



Springtime. The Professor, for want of a better phrase, intends to do a desultory job of spring housecleaning, tidy up a few loose ends, make an observation or two, shag a few leftover items into the Edge's dumpster. I'll commence with a lash at the weather. My father, Harvey Lindsey, as a descendant of the Scottish Clan Lindsey, felt comfortable along this stretch of the Oregon coastline. As the velocity of the wind increased and the angle of the rain plunged toward level, he simply hunched lower, pulled his tam over his ears, and moved like a grumbling limpet over the ground. This spring, if he were still with us, would have sent him up the line.

"Jupe Pluvius," he would shout as a prelude to his morning beach walk, "Another day of the #1^*##** rain and I'm going to get really angry." Grumble curse grumble. "You had all winter, but this is spring now. Spring! Dammit all!"

My impression is that this will prove to be one of those springs, with a summer to match. Television forecasts prophesy 70 degree sunny days "next week." Harumph. They've been projecting this weather scenario for the past two months. I say damp, warm, wet tropical summer for 96. I'm told Europeans call summers that are warm, wet and overcast "green winters." The term is apt. Perhaps we'll see the ocean take on its surreal turquoise cast again this summer. Offshore, water like this is termed "tuna water" by fishermen. Strange and wonderful beasts move in these currents: a wandering blue marlin, the odd turtle, schools of tuna fish. Onshore, blue skies have a hazy cast to them, a cataract over the eye of God.

And now on to other matters. The Professor cried last week when he learned that Laurie Beers had been selected to participate in the world-famed Ironman Competition held each October on the Kona Coast of Hawaii. Each competitor must complete in succession, and within the allotted time restraints, the following events: a 2.4 mile ocean swim, a 112 mile bicycle ride that traverses parching fields of lava rock, and a 26.2 mile marathon. Twenty thousand potential participants, internationally, vie for the 1400 available slots. Cannon Beach could have no finer representative than Laurie Beers. Her gentle grace, perseverance, and strength of spirit deserve our highest commendation. I would like to join my fellow townspeople in extending congratulations to her.

Last week I was invited to participate in a small gathering sponsored by the Cannon Beach Historical Society. Les Ordway, George Shields, my brother Tim, and I tried to fish up memories of the vanishing (perhaps vanished) dory fleet that worked the waters adjacent to Cannon Beach and occasionally followed the salmon troll seasons as far south as Moss Landing, California. Dave Pastor video-taped the proceedings for posterity. Les provided snapshots of a small lapstake dory that he rowed through the surf countless times in the 1930's. Twelve feet long, the craft made a dozen trips to the lighthouse and back. From the photo, I would say the boat had about 12-16 inches freeboard -- the rough distance between you in the boat and the water outside. Folks were tough in those days.

I am personally pleased that the Cannon Beach Historical Society, dormant for so many years, has been kick-started by its members. I congratulate them on retaining the noted Oregon historian, Terence O'Donnell, to recreate episodes in the town's history and development. As a specialist in collecting and collating oral histories and traditional materials, I can only tell you that urgency is paramount. Rich veins of memory can be mined, but haste is crucial. Old photos become lost, artifacts broken, lives terminated. I applaud our society's current vigor. Keep up the good work.

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Crossword

Fair warning, these words were taken from "The Superior Person's Second Book of Weird and Wonderous Words" by Peter Bowler, Godine Publishing, 1992 and in the interest of fairness and education we will print the answers on page 6.



- Across Clues**
- snakes shedding skin
 - fearless
 - exhausted
 - barefoot
 - lawyer's mistake
 - hardshelled

- Down Clues**
- undecided
 - junkfood junkie
 - comotion
 - polecats
 - unteachable
 - Alaskan stash