



NOVEMBER, 1983

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is a clear, sunny day of 63° outside. I'm sitting "open house" for real estate brokers on a home in the Broadview district of Seattle. Today is the 26th of the month, the newsletter deadline day.

Too bad you couldn't be here! I'm serving Banquet Fried Chicken, hot dogs, coffee, and wine. Something for everyone!

The reason I gave you the setting was to help you stop and think how interesting your setting is from time to time. I have kept a journal, the past few years, that fills nine "empty" books! While in Europe I filled one, 178 pages long. There are facts in it that have escaped my memory....such facts as the name, address and phone number of the bed-and-breakfast place where we stayed in Edinburgh, Scotland, in October of 1981. I've given direction to my last few volumes that will, hopefully, come out in a book entitled, "How I Feel About Real Estate." It is an effort to log my responses, from the dullness to the absolute panic responses in this business.

You may be asking yourself what all this has to do with being a retired person. As president, this year, I wish to thank you for giving me a face and a voice for you. I encourage you to work with your organization. I also hope you will submit your reactions to your retirement experiences to our bulletin editor, Dick Sacksteder.

Should such material become too lengthy, he is a genius at writing summaries to fit the space available. Our typist, June Helle, puts resolutions into proper form and covers admirably for her teachers who flunked Spelling I and II--to say nothing of dangling elements and comma faults.

Pardon me for showing off! I didn't want you retired English teachers to think we Driver Ed teachers didn't know about such mistakes.

Good-bye for now; and keep us informed of your post-retirement occupations, volunteer work, etc.

To you English teachers: Dick Sacksteder will publish the winning criticism (or perhaps excerpts of the best, should we experience a strong response).

Yours in retirement,

Bob Bisnett

OUR NEXT MEETING!

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 17TH 1:30 P.M.

REMEMBER!

EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT ADM. BLDG.

November 17 Bill Holm, U. of W. Professor of Art History and Anthropology and Curator of Northwest Coast Indian Art at the Burke Museum, will be with us to tell about two Northwest Indian shows, "Smoky-top: The Art and Times of Willie Seaweed," and "The Box of Daylight: Northwest Coast Indian Art." "The Box of Daylight" is at the Seattle Art Museum in Volunteer Park through January 8, 1984, and "Smoky-top" is at the Pacific Science Center through February 29, 1984. Professor Holm is the curator of both these shows.

December 15 We will have a Christmas Carol Sing-along; and John Hunter, Informative and Protective Services Committee Chairman, will present some helpful information to enable us to evaluate our insurance needs and compare with the coverage we presently have.

Betty Odle, Program Chairman

INFORMATIVE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

The prime concern of many RTA members is a better, more comprehensive health insurance plan, or a better understanding of what is now available. The I & P S Committee chairman and some board members have been actively attending meetings provided by the State I & P S Committee under the leadership of Flo Simmons, State Committee Chairperson.

The Health Insurance Survey to be presented to the members at the December meeting was prepared by the State Committee with the help and assistance of Dave Walker, Deputy Washington State Insurance Commissioner. Some of your questions may be answered at that meeting. All RTA members should verse themselves on the contents of their own policies. At the present time, due to the better coverages offered, the WEA Blue Cross plan seems to be the best. It would also appear to be the most expensive.

It would seem that the time is approaching when the WRTA, representing approximately 10,000 retired teachers through their locals, should be more aggressive in obtaining adequate health insurance for all the members. Many RTAs, through one reason or another, are denied the opportunity to obtain WEA Blue Cross coverage. Your local presented a resolution to that effect at the October meeting of the Sno-King Coordinating Council.

Also, RTA members should study all their insurance policies--i.e., home, auto, and life, as well as health. Our problems will ultimately die away. Let's make our remaining time less tense and more enjoyable.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Nancy Post, 774-4503
Fran Peters, 365-5987

The Sunshine Committee is one in which all members of the retired teachers' group can become active. Our plan this year is to search out retired teachers who are residing in nursing homes, and to visit them.

Many people, teachers included, often find the last years of their lives are spent in loneliness in nursing homes, perhaps having no near relatives or friends to visit them. We hope that we can help to alleviate some of this loneliness.

Fran Peters and Nancy Post, Co-chairpersons, would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of a nursing home inmate--their name and location.

Both Fran and Nancy will be gone during the month of November, so perhaps we can begin adding to our list in December.

