

For Cannon Beach's John Fraser, art was life itself

His pranks were legend throughout Cannon Beach

John Fraser called himself a Dada artist. But for John, his art was life itself.

He rebelled against rules and created minor moments of chaos in his community of Cannon Beach. In effect, he colored outside the lines.

John died at home Feb. 25, following a battle with cancer that ranged over 15 years. He was 73.

A community gathering in his honor is planned from 4 to 6 p.m. April 20 in the Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock St.

John moved to Cannon Beach in 1975, after living in Spain and London. He was already well known as a tavern musician in Portland. Calling himself the "Juan Man Band," John played several instruments at once — an organ keyboard with one foot, a high-hat drum with his other foot and, with his hands, a guitar, along with a box containing flutes and recorders.

"He was a hot act," said John's wife, Lisa. "He was one guy, and he could sound like an entire band."

"When I was 18, I sneaked into a bar to hear this amazing musician. He could do the solo from 'Peter and the Wolf' and go right into a blues song where everyone would hit the dance floor."

"He played 28 different instruments, and he played them well," she added.

He often took his act to the streets of Cannon Beach, where, as a mime, he entertained children and their par-

IMPRESSIONS NANCY MCCARTHY



ents by playing his music and twisting balloons into animals for them.

He worked at Osburn's Grocery and also lived above the store. Like many Cannon Beach artists in the 1970s, John also held other odd jobs: a fry cook at a local restaurant, bartender at the Rathskeller and at Bill's Tavern. He also was a "beach flyer" for D.K. Smith, owner of the Once Upon a Breeze kite shop. It was his job to fly kites on the beach to entice customers.

"John liked to say he worked his way up to owner," Lisa said. John bought the shop in 1982.

But John was known in Cannon Beach as much more than a local business operator. He was on the City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Board and community policing team. He helped to organize the Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center; the original center was housed in the same building as the kite shop on Spruce Street.

John loved living in Cannon Beach, Lisa said. "He took it so, so seriously. He tried to maintain the community so people could enjoy it, whether they were living here or visiting here."

While he took his civic involvement seriously, John also earnestly followed his whimsy.

Known for years as the upmost April Fools' Day prankster, John once bought many keys, had them engraved with words that said,

"Back door, US Bank," then distributed them all over town. He wanted to see how many finders would return the keys to the bank and how many would keep them.

"And the bank didn't even have a back door," Lisa said.

The bank also came into the spotlight when John put up fliers around town announcing that the bank had a "special" event. For every dollar bill with four or more "ones" in its serial number, the bank would replace it with a \$100 bill.

"The bank manager at the Astoria branch called John and asked him to take down the fliers," Lisa recalled. "John refused."

A crosswalk on Hemlock just south of Bruce's Candy Kitchen also became the focus of another prank when the police put a pedestal in the street warning drivers to watch for pedestrians. On the pedestal's flat top, John would place objects, then sit back and see what people would do with them. One object included a landline telephone.

"My favorite was when a cop came into the (kite) shop with a giant box fan and asked, 'Is John here?,'" Lisa said. "What better place than a crosswalk in town to study people?"

And then there was the time John nailed cooked turkey bacon strips to telephone poles.

"He delighted in watching people do a double-take when they saw that bacon," Lisa said.

Most of the time she was as taken off guard as anyone else at his antics.

"I was constantly surprised at every turn. I never knew what was coming next," she said.

John threw "surprise" birthday parties for himself at Bill's Tav-



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

John Fraser "smokes" a pickle in front of the "pickle store" he staged next door to the kite shop he owned. Although the store appeared to be a real operation with a sign that said, "Back in 5 minutes," it actually wasn't a store at all, and no one ever appeared to open it.

ern with special themes; designed bumper stickers during the Lewis and Clark Exposition that said "Dogs: Pets or Food? Let's ask Lewis and Clark"; placed jars of mayonnaise in a crosswalk on Cinco de Mayo; and arranged to have his dedicated credit card line at his shop (436-BOMB) become a "confessional" for people to call and record their darkest secrets.

