

ISLAND COUNTY Times

VOLUME LVII

COUPEVILLE, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1954

Number 22

Taxpayer Group Plans Suit Against County

A suit against Island county for recovery of taxes paid under protest this year was virtually assured last Friday when the Island County Taxpayer's Association, meeting at Freeland Grange, voted to retain Attorney Russell Johnson of Oak Harbor as their representative in their battle over increased valuations on property on South Whidbey.

In a letter read at the meeting, Johnson offered to bring suit, for a fee of \$500 against the county for one or more taxpayers in an effort to recover that portion of this year's taxes paid under protest. Johnson's offer set \$400 as his fee for continuing the case in event that either party to the dispute appeals.

The action will be the second brought into court by the association in their battle with the assessor's office. Last summer they sought an injunction to prevent new valuations from being placed on the rolls for this year's taxes. The court refused to issue the injunction at that time.

Fridays meeting at Freeland broke into a near free-for-all immediately after adjournment.

The meeting was carried on in a subdued fashion and in rapid fire order, the group adopted by-laws, changed the name from South Whidbey Taxpayer's Association to Island County Taxpayer's Association and retained its previous officers, Gus Skarburg, president; Paul Kimball, vice president; Helen McIntosh, secretary and W. B. Grubb, treasurer.

As it became apparent that the meeting was about to adjourn, Deputy Assessor John Leipman asked for the floor. Vice president Paul Kimball asked that he wait until the meeting adjourned, and then gave the deputy assessor the floor.

With the meeting thrown open, Leipman was assailed by a dozen angry and near threatening taxpayers.

"Did you know," thundered Russell Wachob, "that you violated two laws when you put the new valuations on this year's tax statements?"

"I did not," Leipman replied, "What were they?"

"You violated the law when you placed the new valuations on South Whidbey while leaving the old valuations on the rest of the county. And you violated the law when you revalued improved property while returning the old assessments on unimproved property."

Leipman's answer was lost in the hub-bub which immediately broke out.

While several of the taxpayers were in a shouting mood, the majority appeared to be in a reasonable mood, asking only that steps be taken to re-check their valuations, a promise the Deputy Assessor had made before the outcry arose.

Previous to the outbreak which followed adjournment, vice president Paul Kimball said there would be "a day of reckoning when the election is held." The group decided it will back no candidate, however, without unanimous consent.

BPW Begins Plans For Sr. Breakfast

Business and Professional Women's club met on Tuesday evening of last week at the home of Mrs. Harry Fakkema for a "work night" project, working on place cards and favors for the annual Senior Girls breakfast which is sponsored each year by the club for all graduating seniors of Whidbey Island.

Mrs. Chet DeVries was introduced as a visitor, and following the business meeting and the work period, the hostess served a nice lunch to the members present. Mrs. Leonard Freese, president, presided.

MUSICAL

"Silver Lining" is the theme for the second annual student-produced musical to be held March 26 at the Coupeville high school. Among the various acts will be skits, tricks, magic, dancing and songs. Mary Lu Bowers is in charge of the program, and tickets are 50¢ for adults, 25¢ for high school and 15¢ for grade school.

Signs of The Times

By Dorothy Nell

One of our many failings becomes more apparent when Spring lurches onto the horizon blowing its nose and wringing out its petticoats. It is then we write poetry by the ream, all about the birds and the bees and the crocus and the budding trees, the lambs and the chickens and the gardens. All of the stuff that poets and pseudo-poets have bleated about for years and years. Some of it slightly nauseating, some of it sickly, some of it fairly good (it says here in small print) but all of it an outlet of some sort.

One thing that has kept us in favor with our friends, however, is the fact that we seldom try to foist upon them the results of our poetic moods. Our very best output invariably finds itself tucked away in an encyclopedia, for instance, or used as a bookmark in a favorite cookbook. It is always surprising to the author (and sometimes downright embarrassing) to run across the poetic efforts of an earlier and emotional day while leafing through a book devoted to extolling the advantages of chicken house fertilizers against the commercial varieties of fertilizer, or worse yet, to loan a book to a friend and have him return it with a leer and off-hand remark about a poem he discovered between chapters six and seven.

One quickly re-reads the poem, does a double take on the person to whom the book was loaned, evaluates the effect of the poem against the hoped-for esteem of the loanee, and resolves never again to write a poem, never.

