

'Common Ground' anthology is a hit!

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

A recently released anthology of the first 100 issues of the *Takilma Common Ground* newsletter is receiving enthusiastic attention. Published by the O'Brien-based Left Fork Press, the new book is raising funds to help complete the expansion of the Dome School in Takilma, Oregon.

The quarterly newsletter was created in 1994 with an expressed intention to "increase communication and stimulate community discussion" and its publication loosely coincides with the earth's solstices and equinox cycles. *Takilma Common Ground* is part literary journal and part community bulletin board. Submissions cover myriad topics and come in from writers, poets, or any community member with something on their mind. Unique artwork, cartoon strips and illustrations round out the newsletter. While some submissions are light-hearted; others are serious - and all are thoroughly original.

With the idea for the anthology in mind, Dome School co-administrator and Left Fork Press proprietor Ryan

Forsythe approached local graphic artist Alan Laurie who - along with longtime Takilma community member Rachel Goodman - leads a team of volunteers that produce the newsletter.

"Alan loved the idea, so we moved forward with it," said Forsythe, then added, "part of the purpose of Left Fork Press is to celebrate Southern Oregon's cultural history and people, and this anthology project is a great fit."

The book gives voice to the eclectic mix of souls populating Takilma and similarly-minded people scattered throughout the Illinois Valley and beyond. With essays on topics that range from "Women and the Politics of Religion" and "Favorite Places" and "Racism in the Valley" to world history, alternative health care and recipes for Turkish cake, the book illustrates the thoughtfulness and bold creativity found within the ever-evolving Takilma community. And the emphasis on "we" not "me" is evident with every turn of the page.

Back in 2005, the newsletter almost folded. Many original participants on the "Mud Council" who had put each issue of *Common Ground* together for a decade had either moved on or become

too busy to remain involved. So to keep the newsletter alive one of the founding members, Laurie Prouty, wrote a front-page appeal to the community, seeking new blood to keep the publication rolling.

"I am really happy to give Alan Laurie credit," Goodman said. "He came on board in 2005 offering to do computer layout. He's got the professional background and he really transformed the face of *Common Ground*. He brought us into the digital age and also really helped us become financially stable. He volunteers a lot of his time as well."

"I am consistently proud of the significant role I played just over a decade ago in keeping *Common Ground* alive," Laurie said. "I also take pride in continuing to work with 'Team Rachel' in ensuring that each quarterly publication of this relevant, poignant literary and artistic community-minded newsletter maintains the original flavor of down-to-earth social and environmental awareness, and also, concerns, sensitivity, humor and just plain cultural expression."

Goodman became involved with *Common Ground* about 15 years ago

and says she's "really excited" about the book and hopes it serves to help inspire more people to get involved. "We're an ongoing paper and we want more people to contribute more stories, articles and artwork - and we really hope people continue to subscribe."

"Also, I'm very grateful to the smart creative people who left us this infrastructure to work with as they went on to other interesting things, and of course, those who stayed with this project over the years," she added. "We have a core group of people who continue to help make this publication happen, including treasurer Bill Grey; Donna Belle, who manages the mailing list; and Marjorie Reynolds and Alberta Heagney, who facilitate the bulk mailing of each issue."

Depending on sales of the book - which covers the period from 1994 through 1997 - Forsythe says additional anthologies may be produced that present the content from 1998 and forward. This first book costs \$20; with \$10 going toward the Dome School building fund. To purchase a copy contact the Dome School at 541-592-3911.

The Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr from the *Illinois Valley News* archives

The date: Dec. 11, 1941. By this time, news had spread that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by Japanese forces Dec. 7, 1941, and by Dec. 8, war had been declared on the Japanese Empire. Not much introduction is needed for this week's history made Archive Zone.

Proclamation.

WHEREAS, a state of war has been declared to exist between the United States of America and the Japanese Empire; and WHEREAS, the Oregon National Guard is in active Federal service; and WHEREAS, it therefore becomes my duty as chief executive and commander in chief of the military forces of the State of Oregon to take such steps as may be necessary to safeguard the lives and property of the citizens of Oregon; and WHEREAS, provisions must be made for fixing responsibility for coordination and the direction of the efforts of the military establishment,

law enforcement machinery, and volunteer civilian defense organizations; NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Oregon and Director of Civilian Defense, declare an unlimited emergency to exist and (1) Authorize and direct the voluntary enrollment of a State Guard pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 91, Oregon Laws 1941, and hereby appoint brigadier General Alvin C. Baker commander thereof; (2) Designate the Superintendent of State Police to coordinate, supervise and direct the activities of all regular peace and other law enforcement officers of this state in all matters and respects touching the needs and measures for state and civilian defense in cooperation with the armed forces of the United States; (3) Authorize the State Defense Coordinator to direct and complete the voluntary civilian defense in cooperation

with the armed forces of the United States; (4) I hereby enjoin the people to comply promptly with directions of duly constituted military and civil authorities. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done in the City of Salem this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord, 1941. CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Governor. Attest: EARL SNELL, Secretary of State.

Emergency hospitals planned. Establishment of two emergency hospitals in Josephine County and several first aid situations were planned by the Medical Disaster Relief Division of the Josephine County Defense Council Monday night. Directed by Dr. S. B. Osgood, chairman of this division, the first aid committee, medical care committee and sanitation committee made arrangements for location and supplying first aid stations

and emergency hospitals. The committee also issued a call for nurses in Josephine county, graduate nurses or those with any practical nursing training, to telephone the County Health Unit, 156 or Mrs. Martin Sachse at Kerby for the Valley, and leave name, address and telephone number.

Airplane lookouts manned. Last Monday night, men were stationed at Tennessee Pass lookout station for airplane observation. The lookout will be manned from now on, and beginning Thursday, (today) the Waldo lookout station will be manned for the same purpose. It is hoped, by men who are in position to know, that the county authorities will make these two stations the official lookouts. This will facilitate matters in finding men to man the stations, which is going to be no small task. These two stations will be sufficient to observe any airplanes coming in this direction. Monday, Murphy Hicks and Robroy McLean

were at Tennessee Pass. It was difficult to find anyone to go up Tuesday, so George Hicks thought the situation serious enough for him to close his Texaco Service station and garage and with Mr. Foster kept the post manned for emergency.

Local boys on island safe so far. Word has been received from a few of the local boys who are working on Wake and Midway islands that they are all safe and everything was all right. Mrs. George Martin received a cablegram from her son John Abernathy, radio operator at Midway that everything was all right, or words to that effect. Mrs. Dollie Duncan received word from her son, Alton Duncan Wednesday that everything was all right there. Several others have heard from the boys in Grants Pass, and it seems certain that up until now they are all right. If the islands are taken, it will make the boys prisoners of war, if they are not taken away from the islands.

KIGHTS KRAFTS

2027 DEER CREEK ROAD, SELMA
YEAR END CLOSE
OUT SALE
ALL ITEMS FROM
10 TO 50% OFF
TOP OFF YOUR
CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING HERE

Santa Clause

Will be visiting IVFD

(681 Caves Hwy, Cave Junction)

Saturday Dec. 10th. From 1:00—4:00
Come on down and enjoy some cookies
and hot chocolate and check out the
Fire Station!!!!
Don't forget your camera.....



We will also be having our canned food drive for the local food bank if you would like to bring in some non-perishables it would be greatly appreciated!!!

Merry Christmas

(Open to the Public)