

FROM The RIVER'S EDGE

The Lodge
Chapter 4.

When Tony entered the Lodge accompanied by Nat and Phil, there were several of the members in the great hall. A couple of the women immediately rushed over to greet the new arrival. Nat performed the introductions.

"This is Tony, ladies. Tony, I'll turn you over to Sally here and she can show you around."

Tony turned to Nat, "Thank you Nat, you've been very kind and thoughtful."

Nat blushed and turned away. He had been quite taken with Tony from the moment he first saw her. He felt he knew the questions and doubts that were going through her head. He hoped Sally would not be too mysterious.

Sally was a short vivacious woman. She had arrived some time ago together with her husband, Vance. They were a professional fishing-writing team who had wandered into the valley from Vermont's Battenkill river. The pair were as opposite as the poles. Sally was an animated extrovert who talked a lot to everybody, yet never seemed a nuisance.

Vance, on the other hand, was definitely the strong silent type who said little most of the time unless it was important. Vance had a peculiar philosophy about things that intrigued Nat.

With Tony in Sally's hands, Nat felt the need to talk with somebody so he sought out Vance. Something Vance had said about substance at breakfast that morning had been going through his head all afternoon. He had noted in the walk up the Valley from the Hut to the Falls, that Phil did not seem to be seeing the same things he did. Nat would like to get Vance talking about that.

He found Vance in the library reading. "Hi Vance, can I bother you a little?"

"Sure Nat, something on your mind?"

"Vance, you stated at breakfast that substance was just a state of mind, and then you shut up and didn't say any more. I didn't think anything more about it until around noon when we passed a group of tall Black Cottonwoods up near the Falls. I remarked to Phil how pretty that grove of trees was. He answered by saying that he had always thought those Yellow Poplars were impressive. Vance, there wasn't a Yellow Poplar in sight!"

"Nat, you are slowly learning. I think I have learned rather fully. At least to my satisfaction, I understand this valley. It all has to do with your concept of substance. You have your idea of substance, but I'll bet you can't define it simply."

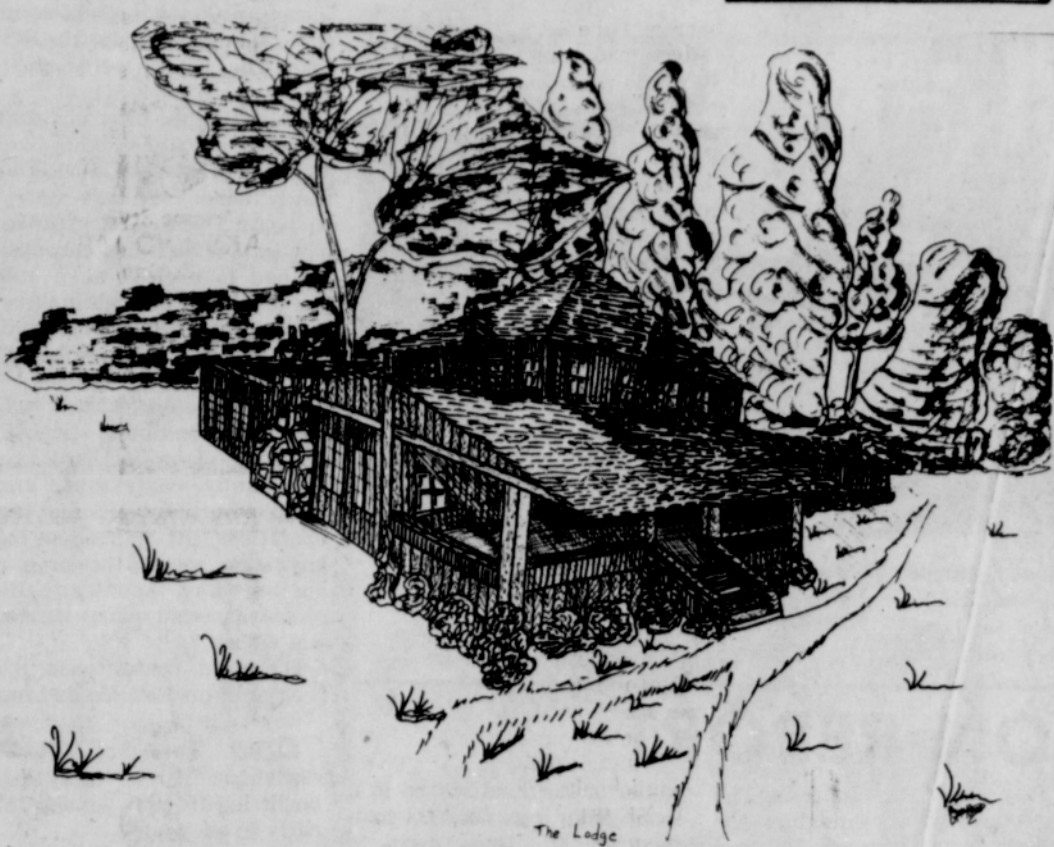
"If I can feel it with my hands, see it, hear it, smell it, or taste it, I say it has substance, whatever it is," said Nat.

