

A moment with Mary

by Mary Halverson

It was a snippet on the evening news, a small box in the corner of the screen. The sound was low but I heard "Rough and Ready" before the anchor woman shifted in her chair and moved on to the next story. "What was that about Rough and Ready?" and my husband replied, "They are closing." A quick inhalation drew my shoulders up, my head giving a half shake of denial, "No they're not" and thought of what it would mean for the town.

The mill has always been at the periphery for me, knowing people that have worked there, watching the truck and stacks of finished boards inching through town at the Labor Day parade, but personally getting no closer than a drive-by. As other mills closed, though, I felt a certain pride that ours was one of the few in the region to stay open, and when for the umpteenth time a co-worker would

puzzle over what we "do" out here, shrugging, "There's no work" I would supply, "Well, we have Rough and Ready."

In 1976, hiking with a couple other Cave employees to the top of Mt. Elijah, I wasn't sure what to expect, and found a trail that wound through lush forest, climbed a steady rise of switchbacks, and opened into meadows of wildflowers just before the treeless, rocky summit. In the distance, the buildings and yards of Rough and Ready spread over the valley floor, small and far away.

The part of the country I had come from was spread far and wide with the fences, barns and silos of family farms. The concept of a family-run mill, harvesting trees as a crop, was foreign, as was a growth cycle that required more than one season.

I remember being at the Labor Day

Festival, sitting under the canvas of the beer garden, when Rough and Ready employees began arriving in groups with their drink vouchers. I think of an old friend who had a couple kids working at the mill, who was always game for an arm wrestle across the picnic table that one weekend a year.

I think of husbands, wives, children, of the men and women that kept Rough and Ready operating, of the generations that reported to work each morning for the last ninety years. I keep thinking the closure of the mill will come to the attention of someone who can do something about it, someone who will say, "Not this mill, not this town, not these people." And it will be restored.

Maybe at the Labor Day Festival this year, in the beer tent, I will look up and see my old friend, who has been gone all these years.

He will come smiling in, arms swinging, t-shirt tucked into jeans, work boots laced, beer coupons in his pocket, his salt and pepper sideburns and mustache trimmed with the flare that so suited him. He'll come sit across from me and level his elbow on the flaking picnic table. He will let me win, putting on a great show of giving it his all.

I get up from my musings, look over the deck railing at my fenced garden site. The dirt is cracked and crumbling, hard against the force of my boot pushing the shovel. Life in the valley is like this: tough, resistant, requiring sweat, and at times protection from forces we can't control.

But we keep digging, throwing an arm on the table in a show of strength, and try to make it through.

ArtWalk is going Retro Rock Hop

By
Judy Hoyle

IVN Contributing Writer

A free "Retro Rock Hop" at the Josephine County Building kicks off this year's Second Friday ArtWalk on May 10th in Cave Junction. While ArtWalk opens at the regular time of 5 p.m., this "dance for all ages" begins one hour later, at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. Great classic rock from the 60's through the 90's will be featured, along with baked goods and root beer floats for sale as an ArtWalk fundraiser.

The front of the building will be hopping too, with free bicycle tune-ups, courtesy Spiral Living Center's I.V. Bike Space. Helmets will be for sale on a sliding scale. "Bonnie's Botanicals" will be selling organic heirloom veggie starters and stevia; and fundraiser activities include Valley Girls' offering quilt raffle tickets and an "Adopt a Pet Rock" sale by L.I.V.E. to help raise funds for a bioswale project near Evergreen Elementary.

Across the way, "Northwest Hairlines" is celebrating a Grand Opening under new management. Guests are welcome to meet new owner, Donna, and learn about new salon services. "Oneironauts" will play reggae and hip/hop for the multi-artist reception with munchies from Taylor's Sausage, and Subway

is offering a \$1-off coupon at the salon with every "footlong" purchase.

Walk east on Lister to Jill Shidler's "Fantasy Dreams" shop behind Century 21 for a special Mother's Day sale with 10% off everything during this ArtWalk-only Open House.

Just one block north, Josephine Community Library hosts ArtWalk Featured Artist Johnnie Walker, illustrator of America's first black fairy tale: "Beauteous Black & the Mysterious Forest." Johnnie will also display her work for sale in a variety of art mediums. Photographs of Europe by Jim Lettis will be on display through the month and copies of his children's book "The Squire and the White Dragon" will be for sale with half of all proceeds going to support the library. Student art displays from IRVAC's Learning Through Art school and after-school programs will also be on display including painted fish for sale to raise funds for Rusk Ranch Nature Center.

Two doors south of the County Building, "Getsomes" Grand Opening offers many special opportunities including free popcorn and 10% off every non-food or drink ArtWalk purchase; along with a free ticket for a china hutch drawing on New Year's Eve. Beautiful prom dresses, leather jackets, bamboo and hand-blown glass accessories are part of the eclectic mix here. Enjoy 50's and 60's Karaoke fun during ArtWalk, only!

Across the street, a new co-operative group will also celebrate their Grand Opening. "Siskiyou Creations" offers abstract paintings by Kevin Gillette II and handmade furniture by Mike Harris and Delbert Kauffman. Lisa Rohde's Rogue Living Organic Store's discontinued items will be available at wholesale prices during ArtWalk; and Zack and Ben of Transfigure Earth Studio will display ceramic pieces created from hand-harvested

local clay.

Bill Reid has restored a new group of antique radios which will be on display at "Oregon Mountain Real Estate" during ArtWalk. The public is invited to enjoy refreshments and view the collection of beautiful working art pieces from the past.

The "Key of Three" will play some lively folk music at "Taylors' Country Store," while folks enjoy acrylic paintings by valley newcomer Cheryl Williams Dolan. ArtWalk specials include Chicken Marsala or Hawaiian Mahi-Mahi and the regular menu will also be available.

Next door, "Commune I Tea" will feature original paintings by Alcyon Massive along with a special Root Farm sale of veggie and medicinal plant starts. Drop in to see Fonta's new fashion creations, try Third Eye Chai and enjoy refreshments in the garden. Across the alley, the artists of "Ravenswood Gallery" have created unique pieces over the winter and a shipment of amazing crystals has arrived from Tucson. Drop in to say "hi" to Katrina and Smokey and view the new show.

The Eye Care Group, Optometric Physicians on Caves Highway; will display the photography of Asia Stehnik and Haley Arazubia from now to the next ArtWalk on June 14th during regular business hours, only.

Second Friday ArtWalk is sponsored by Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) with support from Jefferson State Financial Group. New this year, ArtWalk will take place monthly during the four months from May through August to help boost tourism in Cave Junction. Please visit www.irvac.com or call 541-592-4444 for more information. Contact coordinator Barb Ford at cjartwalk@gmail.com.

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