

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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DECEMBER 1992

FREE!

To: _____

UPPER LEFT COAST PRODUCTIONS PO BOX 113 CANNON BEACH OR 97110 503 4361923

PUT YOUR GOOD WHERE IT WILL DO THE MOST. a quote by Wavy Gravy aka Hugh Romney

Don by Peter Lindsey

When the long rain plays the last wisteria leaves behind the Wavecrest Inn this fall and snicks in successive sheets against its south gables, the master innkeeper will not be there, but his spirit and works endure. His English long beans dangle on the vines, as yet unharvested. Duke, the brindie hound, seeks in vain his customary bone at the back step. The damp sea air of Brailier Road no longer blends with the rich brown smells of rye bread and brewing Toad Spit Stout.

After gentle savaging by your editor, I will try to tell you something of the man Donald Eddy Thompson, who lived quietly among you these past twenty years, and who I admired and cherished as a teacher, surrogate father, and friend.

Don and his wife Violet entered my life eighteen years ago and have carried me through what I consider to be, in Theodore Roethke's terms, a cultural "dark time." Quotidian realities hound our lives with their meanness and superficiality. Donald Thompson's works and influence have often been my specific and antidote. Sitting at table at the Wavecrest, one not only dines on the inn's culinary provender, but also a rich broth of history, humor, and imagination. I count myself truly blessed.

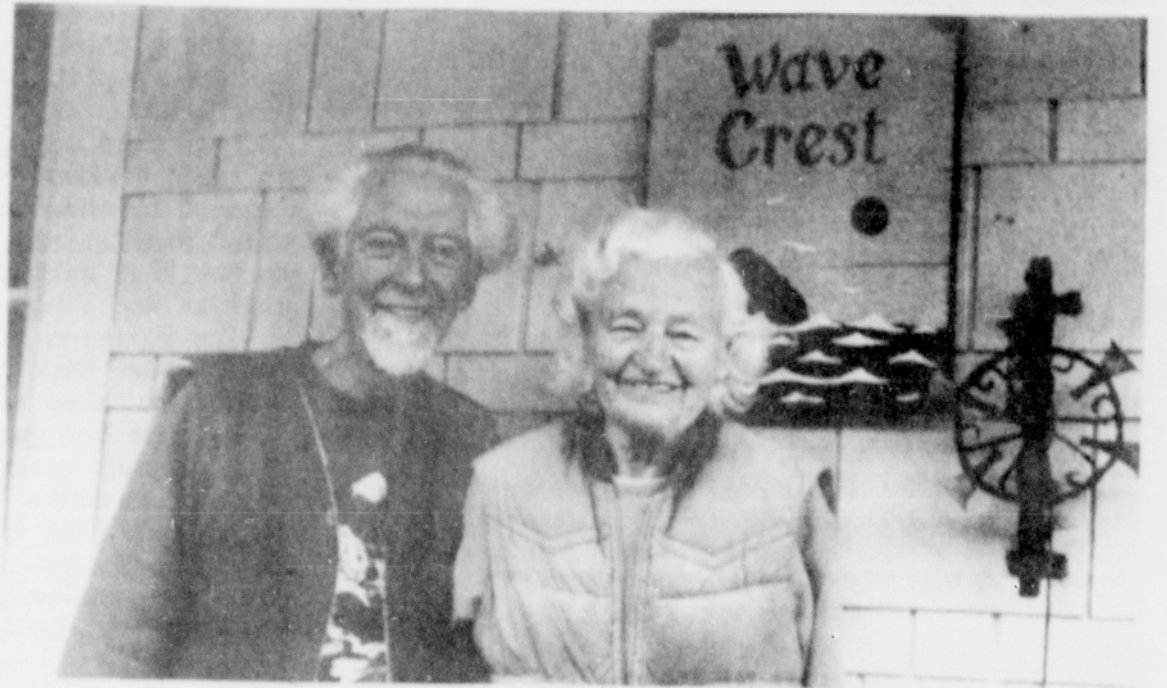
Mr. Thompson has been titled by Cannon Beach city leaders "The Thinker and Doer of the Cannon Beach Sewer." A congress of interests and talents stand witness to a life spent both thinking and doing. A painting hung on the inn's kitchen wall depicts a stool. The caption reads: "Sometimes I sits and thinks; sometimes I just sits." Very rarely did Don Thompson "just sit." Don's tax accountant once admonished him regarding the occupation listed on his tax form: "Mr. Thompson, let's be honest now. Your occupation should read simply "Dreamer." I concur.

Those of us who live in Cannon Beach and Tolovana Park owe much to Don's dream of a sewage/wetland system relying on natural forces to "polish" wastewater rather than chemical treatment of waste. At his own

expense, Mr. Thompson visited European systems and alternative systems in the United States. Few existed. With the aid of an engineering firm and his dream, Donald set about challenging and lobbying for what has become the Cannon Beach Wastewater System. The system is cost effective and environmentally kind. It stands as a prototypic natural wastewater system using vegetative transpiration and stream flow to break down sewage effluent. Don acted as emissary and resident expert, presenting papers frequently at seminars and wastewater convocations.

Leagued with Neal Maine, wetlands specialist, the two initiated a unique wetlands/wastewater monitoring project affiliated with the Seaside School District. The program continues with students from the local district enhancing game habitat and graduate students from the state universities using the ponds and wetland areas as research bases as well. Don Thompson and his neighbor Bill Canessa have maintained one of the few ongoing weekly bird count projects in western Oregon. The lagoon pond count is recognized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as one of the only significant instruments measuring migratory wildfowl in the north coast area.

