



the POINTER

Early Spring 87

WPRA News

MINUTES OF THE WILLIS POINT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE MEETING JANUARY 19th 1987

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Dianne Twamley at 8:06pm. Also in attendance were Rita Russell, Gloria Graham, Dave Carley, Carmen Moore, Lois Lovo, Sydnie Bonner, Charlie Bonner, Alan Cracknell, Barry Peeke-vout, Sam Young, Bob and Alison Wooff, and Karen Smythe. Apologies from Joan McCandless and Pat Sloan. There were two guests, Moe Sihota and Mark Horne.

The Minutes of the last Executive meeting on October 20th were read. Sydnie Bonner moved that the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by Sam Young - Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Re the letter to the CRTC : The WPRPA sent a letter, as did Dianne Twamley.
2. The light at Willis Point Road and Mark Lnae will soon be installed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our bank balance as of January 19th 1987 is \$3452.80

POINTER REPORT

Made for Pat by Dianne. Please pass on items of interest for inclusion in the next issue which will be in late winter.

FIRE COMMISSION REPORT

\$500.00 is available for purchase of a piano for the Hall.

more...

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased that we have three new members.

NEW BUSINESS

1. There will be a meeting on solid waste management on Monday January 26th at 7:30 pm at the Langford Fire Hall. Diane has information if anyone wishes to attend. Gloria urged people to go.
2. Rick Kasper is interested in incorporating Langford, including the Highlands. It was suggested that we arrange an information meeting with Rick Kasper. Dianne will phone him and arrange such a meeting.
3. The boat ramp - it was decided that Mark Twamley would wait until spring.
4. Calendar of upcoming events was discussed. (see Calendar in Pointer).
5. Roads. Dianne has letters from Bill Vanderzalm and Cliff Michaels the Minister of Transportation. Moe Sihota and Mark Horne then spoke on the issue of the access road.

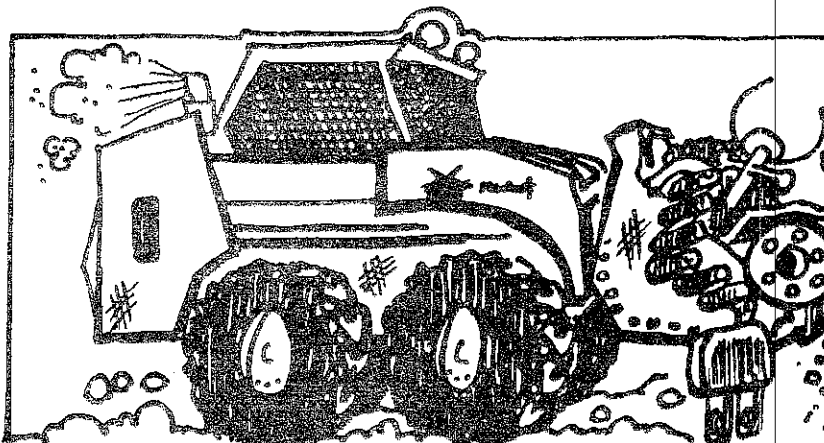
The Meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

