



CITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM
By Kim Bosse

The City of Cannon Beach has been awarded a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a two year resource efficiency pilot project. I am very excited to be working with the City and the DEQ as the local coordinator of this project. One of the reasons Cannon Beach was selected was due to its' long standing and successful recycling program. The purpose of the grant is to reinforce the concepts of reduction of consumption and reuse of materials prior to recycling. Therefore, a track record of commitment to recycling was essential. The project is twofold and will include commercial efficiency and educational components.

The primary focus will include working in conjunction with local businesses to help reduce energy, water and resource consumption. Any local business can call me, Kim Bosse' at City Hall, 436-0581 and request information on how to participate in the program. The first step will include an assessment of your facility which will generate reduction recommendations. The recommendations that are implemented will be tracked over a 2 year period to assess how much energy, water &/or resources have been reduced and what the monetary savings have been.

The second phase of the grant will include educating the community and tourists. The goal will be to raise awareness, generate enthusiasm and create long term understanding and commitment to resource efficiency. Most of us have achieved those goals in recycling but are still a little vague as to how to apply them to reduction and reuse. To assess the needs of the community 180 residents were surveyed in September. Based on the results of the survey the following projects will be completed in Cannon Beach over the next two years:

- * Educational Program at Cannon Beach School & vermiculture program.
- * A Household Hazardous Waste Pickup, information on how to eliminate use of these products, and wasteless kits.
- * Newcomers Information Packets
- * Home Composting Workshops
- * Earth Day Festival

If you would like further information on any of the projects or have suggestions please call me at City Hall.

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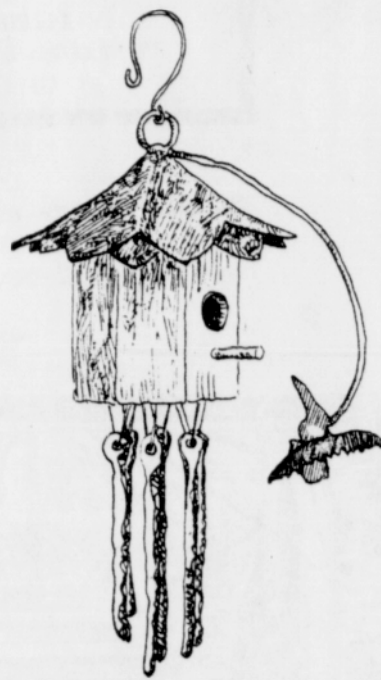
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COUNTER CULTURE

Sandy Rea

I awoke early on May 15, 1968, the sun shining in tight lines between the slats of the Venetian blinds in the bungalow bedroom. The impatience that had been building for the past few years was coming to a head as I performed ablutions, dressed, and urged the clock to go faster while knocking back some shredded wheat. Finally, it was time.

The fire station was over a mile away, but the walk was made pleasant by the front gardens of the houses along the way, many planted at the turn of the century, boasting flowers long out of vogue. Curved cement pathways, birdbaths or low walls abutted the sidewalk that bordered each Victorian lawn. The "new" phone company building (built in the 1920's--no one here had accepted its architecture yet) seemed out of place, with its stucco walls and rounded terra cotta tile roofing. Archway and cast iron grillwork beckoned to those who sought service from its maze of interior wires. The sun poked down on it all.

Further downtown, past the Greyhound Bus station, Tom's Cafe ("Just Good Food"), the plethora of small shops selling everything from insurance to Larger Men's Suits, past small trees planted in cement holes by city workers who ran bets on the date of their eventual demise, I came to the west side of town, the Mission San Buenaventura and its grounds, to the old fire station, and entered the coolness of the small lobby.

"What can I do for you?," asked one of the firemen, his uniform as crisp as his Eisenhower-era crew-cut. This was it, the culmination of years of the frustration of political impotence: "I want to register to vote."

You had to be 21 to register to vote back then, although you only had to be 18 to be drafted into a war you couldn't vote about, could get killed in, and/or get arrested for protesting. It was crazy-making. Hence, the privilege of voting was extremely precious to many of us. Still is.

Some of the excitement has faded, but not the importance. I have steadfastly refused to go along with anyone (including the federal government) who equates patriotism with nationalism, knowing that nothing could be more dangerous to democracy. Look where it got Hitler. Fanaticism scares me, regardless of its basis or scope of influence.

In Seaside, we will be facing another city council election where we will be offered a choice from a rotating platter of Good Old Boys who are kept in cold storage just long enough to allow the public to forget their most recent foibles. It is so disappointing, as a voter, to know that the secret meetings in the back of the candy shop have disgorged yet another go-round of the same old excremental candidates as in previous years. Only the names have changed. It's like recycling carbon paper--why bother? It seems so unfair that the people who live in Seaside, who make it the kind of coastal residential area that attracts a tourist crowd, should be represented by people who have absolutely no regard whatsoever for the people who elect them. Contrary to their mouthings, and those of the chamber of commerce, it IS possible to preserve a strong tourism-based economy while allowing locals the courtesy of equal importance and consideration--not LESS than that which is extended to tourists.

People here are sick of being treated as though they, registered voters who elect the city council, are somehow a nuisance, some sort of PROBLEM to the local police dispatcher, the city manager, and the chamber of commerce if we call to complain about tourist-caused damage, vandalism or danger. The vacation rental ordinance, supposedly designed to protect our neighborhoods from offensive overcrowding, noise, etc., is totally unenforceable, according to the city manager. He claims that enforcement violates "the Constitutional rights" of the offending tourists. Excuse me? If that is, indeed the case, why did the city attorney allow the past council to vote on it, passing it into law? (Oh, there I go again, asking those pesky old questions.)

Please vote. I will be voting, whether by mail, or at the polls, conjuring up fond memories of a long walk on a hot day in 1968, and how remarkable its purpose continues to be.

Next month: Why this column is called "Counter Culture"

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