

Now & Then

Continued from page 1

Let me tell you about why I love books. I've already told you why I love art, in general, but my love for books, in particular, is a particular thing with me. Like a lot of folk, books are many things to me, escape, information, inspiration, but that's just the story part, the text of the book, the illustrations, all those things that you can get on the internet in beautiful color and large type. The books themselves, the bindings, the weight, the size, the condition, and, as an amateur bookman, how they managed to reach my hands. These things interest me. In five years of working with books daily I found that they could teach me about myself. I learned that I had a weakness for broken books. I've been accused, falsely, of taking all the "good books" home. Truly most of my personal library is stuff that wouldn't impress someone wanting to 'invest in a library', but I think someone who loves books 'as things' would understand. Copies of books are each individuals, like people, we all have a similar chemical makeup or text, our printings or DNAs vary, but our life experiences result in our 'condition'. Broken books are like broken people, children hurt by other children or adults, old tired people, old damaged books, they have stories to tell. I take a lot of them home. I even buy them. I recently bought, for a dollar, Edmund Dulac's Picture Book for the French Red Cross. For the information of those of you not salivating, this is a volume with over twenty color illustrations of classic fairy tales by an early nineteenth century artist of some talent. It was printed to help the Red Cross during the Great War, copyright 1915. The illustrations had, of course, been ripped out. They probably sold for \$20 to \$100 each, framed. The book was left behind. Intact, the book would sell for, maybe, \$100; the math is pretty easy. The reality isn't that pretty, or easy, but I bought it anyway. I also have a copy of Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, a cheap edition. I took it home because someone had cut out a hole in the pages, so they could 'cleverly' hide something. I keep it to remind myself that I too did that as a boy. One of many things I try to remember, and forgive myself for doing.

I delight in books that were first printed in paperback. It makes me giggle to think of someone who wants to 'invest' in books calls his dealer and wants everything that Hemingway ever published, and he wants only first editions, to impress his friends with his 'library'. There will be a paperback in the box, and a hefty bill. Hemingway's The Wilderness Years, published by Dell Paperbacks, alone will cost \$50, the rest in the neighborhood of five figures each. I have a Fahrenheit 451 first edition, it's a paperback, a lot of the early Sci-Fi Classics were first published in paperback, but it's not 'perfect', just real. Like real people the flaws & weaknesses in books arouse my feelings of wanting to help and protect them. I have this fantasy of finding copies of all the Dulac illustrations and putting the Red Cross book back together. Protecting broken books is obviously easier than helping broken people, but both seem important. Some books and some people will always remain broken, but 'if they are loved they can teach love'. I read that in an old book. A book can tell you quite a lot... even if it doesn't have a cover.

Mo' Stuff

The Cannon Beach Arts Association is now offering Artists Grants for original work. The \$3000 grant in part or total will be awarded to "professional artists in any media"... "showing serious intent"... (who are) "a part of the Cannon Beach community, actively exhibiting or performing within the city", or (can) "document of short-term residence for the duration of the project proposed." The grant is intended to promote professional excellence of our local artists and provide support necessary to expand their creative process. Artists may pick up applications at the Cannon Beach Gallery, and proposals are due July 31st. For more information call Jay Raskin at 503 436-2162. Cool, huh?

Publishing news; Sally Lackaff's "Wildlife on the Edge" will be at the printers by the time you read this. Those who have pre-paid for your copies, we will be sending them as soon as we get them back, expect them by not later than somewhere in August, and if you don't get yours by then contact us, we do make mistakes.

We have received two new publications recently; the first, String Town, edited by Polly Buckingham, is an annual magazine of short prose and poetry. Drawing its writers from Astoria, Portland and Seattle and as far away as Florida, it is a fine selection, presented simply and honestly. At 56 pages for \$4.50 it's a good buy. There are short bios in the back pages, listing some impressive credentials of the 24 writers included. You can get a copy at several independent bookstores, or by writing to String Town, Route 6, Box 74, Ivy Station Rd., Astoria, Oregon 97103, or for the cyber abled, stringtown@aol.com.

The other is Romance of Waterfalls by Barbara Bloom and Garry Cohen. It's a user friendly guide book to one hundred waterfalls in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington. It includes maps, accessibility information, good places to kiss, a poem for every waterfall and Bloom's drawings of each fall, as well as wildlife that might be encountered there. This 252 page slick paperback is published by Outdoor Romance Publishing and sells for \$16.95. It is available at bookstores in the area or by writing to Outdoor Romance Publishing, 817 SE 139th, Portland, Oregon 97233 or again, for those 'on-line', at www.waterfalls@aol.com.

Andrea & Cheth Rowe will be joined by Heather Lively Tuesday July 28th around 8pm to play some original folk, rock & blues at The River 230 W. Marine Dr. in Astoria. It's a benefit for this wonderful performance space.

Next Month; The McMenamings Kingdom

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Oxburn's Grocery, The Cookie Co., Coffee Cabana, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakery, The Bistro, Midtown Cafe, Once Upon a Breeze, Copies & Fax, Heather's, The Homegrown Cafe, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Square & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar, Bayside Gardens, Cassandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
Nehalem: Mermaid Cafe
Rockaway: Sharkey's
Tillamook: Rainy Day 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, Cafe DIVA, Coamo Cafe, Bookmark Cafe, Newport Bay Coffee Co., Cuppetunes, Bay Latté, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Coastal Coffee Co., Sylvia Beach Hotel, Green Gables Bookstore/ B&B, & Canyon Way
Eugene: Book Mark, Cafe Novarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Cafe, 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 Cafe, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Cafe 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 Cafe, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Cap'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 Cafe, 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 Talea, Ozone Records, Papa Haydn, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, TransCentral Library, & YWCA
Cornelius: The Weekend Garden Market
The Dalles: Klindts Bookseller
Hood River: Purple Rocks Art Bar & Cafe
Ashland: Cafe Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Cafe, & Rogue River Brewery
Cave Junction: Coffee Heaven & Kerby Community Market
Grants Pass: The Book Shop
(Out of Oregon)
Vancouver, WA: The Den
Longview, WA: The Broadway Gallery, & Carat Patch
Long Beach, WA: Pacific Picnic
Naselle, WA: Rainy Day Artistry
Nahcotta, WA: Moby Dick Hotel
Duvall, WA: Duvall 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, & Building 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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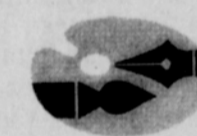
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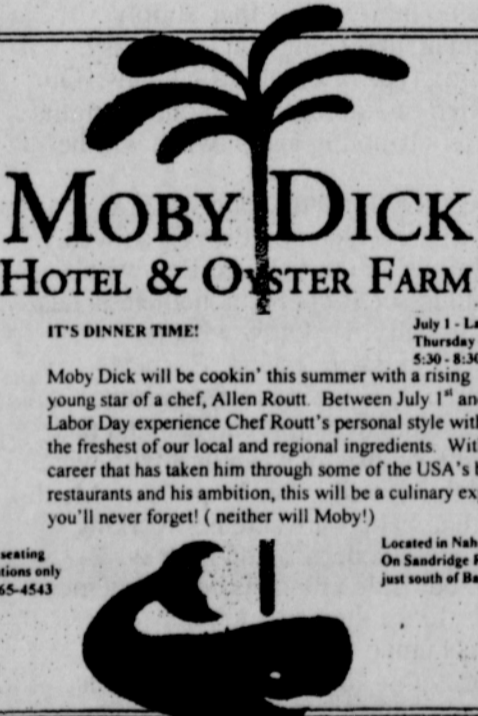
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