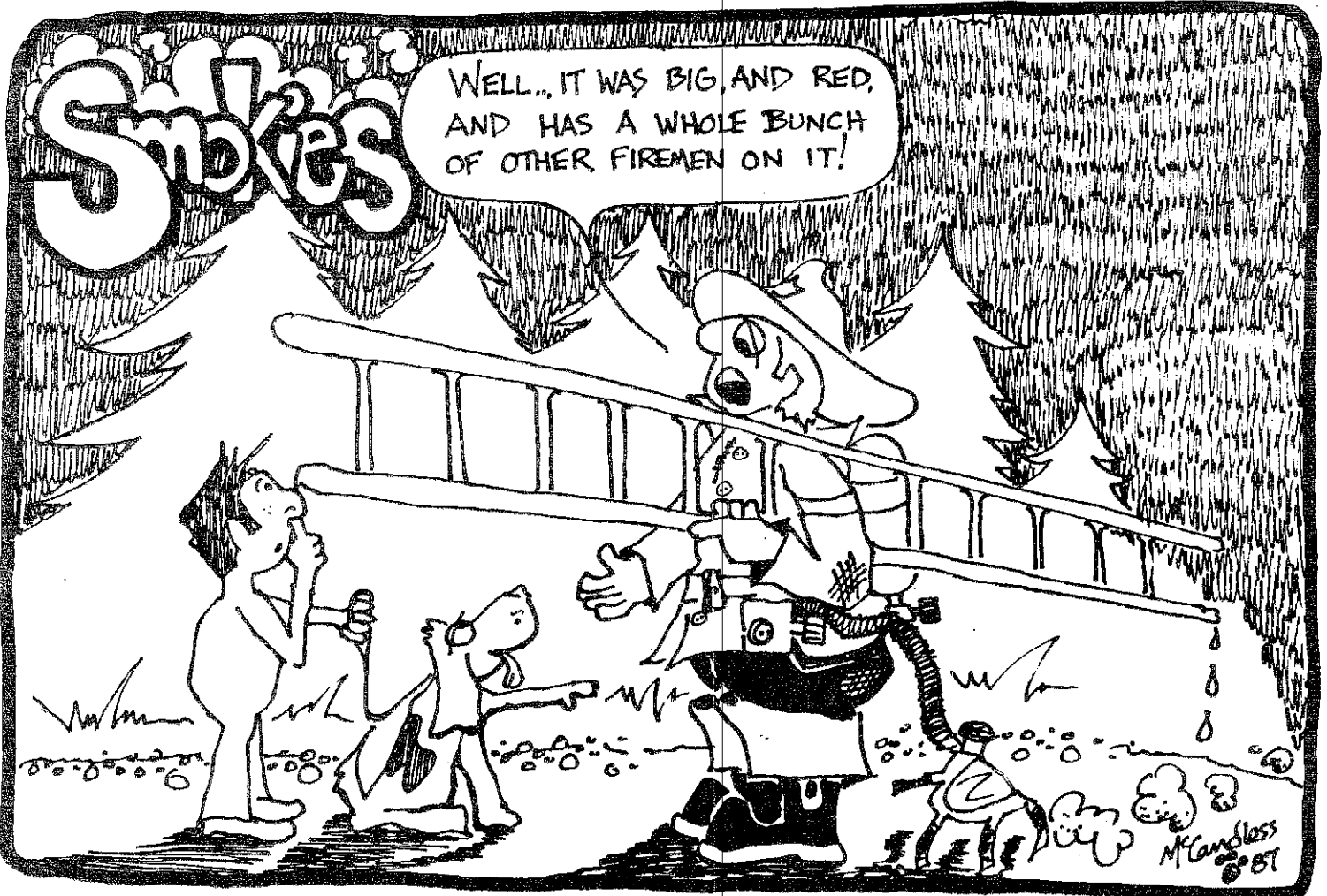
The Children's Christmas Party which was a pot-luck supper was enjoyed by everyone - thanks to the great cooks. Our entertainment was a real success this year. It consisted of the great threesome "The Korhonen Family" - thanks to Ron, Rene, and Lea for a job Well Done. Also thanks to Don Lovo for his great Archery display. How did he manage to break those

balloons inside of each other, one at a time anyway? Thanks again, Don. Then there was the Red Jolly Man himself, bouncing around as usual, winning the hearts of the young as well as the old. Thanks also to the great bartenders Bob and Gaybrielle and to the help with the clean - up afterward!

Joan Wright



☆☆☆ M. TWAMLEY CONTRACTING
 ~ ELECTRICAL WORK ~
 Residential & Commercial.
 UNDERGROUND YARD & DRIVEWAY LIGHTING
 BOBCAT WORK, WATER-SEWER LINES
 6550 Mark Lane
 RR#15 VICTORIA, BC 652-3519



CPR COURSE

The Fire Department is again sponsoring a CPR course for the Willis Point Community. The instructors are Irene Gagne and Ann Schwartz and their crew. The course will be held at the Hall Tuesday April 29th and again Wednesday 30th, starting at approximately 7:00 pm. Watch for details on the signboard closer to the dates. To preregister for either night please call Bill Wright, at 652-3254. As usual, there is no charge. We urge everyone to participate and learn these valuable skills of CPR and assistance to a choking victim. A few hours of your time NOW could save a life later, maybe even one of the members of your family. In a heart attack and choking, the first few minutes of First Aid are vital - an ambulance may be too late. We purposely schedule the course for two nights, so that both parents of a family can attend, without the hassle and inconvenience of a babysitter. See you all there!

Pat Sloan

PUB DAY

The first Willis Point Pub Day was held last November. This proved to be a successful day and the profit of over \$500.00 went towards the Roads Fund. Beer, wine, and food was available from 11:30 am right up until midnight. Some folks came for lunch and then back again for supper. The major crowds appeared in the mid-afternoon and enjoyed themselves for several hours. The Ladies Stitching Group made and/or donated much of the food, which was much appreciated. Thanks gang. Also, to be commended for his long hours over the grill was Gordie Campbell - super job Gord - not to mention his friend April who worked hard in the kitchen - thanks April. We would also like to thank all the waiters, waitresses and bartenders who did a super job as well as everyone who participated and helped to make the day successful. Thanks everyone. How does a Spring "Pub Day" sound? Anyone interested?