One of his best-known creations during the late pre-Facebook 1990s was a website called Cannon Beach Weather.com, where could people check out the "weather station" (a stick that followed the sun) via a webcam in John's backyard and write about the goings-on in Cannon Beach. As the website administrator who oversaw the messages, John called himself "God."

While adults only laughed and shook their heads at John's latest project, children loved him, especially when he drove his van through town and threw out small plastic an-

imals for them to catch.

"He had a huge box of toys," Lisa said. "He was like the pied piper. It took forever for him to get home."

And when he drove, it was usually in a car decorated with figurines he had glued to the sides and hood — plastic lizards, iguanas, nuns, doll heads — and a lawn chair on the roof. On one of his cars, he glued a clip on the front and put a \$1 bill in it, with the sign, "Take Me."

In 2001, John was first diagnosed with prostate cancer, and he successfully fought it off. In 2005, however, the cancer returned. In 2013, the community held a fundraiser to help him pay for his medication.

But for several years, his illness didn't deter John from playing his harmonica with other local musicians during burger night every Monday at the American Legion.

"He continued to play music until he couldn't do it anymore," Lisa said.

Savor Cannon Beach festival offers chance to sample wines, cheese

Five hundred fifty wines to taste over three days? Count me in! The Savor Northwest Wine Awards were held in Cannon Beach recently and I was lucky enough to be one of the judges. The event is run by Cannon Beach resident, Gary Hayes, and his incredible staff of volunteers. The judging in a wine competition isn't necessarily thrilling to watch. Each judge swirls, sniffs, sips and spits, over and over and over. The three-judge panel then discusses the wine and works together to reach an agreement on each entry. Is the wine deserving of a medal, and if so, is that medal gold, silver or bronze? This discussion period is my favorite portion of the event.

As this is only the third wine competition I've judged, I'm a relative new comer. I offered my thoughts on the wine, but what I really enjoyed hearing is what the other judges

UNCORKED RAMBLINGS STEVE SINKLER



thought about the wine. This year, I had the honor to judge with Gordy Venneri, the owner of Walla Walla Vintners and April Reddout, the wine program manager at Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center in Richland, Washington. Because the three of us were coming from such diverse backgrounds, we regularly disagreed on the medal level of the wine. In those instances, I would tend to defer to my more highly experienced panel mates. Of course, I took the opportunity to submit Puffin wines into this local competition. I don't know the final outcomes of any of the wine judging as the results haven't yet been published, but I can tell

you the Puffin wines did very well in the competition. We'll come back to that in a future column.

Savor Cannon Beach is up next, taking place day through March 13. This four-day event has become one of the best attended multi-day wine festivals in Oregon. New this year is the Friday Night Wine, Art and Cheese walk. I love that this new activity includes cheese! Cheese is so hot right now and the Pacific Northwest has some incredible family owned creameries. Provisions 124 is going to showcase cheddar and gouda cheese from Jacobs Creamery, from Chehalis, Washington. Unfortunately, the cheesemaker, Lisa Jacobs, won't be attending. She's a one-woman creamery and the cows need to be attended to. We have invited Ridgefield, Washington artist Maureen O'Reilly and her husband (and photographer) Chris Biedelman

to display their work at our store. If you have visited Provisions 124 before, we have a Maureen O'Reilly watercolor painting next to our front door. It's a painting of Maryann and me walking on the beach with our two dogs, Ringo and Basia. As our sweet dog, Basia, is no longer with us the painting is a beautiful daily reminder of how much she loved playing on the beach.

Savor Cannon Beach's Saturday Wine Walk is the highlight of the event. With over 50 wineries in town showcasing their wines, there is no excuse for a wine lover not to get their fill. The weather during the last two Wine Walks has been less than optimal! Rainy and windy weather may get the tasters soggy, but it definitely doesn't dampen their spirits. I am proud to say that for the first time ever, we will be pouring a selection of Puffin wines this year in Provi-

sions 124. The Wine Shack will be hosting Sean Driggers and Pudding River Wine Cellars from Salem.