But come Spring Write about peep in spring, quack Ape, the boy editor. Write about no malice. Although young, the thrill of young love and the first guy that asks you to a prom.

That's one nice thing about you old folks, he went on, you can always remember back when.

As he limped back to his office we felt no malice. Although young, he'll learn. Probably not until he becomes old folks, though.

We took his suggestion, when we simmered down a bit, and remembered a first date. Father casually brought out the double barreled shot-gun, cleaned it well and leaned it against the radio within handy reach. Nonchalantly lit his pipe and began to read.

Uncle Jay, who was visiting, combed his hair down over his eyes, assumed a vacuous expression and informed the household that he was the idiot uncle, home for the weekend. All this about a half hour before the expected arrival of the date.

It was something that shouldn't happen to a girl's first date. Especially since the date was an upper classman. Especially since it was the beginning of what was to be a super evening.

Of course, shotgun and idiot uncle both disappeared before the date arrived, but the damage was done. The evening was almost ruined.

The first date incident should never have been brought up. It has no place in the annals of a spring day. The whole thing was thought up by "old folks" who must have been a little bitter about something.

A first date is something that should be remembered as looking one's charming best in a brand new formal and new hair do; opening the door to a tall, dark and handsome upper classman carrying a florist box with a simply terrific corsage for the new formal; and floating out to a real gone convertible. Believe us, it could happen.



National Four-H club week became a reality this week as Patricia Clark and Betty Jo Schreiber, local 4-H clubmembers put up

posters and arranged a window in the Coupeville Pharmacy to attract attention to the work of the clubs. Patricia holds a glo-

candle and a painted vase while Betty Jo displays an aluminum tray and a two-piece dress.

—Whidbey Press Photo

Oak Harbor Votes Levy for School

Oak Harbor voters turned out Tuesday to vote despite the inclement weather, and overwhelmingly favored the school tax levy to equip the new high school now in the first stages of construction.

756 voters were in favor of the levy against 129 negative.

The vote of confidence was appreciated by school authorities, who were well pleased with the interest taken in equipping the new building.

School directors Ed Adamson, chairman of the board, and John Wardenaar, were returned to their positions with no opposition.

The new high school unit, which will include a gymnasium, home economics units and science rooms, is expected to be ready for occupancy by fall term. Walls are being poured at present time and the structure will occupy an imposing site just above the proposed new highway, north of the present high school.

Fluoridation Talk Given at Lions

Lion Club members met last week for their regular meeting, and heard Robin Stockman and Dr. O. E. Hoffman of the State Health Department talk on fluoridation of city water.

The cost of installing machinery for such a program in Coupeville would be \$1200 for both wells and yearly upkeep of \$63 for chemicals. This would amount to about 13 cents per person.

Lions club members visiting from Oak Harbor were Lanche Crow, Robert Mitchell, Dr. Carskadden, Ben Muzzall, Ralph Poole, Paul Enke and Andrew Henry. Ralph P. Carson is a new member of the local club.

Sahli Picked on All-Star Team

Tom Sahli is receiving congratulations on being selected for the second straight year on the District all-star basketball team. Tom, a senior at Coupeville high school, played an outstanding season. Bright hopes are held for him in college next year, in the athletic field.

Also chosen on the district all-star setup were Johnny Best of Skokymish, winners of the district B championship; John Sande, Twin City; Scott Purvis, Darrington, and Bob Ellis, LaConner.

Radio KBRC to Feature Local Duo

Coupeville talent will put in a plug for Whidbey Island on Saturday night over Radio KBRC, Mount Vernon when Don Snyder and Curtis Hedstrom will take over the "Whidbey Island Hour" from five to six p.m.

The popular "hill-billy" players and singers will take over disc jockey duties for the program, and are sponsored by six business houses in Coupeville and Oak Harbor.

Girls Club Honors Mrs. Jack Leatherman

The Girls club of Coupeville high school gave a shower for their former home economics teacher, Mrs. Jack Leatherman, on Friday afternoon after school. The shower was held in the home economics room under the direction of Miss Rosemaine. Janice Libbey was in charge of arrangements.

On the program Mary Lu Bowers and Lani Detrick sang a song made especially for the guest of honor. Refreshments were served after Mrs. Leatherman was presented with many lovely gifts. Also present were the lady members of the faculty. Mrs. Fred Peischel cut the beautiful pink and white cake, and ice cream and punch were served.