Dianne Twamley

FIREFIGHTER NEWS

This is just a short item this time, as not much has happened since the great Twamley bush fire. We have three new members to welcome to our ranks - Don Lovo, Alison Wooff, and Bob Wooff. We were busy over the past months preparing for our big 10th Anniversary - we're glad that most of you could join us for the big party.

We had a near miss in a major fire recently when someone torched a Cadillac up on the back roads behind Sea Aira Heights. The vehicle was totalled. Anyone with information should contact the RCMP.

Bill Wright
Deputy Chief

TUESDAY EXERCISES : 7:15 pm

Feeling sluggish and a little overweight after the Winter? Well bounce into fitness on Tuesday evenings at 7:15. There's always room for more enthusiasts! It's good fun and not too tough and good for all ages. See you there!

Dianne Twamley

CALENDAR

MARCH 28th
Saturday

Happy Hour

APRIL 11th
Saturday

WHIST PARTY
8:00 pm, at the Hall
Karen Scott 6522130
Beth Twamley 6522176

APRIL 27th

WPRA Exec. Meeting

MAY 15th

POINTER Deadline
Pat Sloan 6520226

MAY 22nd

Happy Hour
Beavers & Cubs
Lorraine Pommen

JUNE

Hilltopper
Bob Halsey



- General Contracting
- Commercial & Residential Renovations
- Construction Management & Design
- Estimates

Chandler Homes

Ken Ilott 652-4893

5

Incorporation?

INCORPORATION DIARY

When 61 Willis Point residents gather at the hall to talk local politics, you know it's serious. That was the case on Monday, February 16, when Langford Regional Director Rick Kasper was the guest of honour at a special public meeting called to answer questions on the latest initiative for the incorporation of Langford.

Background

Willis Point is part of the unincorporated Langford Electoral District that also takes in such regions as the Highlands and Luxton. Because Langford has no elected municipal council we are taxed at a provincial rate for unincorporated areas, which is a much lower rate than is paid by most municipalities. Our all-important road is maintained by the highways ministry.

Langford may be the largest community in Canada not to have municipal status. Currently Langford is a drain on the provincial treasury, and the province dearly wants Langford to take over control of its own affairs. The province provides new municipalities with grant money to help them get through the first five years of independence.

Incorporation must be voted on by the residents affected, and through the years Langford voters have consistently rejected incorporation. The last vote occurred two years ago, and it was a close one. For the purposes of that vote, however, neither Willis Point or the Highlands were included. Which is to say that if Langford had voted for incorporation, Willis Point and the Highlands would have had to scramble for some form of changed legal status.

Current Issues

A formal request for an incorporation vote could be placed before the Minister of Municipal Affairs in just a few weeks. The minister will approve or reject the request, and set the boundaries of the area to be included in the vote. Unlike two years ago, this time Willis Point and the Highlands are expected to be included in the incorporation vote. Voting could take place in late March or early April.

Willis Point residents at the public meeting were infuriated to learn that they were having incorporation rammed down their throats. The general feeling was that they didn't want to be a part of a municipality of Langford that would have little interest in far-flung Willis Point, and which certainly wouldn't maintain the road nearly as well as the highways ministry does.

There was considerable discussion about what our options might be, but no one -- and especially Rick Kasper -- had any definite information on that topic. Much more information was needed, and Barry Peekvout agreed to attend the incorporation committee meeting being held the following night in Langford. Motions were passed asking the Minister of Municipal Affairs to delay any incorporation vote until Willis Point had a chance to evaluate all its options.

On Wednesday, February 18, an emergency WPRA meeting heard Barry's thorough report of his meeting with the incorporation committee. That committee now has a clear understanding of Willis Point's concerns. As to why the incorporation committee wants Willis

Point included in the vote, it appears that they would like to have us as part of Langford's tax base, and just perhaps they have development designs on our green forested hills.

(Currently all Highlands greenspaces are zoned at 30-acre minimum parcels under the Langford settlement plan. One big question is: Would this zoning be secure in the hands of a Langford municipal council that could vote to change it? Or is the zoning more secure where it is now, in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs who has the power to make changes on her or his own?)

Barry also had done some research on what kind of legal status Willis Point could assume if it were dropped from Langford. Garry Butchart had done similar research as well, and some options related to local community status seemed promising. Barry and Garry had a meeting scheduled with the municipal affairs ministry the following day.

Officials at municipal affairs clearly want Willis Point to stay with Langford to keep life simple. They said that if Willis Point is excluded from the incorporation vote, and Langford incorporates, Willis Point would be too small to exist on its own. It would have to link up with another jurisdiction.

