

# Couple near Forks seeks new fire district

**FORKS** — A new fire district may be close to reality.

If that occurs, it will be due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Edwards of Mora Road, who have been working three years to form a new district.

Its eastern boundary would begin at Rosmond Mill just west of the LaPush Road-Highway 101 junction outside of Forks. It would consist mainly of the Quillayute Prairie area with the main roads being the LaPush, Quillayute Prairie and Mora-Rialto roads.

Mrs. Edwards filed a petition for the district with the county auditor Jan. 5 and a hearing has been set for 10 a.m. Feb. 22 during the county board of commissioners meeting.

If the commissioners approve, it would still be up to the residents of the district to approve or reject the idea.

Mrs. Edwards said the residents of the area would receive a letter from the county which would include a request for a ballot.

The request would have to be sent back to the county and the ballot the area resident would receive would have a place for the voter to indicate if they want to form the district.

The ballot also would have the nominees for fire district commissioner on it. Three would be elected. Presumably, it would also include the district tax rate.

Money to pay for the fire protection would come from the tax levy assessed against the property in the district.

Once the commissioners were officially in office, Mrs. Edwards said they would meet with the commissioners of Fire District No. 1 to work out an arrangement for fire protection for the new district.

Mrs. Edwards said the district has provided some protection on a "good neighbor" basis, but has been reluctant

lately because of possible legal entanglements.

She added that if and when the district is formed, she would seek to contract with the existing district for protection until the new district could provide its own department.

Mrs. Edwards said she and her husband have a fairly new home and they want the assurance of fire protection. That was their primary reason for leading the move for a fire district.

Because the area is now sparsely settled and its population is mostly of the upper age brackets, she does not expect the new district to develop its

own fire department for a number of years.

She pointed out people are moving

into and building in the area and in about eight to 10 years she expected it may have its own department.

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Peninsula Daily News: Feb 24, 1977

## April 5 election set for fire district vote

The approximately 100 residents of the Quillayute Prairie area will vote by mail April 5 on forming a new Clallam County fire district.

The county commissioners today called for the election after only one person appeared at a public hearing on the proposed district. Only residents of the proposed district will vote on the ballot issue.

Diane Edwards, Star Rt. 3, Box 390, was the only resident of the area at today's hearing. She and her husband James have been working for three

years to form the district. She said she doesn't know anyone who opposes the district's formation.

Mrs. Edwards told the commissioners that forming the district will not improve fire protection or decrease insurance rates for the area's residents but will allow the residents to contract with Fire District 1 for fire protection.

Currently, she said, Fire District 1 does supply fire protection for Quillayute Prairie area residents, but the protection is not mandatory because Quillayute Prairie is outside Fire District 1 boundaries.

She said area residents hope that by accumulating annual tax collections the district eventually will be able to finance a fire house and firetruck.

If residents annexed into Fire District 1, they would be liable along with other district residents for any fire district expenses. With a new district, the Quillayute Prairie residents are only responsible for paying the cost of contracting with District 1, she said.

Three area residents proposed as fire commissioners are James Edwards, Star Rt. 2, Box 290; Stanley Moore, Star Rt. 2, Box 200; and Larry Suslick, Quillayute Prairie.



Forks Forum: April 7, 1977

## Quillayute Prairie establishes fire district

The Quillayute Prairie area west of Forks will now be Clallam Fire District 6 following Tuesday's vote to form the district.

The count in the ballots mailed in so far is 64 for the new district and nine opposed, according to Clallam County Auditor Alice "Teeny" Thorne.

Because the eligible voters in the district number about 100, ballots were mailed to them. They were to vote and return them to the auditor's office.

Along with approving the district, the Quillayute Prairie voters elected a fire district board of commissioners: James Edwards,

Forks Star Rt. 2, Box 290; Stanley Moore, Forks Star Rt. 2, Box 200 and Larry Suslick, Quillayute Prairie.

The board will determine the future of the new district. While they were working to form the district, Mr. and Mrs. James Edwards indicated it would probably contract with Clallam County Fire District 1

at Forks to provide fire protection in the Quillayute area.

Early in the petition campaign which brought about the election, Mrs. Edwards said population in the district is growing and in future years it will probably be able to set up and maintain its own district fire department.