



A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Santa,

I'm writing to you from the Sno-King area where many of us retired teachers live. We have some things to say to you as Christmas approaches. We are past the point of sitting on your knee, but we feel it is okay to write.

Our members in the RTA want to thank you for another year of retired living. Although some of us have very little and some of us have a lot, we thank you for helping the needy. You put a little more into our retirement stockings this year, and we think the pattern may continue in future years.

Our taxes have been eased some, stretching our checks a bit. We even get free firewood at the state parks! That's better than a piece of coal, I guess.

Your songs are coming to us through the spirit you have passed along. This is looking like a jolly season, all right. We are enjoying the lights, trees, tinsel, snow, wrapping paper, and ribbons.

We teachers not only have a list, but we sometimes check it more than twice; and I've heard tell some actually put a grade and a comment or two on it.

We want to caution you that some of the chimneys are plugged at the bottom with wood stoves. If you pick your flue carefully, you will find a fireplace still open in most of the homes you visit. Another thing: some of the ladies may hang pantyhose or under-alls for you to fill this year, and they hold a lot!

We want you to know that we are trying to be good workers by setting up visits to the "old kids" and helping students to become educated to take our places in teaching positions and other responsible work.

On my RTA list, I have written "100 Members" at the top. "Strong Committees" and "Interesting Meetings" are second and third.

When you decide whether we are bad or good, we want to remind you that we are all working in workshops that fit our interests. We want you to identify us as retired teachers so we will get credit for our good deeds.

Please make one addition to my list--a belt with more holes on the extra end.

Merry Christmas,
Bob Bisnett

P. S. I have some cookies left over from our blood bank, where 69 nice, red pints were donated. They will be on the hearth beside the basket of pine cones.

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 15 1:30 P.M.
EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT ADM. BLDG.
OUR NEXT MEETING:

REMEMBER!

WHAT ARE RETIRED TEACHERS DOING?

(Let's hear from you as we've heard from Kay and Walt!)

LET'S GO TO SCOTLAND WITH KAY BARTHOLOMEW!

Kay is teaching Scottish history Wednesday evenings. The class will culminate in a grand two-week field trip to Scotland in late April or early May.

More than 4,000 years of history will be covered on the tour--brochs, crannogs, earth houses, castles, cathedrals, and more! One does not have to attend the history classes to take advantage of the tour. The estimated cost is \$1250 plus air fare. For more information, call Kay, 542-5247.

(Kay, an elementary teacher, retired from Shoreline last year. "Retired" is not the word for Kay. She is tutoring, teaching, volunteering---and now, the big trip to Scotland. Good luck, Kay!)

DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS CARD?

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TO THE REST OF THE GROUP!



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VOLUNTEERING WITH WALT BARNUM



I am volunteering at North City Elementary School every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 to 11:30, providing extra help for special projects. One is construction of a map of the school's attendance area on which the places of residence of all students will be marked. The map will also include school crossings for patrol orientation, and it will be useful for levy elections. Two bright fifth graders are working with me on the map.

To stimulate students' writing throughout the school on Fridays, I help them bind their stories and poems into their own personal books. So far we have constructed about 12 books from fifth and third graders.

I also assist in Mr. Werner's reading group two hours per week by listening to students read and helping students with their workbook assignments. Our Christmas project in Mr. Werner's class is construction of a 1984 calendar which will include original writing, poetry, and art work for each month.

I find working with these students and teachers stimulating and rewarding. I have the fun of teaching without the other responsibilities.

(Walt Barnum, retired Shoreline School District administrator, was director of the District's music program. Among his many other duties was direction of Shoreline's summer school.

LEGISLATURE TO FACE TOUGH PROBLEMS

By Gordon Bowers

Senator Mike McManus and Representative Katie Allen met with the Citizens' Advisory Council, 21st Legislative District, on October 24 for a vis-a-vis give and take on legislative matters facing the 1984 legislature.

Full funding for education, as per court order (Judge Durand Decision) will necessitate new taxes. Though state government revenue is up with the improved economy, the state may be in the red early in 1984. Also, small business needs some relief from the business and occupation tax. Washington leads the nation in small business failures, mostly due to the B & D tax. Timber companies are also seeking tax breaks, and all these tax losses must be made up by others ??

Other problems facing the legislature will be hazardous waste disposal, plugging loopholes in minority and women owned businesses that are given preferential treatment on contracts with Washington State agencies. The legislature provided (1983) that minority owned businesses would get 9.2% of all contracts with state agencies, and women owned businesses would get 3.1%, regardless of how high the bid. Some of these contracts are costing the state as much as four times the low bid.

Legislators will be involved with Metro's proposed NORTH RAIL SERVICE (light rail commuter trains), which would run to Northgate along the freeway from downtown Seattle. Concerns are that North King County and South Snohomish County commuters would need to transfer from bus to train--very unwieldy.

The legislature will be faced with a myriad of other problems, such as higher-ed funding, and bureaucrat hassles faced by colleges and universities. Edmonds Community College President Tom Neilson and University of Washington V. P. Robert Thompson explained problems and offered solutions to Senator McManus and Representative Allen.

Je'll keep you on your toes with the next exciting episode!!

SOCIAL SECURITY "NOTCH" PROBLEM CLARIFIED

By Gordon Bowers

IF YOU WERE BORN AFTER 1916, YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS ARE APPROXIMATELY \$100 PER MONTH LESS THAN THOSE BORN 1916 OR EARLIER. THE DIFFERENCE COULD AMOUNT TO AS MUCH AS \$20,000 DURING RETIREMENT!

Several bills (a total of nine) have been introduced in Congress to correct this inequity. See NRTA News Bulletin for November, 1983, page 17, for details. Executive Director Cy Brickfield responds to the question raised by your Sno-King RTA after Mr. Mendez (Social Security administrator) stated at the September RTA meeting that there was no longer any problem on "Notch Babies."

"Dear Abby" has covered the problem in two columns; the latest was November 22, listing the nine bills now before Congress. Stay tuned in!



NOTICE:

If your name on the mailing label is underlined in red, YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES! This is a great time to pay up-- Christmas spirit and all, you know.

