

## Feathers

from the Duster

By The Over-time Editor

**EARTHQUAKE!** That's what it felt like, but it wasn't. The residents around the Sauk, Van Horn, and Concrete areas hung on to their chairs last Thursday night about 7:45 p.m. when the ground and their homes shook like worried by a playful dog for several seconds. When no indication of widespread damage was heard over the radio or TV, the shock was finally credited to a sonic blast from a plane breaking the sound barrier overhead. Another such blast occurred about 11:00 p.m. and this week on Sunday night one of earthquake proportions was repeated about 10:00 p.m. Apparently there are aerial maneuvers going on and there will be more of the same. When your house comes completely unglued—sue the government.

A RAINY weekend was no comfort to the hunters or the football fans. A small crowd at Friday night's game was charged to the preceding downpour which took a brief respite during the contest. The evening was still dismal, however, for rabid Lion boosters. On Saturday we sat in the rain in Seattle to see the Oregon Ducks outswim the Huskies on their brand new indoor-outdoor carpet. Nobody got muddy, but neither fans nor players enjoyed the sappy game. Carpets are better under roofs.

ALL THE frankness in print, which has released from censorship all the dirty talk that has for centuries been banned in public communication, makes us a little disturbed. Not that we are too prudish to accept the fact that people do talk that way at times, but that it is taking something away from us. For one thing, it leaves the average person no refuge at all—and opens the field of outhouse diction to all ages. The writers who used a word or two as bait to get thrill seekers to read their stuff have now been passed up by the news magazines that appear in the classrooms as current event texts. There are no bars, no barriers. Saddest of all is that it robs all the devoted cussers of their choicest shockers and thereby reduces them to boring conversationalists. And there was always that devilish feeling that kids secretly enjoyed in knowing a lot of words that mother didn't. Complete freedom often robs you of much more than you gain. Now that all those words are in type on open pages we feel that our vocabulary is not expanded, but merely dehydrated. Fudge, Shucks, and Gee-Whiz, fellows!

IS HAS been suggested that we carry weekly weather reports for the benefit of those new part-time residents who will want to spend weekends on the Skagit. Our stock prediction is rain, which will give a 50% accuracy this time of year.

## United General Wins Suit On Patient Death

A damage suit against the United General Hospital for negligence was denied in Skagit County Superior Court last Thursday.

The suit had been brought against the hospital, its director, Charles L. Lampson; Dorothy Matlock, director of nurses; and Carol Seay, a nursing supervisor, by A. M. Parsons of Sedro-Woolley. Parsons claimed negligence in the death of his wife caused when an oxygen tent ignited and exploded.

Testimony showed that Mrs. Parsons had been smoking when the fire occurred.



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## School Not On State New Construction List

A report on the Concrete grade school building made at last week's school board meeting by a representative from the State Department of Education showed that it is unlikely that state funds would be forthcoming for any type of building project within the district during the next two years.

Louis Bloom, a consultant from the school administration finance department, explained that the Upper Skagit District No. 102 is not included in appropriations approved during the 1969-71 biennium. Without prior approval and approval of projects, no funds are allotted during the two-year periods except in cases of extreme emergency in which children are left unhoused.

His discussion covered procedures accepted by the state to procure state funds. Even if the local district did qualify, it would be able to get only 20 percent on a matching funds rate because of the value of the district, which is higher than the average throughout the state.

The board tabled further consideration of the building until a later date.

## CHANGE BUS DRIVERS—

C. D. Bauman of Marblemount will drive the school bus for the late afternoon players' activity run four days a week with Andy Thompson retaining the morning and afternoon Diablo to Concrete runs. Superintendent Fred Culbertson said that the bus runs will be re-evaluated and reorganized on an equal basis of time and pay.

A teacher's aide will be hired by the district to teach vocal music an hour or two a day in the fourth and fifth grades, according to a decision made by the board. The board also approved the purchase of instruments for beginning hand instruction to sixth graders. Cost of eight or ten instruments would be between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

Supt. Culbertson reported on negotiations with Seattle City Light officials now in progress to work out a revised formula for prorating payment for children from the City Camps at Diablo and Newhalem. Payments will be made on a semester basis instead of at the end of the school year.

The meeting closed with a discussion of the position of the newly-organized Citizens Advisory Group to the Board of Education and to the community. Robert Keith represented the lay committee at the school board session.

