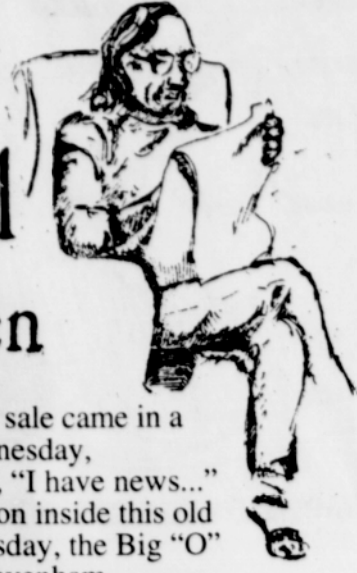


Rev.  
Hults

# Editorial Now & Then



The news that Cavenham was for sale came in a phone call to the bookstore on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Andrea Rowe said, "I have news..." or words to that effect. What went on inside this old twisted mind was wonderful. Thursday, the Big "O" made it official. Yes, we did call Cavenham Wednesday afternoon, but who do you believe? By Thursday at vespers the plan was full blown and variations were being considered.

First we must have a short geography & history lesson about the land we are talking about. This is 175,000 acres in Clatsop County alone; 500,000 acres in Oregon, 290,588 in the Coast Range. This is the forest, this is the coast range. This land originally was watched over by various groups of folks we call all sorts of politically vague names. (We do this a lot.) Historically speaking, we can & did disregard them. The folks who currently are responsible (perhaps a bad choice of words) for this land acquired their claim long ago. More than a century in some cases. It seems that in 1888 the Congress, in all its wisdom, passed a law called the "Take the Timber and Stone Act" (no, we are not kidding). Under this act, 3,812,000 acres of forest were transferred into the private domain. The law said, basically, that any "household" could claim 160 acres for their "own exclusive use and benefit" for \$2.50 an acre. And if no one complained after nine weeks (not counting the former owners), it was private property. Cool, huh?

Is it just our misspent youth or do others see an opportunity for fraud, theft, bribery, corruption...? Well, yes. It was not uncommon at the time to be invited to the coast for a week-end and be asked to drop by the land office with the \$400 provided by your host, to claim your fair share of timberland. Later, you might sign it over to the aforementioned host for a small consideration. Perhaps a few beers and dinner in some cases. The Booth-Kelly Lumber Co. acquired 90,000 acres in this manner. Never heard of them? They are called "an antecedent of Georgia-Pacific in these parts" in Great Moments in Oregon History, edited by Win McCormack and Dick Pintarich (New Oregon Publishers 1987). And, just so we don't go clucking over con artists defrauding our government, Senator John H. Mitchell, a Republican (regretfully) from Oregon, refused a \$500 bribe and held out for \$2000, before he allowed the land grab to proceed. The record is clear: railroads, moguls, con-artists, politicians, the regular suspects; and of course it is all legal and proper, and property rights are inviolate.

So, now there is a chance -- a small window of opportunity to correct the old mistakes. The selling of the land in the first place was as a way to raise money for schools, for the kids. We, meaning people, can buy back a pretty big chunk of a very special, though a little stressed, piece of what we and our children need to survive. The price is 1.5 big bills (billions) for the whole thing; sawmills, trucks, yellow gates and all. (Without an epiphany by Bill Gates, we dare not wish for this) but, there is a chance that small parcels may be available for sale; the Cannon Beach Watershed leaps to mind! But, of course, the more the merrier. So, really how does one, or even many, go about it? "The March of Dimes", kids, giving change, and changing kids' lives? That works. Telathons? Well... Grants? The State buys it? Foundations? We think lowest common denominator is always the best. Kids; folks; we, meaning the people who would really like to see the forest again dominate the scene, can save up our change and make a change we will be proud of our whole lives. We Can Buy Back The Land!

