



## Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

### A "Fancy" Cat

"My stepdaughter, Jackie, has a gift for finding animals in need," said Diane. "But what happened in 1999 on a hot day in her Arizona backyard, was even a surprise for Jackie!"

As for any stray, she had been feeding a matted, long-furred, skittish, starving cat that had arrived at her front door. Two months later, the cat meowed at Jackie to follow her to the backyard shed, where Jackie found an instant family of five kittens! She was not sure if the young mother was showing off her pretty babies or asking for help. Either way, Jackie scooped the kittens up and welcomed the homeless family into her home.

Had the year-old cat's pet parents neglected spaying her and her resulting heat driven her to escape their home, run away with a young ne'er-do-well, only to be left homeless for the next 63 days of the kittens' gestation? Or had she, a little fur-princess, not listened to her human parents, and run away with the love of her life, who jilted her and left her to mother their offspring by herself? Either way, it was a sad tale for the young family. It was fortunate that the helpless cat had found a safe manger to deliver and care for her alley kittens.

Jackie fostered the young family and for weeks tried locating their original pet parents. When no one claimed the cat I was introduced to them and it was love at first sight, and still is. I adopted the mother and one of her kittens. Because the cat looks like the white Fancy Feast kitty I named her Miss Fancy and the kitten became Smokie.

I have always had cats, but Fancy is the sweetest-loveliest cat to the point of being angelic. We are happy to have her and Smokie as purr-mament fixtures in our home.

It was not until nine years later that I learned that Fancy was a pure bred! In 2008, I attended a convention and randomly sat beside two ladies: Mary Ellen from Oregon and her friend, Atira, from Seattle. Our conversation turned to cats. I had three by then, Atira three and Mary Ellen had four famous swimming cats. We shared our cats' cell phone photos and I was surprised to discover...we all had Silver Persians! Atira had one, Mary Ellen had four and apparently I had one too! Our cats all look alike! We almost fell out of our uncomfortable chairs! What are the odds of sitting down, at random, in a crowded convention and everyone has the same rare breed of Persian!?



courtesy photo  
**Diane cradles her "fancy" house ornament!**

Finding Fancy the way Jackie did was like discovering a rare gem in your backyard! Fancy is an aristo-cat with refined dignity. She is affectionate and like any Princess — a little demanding. She is highly intelligent and conversational. When something needs attention she finds me, and meow-talks for me to go and change the litter that isn't clean enough, or the drinking water; or she needs something else. Every day she 'expects' a clean bowl of water — day-old water is not for her liking! I used to think she was a fussy feline until I realized that all of us purr-fur fresh water.

Miss Fancy's movements and mannerisms are elegant, graceful and regal. She has a talent for finding aesthetic settings and posing with effortless beauty. She adorns our home like a signature house accessory or a piece of jewelry. I often stop what I am doing and just stare at her 'purr-fection' as she quietly sits or sleeps. Her beauty is breathtaking, and the only thing that brings my meditating mind back to reality is when she blinks or a whisker twitches.

I love when she meows to be picked up and cuddled even though she is a tad bossy. Sometimes when I'm in a rush, getting ready to go out, she pushes open the bathroom door, wanders in, and loudly meows demanding that I pick her up. When I look down at her and mimic her cat-chat, she responds with an adorable little squeak. Could she paws-ibly be trying to share make-up tips? Her large green eyes and brick red nose look like a make-up artist professionally drew black eye liner around them.

Thank you for asking me to share Miss Fancy's story with your readers. Sharing

her sweet spirit reminds me of the depth of love that I have for her! I treasure our precious years together."

### TIPS

"One of the challenges of Persian parentship," admits Diane, "is keeping them well groomed and mat-free. I discovered, just like with people, that a poor diet makes for a poor quality of hair/fur. So I've changed Fancy's food to human grade quality for a silkier coat. For trimming her hairballs, I use special scissors that are blunt and curved at the tip so as not to clip her skin. In the winter, when her fur is extra long, I trim her stomach and underarm fur to ½ inch so it won't tangle. She likes to look and feel good, just like us. She takes pride in the way her fur and skin feels. And so do I."

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### River cleanup

The Willamette Water Ouzels and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council invite the public to become a dipper and float to collect trash along the Row and Coast Fork Willamette Rivers from Row River Nature Park, to Lynx Hollow Park, a distance of around six miles. This will be on Saturday, May 30 beginning at 9 a.m. The group hopes to have fun, see some local wildlife, and maybe help to reduce the Cost Folk Willamette River's contribution to the Great Pacific Gyre. Experienced boaters with their own boat are preferred and are asked to RSVP to Doug Garletts at 541-315-1604.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Co-Gro Radio Theater

The Opal Center for Arts and Education presents Co-Gro Radio Theater on Saturday, May 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For over a year, Co-Gro radio has offered an irreverent look at small town life in Oregon, pairing music, comedy and on-stage antics.

### OSU graduates

Oregon State University will hold its 146th commencement on Saturday, June 13, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Reser Stadium. Local students graduating this June from Oregon State include:

From Cottage Grove: Erik B. Brill, Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering; Christopher W. Chambers, Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science; Dustin M. DeGeorge, Honors Bachelor of Science, Summa Cum Laude, Ecological Engineering; Jensyn C. Short, Bachelor of Science, Exercise and Sport Science; Sara M. Singer, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Magna Cum Laude, Graphic Design; Corbett D. Stewart, Bachelor of Science, Construction Engineering Management; Lisa A. Wagner, Doctor of Philosophy, Environmental Science.

From Creswell: Josie A. Hubbard, Bachelor of Science, Public Health, Bachelor of Science,

Agricultural Sciences; Chelsea P. Karcher, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Stacey L. Marple, Master of Education, Adult Education; McKenzie T. Tritt, Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude, Environmental Sciences.

### Bruyneel recognized

Brian Bruyneel of Cottage Grove was among 200 students recognized at the University of Jamestown's 109th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9 at the Jamestown Civic Center. December 2014, May 2015, and Summer 2015 graduates were recognized and participated in the ceremony. The University of Jamestown was established in 1883 and is ranked as a top tier regional school in US News and World Report and a top Midwestern school in The Princeton Review.

### Fern Hill open house

Fern Hill Nursery announces a special open house on Sunday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The nursery propagates its own plants from the land at Fern Hill Botanical Sanctuary. The nursery is located at 78703 Echo Hollow Lane, Cottage Grove.

### BOND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

South Lane County Fire & Rescue is looking for interested Fire District residents to serve on a Capital Equipment Bond Committee. Committee members will work with Fire District staff in analyzing Fire District needs, then prepare a recommendation to the Fire Board. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest that includes a brief description of their background and why they believe they should be appointed to the Bond Committee. Letters of interest must be at the district office at 233 E. Harrison in Cottage Grove no later than 5:00 pm May 29th, 2015.

### BOND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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As we look forward to an extended holiday weekend, our area merchants encourage you to celebrate responsibly – for your own safety and the safety of our entire community. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics, Memorial Day weekend ranks second only to New Years in percentage of alcohol-related traffic deaths. Whether you're driving a car or a boat, it's important to remember that alcohol impairs your judgement and slows reaction time. You can help prevent drunk driving tragedies this holiday weekend and year-round by staying sober behind the wheel and keeping friends from drinking and driving.

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