



Apparently the U.S. Postal service absconded with my last column. I guess you can't buy much with 32 cents these days. I just hope this comment doesn't push anyone else at any of our country's postal facilities over the edge.

By the time this paper hits the streets sometime in mid-September there will be wineries that will have started the 1996 harvest. Most wineries, like the one I work for, will still be scrambling around trying to get ready, run the business, sell wine and arrange their schedules so that they can work the next 30 days without pesky things like their lives interfering.

The big question I am asked is, "How do things look in the vineyards?" Well, here in the valley things look pretty damn fine at this point. For those of you not living in sub-temperate Cannon Beach you know the weather this summer has been down right balmy.

However, there are two crucial times for vineyards. One time happened back in the spring. This is the set or bloom. This is when the tiny clusters flower and begin the process of becoming grapes. This generally happens in late May and into June. For the most part we had dry weather with only a handful of light showers. Heavy rains during the bloom can damage the plants and cause mildew to form on the clusters. In 1994 the wet spring damaged the set and so one of the big reasons that you have such a difficult time finding 1994 Pinot noir is that the spring rains limited the amount of fruit that was on each plant.

This year most vineyards will be dropping clusters as we begin to hit verizon which occurs in mid-late August. Verizon is the changing of the color of the grapes from their under ripe green to purple, brown, red and lime-green (depending on the varietal). At this point the grapes begin to steadily develop sugar and, later on, flavor levels. It is important to get down to the amount of tons/acre at this point so that your vineyards ripen and the grapes gain the intensity you are looking for.

The other crucial time of the year is harvest. Winemaking is nothing more than farming from January to October. Currently we have large, healthy, loose clusters. An early, cool and/or wet fall can change your outlook on a vintage in a hurry. Just because you get bad weather (as we did to an extent in 1995) doesn't mean that your wines will be poor. It does mean some sleepless, anxiety-ridden nights and a lot more work but good wines do come from what are referred to as "poor" vintages. My feeling is that the good weather we have been experiencing will continue as it did in 1993 and 1994. I am expecting 1996 to be a sterling vintage that Oregon winemakers will be able to make some killer wines in.

Recommended Wines for September: September and October are, in Oregon, my top picks for the best months to drink wine in. Warm days and cool evenings allow one to easily feel comfortable with either red or white wine. On especially good days both will do nicely.

1993 Flynn Estate Bottled Pinot Noir: This might be one of those 1993s still lurking about on the local wine shelf. You might have to bend over to find this one because it is probably going to retail for less than \$9. Don't bother sticking it in the cellar, this is a drinker. Big soft fruits and just a touch of tannins combine in this neatly balanced wine. Definitely a super bargain.

1994 McCrea Syrah: This one could be tricky to find but if you are traveling up through Washington you might be able to locate some. Intensity of fruit in heroic proportions. You like 'em big, big, big? Stunning concentration in this luscious monster of a wine. A great change of pace from Pinot, Cab and Merlot. Bring a friend along when you open this one though because it definitely needs to be shared.

1992 St. Innocent Cremant: A demi-sec (off dry) sparkling wine. Mark Vlossek rules. It's that simple. This guy makes killer Pinots for St. Innocent AND Panther Creek AND still finds the time to turn out something like this. Rich, leesy and toasty with sweet baked apple and cinnamon flavors. Just an outrageously good wine. Serve it with oysters on the half shell or have a Napoleon with it. Either way this will knock your socks off. I think it goes for about \$18 or less.

RESIDENCES

That was the summer she lived in a meadow, dry and hot, not really there, of course, only driving by the 'for sale' sign and furnishing every room, drinking her morning coffee on the deck that faced the mountain and the distant trees.

He kept silent and knowing. She had done it before, this living without living, this insistence.

Once she chose a winter island, dirt roads thick with snow and quiet except for the sea and the storms.

He never told her that she didn't want the meadow house, nor the sea-island cottage. He had his own houses to tend.

Elizabeth Hobbs
February 7, 1993

ADVENTURE AT ARCH CAPE

(For Brad)

Usually I walk the beach alone and cautious, but one day you were with me. It looked as if the tide was out, far enough at least to let us go exploring at the bend between the rocks that had always stopped me before. I trusted you: you are no Virginia Woolf, driven to mate with the sea. I didn't even know whether the waves were coming in or going out and didn't care, for we were strong and quick and barefoot.

There really wasn't much to see once we got there, more rocks, a shallow cave or two. But how I loved the having done it, the no longer wondering what was on the other side.

Elizabeth Hobbs
July 8, 1989



By Kim Bosse'

Over the last four months I have been sidetracked with two of the most unenvironmental activities I can think of, a stay at the hospital for surgery complete with in and out patient treatments and moving. It is amazing all the waste that amasses from those two activities. I may have contributed more to the waste stream in 4 months than I have in four years.

Lots of exciting things have been happening around Cannon Beach that pertain to conservation!

CANNON BEACH SHUTTLE

The shuttle is now running daily between Les Shirley Park and the south end of Tolovana. Cannon Beach is one of few small communities that offer a free shuttle service. With the heavy flow of traffic and all the parking problems downtown during the peak months the shuttle is an energy efficient and less stressful way to ride to your destination. A bicycle rack was also installed. The shuttle is operated on natural gas which is a cleaner burning fuel. If you have never ridden the shuttle give it a try.

HOME COMPOSTING CLASS

The Association of Oregon Recyclers is holding its annual conference in Seaside September 6, 7 & 8th. For the first time it will be opening one of the training seminars to the public. A class on how to home compost will be taught by Terry Fristad. He will instruct you on the newest techniques and equipment. Earth Machine Composters will also be available to purchase. They must be pre-ordered. The class will be held at the Seaside Convention Center on Friday September 6th between 9 & 11 AM. For more information call me, Kim Bosse' at 436-0230 Tues. - Fri. 8 AM - 4PM.

CITY YARD DEBRIS

Remember you can drop off your yard Debris and lawn clippings at the City Site located on East Second Street next to the Recycling Center on Saturdays from 10-12 PM and 4-4:45 PM. You may also pickup chipped materials for your yards. The material works well as a mulch and to help with weed control under shrubs and bushes. It is not permissible to throw yard clippings over the banks. Please either compost at home or bring down to the City site.

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