P-TA Hears Teacher From Special School

Parent-Teachers Association met Tuesday night to hear Mrs. Isabelle Berry, teacher at the newly organized School for Handicapped children and adults at Burlington, tell of the school and the work it is doing there serving Skagit, San Juan and Island counties.

An interested audience heard Mrs. Berry tell that the school is now taking care of 18 full time students and one part time student. It is one of only three institutions in the state that cares for both mentally and physically handicapped persons.

However there are eight such schools in the state that care for either mentally or physically handicapped children.

At the Burlington school six of the children are cerebral palsy victims, three are academically retarded, one is emotionally retarded, one has muscular dystrophy, one is polio victim, one is blind and one is a mongoloid.

On the school staff, which requires especially trained teachers, Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Arnold Gerritsen, a physical therapist. Mrs. Gerritsen is the former Madlyn Sawhill, a former Coupeville teacher.

"Happiness of the child is the first goal," said Mrs. Berry. We strive to make the child happy in his surroundings before training him."

Next they endeavor to find the academic potentialities of the child, and then develop his academic standing as well as teaching them a trade to be used in later life.

While there is a great need for workshop materials and expansion of the school itself, the Easter Seals are used for this work, and county and civic organizations have taken the school as a project for fund raising.

Business as Usual

Other P-TA business was conducted, with a nominating committee chosen to present a panel of candidates for offices at the next meeting. On the committee are Mrs. Bonessack, Mrs. Wilbur Sherman, Mrs. Don Snyder and Mrs. Carl Johnson.

A committee reported on the request to the commissioners for a "slow" area on the roads approaching the school. The commissioner replied that they had no jurisdiction over the roads near the school as the school is now in the town of Coupeville. The object of the committee however, is to have "slow" ahead designated on the county roads leading to the school, as many children walk some distance to school over these roads.

Plans for the school took over much of the interest and Mrs. Virginia Mills reported on various prices and makes. It was decided to get more information on prices before the next meeting.

Mr. G. B. Andrews, field executive for the Evergreen Area, Boy Scouts of America, was present to talk about the need for a Cub Scout program.

Mrs. John Hopkins' room won the room count, the viewmaster, for this month, and Mr. Hopkins room won the second prize, a record.

Miss Mari Lou Bowers reported that the winner of the Science Club radio this year was Ronny Reafs, and reported also that the proceeds of the radio-project will take the Science club on a trip through the San Juans.

Irish Songs

Mrs. Howard McDonald of San de Fuca sang two songs, "Mother Macchree" and "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", accompanied by Mrs. Glen Darst.

The supper table was centered with a lovely arrangement of daffodils and carnations, and refreshments were served by the Greenbank ladies, Mrs. Ben Lamphere, Mrs. Paul Rehberg, Mrs. Robert Keith, Mrs. John Sinema, Mrs. Emil Larsen and Mrs. Ray Hanby.

LEADERS MEET

On March 31, a 4-H Leadership school is being planned, to be held at the home of Mrs. R. M. Johnson near Kennedy's Lagoon. The school will begin at 10 a.m. and participants are asked to bring a sack lunch and resume session until 2:30 p.m.

In charge of the leadership school is Mrs. Irving Mathews, chairman, Mrs. Joe Schreiber, Mrs. R. M. Johnson, Mrs. Fern McGregor and Larry Thie, County Agent.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Cross and Murphy were guests of honor on Monday evening when Mr. and Mrs. Ed LeSourd gave a dinner on the occasion of their eleventh anniversary. Miss Betty Franzen was also a guest, and in the evening Mr. and Mrs. Bob Franzen called.

Clark, Hurd, Whelan Win In City, School Elections

Red Cross Drive Nears Final Goal

The Red Cross drive now under way has reached the 65 per cent mark early this week, according to the Rev. Ritchie D. Ocheltree, chairman of the drive.

The goal for the drive has been approached through house to house canvassing and the amount collected has been turned over to Carl Johnson, treasurer.

A number of district leaders have yet to report.

Dr. Ocheltree, expressed appreciation this week to those who have so willingly given of their time and those who have contributed to the cause, especially the work of the district leaders. One family, said Dr. Ocheltree, mailed their generous contribution directly to treasurer Johnson, and others may want to do the same. It is hoped to complete the drive by the end of the week.

