

**... From Vashon Island**

A good day to you, Rev. It sure was a pleasure to spend some time among the Oregonians, especially with old friends. I think gatherings like The Country Fair, with their implicit emphasis on the endurance of the extended family (and attendant values) are my cultural equivalent of a religious retreat. It did me good.

I recall making a brief mention of my latest pre-occupation, and thought to take this opportunity to expand, expound and expose myself a bit. There may be something here for every taste.

It all started with the replacement weather seal for a Honda hatchback, a little piece of hi-tech molded rubber that set me back around \$17. When I got home it was too dark to install the seal, so (for some strange reason) I weighed it before I went to bed. 5 1/2 ounces... about \$50 a pound!

(Maybe it actually goes back to apples and bananas. The apples always cost more, even though they come from someplace about a three hour drive from here... or just upriver, in your case. So, maybe years of festering about apples and bananas finally produced the spark that lit up the brain cell that prodded me to deposit that seal on the scale.)

Well, Billy, it's just a hoot! I get all these catalogs out and figure out how much everything costs per pound, now. And it is surprising what the real luxuries and real "bargains" are. Like book matches... 10¢ an ounce, or about 85 fires for a nickel. A new Marine Band harmonica, \$23 a pop, works out to \$180/lb. Another German product, a new Mercedes Benz, will run you around \$13 - \$14/lb, including shipping.

The real eye-openers so far, though, are my new eyeglass frames. These fine fashion statements, fine hinges and fine metal earhangers, and even finer plastic (plus, mine have pieces of monofilament fishing line that hold the lenses up) retailed at \$119.95 without lenses (that's another \$40), and weighed in at half an ounce. That puts them up there around 4 grand, by the pound. I mean FINE hinges! Most of these fancy little dudes are imported, too... from France, Italy, Japan, etc. How many other imported fashion statements are covered by Health Insurance?

But now, for the really boggling part, is what is cheap! Like when my local purveyor of "Western Family" brands is selling bottom line ice cream for 99¢ a half-gallon, that's less than 40¢/lb! (about half the price of cottage cheese). 2% acidophilus by the 1/2 gallon costs about the same, here... 38¢/lb. That's also about how much Weyerhaeuser is paying for good fir second-growth export grade saw logs... about \$1100/thousand board feet. They must be getting about 60¢/lb. from our Asian trading partners for those lovely sticks... pity.

OK, so what's a real good deal? Used brick (4¢/lb). Field corn is 5¢/lb. And crude oil?... about 51 1/2¢/lb. That's right, at \$18.50 a barrel, crude is \$055/lb. But the really astonishing part is that wholesale unleaded gas is only about 8¢/lb., and you and I are getting stuck for closer to 18¢/lb... ouch!!

Just think about the efficiency here, though (but not for too long... it may turn you into a Republican!), and you'll see that despite getting pumped out of the bowels (or some other bodily orifice) of the earth about 11 Time Zones from here, refined (!), freight added (!!), you've got a local product of incredible potential, wholesaling for 8¢ a pound, ... and the government is charging 29¢ an ounce just to freight your birthday cards a mile down the road! See, isn't the private sector INCREDIBLE??!!

AND, here's a product that you never touch (or even smell, in Oregon... someone else pumps it for you). Can you imagine giving a guy \$10 and he gives you a bag with 55 pounds of gasoline in it, and you lug it home a couple of miles on foot, and it's hot out, and the bag is hard to pour into that damned funnel, and then it won't all go into the tank, and you have to tie it shut and put it in the shed, and hope the rats don't get it... Hey, but it only cost 18¢ a pound, and it'll get you and the family to The Fair and back. SMILE!

So, you see, anybody with an eye for bargains and value, why, they'd be fools not to buy tons of this gasoline stuff, just to have fun with. Like, you could make great big circles in a stubble field by pouring gas out on the ground, and then lighting it up, and see whose fire gets around the circle first... kind of like stock car racing without the cars and drivers and the extra stuff. I bet you can think of even funner things to do with something as wonderfully powerful and gloriously cheap as this gasoline, the Boon of the Bargain Hunters!!

Hey, Rev., gotta go. There's some pretty weighty stuff going down, and I don't want to miss it. Tell folks that a scale and a calculator can be as much fun as TV. They will thank you for it.

With a heart full of you-all,  
I remain John H. Browne, Jr.

PS. They're paying 3¢/lb for recycled cardboard around here again... and it's about time!

PPS. If you feel a burning yearning to start a conversation (say about Cultural Stereotypes, or???) at your local grocery, just head on over to the produce scale with a random, representative assortment of paper products. I guarantee ya...



I have come to the conclusion, after many years of sometimes sad experience, that you cannot come to any conclusion at all.

