

JUNE'S GARDEN

The path led through a thicket of trees and shrubs and rhododendrons. The rhododendrons had grown to heights of 10' or more. Their spent blooms turned brown at summer's end showed there had been an abundance of spring blooms, and the overall structures and shapes and colors of foliage indicated a mixed variety. Deer fern, sword fern, blackberries and grass had grown over parts of the path that circled almost a half acre of garden. Dense growth of spruce, alder, salmon berries, salal, ocean spray (arrow-wood) and fern on the east side bordering Hwy. 101 helped muffle the sound of passing trucks and cars. The scolding sounds of blue jays, songs of many other birds, chipmunks scurrying over fallen logs, hoof marks and droppings of elk showed this garden had become a haven for wild inhabitants as well as for the people that had created it long ago.

Along the path was an opening where a sun dial had been placed on a grassy knoll, no shadow to tell the time with overcast sky, but nearby a few pink and yellow blooms of roses, large leafed Bergenia and other perennials cast a warm glow. A special crab apple tree, branches heavily laden with bright red fruit, later identified as John Dowie, Malus, cedar and holly trees almost hid the large, graveled parking area in front of a building equipped with a kitchen and large room with tables and chairs. The building was identified by a carved sign, "Tolovana Hall."

To the south of the building, more rhododendrons mixed with tall, red leafed plum trees. On the west side a gated 3' hand split cedar fence enclosed a smaller garden where a crescent moon shaped cement bridge led over a ditch bordered by a raised rockery planted with heathers, azaleas and fern. Bamboo, hardy fuchsias, wild flowering quince, a camellia, mock orange and broom had grown so thick they almost hid the building.

In this smaller, enclosed part of the garden was a cement pagoda placed next to a Hinoki cypress that had grown to almost 8'. A Hinoki cypress is a very slow growing conifer. Its beauty is in the formation of curvaceous sprays of dark green foliage which looks like skirts of scalloped lace bibs surrounding its trunk. This particular specimen demanded attention as the curvaceous sprays had grown half as wide as its height. The continued path led through an opening framed by a wooden structure secured by a 3' rock wall densely covered with ivy that had aggressively grown into the garden.

On the north side of the building was a paved walkway bordered by plantings on one side of red berried skimmia and a tall, orange-red berried cotoneaster. On the other side a 4 to 5' rockery banked the division of the walkway and entering road. A few azaleas and other small shrubs were almost covered by St. John's Wort (Hypericum). The cement walkway was centered by a flag pole and a plaque sunk into the cement walkway inscribed with "Tolovana Club 1951."

The above describes this property in the fall in the late 80's.

In 1951 a group of people formed a social club called "South Cannon Beach Community Club," later renamed "Tolovana Club."

During the early 1950's, Clatsop County had foreclosed on a large parcel of land in Cannon Beach, 110 x 200 ft.,

almost a half acre. The boundaries bordered Hemlock Street and Hwy. 101. In 1955 the Tolovana Club bought this property from the County for \$10.00. The club's dream was to have a clubhouse for monthly meetings and, because many of the members enjoyed gardening, to create a garden. Ed Carlson, a retired landscaper for the City of Portland, and Cornelius (Keef) DeMaan helped design and maintain some of the early plantings, along with many of the other members. Harry Teller's known artistic talents created the cement moon bridge and 3' hand-split fence and gate. Percy Harris was one of the men who helped build the clubhouse; later some of the rhododendrons were planted in memory of his contributions. During the 60's his wife, Elsie Harris, was president of the Garden Club and many of the members of the Garden club also helped to plant and maintain the garden. When Ernie Moon and his wife Elaine moved permanently in the 60's to Cannon Beach, he helped to clear more of the land for new plantings. A part of the garden was planted in memory of Ethel Banks. Throughout the garden, wooden benches and small wooden signs with names and "in memory of" had been placed here and there. A few other names of early members mentioned are Majors, Turners, Matthews, Spencers and Dr. Sargent.

In the late 1980's the property tax and liability insurance became too expensive and maintenance of such a large garden too laborious for the club's members. They decided to give the property to the City of Cannon Beach. On August 26, 1987 the members turned the property over to the City to be used for municipal purposes, with the stipulation that the Tolovana Club and the Garden Club could use the clubhouse for their monthly meetings for as long as both organizations existed.

When the Tolovana Club so generously gave up the property, this gave another group of people an opportunity to realize their dream. Part of this land now holds another building, the Cannon Beach Children's Center, which provides a loving home away from home for children of working parents. Quality child care is given by a qualified, educated staff. The dream to have a day care center that a group of dedicated people worked years to obtain came into being in 1990.

