

Newsletter editor likes work

Marie Schwartz is a woman who never seems to be completely satisfied with her work.

She has been the editor of the Sandy Senior Scene Newsletter for over 12 years. And yet, as she looks at the latest issue, she discusses improvements she can make for the November issue. She has an idea for the cover of the December newsletter.

"I like the challenge," she said of her job putting the newsletter together.

Schwartz is one of the many people who volunteers time to operate programs for the Sandy Senior Center.

The newsletter includes a calendar, lists the Loaves and Fishes menu, includes a statement from the senior center director and the city manager, and offers tips on nutrition and health care.

"I like to take notes and I like to organize," Schwartz said. Working on publications only seemed natural. A 1925 graduate of Sandy High School and a 1930 graduate of Oregon State College, Schwartz worked for 16 years as the manager of the school lunch program in the Sandy Elementary District.

"I never missed a day for illness," she said. "I ate my own food," she added with a laugh.

While working as a kitchen manager she was co-editor of the statewide food-service industry publication, Oregon Grapevine.

Her most significant contribution to Sandy might be her work on the "Sandy Pioneers, Early Settlers and Barlow Road Days," a 252-page book that details the history of Sandy and tells the background of most of the area's old-line families.

She edited the history book with



Marie Schwartz takes a break on the back deck of her house, which is only a stone's throw from the house in which she was born.

Elizabeth "Betty" Hartman, gaining a great deal of respect for Hart-

man's abilities in the process. Schwartz is not, of course, com-

pletely satisfied with the pioneer book. She would like to update the history of Sandy and add to the family histories.

She has a list of corrections that need to be made, and one gets the impression she is anxious to get at every last one.

But updating the book is a long-term goal. The Sandy Pioneer and Historical Association, of which Schwartz is a member, is currently planning a book of historic photographs.

The group would like to build a museum. The pioneer book was published in 1973 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of a post office in Sandy. Proceeds from the book are in a fund dedicated to building the museum.

Schwartz has many memories of a Sandy that used to be. She rode her horse from the Baumbach property off Bluff Road — she still lives just a stone's throw from where she was born — to the high school on Langensand Road.

She remembers Armistice Day after World War I, when people were dancing on the wood-plank streets; water was squirting up between the planks.

Her father, A.C. Baumbach, was foreman of the county crew that built Bluff Road, using electricity to crush rock for the road. "In those days that was quite a thing," she said.

"They say Bluff Road was never built right, but it was built right for those days."

Sandy definitely has a different look today. "If my Dad or Henry's Dad came back, they'd have to give 'em a map to get 'em home," she said.

Schwartz's husband of 53 years, Henry, died Aug. 22.

Senior center programs reach over 400

by SANDRA POTTER MARQUARDT
Special for The Post

An ancient Chinese proverb reads, "You can judge a civilization by the way it treats its elderly."

Fortunately, Sandy would rank favorably today with the Chinese philosophers due to the efforts of a number of concerned community leaders of the early 1970s.

Their dedication towards improving the welfare of area seniors has led to better lives for the last two decades.

Local attempts to establish a formal program to address a variety of problems faced by older persons mirrored events and developments occurring on a national level at that time.

Although legislation growing out of the first White House Conference on Aging in 1961 created significant entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and increased Social Security benefits, the standard of living for many of the nation's elderly continued to deteriorate.

Approximately one-fourth of all older persons were living under federal poverty guidelines and an even higher percentage were living in relative poverty.

People over 60 were often denied access to transportation, health and legal services, housing and food because of their inability to pay for these basic necessities.

The plight of those living on very limited income, isolated, and in poor health was the force behind Congressional action requesting President Nixon to call the second White House Conference on Aging in 1971.

Resulting legislation expanding the Older Americans' Act had a far-reaching impact on the quality of life for seniors. New programs were developed nationwide offering social services, volunteer opportunities, and employment for older adults.

In addition, funds were allocated to assist with the establishment and operation of multipurpose senior centers offering seniors not only a place to congregate and take part in a variety of educational and recreational opportunities, but to gain access to very important social services as well.

A growing awareness of problems faced by the elderly, coupled with this new national focus, prompted individuals in the Sandy Community to take a look at the needs of local seniors.

An organization named the Sandy Golden Age Club was formed in the fall of 1970. Of the original 24 members, several are still active in the Senior Center and Sandy Golden Age Club today. They include Joyce and Frank Marcy, Stan and Olive Davis, Gretchen Chilton and Helena Wesselink.

By early 1972, membership in the Golden Age Club grew to 100 and potluck meetings were held at the Odd Fellows Hall. Interest in developing a multipurpose Senior Center with a wide variety of programs and services was also growing.

In 1973, it was learned that Older Americans' Act funding would be available to operate such a center in Sandy if a sponsor could be identified. Senior representatives approached the City Council for their support, which was granted, and an



Sandra Potter Marquardt

advisory committee was then appointed to guide the way for the organization of the Sandy Senior Center. Those members were Ivan Barker, Joe Youngbluth, Marie Schwartz, Brother Barnabas and Clyde Sutherland.

The advisory committee worked quickly to lay the organizational groundwork for the center. A director, Richard Halvorson, was hired in the spring of 1974, and the center officially opened in April of that year.

Loaves and Fishes meals were introduced in July of 1974. Operations continued to be out of the Odd Fellows Hall.

During the next four years, programs were developed and membership continued to grow. The Odd Fellows facility became increasingly

inadequate.

In 1978, the city of Sandy purchased the Sandy Baptist Chapel, site of the center's present location.

Following renovation, the building was renamed the Melvin N. Haneberg Community Center, and it houses the functions of the city of Sandy Department of Community Services.

Today, the goals of the Sandy Senior Center remain much the same as they did 13 years ago. Center volunteers and staff strive toward enhancing the well being and independent lifestyle of older persons.

This is done by coordinating a variety of services and programs at the center as well as by reaching out to aid the homebound.

The center enhances the quality of life for over 400 people per year by offering help with transportation, nutrition through the Loaves and Fishes hot meals program, financial counseling and access to supplemental income, legal assistance, health maintenance through special clinics and exercise classes, telephone reassurance, problem solving and housing referrals.

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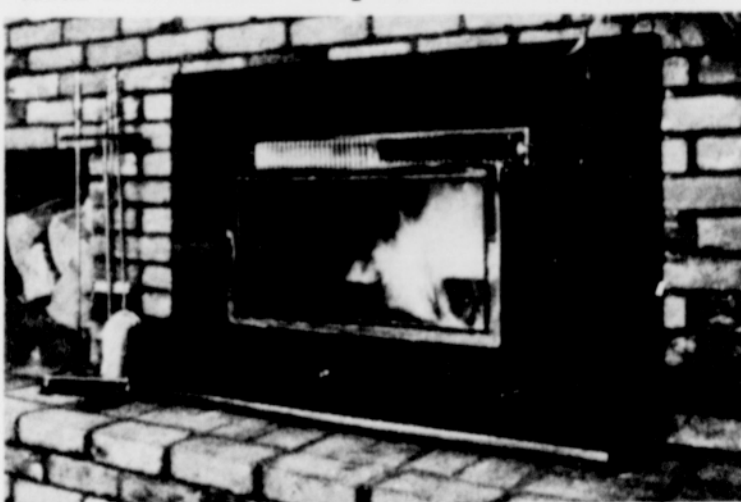
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