGA of our adopted by long-haired, sweet faced cat taken an unfortunate turn recently. In the busy time of going on a boarder and getting cabin routine changed around the benefit of the new resident we failed to really get acquainted with Gwendolyn. She fooled us and we now feel to make matters right we should call him Harry.

CAR OVER

Eric V. Clune, 17, lost control of his 1969 Fiat on a curve on the Cascade-Rockport Road about a quarter of a mile east of Marblemount last Thursday, gouging the bank. The car received \$1,200 worth of damages. Clune's address was listed as Los Angeles, Calif.

Births

MAS DWAYNE DARSCH

Wayne and Loma Darsch of Rockport are the parents of a son, Mas Dwayne, born at the United General Hospital. The infant weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. at birth. He joins two brothers and two sisters at the Darsch home.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Eric Darsch of Concrete and Mrs. Woodrow Johnson of Rockport.



The entrance to the proposed Bayview Recreation area, closed by fallen tree and a locked chain will probably remain this way for some time. The Baker Lake improvement was a victim of economy cuts.

Work On Bayview Campground At Baker Lake Postponed By Cutbacks In Federal Funding

The proposed Bayview Campground and road at Baker Lake is among projects which will be delayed in the cutback by the federal government for new construction this fiscal year, in the drive to curb inflation.

Nearly \$1.5 million in projects already planned in the National Forests in Oregon and Washington have been deferred. Most of the projects affected are associated with recreation. Construction related to efforts to hold down lumber prices and ease the housing shortage was exempted.

Cutbacks in recreation area projects total \$1,013,100 and in recreation road and trail work, \$335,200.

The Forest Service had planned to spend \$242,900 on the Bayview development. Other projects in Mt. Baker National Forest which are caught in the cutback are the Boardman Lake trail, \$10,000; Heather Meadows recreation area pollution abatement, \$5,000 for drainfield portion of the sewage system.

Karen Johnson Hurt In Car Accident

Karen Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson of Rockport, was taken to the United General Hospital with neck and back pains following a car accident Friday afternoon in front of the Johnson home on Highway 20.

Karen, driving the Johnsons' 1968 sedan, had stopped on the highway preparing to make a left turn into the driveway when the car was struck from behind by a 1959 pickup driven by E. J. Witham of Marblemount. The pickup was totaled and the Johnson car damaged about \$1,000 worth.

Witham suffered severe laceration of the chin and a possible broken jaw. He was treated at the United General Hospital.

Special School Election To Lump Levy, Building & Repair Bonds

A special school levy election for the Upper Skagit School District will be held April 14 asking for a 16-mill levy to raise \$190,000 for maintenance and operation for the 1970-71 school year; and a bond issue of over \$1 million dollars for repairs to the high school and the cost of a new grade school.

To Close School At Marblemount

The Marblemount Grade School will close its doors at the end of the current school year this June, according to a decision made by the Upper Skagit school board this week. Children will be bussed to Concrete.

There now are only 18 children attending the first four grades. Last year parents were given the choice of sending their children to the Concrete school. At that time, 23 children were transferred. There were not enough of the older children left to continue teaching fifth and sixth grades.

Presently two teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Underwood, are hired to teach the four grades.

The school board decided that the costs of operating the school, coming to around \$25,000 a year, can not be justified for the enrollment.

Harry Martin, Marblemount district representative on the school board, voiced his objections to bussing small children the distance to Concrete. However, he said that after last year's splitting of the attendance by the parents, themselves, the expense of keeping the school open at present-day costs is just too high a price to pay.

Herb Larsen made a motion that the situation be reviewed every year for the next 10 years in case population increases make reopening of the grade school feasible.

A grade school has been maintained for the Marblemount area for over 60 years and on its present site for about 10 years.

Decision to place the bond issue on the ballot, together with the operating school levy, at this time was made by the board of education Monday night after hearing recommendations from the Lay Committee.

Jerry Clements and Robert Keith, speaking for the Lay Committee, said that the group was unanimous in its choice of a single bond issue as a one-package deal to raise enough funds for a new grade school together with monies to replace the heating and lighting systems in the high school.

The committee pledged its efforts to work for the bond issue and voiced the opinion that the public will be in favor of the entire "package" rather than considering a bond issue for high school renovation now and another bond issue for a new grade school later.

One of the stipulations in the committee's recommendations is that the present site of the grade school should be cleared if a new grade school is built on school property adjacent to the high school.

Main items proposed are a 20-room grade school, new gymnasium and cafeteria for joint use of both high school and grade school students, covered swimming pool, new heating and lighting systems in the high school and new floor in the present high school gym. Exact cost will be determined after estimates are received from the school's architects.

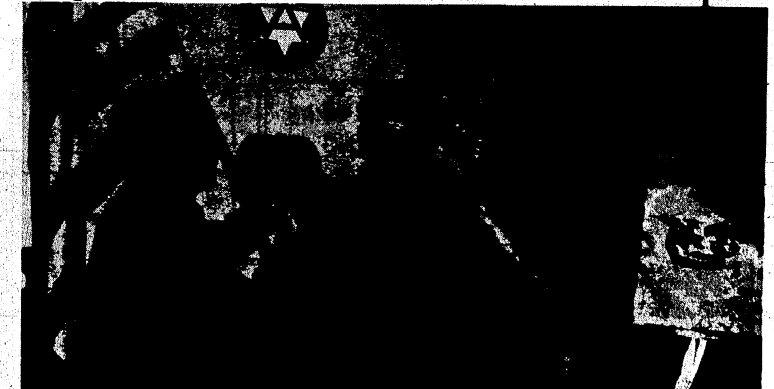
William Arild Johnson and Associates of Everett, chosen by the school board last fall to handle the school's construction needs, will be called in at once to firm up details and place a figure on the amount needed.

(Continued on page 2)

TAPE DECK STOLEN FROM CURTIS CAR

Verne Curtis of Concrete lost a tape deck and several items of clothing from his car early Saturday morning while the vehicle was parked on the revetment near the Lyric Theater in Mount Vernon. The wing window on the passenger side was smashed to gain entry into the locked car.

Rockport Green Beret Veteran Wins Promotion To Captain



PROMOTED to Captain in the Army, Lt. Kenneth O. Snyder, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Snyder of Rockport, receives his bars in a recent ceremony at Fort Lewis. Col. Louis J. North, Commander of the 1st Bat. Brigade and Ken's wife, Nancy, do the formal pinning to advance the rank of the be-medaled Green Beret Viet-Nam veteran.