No, we are not volunteering to organize this effort. We suggest that the much more competent Dennis Hayes and his Bullet Foundation, out of Seattle; The Nature Conservancy; and/or perhaps Chuck Willis of our own Coast Range Association, be assigned the task of collecting the pennies and nickels from the school children, and the big checks from Nike, Microsoft, and Sony. But we would like to recommend that when we do finally own the forests again, that we do a very wise thing: that we put these lands in the hands of the folks who took care of them for centuries with no noticeable damage. There are several groups of Native American folks (the least offensive, though still arrogant name we can think of at the moment) who have been very successful, both ecologically and economically, in the management of forests. Sustained yield and organic forest practices make a lot of sense when you are not driven by a short-term profit motive. So, think about it. We know it sounds like a fantasy, but as Margaret Mead was fond of saying, "Never underestimate the ability of a small group of determined citizens to change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

A year has passed - another has commenced. These solemn divisions of time influence our feelings as they recur. Yet there is nothing in it, for every day in the year closes a twelvemonth as well as the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. - Sir Walter Scott

## Mo Stuff

Dear Oregon voters within sight of this newspaper, do us all a favor and vote for Ron Wyden for the US Senate. In our last editorial we strongly endorsed Norma Paulus to Republicans. Regretfully, she lost. We don't recall seeing one television commercial or even one piece of her campaign literature, though your beloved editor is a registered Republican, and got a ton of glossy junk mail from Mr. Smith. We suspect a lack of funds. Gordon obviously doesn't face that problem among others we can and will name. We despaired when we saw a photo in the big O of Gordon S. receiving a congratulatory phone call from Sen. S. Gorton (R)WA. We shuddered when we read that though he didn't support the OCA initiatives that discriminated against people based on their sexuality, he felt it was okay to deny them access to housing. He sighted religious principles as his reason. Much like he does for his stance against a woman's right to choose. We are sure that he could quote scriptures to defend his environmental thinking. Again we shuddered when Senator Dole indicated that if G. S. wins he will sit on the Natural Resources and Energy Committee. He will be making laws that regulate his own pea patch! We think we see a problem. The State Senator from Pendleton, who is on record as saying irrigation is more important than salmon, will be deciding water and electricity rates. Not on our dime, thank you. And another real problem for Mr. Smith is his lack of experience in politics. He bought a year's worth of name recognition in a state legislature, duh, he and some idealists consider ignorance an asset, but when replacing Bob or Mark it becomes a serious liability. The powers that be will have him bent over his desk in one posture or another before he can respond to his first roll call.

We find it somewhat amusing, being, as our constant readers know, a Right Reverend in the Rastified Church of the Cowboy Buddha, that Mr. Smith as a Mormon and Mr. Wyden as a Jew, both correctly can call each other a Gentile, and each be wrong from the other's point of view. Ah. Politics, we must remember, is defined as "That which involves people".

That being said, we encourage voters in Oregon to take advantage of the relative simplicity of the mail-in-ballot, to do a relatively simple thing. Elect a real person to the US Senate.

We must in any choice of representation make decisions on motivation. Why does this guy want the job of US Senator? We understand and respect St. Mark's motivation. We regret and cannot forgive Mr. Packwood's well documented dreams and fantasies. What of Misters Smith and Wyden? One fears a deal with the Good Old Boys from Mr. Smith. He seems to spend a lot of money to not say very much, and he mostly wants to talk about money.

As for Mr. Wyden, well, he is certainly a human being. We have met the gentle man, on occasion. Once at the offices of OSPiRG where he came to talk to the canvassers, those folks who annoy you by knocking on your door and asking you to take responsibility as a citizen and be involved in democracy, the noble experiment. Congressman Wyden was doing what he does, asking and answering questions, and looking for solutions. No, he is not the greatest person we have ever seen do this. But he does it, a lot. It is difficult, tedious work; it requires attention, thought, compassion, intelligence, and a healthy amount of humbleness, if it is to be done right. He often fails. But he persists. The only other person of national prominence we have seen who equaled his persistence and compassion is strangely enough, Ralph Nader, who opposed Wyden's candidacy in the primary. Mr. Nader said that Ron was being co-opted by Big Business, money, the lure of power; he was going over to the forces of darkness. We doubt it. The forces of darkness do not have the patience for the number of community meetings Wyden has attended in his many years as a Representative of the People of Oregon in Congress. Mr. Wyden, after 15 years of service, has hopefully tempered his idealism with a touch of realism, and cuts the best deals he can for the season. This does not reflect on him as much as on ourselves, in that we too find it difficult to always stand all the way up for our ideals, or even support those who are willing to try in the face of the reality that is national politics today.