Vita Sackville-West

**EARTH MERCANTILE**  
6345 SW Capitol Highway  
(in Hillsdale)  
Portland  
246-4935

**Arcadia Landscaping**  
FOR GARDENS DESIGNED TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PESTICIDE USE.  
ATTENTION BUSINESSES WE CREATE & MAINTAIN FLOWER BOXES, PLANTERS & HANGING BASKETS  
436-0738 RES  
LICENSED - BONDED INSURED  
MSS2

**OLYMPIC BOOK EXCHANGE, INC.**  
"We Buy Books"  
PAUL SKEETER  
2509 First Street  
Tillamook, OR 97141  
(503) 842-3846

# WILDLIFE ON THE EDGE

The warm days of late August ripen the of most bushes, among them the vast throngs of Salal that cloud our hills. The Salal berries are mildly sweet with a mealy consistency; Some dogs seem to enjoy them.

Dragonflies come blowing in this time of year, sometimes sparsely and sometimes, less frequently, in huge pervading swarms.

The Canada Geese are starting to think about following the summer south to eventual warmer climes. Soon honking, cliché Vs will be flapping across our skies, and flocks will land splashing into our calmer waters to rest and feed before heading again on their timeless journey.

SEPTEMBER  
LAKESIDE 1997

### CANNON BEACH SHUTTLE SCHEDULE 10-6 Friday - Tuesday

\* TIMES MAY VARY SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS \*

GOING SOUTH	Leaves from: Lee Shirley Park (Northpoint)															
Lee Shirley Park	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	—	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00
Candy Kitchen	10:03	10:33	11:03	11:33	12:03	12:33	1:03	—	2:33	3:03	3:33	4:03	4:33	5:03	5:33	6:03
Coaster	10:06	10:36	11:06	11:36	12:06	12:36	1:06	—	2:36	3:06	3:36	4:06	4:36	5:06	5:36	6:06
Midtown	10:06	10:36	11:06	11:36	12:06	12:36	—	2:06	2:36	3:06	3:36	4:06	4:36	5:06	5:36	—
Surfcrest	10:09	10:39	11:09	11:39	12:09	12:39	—	2:09	2:39	3:09	3:39	4:09	4:39	5:09	5:39	—
Tolovana Wayside	10:10	10:40	11:10	11:40	12:10	12:40	—	2:10	2:40	3:10	3:40	4:10	4:40	5:10	5:40	—
Wave Crest	10:13	10:43	11:13	11:43	12:13	12:43	—	2:13	2:43	3:13	3:43	4:13	4:43	5:13	5:43	—
Maher	10:15	10:45	11:15	11:45	12:15	12:45	—	2:15	2:45	3:15	3:45	4:15	4:45	5:15	5:45	—
GOING NORTH	Leaves from Maher & Hemlock (Southpoint)															
Maher & Hemlock	10:15	10:45	11:15	11:45	12:15	12:45	—	2:15	2:45	3:15	3:45	4:15	4:45	5:15	5:45	—
Tolovana Wayside	10:18	10:48	11:18	11:48	12:18	12:48	—	2:18	2:48	3:18	3:48	4:18	4:48	5:18	5:48	—
R.V. Park	10:24	10:54	11:24	11:54	12:24	12:54	—	2:24	2:54	3:24	3:54	4:24	4:54	5:24	5:54	—
Midtown	10:25	10:55	11:25	11:55	12:25	12:55	—	2:25	2:55	3:25	3:55	4:25	4:55	5:25	5:55	—
Ecota Square	10:28	10:58	11:28	11:58	12:28	12:58	—	2:28	2:58	3:28	3:58	4:28	4:58	5:28	5:58	—
White Bird Gallery	10:28	10:58	11:28	11:58	12:28	12:58	—	2:28	2:58	3:28	3:58	4:28	4:58	5:28	5:58	—
Lee Shirley Park	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	1:00	—	2:30	3:00	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30	6:00	—

Public Shuttle - Donations Appreciated - No Service on Wednesday & Thursday  
Other Stops on Request

Serving All Of Clatsop County Since 1976

**MANION LANDSCAPING, INC.**  
"Coastal Landscape Specialist"  
**861-1468**  
State License No. 5792 - Bonded and Insured

- Design • Construction
- Irrigation • Rockeries
- Sod & Seed Lawns
- Retaining Walls
- Water Features
- Native and Ornamental Planting
- Tractor Services

VELOCIPÉDIQUES

**MIKE'S BIKE SHOP** SINCE 1974  
CANNON BEACH  
(503) 436-1266 BIKE TALK: 800-492-1266  
P.O. BOX 518 CANNON BEACH, OR 97110

**WALK SOFTLY!**

Shearwater and Pacific Coast clothing in Ecota Square

Complete Coastal Outdoor Clothing from head to foot!

**Cannon Beach's ONLY Outdoor Shoe Store!**  
Shoes  
Boots  
Sandals

10% OFF Reg. Retail for local residents

FREE Espresso drink with \$50+ purchase  
123 S. Hemlock 436-2473

It's easy to be independent when you've got money. But to be independent when you haven't got a thing - that's the Lord's test.  
Mahalia Jackson

**Manzanita News & ESPRESSO**

- FEATURING STARBUCKS COFFEE
- WIDE SELECTION OF MAGAZINES
- HEALTHFUL SNACKS

HOURS EVERYDAY 8:00-4:00

368-7450 500 LANEDA AVE. P.O. BOX 698 MANZANITA, OR 97130