

Recapturing the stories of dory boat fishermen

Cannon Beach Arts Association presents grant to storyteller

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Local storyteller and former commercial fisherman Peter Lindsey remembers when Cannon Beach had an active dory fishing fleet.

"It was a significant feature of our little coastal community," he said. "Over the years, we had some rather interesting experiences ... Sometimes we would battle with sharks that would get on the lines and chew off the fish we were catching."

Now, Lindsey is embarking on a project to collect the histories and tales about dory fishing off the Cannon Beach coast, which will culminate in a historical document.

To help facilitate his work, Lindsey received a grant from the Cannon Beach Arts Association. The \$3,000 grant, funded by the Mike Clark Foundation, was presented this month by Lila Wickham, president of the art association's board.

"The more projects we can do or facilitate in this way, we definitely want to be involved in," said Jane Brumfield, the art association's program director. "We are looking forward to reading the finished publication."

An active dory fleet operated in Cannon Beach during the late 1960s and early '70s, Lindsey said. The boats have a flat bottom and are about 20 feet long.



LYRA FONTAINE/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Local storyteller Peter Lindsey received a grant from the Cannon Beach Arts Association for his project on Cannon Beach's formerly thriving dory fishing fleet. Board president Lila Wickham presented him with a check Dec. 2.

"Like loggers, fishermen as a subculture have very interesting goings-on in their lives, the way they rig their gear or the stories they tell, the legends and the general high jinks."

Peter Lindsey
local storyteller

"Like loggers, fishermen as a subculture have very interesting goings-on in their lives, the way they rig their gear or the stories they tell, the legends and the general high jinks," he said. "I thought it would be fun to try to recapture some of those moments. This will give me a chance to do that, and I'm really excited about it."

With subgroups such as loggers, weavers or fishermen, "the techniques don't necessarily die, but sometimes they do, and along with them, the stories die,"

Lindsey said, which is why he hopes to capture the stories.

Dory boats were used in Cannon Beach for commercially harvesting salmon, as well as other fish like cod, Lindsey said. Though the earliest dory boats were often built by the fisherman himself, people began to build and manufacture them, most notably in Pacific City, which continues to have a substantial fleet today, he said.

Lindsey recalled the excitements and challenges

of dory fishing in Cannon Beach. They would launch the boats at the needles by Haystack Rock and on a good day, he said, they might catch 65 fish.

"Rather than go across a bar like you would in the Columbia in a big boat, these boats would take you off the beach and almost instantaneously you could fish, once you got past the surf line," Lindsey said. "We would go on the south side of Haystack early in the morning and a pickup truck would launch the boat into the water. You had to be careful because you didn't want too big of a wave to swamp your boat. ... It was often done with a sole fisherman. You had to have your wits about you."

A former English teacher, Lindsey's background is in folklore and mythology, and he completed graduate work at the University of Oregon.

Lindsey's family moved to Cannon Beach in 1954. In 2004, he published his anecdotal book "Comin' Over the Rock: A Storyteller's History of Cannon Beach," which was recently revised and republished.

Lindsey said he has seen the town undergo changes, but some things — like the rock, ocean and forest — have stayed the same.

"The woods, although they have been harvested, are still not housing developments or resorts," he said.

The most notable things about Cannon Beach, he added, are its shoreline, "one of the most picturesque pieces of shoreline in the world," and the people. "We have some wonderful characters."



Site plan for proposed Seaside campus.

Seaside School District develops construction timeline

School district must act quickly to avoid interest costs

By Katherine Lacaze
For EO Media Group

The passing of the \$99.7 million bond was necessary for the Seaside School District to move forward with relocating three of its schools, but a considerable amount of work lies ahead.

District staff is meeting with bond advisers and preparing a request for proposal to hire a project manager. The district also must approach City Council with an Urban Growth Boundary expansion proposal for the schools to be built at an 80-acre location in the city's East Hills adjacent to Seaside Heights Elementary. Traffic and civil engineering reports are being prepared in the process.

The district is required to expend 85 percent of the bonds within three years of when they are issued to avoid paying taxes on

the funds. If the ground-breaking does not happen prior to the spring of 2018, it may create a cramped timeline, but Superintendent Sheila Roley said at the November meeting of the district's board of directors she is confident they can pull it off.

Not all the bonds have to be issued immediately and the district can purchase various equipment and furniture and keep it in storage until the buildings are completed.

On Election Day, 65 percent of residents endorsed the plan to replace deteriorating schools at an 80-acre location in the city's East Hills adjacent to Seaside Heights Elementary School. The district will add another \$4 million from the state's Department of Education Office of Finance and Administration, which brings funding to more than \$103 million. The district was required to pass the bond to receive the state funds, which match up to \$4 million of a district's bond levy.

The district plans to create a advisory team of 15-20 members to gather data and help guide the project.

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12/26 Monday

Bill's Tavern and Brewhouse - Mexico Featured

Celebrate the Holidays with Bill's Tavern and Brewhouse presenting Pozole... Enjoy a Holiday beer pairing for the event, both will be served all day! At 188 N. Hemlock Street.

12/28 Wednesday - The Coats Concert Night

EVOO - Sicily Featured

Travel to Sicily with Bob and Lenore at EVOO and experience a 5-course, with 4-wines, and dessert Holiday extravaganza. Contact EVOO at 503-436-8555 for reservations. At 188 S. Hemlock Street.

Pelican Pub and Brewery - Italy Featured

Don't miss this new, major restaurant addition to Cannon Beach introducing a unique new Italian offering. At 1371 S. Hemlock Street.

The Bistro - Vietnamese Cuisine Featured

Try the new Vietnamese featured menu by the recently purchased Bistro Restaurant's new Chef, Jack Stevenson. Reservations at 503-436-2661. At 263 N. Hemlock Street.

12/29 Thursday

The Wayfarer Restaurant - Spain Featured

One of Cannon Beach's few Ocean View restaurants is showcasing the Cuisine of Spain. Enjoy the talents of Chef Josh Archibald and his crew producing some incredible Spanish Specialty items. Call 503-436-1108. At 1190 Pacific Drive.

Public Coast Brewing Company - Germany Featured

What better match for German food than great seasonal beers. This newly renovated restaurant and new Brewpub is ready to tickle your tastebuds with German cuisine. At 264 E. Third Street.

12/30 Friday

Seasons Café - Thailand Featured

Your world will rock with Thai Cuisine created by Chef Doug Brown, one of Cannon Beach's acclaimed catering Chefs. Call 503-436-1159. At 255 N. Hemlock Street.

Sweet Basil's - Poland Featured

John Sowa, Co-winner of Iron Chef Goes Coastal 2016 shares his Old-Country recipes with you for a traditional meal for the Holidays from Poland. Call 503-436-1539 for reservations. At 271 N. Hemlock Street.

Newman's at 988 - France Featured

Chef John Newman will roll out their French-focused Prix Fixe menu including 8 fabulous menu items sure to satisfy your special occasion cravings. Call 503-436-1151 for reservations. At 988 S. Hemlock Street.

www.cannonbeach.org/events/Main-Events/Holiday-Foods-Around-the-World-Haystack-Holidays

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