

JUNE'S GARDEN

Some people are born with natural talent and the desire to create beauty. Dorothy Lindsey was one of those people. Combining those traits with an eye for the use of the unusual, a no-nonsense attitude and practicality, and a generous spirit, she encouraged and led many of us gardeners to try to follow her example of the garden she created that surrounded her home on Laurel Street in Cannon Beach.

Harvey and Dorothy Lindsey and their two sons, Peter and Tim, moved from California to Cannon Beach in the late 1950's. Harvey had retired after selling his business, Lindsey Can Company. He devoted his retirement years to build their new two-story home on Laurel Street. At the age of 72, Harvey, a talented woodworker, built their entire house, work shop and garage by himself, only hiring Paul Bartel to build the fireplace and a friend to help with the shingling.

Dorothy and Harvey were a talented team. She designed and planted the garden. Harvey built all the structures that surrounded her garden. On his daily walks on the beach, he found and collected cedar logs to build fences; for posts, stickers and cribbing washed up from passing freighters; pieces of hardwood were made into tables. He collected sticks of driftwood or cut lumber to make trellises or stakes for Dorothy to use for holding up her tall plants. Others who helped him collect these sticks labeled them "Harvey Sticks."

Gathered beach rocks were used to line garden paths. Washed and chopped-up kelp, Dorothy used for fertilizer to enrich the clay soil. Some of the windows used for some structures came from torn-down buildings. Pieces of driftwood and 9" deep triangle-shaped wooden containers left for scrap by the telephone company were made into planters. Nothing wasted, nothing wanted, both Dorothy and Harvey made use of all they found.

Harvey enclosed the front garden with a split rail fence. In front of their house Dorothy planted pine trees, escallonia, hydrangeas, skimmia and a pink blooming camellia. Entering the front garden through a gated handsplit shaked roof pergola covered with honeysuckle, the path leading to the front door was bordered by tiger lilies. "Watch out, the pollen will stain your clothing," Dorothy would say when greeting visitors. The orange-flowered tiger lilies, "Lilium lancifolium splendens," produce numerous bulblets which form in the crevice between leaf and stem. The bulblets, when fully mature, are released by the plant and, if left to grow, in a few years create a large bed of lilies. These lilies can grow to 4' or more, as many as six or more blooms to a plant. Her lily bed had grown quite large.

On the south side of the front garden the small garage topped with a cupola and weather vane was later used for Dorothy to store her prize geraniums and fuchsias through the winter. Later a bay was added and during the summer the bay was filled with bright red blooming geraniums. Late spring, south of the garage, a bed of yellow/white buttercup-like flowers she called Meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*) bloomed. She would leave them to re-seed each year. Eventually these plants formed a large carpet of flowers. Dorothy was also known as a creative chef and on the sunnier south side of the garage she planted a small vegetable and herb garden.

Her backyard garden, not seen from the street, was made more private by grape stake fences, Harvey's workshop, trees of Mountain ash, spruce and alder and shrubs of hardy fuchsias, heather, rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas and a stand of bamboo. She planted drifts of color and textures of many perennials, shasta daisies, orange-flowered alstroemeria, lupins, calla lilies and rudbeckia. Seeds of calendula, pansies and columbine were either sown or left to reseed. Every year a surprise plant would grow in paths or different areas of the garden and left to grow. The path leading to Harvey's workshop was lined with beach rock, and growing in the crevices were perennial sweet-smelling old fashioned violets. Two clematis vines "Henry I" (white) and purple-flowered "Jackmanii," and a special red cut-leafed maple, "Acer palmatum," all three given places of honor. In the spring blue scilla, daffodils and primroses bloomed, tucked under shrubs of rhododendrons and azaleas followed by Lily of the Valley.

All colors of geraniums and hanging baskets of fuchsias were placed throughout the garden. These plants were held over each year and multiplied by Dorothy potting cuttings from the mother plant. Some of these plants she had brought with her from her California garden.

Dorothy's garden was not large. Other than a few plants, neither did she plant rare or unusual flowers. The most significant expression of Dorothy's garden was her attention to detail. A small cement statue of a peasant girl set off among flowering shrubs. Driftwood or unusual shaped wooden planters filled with varieties of sedum spilling over the sides or colorful arrangements of flowers. On the front gate she hung a basket that she kept filled with fresh cut flowers or plants in the summer. For winter color, cut boughs of red berried skimmia. She designed the garden to have continued interest throughout all seasons.

Being generous in giving plants, seeds or cuttings and helpful hints of gardening to anyone interested, she did fail to say good soil also makes healthy weeds. Since she was known to get up at the crack of dawn to search and attack the army of slugs prevalent in our area, she probably attacked the few weeds that found their way into her garden. There never seemed to be laced leaves from slugs nor evidence of any weeds.

Some garden quotes of Dorothy's gathered from family and friends:

Don't bother with petunias, they need too much deadheading and the rain spoils their petals.

Huge lawns are a waste of time.

A machete is the best garden tool to cut down all the heavy growth.

And her favorite: If something doesn't grow well, pull it out.

In the 1970's Dorothy and friend Betty Mason opened a flower shop in the building now known as Pat's Coffee and Basket Shop. Mason owned the property. A grocery store that had been there for years burned down and Mason hired Joe Hollingsworth to construct a circular building like ones he had built in other parts of the town. Peter, Dorothy's son, built them a greenhouse from a kit. The greenhouse style was

also circular. The two buildings suggested the flower shop's name, "Mulberry Bush."

The new building was divided into three shops. One sold baskets, another antiques, and Lindsey and Mason's flower shop. They sold bedding plants, but mostly dividing and potting plants from their own garden. Lindsey became known for her arrangements combining plants in unusual containers such as hollowed driftwood, small wooden boxes or decorated pots. When asked, she gave instructions of care for the containers, or how to take cuttings from geraniums and fuchsias, and what grows best here on the coast. Lindsey was always willing to share her expertise.

Many years later when Beth Holland opened her garden shop in back of Pat's Coffee, Holland commented that some of her customers still remembered Dorothy Lindsey's shop.

Dorothy was raised in Portland. Her niece, Barbara (Bobbie) Bosse, told the story that one day when Dorothy and Bosse's mother, Mabel, played tennis in Washington Park, Dorothy snapped a branch off one of the park's special trees and jammed it into the ground in front of their home. The next spring it sprouted. The tree grew so large, in time it had to be cut down. This may have started Dorothy's interest in gardening. Dorothy finished her schooling at Portland's Art Museum School of Fine Arts and later taught with the director Rachel Griffian. She continued using her talent painting, sculpting and, later in life, created in many different mediums. After their beach home was completed, she made hooked rugs for the stair treads. Each step had original designs of pictorial scenes of events that had happened in her family's life. Her table settings, always a bowl of fresh flowers. You never saw a paper carton of milk on her table, always a special pitcher. Her flower arrangements were works of art. Each corner of the house was created like a still life composition.

Dorothy died in February, 1981, but her garden and generous spirit of both garden wisdom and sharing inspired many of us. Generations of her original Tiger Lilies, alstroemeria, cuttings from her hydrangeas, seeds of meadowfoam, calendulas and columbines grow in many gardens throughout Cannon Beach, and a friend has promised me a plant of sweet smelling violets that have multiplied from violets Dorothy gave her years ago.

Next month, the story about Jubilation Park, the small park Judy and Will Osburn created after they bought the grocery store now called Osburn's Grocery.

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