



Bill Douglas

Berry picker ruling expected

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is expected to issue a ruling within 10 days that could determine the fate of 10- and 11-year-old berry pickers this season.

The court, convening in Seattle, heard arguments Wednesday on whether growers should be allowed to use two fungicides, captan and benlate, that the U.S. Department of Labor contends are harmful to young pickers.

The Labor Department is appealing an injunction issued last year by U.S. District Judge Jack Tanner in Tacoma, Wash., that prevents the department from enforcing sections of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the law governing the use of 10- and 11-year olds in the berry fields.

The Labor Department added the two widely-used chemicals to the prohibited list last year after a consultant's tests showed they may cause cancer and sterility in youngsters. If a grower had used the chemicals, the Labor Department wouldn't grant the necessary waiver allowing him to use the younger pickers.

The injunction was sought by the Washington and Oregon Farm bureaus.

James Furber, a Seattle attorney representing the bureaus, said he expects the court to rule quickly in the case since it's almost the season to use the fungicides.

"We have some assurance they (the court) are going to act quickly because of the time urgency. Growers, particularly down your way, start utilizing the pesticides when the bloom hits," Furber said in a telephone interview.

The appellate court last year issued a temporary stay of Tanner's decision until it could formally review the case. However, that order, which put the Labor Department regulations back into effect, came after the berry season.

"We've litigated twice and been able to get the berries picked in Washington and Oregon in 1978 and 1979," Furber said.



A court ruling is expected in 10 days that could determine the fate of 10- and 11-year-old berry pickers this season. Here, Chris Shaw of Boring picks strawberries at the Liepold farm in Boring last year.

Local artist

Cooke has keen artist's eye

by JAN ELDREDGE
Post Correspondent

Roger Cooke, who has lived in Marmot for the past 20 years, has a keen artist's eye. His oil paintings of Western history show a dynamic talent, and an intimate knowledge of the history of the Northwest.

"Usually the research involved takes longer than the actual painting," said Cooke at a recent interview in his studio, which is located about 20 feet away from the original Barlow Trail.

Cooke's latest project is to depict the history and development of the Oregon Trail, and especially the Barlow portion of that trail. Cooke's studio is lined, along with the expected oil paintings, with numerous history books about the Oregon Trail and other Western themes.

Cooke is interested in obtaining a full spectrum of knowledge about the Barlow Trail. His studies have introduced him to well-known Narcissa Whitman, the first white woman to come across the trail, who has been in



Roger Cooke

many history books because of her well kept diary.

But Cooke believes local residents may have more valuable knowledge. "I

would be really interested in talking with people who have descendants with written diaries (about the trail) and are still living in this area," Cooke said.

The entire series will ultimately contain 15-30 paintings, of which Cooke has currently completed two.

Cooke's success and respect is especially known in galleries in Arizona and New York, where he receives thousands of dollars for each oil painting. He received his formal education and art training at Portland State University and the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles.

After six years in school, Cooke returned to Mt. Hood, which has been a continuing inspiration.

"It's kind of hard to get the mountain out of somebody's blood," concluded Cooke.

Council meets

The Eagle Creek Community Action Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17 at the Eagle Creek Grade School.

by K.J. SNIPES

Editor's note: Writer K.J. Snipes recently interviewed Bill Douglas, the only son of the late Supreme Court Associate Justice William O. Douglas, who died last month. Douglas, 47, is a professional mime, currently working as an artist-in-residence for the Clackamas County Educational Services District. Story courtesy of The Citizen.

Q. I guess there are two things I'd like to talk with you about — what was your father like, and what's it like to be the child of a famous person?

DOUGLAS: It's no fun at all being the child of a public figure. The few friends I have with famous fathers or mothers agree.

Q. Why not?

DOUGLAS: Well, because life is so very different. Like we had no family intimacy at all. He was gone a lot, working long hours or making speeches, and then when he was home, there were always people over for dinner or dropping by to talk.

I can remember when I was ten or 11, maybe four or five Sunday evenings when we — my mother and father and my older sister and I — were the only people in the house.

Once a photographer from Life magazine came over for a family portrait and we all got scrubbed up and in our best clothes and sat down on the couch to have our picture taken — and I remember thinking how LUDICROUS — we have no family life, we are no family.

He was very honored and admired and recognized — as he should have been — but it was important to him, he devoted a good deal of time and energy seeking that, and what suffered was his family life.

Q. But he must have loved you very much. In his autobiography, "Go East Young Man," he wrote: "As for Bill, I love, admire, and respect him more than any man I ever knew."

DOUGLAS: Well, I think when he was writing he tended to make things sound the way he wanted them to sound.

Q. Was he a good father?

DOUGLAS: No. Not particularly. I read a description of him once that said he had a cold exterior and a warm interior. I agree with that. I think everyone who knew him would agree with that.

He was not a touching feeling person. He had a piercing look in his eye — it just took a few glances to make my sister or I straighten out whatever we were doing.

Q. But he loved you?

DOUGLAS: Oh yes. Absolutely. I think it bothered him a lot that he wasn't more successful with his family life. But no doubt about it, his children were important to him.

It always bothered him that his family never was what he wanted it to be. I think that's why he went through remarriage after remarriage after remarriage.

If I was going to make a movie of the first 19 years of my life I would have the four of us in a hot air balloon. There would be crowds of people below, you know, with their feet on the ground. And my father would be waving to all the people on the ground. And once in a while another hot air balloon would float by, with people in it, but it wasn't the same as being with the other people on the ground.

