

from nearly anywhere and serve the whole area, the whole state, the nation and even international trade.

Commercial planners and architects are going out of their gourds vying with each other in pleasant, original and attractive design of light industrial parks that not only serve a business entity, but also serve as community meeting places, with park-like malls, meeting and concert rooms open to the public, libraries, and any number of attractive services that are assets for the whole area.

It appears that little or no thought has been given to planning for, and obtaining public support of a program of coordinating existing coastal facilities with an influx of light, nonpolluting, compatible industries.

Why isn't there a number of furniture factories in the coastal communities and pleasure and commercial boat builders along the coast that could have supported a large percentage of wood mills that have closed?

Why isn't the Oregon coast lined with publishing houses, clothing and textile factories, research and development laboratories, cosmetics, dish and kitchenware, fishing equipment, marine equipment, and myriads of other enterprises?

The brutally banded about tourist industry or trade, as you will, is one of the most neglected and misused of all the Oregon coast assets. Very little is done to actually make the coast a tourist attraction of reliable monetary return to the area. On the pain of assassination, I think I find it as presently just a shoddy, amateurishly promoted gypsy trail for itinerant Winabagos and Airstreams whose nomadic inhabitants have little concern for contributing to the social, much less economic life of the coast. The much touted natural beauty of the Oregon coastline is precariously protected by a few state, federal and county preserves, and most of the towns squawk they are going to wrack and ruin because they look like wrack and ruin.

Frantically the tiny towns up and down the coast from Brookings to Astoria come up with cutesy ideas for little pageants, fairs and similar dollhouse activities. Poorly planned, insignificantly and ridiculously promoted, these miniature events may draw a handful of out-of-towners, but in absolutely no way can they ever be considered durable, annually progressive tourist and cultural attractions of the magnitude to provide for future economic reliance.

And now comes the atomic bomb?

What this coast needs most of all to support tourism, retired living, prospective industrial expansion — is a concentrated real estate and development program. No, the *Times Eagle* has not turned into the *Realtor's Digest*, but facts are facts; the coast needs an organized, consumer-protecting, aggressive residential building program. What we have always objected to is the promiscuous, unplanned and fraudulent sale of property in defiance of the law and the people, and the erection of structures on unsound locations.

Add now to the picture a restoration of confidence, support and aggressive public planning toward the welfare of two other neglected coastal enterprises — dairy farming and commercial fishing. Uncontrolled land speculation, lack of proper zoning and comprehensive planning, and bickering among milk cooperatives have driven coastal dairy farmers to the wall with anger and frustration. Many have left and more are going. They have been left out on a limb and no one has taken definitive steps to organize and assist them in planning for a major role in coastal economic stability.

The squabbling over fishing practices and the lack of unified public support for this much needed and lucrative industry has prompted the closing of facilities at Astoria and their removal not only out of the area but out of the state. Reversed support for the commercial fishing industry might have immediate and longrange advantageous effects felt in every major port facility on the coast. Fish processing factories and distributor agencies do not stink, they need not be polluting, they represent a large industry peculiar to coastal areas and are prospectively a strong adjunct to our economy.



"Our young people are leaving!" howl parents and public officials. "No jobs, no place to go," retort the despairing youths. Except for the valiant efforts of a couple of small community colleges amidst the miasma of local apathy, there is no place for the Oregon Coaster youth to go for further academic and vocational training than across the mountains into the valley or elsewhere. Again, right smack in the economic picture could be the role played by new universities and colleges in several of the coastal communities. Special study institutions would attract thousands of transient students and provide for the creation of hundreds of new local support functions within the surrounding community. I can think of no better place for the first great college than in Cannon Beach. The present Haystack programs each summer could be but a ludicrous insignificant foretaste of what a year-around institutional program could provide.

