

# Editorial Now & Then

It is the position of this paper that, in the interest of the health of our children, our guests from around the world, our wildlife, and yes, our economy, we must protect our watershed!

In this issue we look at this situation and some possible alternatives to the current ways of doing things.

We have included comments by locals, folks from up and down the coast, and several elected officials. We hope that this is only the beginning of a dialogue that will continue until a satisfactory solution is found.

It is not the goal of this publication (which is printed on paper that once was a growing tree, but was also once a different piece of paper) (yes, and we print with soy based ink) to demonize the loggers or Cavenham Forest Industries or their parent company Hanson, (who happen to also own Peabody Coal Company, who have already been made infamous by John Prine) but to try to find solutions that will work for all of us.

We think more time should be spent taking care of the goose, and a little less scrambling for the golden eggs. The price of timber will not be going down in the foreseeable future, and a 75 year old tree is going to be worth more in 2018 than a 50 year old tree is today. So... we suggest a city initiative & referendum vote be taken to direct the City Council to purchase the watershed, if Cavenham will sell, and pay for this with a municipal bond that could be payed off by a tax of one half of one percent on all real estate transactions in the city limits (as has been suggested by members of the Planning Committee). This, combined with revenue from a sustained yield environmentally sound logging operation by a contractor hired by the city, would enable us to control our watershed and be an example of environmental and economic success that would improve our desirability as both a destination resort and a liveable community. The idea would create jobs as well as allow access to a vast new area of recreational land for the local population as well as our guests from around the world.

We realize this will be a major challenge for our volunteer council and our over-worked managers, but if we don't take responsibility for our well being it will be in the hands of Bill Clinton, or Hanson Industries, or name your greatest fear....

Oswald West and Tom McCall helped draw a line in the sand on our beaches, that says, "This belongs to the People." We can do no less in the forests.

## More Stuff....

We are happy to welcome Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse to our pages, with the first of her comments on subjects that effect us and how they are being viewed in Washington D.C.

In this issue we are also happy to welcome new advertiser and old friend Phil Thompson. Phil, if you don't know, (and most don't) was the guy who, though many take credit, (including your beloved editor) was really, officially, legally responsible for the Mayor's Inaugural Ball. (That is former Mayor Bud Clark of Portland, not former State Supreme Court Justice Herb Schwab of Cannon Beach) It was his job to make sure the inmates ran the asylum within the laws of physics, if not the boundaries of common sense. Phil was the guy who made sure the money went where it was supposed to (the final definition of responsibility in our society). Phil has now had the good sense to get off the government dole and move to



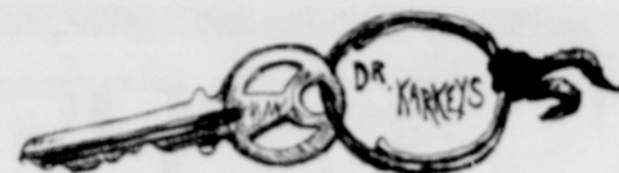
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Scappoose, and is back to the old job of gardener (excuse me, Architecture & Environmental planning).

So, if you have had the good sense to build a house on the edge, Phil can help you make it a home, and is a good guy to know just on general principles.

Also you will notice some changes in this issue, for example Spud's Wildlife Column is now Wildlife on the Edge, to better reflect that this has always been a joint effort of Sally and Spud. We think Sally should get the credit she deserves for her delightful wit and beautiful drawings; Spud will of course still be contributing helpful information as he zips around the edge from gig to gig.

We are also proud to announce that James Massa will be the Vice President of the Seaside High School Freshman Class next year.



We mostly live in little wooden boxes. Outside the boxes there are birds. We go outside and watch them. They excite us and lift our spirits.

The boxes we live in are made of fir and hemlock, of oak and cedar and sheetrock. We build windows in them so they will not be so dark, and so that we can see the birds.

Sometimes we feed them, when the weather is harsh, or when the plants they eat are not permitted to grow, or the insects they would feed upon are poisoned instead.

We enjoy the birds so much that we build them little boxes to nest in, and we place the boxes near the windows in our homes. They would live near us anyway, except that we usually saw down the firs and hemlocks and cedars they would live in.

Taking the trees this way is called logging, as the taking of whales is called whaling. When all the trees within reach are taken, as a drift net takes everything it reaches in the sea, it is called clear cutting. It is said to resemble the effect of a forest fire, except that we then apply herbicides and pesticides so that nothing will grow but a single conifer species.

The rains wash these poisons along with the wondrous soil from the hillsides, trickling and splashing into the creek, altering it physically and chemically so that fewer fish are inclined to call it home. So many of the spawning grounds have been lost that there are many more ghost salmon than live ones.

We believe the water is safe, and we take it from the creek to drink and to cook with and bathe in and to wash our cars. We also sprinkle it on patches of grass called lawns, which we maintain at a fixed height, lest it cause unrest. We inherited this custom from the English. Very, very large lawns are called golf courses, and we inherited them from the Scots. Some radical thinkers believe that the only patriotic place for this kind of grass is on a baseball field, an American invention.

The number of people who watch baseball is a very small fraction of those who watch birds. Worldwide, there are more birdwatchers than afficiandi of any other pastime. Long ago, when we could still understand them, the birds gave us guidance and wisdom. Now we avidly watch their comings and goings and try to touch the lost thread between us and them, like forlorn lovers waiting for the phone to ring.

The ravens would tell us about the water, if we could understand them, but we already know, and that is what is amazing. We already know, and some of us don't care.



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