Q. Your father would be waving. What would the rest of you be doing?

DOUGLAS: Well, in the movie, my sister is trying to climb out of the balloon, trying to get down to the people below, and my father is trying to keep her in the balloon, saying "Look around and see all this." And my mother in the movie has acrophobia, fear of heights. So she's holding tight to the hands of my sister and me, because she knows if she lets go, she'll fall. And my father is ignoring my mother's fear. And I'm just lying on the bottom, just . . .

Q. Mellowing out?

DOUGLAS: (Laughter) Yeah, just mellowing out. Just waiting.

That's how I got through all that. I was patient, I just waited. Like when I was a kid, and I had to get all dressed up and go to stuff, like a ribbon cutting

Q. What's it like, having complete

strangers, millions of them, reading your father's book and knowing things like the name of your childhood pets?

DOUGLAS: (Laughing, shaking his head.) That's it. It's just such a different life than most people's.

Q. Your father writes that was the last conversation he ever had with FDR.

DOUGLAS: Yes. Well, I don't know about that.

Q. What else was he like?

DOUGLAS: Well, he had quirks. Like he had such a terrible childhood, so very poor, that he was always very concerned about having money. And he absolutely refused, was adamant, about not having his children work. He wouldn't even discuss it. He was afraid it would embarrass him. He was a Supreme Court justice and his children didn't have to work.

When my sister was in high school she was sneaking out after school and

his footsteps. But he couldn't resist naming you William O. Douglas Jr.

DOUGLAS: He couldn't resist changing my name to his. I was named after his father — just William Douglas. I thought it was neat — all the other kids had middle initials, but I was different. I liked it. And then when I was about 10, my father got a court order to change my name. And I really fought him on it.

One day he took me into his den, sat me down on his black leather chair, and there was this ornate court order in front of me. And it had seals on it, and signatures, and of course I was too young to read it all and understand it all, but I knew it was to change my name.

So he handed me a fountain pen, and I broke the cartridge over the paper.

(Laughing.) So I looked up, and he was furious. Beet red. (More laughter.) It took him about three weeks to get it

'He had quirks. Like he had such a terrible childhood, so very poor, that he was always concerned about having money.'

working as a soda jerk. And somehow Life magazine found out and took a picture and she was the "picture of the week" — you know, when the whole second-to-the-last page was the "picture of the week." Anyway, the magazine came out and my father saw it, and that was the first he knew about her working. He was furious.

So he really had a thing about money. But he didn't give me or my sister anything. He left everything to his last wife, Cathy.

Q. He writes in his book that he gave

all set up again.

Q. He writes that he was glad when you decided to become a mime.

DOUGLAS: That's a lie. He was very upset. He thought mime was frivolous, unproductive. That's not surprising, since he had no contact with the performing arts growing up, or really even in his life.

Q. Did he ever see you perform?

DOUGLAS: He saw me do some things when I was in the speaking theater. I don't think he ever saw me in mime.



Staff photos by K.J. Snipes

you and your sister and his grandchildren a tract of land in the Wallows with three cabins on it.

DOUGLAS: That's not true. It was part of the divorce settlement with my mother that he had to give it to her, and she left it to us.

Q. What was the best thing about being his son?

DOUGLAS: That I could do anything I wanted. And he was always telling me that.

Q. Did he want you to be a lawyer?

DOUGLAS: No. He actively discouraged me. He was very close friends with (Supreme Court justice) Hugo Black. And Hugo would come over at night and complain about his good-for-nothing sons. He had two sons, Hugo Jr. and another son, whose name I forget — he was a deaf mute — and

Q. Do people treat you differently when they find out who your father was?

DOUGLAS: Yes. They tend to pander. It doesn't really bother me any more — but I'm aware of it. It used to really bother me.

But I've never denied who I was. I've never tried to hide it.

Q. Why did you agree to do this interview? People must ask you about your father all the time: don't you get tired of it?

DOUGLAS: A lot of people do want to talk about him. Especially people interested in doing biographies about him. And I talk to them — until I get tired of answering questions, and then I tell them I'm done. But only after about 18, 20 hours.

I'm talking to you because I would hope to help you understand what a totally different kind of life it is to be the child of a public figure.

Q. You look like your father, don't you?

DOUGLAS: Yes, there is a very strong resemblance. And I have skinny legs — a family trait. At first I thought it couldn't be inherited — I thought his legs were skinny because of the polio he had when he was young — but my son has skinny legs too.

Q. In "Bretheran" (the best-selling book about the Supreme Court by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong) it says you helped take care of your father after his stroke.

DOUGLAS: Yes. And we got to be close. And I'll always be grateful that we had that time to get to know each other.

He was a great man. And he will be revered and honored for centuries, and that's how it should be. But what the man was like, that's something only a few people — me, and my sister, really — will ever know. And that knowledge will probably die with us.

Q. So he didn't want you to follow in

ceremony, or ship christening — and the waiting, to a young boy, seemed forever — I would daydream, escape into a fantasy world.

Q. What were the good things about being the son of a Supreme Court justice?

DOUGLAS: Well, I can remember sitting in FDR's lap. Very perceptive man. He got me talking — something almost no one could do in those days — by asking about the summer vacation I'd just gone on with my father. My father had just given me and my sister horses.

Q. Right. The horses' names were Thunder and Lightning. Your dad talks about them in his book.

DOUGLAS: That's right. Those were their names.