



Tales from a **Sisters Naturalist**
by Jim Anderson

Ode to Dorro Sokol

Dorro Sokol was a fine lady, especially when it came to making Ice Worm Cocktails. Really!

Way back in the early 1990s, Dorro and a few other stalwart Sisters Country residents enrolled in Carol Moorehead's Sisters Campus COCC Continuing Education class I was teaching on the Bard of the North, Robert Service. Oh, what a grand time we had sharing his poetry with one another and learning about his life. We thrilled when he took his small river boat and explored the upper reaches of the Yukon River, and began to write his immortal poetry.

Two of Service's elegant poems caught us all in the COCC class. One, "The World's All Right," with the powerful last stanza:

The World's all right; serene I sit, And joy that I'm a part of it;

And put my trust in Nature's plan,

And try to aid her all I can;

Content to pass. If in my place I've served the uplift of the Race. Truth! Beauty! Love! O Radiant Day

What ho! The World's all right, I say.

And the one that hit Dorro and other members of the class and me in the funny bone was, "The Ballad of the Ice Worm Cocktail." We all delighted in it. That piece is one of Service's longer works, and actually a very clever and hilarious story about a nimrod named Major Percy Brown who came to the Yukon to kill indigenous wildlife, but ran afoul of Barman Bill, Sheriff Black and his drinkin' buddies.

Between them they got Major Brown talked into drinking the infamous Yukon Ice Worm Cocktail, which about put poor old Brown into the grave, coaxing him along with such lines as:

And with a roar the mob proclaimed: "Cheechako, Major Brown; Reveal that you're of Sourdough stuff, and drink your cocktail down."

The Major took another look, then quickly closed his eyes; For even as he raised his glass he felt his gorge arise;

Aye, even though his sight was sealed, in fancy he could see; That grey and greasy thing that reared and



ILLUSTRATION BY CALEB ANDERSON

An Ice Worm Cocktail.

sneered in mockery.

It was the last line in the ballad that Dorro and I loved, and without prompting she said, "Hey, next week is the last class, let's all celebrate with an Ice Worm Cocktail."

I caught the ice worms, and bless Dorro's fun-loving soul, she brought the cocktail glasses and the sparkling cider. I will never forget that night as we all stood and toasted the Bard of the North, reciting his grand poem, and at the end, when we all dashed our ice worm cocktails down...

And ere next night his story was the talk of Dawson Town; But gone and reft of glory was the wrathful Major Brown; For that ice-worm (so they told him) of such formidable size; Was-a stick of stained spaghetti with two red ink spots for eyes.

So long, Dorro Old Pal, it's been good to know ya'.

'Spring Awakening' to hit stage at The Belfry

Topsoil Theatrics and Mejaski Choreography will present the raw, provocative, and moving musical "Spring Awakening" to the community of Sisters this weekend.

"Spring Awakening" is a folk-infused rock musical/coming-of-age story that takes place in 1890s Germany. The stories are, however, timeless.

"It can apply to now; especially right now, with politics and where our nation's at, this is very pertinent to now. It is all about communication and love," said choreographer and co-producer Michelle Mejaski. "It is about educating the youth, our children, and students. And it shows the consequences and harsh realities of not communicating and educating. It's all about facing reality, and I think it's a big wake-up call, especially in our nation right now, to have a show like this giving hope. It's raw, it's powerful, it's meaty, it's beautiful. The music in this show is powerful and will fill each venue with an unbelievable energy. It's not super-recognizable, but the people who know it are like a cult-following.

We would love for people to see it and share this experience with us, because we hope to change people's lives, at least for a moment."

Due to explicit content dealing with themes of puberty, sexuality, rape, child abuse, homosexuality, suicide and abortion, the play is recommended only for mature audiences.

Performances are set for Saturday, February 11, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, February 12, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$25 and are available in advance at BendTicket.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Powerful play on tap at The Belfry.

Quality: the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skilled execution



LAREDO
DESIGNERS & BUILDERS of DISTINCTION
541-549-1575 CCB#194489
www.laredoconstruction.com

Quality Truck-mounted **CARPET CLEANING**
Quality Cleaning 16 years in Sisters!
Reasonable Prices — Credit Cards Accepted —
ENVIROTECH
541-771-5048
Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB#181062
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

Ayurvedic & Body Treatments • Massage
Skin Care • Nails • Waxing

Give a gift of love on Valentine's Day...

A Gift Certificate for Wellness at... **SHIBUI SPA** AT FIVEPINE

ShibuiSpa.com | 720 Buckaroo Trail, Sisters | 541-549-6164

We've Got A New Chef
Have you seen the reviews?
"We came for dinner and just had to come right back for lunch!"
You'll be amazed with our quality and service.



LAKE CREEK LODGE
— EST. 1935 —

Call 541.516.3030 | lakecreeklodge.com
Wed-Sun Breakfast and Lunch 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Dinner 6 p.m., by reservation

Are You in Love With the Colors of February?



Pssst... Save 10% when you register at StitchinPost.com for classes — "House Party Revival," "Happy 30th With Love" or "Outside the Lines" with Jean Wells.

Stitchin' Post
541.549.6061
311 W. Cascade Ave.