

JUNE'S GARDEN

Village of Flowers

City girl gone country, Rita Frailey told her former classmates at a high-school reunion in New Jersey, about the beauty that surrounds the small town in Oregon she now lives in, miles of spruce forests and the vast horizon of the Pacific Ocean. She also described her interests of swimming, running, weight-lift training, long distance biking, camping, and the successful landscape business she and her husband Mike own. Most of her classmates who attended the reunion live in New York and other major East Coast cities or abroad in cosmopolitan cities like London and Paris, and came dressed for the gathering in cocktail dresses and tailor-made suits, a far cry from the life style Fraileys and the rest of us live on the Oregon coast. They couldn't understand how anyone from the city could be happy in the far west where there is nothing more than forests full of wild animals, miles of deserted beaches, no hot dog stands or pretzel vendors or excitement of any kind, only trees, birds, rocks, sea shells, wind, rain and too much fresh air!

When Rita was nine years old she started working weekends and holidays in a flower shop near her home in Camden, New Jersey. The shop featured tropical dish gardens and formal floriculture. She continued to work there through high school. She started her formal education at Ohio State College, majoring in creative writing. In the late 1970's, a friend who had moved to Cannon Beach and worked at the Round Table Restaurant urged Rita to visit Cannon Beach. Rita fell in love with the wilds of Oregon and moved here permanently.

Mike's family moved to Hillsboro, Oregon from Orange County, California. While visiting his brother and wife who were living in Cannon Beach, Mike also decided to stay in this area and started working for Tony Douglas, a landscape architect who owned a business called North Coast Landscaping. While working for Douglas, Mike gained hands-on experience in the world of horticulture and the requirements for maintaining formal landscaping. Cannon Beach, with its forests, ocean and streams, also provided areas for Mike to pursue his interests of hunting, fishing and searching the forests for wild mushrooms.

Mutual interests soon brought the couple together and in 1980 Mike and Rita were married. They started a part-time landscape maintenance business with only a few tools and a truck. In 1984 Rita attended a two-year landscape program offered at Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon, and in 1986 they hired their first employee. Cannon Beach Landscape Service then became a permanent business.

Their maintenance business now includes other services, improving drainage, installing sprinkling systems, landscape designs, and practical experience of what plants grow best in our coastal zone. Mike is a skilled carpenter, building decks, benches or other structures needed for gardens. They employ seven or eight people throughout the year to keep up with the many landscape contracts they have.

To name a few:

Coaster Properties, which include Sandpiper Square, Local

Scoop, the Coaster Theater and adjoining buildings under this management.

Osburn's Grocery and parking lot.

Steve Martin Management, including the Surfsand Resort, Wayfarer Restaurant and all the adjoining parking lots.

When Martin's Stephanie Inn was first built, Fraileys designed and planted the Inn and parking lot, and they will soon be completing the new landscaping that will be needed at the north annex to the Inn.

Last year, along Gower Street among the shrubs, 2-1/2' tall white lilies bloomed and sent out a sweet fragrance. These lilies the Fraileys found 12 years ago when they were digging a new drainage ditch on some property. Discovering a large bulb about the size of an onion, they took it home and planted it in proper soil that had good drainage and 12 years later the bulb had multiplied, giving them close to two-dozen bulbs.

In 1997 they planted some of the bulbs around other plants in Martin's curbside plantings on Gower Street. The lily has never been properly identified, but someone suggested it might be Empress of Japan. If you are walking along Gower this summer, watch for those lilies to bloom. They are spectacular and send out an abundance of fragrance.

Some time ago Fraileys built a new home in Tolovana Park with storage area. Their growing business and acquired equipment soon filled all available storage space. Recently they bought eight acres on the east side of Hwy. 101 near the Warren Way/Tolovana exit. Their future plan is to build a home, greenhouse and pole building large enough to hold their expanding inventory of equipment. They are also in the process of digging a well and building a road into their property.

During December and January for many years Fraileys have spent the holidays in Lapenita, Nayarit, in Mexico. Through the years they became good friends with a family, Pedro and Emma and their four daughters. The couple own a restaurant and are very proud of giving their daughters formal education. One girl now works in a local bank, another is studying to be an architect. Fraileys spent many memorable holidays with this family, exploring the jungles, deep sea fishing, relaxing and swimming in the warm waters for a much-needed vacation. This year they may only be able to send their friends a Christmas card. Their new adventure may cause them to forgo their yearly vacation, but their successful business compensates for missed vacations and years of hard work.

For further information, contact: Cannon Beach Landscape Service, P. O. Box 126, Tolovana Park, Oregon 97145, or 1-503-436-1847.

This July, take time to walk and observe the many flower beds in the commercial area and private gardens scattered throughout the whole of Cannon Beach. Window boxes filled with geraniums, a sunflower showing its face over

the top of a fence, colorful arrangements of plants in a pot or two on a front porch, a bower of roses climbing a trellis or over the rooftop of an old garage, the care that someone has given to raising a garden of any size brings joy to many.



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