

Cartoonist animates crowd

By CLARK WALWORTH
Of the Emerald

Bob Clampett knows how to warm up an audience. He brings along Tweety Bird to open the show.

Clampett, who spent 15 years at Warner Bros. Studio creating and collaborating on such greats as Tweety, Daffy Duck, Yosemite Sam and Bugs Bunny before forming his own company and producing "Beany and Cecil," appeared in the EMU Ballroom Saturday night, screening vintage cartoons and regaling his audience with stories of animation history.

Tweety is a tough act to follow and Clampett, by trade a cartoonist rather than an entertainer, took a while to warm up. But his cartoons were enough to keep the program jumping.

Clampett, who worked on the first Merry Melodies cartoon in 1931 but refuses to tell his age, started by tracing the history of animation, from Gertie the Dinosaur, a 1910 vaudeville attraction, on through his own experiences at Warner's.

Clampett modeled Tweety Bird on his own baby picture. The bird was originally pink, but the censors decided he looked naked.

"I didn't want to put little panties on him, so I gave him feathers and made him a canary," he said.

Clampett broke with Warner Bros. in 1946 and formed his own studio to produce "Time for Beany," a puppet show that won three Emmies, and "Beany and Cecil," a cartoon that ran on ABC for seven years. Clampett announced recently that Beany, Cecil, Captain Hufflepuff and the whole gang will soon be back on the air, in a new format.

Cecil the Seasick Sea Serpent paid a personal visit at the performance, too. Clampett brought along his original Cecil puppet, the first television puppet with facial expressions. Cecil talked to the crowd, munching crackers and leered at the women in the front row.

While Clampett signed autographs after the show, he talked shop with art students and then screened two rarely seen cartoons. The first was "Porky in Wackyland," a surrealistic black-and-white wonder, made for \$3,000 in 13 days. Several students compared it to parts of "Yellow Submarine," a cartoon featuring the Beatles.

The second was "Coal Black and De Sebben Dwarfs," made during World War Two with some of the finest black talent of the day. Though it would be considered racist today, Clampett said the black performers involved approved of the story and characters before the show was produced.

The performers were enthusiastic about helping Warner Bros. make a cartoon about blacks, and found no offense in jokes about razors.

"They were so excited that they'd work nights on it," said Clampett. "At the time we thought we were a step ahead."

Clampett's mixture of stories, film clips and cartoons made for a well-paced evening. Though Clampett's own performance was witty and informative, Bugs, Daffy, Elmer and Porky were the stars. But then, that's a tribute to the cartoonist.

Tweety is a tough act to follow.

