

HAPPY NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Concrete Herald

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Peterson Vows to Continue Battle to Preserve N.S.H.

Concrete's State Senator Lowell Peterson has pledged to carry the battle to preserve Northern State Hospital to the senate in an attempt to over-ride Governor Daniel J. Evans decision to close the institution along with four others in what the governor calls an economy move.

Senator Peterson called on other Democratic legislators to inspect the various facilities faced with closure to ascertain true facts in each institution.

"I cannot help but feel that Governor Evans has been ill advised by his director of institutions, Dr. William R. Conte, particularly in closure of Northern State Hospital," Peterson said. "Dr. Conte's actions as far back as January of 1968 have indicated he held little support for Northern State."

"It is my feeling that if Dr. Conte has so mis-informed the governor on the operational picture of Northern State he may well have done the same to the other institutions involved," Senator Peterson continued. "If this is a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing, a full scale investigation is warranted."

Governor Evans announced Tuesday of this week that five institutions, including the state mental hospital in Sedro Woolley, will be closed July 1.

Although the governor has the power to cut funds or close institutions, the legislature could change the planned closures after it meets in January by providing funds to keep them open. If the legislature ignores the governor's request to close the hospital and establishes funds for its operation in the budget, the measure will go to Evans who then has the option of approving the budget as a whole or vetoing any individual item.

Evans said he regretted that news of the impending closures leaked out last week after he had told legislators but before personnel of the institutions had been told. Evans said he decided on closure of Northern rather than Western State Hospital near Tacoma because Western has a greater capacity and is closer to major population centers.

Skagit Chambers of Commerce are urging that all area residents write to the governor protesting his plan for the hospital closure here.

Steelheading ops in Area

Low and clear water conditions in most western Washington steelhead rivers, weekend anglers impressively on many streams.

Upper Skagit and Skykomish were the only rivers north of Seattle that showed good fish. All other waters were too low and clear. The upper Skagit was excellent though, coming through with a tally of a fish every other angler con-

Steelheading was also good on the Tule and East Lewis rivers. The latter held up its reputation for kicking out large Game Department fish. One on the East Lewis weighed one of 17 pounds and another of 16 pounds over the

which began falling last night, is expected to bring the rivers back in shape and also bring in new fish.

Prospects for the mid-week coming weekend fisherman are excellent, barring continued rains which would keep streams unfishable.

During the 70's—

A Review of the Year's Upper Skagit News

JANUARY 7— Financial problems again took attention of the town council Monday night. Bills for the month of December exceeded the funds for general expenses by several hundred dollars. The council passed an emergency ordinance transferring needed cash from other sources. The money will have to be returned to the proper funds when receipts.

The Dickinson house in Mill Creek won the sweepstakes for the best decorated house in the annual Holiday House contest sponsored by the Skagit Garden Club.

JANUARY 14— Over 300 visitors traveled through the North Cascades National Park during its first year reported Superintendent J. Conlon as the new year ended a full year of operation.

The Juniors' Community Center has been formally approved as the name of the club's new building on Thompson Street south side of the Baker Bridge.

JANUARY 22— Watson Realty in Condon was purchased by J. Robertson, who has been

with the firm since April of last year.

A Camp Fire group was started last Friday for girls in the Marblemount area. There were eleven girls in attendance at the first meeting.

JANUARY 28— Seniors who have completed high school requirements and will continue their education the third quarter will be released from school at the end of second quarter, according to a ruling made by the Concrete School Board at a special meeting last Wednesday.

Higher water in the Skagit brought a new run of steelhead to the upper valley over the past week. Boats drifting at the mouth of Lucas Slough netted 35 steelheads for fishermen over the weekend. Those fishing the lower river didn't do so well.

FEBRUARY 4— Six persons narrowly escaped drowning in the Skagit River Tuesday when their steelhead boat broke up near the Rockport Bridge. If their cries for help had not been heard by Robin Adair, 16, of Rockport, he plunged into the icy water, pulled a six-year-old boy to safety and assisted in rescue of the entire group.

David Wahl, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Emil Wahl, received his bachelor's degree in education at Western Washington State College at the end of fall quarter.

FEBRUARY 11— Kenneth O. Snyder, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Snyder of Rockport was promoted from lieutenant to captain in recent ceremonies at Fort Lewis.

Fishing was fine last week with 19 fishermen checked with 22 steelhead along the Skagit River from Rockport to Concrete on Tuesday.

FEBRUARY 18— The Newhalem power plant, Seattle City Light's first Skagit powerhouse, is undergoing checkups before going back into operation this month. The plant has been rebuilt after fire destroyed it July 18, 1966.

The Skagit County road crew is clearing a one-mile stretch of new highway on the old Sauk road from Government Bridge to Hidden Valley Ranch.

FEBRUARY 25— The route of the new state highway through Concrete was approved by the town council Tuesday. A previous plan, offering only one access to the main part of town, had been rejected earlier. According to the

new plan access to main street will be made at E street, the present outlet at Kenny's Corner, and a new outlet from the highway to the narrow street running south from City Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Holyfield will mark the milestone of 50 years of marriage February 29 when their three daughters and families gather for the occasion.

MARCH 4— Two armed robbers held up the Log Cabin Tavern in Concrete shortly after 10 p.m. closing hour Sunday and got away with about \$150 in merchandise, mostly cigarettes and cash.

County Commissioner Howard Miller reports that engineering and plans for a new bridge at Illabot Creek on the South Skagit Highway are now completed and bids have been called for steel.

MARCH 11— Amount of the bond issue which will be submitted to voters in the coming school election for construction of a new grade school and improvements to the high school has been set at \$1,350,000.

Pvt. Philip G. Alger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gale Alger of Marblemount, is now taking nu-

clear training at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

MARCH 18— A new real-estate development, to be known as River Lane Community will be opened for sale this weekend. The property was originally platted by Leonard Everett and the new owner, George Theodoratus, is retaining most of the tracts as they appeared on the original plat.

MARCH 25— Over 2,700 patients were admitted to United General Hospital during the last year, according to operating statistics for 1969 released last week. Karen Johnson, senior at Concrete High School, was chosen to play first clarinet in the annual All-State Band which performed for the public last Saturday in Yakima.

APRIL 4— Four juveniles were arrested in this area during the weekend for killing deer out of season, reports Wildlife Agent Bill Hoffman of the Game Department.

Children by the dozens scoured the hillsides of the Dalles Park for colored Easter eggs in the annual hunt last Saturday afternoon. Mike Coffell and Dick Rathvon were in charge of the event for the sponsoring Lions Club.

(To Be Concluded Next Week)