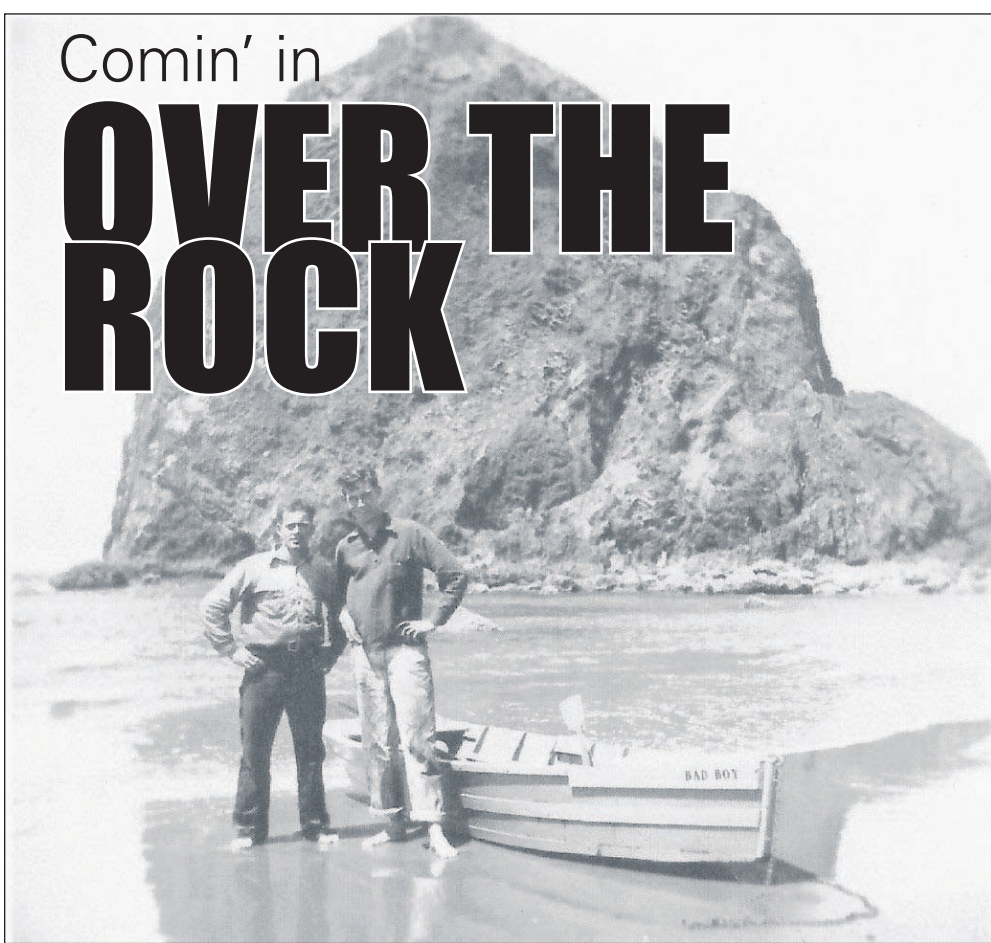


Comin' in OVER THE ROCK



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Les Ordway and a buddy stand next to Ordway's dory boat Bad Boy. Ordway, a local mechanic, used to take the 12-foot-long boat to the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, three miles offshore.

By Nancy McCarthy
For the Cannon Beach Gazette

Peter Lindsey is a storyteller with a lifetime of stories to tell about Cannon Beach.

Whether it's about his teenage days roaming through the local woods; surfing and life-guarding on the beach; towing vehicles sinking in the sand; or interacting with the numerous characters that gathered at the gas stations, in the bars or on the sidewalks of Cannon Beach before it became a tourist destination, Lindsey has many stories to tell.

So many, in fact, that he wrote a book full of stories in 2004. Titled "Comin' in Over the Rock: A Storyteller's History of Cannon Beach," the book traces the village's history from the early days when

settlers traveled a forest road with 111 curves from Seaside, to the 1980s, when the logging community had matured into a picturesque town of shingled stores and homes where visitors arrived via a sleek highway.

But, although Lindsey taught English at Seaside High School and Clatsop Community College, his history doesn't read like a textbook. It is filled with anecdotes, and in a few months, a second edition will be filled with even more.

Lindsey will read some of those stories during a fundraiser at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce's community hall. Food, beer and wine will be served.

The fundraiser is being or-

ganized by a group of Lindsey's friends who believe it's time to offer the book to another generation interested in the village's early days. Donations will go to the estimated \$4,000 cost to publish the book through Portland State University.

"I have this notion about characters," Lindsey writes in his book. "When this country was young, the spaces were vast. The northern Oregon coast had scant population and limitless nature. Large spaces require powerful spirit and character."

