

Rev.
Hults

Editorial Now & Then



High summer is upon us here in the village. Our visitors fill the sidewalks, the roads, the shops, the beach and the parking places. It happens every summer. It seems to have started with a visitor named William Clark, and some of his companions, including a young girl known as the Bird Woman, almost a hundred years ago. To find out a little about what that was like, read Doug's column this month.

Impact: The act of impinging; the striking of one body against another, collision; To press closely into or in something. Is how my old Oxford Dictionary defines the word that Tevis Dooley recently suggested was an unfortunate name for the City-owned piece of property on Spruce Street where the school district wants to relocate the Cannon Beach Grade School. The IMPACT site (yes, it is all capital letters) was originally named that for reasons other than the above definition, which does seem apt by some who do not favor the site for a school. There has been some spirited arguing going on not just between the City and the School District, but among the locals. Collisions of opinions about whether to press a school into the space have not quite reached the striking of bodies together, but phrases like "What is more important: the life of a tree or the life of a child?" have been bantered about. Mothers fear for the safety of their children when they are in school on the other side of Highway 101. Neighbors are concerned about the impact on the neighborhood of increased traffic the school would create. People are concerned that there is very little public green space left in Cannon Beach. Perhaps it would help bring the discussion to a different level if more people knew why the site has its 'unfortunate name'. I recall asking why it was called that several years ago. After reading Mr. Dooley's letter in the Cannon Beach Gazette I looked for the piece of paper someone had written the name on with the definition; of course I couldn't find it, but I called around, and finally was rewarded with the story. When the city originally bought the site a bunch of citizens had several ideas for how it could contribute to the betterment of our village. A community garden was started, plans were made for an art center, but the hope was that it would be a place for the whole village to have access to. Thus the name was the expression of that hope; Imagination, Method, Persistence, Acting Creatively Together. Not a bad idea. In the interest of rational dialogue perhaps it would be a good idea to have an informal poll. If you have a 436 telephone number, drop us a note, give us a call or an e-mail here at the Upper Left Edge, vote yes or no on the IMPACT site, and give your reasons if you wish. We may even publish some of the more gentle, well thought out ones.

Okay, now on to more local problems, and we do have a few to discuss. Several years ago when we first started the paper we were getting a lot of complaints about the police harassing locals for no license plate lights, and other pretty silly stuff. We printed a bunch of letters and Chief Rouse asked your beloved editor "What's your problem?" I explained I didn't have a license plate or a car to put it on, so I had no problem, but that it seemed he had a problem with community relations. To his credit he acted quickly and sent a bunch of officers to Community Policing Classes, and for several years relations between the police and the locals vastly improved. We seem to be having problems again, (see letter to the editor) we are hearing stories of arrogance and over zealousness on the part of our police force. Time for some refresher courses, Chief?

Another recent incident is a little more confusing. It might be a matter of jurisdictions, or confusion about regulations, or citizens' responsibility, but it is a life and death problem that needs to be addressed. It is difficult to figure out who did what when, with he said, she said, witnesses and memories, but this is the story. Steve McLeod is a dear friend and a gifted artist who gained national fame a few years ago, not for his art, but for his beachcombing. When a container ship full of Big Brand Name shoes broke up on its way from the sweat shops in Asia, the expensive shoes began to wash up on beaches up and down the left coast. Steve started finding them by the dozens and organized an informal network to trade shoes to make pairs. This led to a great deal of knowledge being added to what we know about ocean currents and tides in the Northern Pacific. It also turned Steve into a much more serious beachcomber. It was in that capacity that he happened upon a bucket just north of Arch Cape a while back. Reading the label he discovered that this was a bucket of some seriously dangerous stuff. Don't breath it, don't touch it, dangerous. Historically folks finding this sort of stuff on the beach, and it is regrettably not that uncommon, called the local police, the life guards, the fire department, someone who might know the proper way to dispose of toxic substances loose in the environment. So Steve called the police, and told them where to find the stuff. Well, the next week it was still there, so he says he called them back, and they said they couldn't find it. He gave them directions again, he says, and the next week it was still there. Frustrated, he called the Edge, and we called to ask about it. The woman we talked to denied having received any calls from Steve, and explained that it was a State jurisdiction, so we called the State Patrol and told them the story. They promised to get on it and to call back and let us know what happened. This was on a Thursday and when we got back from a trip to Portland on Sunday the message machine at the Edge office was chock full of messages, they were all from Steve, each message sounding more frustrated than the last, with the final

