

Rev.  
Hults

# Editorial Now & Then



Now for some good news. "Uncle Mike's Guide to the Real Oregon Coast with disturbing illustrations by Steve McLeod" is a run-away best seller, at least in these parts. There is barely half of the original printing of one thousand copies left. And it barely got out before April Fool's Day. Do the math. On Memorial Day week-end the Sunday Oregonian printed a (shall we say glowing?) review written by Ursula K. Le Guin, perhaps the most 'decorated' and some would say 'dangerous' writer (she doesn't think like the other children) in Oregon. And as one would imagine, she seemed to enjoy the book as much as we do. May we quote? "To be serious for a moment, Steve McLeod's drawings are beautiful and masterful in their casual accuracy."... "Anyone who loves our coast will feel the awed, protective tenderness under all the spoofing and will find this book an endearing memento and a wonderful gift." That woman knows how to boost sales. Speaking of sales, yes you too could own one of the limited edition, autographed (No, Steve & Mike, writer's cramps are not covered in the Oregon healthcare plan.) First Edition of this classic-to-be, by filling out the coupon below, and sending us money. Us, in this case being the Left Coast Group. Our faithful and patient readers will remember that the Left Coast Group is a non-profit corporation set up by your beloved Rev., so he could beg for money to do all the stuff he really wanted to do, but couldn't afford. Well, it's working!!! With the funds from Mike's books (Don't forget Letters to Uncle Mike, the Upper Left Edge's less than polite answer to Dear Abby, also see form below), we hope to have almost enough to print what was to be our first project, Sally Lackaff's "Wildlife on the Edge".

Sally's book, twice the size of the limited handbound edition of 100 she crafted to fulfill her grant from the Cannon Beach Arts Association, is in fact finished and ready for the printer. Yes, we know we have said this before, but it is very difficult to pry it from her fingers. As our number one absolute proof reader she tends to seek perfection, a fault your beloved rev. has overcome, obviously. But, she seems willing to go with it, and if we can get a few more advanced sales, and donations, we expect to have it in your hands by... fall. It depends on the fire season, if it's bad she might be at the fire lookout til late September, early October, who knows. We will, of course, keep you informed.

Okay, here comes the pitch; The Left Coast Group began with the idea of taking piles of paper with words and drawings and making them into books. We love books. The plan was to give grants to writers and artists so that they would complete a project that would become a book. Then to work with them until that happened. Then we would print the book with funds we had raised (1000 copies only), distribute, promote and sell the book, give them copies of the book to give away, and hope for the best. Well, as we said, it worked. Not only has our first endeavor succeeded, in that it got a voice -- a book out there -- it has done what we hoped would happen. Based on the sales and acceptance of "Uncle Mike's Guide" Michael and Darlene Dubé (who put up with Mike, Steve, Your Cranky Rev., the limitations of PageMaker and computers of all kinds, as well as several 'experts' who apparently didn't speak any known language, and still put out a product that stands on its merits) have formed Saddle Mountain Press (A subsidiary of The Sunset Company.

**There's so much comedy on television.  
Does that cause comedy in the streets?  
--Dick Cavett**

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Well. Don't it just figger.

Reverend Hults called me into his office two months ago and sheepishly, regretfully, notified me that I was pink-slipped, placed on permanent waivers. After the shock wore off, I returned home to my roost, crestfallen and hollow, and informed my loved ones that the string had ended. The Professor's writing duties and The Upper Left Edge itself had ended.

I tried to relax, sighed, choked back the tears, dusted off the chaise lounge, chilled down a flagon of Sheaf's Stout, and settled in for the humiliation of forced retirement.

Gradually the mortification subsided. Well-intentioned friends consoled me.

"You'll have blocks of quality time to yourself now."

"You should take up golf!" (Golf? Who do they think I am? Spiro Agnew?)

"Look on the bright side. Those enemies you made may forget you now."

"Volunteer for a few hours a week at the Chamber of Commerce. Maybe help with promoting the Sandcastle Contest."

"Get a pet. Dogs can take your mind off problems in a time of loss. I read about it in Redbook Magazine."

Ye Gods and little fishhooks! I conjured visions of Schnauzers and Cockapoos running amok in my bachelor's quarters, scroffling and soiling my carpets, slavering on my feet, rubbing scabrous hot spots against my bare legs. Lordy! That fairly gave me the Fan Tods.

Then Bill's Tavern went down hard. I don't need to describe for you the horrors, the spiritual vacuum, that cataclysm created. For the first two weeks I encountered scores of grown men mumbling piteously to themselves, vacant-eyed, shambling, and disoriented. At the emotional nadir, I sunk lower than a maggot in whale excrement. I was that low.

Last week Billy cast out the lifeline. He planned to jump start the Upper Left Edge after a two-month lay-off.

"I'll want your piece by the 15th. We're going to press."

So here I am again, rummaging about, sniffing for some grots and bits of material, trundling out the old saws and showprow lines, cadging the odd quote or phrase. For this lead off article on the ledge of the New Edge, I thought I'd begin with a few observations, maybe sling a little mud to loosen up the caustic muscles.

Seaside, Oregon's premier resort, introduced its fabulous outlet mall during the Edge's downtime. My friend Betsy refers to it as "Attica West," some allusion to predominate architectural features. "A diamond in a billy goat's arse" comes to mind, perhaps a zircon in this instance. The city's comprehensive land-use plan must be written on the back of a discarded Pamper. I'm told that in certain of that city's circles our town is referred to as "Cannon Beach." Harrumph.

On the shinier side, our own library addition seems to be progressing nicely. Weather conditions remind the Professor of Fiji. The cathedral at Bill's received a handsome webwork of beams last week, a promising harbinger of early completion. The verdure of early summer has never been more pronounced and varied. Soon the pelicans arrive. The Upper Left Edge should hit the streets by June. All's right with the world.

## Uncle Mike's Books

AVAILABLE NOW!!!

Uncle Mike's Guide to the Real Oregon Coast -- \$14.95



"There are many pretty guides to the Oregon Coast. This isn't one of them. The author is a native Oregonian who assumes you want the truth. It's one thing to live in a fool's paradise, another to travel great distances getting to it." The perfect guide for people who should vacation elsewhere.

Letters to Uncle Mike -- \$10.95

The North Oregon Coast's sobering challenge to Ann Landers, Dear Abby and Miss Manners answers questions about life, love, and quantum reality from people who often wish they hadn't asked.



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