

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



Welcome to November, we here on the edge of America are hunkering in, preparing for the winter winds and wetness. We all await the opening of Bill's Tavern (and Brewpub?) with some concern. Avid readers know that the heart of this small village went in for surgery in February, and is about to emerge with some new organs and a noticeable face-lift. Ken & Jim, the owners and surgeons of record assured your editor that all went well, and the heart is intact. The holy fonts that dispense the sacramental fluids, so necessary for the Vespers services, are flowing freely. Accommodations have been provided for the Choir, and the music will return in due time. We imagine that by the time this reaches our friends at The Strand Bookstore in New York or even City Lights in The City, you will once again be able to find your beloved rev. perched atop his favorite stool, telling profound lies and silly stories with Professor Lindsey, Chief Stumblefoot, Dr. Karkeys and the usual suspects. Ah, home again at last.

Some of our readers will be delighted to learn that your beloved editor is once again causing trouble for the powers that be here on the edge. It just seems too easy to cut down trees here in "Tree City, USA", a couple of Sitka Spruce were about to go down when we got a call. Now, you know how much we hate to cause trouble, but we just got a copy of Dr. Seuss's, "The Lorax" in the store. Do you remember the story and what the Lorax said? "Mister!" he said with a sawdusty sneeze, "I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have not tongues." But no one listened until the world was almost totally destroyed. "And all that the Lorax left here in this mess was a small pile of rocks, with the one word...UNLESS. Whatever that meant, well, I just couldn't guess. That was long, long ago. But each day since that day I've sat here and worried and worried away. Through the years, while my buildings have fallen apart, I've worried about it with all of my heart. But now, says the Once-ler, Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. Unless someone like you care a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." Well, at the next planning commission we will be speaking for the trees, come join us if you care a whole awful lot.

Mo' Stuff,

From our Society pages comes the social event of the season, the wedding of Retired City Councilor and recovering Mime, John Fraser, and the lovely Lisa Heath. Touted as a merger of ownership and management at the legendary Once Upon a Breeze kite shop, it was a truly beautiful and touching ceremony officiated by Current Mayor Kirk Anderson. The color theme appeared to be white with a bunch of other colors, one bridesmaid(?) was wearing one blue pump and one white pump, to honor the groom's well known fashion sense. The bride arrived to the tune of "Ain't She Sweet" played by the Trio of Bass, Violin and Ukulele. The vows spoke of partnership and stress, and there was not a dry eye, as they say, but there were some noticeable giggles. Yes, your beloved rev. wept openly, mostly from self pity but that's a long story. By the time we had to leave to return to our duties at the bookstore the couple had donned baseball caps labeled bride and groom; marital aids we imagine.

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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Reverend Billy,

Some filler for your esteemed publication. They ask stupid questions all over, not just in Cannon Beach....

Here's a brief collection of stupid questions tourists ask at other charming tourist destinations, mostly national parks. Some of these were asked of real rangers at real information desks. At first, some of them didn't want to come forth with the stupid questions they had been asked. The ranger-types would put on their best ranger smiley faces and reply, "Oh, there's no such thing as a stupid question!" Or, more chirpily, if they were new, and/or it was still early in the season, "The only stupid question is the one you don't ask!" But when prodded with a conspiratorial, "You can tell me. I spent twelve summers in Yellowstone, I've heard more stupid questions in a day than you'll hear in a lifetime," well, they tended to unload.

Appropriately stupid answers are noted, when appropriate. In the southeast: "Why were so many Civil War battles fought on national historic sites?"

At Bagnell Dam, Missouri, a hydroelectric provider and a recreational lake: "What happens to the water after you take the electricity out of it?"
Montezuma's Castle National Monument, an Anasazi site southeast of the Grand Canyon: "Did real people build these cliff dwellings, or did Indians?"

A tourist comment, while looking up at a cliff dwelling, "I guess they sure had to watch their babies so they didn't fall off, huh?" Eureka, we thought. The answer to the mystery of the Anasazi: it wasn't hostile neighboring tribes or disease or drought or famine that made them leave their homes after all: they just all fell off. Archeological digs at the base of the cliff dwellings would probably show piles of human bones like some sort of human buffalo jump.

Yosemite National Park, at Half Dome: "Where's the other half?" The snappy answer to this stupid question, actually made by a now-former ranger: "Oh my God! It was there a second ago!"

The second stupidest question, asked daily in Yosemite, "What time does Old Faithful go off?" And in Yellowstone: "Where's that big rock, Half-something?"

The Grand Canyon gets plenty of them, too. "Why isn't there an elevator to the bottom?" "Is this natural or man-made?"