Red Cross District leaders who have been active this year in the campaign are Mrs. Charles Arnold, Mrs. Barbara Sloth, Mrs. Larry This, Mrs. Frank Coates, Mrs. Ralph Ward, Mr. James Zylstra, Mrs. E. P. Craney, Mrs. Harry Hurd, Mrs. Clark Sherman, Mrs. Joe Schreiber, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hoover, Mrs. William Huffstetler, Mrs. Ernie Harris and Mrs. Mary Coates.

Dr. Ocheltree, expressed appreciation this week to those who have so willingly given of their time and those who have contributed to the cause, especially the work of the district leaders. One family, said Dr. Ocheltree, mailed their generous contribution directly to treasurer Johnson, and others may want to do the same. It is hoped to complete the drive by the end of the week.

Red Cross District leaders who have been active this year in the campaign are Mrs. Charles Arnold, Mrs. Barbara Sloth, Mrs. Larry This, Mrs. Frank Coates, Mrs. Ralph Ward, Mr. James Zylstra, Mrs. E. P. Craney, Mrs. Harry Hurd, Mrs. Clark Sherman, Mrs. Joe Schreiber, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hoover, Mrs. William Huffstetler, Mrs. Ernie Harris and Mrs. Mary Coates.

Faster Payment Noted on Taxes By Treasurer

If tax returns are any indication, 1954 is about twice as prosperous as 1953.

Mrs. Nola Howard, county treasurer, sent Valentine's Greetings in the form of tax statements to every property owner in Island county.

By last week 1062 taxpayers have returned their tax statements with the necessary cash. Mrs. Howard said the tax returns are just about double those of last year during a like period.

"Another amazing thing is that we have received very few half-payments," she said. "Most of those who have returned their tax statements have sent the entire amount."

The 1062 tax statements returned have brought a total of more than \$32,000 to the county treasury.

Island county taxpayers have until May 1 to pay all or one-half of their taxes without penalty. After May 1, those who haven't paid anything on their taxes will be charged eight per cent interest.

Taxpayers who pay one-half of their taxes by May 1 then have until November 1 to pay the rest without interest being charged.

Island County taxpayers will pay more than \$206,074 in real and personal taxes this year, not including taxes paid for dike and drainage districts.

At the Burlington school six of the children are cerebral palsy victims, three are academically retarded, one is emotionally retarded, one has muscular dystrophy, one is polio victim, one is blind and one is a mongoloid.

On the school staff, which requires especially trained teachers, Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Arnold Gerritsen, a physical therapist. Mrs. Gerritsen is the former Madlyn Sawhill, a former Coupeville teacher.

4-H Rally Day Meet Friday At Clover Valley

Four-H club members, their families and friends will meet at the Clover Valley school cafeteria on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. for a Rally commemorating 4-H week. Four-H clubs from the whole county will take part in the evening which will include initiation of new members, recreation and refreshments. All friends of the movement are invited to attend.

ATTEND COLLEGE MEET

The following seniors attended a pre-college conference held in Oak Harbor last week on Thursday: Larry Zylstra, Sid Mudgett, Curtis Hedstrom, Tom Sahli, Ronny Mauden, Bill Thorsen, Bill Engle, Lani Detrick and Mary Lu Bowers.

SENIOR BALL DATE

April 10 has been selected as the date for the Senior Ball to be held at the high school gym. Committees to have the ball to be chosen. Bill Thorsen is president of the senior class.

Five Hour Outage Of Electric Power Set for Sunday

Electric power will be shut off on Whidbey Island from 8 a. m. until 1 p. m. this Sunday while crews from Oak Harbor, Langley, Burlington and Mount Vernon install and move six new power poles on North Whidbey.

The repairs will be made along the new section of state highway, according to Harry McMeekin, manager of the Oak Harbor office of Puget Sound Power and Light. A new pole will also be installed in Oak Harbor to replace the one which burned several weeks ago.

"We are very sorry that we must shut the power off," McMeekin said. "We hope that advance notice will lessen the inconvenience it causes."

McMeekin said Sunday morning is the time at which the least number of customers would be inconvenienced.

"We realize there are many who would prefer that we cut off the power at some other time," he said. "During the weekdays, however, there are the schools to contend with along with the businesses. Saturdays are bad since so many businesses depend on electric power to continue operation. Much perishable material would be lost by shutting the power off on a business day."

McMeekin said the power crews will also replace several faulty insulators, one of which caused a power outage of one hour this past week from Allen's Service to Columbia Beach. In that instant, an insulator blew up near Hastie Lake. The power grounded into a fence which had been nailed to the power pole and it was necessary to shut the juice off to prevent a serious accident.

