

Editorial Now & Then

The mover and doer
of the Cannon Beach Sewer

We attended the dedication of the Don Thompson Memorial bird watching tower at the sewer ponds, and were again impressed with the pride of community found here in this little beach town. Our faithful readers are familiar with Don Thompson; he has graced our pages in several issues and it was his obituary that first brought Professor Lindsey to us. We used the Christmas cards that Don and Vi sent each year as part of our Christmas issue; we printed the charts of the bird counts which Don began and which are still being done. Ron Logan suggested that perhaps we were overdoing it, but we think not. We happened to see the Channel Twelve 11 O'clock News on Sunday, April 17th, as they aired a piece on the dedication, with the obligatory snickers about sewers. But they mostly pointed out that this was a unique system that can be traced to the persistence of one person.

If the Edge has a definable purpose it could very well be to show folks that what they do can and does change their world. Not always for the better, but it does happen a lot more than we think.

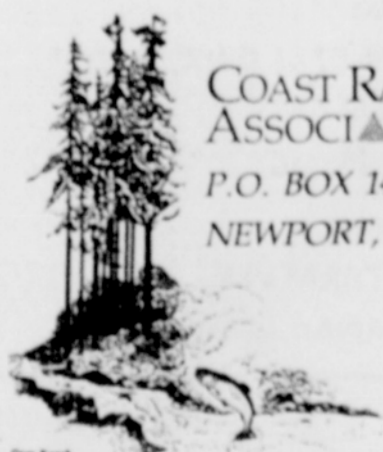
Now for the news: The first residents of Sahhalie Condos have moved in recently. A family of nesting Great Blue Herons were spotted near the site of the proposed bridge. Shh! Shut off that bulldozer, babies are sleeping. Also several Eagles have been seen shopping in the area, nest hunting? If anyone knows of a Spotted Owl looking for a home, you might mention that Seaside is nice this time of year.

The North Coast Land Conservancy Annual Hike is scheduled for May 7th at 9am leaving from Battery Russell parking lot at Fort Stevens. A guided hike open to members of the Conservancy and the public for FREE! Bring a lunch and bird watching glasses.

Cavenham Update: The Coast Range Association has invited the Cavenham folks to the Cannon Beach Chamber Building for a panel discussion about the watershed and future harvest plans. We will update you as they hammer out the details. Cavenham seems to be spending some money in the area on image. The most recent being the dubious claim, in a full page ad in the Astorian's "Who's Who in Clatsop County", that they have done business here for 107 years. (Counting the years put in by the companies that they bought the land from in the sixties just doesn't seem fair.)

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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2 UPPER LEFT EDGE MAY 1994

Vandals, Victims, & Vigilantes

Since Bill's Tavern is closed on Wednesdays, we tend to get the local happenings a day late if the timing is wrong. This particular Thursday, the events of the night before at Moon's gas station had already been related in two different versions before we settled on our stool to sip our first after work Bud. The versions grew to four before we had a chance to talk to anyone who had been there. It was pretty exciting stuff. If you added all the stories together, they went something like this: It seems there was this gang of off duty police officers, who allegedly had been seen buying beer at the Mariner Market early Wednesday evening. They were supposedly attending a seminar at the Christian Conference Center here in Cannon Beach, ("Cops for Christ" or something like that) when one of them heard the sound of breaking glass, and saw a young man running. Adding one and one and coming up with a Code 11 or whatever, several alleged officers pursued the alleged suspect to Moon's gas station, where the real fun began.

We are told, third hand mind you, by previously doubtful sources, that upward to a dozen alleged officers confronted a trio or so of young local men, and attempted to question them about the window. The young men took umbrage, told the alleged officers to leave the property, "Get the Hell off my property!" scuffles ensued, guns were displayed, sexual prowess was questioned ("My penis is bigger than your gun!"), doors were slammed (on peoples' bodies!), finally local authorities arrived and separated the contestants, restored order and cited the locals. Lawsuits were threatened! Pretty juicy stuff, huh? Well, maybe.

Being members of the press and upholding the code of the west required that we actually ask some folks questions.

Chief Dave Rouse gave an official rendition: "Off-duty officer attending 'Officer Alive' conference hears breaking glass, observes young man leaving scene and entering Moon's gas station; officer calls 911, and with a few friends (5) (four officers and one officer's wife) 'took up positions'; suspects attempt to move car from station, officers identify themselves with badge and ID card, and attempt to take suspects into custody, 'I don't care if they are Portland cops, it don't mean shit down here.' a scuffle breaks out as Officer Hatch arrives on the scene, he separates the combatants and is proceeding with the suspect, John Henry, and the witness, Deputy Dexter D. Danielson, Washington County Sheriff's Office, to the scene of the mischief, 'The General Store' where six or seven panes of glass had been broken. Meanwhile a fight breaks out at the station as John Moon pushes by an officer, and is struck by the officer and informed he is under arrest. Somewhere in here an officer has a garage door slammed on him three times. An officer is subsequently struck by Matt Morris. Morris is attacked by two or three of the off-duty officers, and the wife, who is yelling for handcuffs. Officer Hatch calls for them to 'back off', which they eventually do, and Morris is escorted to CB cruiser sans handcuffs. Chief Rouse arrives at the scene and order is once again restored. John Henry is charged with Criminal Mischief II. Morris and Moon are cited for disorderly conduct. 'All I was doing was trying to protect my friend, but I sure 'popped' the Son of a bitch a good one.' Morris is quoted in the official report. No one is injured seriously, no guns are displayed.