## Welcome Reception For Episcopal Pastor

The Rev. Arthur A. Vall-Spinoza, new rector of the Episcopal Church, in charge of missions of Northern Skagit County, will be welcomed at a potluck dinner tonight, Oct. 16, at the St. James Episcopal Church in Sedro-Woolley.

Dr. Vall-Spinoza is serving the mission churches in Anacortes, Sedro-Woolley, Rockport, and Newhalem. Dr. and Mrs. Vall-Spinoza are making their home in Anacortes.

## HORSETAIL FALLS PIERS AWAIT BRIDGE STEEL



—Concrete Herald Photo

Held up by the steel shortage, work on the spectacular Horsetail Falls bridge on the North Cross-State Highway, work was at a standstill at the time of the official "break-through". While the completed concrete piers stood marking the location of the crossing, drivers had to travel the narrow lane cut into the sides of the ravine to get around. From the bridge site one can look about 1,000 feet straight down into the canyon that gives access from Diablo Lake to the Ross Powerhouse.

## Death Comes To June Wilcox Of Newhalem

June Wilcox, wife of Paul Wilcox of Newhalem, passed away last Sunday at United General Hospital following an extended illness.

She was born Oct. 6, 1922, in Vancouver, B.C. and graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1941. She was married to Mr. Wilcox in Mount Vernon on Nov. 6, 1943. They have made their home at the City Light Camp at Newhalem for the last 24 years.

Mrs. Wilcox had been employed as a waitress by City Light. She was a member of the Newhalem Rifle and Pistol Club.

Surviving besides her husband are a son, Donald M. Wilcox, and a daughter, Nancy K. Wilcox, both of Newhalem, and a sister, Mrs. Chester W. Wright of Seattle.

Services will be held this Friday, Oct. 18, at 1:30 p.m. from the Lemley Chapel in Sedro-Woolley. The Rev. Olin Nordseth of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Seattle will officiate.

The family suggests remembrances to the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.

## Traffic Charge Only On Three Car Accident

In the traffic case involving Mrs. Ken Cabe last week there was no citation for driving under influence of liquor. At the trial Wednesday night she pled guilty to negligent driving with "drinking involved." A fine of \$77 was imposed by Judge Bill Blunt.

## Sedro-Woolley Forms Civic Group To Work With Park Officials

Initial plans for a Skagit County Advisory Board for the North Cascade National Park were outlined last week at an organization meeting held in Sedro-Woolley.

Business and professional men throughout the county were named to the advisory group which will act as a liaison body between people in the county and administrators of the new national park.

Chairman Dave G. McIntyre of Sedro-Woolley explained, "The North Cascades Park is here and we all know that it is here to stay. For those of us who might have questioned the idea in the beginning it behooves us to work now for its full development."

"In a matter of a few years we will be showing the nation one of its most beautiful areas. It is the purpose of the Skagit County Advisory Board for the North Cascades National Park to begin now for this period of progress for Skagit County."

Five committees set up by the board and suggested members are:

Housing for park personnel—Bill Snelson, Arnel Johnson, Ernie Green, Curt Wilson.

Publicity—Dale Thompson, Charles Dweilley, Lowell Peterson, Leighton Wood, Gary Evans.

Planning—Fred Martin, Dudley Ross, J. W. Higgins, Howard Miller, Bob Hunter.

Public relations—Herb Nightingale, Frances Miller, Vern Sims.

Finance—D. G. McIntyre, Sig Berglund, Bob Wilcox.

## \$300,000 For Cascade Park Planning

An appropriation of \$300,000 for planning work on the North Cascade National Park was passed by the Senate late last week.

The funds are to be used by July 1, 1969, for management and protection, maintenance and rehabilitation only.

## NEW CONCRETE DEPT. FIRE TRUCK ARRIVES



The new fire truck for the Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. arrived in town last Friday evening with former Fire Chief Armond Bianchini at the wheel. The truck had been brought out from the mid-west factory of the Howe Fire Apparatus Co. by the regional distributor and was picked up in Seattle. The big truck just barely fitted into the hall, being wider and higher than the truck it replaced. The feature most noticeable in the celebration that followed its arrival was a new type siren signal that whoops rather than wails. You'll be hearing more of it.