Even if we pursue the community status idea, we would still have to join up with some other unorganized territory such as the Gulf Islands or Sooke or View Royal, trading in Rick Kasper for a regional director from one of those other areas. Presumably the highways ministry would still look after the road, but we would have to work out ways to handle community planning, building inspection, and so on. Our taxes likely would rise as a result.

Another way to go would be to ask Central Saanich or Saanich if they would take us into their municipality. They may not want the hassle of the road, however, or else they may want to open up our area for more housing. Taxes in those areas are bound to be more than in Langford.

So it comes down to this. If the Langford incorporation vote fails, whether we are included in it or not, we breathe easy for two more years until the whole thing comes up again. If we want to break away from Langford, we have to pick another jurisdiction to join instead -- and we have to find out if they will take us.

About the only option NOT open to us is the one we all seem to want -- to be allowed to exist as an island unto ourselves.

Sorting out our options requires hard work and hard thinking by all of us. We all must do our best to become informed and to get involved.

Sam Young

(more, next page)

INCORPORATION DIARY, Continued

March 1st

At the Executive Meeting, Barry brought the Executive up to date on various options available. Then he and Bud Bunyk went to the CRD to begin procedures for a petition seeking local community status.

March 3rd

The Langford Committee for Local Government met with the Willis Point community on March 3rd. At that meeting, discussion was lively and animated. By the end of the meeting, the committee had a number of issues to work on, such as: population discrepancies between Willis Point and Langford (if there are lots of them and few of us, how do we get our say in government matters and decisions?); taxes; levels and types of services (snowplow? Can Langford afford to clear our road? Actual road maintenance? Police? Fire? Other emergency services? Etc.); planning; conservation of our unique and special Willis Point lifestyle.

The next issue of the Pointer will bring you up to date on what happened with these discussions and concerns.

CLASSIFIEDS

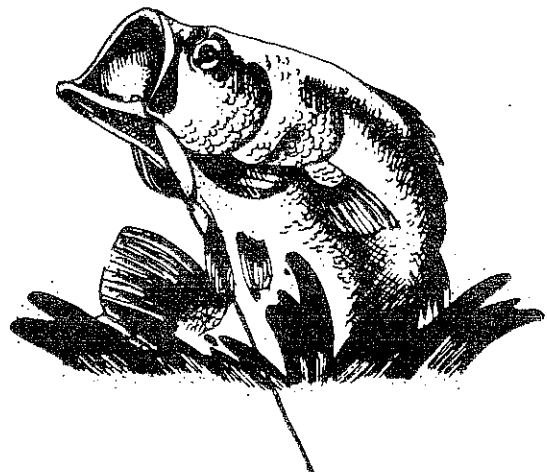
Mark & Dianne Twamley have a basement suite for rent. If interested, call 652-3519.

EDITOR REQUIRED! No experience necessary. No pay. Reasonable hours. Good working conditions. The Pointer will need a new editor in September. If you are at all interested, phone Pat at 6520226 and she will persuade you that you have all the skills needed.

WHIST PARTY!!!

On April 11th, Beth Twamley and Karen Scott are going to revive the famous Willis Point Whist Party. Advance tickets are \$3.00 per person. Please call either Beth at 652-2176 or Karen at 652-2130 for tickets or more information.

We still need someone
to run the
FISHING DERBY!



* Highlands Update *

Curious Willis Pointers may have wondered one morning early this month at the sight of a group of Highlanders crouched anxiously around a small hole in the ground, deep in the woods. As the day progressed their anxiety level clearly rose. Where was he? There was still no sign of him as evening shadows fell, and the group dispersed, scratching its collective head. Why hadn't he come out? Slowly the answer dawned on them. The groundhog, seeing no sign of winter, had never gone to bed.

Good news for Northwest Highland homeowners came with the announcement by Langford Fire Chief Al LeQuesne of a new firehall to be completed this summer on upper Millstream Road near the Pike House.

Many residents were surprised to learn that bow hunting is allowed on public roads under present regulations. This could explain the discovery by several landowners, of arrows on their property, despite fences or No Hunting signs. In response to the concern of many Highlanders, Doug Andrew of the Highland District Community Association has sent a petition to the Fish and Wildlife Branch, requesting an end to this practice.

The Monday Night Highland Craft Group held workshops on felt-making from raw fleece and on Scandinavian Christmas decorations. Present project is a community quilt of Highland wildflowers. Willis Pointers are welcome to join. Call Jane Mendum for information. 478-9144.

Highlanders interested in good silvicultural practice and the federal assistance program for private landowners as well as the possibility of registering a forest farm under the Assessment Act, have met to discuss the formation of a forest landowner's association. Interested Willis Pointers can contact Bob McMinn at 478-4403.