"And I disagree," said Vance. "Science has relegated everything; substance, energy, and most importantly your brain; to electrical particles. We cannot grasp an electrical particle as substance in itself. Our thought processes are but electrical energy flows. Could it not be that substance is just what these electrical discharges of ours desire it to be. Our body is a concept we have been trained to believe in since birth. The aging process is a process we have been taught. You will realize Nat, that that will change here. Your body will age no more, but you will not change it into a younger one. You are too comfortable in it. You will not change your concept of the Lodge either as it is already a comfort to you. But what you see in the Valley as a whole is what you want to see. It doesn't look the same to any two of us. Certain places in it seem the same when we are there together. These are the things that we have known of in the past so that the forming of the substance in thought is easy. But two of us can be together and see different things in the same place. And a year from now, you will not see the same things in the same places that you saw today."

"Let me see if I understand you," said Nat. "Do you mean there is really no such thing as substance? That we are but bundles of electrical energy with no form, and that all we seem to see, feel or otherwise sense is nothing but patterns in this energy?"

"That is precisely what I mean, Nat. We, ourselves, will not be changeable in each others eyes because the energy

By
George MacAlevy



The Lodge

of our being is so strong it supercedes any patterns newly formed in others. Your pattern of yourself, Nat, is your strongest pattern." Vance paused, thinking, "I wonder if I am helping or confusing Nat."

Vance returned from his thoughts. "This is all my theory, Nat. I can't prove it, nor do I have any great desire to prove it. It explains this valley to me in part, and the people in it, in part. I have told all this to you with the idea it might help you to adopt my theory, or to lead you to a theory of your own."

"I appreciate your telling me all this, Vance. It does sort of explain a few things."

Both men sat silently for a time, before Nat spoke again. "By the way, Vance, we picked up a new member today. A very attractive lady. At least she

seemed very attractive to me. Her name is Tony. I turned her over to Sally just before I came in here looking for you. I had an ulterior motive."

"Do you mean you weren't really interested in what I had to say about substance?"

Nat was flustered. "Oh no, I don't mean that. I was really concerned about that too. It is just that this seemed to be an opportune time to get your aid in another direction also. I'd like to get to know this Tony better. Since it is your Sally that has her in tow, it should be easy for you to arrange a little private dinner for the four of us. It takes too long getting acquainted in a crowd."

Vance was amused. It had been a long time since he had watched love bloom from its beginnings. Nat's apparent shyness could be an obstacle if

he didn't help. "OK Nat, I'll see what I can do. I am sure Sally will be as intrigued as I am. We'll fix it up."

(To be continued
from time to time)

County IED gets audit report okay

The 1972-73 audit report for the Clackamas County IED was recently submitted to the Board of Directors, according to Verne A. Duncan, IED superintendent. Kent & Snow, the accounting firm responsible for the audit, congratulated the IED staff on "good budgeting" and improved internal controls over cash receipts and disbursements.

IED officials also announced this week that the 1973-74 IED tax rate has decreased from \$3.20 to \$2.99 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The largest portion (\$2.55) of the Clackamas County IED levy is used for the equalization fund which is distributed to the local school districts and used to reduce their tax levies. The remaining \$.44 is used for the IED operation.