Carnival Plans to Be Bigger, Better

Plans are getting under way in a fast and furious manner this week for the Ninth Annual Lions Club Carnival which is to be Saturday, April 3 at the high school gym. Edwin Sherman is General Chairman of the community project which has for so many years done much to improve the community.

Publicity chairman Orlan Dean announced this week that the ninth carnival will be bigger and better in every sense of the word, with more skits, side shows, and the usual list of terrific prizes to be given away. Jack Engstrom is in charge of the prizes.

A list of prizes and their donors will be available next week, and a tentative list of attractions for the big night. Harold Magellson is in charge of finance for the project.

All funds derived from the project go for the community betterment fund. In the past year street signs, fire district signs and other projects have gone up in the community as a result of the carnival projects.

Free Ice Cream Given by Dairyland

"Free cones for everyone," is the invitation next Friday afternoon when Mr. and Mrs. Miller re-open the Dairyland Freeze in Oak Harbor for the third time.

The proprietors have closed their business each winter for a short time, for renovation purposes and to enable them to enjoy a short vacation.

FRESHIES RATE

The freshman class was guest of honor Saturday night when the Seniors gave a sock hop in the hot lunch room for the entire school. The freshmen were honored for obtaining a hundred percent purchase on high school annuals.

Most of the gossip in this community is one of two things: imagination or jealousy—or combinations thereof.

Coupeville voters turned out Tuesday to cast their ballots in two close races, electing two city councilmen and three school directors. Mickey Clark and Harry Hurd were elected to terms on the city council with 110 and 95 votes respectively. G. W. Hesselgrave and Ray Meadors trailed with 76 and 54 votes cast in their favor.

In the school election, only one director district and any competition for the position, that of director district no. 2. Lucile Whelan, incumbent, received a total of 197 votes against her opponent, Ora Patmore, who tallied 146 votes.

Charles Arnold from the San de Fuca director district, ran unopposed to receive a total of 22 votes, and Lloyd Ritzman from the Greenbank District received a total of 259 votes. He also was unopposed. Names written on the ballot in the Greenbank district were John Engstrom, 4 votes; Art Bratsberg, 2 votes; Don Allen, 1 and Bill Thorsen, 2.

Breakdown by districts is as follows: Coupeville, Arnold, 225; Whelan, 156; Patmore, 110; Ritzman, 195.

Greenbank gave Arnold 31; Whelan 10, Patmore 24 and Ritzman 33. In the San de Fuca district Arnold netted 37 votes; Whelan 31; Patmore 12 and Ritzman 31.

In the San de Fuca precinct names were written in on the ballots included John Shelton, 3; Delaney Speers, 1; and Jack Armstrong 1.

Resorts Organize In Association

The Whidbey Island Resort and Motel association became an organized body Wednesday, March 3 when officers were elected at a meeting in the lodge of Whidbey Island Crawford Johnson was elected president, Kermit Ellison, vice president and Trevor Roberts, secretary.

Stan Peterson of the Everett Boat-house addressed the group on the importance of joining SOS, Save Our Salmon, in getting Initiative Measure 192 before the people. He explained that the initiative was a "step in the door," not all the organization hoped for but a beginning toward improving sports fishing.

He said that commercial fishermen were now allowed to drop their nets as early as June 15 in the very waters that produced the salmon tourists were seeking when they visited Whidbey Island resorts. No action was taken on the initiative since the meeting took up a preponderance of time on discussing a brochure.

The findings of the brochure committee headed by Chet Holt were not accepted so a new committee head was named, Kerm Ellison, who was to make an independent committee selection with persons not on the first committee.

Mrs. Capaan Visits Former Island Friends

Mrs. A. K. Capaan of Coupeville, formerly of Oak Harbor, recently spent a week visiting in Mount Vernon at the Nick Bos home, and while there had the opportunity to call on several former Oak Harbor families, including those of her nephews, Glenn and Gordon Bos.

Mrs. Capaan visited with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Damon of Edson, and Mrs. Nymeyer and daughters, Mrs. Rude and Mrs. Basset all of Everett. Mrs. Nymeyer now manages a rest home in Everett.

The also called on Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rosenbach and Mr. and Mrs. John Love of Mount Vernon, and stopped to visit at the new home of Mr. and Mrs. John Overway.