The 1971 mandate given to the Oregon Coastal Conservation & Development Commission has been outrageously prostituted from the beginning. Hardly one person in 100 residents knows anything at all about what they are doing, much less who they are. The shadow of doom fell on them within their first six months as their out-of-state central planning unit dissolved in conflict of interest accusations and flagrant disregard of public opinion. They flit from Florence to Astoria holding general and subcommittee meetings that produce laughably vague and irresponsible answers to immediate needs.

Public interest groups and councils proliferate daily on the coast. We have Tillamook Tomorrows and CoastWatchers; we have Clatsop Environmental Council, Tillamook Homeowners and Land's End Homeowners; Steelheaders, Granges, boosters, and gatherings of every sort, all avowed to 'SAVE THE COAST'.

The spirited public interest shown by members of these groups is more than commendable, but highly self-defeating when so much energy is expended either not talking to the other groups or just simply hating them. It would be more productive if these groups established strong liaison with each other and with the public bodies and agencies that are empowered to actually make change. Recruiting wider ranges of participation would also be helpful. Unemotional dialogue between the business community, governmental bodies and these environmental groups could lead to dramatic changes of attitude and rapid reorientation of the coastal economic pattern.

Coastal politicians must understand a new mandate from the resident citizens and they must be selected on the basis of precisely how they are going to serve all the needs of the coast and not just a few out-of-town commercial interests. Their contributions in the state legislature must be an accurate record of revitalization of the coast and the results must be seen in a rapid and sound stabilization of the entire coastal economy and not just in Japanese cartel expansion or Crown Zellerbach handouts.

What we are asking is a Declaration of Independence from a weakened economy imposed on this magnificent coast by faraway business interests that leaves us prostrate to their whims and ambitions. We ask that the annual winter of our discontent come to an end.

PRESENT & FUTURE HOPE

There is a great present and future hope already provided here. The merchants of Seaside built a convention hall. Little Cannon Beach is seething with ambition and with each architecturally charming building that goes up the town moves toward becoming a cultural center that might eventually rival the glories of southern Oregon's Ashland and its Shakespearean center. As Cannon Beach begins to attract really serious new sources of creativity it will surely be one of the most exciting places on the Pacific Coast.

Nehalem has found a public cooperation and creativeness that is speeding it not only to recovery from the sorry mess it was in a few years ago, but far ahead into a charming village that will be a prime asset in future tourism of the coast.

Rockaway reaches both north and south in attempts to annex adjacent communities; as far north as Brighton and as far south as Barview. Some citizens are for it and others against. But what is right? Rockaway is faced with tremendous sanitary and water problems that its present population cannot effectively handle. Should there be a major system in the area or a bunch of small ones? The North Tillamook County Sanitary Authority has a system that connects Manzanita with Nehalem, Neah Kah Nie and Wheeler, which erases most of the septic pollution from the Nehalem River.

From Astoria to Brookings stretches a diverse shoreline of diverse peoples. Five of the seven counties are entirely coastal and the other two are politically controlled from the inland cities of Eugene and Roseburg. There is a lesson in the straddling of the Coast Mountains by Douglas and Lane Counties. They must contend with and provide for the needs of both coastal and interior regions. They must regulate the problems and requirements of both areas in an atmosphere of cooperation.

We are asking in this article not for the secession of the coast from the rest of this marvelously sovereign state, nor alienation from the vibrant productiveness of the Willamette Valley.

Robert Stanley Need is the original publisher of the *North Coast Times Eagle*, which celebrates its 30th birthday this year, beginning publication May 17, 1971. Five years later the *Times Eagle* died a premature death from a virus that takes a large toll of heretical and nonconformist publications. After three years in the crypt the NCTE was reborn 22 years ago on July 20, 1979.

RSN was a verbose and extravagant writer, editorially fearless yet barely remembered for his "unique and distinctive journal of the Oregon coast" that for five remarkable years strived to "Serve All People." He wrote 'A Coast For All Seasons' in 1974.

