

The legendary Hug Point House

REFLECTIONS
ELAINE TRUCKE



The house that once sat atop the fall at Hug Point has become something of a legend. As someone who enjoys finding fact from fiction, I have spent the last several months researching this home. Articles from the 1960s and 1980s indicate that Hug Point caught the eye of a theater magnate in the 1800s. Who this theater magnate was, escaped my research.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s Hug Point was a popular portrait and sunbathing spot. It was also part of the Oregon Highway.

The road wasn't dynamited until sometime in the 1910s. Prior to this, the road was only accessible at low tide. In the 1930s, a family by the name of Fashers purchased the land and constructed their family home.

When I spoke with some of the Fashers last summer, they shared fond memories of visiting their grandparents there in the summer and watching their grandfather paint and sketch from a particular window with a rather stunning view of the Pacific Ocean. The home was the kind that caught the eye, not only for the breathtaking location and view, but for its remoteness, and coastal feel; constructed from cedar shake, ship lap, and other locally sourced materials, this home was truly an Oregon Coast home.

In an article for "The Oregon Story" long-time resident



The Hug Point House was an attraction for visitors and locals alike.

CANNON BEACH MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

Donald Osborne writes, "The Hug Point House has been a unique attraction for locals and passers-by with an eye for the Oregon North Coast's rugged history. Tucked in between points with the falls below, the house has become an epitome of the way things were in those days" in Oregon. People — a family — living alone nestled by the ocean, yet protected — a wood fire burning with smoke rising from the chimney. Long winter storms subdued just enough by plans, cedar shakes, and stone. And large, small-paned windows giving just enough view of the rain and wind outside." The article was dated 1980.

According to the very same article, Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department was leasing the home and property from the heirs of the Fashers. This was also indicated in another article in Coastal Tidings from the 1960s. This article indicates that the land and home were taken over by the parks department in June of 1968. The family, whom I met randomly last summer, indicated that the home and land was donated to the state at that time. They believed that the

parks department then leased out the property.

This chain-of-events appears to be true, because a letter was sent from the department to "the Cooks" tenants of the home at the time. The letter was dated June 3, 1980, and indicated that the department was terminating their month-to-month lease. The Cooks learned that Hug Point House was to be torn down by the state and they were shocked.

"For years, this home has been considered as the most lovely in the area ... it seems ridiculous to tear down a house as beautiful and aesthetically appealing as this one," the Cooks wrote to the state parks recreation division.

The department responded to the Cooks on July 19, 1968, explaining that the home had no public value and that it had, "an adverse impact on the recreational and scenic values

of the area."

After some back and forth, it appears that the state allowed the Cooks to live in Hug Point House for another two years before it became vacant. Over the years, many stories have been shared with me about this home. I've heard tale of it being a hippie commune at one point. The family of the Fashers that I spoke with didn't recall that happening and it sounds like they kept tabs on their old family home until it was razed in the late 1970s, or even early 1980s.

Other articles from the 1980s indicate that the home was donated by the state to the Cannon Beach Fire Department to be used in a controlled burn training activity.

It is too bad that not much survives of this home. A few photos here, some beautiful sketches by Donald Osborne, and some remembrances of family and friends. I grew up without ever seeing a home there and it is difficult for me to imagine that one, once stood just above the falls. Many of us have probably noticed the beautiful giant rhododendron that once framed the garden or driveway of the home.

I would love to learn more about this property. I was surprised at how few articles and information exist about this home. If anyone out there has more information, please feel free to contact me at elaine@cbbhistory.org or 503-436-9301.

Book sales raises funds for key library services

Located downtown for 90 years, the Cannon Beach Library became the "heart of Cannon Beach," rather than merely a "beach read" source. Acting six days a week as an information hub, the library welcomes residents and visitors, answering questions about shops, restaurants, events and services. Visitors access Wi-Fi, the internet, computers and printers, and are as likely to ask directions to the library's book-sale room, Haystack Rock or the ocean as to the library catalog.

During the past month, the critical importance to the library of fundraising and volunteers, particularly those who prepared and staffed the recent Second Annual Memorial Weekend Rare and Old Book Sale, impressed this columnist. Last month's special book sale succeeded beyond expectations, raising \$2,447.

More recently, volunteers are preparing for the tsunami of book sales, the library's traditional Fourth of July Book Sale, this year scheduled for Wednesday, July 4, through Saturday, July 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Cannon Beach Library, 131 N. Hemlock.

Last year, this sale saw book lovers, coffee in hand, queue before doors opened. Only the community's archetypal Independence Day Parade, passing the library on Hemlock, momentarily slowed the buying frenzy that raised nearly 10 percent of the library's annual budget.

Cannon Beach and Arch Cape residents and visitors generously contribute their books to expand library holdings or stock fundraisers and the library's book-sale room. However, without dedicated volunteers to staff the library, organize fundraising events and serve the informational needs of residents and visitors, Cannon Beach could not maintain this rare library still operating as a private, member-owned, nonprofit organization.

During three days of the Rare and Old Book Sale, 10 volunteers—library board secretary Janet Bates; library president Phyllis Bernt; library board members Rance

AT THE LIBRARY
JOSEPH BERNT



Babb, Claire Landrum, Lynne Murray and Ken Quarles; and Library Members Marc Bates, Kathe Leduc, Jane Swynenburg and Judy Wood — moved hundreds of books, organized sale tables, priced late-arriving books, helped hundreds of customers, served as cashiers, bagged purchases and managed the desk to ensure library services continued uninterrupted.

With the Fourth of July book sale in sight, seven volunteers on the library pricing committee — Janet Bates, Joseph Bernt, Amy Jones, Mary Kerwin, Tom Landrum, Nancy McCarthy and Ellen Miller, assisted by Marc Bates and Doug Wood — spent Tuesday mornings this past year pricing, categorizing, boxing and storing thousands of donated books.

Finally, note that Cannon Beach Reads will discuss Kenneth Miller's "Only a Theory: Evolution and the Battle for America's Soul" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, at the Cannon Beach Library. This book promises an animated conversation stimulated by homemade cookies and coffee. Anyone interested is encouraged to participate.



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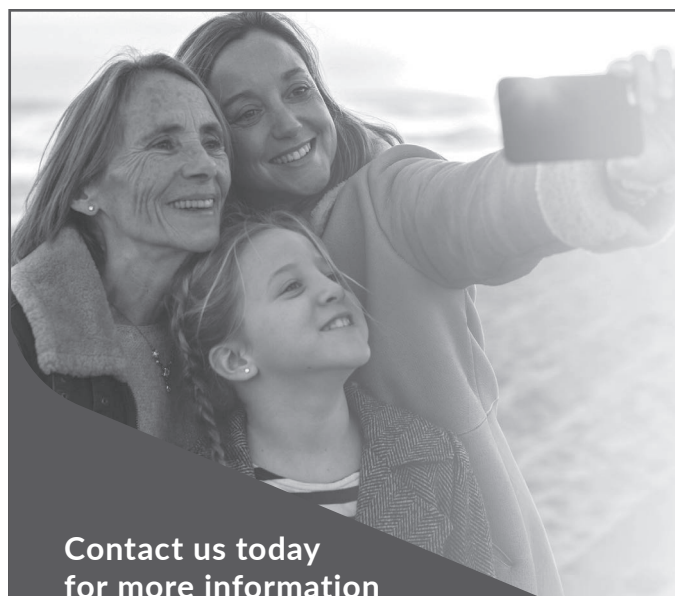
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