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To the Editor,

I am writing about my recent encounter with the Cannon Beach Police. I am a lifelong resident of the area, dependent on the tourist trade for my livelihood, and very much a part of this community. I have never been arrested, have no criminal tendencies, and have been told I am fairly presentable. On Sandcastle Day, June 5th, after spending the day on the beach volunteering for the CB Children's Center, I was driving home with my sister, my daughter and niece. I drove down a street with a "Closed" sign on it, to get to my home right around the corner. I assumed the street was closed to thru traffic, and closed to parking to other than residents. I found out otherwise, and that I was wrong in attempting to go down my own road, but my concern is how I was treated by the police. Chief Rouse made me pull into the police station, and had Officer White come and get my license, registration, and insurance, after which Officer White walked away. After some time, our girls started to get a little fussy, so I got out of the car to see what was happening. Officer White very rudely demanded, "Get back in the car! I'll deal with you when I'm ready!" Shocked at being treated as if I'm a stranger to them, and dismayed at being handled as if I'm a dangerous criminal instead of a local trying to get home, I obeyed. I understand their job is to uphold the law, but it can be achieved without rudeness and blatant disrespect. I know most of the police officers in this town, and am always courteous and respectful toward them. There is no reason I should not be accorded the same treatment.

As a person in the retail business, who depends on tourists for my livelihood, I am very concerned about the police in this town turning people away from here. Cannon Beach has been known to have, to put it politely, an extremely severe police department. This was the smallest turnout I have seen in years on Sandcastle Day. However, we had police officers on ever corner, all over the beach, and many roads closed, not only to parking, but closed to residents simply trying to get home. The police department has made this town very unwelcoming and uncomfortable to everyone.

I'd like to see this addressed in City Council Meetings. How many police officers do we employ in this town? Why is it a given that they are rude to locals, even when treated courteously themselves? Who actually pays their salaries, if not those same locals. Who decides how many officers are needed in a town this size, and what recourse do we, as police-officer-paying citizens, have when those officers make life miserable and unwelcoming to citizens and guests alike, rather than "protecting" and "serving"?

Signed,
Egrane A. Brown

(So, the police are in the service industry too? Wow, do they get tips? Oh, right, sorry, obviously. Actually the Police budget this last year had way too many sixes, not to mention zeros, in it for comfort. You don't always get what you pay for but, you obviously paid for what you got.)
Read on. ed.

To the Editor:

We have just received our statement of dues owed to the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce for the coming year. After much discussion we have decided not to renew our 15 year membership and speak out as to why. The Chamber has been through many changes in the past few years, and we disagree with the current management philosophy that seems to say "More people = more money".

We would like to go on record saying that we believe there is a limit to tourism in Cannon Beach. If people think that we need to attract more visitors on the off season, then perhaps they should move somewhere where there is more winter business. Part of the beauty of living here, is the slow time of year. We love having the quiet time to enjoy our friends, our town and its surroundings. As long as there are many beautiful ski resorts a short distance from Portland and Seattle we feel that the beach will never be a winter destination for most people.

One of the elements in our decision was when we decided to do a small experiment to see how our Chamber dollars were working for us. We placed several phone calls, until we were able to get a real person and not a tape recorded message. When we asked the volunteer where we could get our kite repaired, we were cheerfully sent to our competitor... who has never been a Chamber member to our knowledge. Investing in a good business telephone system as well as training volunteers would seem to be more in order than an elaborate, expensive website.

The people who currently run our Chamber of Commerce may be well meaning folks -- we simply do not support the direction they are headed.

