



Winter chiselled and hacked its way in early this year. Some winters shadow box around through November, a feint here and a light jab there. I think this one's a contender, rough as guts and spoiling for a fight. Hike up your trunks and break out the smelling salts. This mauler may cut many of us down emotionally and physically. A season of cold and damp demands fuel to fend off the chill. Perhaps I can suggest a handful of tonics and recipes as specifics against the blasts of Boreas.

Dark times require prescriptions against melancholy. I would counsel you to feed the spirit a yeoman's portion of merriment and levity this holiday season. Visit your local schools during their Christmas pageants and musical presentations. In my darkest hours, the music of children's voices and their tender faces lift my heart.

After staggering through the rigors of a five-day work week, gather the shattered remains together on Friday evening and visit Bill's Tavern. The Experienced know that Messrs. Hulst, Keiski, Ruffo, Legg, Stockton, Kauffman, and Siegel testify there every Friday evening. The faithful convene around Beer-thirty, p.m. . . . The Reverend Billy Lloyd Hulst dispenses absolution, talks in tongues, and lays down what is, to my mind and others, the finest line of washboard rhythm and percussion this side of the Southern Hemisphere. Hulst and the String Deacons stomp, warble, rattle, and twang through several hours of spontaneous musical glee that infects even the most morose patrons. The boys start out tentatively, toying around with old melodies like dogs around a pile of butcher scraps. Once they get a musical bone in their teeth, though, . . . look out!

Presentations of both *Annie* at the Coaster Theater and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at the Chamber of Commerce building can satiate a craving for theatrical fare. The Columbia River Maritime Museum presents cultural events during the Christmas season and unique shopping possibilities in the museum store. The Professor is not much of a shopper, but he gives this venue high marks.

Warm the stomach, and the heart and spirit gladden. A couple of recipes that follow should help fend off winter's travails. The Professor recommends this razor clam casserole as a hearty meal on a chill day. My thanks to Michelle Reed for the specs. (Chantrelle mushrooms are optional).

Razor Clam Casserole

- 2 cups chopped fresh razor clams
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 cup sauteed chantrelle mushrooms
- 4-5 sliced potatoes
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese

In the bottom of a large oven-friendly casserole dish lay a layer of sliced potatoes. Place onions, mushrooms, and chopped clams on top of the potatoes. Alternately layer remaining potatoes, mushrooms, clams, and onions to the lip of the baking dish. Dust the ingredients with flour. Salt and pepper to taste. Place grated cheese on surface of ingredients. Pour milk into pan evenly over pan's contents. Bake in oven at 375 degrees for about 50 minutes. This stuff will warm the cockles of the darkest winter hearts.

Brother Tim's

- Shotberry or Blackberry Oatler**
- 2-3 cups blue huckleberries (shotberries) or local blackberries
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup self-rising flour (very important!)
- 1 cup milk

Melt 1 stick of butter in saucepan.

Place half of melted butter in deep dish pie pan. Place 2 to 3 cups prepared berries in pie pan (sweeten berries to your taste, blackberries will require some sugar). In a mixing bowl prepare a batter by blending remaining melted butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup milk, and 1 cup self-rising flour. After mixing the batter to an even consistency, spread the batter over fruit and place in oven. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 45 minutes.

Enjoy and persevere. Spring is coming.

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* TIMES MAY VARY SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS *

GOING SOUTH		Leaves from Las Shirley Park (Northpoint)														
Las 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
Middtown	10:09	10:39	11:09	11:39	12:09	12:39	1:09	—	2:39	3:09	3:39	4:09	4:39	5:09	5:39	—
Surfcrest	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	—
Talovana Wayside	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	—
Wave Crest	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	—
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	—
Talovana 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	—
Middtown	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	—
Ecola Square	10:26	10:56	11:26	11:56	12:26	12:56	—	2:26	2:56	3:26	3:56	4:26	4:56	5:26	5:56	—
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	—
Las 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	—

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