So what's a person to believe? Rowdy local Yahoos with no respect for the law and private property? Over zealous out of town bullies taking the law into their own ill prepared hands? Both?

Though this paper has been critical of Cannon Beach's Finest in the past, we are forced to admit that of all those involved, our local officers seem to have been the most rational folks on the scene.

The moral: If you hear breaking glass call the cops, leave your name and number, and let them get back to you. And if someone shows you a badge and says you are under arrest, call your lawyer.

The Chief offers this one suggestion, "Please, people, just don't touch each other!"

"The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones; so let it be with Caesar."

August 9, 1974 - April 22, 1994

The above dates, the day Nixon resigned the presidency and the day of his death.

Mr. Nixon has come to symbolize the evils of politics. Not just Watergate, but the secret bombing of Cambodia, the blatant selling of Ambassadorships for political contributions, the arrogance of the enemies lists. We have in the past said that we won't believe he is really dead until someone drives a stake into his heart. This was a statement born of the fear of what he was capable of, his powers of regeneration. But we must remember that, as they say, "Under the Clinton Health Plan we are all going to die!" And perhaps we would like to be remembered for something other than our mistakes and shortcomings. "Tricky Dickie" brought about the end of the Viet Nam War, the only President who wasn't afraid to give up in a no-win situation. He opened China and signed the EPA into existence. And he unwittingly exposed the sweaty underbelly of power politics in America, on tape, thus bringing about a call for higher standards for our leadership. He will be remembered in different ways by different people. Dr. Karkeys suggests the old films of the McCarthy era, where young Nixon can be seen plotting strategy with young Roy Cohen. We prefer the "Checkers Speech" or maybe that famous last wave from the door of the helicopter as he left the White House for the last time. We will always remember that Richard Nixon was the man who said, "I am not a crook!" and, "I am not a quitter!", and was lying both times. But, we are losing one of the toughest politicians in our history, a worthy adversary no longer in the fight. If you could go up against Nixon and survive you were tough. Bush, Carter, Reagan, no problem; but Nixon separated the men from the wimps. Some loved him, many hated him. He is said to have been a student of the "dark side" of the American mind. And understood that history judges a man's accomplishments, not his personality. We wonder if they will respect his wishes that "California Here I Come" be played 'real slow' at his funeral. We heard these comments: "Nixon won't lie in State in the Rotunda. He already lied in the Rotunda, and the Oval office and..." "Never to be forgotten, never to be forgiven."

To the Editor,

Murphy's Law is still in force! In transmuting my ms. on the Seaside Trad Jazz Festival into an April article for ULE, a line was lost. The sentence identifying out-of-state bands should read: "... the Buck Creek Jazz Band operates out of Springfield, Virginia, the Canal Street Jazz Band hails from North Vancouver, British Columbia, while..."

Thanks again for the chance to be part of ULE, if only for an issue. I shan't be able to make the October Seaside festival so it will likely not be until next February that I'm back out that way. See you then, I hope.

Cheers,
George W. Earley

Dear Billy and Sally,

Bravo! Your second anniversary issue was enlightening! You are looking toward a livable future and sharing your vision with a growing number of people. We feel very privileged to be part of the experience.

Rory and I would like to try something structurally different. We've been talking about cinema and its relationship to time-sequenced art (comics and graphic novels, animation and computer graphics). We see lots of "motor-drive sequences" in surfing magazines, slow motion video footage of surfing, and of course we watch our friends in the water.

This month we are featuring "hard-core surfing action", with each character getting a wave to himself. You could run them together, in the same space Tales of the Northern Seas would occupy, but I would like to humbly suggest placing each on a separate, odd numbered page, perhaps across the lower edge? Any way you feature them, I think it is a refreshing change of pace. We will return to our classical format next issue, but may occasionally experiment with the conceptual parameters of the art form in the future. As fans may have guessed, Rory is a student of classic Donald Duck adventure comics, most importantly those of the legendary Carl Banks and Don Rosa. The format, characterizations, sight gags and stories in Tales of the Northern Seas are in "The Spirit of the Duck." Mar is a student of Zippy the Pinhead and is a social justice activist in his community, which accounts for the editorializing and smarmy preachiness of some of his utterances.

We love you and will be your comic slaves until all the trees have been turned to newsprint!

Peace,
Mar & Rory
Box 882
Neskowin, Or 97149

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