SHADES OF THE OLD SOD

Next week has been designated "Shamrock Week" at the high school when each day will be a surprise to everyone but the Girls Club and lots of fun for the girls. Each day will see different (and unusual) garb, and the week will end Friday night with a Tolo dance.



CHARMING CHARMINE proudly exhibits a basket full of champions born to her several weeks ago at the John Liepman home at Rhodens Beach. The little champions are all direct descendants of the Million Dollar

Kid, a black seal purebred Boston Terrier champion of champions. All six are perfectly marked, an unusual occurrence as well as being an unusual number of babies.

—Whidbey Press Photo



UP SHE GOES—Oak Harbor's new high school building is beginning to take shape with the first wall sections to be poured

this week. The forms in the center of the picture are for the gym walls while stakes in the lower half of the picture indicate where

classrooms will be constructed. Pouring of the gym walls will take about one month according to Ole Johnson, contractor's foreman.

Game Farms to Release Pheasants In March

The State Game Department announced this week that around 30,000 adult broodstock pheasants and approximately 2000 adult chukars will be released from state game farms during March. These birds, of which approximately 95 per cent are hens, have been carried over the winter on game farms and are expected to augment considerably the annual crop of young birds which normally hatch in early June.

Al Hedstrom, manager of the state game farm at Coupeville, said some 4200 adult pheasants will be released by the Island farm during March. They will be planted in district six, which includes Skagit, San Juan, Whatcom, and Island counties.

"In Skagit and in Whatcom counties, there is an intensive predator hunt now underway," Hedstrom said. "We also have the three island sports club engaged in a predator hunt."

"By holding these hunts just before the pheasant are released, the sportsmen's clubs are doing a great service."

Hedstrom said the game farm has been troubled recently with predators, particularly coons.

DRY FIR MILLWOOD
\$14 Cord Delivered
Some Alder and Old-growth Fir
Forest Wood \$20 Cord
Delivered
Summit Park Fuel
Phone 3167 - Anacortes

FOR QUALITY DRY CLEANING

SEE US
Phone OR 5-2434, Oak Harbor
For Fast Efficient Service
ROBERTSON CLEANERS
FREE PICK UP AND DELIVERY
First Block Above Bank—Oak Harbor

Johnsons Sea Horse Motors
(Complete Repair Service)

Toro Power Lawn Mowers
(Precision Machine Sharpening)

Holsclaw Boat Trailers
Marine Paints and Hardware
and
Puget Sound's Finest Boats
Outboards — Runabouts — Cruisers

CHIP'S BOATS
PHONE OR 8-3174
OPEN SUNDAYS GREENBANK

HOW ARE THEY BITIN'?



By "CHIPS"
Greenbank—Phone OR 8-3174

"Well, here goes for another season of fishing and boating reports. With a 30 MPH wind howling outside it's a funny time to start thinking about being out on the water fishing but by the time this is printed we will hope the wind is down and the water calm."

If we have the same help from the resorts and fishermen we had the past five years, you should be able to get the latest dope each week from this column. I'll try my damndest to keep it as factual as I can and to check all reports. But if we report fishing as good, and you get skunked, don't blame us. Could be the fish had just moved on, or could be you used the wrong gear at the wrong time. Or it just could be you're another Ace Comstock, when it comes to fishing—a charter member of the "Should Have Been There Yesterday" club.

For this first week, the fishing is slow. A very few fish are being taken off the trap at Berco's. Don's Cottage Grove and Dines Point Resort have only an odd fish coming in. The area from Greenbank bluff up past Whido-Isle Resort put out some fair fishing last week and may still hold some three to eight pound Blackmouths.

If Bob Tribou will give us a call from his Cultus Bay Resort, we will find out if the silvers are hitting off Possession. They should be.

The Save Our Salmon Association has an initiative petition out to regulate commercial fishing in Puget Sound Waters. Before signing this, you should read it. This may be a step in the right direction, but the section allowing commercial fishing with any lawful gear in the old years inside a line from Dungeness Spit to Point Partridge and from Olele Point to Bush Point, from August 7 to September 7, inclusive, except for weekend closures, is open to discussion.

The purse seiners around Lagoon and Bush Point have always been a thorn in the side of the sports fishermen. However, this initiative may be a big help in the overall conservation of our salmon.

After we look further into this we will give you another report.

