

Feathers

from the Duster

By The Over-time Editor

IF YOU get down to the facts on what people like to do with their spare time, the upper Skagit valley is ideally placed as a spot to call home. Take our own activities of the past few weeks in which we have spent a few days at the ocean, a day on Ross Lake, several days and evenings at Baker Lake, one evening on Mt. Sauk, a day cruising the San Juan Islands—all with no strain of the long trip that people must face in less fortunate locations.

We can see scenery and enjoy places that would, and do, draw travelers from several states away. Yet we can dig clams and fish a mountain stream in the same day if we wish.

Living right at the spot is not thrilling. You have to go a little ways to get out of your own back yard. Still, we have one of the largest backyards to play in at any time. The rest of the nearby pleasures are bonuses.

THE IDEA of a name change for Concrete is still being put forward as part of the rebirth of our town when the cement dust disappears. Our kidding of a year or so ago brought in a lot of serious suggestions, but as is always the case—changing a town's name is not as easy as it may seem. You shake the entire world if you try. Every map will be immediately wrong, the government bureaus will be thrown into a tizzy changing records; the state government would be upset from voter registration to the supreme court. On top of that titles on all town property would require revision. Somebody might even get crossed up and mis-mail our tax statements. Chaos, no less.

Much as we would personally like to call the town Dundustin and remodel it on a Scotch motif with merchants all wearing kilts for the tourist trade, we fear the ask is just too big. Concrete is too solidly poured and set.

STATE now has Concrete pegged at population 700, which may or may not be a true figure. In the \$22 million to be distributed to towns and cities from the state "aid" our town will receive \$242.40. This is down \$6.73 from the March distribution figure. We should feel properly deflated.

● VISITORS FROM ALASKA

Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. McGuire of Fairbanks, Alaska, left last week for home after a couple of weeks here with Mr. McGuire's brother and family, the Clarence McGuires. They had flown down in their private plane to attend the Masonic Grand Lodge in Seattle on June 18th.

Births

● RODNEY ALLEN BLUNT

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Blunt at the United General Hospital on June 22. The young man was named Rodney Allen. He weighed 9 lbs. 5 1/2-oz., and was 21 inches long at birth.

● TERESA GAIL CHAMBERS

Teresa Gail is the name chosen by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Chambers, formerly from Louisiana, for their five-pound, five-ounce daughter who arrived at the United General Hospital on Saturday, June 22. The young lady, who was 16 1/2 inches tall, is the first child for the Chambers who live in one of the cabins at the Grandy Creek store.

The Concrete Herald

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Peterson's Committee Recommends Hill Job



Senator Lowell Peterson of Concrete at a viewpoint at the top of the Lewiston Spiral Highway in Idaho during an investigation of the highway system in Southeastern Washington.

Senator Lowell Peterson, (D-Concrete) chairman of the Subcommittee of Highway Extensions of the full Interim Committee on Highways, announced that the sub-committee will recommend that the Colton to Clarkston Steptoe Canyon Road should be placed on the State Highway system following an investigation a week ago.

Senator Peterson made the announcement immediately following a tour and study of the need for an adequate route from Asotin County to Pullman, Colfax and on to Spokane.

The present Lewiston Spiral Highway, a tortuous route which drops over 2,000 feet in 11 miles, is the only access now from Asotin and Garfield counties to Southeastern Washington. The new Steptoe Canyon Highway will eliminate the Spiral Highway.

Peterson personally toured the proposed route by boat, car and private plane before conducting an extensive study of reports and exhibits and presiding at the four-hour public hearing preceding the committee's decision.

The committee's recommendation was based on the premise that the rich cattle, wheat, and forest products area will soon be served by barge traffic from the Coast via the Columbia and Snake Rivers, and that the future growth of the area must be assured by adequate highways.

Peterson pointed out that Army Engineers Corps' knowledge of the state's intention will enable them to build an expensive portion of the new highway while they are relocating a present county road above the high-water pool line.

The pool and relocation will result from federal construction of Lower Monumental Dam on the Snake River.

Council Seeks Definite Kiln Closure Date

Representatives of the Town of Concrete were in Mount Vernon last Wednesday to attend a meeting of the Northwest Air Pollution Control Board to ask that body to check with the Lone Star Cement Corp. to see that their commitment to close out their plant here will be carried out on schedule. There had been rumors of continuation of plant operation until the middle of 1969.

