

To the Editor,

Prior to the November election, there promises to be an inordinate amount of money spent by timber interest in saturation attacks on Measure 64, the anti-clearcut initiative. The Voters "Pamphlet" is said to have grown to two volumes in order to accommodate some 49 arguments about Measure 64. This divisive ballot measure may be a direct result of the Oregon Board of Forestry's refusal to end its long-standing policy that makes timber production the primary use of our state forest lands.

It is high time for radical management reforms based on habitat restoration instead of resource extraction. The past record of what has passed as forestry stewardship would in a more rational context be properly called an ecological catastrophe if not timber terrorism. I write to respond to a bulk mailing from an outfit calling itself the Healthy Forests Alliance in opposition to Measure 64. The timber barons are hiding behind this innocuous sounding organization and have trotted Ed Schroeder, a retired Oregon State Forester, as a pitchman. Mr. Schroeder opens his letter saying he has devoted his life to improving Oregon's forest lands, and if the reader is able to wrap his mind around that, the rest of Ed's letter will make better sense.

The most prominent feature of the American Dream is a pig snout. In an exchange of many little favors, insatiable timber interests and state foresters have steadily been making "forest improvements" since the inception of the Oregon Department of Forestry, like transforming native forests into tree farms, destruction of spawning grounds, or consolidating monopolies by swapping corporate stump ranches for standing public timber. Now at last they are mopping up what little is left of the original old growth east and west of the Cascades, regardless of ownership.

The magic elixir that makes the deforestation/reforestation cycle workable and turns trees into gold is the regular application of fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides. Big Timber and the Chemistry Set are lined up in opposition to Measure 64, because this initiative circumvents the new earth friendly reforms that have been cobbled together to disguise but not interrupt the crop rotation of pulpwood production.

The overreaching dominance of corporate ownership remains a mysterious non-issue. Under those constitutional provisions intended to protect the individual rights of private citizens, corporate influence in our daily lives has expanded to now mean nearly absolute economic control. Public interest has been privatized. At worldwide levels corporations control our food and drink, information, communication, culture, education, health care and political choice. On land and sea, they control the rate of exploitation of natural resources, the extent to which chemical pollution will be spread or curtailed, and decisions over what life shall flourish and which shall go extinct. Small stockholders needn't fear they'll lose their individual freedoms, everything is quite under control. The apostles of deregulation preach the gospel of free enterprise and call any regulatory interference infringements to private property rights. Voters should look at who's talking before embracing the interests of the ownership. Be sure to read your Voter's Pamphlet.

Gary Durheim

To the Editor,

Over the years the Upper Left Edge has been a strong advocate of preserving portions of the undeveloped properties in and around Cannon Beach. The Wessingers and Minots through their generous donations have preserved forever several of the most beautiful properties in Oregon. Our Mayor has been a vocal supporter of open space/green belts and has succeeded in getting \$30,000 in the city budget for that purpose. And just this month, Phyllis Knutson's efforts to preserve Inspiration Point received overwhelming support at her presentation to the city council.

It is time to consolidate and formalize our efforts by forming a local Land Trust dedicated to preserving the remaining unique undeveloped properties and timberlands surrounding our city.

Other local land trusts report success far greater than their initial expectations. For instance, Vashon Island Land Trust recently purchased a piece of property for approximately \$1,000,000 with King County funding 40% through a grant, fundraising and donations funding 40% and the seller funding the balance. The city of Ketchum, Idaho (Sun Valley) budgets \$700,000 of their annual budget for parks and open space (Ketchum has a year round population 3 times that of ours and the budget is \$1,000,000 less). Crested Butte, Colorado is preserving the big ranch properties by adding a voluntary 1% gratuity to restaurant bills along with city funds.

The \$30,000 the City of Cannon Beach has earmarked for open space is a great step in the right direction. Possibly, with a sharp pencil and strong expression of interest we could increase that allocation to something along the lines of Ketchum's without any increase in taxes. And what better parcel to start with than Inspiration Point.

Ken Quarles

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### Willapa Bay Before Dawn

There is a bay where dawn's announced by crows,  
Where doves sound, patient and mournful in the trees,  
Where gulls flock safely from a coming storm  
And terns patrol the sand daily for fleas.  
Grey silent herons stalk the tideland weeds,  
Electric blue kingfishers flash and dive  
For stickleback.  
I can close my eyes right now,  
Feel on bare toes the chilly, salty sand,  
Turn up my collar in the steady wind  
And walk the whole broad curve of bayshore beach,  
And see the subtle coming of color to the sky,  
Changing, as dawn approaches: purple and grey  
Warming to lavender, unlikely green,  
Peach-tinted clouds turning yellow and gold,  
And then the brilliant reds that herald day.  
It is like God inventing color,  
All tentative and fluid in the sky  
Until at last he settles for the blue.  
The silver sliver of moon that glowed in predawn  
Fades now, in my mind's eye, with the coming sun,  
And every color fades away in fog  
As the hot, inland summer air arrives  
Swept with the great Columbia to the sea --  
I shiver in these fogs of memory.

