Longtime Clark College instructor Scarpelli dies

He taught thousands of students business and economics by HOWARD DUCK
Columbian staff writer

Antonio "Chick" Scarpelli, longtime Clark College business instructor and division chairman for whom the school's Scarpelli Hall was named, has died. He was 80.

Scarpelli died Dec. 5 following a long battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Survived by his wife of 56 years, Avlene, he worked at Clark for 38 years before he retired in 1986, the last 25 years as business chairman.

By then, Scarpelli had taught about 11,000 students in some 375 business administration and economics classes, a Columbian story noted.

Chance career

It was almost an accidental career. He took a Clark business teaching job in 1949 while looking into employment at the Jantzen Co. swimwear outfit.

A college official told Scarpelli to "go ahead and teach for nine months, and if you don't like it, you can leave it," he told The Columbian. "Well, I did. And I guess it got into my blood," he said.

Current Clark President Bob Knight said Chick and Avlene continued to attend many college events in recent years, to lend their support.

He said Scarpelli kept in touch.

SCARPELLI, Dec.

Santa set to chug into Vancouver aboard steam locomotive

If you go

What: SPS 700 steam locomotive brings Santa to town.

When: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Where: Vancouver Amtrak station, 1301 W. 11th St.

BNSF Railway sponsors annual event at Amtrak station by JEFFREY MIZE
Columbian staff writer

A vintage steam locomotive, pulling a train adorned with Christmas lights, will chug into Vancouver on Saturday morning for the BNSF Railway’s fifth annual Christmas train.

And yes, Santa will be riding in the cab, ready to greet children and train aficionados alike.

Gus Melonas, a BNSF Railway spokesman in Seattle, said Saturday’s gathering has become the biggest railroad-themed Christmas public event in the Northwest.

"Each year, this has grown more popular," he said. "Last year, there were over 1,500 attendees." Melonas said people should remain a safe distance from the tracks as the Christmas train pulls into Vancouver.

"BNSF will provide the community with cake, cookies, beverages," he said. "Santa will visit with each child for a photo opportunity."

With the potential for wet, cold weather, a snow cap will allow Santa to greet children and prevent Saturday’s experience from being a soggy one.

SANTA will arrive aboard the SP&S 700, a steam locomotive that served the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway from 1938 until 1956.

Crowds of children and their parents greet the arrival of Santa Claus in Vancouver in 2006. He visits again Saturday.

Train Page C3

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Police report

Avenue blocked for two hours due to blaze

House fire in Minnehaha causes smoke damage

By LAURA A. MCKEEVEN and JOHN BRANTON

Columbian staff writers

Olympia police said Wednesday that North 19th Avenue between Northeast 5th Street and 5th Street for about two hours Wednesday afternoon after firefighters worked to extinguish a house fire.

The fire was in a residence at 5408 N.E. 90th Ave. in Minnehaha. The blaze caused considerable smoke damage and moderate structural damage inside the residence, said Jim Flaherty, Vancouver Fire Department spokeswoman.

No people were injured, but a small dog died.

The fire was reported by neighbors at 5:08 p.m., and firefighters arrived four minutes later.

No one was home, so firefighters forced the front door open and found the front room in flames that were spreading to the attic.

It took about 20 minutes to control the blaze, Flaherty said.

The cause and dollar damage estimate were rough, but insurance companies were involved.

County records show the house is owned by Eugene and Teri Lashbrook.

Gun sightings lead to school lockdowns

Three east Vancouver schools were placed under lockdown Wednesday morning after a teacher reported seeing a man with what appeared to be a BB gun in the Minnehaha Union High School parking lot. After investigation, police discovered it was actually a BB gun.

After an extensive search of the parking lots at Union and nearby Blaker Elementary School and Shahalia Middle School, Vancouver police officers found and questioned the student. It didn't appear the student had a BB gun, but police spokeswoman Kim Kopp said there were no threats made.

The lockdown caused a minor disruption at Shadle as buses were briefly delayed. The school was operating on an early release schedule and had dismissed classes at 11:30, said Evergreen School District spokeswoman Carol Pennanent.

Clashes at Union had been dismissed before the gun report.

Police have not decided what action to take on the situation today. Fenstermacher said because it was an emergency situation for any students with a firearm, including a BB gun.

The student's name was not available.

Two officials quit over port fraud report

Seattle (AP) — Two high-ranking managers resigned, four others were suspended, and three others received written reprimands at the Port of Seattle on Monday, related to a scandal report that detailed fraud at the agency.

Port Chief Executive Officer Ty Yakubson and Tad J. Hendren that the port has been transparent in its handling of the investigation.

The two managers were suspended without pay for 30 days, and two others received warnings.

The port's independent investigation found that the people involved had access to the information.

Train: From Page C1

The locomotive, owned by the city of Portland and operated by the Pacific Railroad Preservation Association, is a popular attraction for the public and children.

People can donate unwrapped gifts during Saturday's event to support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which distributes Christmas gifts to needy children in the community where the toys were donated.

The three train cars were donated to a BNSF employee by the Salvation Army, a local toy drive.

Train engineer Andy Brady said he was glad to see the children's reactions.

Local & Northwest

Scarpelli: From Page C1

by email, too, even while spending winter months in Southern California.

"He really did care about Clark College," Reiner said.

"He was just revered as a class act. Just a wonderful guy," Positive outlook on things, always.

Until 2007, Scarpelli served on the board of directors of the Clark College Foundation. He also had been active in Vancouver's St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Scarpelli was from Portland, Oregon, and graduated from Jefferson High School in his hometown.

"He is a huge supporter of the arts and the community," Reiner said.

"He was a wonderful role model, and a lot of people will miss him," Reiner said.

Parish ever since its inception.

"Mr. Scarpelli was an employee of the school for 54 years," Reiner said.

"He was a wonderful role model, and a lot of people will miss him," Reiner said.

On Sunday, a memorial service will be held at St. Jerome Catholic Church, 1507 S. Main St., Portland, Ore.

"He was a wonderful role model, and a lot of people will miss him," Reiner said.

Vancouver Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group

LAST MEETING Friday, December 12 at 6:30 PM
at Salmon Creek Legacy Hospital, Conf. Rooms C & D

We invite anyone to attend our LAST CHRISTMAS SOCIAL. For information on how to balance our books. We will discuss the possibility of creating a new support group which could use our meeting and telephone numbers.

Contact Lynne at 503-859-0330 or 503-384-0334.

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There are more obituaries on pages C5 and C6.

RUTH E. (PURVEY) WEISS

Ruth E. Weiss, 91, of Vancouver, WA, passed away on Dec. 5, 2008. She was born on May 5, 1917 in Holland, MI to Daniel and Effie (Rosenthal) Weiss.

Bash had received his B.A. and a master's degree in 1974 from the University of Southern California.

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