

Teacher finds she's still in the driver's seat

by SCOTT NEWTON

After driving a bus for the Sandy Union School District for two years, Jeanne Budd wasn't sure she was ready for her job in the classroom. "I thought, 'Oh no, can I take it?'"

She was pleasantly surprised, however. "In the school I get real good vibrations," she said. "Harmonious, you know."

While the high schoolers may be a little rowdier on the bus than when they get in to school, there are still things that Budd misses about her old job.

She drove the Government Camp route, and liked going up the mountain first thing in the morning, waiting for the sun to rise and the moon to set. She liked observing the mountain's changes through the different seasons.

There are also things she doesn't miss. "There was the time I knocked down a fence, too," Budd said, "but we don't talk about that."

Although she doesn't have to make turn-arounds in narrow spaces anymore, there are a new set of responsibilities that go with her

new job as a paraprofessional in the special education department at the high school.

Budd has been involved with recreation since she was 14, when she worked as a YWCA counselor.

She received her bachelor's degree in recreation, with an emphasis on therapeutics, at Fresno State. She received her master's degree at San Francisco State, where she studied recreation administration, with an emphasis on therapeutics.

But while going to school in the Bay Area, she was holding three jobs.

"I think I just went..." She slaps the table. "Stop."

While planning rest and relaxation for others, she found she was neglecting her own health.

"I just burned out," she

said. At that same time, about four years ago, she came to Oregon for a vacation, and never left.

Although she'd always worked in recreation, she took a job in Tuaiatin cooking in a Mexican food restaurant. Finding herself short of funds, she started driving a bus for the Oregon Episcopal School in Portland.

She first started driving a bus while counseling in Sausalito. A school administrator there told her that since she was taking the kids everywhere, she'd just as well have her school bus drivers license.

While in Tuaiatin, she got to thinking that if she was going to drive a bus, she'd just as well be a well-paid bus driver. So, she applied at Greyhound, and got the job.

About driving their buses, she said, "It's just great. Driving one of those buses, you just can't believe. It's like driving a huge Cadillac, it's just so smooth and so easy."

But after a year and a half, four days before Thanksgiving, they told her they were going to transfer her to Salt Lake City.

"I said, 'I don't think so.'" She was living in a cabin near Eagle Creek at the time. She moved to Sandy and got a job driving a school bus here. She also worked at the Sandy Health House for about a year and a half.

Things were just falling in place for her, and they still are. She bought a house near Firwood about a year ago, and seems pleased with the job she now has.

Because recreation has

been an interest all her life, it was natural that she get back to it. After a lot of soul searching, and after looking into a number of opportunities, she came across a classified advertisement in The Post that told about the opening at SUHS.

She spends a lot of time now tutoring students one-on-one, teaching practical and vocational skills. It may have something to do with metals, woodworking, drafting, forestry, or agriculture, or it could be survival skills, such as personal hygiene, sewing on buttons and answering telephones.

Reading, writing and arithmetic, of course, are considered survival skills also.

Budd said the fact that she teaches practical skills may

have a lot to do with why she likes her recently-acquired job.

About special, slower-learning students, Budd said, "It's not that they're dumb, or anything, it's just that we haven't figured out the way to educate them."

She added, "I worked with handicapped and retarded people 10 years ago. And at that time some of these students wouldn't even be mainstreamed into a high school, they'd still be in a foster home, in an institution, or in a school of only that type of person."

"(Now) they're really trying to integrate this (kind of) person into high school, into the mainstream of life."

Budd feels this is not only a good thing, but in fact an obligation that a community has.

There are 89 special students enrolled in SUHS.

"One of my favorite things to do is to be a catalyst for people getting what they want," Budd said.

And driving a bus, like helping youngsters that need special attention, is not unrelated in that desire to serve as a catalyst.

"It was part of my individual growth to be driving a bus. And yet, looking back on it, I realize that I was still taking people from one place to another, and helping them."

"Yet I was giving myself time to heal, to find myself. 'So, I'm still in the driver's seat, only now I can take my eyes off the road. I can look people in the eye, and I like that.'"

Perhaps thinking back to her school bus driving days, she added, "They don't get away with anything that way, right?"



Jeanne Budd

Decision

(Continued from Page 1)

Just rebutted charges of the opposition's attorney, Kenneth M. Elliot of Portland, that the land would be 70 percent paved, which would create large amounts of run-off into the river, causing both erosion and pollution. He said that the development would be utilizing 22 out of 48 acres, and that only streets and sidewalks would be paved.

Erickson said that the whole site is wooded. The intent is to leave the open space in its natural state, not pave it.

Opponents of the project charged that Alderwood would increase the urbanization of the mountain, which would increase the cost of services for the entire area, as well as impact the recreational benefits of the area's natural setting.

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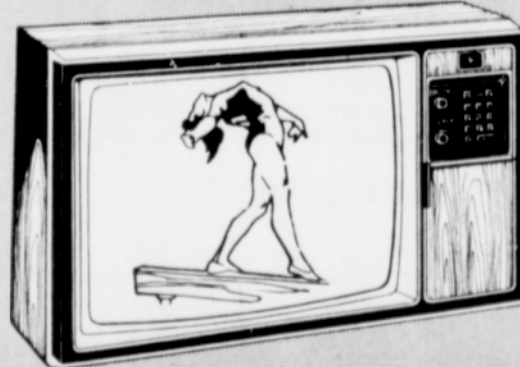
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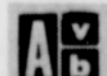
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