

Between the Covers ESTHER MOBERG

Libraries are about making wonderful memories

At a recent Friends of the Library bookstore volunteer appreciation, some of the volunteers shared their favorite library memories. This made me think about all the wonderful memories we collectively hold as a community here in Seaside. Gloria Linkey shared with us her favorite memories of Mrs. McKay, who ran the library back when it was in the old city hall building, where the Seaside Brewery now stands. She said if Mrs. McKay didn't approve of the reading material you were checking out, she would take it back and tell you to pick another book. She also recalled that Mrs. McKay didn't drive, so every Wednesday, after the overdue notices had been mailed out by postcard, Mrs. McKay and the chief of police would hop in the patrol car and drive around town, collecting

books that were overdue. I'm not sure that you will see Chief Ham and I doing this to round up overdue books anytime soon, but I think every librarian secretly loves the idea of showing up with an "enforcer" to get those super late library books back! Many of my favorite childhood memories were of the Astoria Public Library. There was one librarian in particular who had beautiful white hair and was very nice to all the kids. I was shy, but I always hoped to get her for checking out my books; she always seemed to have a special bookmark for me or something nice to say when I got my books. I don't remember her name, just how nice she was! Back then, the counters were pretty high, so I always remember how hard it was to get my very large stack of books up on the



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counter for checkout. In my memory, it always seemed like the counter was at eye level.

Another memory I have was that one night there was an event in the flag room (community event room) of the Astoria library and I went in the library to get some books. The librarians didn't realize I was still in the kids area, and they locked up and left for the night. I was pretty panicked about being locked in the library, even though it was my favorite place in the world. However, once the lights were turned out, the Astoria Public Library turned into a very big, very dark and very scary place! Fortunately, I was able to get out the door and back to the event in their community room, but I still remember how much my heart was pounding at the thought of being trapped in the library overnight! I asked Seaside Library staff what some of their favorite memories were. One

of them shared how that, when she was growing up, she used the small library in St. Helens. One evening she spotted a book about an equestrian on the new book shelf (that probably held a total of 10 titles). When she checked it out, the librarian, tiny and white haired, said to her, "I thought you'd like that." That made her feel as if the book had been purchased just for her! To this day, she still has a warm feeling that resonates with her when she thinks about that time. Another staff member remembered with fondness a more current event. A few years ago for the first time the Reptile Man came to the library to do a presentation for our summer reading program that was amazing. He had a huge variety of snakes and other reptiles that the kids got to hold and learn about. At one point of the show, he

put a defanged, venomless, diamondback rattlesnake on the floor in front of the audience, and everyone squealed; the whole crowd as one took a few giant steps backwards. The snake was completely docile, but there were no takers when he asked if anyone would like to hold it. At the end of the event, he brought out an albino yellow bellied boa constrictor that was at least 10 feet long. About 20 kids lined up in the foyer, and each one held a portion of that massive snake while the crowd filed past. It was a banner day at the library. Libraries are all about community and making those wonderful memories that center on our shared enjoyment of reading and literacy. Do you have a favorite memory of the library? Feel free to stop by the Seaside Public Library and share it with the library staff.

Let's PLAY DARREN GOOCH

Annual Easter egg hunt features 6,000 colored eggs



ALEX PAJUNAS PHOTO During last year's Easter egg hunt, Juliette Jenks, 2, of Seaside, plopped a plastic egg into her basket at Broadway Park



DARREN GOOCH 4, at Broadway Field. We use what is called a "rolling start," meaning that we start the first hunt at 10:30 a.m. sharp with the 0- to 2-year-olds. Each subsequent age group goes next after the prior age group finishes and we are assured that everyone in the next group is in place and ready to go. There are a few limitations to the hunt, though, that require participants to be a little creative. While the 0- to 2-year-olds can have baskets and a parent's help, the 3- to 4-year-olds cannot have a parent's help but can have a basket. For

anyone aged 5 and up, there are no baskets and no parent help. Some of the kids are pretty clever with their egg collecting techniques! Also, keep in mind, there is one special egg in each age group. It doesn't look any different than the other eggs, but it contains a very special prize: one of five golden tickets that can be redeemed for an age-appropriate Easter basket! I may not get to hide eggs for my kids, and it may be awhile before I get to do it for my grandkids, but I always have the kids of Seaside to look forward to. If you would like to vol-

unteer to help us with the egg hunt this year, please contact Special Events Coordinator Grace Smith at 503-738-3311, extension 102. Have a very hoppy Easter! Darren Gooch is the

IT and marketing manager for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. District information is available at sunsetempire.com or by calling 503-738-3311. Darren is available at dgooch@sunsetempire.com.

I miss the days when I got to hide colorful plastic eggs for my kids, all of them dressed up in their Easter best. My wife and I find ourselves in that strange area, somewhere between grown-up children and grandchildren. This year, I find myself packing up a small care package for my two that live out of town and a modest basket for the one that is preparing to leave home this fall. We used to dress them up and buy them new salt water sandals every Eas-

ter as a family tradition, but they grew up too fast, as usual. The one saving grace is that I have had the distinct pleasure of participating in Seaside's annual egg hunt every year since I joined the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District a little over 12 years ago. The annual event boasts over 6,000 brightly colored eggs divided into five age categories: 0 to 2 years old, 3 to 4 years old, 5 to 6 years old, 7 to 8 years old and 9 to 10 years old. The event will be on Saturday, April

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