Basking under blue skies in soaring temperatures, Highlanders, never given to taking things for granted, worry about the coming season. The poet said "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" But what if winter doesn't come?

Nancy McMinn



Willis Point Volunteer Fire Department MEMORIES and COMIX section

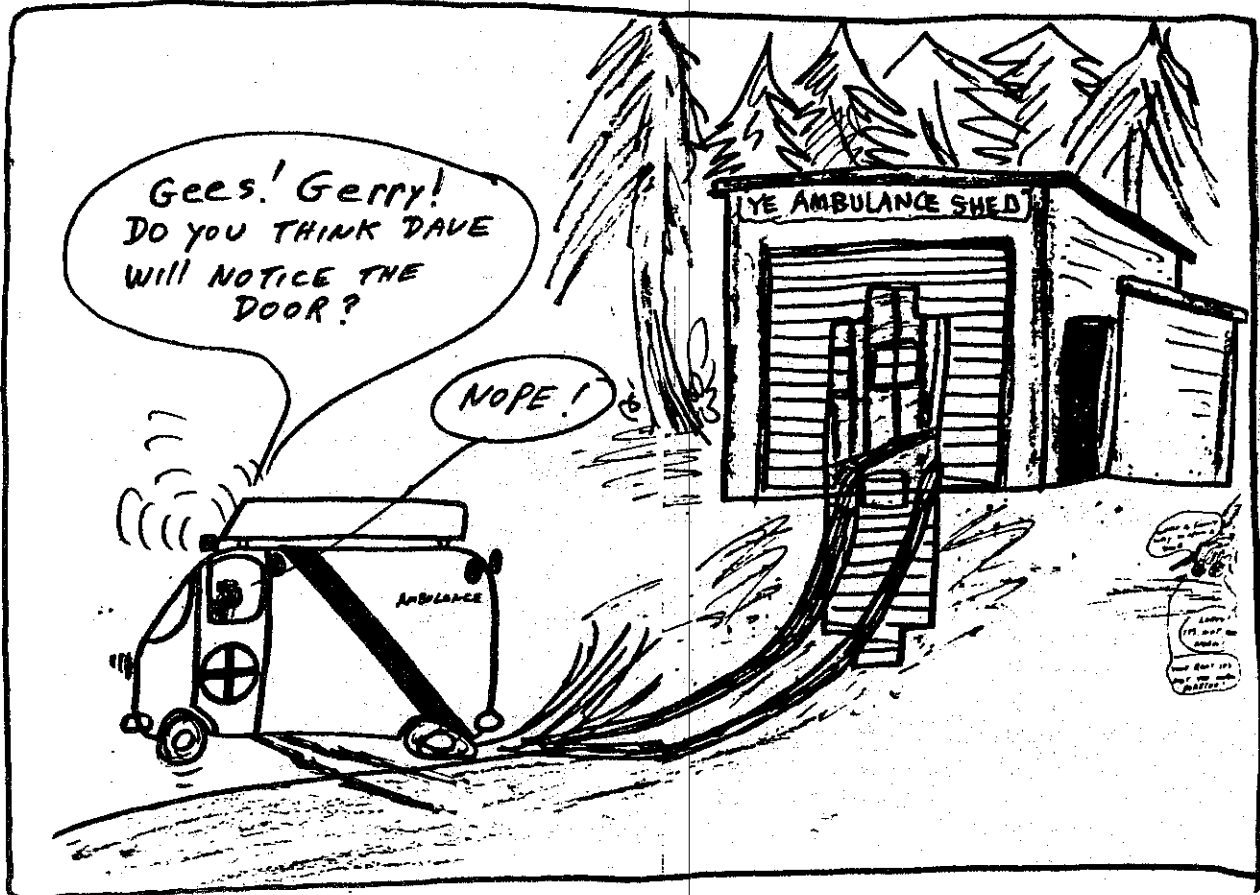
THE BEST PARTY THE POINT HAS EVER HAD!....was the overwhelming opinion of all who were fortunate enough to be at the Willis Point Volunteer Fire Department's 10th Anniversary and Reunion on February 14th 1987. The event was extremely well organized by the Department, with preparations starting well back last November, including all the traditional accompaniments to our famous parties such as the music by Chris, as well as other treats, like catered food, corsages, the hilarious "HATS" from the Langford Fire Dept. and the bouncy Can-Can line, the "HONEYYS". Locating some of our wandering ex-members was a worthy exercise in detective work, because almost everyone we reached came back home for the celebration.