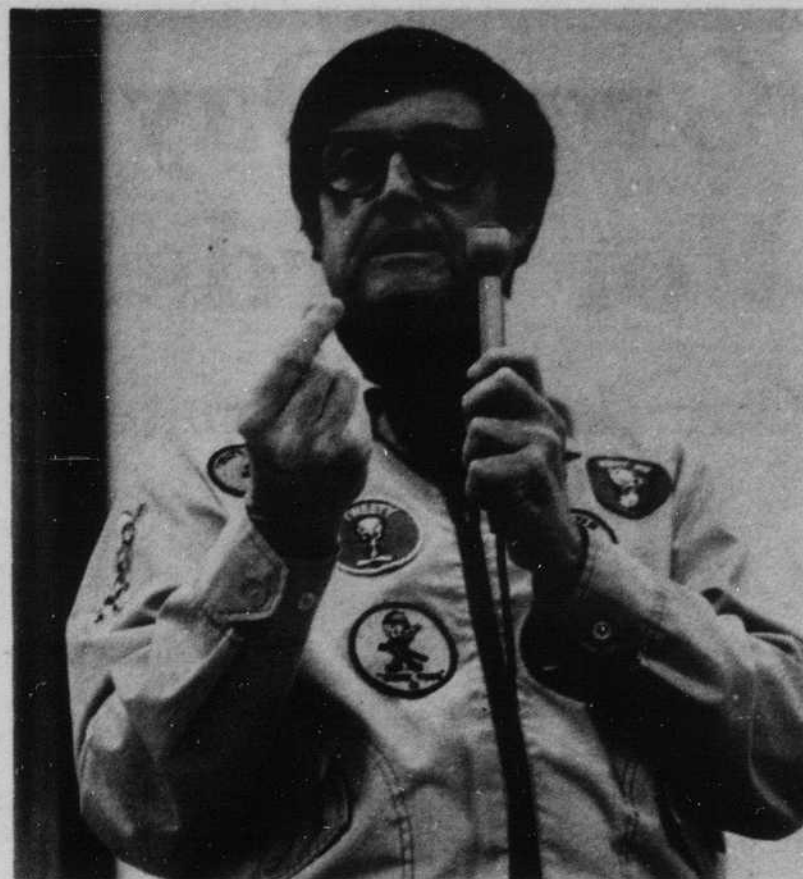


Photo by Tonya Haug

Cartoonist Bob Clampett points out the history of the art in his Saturday appearance on campus. Clampett was assisted by his friends Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig and Cecil the Sea-sick Sea Serpent, who appeared in film, animation and puppet form.

County advisory committee eyes Lane Greenway plan

By RICK BELLA
For the Emerald

The Lane County version of the Willamette Greenway plan will now come under close scrutiny as the county's advisory committee adopted a framework for intensive study Tuesday and outlined a program for public education.

Although county planners called the committee "cooperative," members split along traditional lines: landowners calling the plan restrictive and environmentalists calling the plan too loose.

The Greenway, a designated corridor along the Willamette River, was ordered by the 1973 Legislature to protect areas of natural, scenic and historic value. Plans call for a boundary at least 150 feet from the low water mark on both sides of the bank — from the source of the Willamette to its confluence with the Columbia.

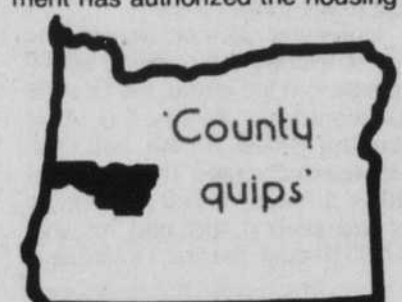
County planning for the Greenway is not as well developed as state planning, and local planners estimated a tentative county version of the plan will not be available for public inspection until March. A series of public meetings and hearings will follow, they said.

• There will be more government-subsidized rental units in Lane County, but the income limits for eligibility will be raised.

Lane Housing Authority board members approved changes Tuesday in programs they administer in the county. The board agreed to add about 100 rental units

on Dec. 1 to the authority's Section 8 program, a project in which tenants find their own rental units and do their own negotiating with the landlord. However, if a tenant is eligible for funding, he will not pay more than 25 per cent of his income in rent.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has authorized the housing



authority to operate 205 of these units in Lane County, but it is not yet known how many of the additional units will be in the Eugene-Springfield area.

Income limits, for eligibility, which are adjusted according to the number of members in the family, can be obtained by calling 342-6081.

• The Lane County assessor is at it again, but this time he sued county counsel Helen Kalil for refusing to represent him in a previous suit against the county.

The flap started in January when Bylund suspended chief tax officer Ruth Nettles and fired her in February. She then appealed the action to the county's personnel review board which recommended that she be reinstated and awarded her back pay. The

board of county commissioners upheld that recommendation and Bylund then sued the county, charging that the board infringed upon his right as an elected official to hire and fire. Bylund demanded that Kalil represent him in that suit, but she refused. However, the bench ruled that Kalil must provide counsel or show cause for failure. Bylund then petitioned to have the date of the original suit postponed until after the hearing, and the original suit will go on the docket Dec. 13.

• The county's soon-to-be-opened Public Service Building, adjacent to the courthouse, took this year's National Energy Conservation Award.

The award, sponsored by the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp. of Toledo, Ohio, was presented to Eugene architects Unthank, Seder and Poticha, who also designed the Eugene Mall.

Although judges were pleased with the use of natural materials, light flow, air flow and plants, the real award-clincher was the

building's rooftop water storage system designed to reduce the building's heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer.

A large cylindrical tank, with a 188,000-gallon capacity, was built into the heating and cooling systems. (County officials estimate the water represents the equivalent of 34 years of baths for one "moderately dirty" person.)

Projected savings from the system are \$50,000 a year.

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