A catalog of Mr. Thompson's interests and accomplishments runs from A to Z: Algae (pond types) to Zymurgy (beer and bread types). His penchant for pursuing an extraordinary range of tasks, not merely superficially, but in depth, sets him apart from a great many of us in this time of television. The Wavecrest Inn is not a place of television. Instead, books,



learned journals, objects of art and foreign lands have surrounded Donald and Violet since their arrival. The Wavecrest has acted as a haven and conduit for historians, artists, musicians, and sundry humanists including Terence O'Donnell, Kim and William Stafford and many more.

Donald Thompson was a complex, private man of many interests and passions, yet fundamentally imbued with belief in the value of living simply. His meals were legendary, and generally enhanced by fresh produce--Fava beans, European potatoes, carrots, and leeks--grown year-round in his elevated beds, resurrected from a rocky roadbed. During summer months he irrigated with ditch water gathered from an aqueduct system originating blocks away. His composting relied heavily on produce jettisoned from local markets.

His abhorrence of waste should serve as an example to us all in a time of material profligacy. He wasted nothing which could serve again. A cork from a wine bottle filled a drafty chink in a wall. Tin

foil was washed and re-used several times. Old silk ties, fallen from vogue, were transmuted by Violet and reappeared as startling quilts and comforters. Dregs from a pickle jar contributed savors to the evening stew pot. Lawn clippings from neighbor's yards provided compost.

His weakness? Not enough time. His strengths? Too exhaustive to catalogue. He could recount the weekly rainfall in our area, to the fraction of an inch, daily, for two decades. His weavings were of the highest order. His wheat and rye breads a miracle. His knowledge of Asian art, linguistics, Jungian thought, hydrology, indigenous peoples, geography, folklore, and theology, remarkable to witness.

The lank figure hoeing behind the Wavecrest Inn is gone. I anticipate him there, his sheaf of gray-yellow hair and long frame engaged in some earnest pursuit.

I have never known his like.

I shall miss him terribly.

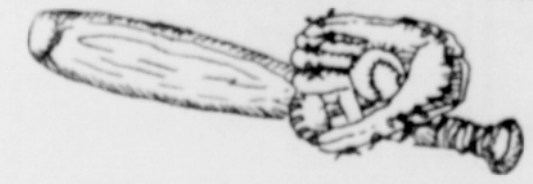
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CORRECTED FOR PACIFIC BEACHES						CORRECTED FOR PACIFIC BEACHES					
DECEMBER						DECEMBER					
WASHINGTON AND OREGON COAST TIDES						WASHINGTON AND OREGON COAST TIDES					
STANDARD TIME						STANDARD TIME					
DATE	HIGH	A.M.	P.M.	LOW	DATE	HIGH	A.M.	P.M.	LOW		
1 Tue	5:29	7:5	4:51	6:7	1 Tue	11:24	3:4	11:28	1:7		
2 Wed	6:15	7:6	8:04	6:3	2 Wed	0:19	2:2	1:35	2:5		
3 Thu	6:59	7:8	7:23	6:1	3 Thu	1:11	2:6	2:38	1:8		
4 Fri	7:42	8:2	8:34	6:2	4 Fri	2:03	2:9	3:27	1:1		
5 Sat	8:24	8:5	9:37	6:5	5 Sat	2:55	3:1	4:16	0:4		
6 Sun	9:03	8:8	10:30	6:8	6 Sun	3:45	3:3	5:00	-0:1		
7 Mon	9:42	9:1	11:21	7:1	7 Mon	4:30	3:4	5:42	-0:4		
8 Tue	10:22	9:4	.....	.....	8 Tue	5:18	3:4	6:24	-0:9
9 Wed	11:04	9:6	.....	.....	9 Wed	6:04	3:4	7:04	-1:0
10 Thu	11:46	9:7	.....	.....	10 Thu	6:50	3:3	7:47	-1:0
11 Fri	12:28	9:7	12:31	9:7	11 Fri	7:41	3:2	8:27	-0:9		
12 Sat	1:10	9:7	1:20	9:6	12 Sat	8:32	3:0	9:12	-0:5		
13 Sun	1:52	9:7	2:09	9:2	13 Sun	9:21	2:8	9:57	0:0		
14 Mon	2:34	8:1	2:09	9:2	14 Mon	10:11	2:6	10:44	0:7		
15 Tue	3:16	8:2	3:06	8:6	15 Tue	11:00	2:2	11:38	1:4		
16 Wed	4:00	8:5	4:13	7:9	16 Wed	11:40	2:2	12:54	1:7		
17 Thu	4:44	8:7	5:27	7:2	17 Thu		
18 Fri	5:28	9:0	6:50	6:7	18 Fri	0:37	2:1	2:05	1:0		
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25 Fri	10:28	12:2	25 Fri	6:54	3:3	7:42	-0:5		
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29 Tue	1:24	2:2	29 Tue	9:47	3:1	9:50	1:2		
30 Wed	2:08	2:9	30 Wed	10:39	2:9	10:24	1:8		
31 Thu	2:52	3:6	31 Thu	11:38	2:7		

BASEBALL

Mark Grace won a Gold Glove at first base; Maddux won the Cy Young; and it is a lot more likely that the Cubs will be in the World Series next year than the Rockies or the Marlins!



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