

Editorial Now & Then



Rev.
Hults

Every once in a while we think we hear Don Thompson chuckle as we walk on the beach, or through our woods, or see the ducks slide onto the surface of the ponds he designed. This time we believe he is laughing full blown, belly-grabbing guffaws.

It seems Cannon Beach is up for another environmental award. The city was recently recognized for Excellence in Operation and Maintenance of a small advanced waste water treatment system in Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Washington and Oregon); and this is nothing to laugh at, because the award is based on operational and maintenance practices, compliance, innovation and (for all the Republicans) cost effectiveness. No, the reason for amusement is that the award is given by the EPA. Yes, the same Environmental Protection Agency that did its level best to keep our wetlands sewage treatment facility from ever happening. Don considered them the major opponent to the plan. But finally even a Federal agency must surrender to the righteous persistence of a free and honest man. And it is to their credit that they celebrate what has been learned from the experience.

For our guests from afar, we direct you to the east end of 2nd ave. in Cannon Beach, where you will see an observation tower where you can read part of the history of our system.

The award is to be presented by the Northwest Pollution Control Association on Sept. 19th in Spokane, and then it's on to the Nationals. You see, winning our regional award qualifies us to compete for the title of Best Sewage Treatment System in America, or something. It makes you proud, but still you can't help but giggle a little. I'm sure Don is.

The Thin Yellow Line

It has been brought to our attention that the City of Seaside, in a Solomon-like decision, has painted a Yellow line down the middle of the Promenade. This and signs were authorized after "a number of workshops" and "numerous citizens' complaints" about the safety aspects of skateboarders, roller bladders, and the hated surreys (with or without fringe on top) interacting with humble slow moving pedestrians. Wheels on the east side, feet on the west, is what they came up with in the workshops. And then they painted the line (down the middle, equal protection under law) and put up the signs. Now, we couldn't get accurate information on the cost of this life saving effort, or the body counts in the past, but we do know that industrial strength yellow paint is very expensive (and toxic), and signs usually cost a municipality about the same as toilet seats cost the Pentagon. And to date we have seen no reports of families perishing under the wheels of a skateboard. The spokes person for the City said this is just a stop gap measure until they can ban the surreys in Seaside.

We are of course anti-wheel, being founding members of FEET FIRST!, a radical pedestrian group, and we feel obligated to defend what little turf is left. So, our advice: forget the lines and the signs, put in bricks or cobblestones, or grass, but get the wheels off the Prom, now.



Don Thompson

August is Free Speech Month sponsored by the ACLU. There will be events all over the State, including, yes, Cannon Beach. The Upper Left Edge and Jupiter's Rare and Used Books (that is redundant) will sponsor a Soap Box in front of the Book Store at noon August 29th. Anyone can come stand on the soap box and exercise their constitutional right of free speech. No Bull Horns, and a three minute limit (it's our soap box). Others are free to attend and exercise their constitutional right to giggle.

Financial ruin from medical bills is almost exclusively an American disease. Roul Turley

Cannon Beach recently had a visit from a YP of Cavenham Forest Industries. Mr. Richard Dahlin spoke to the Homeowners and Renters Association about the plans to clearcut the hills around Cannon Beach. People at the meeting asked some tough questions and were given equally tough answers. "Will you be clearcutting, leaving us a view that looks like a patchwork quilt?" "Yes." "Is there any way you will allow access to the forest by residents?" "No." "Can we continue this stimulating dialogue?" "Maybe." Some questions were not answered, like Mr. Sroufe's question about the Gifford Pinchot book that showed a Norwegian forest which had been producing timber for 400 years and looks like it had never been touched. It is one thing to talk about what is going to be done, and another to talk about how. But, even this limited dialogue is better than nothing. Compared to Cavenham, Clint Eastwood is a chatter box. We suppose it could be worse. It could be the Peabody Coal Company (another division of Hansen Industries, which owns Cavenham) doing open pit coal mining to the east of town. Then it wouldn't be a matter of disfiguring the hills, they would be removed altogether, and we could probably see all the way to Hillsboro. A frightening thought. Anyway we are always appreciative when the Lords of the Manor deign to speak to the peasants, and hope that the dialogue, such as it is, will continue and grow into a working relationship. And we must praise Mr. Dahlin for his courage and patience with the mix of frightening environmentalists, frightened Republicans, and flustered Democrats. We were also justly proud of our community for its persistence in pursuit of this beginning, especially Bud Kramer and his buddies at the Coffee Cabana City Council. Not bad for a Democrat.