Local chef Jonathan Hoffman gets in on the action during Savor Cannon Beach weekend with his SAVORY Cannon Beach experience. On Friday night, Chef Jonathan hosts a SAVORY Wine Experience, pairing a variety of appetizers with wines from small Oregon wineries. On Saturday morning, try the SAVORY Bubble Brunch, which includes a build your own waffle bar and bottomless bubbly. On Saturday evening, Chef Jonathan offers his SAVORY Wine Dinner which includes a six-course dinner, paired with assorted wines.

With so many wine and food events coming up in Cannon Beach, locals and visitors alike are sure to find new favorites. Have fun, but remember to sample the wines in moderation.

OBITUARIES

Treva Mae Haskell

Nov. 26, 1932 — March 1, 2016

On March 1, 2016, Treva Mae Haskell of Cannon Beach passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer. Treva is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Mark Truax of Gearhart; son and daughter-in-law, David and Leslie Haskell of Astoria; granddaughters and grandsons-in-law, Kelli and Brian Taylor of Cannon Beach, Toni and Justin Bennett of Gearhart and Shelby and Justin Gagnon of Portland; grandson, Kyle Truax of Seaside; granddaughter, Bailey Haskell of Astoria; and great-grandchildren, Lilli and Aubrie Taylor and Derrick, Ellie and Braxton Bennett. Treva was preceded in death by her mother and father, Cecile and Hollis Harp, and her husband, Bruce Haskell.

Treva Mae Haskell was born Nov. 26, 1932, in Winfield, Kansas, to Cecile and Hollis Harp. She spent her childhood playing with her cousins on the family's oil lease, playing in the local pond, and learning how to sew. Treva often reflected back on growing up in the Great Depression, remembering that she never knew her family was poor because everyone else was, too. At an early age, she had a deep desire to travel, but her parents were homebodies. She would joke that she was switched at birth, and must have been born to gypsies, because she wanted to see the world so much.

She loved school and learning. She graduated from Winfield High School in 1950, and attended one year at a business school, studying secretarial duties. It was after a year of college that Treva began her adventures, when she moved to Seattle, Washington, with a girlfriend. She was employed at an insurance office, and loved exploring



Treva Mae Haskell

the big city. It was at work one day when she met the love of her life, Bruce Haskell, while having lunch in his family's restaurant in the same building as her office. Treva and Bruce married Sept. 14, 1956. They resided in West Seattle, enjoyed boat racing, and had a lot of fun together.

In 1960, Treva gave birth to their first child, Susan. Looking for a change of pace, the family of three moved to Cannon Beach. They began a new adventure in hotel ownership when they purchased the Surfview Hotel with Dorothy and Gordon McRae. During this time, Treva and Bruce welcomed their second child, David. Treva enjoyed meeting the guests who stayed at the hotel, but shortly realized that hotel ownership wasn't for them. So, Bruce and she searched for their next adventure.

At this time in Cannon Beach, Krutchkies Candy Store and The Driftwood restaurant were for sale. Bruce had worked in the restaurant business for many years and wanted to do something new, so they bought the candy store! The doors to Bruce's Candy Kitchen opened April 1, 1963. This is where Treva would

spend the next several decades creating homemade confections, thousands of sweet memories, and building a family business that would become an institution in Cannon Beach.

When not working at the family business, Treva and Bruce enjoyed bowling, going to movies, socializing with friends and visiting their favorite establishments around town, The Whaler and Driftwood, for music and good times. Treva enjoyed working hard and playing hard, too!

In 1982, Treva lost the love of her life; her husband Bruce passed away from cancer. Devastated but not deterred, she kept the family business going with the help of her children and dedicated employee, Paulette Picard. Treva worked until her retirement in the early 1990s, when she slowly stepped out of her role in the family business and passed the candy reigns to the next generation.

On April 1, 2016, Bruce's Candy Kitchen will celebrate 53 years in business, the decades of success are owed to Treva's hard work and determination. On April 1, 2013, she proudly joined her family and community at the candy store's 50th anniversary, that will go down in history as one of the best parties in Cannon Beach!