John and Lisa Fraser
Once Upon a Breeze Kiteshop

Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology
of the cancer cell. Edward Abbey

WHERE TO GET AN EDGE

Cannon Beach: Jupiter's Rare and Used Books, Osburn's Grocery, The Cooke Co., Coffee Cabaña, Bill's Tavern, Cannon Beach Book Co., Hane's Bakerie, The Bistro, Midtown Café, Once Upon a Breeze, Copies & Fax, Haystack Video, Mariner Market, Espresso Bean, Ecola Square & Cleanline Surf
Manzanita: Mother Nature's Juice Bar, Casandra's, Manzanita News & Espresso, & Nehalem Bay Video
Rockaway: Neptune's Used Books
Tillamook: Rainy Day Books & Tillamook Library
Bay City: Art Space
Yachats: By-the-Sea Books
Pacific City: The River House,
Oceanside: Ocean Side Espresso
Lincoln City: Trillium Natural Foods, Driftwood Library, & Lighthouse Brewpub
Newport: Oceana Natural Foods, Ocean Pulse Surf Shop, Sylvia Beach Hotel, & Canyon Way Books
Eugene: Book Mark, Café Navarra, Eugene Public Library, Friendly St. Market, Happy Trails, Keystone Café, Riva 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 Café, The Community Store, The Wet Dog Cafe, Astoria Coffee Company, Café Uniontown, & The River
Seaside: Buck's Book Barn, Universal Video, & Café Espresso
Portland: Artchoke Music, Laughing Horse Bookstore, Act III, Barnes & Noble, Belmonts Inn, Biblot Art Gallery, Bijou Café, Borders, Bridgeport Brew Pub, Capt'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 Café, Key Largo, La Patisserie, Lewis & Clark College, Locals Only, Marco's Pizzeria, Marylhurst College, Mt. Hood CC, Music Millennium, Nature's (two locations), NW Natural Gas, OHSU Medical School, Old Wives Tales, Ozone Records, Papa Haydn, PCC (four locations), PSU (two locations), Reed College, Third Eye, Multnomah Central Library, and most branches of the YWCA
Ashland: Garo's Java House, The Black Sheep, Blue Mt. Café, & Rogue River Brewery
Cave Junction: Coffee Heaven & Kerby Community Market
Grants Pass: The Book Shop
(Out of Oregon)
Vancouver, WA: The Den
Langview, WA: The Broadway Gallery
Naselle, WA: Rainy Day Artistry
Nahcotta, WA: Moby Dick Hotel
Duval, WA: Duval 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
Washington, D.C.: Hotel Tabard Inn
(Out of U.S.A.)
Paris, France: Shakespeare & Cie
Brighton, England: The Public House Bookstore

"A small paper for a small planet."

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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And A Cast Of Thousands!!

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Business Card Size Ad	\$30.
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... per month. Payment is due the 15th of the month prior to the issue in which the ad is to appear. Camera ready art is requested. We are usually on the streets by the first weekend of the month.	

HOT FLASH!!

Sally's book *Wildlife on the Edge* is now available at the Made In Oregon stores throughout the state. And we are working on printing another thousand, since we only have a few hundred of the First Edition left. We are delighted that the Made in Oregon people see a quality in our humble efforts, to put us on the shelves beside the world famous Pendleton Blankets, Smoked Salmon and the other signature products from our state. We will be mounting an advertising campaign with our limited budget, to celebrate, but we must say we are delighted with the sales and comments we have received without too much publicity, or very wide distribution. For example, *Wildlife on the Edge* is a best seller at Lucy's Books in Astoria, and Cannon Beach Book Company in Cannon Beach. Valerie Ryan, owner of Cannon Beach Books, told us, "Sally's book is the best selling hardbound in my store, and the prettiest." We have submitted *Wildlife on the Edge* to be considered for the Oregon Book awards in the Young Readers category. As most of you know, it's not really a children's book, but that was the only category we seemed to fit and young readers do seem to like it. Lolly Allsp, who is eleven, told us, "I read over a hundred books a year, and this year Sally's is my favorite." We would like to thank everyone who has helped us with donations, by buying the book, by helping distribute the book, and saying such kind things about our efforts. We will be organizing an event for late summer, and will keep you posted on how things are progressing.

Manzanita News & ESPRESSO

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