The Intermediate Education District is the middle unit between the Oregon Board of Education and the school districts of the county. It carries out certain functions for the schools as required by state law, but exists primarily to provide services to the local schools. In most cases, these services result from request by the schools for programs, specialized personnel or other projects which the schools - for economic or other reasons - could not individually offer.

These include an instructional materials center where the schools may borrow films, records, tapes and have

audiovisual equipment repaired; special education programs; data processing; and consultant services in the areas of curriculum planning, school finance, career education, testing and outdoor education, to name a few. Through a tri-county cooperative purchasing program, Clackamas County schools may acquire school supplies at a substantial savings due to a competitive bidding system. The IED handles the entire purchasing procedure, from ordering to delivery.

The Clackamas County IED offices are located at 1197 7th St. in Oregon City and are open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Hottman gets training

Pvt. Rick L. Hottman, 19, son of Bobby L. Hottman, Rt. 1, Sandy, completed a power generation course at the U.S. Army Engineer School, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

The course is designed to train personnel in the operation and maintenance of hand and power tools, gasoline and diesel engines, and various electric generators. Students also receive a working knowledge of the installation, operation and maintenance of portable generating equipment.

Column Comments

By JACK PARSONS
Extension Agent

New technology is the ingredient that contributes most to increasing productivity and efficiency of our agricultural industry in Clackamas County. A day never goes by that I do not have a new idea or information crosses my desk that potentially may favorably affect the production of some horticultural crops.

A few years ago the idea of drip (trickle) irrigation of field grown crops began to receive attention. Drip irrigation had been used in greenhouse crops for many years but no one could see a practical application to field grown horticultural crops. Presently there are dozens of different types of nozzles and water transmitting lines to fit practically any horticultural crop and the idea is being applied widely in field grown horticultural crops.

Clackamas County small fruits producers recently had an opportunity to meet with Marvin Shearer, OSU Extension Irrigation Specialist and view some of the new drip irrigation equipment in use. Drip irrigation is simply another method of moving water from a source to the plant roots and requires good management of the system in order for it to be effective. It is perhaps the most efficient of our methods of applying water, but will not result in extraordinary yield increases over present methods of irrigation, assuming of course that adequate water is being applied with your present system.

Its efficiency is derived from the fact that all water which enters the system is conveyed by plastic pipes and tubes to the exact point where the plant roots use it most efficiently. Also you are usually wetting only the area where plant roots are concentrated. In crops such as tree fruits where plant spacing may be 15 to 30 feet between trees, only the areas under the trees are wet and a considerable area between the rows remains dry. Thus less water per acre may be used but not less water per tree.

Growers who have heard that drip irrigation is cheaper than sprinkler type irrigation systems may be in for a surprise. The cost naturally varies between the different types of nozzles and water conveying systems used, and is also influenced by row spacing of

crops. In an orchard crop where row spacings are perhaps 30 feet, the per acre cost might be \$150 while in a vegetable field at close row spacing the cost might exceed \$2,000 per acre.

Other factors to consider are value of crops being grown, cultural practices that may be performed by drip irrigation, amount of irrigation water available, labor availability, purity of water, topography of area, etc. So you see, drip irrigation is not as simple as it first sounded. Drip systems operate at relatively low water pressures and therefore require precise engineering for each field and crop on your farm. This will be especially true in Clackamas County because so many of the berry fields and orchards are planted on sloping or rolling land.

Research efforts are underway in Oregon to learn more about the application of water through drip systems on various horticultural crops. The branch experiment stations involved are located at Medford, Hood River and Aurora. Last year Dr. Lloyd Martin, superintendent of the North Willamette Experiment Station at Aurora gathered information from blackberries grown under drip irrigation. Dr. Martin also experimented with a method of determining how to schedule applications of water through this system.

Christmas tree heists increasing

With the arrival of the Christmas season, reports of stolen Christmas trees are mounting rapidly, according to the Oregon State Department of Forestry.

Reports of families straying on private land to cut trees without permission and persons heisting privately owned trees for a nice profit are becoming more numerous.

Prospective Christmas tree cutters are reminded to get permission from private landowners or state and federal land managers before harvesting trees. Would-be harvesters are reminded that it is illegal to cut trees without landowner permission and illegal to transport five or more trees without a bill of sale.

State Police and forestry officials will be patrolling highways and forest roads to inspect for violations.



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