

Peter Lindsey takes us on stroll through city's history

IMPRESSIONS



By
NANCY
McCARTHY

In those days, 'characters' numbered in the dozens.

I've been wandering lately into the history of Cannon Beach. And what I've learned is how much our landscape has shaped our history. My dip into the local past began several months ago when Rainmar Bartl, retired city planner for Cannon Beach, told me that he and several friends were working on getting Peter Lindsey's book, "Comin' in Over the Rock," published with new stories and photos.

When the time came to publicize a Tuesday, Nov. 10, fundraiser to collect donations for the book's "reboot," Bartl asked me to write the story (see the Nov. 5 Coast Weekend or the Nov. 6 Cannon Beach Gazette).

Lindsey, who is known as "Professor" Lindsey because he used to teach English at Clatsop Community College, is one of just a handful of Cannon Beach residents remaining who remember the village of the 1950s, when it really was just a little village of 200 people or fewer.

But as a boy whose family summered there in the 1940s and moved there permanently in 1954, Lindsey knew practically everyone who lived in or regularly visited town. He knew all the stories — either those he experienced firsthand or those that were told to him.

In 2004, he wrote down those stories and put them into a book. He got the title from a quote by former gas station owner George Malstead, aka "Happy Tooth."

"She's comin' in over the rock today!" Malstead

Wearing a headlamp to help him read in the dimness, Peter Lindsey recites his own work and others' work during the Beachnik Cafe last year. He was the first of many readers that evening.

told the boys, including Lindsey, in 1957, as wind-swept rain dashed against Haystack Rock and beat on windows throughout town.

Lindsey's stories recount the days when there were several gas stations — now reduced to one — and when youngsters roamed freely without a lot of supervision, although, undoubtedly the small village did, collectively, raise its children.

In those days, cars drove regularly on the beach, and local tow-truck drivers competed to extract them from clutching sand during high tide. "Characters" numbered in the dozens, including several "pops" — men with genial dispositions, long-standing relationships in the community, patience with youngsters and idiosyncratic skills or trades; men



EO MEDIA GROUP/FILE PHOTO

and women nicknamed "Preach," "Beargrease" and "Dog Lady; artists who immigrated to Cannon Beach in the 1960s and '70s; dory boat operators who took off in 12-foot-long boats near Haystack Rock; and assorted loggers, tall-tale tellers and rascals.

The "rascals" who moved to Cannon Beach were drawn by the landscape," Lindsey contends.

"When this country was young, the spaces were vast," he writes. "The northern Oregon coast had scant population and limitless nature. Large spaces require powerful spirit and character."

A place of history

In another encounter with Cannon Beach's history, I visited recently with Diane Collier and Dick Basch, chairwoman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes. We met, appropriately, at NeCus' Park, the site of a village where Clatsop and Nehalem tribes lived along the banks of what is now Ecola Creek. Eventually, the tribes hope to create a cultural center at NeCus'.

Basch and Collier told me how excited they were that U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., had introduced House Resolution 3736 that would, if Congress approves it, give federal recognition to the Clatsop-Nehalem tribes and the opportunity for funding to improve members' health and education.

The tribes lost federal recognition in 1954 (coincidentally the same year that Peter Lindsey's family moved to Cannon Beach) when Congress passed the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act. At that time, more than 100 tribes throughout the United States lost federal recognition.

During our conversation, Collier talked about



A proposed design of a Clatsop-Nehalem interpretive center shows the elements planned for the former Cannon Beach Elementary School property. Ecola Creek is to the north, and Beaver Street is to the south.

her great aunt who was born in NeCus' village. Basch reminisced about Joe Scovell, who was the tribe's hereditary chief until his death in 2014. They described Hobsonville, a community on Tillamook Bay just south of Garibaldi, which became home to some Nehalem, Clatsop and Tillamook tribal members but which also was the target of horrific local Ku Klux Klan raids.

As we sat at the picnic table in NeCus' (once the playground of the former Cannon Beach Elementary School) and discussed the area's earliest history, I could almost visualize

the longhouses on either side of the creek where generations of Collier's and Basch's relatives once lived, fished and hunted. I recalled a photo I once saw of Basch as a youngster, dressed in native garb, participating in the 1955 sesquicentennial celebration of Lewis and Clark's arrival on this very site.

While they talked nostalgically about the past, however, Collier and Basch dared to dream that the federal government would, at last, honor the tribe's history, a history that reaches back in this area several centuries and also includes inhabitants embodying the powerful

spirit and character that Lindsey writes about.

Federal recognition, Basch said, would allow the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes to move forward. It would give the tribes' 182 members, spread throughout the region, a reason to come home to the North Coast.

"It means it would allow us to carry on our culture," he added, "to carry on to the future."

Nancy McCarthy is the retired editor of the Cannon Beach Gazette and Seaside Signal and the former South County reporter for The Daily Astorian. She lives in Cannon Beach.

