

JUNE'S GARDEN

Bug's Ear, Big North, Big South, Little North, Little South, Grandmere, Lookout, Southwest, Nor-West, Ship, Captain, Crew were the names of some of the seventeen cottages Mrs. Hak owned and called the whole complex "Arden Villa." Each one was completely furnished, including bedding, pots and pans, silverware, sets of blue/white dishes in the pattern called Blue Willow. She hired a family to live there to manage and rent each cottage to summer visitors.

Some of the wood-framed structures were shingled, some painted siding, all had double-hung or casement windows with many small panes. A few had rock fireplaces, most were decorated with window boxes. It became a tradition to plant nasturtium seeds in all the window boxes and fill two large wooden tubs in front of the office with Martha Washington geraniums. Summer and spring blooming bulbs, shrubs of escallonia and hardy fuchsias, vines of rambling roses and honeysuckle climbing a few trellised walls completed the landscaping.

Before the large, modern motels were built, there were also many other similar complexes of cottages for rent throughout Cannon Beach and Tolovana. The Waves, Rosie's Cottages, Doll House Cottages and Schmitz Ocean-Front Cottages, to name just a few. Each group had one thing in common; each cottage was an individual structure. None had common walls as motels are now built.

Gathered rocks from the beach to build fireplaces ... lumber scrounged from abandoned buildings or lumber washed up on the beach ... some of these cabins were hand-crafted from bits and pieces. They all had a charm of their own, as also did the gardens surrounding them. Seeds and plants were brought or exchanged from other gardens. Because these cabins were tended to only during the summer, just the most hardy of plants survived.

Bulbs of daffodils, Scilla (Blue Bells), galanthus (Snowdrops), Calla lilies, Montbretia, hardy fuchsias and roses still grow and bloom around some of the original cottages. Beth Holland of Holland's Flowers has taken slips of some of the roses. If you are a rose lover and have had a difficult time growing roses here on the coast, contact Holland's Flowers, P. O. Box 132, Cannon Beach, OR 97110 or call for an appointment, 1-503-436-2574, as the plants grown from these hardy, rambling roses are easier to grow. Some of the original plants have survived through 40 years or more.

The style of those early Cannon Beach cottages remains in some parts of Cannon Beach and Tolovana. Some newly built homes also reflect this charm with added window boxes, arbors, picket fences, plantings of perennials and annual flowers. Arden Villa, Rosie's Cottages and Doll House Cottages were all sold for private homes. The cottages of The Waves are no longer there; that complex is now a modern motel. Some of the original buildings were sold and moved to other properties. Schmitz Ocean Front Cottages have remained the same. In the spring of 1987 the coordinator for National Register nomination, Elizabeth Walton Potter, visited Cannon Beach to review potential buildings for local landmark designation and/or listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In her report she stated the resort cottages dating from the period 1910-1930 could be appropriately classified as bungalows. All of

them have common origins in the English Arts and Crafts style.

For further information on this style, the characteristics are illustrated in *Architecture Oregon Style* (Portland; Professional Book Center Inc., for the City of Albany, 1983).

Dahlias, Sandy Larson told me, were her grandfather's favorite flowers to raise. In the early 1940's when her grandparents bought property in front of Haystack Rock, her grandfather (Lee Dave Firebough, Sr.) built a glass fence on the east side of their home to raise dahlias and vegetables. Laughingly, Sandy told me, "He tried to raise the largest vegetables, though at times he left them on the vine to grow so large they were too old to be edible." Mr. Firebough was awarded many ribbons for his dahlias and vegetables at the Garden Club Show.

Sandy also told me she transplanted Calla lilies to grow in her own home from her mother's garden where Sandy was raised, which is now the White Bird Gallery. These lilies still grow around Sandy's home in Cannon Beach.

The largest vegetables, the most perfect flowers, a flower arrangement, the bouquet coming from one's own garden, were brought by the many gardeners throughout Cannon Beach, Tolovana and Arch Cape to be judged at the annual flower show held by the Cannon Beach Garden Club. In 1951 the Garden Club's show moved from the church to the new gym at the grade school. In the 1950's the Ericson brothers built the gym. During that time the Garden Club planted flowering cherry trees along the east side of the school. These trees have remained growing and each spring send out branches of pink flowering blossoms.

By the late 1950's and early 60's, more people moved here. Changes occurred. Scattered throughout Cannon Beach some of the early cabins were rebuilt for permanent residences. Some of the people added greenhouses for year-around gardening. Seaside and Astoria had several plant nurseries that introduced other types of trees, shrubs and annuals that would grow successfully in coastal weather. People moving here from other states brought plants from their former homes, such as Pacific Wax Myrtle (*Myrica californica*) and Red Hot Poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*).

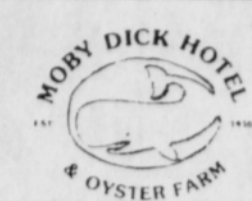
I have always wondered who planted the first corm of Montbretia and rhizome of Calla lilies. *Crocasmia* (Montbretia), *Zantedeschia* (Calla) are both native to South Africa. Both of these plants have multiplied and grow so profusely here that they're almost considered native, which they are not. Neither plant needs much attention other than cutting back the spent foliage each year. Be aware, however, both soon multiply, crowding out other plants.

Florence Haydon, who died this November at 89 years old, was known for her beautiful flower garden that surrounded her home in Haystack Heights, and her many years of contributing flower arrangements for the Presbyterian Church. In October I talked to her about her garden. She said she had loved gardening all her life and did continue to garden past her 80th birthday. Florence gave me seeds from her violas twenty years ago and they have continued to re-seed all these years. When Florence's long time friend Donna Wallace and

her husband first built a new home in Haystack Heights, Florence gave them slips of fuchsia, also cotoneaster. Now, years later, these plants still thrive in their garden.

A few names from the past. Leigh and Audrey Spenser. Audrey was very active in the Garden Club and for many years was president of that club. Leigh became known as a dependable caretaker of summer cabins and was also a knowledgeable gardener. Mae McCoy's Matilija Poppy, Latin name *Romneya coulteri*. A bouquet of these tall, sweet smelling flowers will last a week if cut in bud. Shelby McGinnis, who lived in one of the railroad cars close to where the Tolovana Wayside is now, was known for raising vegetables and nasturtiums, also kept a couple of raccoons as pets. Elsie and Percy Harris. Mrs. Harris was president of the Garden Club through the 1940's. Mr. Harris was one of the men who helped build the Tolovana Clubhouse during the 1960's. Henry Teller's name was also mentioned as helping to create the garden around the Clubhouse. Next month more about the Tolovana Clubhouse and their beautiful garden.

Please write to *June's Garden*, P. O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110, if you have any garden memories of past years in Cannon Beach to share with readers of this column.




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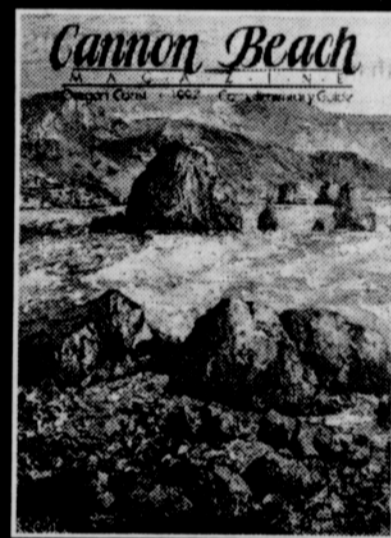
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