The Central Whidbey Sportsmen's Meet next Monday, March 15. Mov-

Sportsmen to Hear Of Deer Feeding

Gardner Jones, manager of the Clement Tree Farm, was to be the main speaker at a meeting of the North Whidbey Sportsmen's club was Wednesday.

Mrs. Jones was to show slides pertaining to the various types of deer browse.

A discussion on proposed closing of Island county to deer hunters for two years was also to be a highlight of the meeting.

170 Arrests
Tabulated reports of game violations during last January show 170 arrests by State Game Protectors, resulting in \$10,778.50 in fines collected, one-half of which goes to the county in which the violation occurred and the other half to the State Game Fund.

The main reason we never enjoy small talk is because it invariably comes in large doses.—A. C. Jolly.

les and cats are on tap and everybody is welcome that is interested in better fishing, hunting or boating.

One of the club's latest efforts is to try to get the county commissioners to help in opening up certain county-owned beach properties for small boat launching areas for the public.

These areas certainly should be marked and posted so that the public would know that they are on private property. The club also has a small bore range going in Coupeville and it's proving very popular. A nice gift of 100 yds from Prof. and Mrs. George Darlington of Lincoln, Nebraska. They own a place near Lagoon Point and a home in Langley that they will be using permanently soon.

Those two are a walking Chamber of Commerce for Whidbey Island. June will be here soon, Prof. Boy did I ever take a beating on our trip to Ediz Hook last fall. In two weeks of fishing I got about six fish. The silvers just did not show up. The year before you could not miss but last year was rough going.

If you want a good chance for some 15 to 20 pound blackmouth, give Guemes Channel, off Anacortes, a try. It's about tops for the saltchuck according to Jack McRae of Arlington. A plug or plug out herring is the best bet.

For the guy that wants to build his own boat, we will soon have some good building plans for free. They are furnished by the plywood Association. Drop in and get one. We will be glad to mail one if you will let us know what you want.

Game Dept. Sets New Egg Record

Washington state Game Department fish culturists have taken over 3 million steelhead eggs this winter, establishing a new record. Last year's egg take was 2 1/2 million, in itself a record at that time.

All of the eggs were taken from steelhead returning to Chambers creek, near South Tacoma, where over 4,000 steelhead have been checked over counting wiers during the past winter.

The 3 million steelhead eggs will provide young fish for the entire western Washington steelhead program during the coming year. The eggs normally hatch into fry in about two months time, following which at least another year is required for their growth to proper size for release. Then planted in the various streams of western Washington, these fish will migrate to the ocean and return from the sea in about two years to the stream in which they were released.

In other words, the young fish released from the eggs taken in February, 1954, will return during the winter of 1956-57 as adult steelhead providing winter anglers with the unforgettable thrills of taking these gamy fighters.

White Stripe Better On State Highways Reports Director

In 1953 the Washington State Highway Commission changed the center stripe on highways from yellow to white and after several months' experience with the new stripe, engineers are enthusiastic about its ability to reflect light and all-around visibility under the various conditions the motorist meets on the highways of the state, according to W. A. Bugge, Director of Highways.

The fact that the white center line was accepted as standard by the majority of the highway officials of the country and the fact also that 38 states used the white center stripe was an important reason for the change, Bugge said.

Formerly guard rails, bridge abutments and the center stripe were yellow and the no-passing lines were white, but the action of the Commission resulted in changing guard rails, bridge abutments and the center stripe to white and the no-passing lines to yellow.

Months of tests by the materials engineers of the Department of Highways proceeded the change. Instruments that measured light reflecting ability showed the white to be equal to the yellow and tests of the lasting quality of the two colors showed the white to be as durable as the yellow.

The sanding of highways during winter weather and the use of tire chains wears the stripe out quickly. In those areas where sand and tire chains were through the white, the yellow line has appeared but after a good solid layer of white paint has been built up, the yellow color will not show through.

One of the problems with the center stripe, whatever the color, is that water lying over it at night reflects the light from the car headlights and obscures the stripe on the roadway. Engineers of the Department of Highways are attempting to lick this problem by raising the center stripe slightly above the pavement and then painting with white on top. This is accomplished by laying a paving material about 5 inches wide and about 3/4 of an inch thick on the surface of the road. Then the stripe is painted white. Experimental sections in various parts of the state indicate that the visibility and lasting quality of the stripe are vastly improved.

4-H Club News

The Seven Stitches held a meeting at the home of Mrs. Sawyer, their leader, on March 1.