Elizabeth Bolton\*

\* Elizabeth Bolton was the *nome de plume* of Barbara Greiner-deLackner who passed into the fog of our memories September 15th, at 68, a victim of cancer. She earned a BA in creative writing from Pomona, and a Masters in theater arts from Portland State. She and her family ran Sherwood Forest Summer Camp on the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington from the late fifties until the early eighties. Michael, David and Susan, her children, and former husband Alan still own the land on Willapa Bay. This editor spent more than a year there in the early seventies, as a counselor and caretaker. 'Barbie', as she was called, later was to serve on the board of directors of the Oregon State Poetry Association and as President of the Oregon Writers Colony. The above poem was printed with the permission of her family.  
She was a fine human being and we cherish her memory.



### Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition Coast Conference

All lovers of the Oregon Coast are invited to this year's edition of the annual Coast Conference. The conference, sponsored by the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, takes place Oct. 17-18 in Newport.

The conference is a chance to gather a wide range of information about the natural history of our coastal region, along with some background on issues affecting the coast. This year's theme is "The Shore, the Beach, the Cliffs, the Forests and...the Invaders!" Among the topics to be covered are invasive species of the coast, marine debris and the natural history of the driftline, the ecology of rocky intertidal areas, and efforts to protect endangered species.

The conference kicks off Saturday, Oct. 17, at 9:30 a.m. in the Newport Performing Arts Center. No advance registration is necessary. Cost is \$9 for members of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, and \$13 for non-members; the cost includes lunch.

The conference's second day, Sunday, Oct. 18, is devoted to the CoastWatch program, through which volunteers adopt a mile of the shoreline. Those who are not currently involved in CoastWatch are welcome to attend to learn more about the program. This day's events take place at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, call (541) 765-2212, or (503) 238-4450. Or contact OSCC by e-mail at orshores@teleport.com

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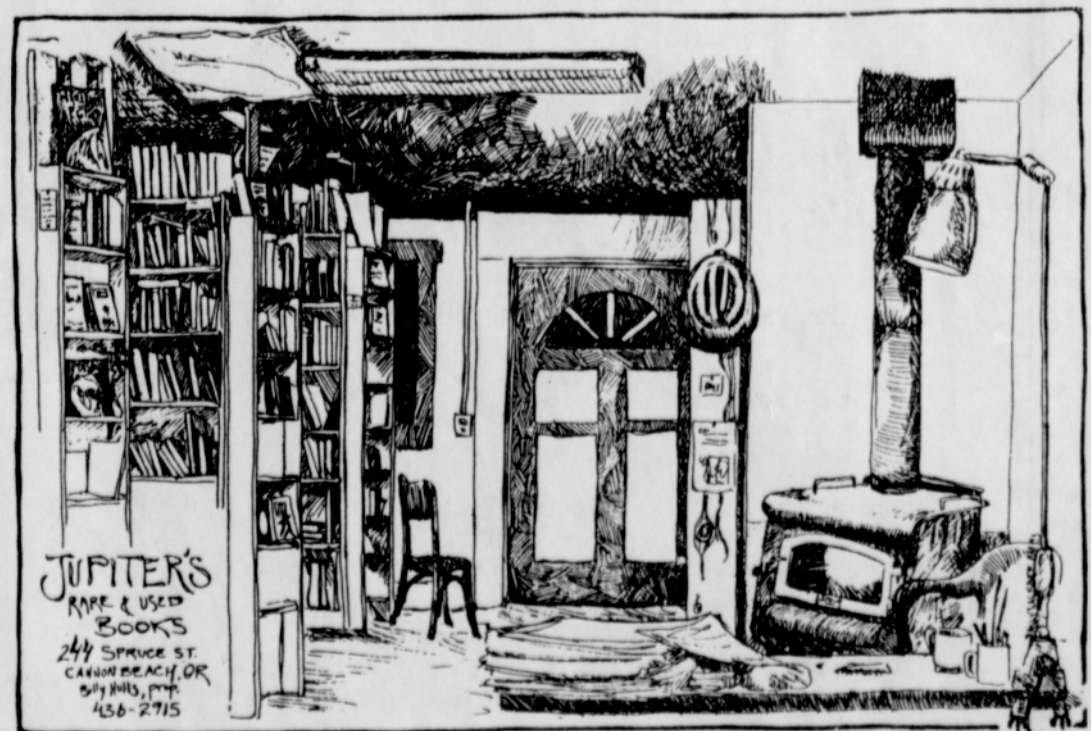
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"If you start looking ahead you start falling behind."  
Jim "Catfish" Hunter

UPPER LEFT EDGE OCTOBER 1998

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