

Around About By Justine Weatherford

Last weekend I enjoyed the world-seriesless athletic TV programming very much. Being a Beaver born I usually don't get too enthusiastic about Duck contests, but when the U. of O. tied the great Irish of Notre Dame, I was really proud of those quackers.

Then on Sunday, the last of the New York City Marathon rivited my attention. Oregon's Alberto Salazar spurred magnificently to outclass Rodolfo Gomez of Mexico who had run right beside him, even a little ahead of him, for quite a distance. It was thrilling to also watch three-time champion, Grete Waitz, break the tape far ahead of other women competitors.

Since last week's column was written, I've made another visit to the Port Orchard-Bremerton area where I got acquainted with Jacob Marion Weaver during the first week of his life. I learned again how tiring that first week often is for the baby and for his family. I came on home again before little Jay got anywhere near an established routine. He was being most erratic about his sleeping and what seemed like almost 24-hour snacking. It seems to me there is nothing like a newborn human to reaffirm one's belief in miracles.

Now I have promised myself that I shall stay in Heppner until Thanksgiving week. Events here that should have had good attendance were the Monday evening A.A.U.W.-arranged presentation concerning Ballot Measure 5 which urges a mutual freeze of nuclear weapons development. Then, this afternoon's Neighborhood Center Halloween Party and tonight the annual Fall Moonlight Sale should draw everyone downtown. I didn't get to the Health Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 26, in Ione, but I am sure that was a very worthwhile event. Because I don't have wood heating and am not able to go out collecting wood, I also missed the workshop last night at the fairgrounds which also sounded very worthwhile.

When I was away visiting up north my daily mail was taken in from the box on Gilmore Street by my helpful neighbor Jack Loyd. He really managed to get quite an assortment of mail together, such as, three tax statements, lots of junk stuff, a little first class correspondence, too many magazines to catch up with reading very quickly and, of course, my last week's G-T, which I promptly arranged on the top of the to-be-read material.

Some local news was good; some was sad. It has been good to have Gladys Beckett and Zella Prindle as part of this community which has been their home so long. It is sad that the poor market for lumber has caused Kinzua to reduce its employees. That poor timber market was also the basis for the drop in timber sales receipts to this county which is leaving the Road Department under-budgeted.

During my second visit in two weeks to the Puget Sound area, I took more time to read the "Seattle Post-Intelligencer" and the "Bremerton Sun" and to observe some of the top stories these two large-circulation papers have been featuring. The P-I has been running a series on drunk drivers. One day (Oct. 21), the article told of a man, an airline pilot, who had been cited three times for drunken driving but each time he kept his driver's license and stayed out of jail. It took a tragedy to finally put him behind bars. Last summer when driving while drunk he severely injured a young couple engaged to be married. Now they have lain in a coma for three months at Harborview Medical Center. "After his fourth citation, a recent trial in Aukene District Court saw the driver ordered to jail. He was fired from his airline pilot job, according to Northwest Airlines officials, who apparently were unaware of his previous arrests."

Last week the burning and sinking of a 338-foot fish-processing ship in the center of Everett Harbor was featured in every paper and TV news show. The opening of the rebuilt Hood Canal Bridge was a big story as the dedication approached on Sunday. People were protesting the \$2.50 toll that was going into effect on Monday, Oct. 25.

A P-I series featuring Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and the financial empire revolving around him especially interested me. It carried a large picture of the Bhagwan with this caption "He attracts disciples from the upper-middle class who help pay for his new city and agricultural project in Central Oregon. Many of the disciples have bought him Rolls-Royces." The story tells that he has a total of 21 luxury cars, Camargues and Silver Spurs, Rolls that sell for over \$150,000 each. It stresses that "Unlike many contemporary religious movements, which attract the disillusioned dropouts and rejects of modern society, the 250,000 orange-garbed disciples of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh tend to be professional, upper middle-class and college-educated. These disciples, called 'sannyasins' pay for all the meditations and therapies they participate in at hundreds of Rajneesh centers in cities around the world."

The article also states that Rajneesh had already amassed a huge financial empire by the time his organization made a \$1.5 million cash down payment last year on the \$6 million, 125-square-mile Oregon ranch. It explains that Rajneesh Services International, based in London, provides financial management services for 400 loosely connected Rajneesh meditation and therapy centers around the world. The Oregon ranch is actually owned by the Rajneesh Investment Corp., "a privately held, profit-making corporation with assets variously estimated from \$11.5 million to \$25 million. This organization was granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service in July 1978."

So, readers of Seattle's P-I may now be coming to look around Antelope and to buy coffee, sodas and souvenirs at the commune's store there. The article which I brought home is from the Oct. 21 P-I and it was the last of a series of three articles written by Don Lattin "San Francisco Examiner religion writer, who spent a month studying Bhugwan Shree Rajneesh, the guru from India whose disciples are building a city in rural Oregon."

County service officer attends conference



Sharon Biddle, Morrow County service officer converses with Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Staryl C. Austin, Jr. at a statewide Veterans Service Officer Conference in Bend. The conference was held October 20, 21, and 22.

Sharon Biddle, Morrow County service officer, attended a semi-annual statewide County Veterans Service Officer Conference October 20, 21, and 22 in Bend.

Co-sponsored by the Oregon

Department of Veterans' Affairs and the County Service Officer Association, the sessions provided county service officers with updated information necessary to assist Oregon veterans, their widows or widowers and dependents in

applying for State and Federal veterans' benefits. Areas covered included housing, education, counseling, claims, employment, medical and pension assistance.

Keynote speakers included Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Staryl C. Austin, Jr., and other representatives from Federal and state veteran service or-

ganizations. Association President Loraine Benson was pleased with the well represented partici-

pation and exchange of valuable information, said a spokesperson from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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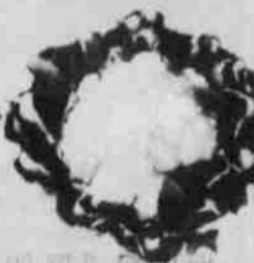
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