

# JUNE'S GARDEN

## Village of Flowers (cont'd.)

Flowers! Who wants to be responsible to take care of flowers or how the street looks? Too much trouble. It's enough to try to make a living! We work around the clock in the summer months at the height of the tourist season, then in the winter, log, fish or starve. There's no extra money for plants, nor time for their care. This expresses the feelings of the shopkeepers up to the early 1960's.

The "turning point" and new beginnings are best described in Chapter 6 of Terence O'Donnell's book, *A Place By the Sea*. This book tells the story of how, after a series of disastrous events like the 1964 tsunami wave and in 1967 high tides accompanied by west winds of great velocity that flooded the town, a group of enthusiastic, dedicated citizens were inspired to rebuild Cannon Beach into one of the most desirable beach communities on the Pacific Coast.

The first physical change was the building of the south wing of Sandpiper Square. Margaret McClusky wrote about Watkins and Clark, "the dreamer and the dreammaker that became partners in a series of building projects that would change the image of Cannon Beach." During the 1970's when the old skating rink was rebuilt into what is now the Coaster Theater, other small buildings across the courtyard then held the US Bank, the Puffin and the nautical shop Fair Winds. Landscaping was added. D. K. Smith planted the weeping cherry tree that is still there in front of the theater. Smith planted other trees throughout town and encouraged others to plant more trees and observe Arbor Day. Barbara Watkins, owner of The Puffin shop, loved the color purple and planted purple blooming azaleas in front of her shop. There is also still a camellia shrub in front of Fair Winds that was planted long ago.

In the building that holds the bookstore then owned by Mary Fraiser, and the small shop next to it, owned by David Lewis and Jeffrey Hull in the early 1970's featuring wire sculpture and paintings, the porch had flower boxes along the railings. Lee and Mary Estabrook, who had recently retired and built and opened a flower shop called Haystack Gardens, as friends of Lewis and Hull, for a time, at no cost, planted and maintained their flower boxes.

For several years Estabrooks' Garden Store and the large garden the couple created adjoining the store, was a favorite place for many of us to purchase plants and stroll through the garden, learning more about which plants best thrive in our coastal weather. The Estabrooks also had a service of caring for indoor plants in many Cannon Beach businesses.

Lee and Mary Estabrook both have gardened all their lives. Their sole purpose when they opened their shop and planted their large garden was to serve the community through the glory of God who in their eyes is the real designer of plants. This garden still thrives, now under the ownership of Steve Martin's Management Corporation. The Estabrooks now live in Portland, but spend much time helping their daughter landscape a

large piece of property she is developing in Warrenton.

Dave Haggerty and John Ward bought the Driftwood Restaurant in 1975. Haggerty, who is also known for growing beautiful roses, planted and maintained the window boxes. He kept the boxes filled with seasonal flowers, pansies being one of his favorites.

In 1972 Tim Keller started his landscape maintenance business for full and part-time homeowners needing care for their lawns and flower beds. One in particular is the Williamsons' garden where Keller cares for their roses and hydrangeas. Keller's landscaping business still thrives.

Jude Lally started her landscape business in 1977 and maintained it for seven years. She planted the first garden in front of the Mariner Market and another in front of The Keeping Room Restaurant that is now the Bistro. Her business included private homes such as Governor West's. One of her favorites is Mildred Schnitzer's courtyard oriental-style garden.

In 1977 Stephen Tuckman and Cindy McKee moved to Cannon Beach. Tuckman's interest in gardening started in the 60's when he lived in Santa Cruz, California. The University of California in Santa Cruz had an experimental, fully organic vegetable garden. Also at that time a commune was developed on five acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains that was called Camp Joy. On these five acres the people of the commune raised enough organically-grown vegetables to feed many people. This is where Tuckman learned the value of making and using compost and growing plants in raised beds. When eventually Tuckman and McKee moved to Cannon Beach, they used the same methods to garden, as they acquired properties.

The first business property that was bought to remodel and create a garden was a small motel on Brailier Street called the Blue Top. The few one-story units were eventually sold separately as private, individual cabins. The raised-bed landscaping in front of the building was planted with flowering shrubs and perennials designed much like a cottage garden. This garden is no longer there; the property has since been re-sold many times.

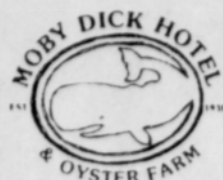
When they built the one-story, cottage-like style Hearthstone Inn on the corner of Jackson and Hemlock, they planted shrubs of Pieris (andromeda) and Viburnum and low-growing perennial plants. These plants that were planted long ago still successfully adorn this charming, small motel. Before Lally phased out her landscape business in 1984, she had helped Tuckman and McKee landscape and maintain their properties; however, Lally gives full credit to the couple's selection of plants. Tuckman's interest in gardening and working with landscape designers selecting plants that are attractive and withstand coastal weather has continued to enhance many more of his business properties he has acquired since.

McKee still gardens at her oceanfront Sea Sprite Motel on Nebesna Street. The individual units are decorated with window boxes, and a small garden in the parking lot features an arbor. In the summer the window boxes are filled with annuals

and the arbor is completely covered with Polygonum aubertii, commonly called Silver Lace Vine, which is a climber. Flowers are creamy white, blooming in a frothy mass from late spring to fall.

In the 1970's the combined interests of creative forces that changed the style of the buildings in the commercial district and the development and guidelines of the City's newly-formed Design Review Board's suggested landscaping gave way for more thought of improving the physical look of the downtown area. Realizing these improvements brought more customers to their doorstep, shopowners added landscaping. During the early 1980's more landscape businesses were established and further improvement to all downtown areas continued.

Next month: A continuation of the 1980's-1990's.




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