

# LIFE & TIMES



Wreck of the 'Alvin R'

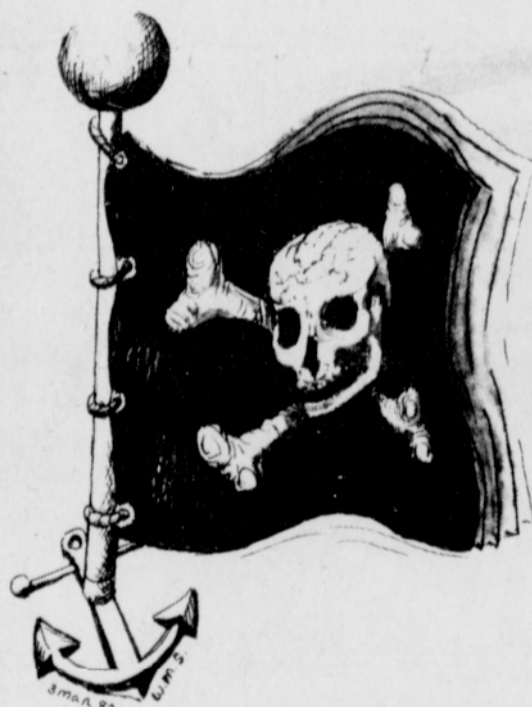


## A Hitchless Hiker

Once or twice a year William Michael Schuster packs his sketch books and pancake pan into an old yellow Volkswagen bus and heads for the Oregon coast. Generally he pops in on friends, scattered from Coos Bay to Astoria, often after midnight, and for days or weeks afterward he fills the sketchbooks with drawings and watercolors. He usually goes back home when he runs out of paper or paints or when his wife catches up with him.

Schuster has been an artist almost all his life, though he turned professional only five years ago. He works in various media; with oils, watercolors, acrylics and tempera as well as with pen and ink, charcoal and pencil. He is a veteran of the Vietnam war, landing in Da Nang with the first Marine units in 1965, and sickened by the war, was an early member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. He has been a log truck driver, executive of an employment agency, salesman and rent-a-cop. He has lived in the Pacific Northwest most of his life and currently lives in Vancouver, Washington.

He paid his most recent visit to the coast a couple of weeks ago, pounding on the Times Eagle door after midnight. For days he wandered down to the beach or drove up into the mountains and spent the daylight hours, which were usually accompanied by wind and rain, scribbling



Carol

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