

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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UPPER LEFT COAST PRODUCTIONS • P.O. BOX 1222 CANNON BEACH OR 97110 • 503-436-2915

TO:

It's not the years
... it's the mileage. Indiana Jones



Ah, yes, the mileage. We feature a likeness of Peter "Spud" Siegel on the front page because his birthday is in June and because he puts in a great deal of mileage, and has, for all the years we've known him. And besides it's our paper and we can do anything we want. Don't you wish you had a paper?

Peter is also listed on the masthead as our Music/Wildlife Editor. That is because he truly loves the wild living things of this earth and is an excellent musician. No, make that an exceptionally excellent musician. Spud plays the mandolin, guitar, fiddle, piano, trumpet and most anything he can get his hands on. And he plays all the time. Not just after work, or at gigs; all the time. In the summer it is not unusual for him to have three gigs in one day. There is no way to make a non-musician understand what that means. We were once told that a Rock and Roll drummer expends more energy than an NFL lineman. Yeah, it's like three football games in one day, playing not watching. Peter does that all summer. Mileage. He doesn't make much money for his work. Folks might think he's rich because he regularly spends part of the winter in the Caribbean. He plays music there so he can eat, just like here.

Our constant readers will remember that Sally's celebrated Wildlife on the Edge (soon to be in bookstores near you!) was originally Spud's Wildlife Column; he would come back from the beach or the woods, and tell Sally what he had seen, and she would draw it. It used to be a joke around here to count how many times Spud's picture appeared on the Music page. The record was eleven. Which means that he had at least eleven gigs that month, probably a lot more. He is up for the title of The Hardest Working Man in Show Business.

Okay, we like Spud; shall we cut to the chase: he's got a new CD/tape out. It's called Friends and Legends, and it features Turtle VanDemarr, Kevin Healy, Roland White, Theresa Baker, Kate Powers, Ron Nagy, Lauren Shehan, Michael Rush, and Jon Lendahl. It's also got two guys named Jim Ydstie and Jim Wilkins, on Bass and Guitar. And it has some guy called Billy Hulst playing washboard on a few cuts. You can get one at Jupiter's Rare and Used Books in Cannon Beach, and wherever else Spud's got them for sale. Or you can write the Edge and we'll send you one for \$15 plus postage. Happy Birthday Spud!

Merve Wilkinson's Forest Farm By Dodi Morrison

The sign at Crane Road, leading off Yellow Point Road, near Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, was marked Wildwood Farm. We turned into the shaded side-road, driving a short distance to a gate which we carefully closed behind us, as directed.

Almost immediately we saw tents of various shapes and sizes under the trees, and a spot laid out for cooking around a campfire. We stayed on the road, which curved and climbed and dipped and rattled our old van, until finally the house came in sight, charmingly situated close to Quennell Lake. No one answered our knock -- though we had talked to Merve Wilkinson a day earlier and had come at the appointed time to see him.

Walking rather aimlessly through the orchards towards the lake, we met a young man who assured us that "Merve couldn't be far away. Probably talking to some of the students you saw camping." Sure enough, as we retraced the trail we found him in earnest conversation with a group. We trailed along, as I took notes as fast as possible. Keeping up the pace was not easy. Eighty-two years of age he might be, but the ability to carry out a brisk walk over uneven ground while talking steadily about the forest he loves has not left Merve Wilkinson. Slight and wiry, bright-eyed and youthful, he might easily be twenty years younger.

As we walked, he pointed out the areas that have been "harvested" over the years since he started his selective logging business in 1945. Later he told us the story of that start. Weary of indoor work, he had purchased 136 acres of land, in the area where he had been raised. He decided to study Agriculture at U.B.C. One of the professors, whom Wilkinson still speaks of with great affection, was Dr. Paul Boving. When this knowledgeable man visited Wildwood Farm, he became excited. "You must study forestry, not farming, for this," he told his new pupil. "Go to Europe to study!" Wilkinson explained the impossibility of such a move. Three days later Dr. Boving produced the forestry course he had taught in Sweden. "I'll translate," he said. "You'll be a forester when I finish with you!" "When I heard his price," said Wilkinson, "I told him he had a customer."