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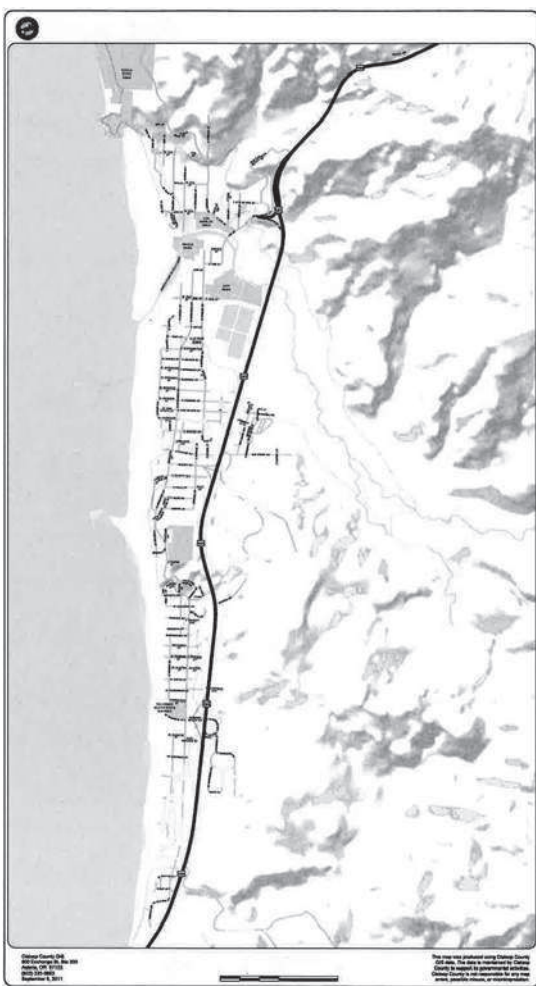
MEETINGS DECEMBER 2015

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|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | City Council Regular Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | City Council Work Session | 5:30 p.m. |
| 17 | Design Review Board | 6:00 p.m. |
| 21 | Planning Commission | 6:00 p.m. |

CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION November 3, 2015

Council met in executive session pursuant to

- ORS 192.660 (2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment related performance of the chief executive of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing;
- ORS 192.660 (2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions;
- ORS 192.660 (2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.



purpose of amending Municipal Code Chapter 13.08 Sewer System, Article I Standards and Regulations, Section 040, Building Sewers and Connections;

- Tabled an ordinance which would have amended the Oceanfront Management (OM) Overlay Zone to prohibit foredune grading until an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan was adopted;
- Adopted Resolution 15-11, for the purpose of requesting carbon pricing by the State of Oregon;
- Adopted Resolution 15-12, for the purpose of applying for a Connect Oregon VI grant. This will assist with the cost of a study to build a pedestrian bridge across Ecola Creek for use in evacuating to higher ground after a seismic event;
- Revoked a transient rental permit;
- Took public input regarding marijuana retail businesses within city limits and discussed options. Agreed to get more information before making any decision; and
- Adopted the City Manager annual evaluation.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING, November 3, 2015

- Adopted Ordinance 15-03 for the

CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION November 10, 2015

Council met in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2) (e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING & WORK SESSION, November 10, 2015

- Reviewed and modified a contract between the city and the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce regarding the use of the increase in the transient room tax to promote tourism. The new contract will be considered at the next City Council general meeting, Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 pm.
- Cannon Beach Farmers Market (CBFM) General Manager, Philomena Lloyd, presented the CBFM annual report;
- Haystack Rock Awareness (HRAP) Coordinator, Melissa Keyser, presented the HRAP annual report;
- Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department (CBFRD) Captain, Matt Gardner gave a presentation on the 2015 wildfire season;
- Finance Director, Laurie Sawrey, presented the first quarter FY 2015-16 finance report;
- City Planner, Mark Barnes, gave an update on the FEMA mapping; and
- City Manager, Brant Kucera presented an update of the upcoming strategic plan.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD - Scheduled to meet November 19, 2015 at 6:00pm.

PLANNING COMMISSION - At their October 22, 2015 meeting the Planning Commission discussed:

ZO-01, City of Cannon Beach Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment Restricting Fore-dune Grading Until the Comprehensive Plan's Sand Management Plan is Amended.

Made Recommendation to Council.

Note: Scheduled to meet Monday, November 23, 2015 at 6:00pm.

NOW HIRING

The City of Cannon Beach is seeking qualified applicants for the full time position of Receptionist/Court Clerk. This is a regular, full time position working Monday - Friday. Salary range is \$16.00 - \$19.93/hr. Must have high school diploma/GED; experience with office procedures, equipment and computer software. Candidate must possess strong customer services skills and be able to become a Notary Public and LEDS certified.

Download the job description and application form from our website: www.ci.cannon-beach.or.us/jobs.html. Send application, cover letter and resume to Colleen Riggs riggs@ci.cannon-beach.or.us or PO Box 368, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.

Deadline: Received at City Hall by 5:00PM November 25, 2015. Cannon Beach is an EEO.

**City Hall will be closed
Thursday November 26
&
Friday November 27
in observance of the
Thanksgiving Holiday**

The recycle center will also be closed these days.