The board had a letter from Jack Hoover, mayor pro-tem, who was backed up in person by Councilmen Ken Coons and Chas. Dwelley. Also speaking for the businessmen were Senator Lowell Peterson and Virg Walston, real estate agent.

The board assured the group that they would contact the company in regard to the phasing-out schedule and would take action if the dust producing kilns were kept in operation later than the phase-out date of December, 1968.

The delegation told the board they had no objection to plant operations of grinding or shipping back up in person by Councilmen Ken Coons and Chas. Dwelley. Also speaking for the businessmen were Senator Lowell Peterson and Virg Walston, real estate agent.

Bids To Be Called On Baker Lake Highway

The State Highways Department has called for bids on the draining and grading of approximately two miles of the Baker Lake Road in Skagit County.

Bids will be accepted until 10 a.m. on July 17 at the Highways Licenses Building in Olympia and will be opened publicly.

Forster Al Brown To Go To Okanogan

Albert C. Brown, Fire Control Officer on the Baker River Ranger District for the last 2 1/2 years, has received a promotion and transfer to the Tonasket Ranger District on the Okanogan National Forest.

Mr. Brown's entire Forest Service career has been on the Mt. Baker National Forest. He began in June 1956 on a trail crew on the Darrington District. Several seasons later, he moved to the Skagit District where for five years he supervised maintenance and construction of all trails. In February, 1966, he came to the Skagit District where for five years he supervised maintenance and construction of all trails. In February, 1966, he came to the Baker River District as Fire Control Officer. In addition to fire prevention and suppression and trail maintenance, he has had charge of all recreation facilities in the Baker Lake area.

Mr. Brown assumed his new duties at Tonasket this week. His wife, Marilyn, and daughters, LaMura, Heather and Michelle, will join him in the near future.

Busy Session Monday Night As Town Council Works Late

The Town Council had one of their busiest meetings of the year on Monday night when they handled a variety of business items ranging from acceptance of the marshal's resignation to approval of a permit to hold a street dance.

The request for a street dance was by Geo. Regan, secretary of the Concrete Eagles who will be holding the anniversary celebration here on July 25, 26 and 27. They plan to hold another Teen age dance in the area in front of city hall.

In other business the town signed an agreement with Rural Fire District No. 10 for the gradual withdrawal of Dist. 10 equipment now being used by the local department. The agreement calls for Concrete to keep operating the white truck on local

fires and provide two men with the truck when needed in emergency by the rural firemen. They will also maintain and operate the emergency panel truck owned by the district. When the town's new truck arrives all equipment and the white truck will be returned to the district to be operated from the Grasmere hall.

A mutual aid agreement will be made up so that the two departments can be operated separately after that time, but each on call to the other in case of emergency.

WATER SYSTEM

The proposed purchase of the Lone Star water system was discussed and the representative of Slaviv-Kores, Inc. was instructed to meet with the company and prepare details of cost of operation and possible revenue for the town officials to study.

The town also gave approval of an offer from the Housing & Development Agency of \$3,000 for preliminary planning on the sewer system from Concrete. The work now being done on the project is under a mandatory time table which calls for this to be done within the next few months.

TO ADD TO AIRPORT

Councilman Harris reported that he had received a request from Puget Power for permission to extend the airport landing strip and that a special Council meeting had been held to authorize them to go ahead with the project. Andy Miller reported by phone that his company had decided to build a 400 foot extension and cut the brush on the remaining 1,000 feet. The town agreed to furnish what help they could on grading the finished runway. The field is now getting more use by large.

(Continued on page 4)

Class Of 1948 Will Hold Reunion Dinner

The Concrete High School class of 1948 will hold its 20th anniversary reunion at the CCD hall on Saturday, July 13.

A social hour at 7 p.m. will be followed by dinner. All class members, relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Dinner will be served by reservation only. Reservations must be made by next Monday, July 8, with Bob Keith, Newhall 7-4318, or Nola Powell, Oak Harbor OR5-2360.

Women's Ball Team Wins From Burlington

The Concrete Dusters won their game with the Burlington women's team at Burlington last Thursday evening. Score was 11-3.

The Concrete team now stands 3-1 in the Skagit Valley Women's Softball League.

The local girls' next game will be Monday, July 8, with Sedro-Woolley. The game will be played at Concrete.

SWIM CLASSES NOW OPEN AT SCHOOL POOL



Opening day of swimming season at the Concrete pool brought out 170 swimmers, all ages. Life Guard Ilo Sande is instructing classes during the morning hours. Fifteen beginners are learning fundamentals, and 19 beginners over six years old were in first-day classes.