The evening began with an Open House and cocktails, and guests were treated to an unusually clean Fire Hall, polished trucks, neater than normal lockers, carefully coiled hoses, and such. Even the old Mercury was on exhibit for the occasion, although it had to be towed up from the Chief's back yard. A memorabilia display was set up and here were examples of old equipment, brass nozzles, ancient turn-out gear and hats, photographs, a melted phone, scrapbooks, and other bits of our history. Down in the Hall gym area a whole wall was devoted to cartoons by Bill Wright, preserving for historic posterity some of the finer, more dignified hours the Department and its members have seen. The opposite wall was another work of art by Brian McCandless and friends, with cartoon/paintings, almost life sized, of our three trucks, on the roar out of the garage doors.

Dinner was a tremendous success. For once, everyone could relax and enjoy it at the same time, as the food was catered. The brave clean-up crew in the morning didn't have any left-overs though! The special Fire Fighter Wine appeared to be a popular beverage, and while we were enjoying this, we were treated to a number of short accolade speeches and special presentations, anecdotal memories, and standing ovations.

Sitting at the Head Table were Kan Illot, President of the WPVF Association; Diane Twamley, Chairman of the WPRA; Rick Kasper, CRD Director; Dave Carley, Chief WPVFD; Gary Butchart, Chairman of the Fire & Recreation Commission; and Reg Perkins, the Vancouver Island Regional Fire Commissioner. Our MC, Peter Brelsford, did a terrific job, keeping us all well entertained and laughing with his sense of timing. Seating at the tables was prearranged, so that each table was hosted by a current member of the Fire Department. This seemed to work well, especially as the hosts were pouring the aforementioned special Fire Fighter Wine.

Ex Department members each received a Certificate of Service. This certificate was presented to: Wayne Rutherford, Ken Blunt, Ed Blunt, Bruce Wilkinson, Gerry Verhagen, Charlie Bonner, Barry Townsend, Gloria Graham, Sydnie Bonner, Joan Wright, Butch Cleland, John Pennington, Nathan Ory, Bonnie Ory, Sam Young, Don Cameron, Dan Mollberg, Bernadette Anderson, Fred Cliff, Jim Dudderidge, Sandy Davidson, Phil Sterling, Nancy Cranston, Brian Grieve, and Steve Schantz.



Current Members received a Certificate of Membership, and this was presented to: Dave Carley, Bill Wright, Vern McConnell, Ian Blaney, Bob Halsey, Gary Graham, Brian McCandless, Joel Cotter, Peter Brelsford, Pat Sloan, Uwe Pause, Karen Scott, Larry Pommen, Kathy Crawley, Art Jackson, Ken Ilott, and Fuzz Cracknell.

Special Five Year and Ten Year Service Pins were also to have been awarded, but unfortunately, the pins were not available. To have received the Five Year Pins were: Dave Carley, Bill Wright, Vern McConnell, Ian Blaney, Bob Halsey, Gerry Verhagen, Charlie Bonner, Butch Cleland, Gary Graham, Brian McCandless, Fred Cliff, Joel Cotter, and Peter Brelsford. To Have received the Ten Year Pins were: Dave Carley, Bill Wright, Vern McConnell, Ian Blaney, and Bob Halsey.