The small garden west of the clubhouse is still there. A new bank south of the property has been planted with rhododendrons. Roses and other plants now border the entrance to the west garden, and were landscaped by Cannon Beach City landscaper staff Joe Baldin and Shay Williams.

In front of the day care center the first plantings were done by volunteer help of the children's parents. This area is now being cared for by landscape expert Leslie Sroufe and her husband Peter. Last summer Leslie planted two large tubs full of colorful summer annuals which she placed either side of the center's front door. The new south bank is maintained by joint efforts of the city crew and Sroufes.

In the 60's two flower shops opened in downtown Cannon Beach.

Sara Dinsdale, Sally Auel's daughter, had a shop that featured planted bottle gardens. All sizes of glass containers were used, planted with all sorts of plants. She

offered containers and plants for sale, also gave instructions and information on what soil and plants were best to make interesting bottle gardens. Dinsdale's shop was in the M&M Building. Sally repaired a broken flower planter in front of the entrance to the shop, holding the wooden box together with cement blocks and planting it with flowers. Richard Atherton owned the building and was so pleased with the flower box he rewarded Sally and Sara with candy.

Prissy Martin opened a dried flower shop in the same block as Dueber's and Bill's Tavern in 1969. She sold wreaths, swags and other styles of arrangements she created from dried material. The shop was closed in the late 70's. Prissy is known for her delicate, heart-shaped or round, dried flower wreaths decorated with tiny rose buds and violas, some as small as 2" to 4", and her fresh Christmas wreaths of juniper and heather decorated with Bristlecone pine cones. Her fresh ones are obtainable at Raintree Garden Store in Seaside. She also now has a business of maintaining and landscaping gardens throughout our area.

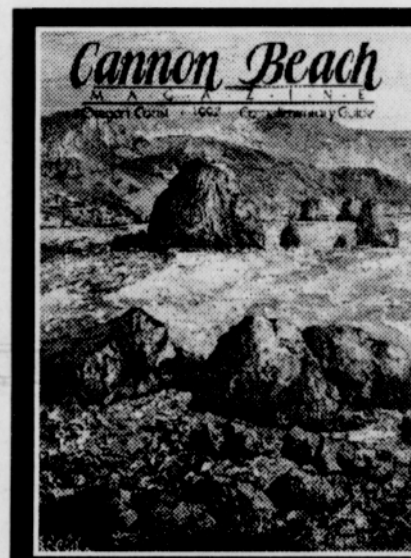
If you have any garden memories of Cannon Beach or questions or suggestions, please write June's Garden, P. O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.



"Home of the Wild Oyster"
on Willapa Bay
Nahcotta, Washington 98637
For Reservations or Information
(360) 665-4543 - Fax (360) 665-6887



Arcadia Landscaping
FOR GARDENS DESIGNED TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PESTICIDE USE.
ATTENTION BUSINESSES WE CREATE & MAINTAIN FLOWER BOXES, PLANTERS & HANGING BASKETS
436-0738 RES
LICENSED - BONDED INSURED #9852



110,000 copies • 12th Edition

1998

Cannon Beach Magazine

Display Advertising Sales in Progress
First Come, First Served

Call today for appointment, 436-0721

COAST GRAPHIC ARTS

Local & Out-of-Town Distribution

Art Submission Deadline
For Local Artists: 12/15/97



Steve's Maintenance
Licensed
Specializing in:
Environmentally Friendly
Window Cleaning
Steve LaMontagne
P.O. Box 689
Cannon Beach, OR, 97110
(503) 436-0942



Great Savings!

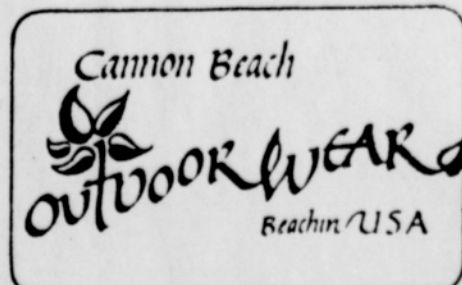
20% to 50% off many items

Patagonia & Woolrich
Fleece

Wool Blankets reg. \$79

Now \$35 ea., or 3 for \$79.


Hanes Sweats reg. \$13.95 now \$8.95 and much more.




239 N. Hemlock Box 905 Cannon Beach, OR
97110 503-436-2832

(www.digital-site.com/outdoor)

Open daily 10-5pm



From beach to boulevard,
a natural choice for women's clothing.



Portland (503) 239-4605
Cannon Beach (503) 436-1572