"The shriveled pissant existence suburban dwellers accepted today would have dumbfounded the people I knew as a boy. Their personalities colored the community canvas with broad brush strokes and a steady hand."

"A person might well be a rascal, but he had...better be a bull-goose rascal, a rascal of proportion and spirit, a rascal among rascals casting a wide shadow."

Fundraiser planned for publishing second edition of local storybook

Lindsey's family moved to Cannon Beach when Lindsey was a teenager in 1954, but his parents were summer visitors long before Lindsey was born and through Lindsey's early childhood.

"We were a jog away from Seaside, which was a resort community," Lindsey said in an interview. "My family came here in the summers because that's what people did."

"It didn't swell up a great deal in the summer. There were about 20 families, 30 families. The same families would appear summer after summer. And there were crowds on the beach on major holidays, driving on the beach."

Lindsey's father said his father was a City Councilor when the village became an incorporated city in 1957.

In those days, Cannon Beach had two drug stores, a bowling alley and, apparently, several gas stations, where all the characters hung out.

The drug stores and bowling alley are gone now, and there's only one gas station in town. The characters — "Old Peach," who cohabitated with recent widows; "Beargrease," an ex-convict who attempted to elope with the Baptist preacher's daughter; Dog Lady, a spinster who took in stray animals and crumpled birds; and "Honey Pot," who would get drunk every night at Bill's Tavern and "lose" his car — parked only 50 feet from the tavern door — also are long gone.

"A good number of the stories, or anecdotes, are stories that were either told to me, I overheard or I experienced directly," said Lindsey, who insists they all are true. "You don't have to fabricate interesting stories, believe me. We have plenty of them."

Because his "history" is based on his and others' memories, however, Lindsey admits it may not always be factually correct. The new edition, however, will be somewhat more historically

accurate, thanks to the efforts of Rainmar Bartl, the city's former planning director, who tends to pay more attention to details.

Bartl is among Lindsey's friends who are shepherding the book — which will have more stories, photos and a map — toward a second publication.

Lindsey captured the atmosphere of the town as it matured from a working class town to a tourist destination, Bartl said.

"To me, it's a true history of Cannon Beach of a time that Peter captured so well," he added.

The fundraiser Nov. 10 will offer gifts to donors, including a signed copy of the new book and an acknowledgment in the book for those contributing \$100 and readers' copies of the book for contributors of \$25 to \$50, Bartl said. The Cannon Beach Book Company is offering \$15 dollar gift certificates to the first 10 donors of \$50.

The winner of the auction at the fundraiser will be treated to a dinner for six prepared by Hank Johnson at the Wave Crest Inn. Bids will begin at \$300.

Music will be provided by the local group, Floating Glass Balls.

Those who cannot attend the event but want to contribute can make out a check to Lindsey and drop it off at the Cannon Beach Book Co., 130 N. Hemlock St.

"I loved it. It was a won-

derful place for a young person," said Lindsey who moved to Cannon Beach from Millbrae, Calif., where housing developments had sprung up to serve returning Korean War vets.

In Cannon Beach, the woods and the ocean lured young explorers, who came up with all sorts of adventures in an era that was less threatening to children and their parents.

In his book, Lindsey has a photo of himself and best friend, Gerald Sroufe, on their bikes, with sleeping bags strapped to them. They're about to ride to Arch Cape and camp overnight, with supper coming from cans of Dinty Moore stew. Lindsey estimated they were 12 years old at the time.

"My family would let us roam free. We would head to the woods and go fishing or camping, shoot things with our guns or walk around the beach or fish off the rocks," Lindsey said. "We would come home at dark. No one worried whether we had run afoul of something. It was a delightful feeling."

"There was an awful lot of freedom. It was pretty nice to have."

J. Harley and Margaret Sroufe stand in front of Sroufe's Market in 1953. Peter Lindsey's first job was as a stock boy at the store, which is now the site of Osburn's Ice Creamery.

REX AMOS/FOR CANNON BEACH GAZETTE



Dazzle & Delight

18TH ANNUAL

PROVIDENCE FESTIVAL OF TREES

Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation invites you to be

dazzled and delighted this holiday season!

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
FEATURING SANTA CLAUS

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Free admission

- * Beautiful Christmas trees
- * Kids' crafts * Cookie decorating

GALA DINNER AND AUCTION

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$100 per guest;

\$1,000 for table of 10

Entertainment by Acústica World Music

SEASIDE CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
415 FIRST AVE., SEASIDE, OR 97138

For reservations or more information, please call 503-717-7601 or visit www.ProvidenceFestivalOfTrees.org/Seaside.



Proceeds benefit
programs and services
supported by

PROVIDENCE
Seaside
Hospital Foundation