We had a meeting and worked on our peasant aprons. Members present were Sylvia C. Linda S. Nancy H. Julie D. and Barbara W. was ill. Our next meeting will be held on March 15.

Julie Duff, Reporter.

The Four Leaf Clover club held an evening meeting on March 2 at the home of the leader, Mrs. Matthews. They talked about the Rally Day and decided on cookies and fruit juice for refreshments. A new project will be the making of aluminum trays.

Marcia Vercoe and Jean Hamlin gave demonstrations of oil on paint and Marilu Pierce and Vicky Criscuola gave a demonstration on making rope belts. Hostesses for the meeting were Barbara Hadawa and Jean Hamlin. Next meeting will be April 7 at the Matthews home.

—Marcia Vercoe, reporter.

The Tiny Thimble club met this week at the R. M. Johnson home with everyone present. Refreshments and games were enjoyed and the group wrote in the record book and did their project work. The girls discussed the Four-H Rally. Next meeting will be March 17 at the Johnson home.

—Donna Bonesack, reporter.

MMM!
DARIGOLD ICE CREAM
is Delicious!



Take Some Home Tonight

Sports Afield

"If you own a lake, pond or pool and fish can pass neither in nor out of it, you don't have to buy a license to fish there." That statement is one of the most intriguing found in these days of regulations, prohibitions, thou shalt and thou shalt not.

In a recent article in Sports Afield magazine Renzo Dee Bowers, well known lawyer, states unequivocally that it is your right to take fish from your waters any size fish you can catch. And any species. As often as you choose—day and night, if you like. And as many as you wish. With a seine, a hook and line, or knock them silly with a baseball bat. You may sell them, eat them or throw them away.

The fish in that lake, pond or pool are yours, to do with as you choose, without interference. All because the waters are yours.

This freedom stems right from our Constitution. It is among the few rights of private property which haven't been taken from the individual by judicial interpretation or nibbled away by legislative encroachment.

You owe it all to the various state supreme courts. Their rulings have declared that such lakes, ponds and pools are not subject to the regulatory powers of state legislatures.

The courts have beaten out a severe test to determine when a lake is actually private. The big question is this: Is the particular lake, pond or pool connected, either continuously or at substantial intervals, with other bodies of water, so fish can move to and from the two places; or is the water entirely isolated?

So the rule is this: If your lake, pond or pool is wholly on your own land, and so completely isolated from any other water that not even the tiniest fish could get into or out of it, you're a darling of the courts. They shield you from li-

Steelhead Streams Open in March

Twenty-one of last year's top 25 steelhead streams in Washington are still open for fishing in March, of which only 7 close on March 15, according to the Washington State Game Department.

Sixty-six steelhead waters closed February 28 at the end of the regular winter season, but 73 additional streams are available for the steelhead clan during March, and many of these are so-called "late run" streams, promising some excellent steelheading yet to come.

In the 1952-53 winter season, 79 streams closed on or before February 28, while only 49 waters remained on the list available for angling through or during parts of March.

Whidbey steelhead anglers are urged to check their fishing pamphlets and take advantage of the increased steelhead runs made available through research and stepped-up steelhead program of the State Game Department.

Standard, Union Win Gas, Oil Contracts

Standard Oil Company won the contract to furnish Island county with gasoline during 1954 and Union Oil won the contract to furnish the county with diesel oil on Whidbey during the year.

Diesel oil for use on Camano will be furnished by the Camano Oil company. The bids were accepted on Monday of last week at the commissioner's meeting.

cense requirements and from all other state regulations.

It makes no difference if you live in the state or are a non-resident owner. The court rulings exist for your benefit. You are a privileged character in the world of fishermen.

Andrew Ottesen Death is Reported

Just before the paper went to press, Ben Ronhaar, Oak Harbor Funeral Home Director, called the News office to report the death of Andrew Ottesen, long-time resident of Whidbey who lived just east of the Triangle Apartments on Highway 1-D.

Mr. Ronhaar said details were lacking as to the cause of death but that Mr. Ottesen died Wednesday morning at the Everett hospital. The funeral will undoubtedly be held this week and before the next issue of the paper. A complete obituary will be published next week.

Never be surprised at the doings of fellow human beings; nothing is too fantastic for some of them.

DRIVE CAREFULLY - BE SAFE.



KEEP COOL and COMFORTABLE
SHOWER BRUSH
Brighten streams of fresh, bubbling water combine the invigorating effect of massage with a refreshing