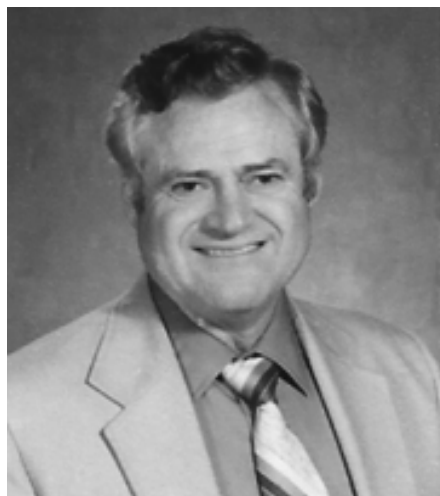


PAT'S RAMBLINGS

I don't know how it came about that I have found a niche in writing eulogies and letters to the editor. I guess it is because when I lose someone very special to me, I want to honor their memories by writing about their special qualities and the things I remember about them so that their families will know that others cared, also. The letters to the editor allowed me to voice my opinion on subjects that concerned or interested me. Because I speak much better with my fingers than with my mouth, it was the perfect venue for me. I included the eulogy I wrote for Estelle Counts at the beginning of this book and decided to dig through some of the other pieces that I have written over the years for other special people from our community. In this way, they can be documented into our history. I hope I have done their memories justice.

Eulogy to Richard H. Beebe (1928-1989), Superintendent of the Crow-Applegate-Lorane Schools, 1989

If this world was made up of people like Dick Beebe, there would be no need for military build-ups, prisons or drug programs. There would be no illiteracy, discrimination or greed. Dick was a man who could have been the model for what human-kind should be. Much has already been written about his caring, his concern, his respect for others. It is extremely difficult to explain to those who never met him how very much this one man positively affected all of us who were fortunate to have been able to work with him and know him as a friend. He inspired us to take on projects which we would ordinarily be hesitant to do because we lacked the confidence in ourselves. He gave us that confidence



Richard H. Beebe (1928-1989)

by believing in us and helping us to take each step that was needed to accomplish the task. He was never a man to sit back and watch things happening around him. He was a participant from beginning to end, whether the activity was connected with his job as a school superintendent, a family man, a church member or a citizen.

As school superintendent, Dick Beebe, had no equal. He not only was overseer of the school district administration, he took part in practically all activities that took place within the school district whether they were connected to the schools or not. How many superintendents attend and serve as advisor to every parent club (P.T.A., Booster Club, Parent Network, etc.), going so far as to make up and distribute agendas for every meeting? How many superintendents attend almost all home athletic events, plays and programs in their districts? How many are out on the roads at 5 a.m. each icy or snowy morning to determine if the roads are safe enough for the school buses to travel? How many take the time to write letters of congratulations to students, teachers and parents who have exhibited a standard of excellence in one way or another? How many are always available if a patron has a question or a concern about the way the district is run?

As a citizen, Dick was not afraid to fight for what he felt would benefit the quality of education for the children in the Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District. He attended sessions of the Oregon legislature and testified at hearings, conferences and wherever else he thought he might be able to make a positive difference for the patrons and the students of our school district. He was willing to speak out for what he believed in and he defended those beliefs with the tenacity of a gentle warrior. Excellence in education was more than just a phrase to Dick. It was his goal.

As a family man and church member, Dick was known to have been totally devoted and attentive. He was miraculously able to give each segment of his life his full support, direction and attention without neglect.

We will miss you, Dick. We will now have to find our self-confidence and motivation from some other source. Hopefully, you have given us the means to find it within ourselves.

EULOGY TO MIKE O'HEARN

We all knew him as "Mike," and he was our friend. And, there was no better person than Mike O'Hearn for the people of Lorane to call "friend."