There is life in Tillamook!!

After a recent visit by David Hetrick, formerly of The Storefront Theatre in Portland, and a missive from Peter Smith, editor of the Bay City Slug (The Newspaper that Hates Progress), we feel we should tell you of the recent discovery of life in Tillamook. (Other than cows, that is.)

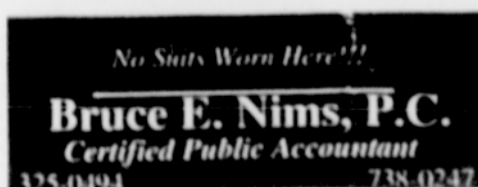
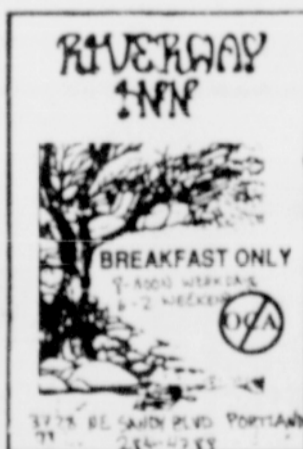
Art Access for Tillamook County is a new, and quite lively organization with a simple and important goal: Encourage the Arts in Tillamook. In these days of logging and fishing industry decline, the arts and tourism industries are the only "growing" industries on the coast, and some folks in Tillamook are determined to make the most of it. They have their eye on the old National Guard Armory that the City sold to the Guard in 1961 for one dollar. (Still not paid we understand.) The 1926 Art Deco building is a little funky and needs to be made handicap accessible, but it looks doable.

Art Access has already presented their case before the City Council and The Tillamook Arts Association and has positive feedback from both. A letter has been sent to the Coast Guard by the City Manager Mike Mahoney and there are plans for Federal Arts Grants applications and Benefits to gather funding. Is this exciting or what? Besides David Hetrick (who used to own Muddy Waters Coffee House in Tillamook) and Pete Smith, the group consists of Craig Wakefield (a Tillamook County Building Inspector), Deb Dyson (a corporate attorney) and Paula Ascher (a grant writer, fund raiser and instructor at Tillamook Bay Community College).

So, what can you do to help? You can write to Art Access, Box 788 Tillamook, OR 97141-0788, or call (503) 842-0149 and get updates and ideas on how to participate.

News Flash !! They got the Armory !!!

David called as we were going to press and said the city and the Coast Guard have come to an agreement, but still have a few details to work out. Congratulations to the Arts Access folks and the city of Tillamook. Truly, sometimes the magic works.



As constant readers will recall, last issue we ventured forth to the Oregon Country Fair's 25th Anniversary. Sometimes the magic worked. Like when we watched Left Over Salmon, a band from Colorado who looked and sounded like the Holy Modal Rounders of our dreams, young, strong, sober, and in-tune. Part of this is due to the bass playing of Ty North, son of Rounders drummer Rodger. They have a weird name but the next time you see it we recommend you go. Another name to put on your list in capital letters is UMO, and there is no way to describe what they do. They could be called a theatre company, or improvisational performance art, or social commentators with props, musical instruments, and costumes. And oh, what costumes... well, the Edge will be doing its best to get them to the area this winter, so, pay attention, you'll like it.



An Unsuccessful Meeting Delayed

Now for something a little more serious, Health Care: it seems the First Lady (wife of the First Gentleman?) visited Oregon to tout health care recently (not because of the rumored crush on Kitzhaber). Like Eleanor Roosevelt she is a Co-President, bringing the female perspective to the table. And we wish her well, and hope we can get something in place before it's too late for too many. As has been pointed out, Congress and Welfare recipients are already covered. The folks we are talking about are the hard working, tax paying, American families that face bankruptcy if a child gets sick. A perfect plan would be everybody pays, say, \$10 a month, and \$10 for each visit, \$10 a day in the hospital, and \$10 per prescription. Too easy, too simple, but add it up. Anyway, we will be forced to take what the Congress gives us, if they give it to us.



You can only cure retail but you can prevent wholesale. Brock Chisholm

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