"It was a lot of work," he says now. "But I had the U.B.C. endowment lands and my own place to use for practicums." When the time came, he wrote "final exams". He could not graduate from a faculty that did not exist, but Dr. Boving's wife, who was an artist, created a beautiful diploma. Sadly, this cherished diploma was lost in the fire that burned down the Wilkinson home in 1963.

"Meanwhile," says Wilkinson, "I had the tools to become a forester. I had the know-how, but I've been learning ever since." His land was not large enough to become his full living, though he has worked it as one-third of his income, "for twenty percent of my time", he says. He had learned stonemasonry, and that furnished the rest of his livelihood. He became known for his fire-places and stone walls. In 1992 he built his last retention wall, 150 feet long. He studied carpentry too, and built his own "designer home," overlooking peaceful Quennell Lake. He has kept his farm status, having planted an orchard and grown vegetables; poultry provides meat and eggs. He uses scrap wood for fuel, and does, indeed, "live lightly on the land" with his charming second wife, Anne.

In 1995 he completed the tenth cut on this sustainable, selectively logged land, and has, by careful calculation, more wood now than when he started. Yet in spite of the on-going cuts, Wildwood Farm is still the most attractive piece of forest. The trails he has used for the skidder over the years look more like British footpaths than logging roads. The thick natural undergrowth is healthily lush, and in places the moss is inches deep. Wilkinson is careful to leave sufficient waste from each tree as it is extracted, as he knows this will replenish the soil and keep the forest healthy. It is good to see a "nurse tree" lying comfortably in the green growth, with new small trees and bushes gaining nourishment from its decay.



CORRECTED FOR PACIFIC BEACH TIDES

JUNE - High Tides

DATE	time	ft	time	ft
1 Sat	0:01	9.3	1:29	7.4
2 Sun	0:45	9.5	2:18	7.6
3 Mon	1:31	9.6	3:08	7.7
4 Tue	2:20	9.4	3:57	7.8
5 Wed	3:12	9.0	4:48	7.9
6 Thu	4:08	8.4	5:40	7.9
7 Fri	5:11	7.8	6:34	8.1
8 Sat	6:23	7.1	7:29	8.2
9 Sun	7:39	6.7	8:23	8.4
10 Mon	8:54	6.5	9:15	8.7
11 Tue	10:02	6.6	10:02	8.8
12 Wed	11:02	6.7	10:46	8.9
13 Thu	11:56	6.9	11:27	8.9
14 Fri			12:44	7.1
15 Sat	0:06	8.8	1:29	7.2
16 Sun	0:43	8.6	2:11	7.2
17 Mon	1:19	8.5	2:51	7.2
18 Tue	1:55	8.3	3:29	7.2
19 Wed	2:32	8.0	4:05	7.2
20 Thu	3:10	7.7	4:41	7.2
21 Fri	3:51	7.4	5:18	7.3
22 Sat	4:40	6.9	5:58	7.4
23 Sun	5:38	6.4	6:41	7.5
24 Mon	6:49	6.0	7:28	7.7
25 Tue	8:07	5.8	8:17	8.0
26 Wed	9:21	5.9	9:07	8.4
27 Thu	10:27	6.2	9:57	8.8
28 Fri	11:26	6.6	10:47	9.1
29 Sat			12:21	7.0
30 Sun			11:37	9.4
			1:12	7.3

