

Feathers

from the Duster

By The Over-time Editor

THOSE WHO gauge the good holiday weather by the extent of their sunburn are having a field day this week. One of the perfect Fourth of July holidays in many years was enjoyed in the valley by all natives who stayed close to home and by many thousand others who came to borrow our scenery.

It was weather for camping under the sky without cover, or even much in the way of blankets. The days were bright and hot, the air clear and fresh. So mark 1968 in the record book as one to remember.

WE OF the Herald spotted the four or five days with part time work and part time play, ending up with the conclusion that the work is a bothersome deterrent to complete enjoyment of fine weather. The highlight of the week was spending the Fourth atop Mount Sauk.

The once formidable climb is now within the reach of all over the fine trail from the end of mountain road. About an hour and a half to Switzerland, Skagit style. Once a person breaks over the top of the ridge (and Sauk is just a crater-rim ridge with lake in the hollow) the vista is breathtaking. Open meadow for miles, broken with park-like patches of trees. From the former lookout cabin the full horizon is unobstructed. Mt. Baker on one side, Glacier Peak on the other and all the snow peaks of the Cascades crowding around as if watching you back.

We met one couple with two youngsters and a dog. They told us they learned of the trip from a guide book. Another couple, in their 70's, took the hike casually and indicated that it was one of their favorite walks.

Local residents who have not seen all the sights of their own back-yard had better get busy. Visitors think we are not too bright.

FOR THE umpteenth time the Puget Power sign that lights the east end of the Baker bridge in Concrete is dark. Thanks to our rock-throwing vandals who have knocked out all the neon tubes. Not counting hundreds of dollars spent needlessly to try to keep the sign in good repair, the loss of the lighting at night is costly. Somewhere there must be purgatory for those whose only mark on earth will be the trail of destruction they leave behind them.

WE HAD a complaint, and correctly so, from Marshal Joe (Continued on page 4)

Births

TRIXIE BETH BRINSON

A daughter, Trixie Beth, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brinson of Anacortes on July 3 at Skagit Valley Hospital. The young lady weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. and measured 19 inches long. Maternal grandparents of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harris of Concrete. Paternal grandparents are the Cecil Brinsons of Route 1, Sedro-Woolley.

HELEN IRENE BULLER

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buller of Marblemount are parents of a daughter, Helen Irene, born June 24 at the United General Hospital. The baby weighed 8 lbs., 8-oz., at birth and was 20 inches long. She joins a 3-year-old brother, Patrick. Her only surviving grandparents are Mrs. Buller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tibbets of Elk River, Idaho.



Camping Spots Are At Premium Over Holiday

The city came to Baker Lake over the holidays with perfect summer weather bringing out thousands of campers from all over the state.

The official count was set at 8,000 persons by the check of the Baker River District ranger's station. And a view of the lake from above showed the lake lined with trailers, campers and cars and tents with vehicles parked in every available space. Campgrounds were completely filled and side roads were crowded with the overflow.

Swimming, fishing, and water skiing were in full swing throughout the long holiday.

All roads on the Baker River District, with the exception of Blue Lake Road, are now open for travel. A temporary foot bridge has been placed across Rainbow Creek making the Swift Creek Trail passable. A new bridge will be constructed later this summer. Sauk Mountain Trail, Upper Baker Trail, Lower

(Continued on page 4)

Field Day Saturday At Hambleton Ranch

The Glacier View Ranch near Rockport, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hambleton, will be the site of an Angus Field Day this Saturday, July 13. The event is sponsored by the Western State Angus Association.

The program, which starts promptly at 10 a.m., is open to the public without charge. A seminar on market grading of cattle will be followed by a tour of the Glacier View Ranch and inspection of the Hambleton's prize Angus cattle.

Highlight of the morning will be the state championship showmanship contest for junior members of the Angus Association.

Darlene Hambleton and Bill Maddox of Chehalis will represent Western Washington with Ken Atwood of Tacoma, alternate. They will vie with four other contestants, two regional winners from Eastern Washington and two from Central Washington.

First and second will be chosen from the six to compete in the national showmanship contest in Lexington, Ky., in August. The State Angus Association will help defray expenses.

A free luncheon will be served at 11 p.m. Young Pioneers 4-H Club of Conway will sell soft drinks, candy bars, and ice cream during the day.

