

Takilma Tales hits the shelves

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Susanne “Kindi” Fahrnkopf (Far-en-kof) has just published a new book: *Takilma Tales: The Hippie History of Takilma, Oregon*. A book-signing event will take place 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, February 13 at the Illinois Valley News office, 221 S. Redwood Highway, Suite C; located across from Subway.

The book was a result of Fahrnkopf’s long-held desire to write about the unique community, which developed from the back to the land movement of the late 60’s and 70’s. The basis of the book was a series of articles Fahrnkopf wrote for the Illinois Valley News between April and August 2013.

“I always wanted to try my hand at other forms of writing,” she states. “Dan Mancuso offered me the opportunity to write a few articles on the hippies of Takilma, and the project grew from there.”

Over the past year, she interviewed 35 individuals and consulted with a dozen more. The book’s 22 chapters offer additional information not included in the newspaper articles.

The book gives the reader a historical perspective of the entire history of Takilma, going back to pioneer days, and offers insight as to how and why the community grew and why it was so successful.

“The time was right to tell

this story,” Fahrnkopf explains. “A few community leaders had already passed away and we lost a few more during the year I wrote the book. For example, the late musician Jim Rich was very generous of his time and also sent me some photos. I also received a lot of help from others including photos and information from Dr. Jim Shames and Robert Hirning.”

Fahrnkopf was born in Germany where her grandparents were Bauhaus artists. She grew up in Southern California, and graduated from Rim of the World High School, in Lake Arrowhead. After some travels to Europe, she studied English Literature at Santa Monica City College. A poet and flower child of the 60s; Kindi (a nickname which means “child” in German), traveled around the West before settling down and marrying Jim Fahrnkopf in 1974.

Five years later, the Fahrnkopfs’ moved to Cave Junction with their two children to open the Cave’s Cobbler shoe repair and Birkenstock shop. They bought a 3-acre parcel of the Cook Ranch from Dorothy Stohman in 1980 and built a small cabin for their growing family. After her husband became ill, they separated in 1985 and eventually divorced, leaving Fahrnkopf a single mother of four.

She first worked as a chocolate chef and cake decorator for six years at Chocolate Affair in Grants Pass and later earned a Certificate in Accounting and Business from Rogue Community College. She then worked as the Office and Financial Manager for

Siskiyou Regional Education Project in Takilma for 10 years.

All four of her children are Dome School graduates. Her youngest, Serena, was a scholar-athlete at Illinois Valley High School and was class valedictorian in 2005. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree at Southern Oregon University in Environmental Studies.

In recent years, Fahrnkopf has worked as a self-employed bookkeeper for small organizations and businesses in the Illinois Valley, including Illinois River Valley Arts Council, the Spiral Living Center, Illinois Valley News and the Takilma Food Cooperative.

Takilma Tales is Fahrnkopf’s third book. Her first, *Wanderer Between Two Worlds* by Henry G. Ritzenhouse; was her father’s autobiography, which she edited and printed in 2002. This revealing story of his life in Germany and later in Los Angeles, as an immigrant who achieved the American Dream is a fascinating read. The book was her final gift to her father, who passed away in 2003. His encouragement led to her pursuit of writing. The book is 180 pages and is also available for sale.

Siskiyou River Reflections was self-published by Fahrnkopf in 2006. It contains 35 original poems, and her own illustrations. Her free style, stream of consciousness poetry evokes strong emotions and observations.

Fahrnkopf has written poetry since she was 16 and has been pub-

lished in seven poetry anthologies over the past 30 years. In 1989 she won the Editor’s Choice Award for her poem “Inspiration,” which appeared in *The Days of Future Past*, published by the National Library of Poetry.

She competed in the International Poetry Convention in Las Vegas in 2006; and in 2012, she won first place in the adult division of a poetry contest sponsored by the Illinois River Valley Arts Council.

Takilma Tales is set to be released by Authorhouse on Jan. 15, 2014, and is available for \$16.95 plus shipping and handling from their bookstore. The paperback and an E-Kindle version are also available from Amazon; as well as the author’s website at <http://www.takilmatales.com>.

At the February 13 book signing, first edition, autographed copies will be available for \$16, on a first-come, first-served basis. To contact



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Kindi Fahrnkopf with the first copy of her book.

Wellen makes Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s Dean’s List

WORCESTER, MA -- Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced that Natalie Wellen of Cave Junction, Ore., a freshman majoring in mathematical sciences, was named to the university’s Dean’s List for academic excellence for the fall 2013 semester.

A total of 1,303 undergraduate students achieved the criteria required for WPI’s fall 2013 Dean’s List. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differ from that of most other universi-

ties as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are remarkably rigorous, so being named to the Dean’s List is a testament to hard work, a sharp mind, and a commitment to excellence,” said Provost Eric Overstrom. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to learn subjects ranging from

engineering to science to business and the humanities, and through our innovative project-based curriculum they conduct professional-level research and solve important problems all over the world. Those named to the Dean’s List have excelled at facing such demanding challenges, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Founded in 1865 in Worcester,

Mass., WPI is one of the nation’s first engineering and technology universities. Its 14 academic departments offer more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, the humanities and arts, leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees. WPI’s talented faculty work with students on interdisciplinary research that seeks solutions to important and socially relevant problems in fields as diverse

as the life sciences and bioengineering, energy, information security, materials processing, and robotics. Students also have the opportunity to make a difference in communities and organizations around the world through the university’s innovative Global Perspective Program. There are more than 35 WPI project centers throughout North America and Central America, Africa, Australia, Asia, and Europe.



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