RAPE OF THE BIVALVES

BY RON CRONIN

There were some good low tides last weekend, so Maria and I went up to the Netarts-Oceanside area to visit some old and good friends in the mud flat and rocky shore tidelands. We used to live in Netarts, and in those days made regular forays to observe all the fascinating and beautiful creatures and plants exposed at low tides.

This time we had quite a shock, and almost committed mayhem up at Short Beach. Our first stop was to be the mud flats at Netarts Bay, but we were outraged by what we saw there. There were literally hundreds of tourists digging up the clam beds, standing shoulder-to-shoulder and flailing the fragile mud flats with their shovels and rakes. I have never seen so many people on the clam beds before, and the destruction they caused was appalling. The beaches there were nothing but holes and piles of rocks and mud — the animals that escaped being dug up were covered over by the piles dug out of the holes, and few of the diggers had the decency to fill their holes back in. I was reminded of ground hit by concentrated mortar barrages. We checked the cars lined up along the road along the bay, and almost all of them were from outside of the North Coast — Beaverton, Portland, Salem, Eugene, California...almost all tourists.

It seems to me that one of our best food resources is being destroyed, with most of the destruction at the hands of outsiders in the name of "fun" and "recreation." It is common knowledge that most of the clams dug on the coast by tourists wind up in garbage cans at the parks and along the highways; I have seen garbage cans full and reeking with rotting clams and crabs, wasted by tourists who dug them for fun and didn't know the first thing about their use, or didn't like to eat them in the first place.

Clam populations will not be able to keep up with such pressure, and may virtually disappear from the most popular clam beds. Local people who love clams or depend on them as a food source will be forced to go without. When we first lived in Netarts we were obliged by finances to eat shellfish as a major source of protein; if we had to do that now, we would starve, for only at the lowest tides of the year can you find clams in any numbers.

What are the reasons for such heavy tourist pressure on our clam beds, rivers and bays? The main one is local businessmen and Chamber of Commerce types have advertised these resources around the Northwest, to the extent of publishing

maps of clambeds and fishing spots. This has resulted in killing pressure on our fisheries resources, leaving local residents in the lurch. I don't see why we should lose our heritage so local businessmen can make a few dimes selling soda and beer. A few dimes is all, too, because most tourists bring their own food.

After the scary shock at Netarts, we went up to some rocky headlands to the north, and were treated to an appalling show of total disregard for nature by three sports fishermen. At first I thought they were biologists, seeing their close scrutiny of the mussel beds. So I walked over hoping to talk about marine biology, and saw that they were not observing anything, but smashing at the mussels with a claw hammer and shovel, to find a few mussel worms (*Nereis virens*) for bait. The total area they destroyed easily amounts to more than 20 square feet, probably 1,000 or more mussels (bag limit for food harvest is 72). The really scary part is they obviously do the same thing every time they go fishing — who can know how much area these same goons have destroyed? Their destruction did not end with their leaving, for now that huge holes have been smashed in the mussel communities, starfish may easily invade from the side and destroy thousands of more mussels, with a resultant loss of habitat for the other creatures which live among the mussels.

I've talked before in this column about consideration for and love of nature, how when walking among fragile organisms one would wear soft-soled footwear and take the greatest care to do no harm. This obvious disregard for nature we observed, this lack of consideration that all organisms have a right and a need to live, made my heart bad and my anger rage.

All I can do is hope that those three and others like them will have second thoughts about their attitudes, and strive to live in harmony with nature. I believe we should all constantly appraise our attitudes and actions, finding where our behavior is contrary and detrimental to nature, and learning how we may live with our environment, not against it. Once a person realizes that all of nature is wondrous and beautiful, and learns to love his fellow creatures, proper attitudes and practices will result. All that is necessary for this realization is for us to open our eyes and take a good look around.

Ron Cronin wrote a regular column he called CRONIN'S CREEK for the original *North Coast Times Eagle*, which quite aptly was its most popular feature. 'Rape of the Bivalves' appeared in the July 11, 1974 issue.

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