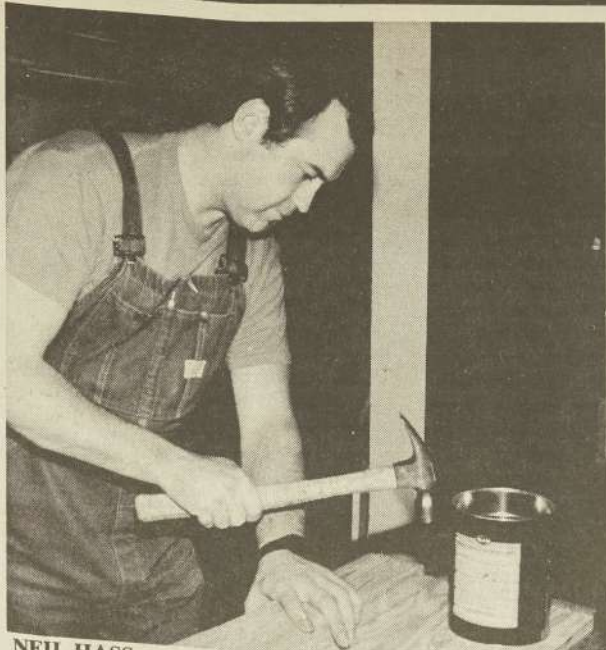




NEIL HASS

Photo by Duane Hiersche

Neil Hass in rehearsal for 12th show at College

By Kristen Tonole
Of The Print

Neil Hass, a six-year veteran of the Clackamas Community College theater department, says he decided to try acting after watching his brother's high school plays and deciding he also "wanted to try it sometime."

Since that first performance in 1978, he has done eleven plays at the College, including this year's "The Hollow" and the upcoming "The Best Man."

"I had always wanted to try acting, and when I finally got my chance, things took off from there. I started doing more and more until pretty soon I would try out for a part in all the plays that came along

in high school," Hass said.

After his 1976 graduation from Oregon City High School, Hass went to work with the Clackamas County Repertoire Theatre until he landed the 1978 role in the production "Mrs. Warren's Profession" under the direction of Jack Shields, theater department chairperson.

"I found college theater a lot different than high school," Hass said. "In high school you're usually working with a cast of 80 people because they want to get as many in as possible. But here there is a smaller facility so that forces them to cast smaller shows. As a result, the student gets a better director/actor relationship. With that one-on-one basis

everyone gets better instruction. I learned more from one show here than I did in three years at Oregon City," he added.

Hass is not attending school here as a student this year, but he hopes to enroll next year. While he has not yet chosen a major, Hass does know that he wants to look for a career in the theater field.

He said he has never had any special acting or drama coaching except learning "the basics" in high school.

Hass is currently in rehearsal as President Art Hockstader in Gore Vidal's "The Best Man." The play opens May 17th and will run during the weekend prior to, and following, Memorial Day weekend.

Review

Oregon spook book well done

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

Oregon is not now, nor is it likely to be, famous as a book publishing capitol. However, Rainy Day Press of Eugene may go a long way toward changing that.

Rainy Day (nice local name, that) has recently released "Oregon's Ghosts and Monsters" by Mike Helm. The book is exactly what the title suggests: A collection of spooky stories from throughout the state.

Most people probably didn't realize Oregon has enough beasties and ghouls to fill a 155-page book. However, author Helm has done his research well, scoured the state and collected tales of the bizarre and weird from all over.

Among the tales are:

Rue, the ghost-woman of Heceta Head, who haunts the abandoned lighthouse at Heceta, just north of the Sea Lion Caves on the coast. According to Harry and Ann Tammen (employees of Lane Community College who live in, and tend, the lighthouse annex), Rue wanders around the attic of the 19th century house and, among other things, sweeps the floors;

The Monster of Willowa Lake, which is described as "a huge snake with a head like a Chinese dragon, a regular medieval sea serpent" and/or as having a head described as "a big, black thing, like a hog's head," depending upon who is telling the tale;

Bandage Man, who (so the book says) terrorizes motorists on the highway near Cannon Beach. As his name implies, Bandage Man is described as a mummy who has been known to pace vehicles traveling 35-40 miles per hour and to jump into the beds of passing pickup trucks and smash cab windows.

All in all, there are 35 stories in Helm's book, ranging from monsters to ghosts to devils to demons to a phantom bugler. There is even one story of a troll—a variation of the Sasquatch legend.

This is a truly fun book to read. Is Helm serious about any of this? It's hard to tell. Like any good campfire storyteller, Helm's writing style seems serious, and one can almost hear Jack Palance in the background, solemnly intoning "Believe it...or not."

But there also seems to be an air of humor to the book. I suspect Helm kept tongue firmly locked in cheek all the time he was writing.

I heartily recommend this book to anyone interested in legends and lore of Oregon (to be read in conjunction with Craig Lesley's "Winterkill," perhaps? See story, page 4).

Helm manages to perform two functions at once. On one level, in the best tradition of the Brothers Grimm, Helm examines the myths and mores of a region, and thus exposes a bit of background about the people of Oregon. On another level, he spins a few wicked tales, and I have to admit: He got my hackles up a time or two.

Oregon's GHOSTS & monsters



By Mike Helm

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