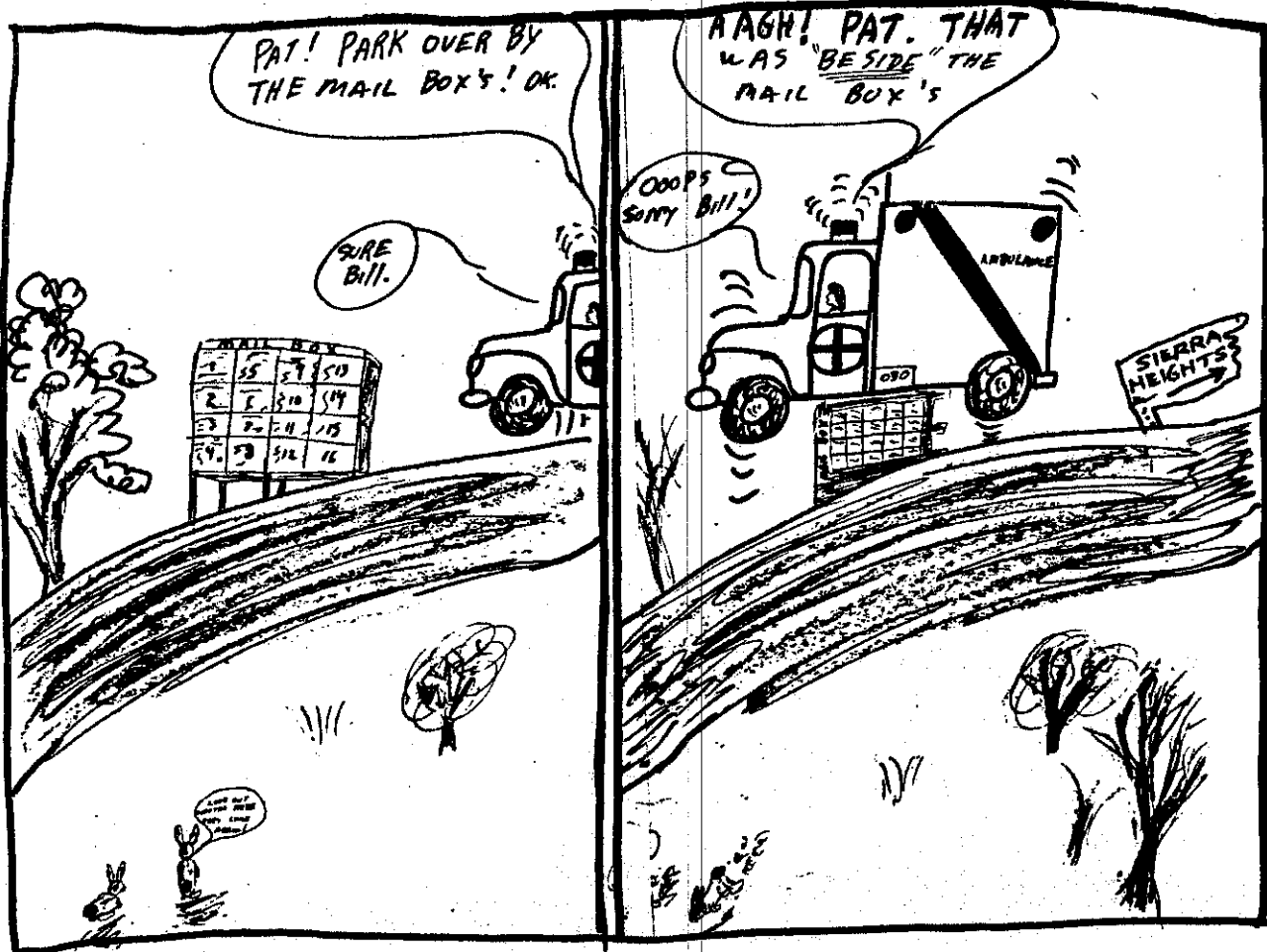
Reg Perkins, with the assistance of Dave Carley, made the presentations. As well, a number of congratulatory letters and telegrams were read. Chief Dave Carley was presented with a special plaque by Ian Blaney.

After the official ceremony, the tables were pushed back to make room for the entertainment, the "HATS" and the "HONEYES". Somehow, the song 'My Boomerang Won't Come Back' just will never sound the same again. After the laughter had settled down, on came Chris with his music, and there was dancing for the rest of the evening, with Chris being persuaded to stay an extra hour or two. It was about 4:00 am before the Hall was at last emptied of our lot.

We must note special thanks to all the Fire Department Members for hosting such a terrific event and hope that we don't have to wait another 10 years before they most justifiably honour themselves again. All members of the Willis Point Community are proud of this group of people.

HATS OFF TO... Vern McConnell for organizing the food and music and generally overseeing all the arrangements; Fuzz Cracknell for decorations; Bill Wright and Ian Blaney for the pins and plaques; Pat Sloan for the certificates; Rick Kasper and the CRD for the money for the pins and plaques and certificates; Brian McCandless and friends for the art work; Ken Ilott for finding ex-members; Kathy Crawley for flowers and finances; Jason Funnell and friends for manning the bar; Ian Blaney for invitations; to the clean-up crew the next morning; and to anyone else I have inadvertently omitted, and to everyone who came to help us celebrate our 10th Anniversary!

Pat Sloan



SOME OF THE MEMORIES...as recounted by members and ex-members of the WPVFD at the 10th Anniversary party and read by Peter Brelsford. These are anonymous, to protect the Guilty.

"1977. A flare was set off 200 yards from the Fire Hall in the brush. 6 dedicated fire persons attended. Meanwhile, the Resident across the road from the scene turned in an alarm. The 6 fire persons then returned to the fire hall upon hearing the siren only to learn they should return to the fire they had just left."

"When we were clearing our lot, a regular Wednesday night trip was driving from Oak Bay to Willis Point to get a fire permit for 7 days. One Wednesday, when we showed up for our permit, Dave Carley informed us that the Fire Dept. was out dousing our previous week's fire. Not to worry. Dave issued another permit, figuring it was good practise for the fire department."

"One day in spring, maybe two years ago, we had occasion to call our fire department in for a daring rescue. They showed up, very professional, lights, ladders, everything. The rescue was carried on efficiently without any loss of life or property. The occasion -? One of the members of the WPVFD while attempting to help us got stuck in a tree using Chief Carley's climbing spurs. The member was Brian McCandless."

