

THE HARTSTENE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

1977

This edition of the "Hartstene Newsletter" constitutes the second issue. Somehow that elusive element known as "time" eluded the news team this summer. As the old saying goes.....the best laid plans of mice and men, etc. We'll start off this issue with a calendar of events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Some of the annual gatherings on the Island include events sponsored by the three Island organizations, namely the Community Club, the Grange, and the Women's Club.

THE COMMUNITY CLUB; sponsors the Labor Day Dance each year, as their major moneymaking event. And, "just for fun", they hold pot luck dinner, bingo nights and private dances from time to time just for the "Island Folk". These latter activities occur on a "play it by ear" schedule. They are either along with, or in addition to, their regular monthly meetings.

THE GRANGE; in addition to its year around monthly meetings, sponsors a Spaghetti Feed in June and an annual dance on the Fourth of July weekend. Part of their other activities include the joining with the other Granges in Mason County on occasion. The Grange also "spawned" the beautification of the Triangle on the Island side of the Bridge. Members planted the area and continue to maintain it.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB; follows the same schedule of meetings as does the Community Club, with a summer recess in July and August. In April the gals throw all their cares to the wind and "go out to lunch",somewhere with in the borders of this State! The destination is discussed and voted on at the March meeting. Election of officers takes place in September, and once that major obstacle is overcome, the gals immediately plunge into the task of planning for their moneymaking project in October,.....a now annual Rummage Sale held at the Community Hall. All donations are graciously accepted from resident and property owner alike (or anyone else for that matter). The date for the "Sale" this year is October 8th. Most of the meetings are now held at the Clubhouse at Hartstene Pointe, now that the membership has grown by leaps and bounds. Currently there are over fifty members! In days past the gals used to take turns having the meetings in their homes. But the Island is growing and so are the Clubs.

OTHER EVENTS; In December the three Clubs join forces to sponsor the "All Island Christmas Party", which is now practically "world famous" (a very slight exaggeration!), the middle of December. This has really become one of the major "fun events" of the entire year for Islanders. All members (new ones are always most welcome) are encouraged to attend the regular meetings of the organizations and become active in both the work parties (they, too, can be a lot of fun!) as well as the social gatherings. Come join us!!!

In addition to the above, the property owners at Hartstene Pointe also hold one very special event each year: the now annual Salmon Derby and Salmon Barbeque over the Memorial Day weekend. Last year's event was highlighted by the tiny Foss tug, a scale model built by Bob Templeman. Much to the delight of the participants in the Derby it "ran out" to escort the fishermen and women back to the dock at Indian Cove.

ISLAND HISTORY: Two Island Pioneers are presently putting together a "History of Hartstene". Details of the publication have not yet been worked out. The booklet will cover the early history of the Island and contain several pictures. It promises to be equally as interesting as the recent brochure, "the history of the Hartstene Community Hall".

COMMUNITY HALL BROCHURE: The brochure on the Community Hall has been well received by the Island residents and property owners, alike. Several letters have been received along with membership applications; building fund donations and "sticker" orders. The response to the "stickers" has exceeded the supply currently on hand. Additional stickers have been backordered from the printer, and they will be mailed to the members who have ordered them as soon as possible in response to the demand. The membership drive was very successful. To date, over 200 new members have joined the Community Club. The Club is happy to have so many former members back and welcomes all the brand new members. We hope to see each and everyone of "you" at some of the future meetings. Donations to the Hall building fund to-date have totaled \$671. The building committee has a number of projects all ready to proceed with as soon as possible. These are listed elsewhere in this letter.

CEMETARY REPORT: The Island Cemetery is maintained by the Community Club. Each spring, before Memorial Day, a work party is held to cleanup the winter debris. Periodically members trim and mow during the summer months. In the past two years the Cemetery has been enhanced by the clearing of additional property to extend the boundaries to the north, plus a new road and a new chain link fence around the perimeters of the property. The Cemetery Committee is currently working on plans for a Memory Garden in the northeast corner of the property.

SPECIAL FAINTIN' PARTY, translated is, a major social event, and/or events, held this past May and June, when for six consecutive "wednesdays" the members of the community gathered at the Hall to talk, eat, talk, drink, talk, raise ladders, talk, scrape old paint, talk spray bees and generally exercise their artistic talents. The only restrictions on the individual helpers was (1) they use only the paint provided and (2) that the beer not be opened until noon!

Recognizing that the day of Women's Lib (Lip) is upon all good men, an invitation was extended (and graciously accepted) by the members of the distaff side of several families here on the Island to join the 'party'.

Blessed with nothing but the most gorgeous weather, the 'party' progressed with nary an injury, luckily. Total expenditures were held to under \$200 of the Clubs' funds. (The expenses for any large project are shared by all three organizations.) At the end of a few short weeks, the building which is the major focal point of most Island activities, was proudly displaying her new soft green 'plumage' and attractively trimmed with white. A new sign proclaiming the sparkling building the 'Community Hall' added the finishing touch.

Other projects which have been discussed for the near future, include the completion of the re-roofing project (only the north side of the main Hall remains to complete this job); and a few new windows; new foundation posts; some new lights; perhaps refinishing of the hardwood floor and.....? Fortunately, we can foresee these and many, many more 'social events' in the future for everyone to enjoy!

FIRE PROTECTION: Property owners not acquainted with the accomplishments made in fire protection the past three or four years will be pleasantly surprised to learn that we now have two fire stations and a good sized crew of trained volunteer firefighters on the Island. Just four years ago we were not part of ANY fire district and had only minimal protection from the Department of Natural Resources.

The 'ball' began to roll back in 1974 when the Hartstene Pointe Property Owners Association purchased a 1944 Seagraves fire pumper truck at a cost of \$1,300, from King County and began to train volunteers.

In 1975 enough signatures were obtained to gain entrance into Fire District Five whose headquarters are in Allyn. The fire truck was then donated to the fire district, which has subsequently spent some \$2,000 in overhauling it and replacing the old hoses to enable it to be certified. This, in turn, aides in reducing our fire insurance premiums.

Presently fourteen volunteer firefighters have been certified in the past two years. In addition one of the volunteers is certified as an E.M.T. (Emergency Medical Technician) and one more is presently in training as an E.M.T. This training requires ten Saturdays of instruction by medical authorities. And another volunteer has been to arson school. Firefighting training is conducted every week on Tuesday evenings.

In 1976 levies were passed which enabled the district to purchase two fully equipped medical aid vans to serve the entire district, and to build and equip several new fire stations. Of interest to Island residents, were the new stations on top of Jones Hill (about one mile from the bridge on the mainland) which will house a large 6,000 gallon tanker and new station on the south end of the Island (near the Island Shores road) which is scheduled to house a smaller tanker and a pumper. All of this will be used equipment at this time.

Not to be outdone, the Hartstene Pointe Property Owners Association provided approximately \$20,000 in materials and volunteer labor to construct a fire station on the Pointe (not one cent of this was levy money!) which will be leased to the fire district. Additionally, the H.P.O.A purchased twenty-three fire hydrants which were installed at the Pointe to further enhance their protection capabilities. The value of the installed hydrants is approximately \$25,000. The new stations are scheduled to be activated this Fall. At that time, the volunteer firefighters will be split, with half continuing to serve the Hartstene Pointe Station and other half will man the new station at the south end of the Island.

Also being considered is a new station near the Community Hall. It goes without saying, that Island residents here all agree that remarkable progress in fire protection has been made in a very short time.