"I am not the same having seen the moon shine from the other side of the world." — Mary Ann Rodmacher. As a young child growing up in Kansas, Treva dreamed of traveling the world, seeing new places and learning new things — this dream became reality. With her children, husband and friends, she traveled to Hawaii, Disneyland, Washington and Kansas, but later in life is when her real adventures began. In 1984, she made her first voyage out of the country to China. After this trip

she was officially "bit by the travel bug" and in her lifetime visited over 15 countries on four continents. Treva had a great time ... Everywhere!

Throughout her life, Treva was involved in many philanthropic groups and activities. In her children's youth, she was a proud member of the Cannon Beach PTO Rally Girls and SHS boosters. Later in life, she held positions on the Cannon Beach Chamber Board, Cannon Beach First District Board, and supported a variety of local events.

Treva had a great passion and talent for sewing, knitting and cross-stitching. She also enjoyed reading mystery novels, attending the local theatre and being a committed, loyal friend to many Cannon Beach natives, such as Sally Steidel, with whom she'd sip coffee, grab lunch or continue to build to her passport.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you support one of these causes deep to Treva's heart: SMART reading program and/or the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. In support of SMART, please send memorial gifts to SMART, 101 S.W. Market St., Portland OR 97201, writing "In memory of Treva Haskell/Clatsop County SMART" in the memo section of check; or to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter, 1315 S.E. 19th St., Warrenton, OR 97146.

A celebration of her adventurous life was held Wednesday, March 9, with a service at Seaside Episcopal Church, 503 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside, Oregon, followed by a reception at the Driftwood Restaurant at 179 N. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, OR 97110.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Seaside is in charge of arrangements. Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to share memories and sign the guest book.

Robert Donald Neikes, M.D.

May 20, 1917 — Feb. 28, 2016



Robert was born in Portland, Oregon, to Herman and Martha Neikes.

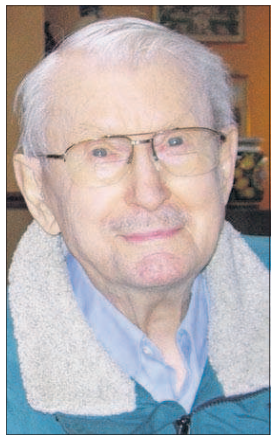
He married Elizabeth Judd in 1951, and they had five children. In 1976, he married Betty Jane Quinn.

Robert attended Reed College and Oregon State College (now OSU). In 1943, he graduated from the College of Medicine at Creighton University in Nebraska.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps on the hospital ship USAHS Charles A. Stafford. Robert moved to Astoria, Oregon, in 1948, where he practiced medicine at the Doctor's Clinic and Astoria Clinic.

As president of the Astor Library Construction Committee, he was instrumental in establishing the Astor Library, dedicated in October of 1967. His additional civic designations included serving as president of the Clatsop County Medical Society, the Civic and Community Concert Associations, and the Library Board of Trustees. He received the Astoria Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award in 1968.

He delighted in reading, classical music, opera, fly fishing, and the outdoors, especially spending time at his farm



Robert Neikes, M.D.

in Jewel. In his later years, Robert volunteered at the Clatsop County Historical Society and as a tutor in Oregon's SMART Reading Program (Start Making a Reader Today).

Robert is survived by his children, Martha (Gunther) Romanov, David Neikes, Tom (Joom) Neikes, Jim (Jackie) Neikes and Carrie Neikes; stepson, Peter (Anna) Quinn; six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. He is preceded in death by his wife, Betty Jane; stepdaughter, Chris Quinn-Brintnall; siblings, Elsa Young, Fred Neikes and Art Neikes; and dear friend Florence Jacobson.

Please join his family to celebrate "Dr. Bob's" life on Saturday, March 12, at 2 p.m. at the Barbey Maritim Center.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Astor Library, Clatsop County Historical Society, or SMART Reading program, on behalf of Robert Neikes.