

# Cary Groner

Continued from page 3

because I'm strictly a location shooter; I don't have a studio yet. I hope that will change soon.

WH: What's stopping you?

CG: Money, to be blunt. It's a considerable investment, and barring the timely intervention of a wealthy philanthropist to the tune of about \$10,000, I'm going to have to get some work in the meantime. I hope to have something cooking within a couple of months.

WH: Has an education in theatre been of any value?

CG: Yeah, in many ways. You learn all the principles of composition, color rhythm, emphasis, lighting—though the lighting instruments themselves are a whole different kettle of fish. I'd say its greatest value to a photographer is in teaching the importance of storytelling, of constructing visual scenarios that are fluid, dynamic, and maybe just a little bit ambiguous. In a lot of shooting where human beings are involved, ambiguity is one of the great overlooked treasures available to a photographer. It involves the viewer immediately, because a question is asked. Working in the theatre also teaches you that actors and models are just working stiff like yourself. If you harbor any romantic illusions about beautiful young models, you lose them fast.

WH: You haven't been actually employed by anyone else for years. Doesn't that get scary, sometimes?

CG: Oh, I suppose if I had a family it would. But for me, no. There are fears and there are fears. At times I fear I'm in danger of being overtaken by discretion, but the seizures quickly pass. I have some great fears, actually.

WH: Like what?

CG: Well, nuclear oblivion, for one.

WH: You've been politically active?

CG: I was, when I lived in Portland. I was strongly involved with the anti-nuclear movement there. For what it was worth.

WH: What happened?

CG: A couple of years ago I worked with Andy Robinson at PAND (Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament) to organize a big anti-nuclear art show at the Portland Center for the Visual Arts. The community's artists were great. They donated some terrific work. Greg Grenon, Valerie Willson, George Johanson, and about 20 others. It was like a Who's Who. It took hundreds of hours of preparation. The idea was to sell the work, with half of the proceeds going to PAND. Well, to make a long story short, the press ignored us. Nobody came. We actually lost money. I was so chagrined that my time and energy could have gone toward losing money for such a worthwhile cause that I never looked back. Sometimes I wonder what it will take to wake people up about this.

WH: What will it take?

CG: I suppose my position is that people are not stupid. And many people are actually pretty well-informed. At the risk of sounding like a patronizing jerk, I think that what people lack is imagination. They simply cannot form a picture in their minds of what complete devastation of the earth's biosphere means. Well, who can blame them? But I happen to think it's important. It's like we as humans are now backed into a corner by a hungry tiger of our own creation, and we're choosing not to deal with that in any way. What we're doing is bickering about the size of the tiger's teeth. "Well, I think the incisors on



Photograph by Cary Groner

*"Ambiguity is one of the great overlooked treasures available to a photographer."*

your side of the mouth are bigger than the incisors on my side of the mouth." "Oh, yeah? Well, how are you going to verify that?" "Well, I'd verify it if you let me come stand over there, but you won't!" Meanwhile, the tiger gets hungrier and comes closer. This is our situation. And unless something dramatic happens, this will be our demise. Maybe what we need to do is construct a diversion, by telling people that if they ever hope to see prosperity again, we must cut arms spending. This happens to be true, of course, but you won't read it in the papers. This may be what it takes to finally bring change, absurd as it sounds. I think human beings are capable of accomplishing anything, given sufficiently powerful ulterior motives.

WH: You've mentioned the press a couple of times. Do you have strong opinions about the media?

CG: Opinions are made of words,

which are made of air. Opinions really don't mean a damn thing. And since I make my living in the media, it seems a trifle hypocritical of me to come down on them. I know that editors are often under a great deal of pressure, but I'll confess that I often feel as if they're not as courageous as they might be. When it comes to national news magazines, they behave like a scared flock of sheep. There's more independent thinking generated among my cat's fleas than in the editorial boardrooms of *Time* and *Newsweek* combined.

WH: What brought you to Lane County, anyway?

CG: Many things seemed to be drawing to a close for me in Portland. For one thing, in the neighborhoods where I could afford to live, you practically needed a shotgun to walk from your front door to your car. That is an overstatement, of course, and had

I owned a shotgun I probably would have used it as a garden tool. I suppose I finally found myself so dragged down by the weight of feeling; the atmosphere of hostility and degeneration that was becoming pervasive in some parts of the city. Also, I hadn't had a date in months.

WH: Has your love life improved?

CG: One of my ambitions is to write an advice to the lovelorn column. Only do it right. Speaking of dissatisfaction with the media! Sometimes I think Ann Landers and Dear Abby must be from some other planet. What we need is some real advice. But to stop evading your question, I suppose it has. Actually, I'm only part-time lovelorn now. I've met a wonderful woman from Seattle, and we see each other fairly often. And I have many good friends here, which makes it easier. I like this area a lot. I think I'll stick around awhile.

**CAFE CENTRAL & BAR**  
Original Northwest Cuisine

**SAVOR THE EXPERIENCE**  
Fresh Seafood, Oregon Veal, Poultry, Game.

- Lunch
- Dinner
- Desserts
- Espresso
- Full Bar

384 W. 13th      Reservations 343.9510

**ROASTER'S**

**SPECIAL**

**Sumatran and Sumatran Decaf**  
**50¢ Off Per Lb.**

The biggest, smoothest best flavor. A favorite. Sumatran is regularly \$7.40 lb. **NOW \$6.90**  
Sumatran Decaf, regularly \$7.75 lb. **NOW \$7.25**

Fifth Street Market      Southtowne Shoppes

**The COFFEE CORNER Ltd.**

**CHIROPRACTIC CARE**

combined with

- Massage
- Hot/Cold Packs
- Muscle Balancing
- Exercise Rehabilitation

**GENTLE TECHNIQUES**  
**CYNTHIA STOCKWELL, D.C.**  
CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

595 West 8th Avenue      342-6500

**Don't Miss this week's special... FREE DELIVERY\* and Store Take-Out Coupon**

Order any regular or extra-thick crust or deep-dish Sicilian pizza and receive...

**\$1.00 off**  
of any large, medium, or small pizza plus 2 Free Large Drinks.

\*in our area coupon good Mon.-Sun. 'til midnight

**AY'S PIZZA • 1211 Alder on Campus • 686-9598**  
Coupon Good Through 1/28/87

**If you like What's Happening, support our advertisers!**