CORRECTED FOR PACIFIC BEACH TIDES

JUNE - Low Tides

DATE	time	ft	time	ft
1 Sat	7:07	-1.3	6:55	2.2
2 Sun	7:53	-1.6	7:44	2.2
3 Mon	8:39	-1.7	8:35	2.2
4 Tue	9:26	-1.6	9:29	2.2
5 Wed	10:14	-1.3	10:27	2.2
6 Thu	11:04	-0.8	11:29	2.1
7 Fri	11:57	-0.2		
8 Sat	0:38	1.9	12:53	0.4
9 Sun	1:49	1.5	1:51	0.9
10 Mon	2:58	1.0	2:50	1.3
11 Tue	4:02	0.4	3:45	1.7
12 Wed	4:57	-0.2	4:38	1.9
13 Thu	5:47	-0.6	5:27	2.1
14 Fri	6:31	-0.9	6:13	2.3
15 Sat	7:13	-0.9	6:57	2.5
16 Sun	7:51	-0.9	7:38	2.6
17 Mon	8:28	-0.8	8:19	2.7
18 Tue	9:02	-0.6	8:59	2.7
19 Wed	9:34	-0.4	9:39	2.7
20 Thu	10:06	-0.1	10:22	2.7
21 Fri	10:39	0.2	11:09	2.6
22 Sat	11:15	0.6		
23 Sun	0:04	2.5		
24 Mon	1:15	1.1		
25 Tue	1:06	2.2	12:48	1.5
26 Wed	2:12	1.7	1:44	1.9
27 Thu	3:16	1.0	2:45	2.2
28 Fri	4:15	0.3	3:46	2.3
29 Sat	5:09	-0.4	4:44	2.4
30 Sun	6:00	-1.1	5:41	2.3
	6:49	-1.5	6:36	2.2

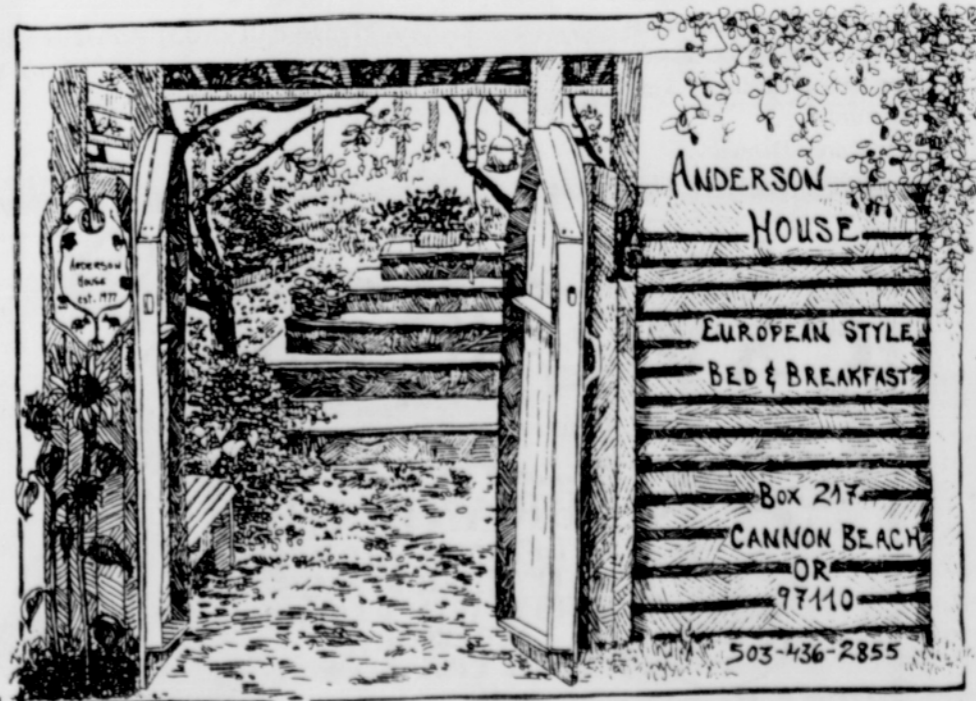
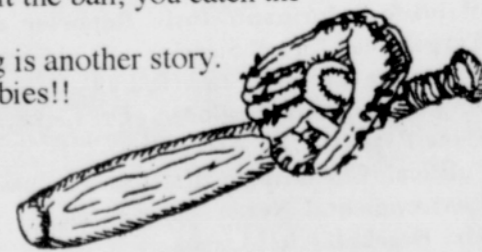
BASEBALL

BASEBALL BASICS #1

A pitcher's job is to throw the ball to the catcher, and to make sure that the catcher can, in fact, catch it. That is the catcher's job. Failing this, the pitcher should throw the ball to make sure that the batter is unable to hit the ball anywhere but where the fielders have an opportunity to catch the ball. That is the fielder's job. The batter's job is, of course, just the opposite.

"It's a simple game, you throw the ball, you hit the ball, you catch the ball."

Running is another story.
Go Cubbies!!



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