Never forget that Ron Wyden, like Elizabeth Furse, entered the political arena from the grassroots. Neither bought their offices, they were called to serve by the people whom they served. The Gentle Congress Woman Furse came from The Oregon Peace Institute, which she helped found, and the Gentle Congress Man Wyden came from the Grey Panthers, which he helped found. Motivation is obvious.

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God is love, but get it in writing.  
- Gypsy Rose Lee

Do your beleaguered, reviled state a favor. Elect a Senator who will work for human beings, not conglomerates, who will listen to people, not PACs, who cares more for a person's dignity than their donations. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians, Green and Pacific Party folks, first of all vote, but second of all remember our future is going to be effected by our representatives, and what they know is not nearly as important as what they feel. You can be briefed on issues, but you have to know why you care.

We are reminded of a story told by Clinton's Campaign Manager, the Legendary Ragin' Cajun James Carville, which we happened to catch while monitoring CNN. Speaking to a meeting of the Democratic Party's grassroots organizers, he related the tale of a Louisiana journalist who had been given an assignment to do a human interest piece on a local priest, who ministered to the lepers in the area. After a day of following the father on his rounds, and seeing the rotting flesh and despair of the victims of the disease, he commented, "You know, Father, I wouldn't do this for a million dollars." And the priest replied, "Neither would I."

Speaking of motivation, **Thanks!** After our obviously emotional cry for help last month, we have received both financial, spiritual and physical support beyond our dreams, if not our needs. The letters, which we proudly print; the checks, which we gratefully cashed; the stuff which we are and will be using - it makes our heart soar like the eagle. Okay, if you care about the Edge as much as we do then it's a deal! We pledge (Think of Scarlett O'hara in 'Gone with the Wind', "I'll never go hungry again." Or Chief Joseph's, "From where the sun now stands, I shall fight no more, forever.") that we will put out a copy of the Edge every month, even if it is a 8 1/2" by 11" single sheet, until April 1997. Thank you, we love you too. There are several folks who deserve credit for this, they, of course, prefer to remain nameless. The Magi from Microsoft; Jim, Herb, Lucille, Gainer; all will remain nameless as well; well, we can go on for pages; . . . thanks. We will also hope to justify their faith by bringing our constant readers a lot of new stuff. In this issue, for example; besides the second chapter from Charles Le Guin's novel, "North Coast", is a timely essay on Money from Mr. Buckley, and the second edition of our crossword puzzle. Also, you may have noticed, we are a bit smaller this month, and some wonderful pieces didn't make the final cut, and some of our regular community service ads are not in evidence. Uncle Mike's fans, a devoted and vocal bunch, will note his absence in these pages this issue. This of course is not our choice. Our dear Uncle has been going through the trauma of moving, plus other time-consuming distractions. Yes, he will be back next month. This we regret, but. . . his standard answer, not to be shared with other contributors, is "Art has no deadline!"

Confidential to Rick-O SAN in Japan: Your Yen is sure appreciated. Hello to Takei; see you soon!

## UPPER LEFT EDGE

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I'm with you on the free press. It's the newspapers I can't stand. - Tom Stoppard

The Upper Left Edge is a monthly Broadsheet (approximately 12"x 21") publication with a current distribution of 5,000. It is circulated throughout the Oregon and Washington coastal communities and many larger metropolitan areas. As stated in the upper left corner of the Edge flag, it is Free to the vast majority of its readership; though there is a rapidly increasing number of subscribers worldwide. Now in its third year of continual growth, The Upper Left Edge relies on advertising funds to keep it in print.

Advertising rates are as follows:

Business Card Size Ad \$30.  
1/16th approx. 3 x 5 \$35.  
1/8th approx 4 x 7 \$50.  
1/4th approx. 6 1/2 x 9 \$100.  
1/2 page \$150.  
Full page \$300.  
Back page \$400.

. . . per month. Payment is due the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which the ad is to appear. Camera ready art is requested. We are usually on the streets by the first weekend of the month.

Please call (503) 436-2915 for further information; ask for Billy or Sally.