

Local author connects Astoria with short stories

Descendant of Northwest pioneers savors waterfront locales

PATRICK WEBB

Growing up with four brothers, it was almost inevitable that Dorothy Delia would answer to “Dede.” The nickname stuck, and six decades later Northwest author Dede Montgomery is happy to see it on the covers of her books. Her latest, “Humanity’s Grace,” is the second she’s written with an Astoria setting.

The book is styled as a series of 15 interconnected shorter works, a format described by author friend Jeff Fearnside as “a novel in stories.”

The book takes a handful of lesser characters from Montgomery’s earlier novel, “Beyond the Ripples,” and features others throughout. “There is an incident, a death, that connects a number of different characters – many who will never know each other” she explained. “I wanted them to be linked so that they read as a novel.”

Montgomery grew up in Wilsonville before moving east. Her father, journalist Richard G. Montgomery, chose the La Grande Observer over The Daily Astorian when both editor positions opened in the 1970s. “He loved Astoria, but felt he wanted to understand Eastern Oregon,” Montgomery said.

While processing her grief after his death, she highlighted the family’s deep Oregon connections, spanning 7 generations, in the 2017 memoir “My Music Man.” The memoir described games at the family’s beach cabin in Ocean Park, Washington, her father’s rapport with former Gov. Tom McCall, as well as her father’s work in promoting the Oregon

See Page 13

Dede Montgomery is the author of ‘Humanity’s Grace,’ as well as two other fiction books set in Astoria.