We are sorry to report that Patricia Coffey died on July 11, 1983. She lived in Port Angeles and was a former librarian at Shoreline High School. We have also learned that Pat Tregoning, a long-time school secretary in Shoreline, died during the past summer.

Nancy R. Post

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF--REMINDER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: LEGISLATIVE ACTION, 1983
ESHB #496

Perhaps the biggest fear the elderly face today is struggling to keep their homes in the wake of escalating property taxes. This law now exempts senior citizens with incomes of \$15,000 or less from special levies. Those with incomes of \$12,000 or less also would have the assessed valuation of their homes reduced by \$20,000. This is scheduled to begin in 1984.

In 1985, elderly homeowners earning between \$9,000 and \$12,000 will have the assessed valuation of their homes reduced by \$20,000 or 30 per cent, as well as being exempt from special levies. The maximum reduction is limited to \$40,000. For seniors earning less than \$9,000, the value of their homes would be reduced for tax purposes by \$25,000, or 50 per cent, whichever is greater.

The bill also allows payments for nursing home care to be deducted from the total income of seniors to qualify for property tax relief.

Call your county assessor's office for information on necessary forms.
Gordon Bowers, Legislative Committee

TAUGHT TO THINK

LET ME CITE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A MAN CAN BE TAUGHT TO THINK; AND HOW BY DOING HARD ENOUGH THINKING, HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING FAR BEYOND WHAT WOULD HAVE SEEMED POSSIBLE.

WHEN I WAS A YOUTH I SAVED THE LIFE OF A LITTLE BOY BY SNATCHING HIM OFF A RAILWAY TRACK JUST AS A TRAIN WAS ABOUT TO RUN OVER HIM. THE BOY'S FATHER WAS A TELEGRAPH OPERATOR, AND TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE HE TAUGHT ME TELEGRAPHY. YEARS AFTER, THINGS DID NOT GO WELL WITH HIM AND HE CAME TO SEE ME. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS DOWN AND OUT, THAT APPARENTLY HE WAS A LUNKHEAD.

I SAID TO HIM, "MACK, I HAVE AN ORDER FROM A CONCERN WHICH WANTS TO HAVE A MACHINE INVENTED TO DO A CERTAIN THING. SEE IF YOU CAN'T WORK IT OUT."

HE TOLD ME HE HAD NEVER INVENTED ANYTHING, AND HE WAS QUITE SURE HE NEVER COULD. I TOLD HIM TO GO AHEAD AND DO HIS BEST, AND THAT MEANWHILE I WOULD GIVE HIM ENOUGH SALARY TO KEEP HIM AND HIS FAMILY ALIVE. BY AND BY HE CAME TO ME WITH AN IDEA. WE TRIED IT OUT; BUT IT DIDN'T WORK. HE WAS DISCOURAGED BUT I INSISTED THAT HE KEEP RIGHT AT IT AND SEE IF HE COULDN'T FIND OUT WHAT WAS THE MATTER, AND THEN TRY AND GET AROUND IT. HE DID, AND FINALLY CONCEIVED A WORKABLE MACHINE. THE CONCERN GLADLY PAID HIM FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR IT. THIS SO ENCOURAGED HIM THAT HE TRIED HIS HANDS AT INVENTING OTHER THINGS, AND BECAME THE INVENTOR OF QUITE A NUMBER OF SMALL THINGS.

- THOMAS ALVA EDISON
QUOTED BY B. C. FORBES, THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE
JANUARY, 1921

From "Homespun America," Wallace Brockway and Bart Winer, Ed., Simon and Schuster, Pub., 1958.

ED SHIOLER, formerly an administrator in the Shoreline School District, passed away on October 10 at the age of 87. He and his wife, Ruth, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Ed played golf regularly at Monroe for the past 40 years. His last game was just two weeks before his death.

He was the principal of the Maple Leaf School for many years. (Dick Sacksteder was a 4th grade student during his tenure.)

He was the Director of Athletics and worked as principal, vice principal, and substitute principal in nearly all of the Shoreline Schools.

His golfing friends are installing a park bench at the Monroe Golf Course, in his memory.

The salvation of America and of the human race depends on the next election, if we believe the newspapers. But so it was last year, and so it was the year before, and our fathers believed the same thing forty years ago.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journals, October, 1848*

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