"Is there a light show at night?"
"I want to buy tickets for the mule train. Where's the depot?" Then there's Yellowstone, crown jewel in the parks system, home of Yogi and Boo-Boo, the ur-mother of all stupid tourist questions:

"How much does that mountain weigh?"
"Does the park service plant all these trees?" "Where are all the big trees?" In California, in Sequoia National Park, of course.

"When do the deer turn into elk?" (Reverend Billy says they ask this in Cannon Beach, too.)

While looking at the largest concentration of geysers, hot springs, and mud pots in the world, "Is all this stuff good for anything?" Smart ass reply, spoken with a straight face: "It's good for the economy: it keeps Kodak in business." Oh, okay. Nature makes sense if it makes money for someone. The natural world can't just "be" if it isn't "good" for something.

Tour bus rider, near the end of the tour: "Are there any birds in Yellowstone? Why haven't we seen any birds today?" Politely spoken, obvious answer:

"Because we've been sitting in a bus all day, doing about 40 to 45 miles an hour. How many birds do you expect to see at 40 miles an hour?"

Elk butt question, number one. To a bus driver: "Driver, what other animal in the park has a big white butt like the elk?" Do you mean besides you, sir? (True story, swartoGod.)

Elk butt question, number two. "Driver, why do the elk have white butts?" As the bus is full of middle-aged men, driver thinks it is okay to indulge in some risqué humor: "It gives the bulls something to aim at."

Nobody laughed: turns out the gentlemen were all elders of the Mormon church.

"Do the geysers go off at night?" No, geothermal activity only occurs during daylight hours in the northern hemisphere.

"Do the hot springs freeze over in winter?" Yes, and you have to be real careful on the ice: if you walk on it and break through, you can get badly burned.

Which way is the ocean?

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Osburn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabaña, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Haine's Bakery, The Bistro, Midtown Café, Once Upon a Breeze, Copies & Fax, Heather's, The Homegrown Cafe, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Squard & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother's Nature Juice Bar, Bayside Gardens, Cassandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, Pacific Coast Books & Coffee, & Nehalem Bay Video
Nehalem: Mermaid Cafe
Rockaway: Sharkey's
Tillamook: Rainy Day Books
Garibaldi: Garibaldi Books
Bay City: Art Space
Yachats: By-the-Sea Books
Pacific City: The River House, Far Country Books, & Village Merchants
Oceanside: Ocean Side Espresso
Lincoln City: Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Lighthouse Brewpub
Depoe Bay: Oregon Books
Newport: Oceana Natural Foods, Café DIVA, Cosmo Café, Bookmark Café, Newport Bay Coffee Co., Cuppatunes, Bay Latte, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Coastal Coffee Co., Sylvia Beach Hotel, Green Gables Bookstore/B&B, & Canyon Way
Eugene: Book Market, Café Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Café, Kiva Foods, Lane C.C., Light For Music, New Frontier Market, Nineteenth Street Brew Pub, Oasis Market, Perry's, Red Barn Grocery, Sundance Natural Foods, U of O, & WOW Hall
Corvallis: The Environmental Center, OSU.
Salem: Heliotrope, Salem Library, & The Peace Store
Astoria: KMUN, Columbian Café, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Café Uniontown, & Shark Rock Cafe
Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Cafe Espresso
Portland: Artichoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Bibelot Art Gallery, Bijou Café, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Capt'n Beans (two locations), Center for the Healing Light, Coffee People (three locations), Common Grounds Coffee, East Avenue Tavern, Food Front, Goose Hollow Inn, Hot Lips Pizza, Java Bay Café, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizza, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millennium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Wives Tales, Ozone Records, Papa Haydn, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, TransCentral Library, & YWCA
Cornellus: The Weekend Garden Market
The Dalles: Klindts Bookseller
Hood River: Purple Rocks Art Bar, & Cafe
Ashland: Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Cafe, & Rogue River Brewery
Cave Junction: Coffe Heaven & Kerby Community Market (Out of Oregon)
Longview, WA: The Broadway Gallery, & Carat Patch
Long Beach, WA: Pacific Picnics
Naselle, WA: Rainy Day Artisty
Nahcotta, WA: Moby Dick Hotel
Duval, WA: Duval Books
Bainbridge Island, WA: Eagle Harbor Book Co.
Seattle, WA: Elliot Bay Book Co., Honey Bear Bakery, New Orleans Restaurant, Still Life in Fremont, Allegro Coffeehouse, The Last Exit Coffee House, & Bulldog News
San Francisco, CA: City Lights Bookstore
Denver, Co: Denver Folklore Center
New York, NY: The Strand Book Company
Washington, D.C.: Hotel Tabard Inn

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