"One day Dave Carley called me up and said "Rick, do you have any of that grant money left?" I answered, "Yes, what is it for Dave?" "We need a VCR and a TV set for training films." I asked "When do you show the films?" Dave said hurriedly "oh you wouldn't be interested, they are shown after practise and might be too late for you."

"I remember when...I went to my first "burn" with Gerry Verhagen at Anderson's old cabin. After a horrific, heart-pounding, nerve-racking, adrenaline-pumping tour to find the "body" (Tony) we made our way back to the doorway. After being asked how things went Gerry replied that it was great, but next time would I please refrain from pointing the water hose down the back of his pants."

Endeavouring to increase their knowledge of emergency procedures an inservice day was held at the Hall for WPVFD personel. Expertise was asked of those in the know - how do you deliver a baby?? Members of the delivery room of a local hospital arrived complete with all the props. FACES PALED. Needless to say, there was lots of leftover chili for the volunteer lecturers!!!

MORE MEMORIES...

"One foggy Wednesday night my husband George was driving home after having a few. He turned, as he thought, onto Willis Point Road and went right into the ditch. A kind motorist picked him up and dropped him off at the Fire Hall, as he had to go to Practice. "OK Fellows!" he said, "get out the Fire trucks and pull my car out of the ditch at the corner of Durrance and Willis Point roads!" The firemen were very obliging, and all of them, with much joking and laughing at George, roared up the hill, only to find at Sierra Heights was his car, a mile and a half from where he thought it was!"

Thank You Bill Wright for the cartoons!

February 4, 1987

To the Chief and Members of the
Willis Point Firefighters Association
R.R. #5
Victoria, B.C.
V8X 4M6

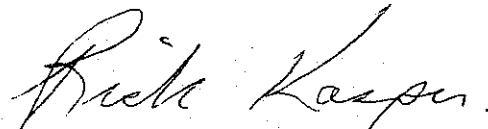
Dear Sirs:

I wish to give you my warmest congratulations on the Tenth Anniversary of dedicated service given by your excellent organization.

The residents and property owners of the Willis Point community would certainly be hard pressed if we didn't have as progressive, creative, and hard working an organization as yours has proven to be.

With many thanks and sincere wishes for many more years of continued success!

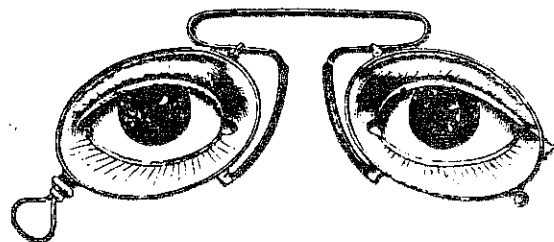
Yours sincerely,



F. G. Kasper, Director
Langford Electoral Area



Guess What?



SEEN IN PASSING

Dave Connors, after many delays, is moving right along with building plans for his house. Now, if everyone didn't stop to inspect...Colin managed to get the transmission back in his truck - how he managed to take out 237 parts and put in 289 we really don't know but he's the expert...Joel Cotter finally breaking down and getting himself a TV; rumour has it that he is addicted to Sesame Street...welcome to Wim & Jan who moved into the Hughes old place, and who got married on Valentine's Day...in the continuing saga, Monty and Billy have eloped; meanwhile, Ebony frets and paces at the corner (watch this space for the next steamy installment)...the Brelsfords having a weinie roast (on the Jennaire!) the night it snowed...Dave Carley out on a "date" with Ken Ilott, won the Ladies Prize at the whist game; the Prize - an organ lily, whatever that is...Cathy Ilott braving "the Screamer" Space Mountain in Orlando; unfortunately her voice is gone and she can't tell us about it...Brian & Joan McCandless packing case lots of immodium for their Mexico trip ('two capsules at first and then one after each loose B.M.') (what???)...the Blaneys putting in a split rail fence - expecting a high tide Ian? - handy to tie the ferries to...Bill Wright getting pulled over by the Esquimalt police, lucky for you Bill it was Grant Twamley in the squad car..."forever young" Dianne Twamley drinking out of a china slipper...Beware! Karen Scott's house is now a 'No Smoking' zone...Antoinette with a new "pointer" hair style...R.I.P. "Boo" Hoel, sorry Cheryl...Mark Matthew (Matt) Horne arriving on Boxing Day for happy parents Greg and Darlene...at least half of Willis Point going off to Crystal Mountain to "ski"...happy faces on parents now that the Long House kids project is finally finished at Durrance School...Gary Butchart jumping, jumping, jumping...little Ian Blaney's cub car chosen as one of the best designs, catch the heats at CanWest Mall for the supertest A PRIL 11th.