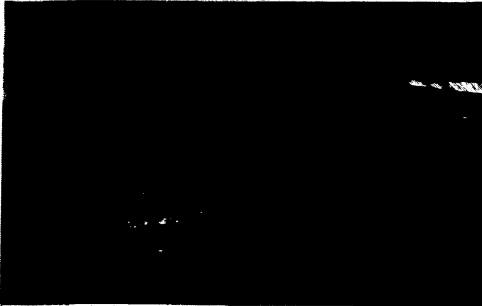
A similar field day, held four years ago, attracted about 300 people.

Pioneer Picnic To Be Held On August 1st

The 64th annual meeting and picnic of the Skagit County Pioneer Association will be held Thursday, Aug. 1, at Pioneer Park in LaConner.

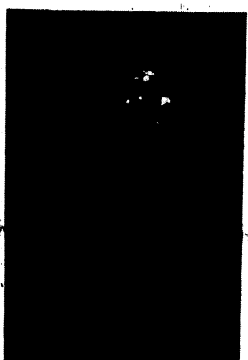
The Pioneer Association is headed this year by Fred Cartwright of Anacortes, president; Charles Dwyer of Concrete, vice president; Mrs. Veda Fallner, Mount Vernon, secretary; W. F. McCormick, Mount Vernon, treasurer; and John F. Conrad of Burlington, historian.

Shake Awning Decorates Main Street Building



First to get started on store-front remodeling being talked as a town-wide campaign for next year, was the Ricksbaugh building on north Main Street. This clever shake and paneling job was done last week end. The building houses the Ricksbaugh beauty shop and the Two Rivers Realty office.

School Superintendent Takes Over Position



SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT FRED CULBERTSON

The new superintendent of the Upper Skagit School District arrived in town this week to begin his duties by filling out the teaching staff for the next term. Fred Culbertson, coming here after three years as superintendent at Elma, will be moving to the community soon with his wife and one son, who will be a Sophomore in high school. The two older children are out of school and away from home.

Mr. Culbertson came to Elma after four years at Twisp and his prior experience included teaching and seven years in principalship positions.

The hiring of an unusual chain reaction in which Bob Lisle, the past superintendent here went to Granger; the Granger man went to Omak; the Omak man to Elma; and Mr. Culbertson to complete the circuit by coming here.

IUND HOME SOLD

Mr. and Mrs. Charles White of Marblemount have purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene (Bill) Iund at Grasmere.

Mr. White is a retired Army captain. The Whites have three children, Chuck, Wayne, and Flora, all attending Concrete High School. They expect to take possession of their new home in August.

The transaction was handled by the Two Rivers Realty of Concrete.

Plant Closure Dec. Confirmed

Two letters this week confirmed the intent of Lone Star Cement Corp. to end their kiln operation here by the end of the year. Rumors of extension of operations into 1969 brought an inquiry before the North West Air Pollution Authority at their recent meeting in Mount Vernon.

A letter from the Authority, by Errol Nelson, Air Quality Specialist, to the town council, stated:

"Enclosed is a copy of the reply received by us regarding our inquiry into your complaint about Lone Star Corp, presented to the NWAPA Board of Directors on June 26. As indicated by the reply it appears that Lone Star still intends to cease operations by the end of the year.

"Under the circumstances there is little anyone can do to alleviate your present situation. I hope you and the citizens of Concrete can bear with it a little longer secure in the knowledge that an intolerable situation will cease to exist in less than six months."

Dick Farrow, Regional Vice President of Lone Star Cement Corp. answered the board with the following letter:

"In answer to the question you have raised, I can state that our Concrete plant will be phased out this year with all clinker burning operations ceased prior to year end. The exact scheduling of this will depend upon market demand and construction progress of the expansion of our Seattle plant. In no event, however, will the kilns at Concrete be operated beyond year end.

"In regard to the dust collectors at Concrete, I assure you they are in good repair and in operation continuously. We will continue to operate the collectors in conjunction with all kiln burning operations."

'48 Class Reunion This Week End

Replies have been received from most of the 20 graduates of the Concrete High School class of 1948 who will gather this Saturday, July 13, for their 20-year reunion.

The 7 p.m. social hour will be followed by dinner in the CCD center in Concrete.

CEDARGROVE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OPENED



Just across the Skagit from Concrete a new subdivision, called "Cedargrove" is now open for sales from this newly constructed office. Occupying the building will be Mickey McGuire, head salesman for the development company. The tract features piped water, blacktop roads (under way), a large park and public boat launching strip. The plat shows 220 lots.