

A columnist with a voice that would not be denied

On May 6, I attended the memorial service for Claire Lovell at the request of her daughter Robin and our Seaside Signal editor R.J. Marx. Since I had more of a history with Claire, both thought a few words of remembrance would be better served if I represented the Signal on its behalf.

I first became aware of Claire's presence in the community when I moved to Seaside in 2003, but it wasn't until I was hired as the managing editor for the Seaside Signal in January 2004 that I officially met her.

It didn't take long to fully realize she had a strong will, quick wit and loyal following. On the other hand, not everyone enjoyed reading her weekly column. There was the mentality that you liked it or you didn't — there was no in between.

However, it never ceased to astound me or our staff that each week, she hand delivered her column filling two legal-sized pages; each was hand-printed, single spaced, and all in capitalization. In a world that was in the throes of a new industry called digital technology, Claire continued to hand write each word up to her last, but not her final column.

In the course of my two years, we butted heads several times. Along with our publisher Kyle Larsen, we were three strong willed professionals, each with our

GUEST COLUMN REBECCA HERREN

own views on the direction of her column, which sometimes couldn't come together to make a perfect kettle of coffee.

The world had expanded and was changing. There was political correctness, tolerance and education — in the sense of not letting history repeat itself. But this was not part of Claire's world of Seaside and Clatsop County where almost everything stayed the same. Over the years, each column revealed slight intricacies of her life where nostalgia was very much a part of it.

She was very political and during a presidential election, she would pen her thoughts, opinions, and the candidate she favored. As well, many of her comments were so far into the "gray" area of journalism, we would either cut the graph or pull the column altogether.

Claire loved her life. She was born in Seaside and lived most of her 96 years here. She often wrote about John, the man she dearly loved; her children; her friends — both present and past — and always gave accolades to those deserving of them. She also never gave a second thought to correct our city officials



Claire Lovell

or tell them what she thought about the work they had done... or lack of; or making a point to let the newspaper know the error of its ways. One never knew what Claire was going to write or whom she was going to write about. Those who came under her pen were either elated they were mentioned, or embarrassed — either way, her words were out in the universe for all to read.

She loved attending events: concerts at Liberty Theatre or her church, especially patriotic concerts; celebrations at the American Legion and the Kiwanis pancake feeds to name a few. Over the years, her attendance waned, not just due to age, but possibly not hearing of the event, missing the date, or

as she would write in her column, she hadn't been invited — as in the case of the annual Dorchester Conference. For whatever reason she missed an event, she made sure everyone knew.

After returning to the Signal in January 2014 in a different capacity, I felt I had gotten to know Claire a little better. Not just through her columns, but also by the few conversations we had in the office when she stayed a few minutes to rest before walking back home. Even up to the last time I saw her, she never ceased to amaze me that at 96 years old, when she felt up to it, she would walk from her house on Lincoln, along Roosevelt Drive to the Signal office, sometimes stopping traffic along the way. But she loved to walk, sometimes enduring the elements of the coastal weather; and sometimes those walks became inspiration for another column.

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici recently gave a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives recognizing Claire as the longtime Seaside Signal columnist of "Scene & Heard." Claire's column chronicled the happenings in and around Seaside with "cogent prose and an observant eye." She was a regular staple of the newspaper for 27 years.

Upon reading that article, I pondered the question, "What would Claire have thought?" From my observation, Claire might have

shrugged her shoulder, waived it on with her hand as if no big deal, and not given it a second thought. But, I believe, she would have been delighted that a representative of the State of Oregon had recognized her for her dedication to the craft of writing and her love of the written word. People attending Claire's service shared their experiences of remembrance. As I listened, several stories brought back quips from her columns. In unison, the audience laughed and nodded their heads in a "yes" fashion, acknowledging the memory.

With Claire's passing, she may have lightened my workload, but she has not lightened the void left in the hearts of the community or in my thoughts. As I prepare for each issue of the Signal, the void of her name on my post-it note is a reminder that somewhere in the universe is her final column — the one that never made it to our office for printing.

She was head strong, but she knew how to compile her wit, sarcasm and vigor into a signature language that was her own and one her readers became accustomed.

Claire, you are missed now, in the future, and beyond. Thank you for your years of contribution, loyalty to your readers, and staying with the Seaside Signal even in the roughest of times. We are forever grateful and in your debt.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth May Lampien

Dec. 1, 1933 — June 7, 2017



Elizabeth Lampien



Elizabeth passed away in Hillsboro, Oregon. Elizabeth had lived in Seaside for the last 20 years

She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Harley and Sophia Wright. She was raised in the Catholic religion, and attended St. Frances Catholic School in Milwaukee until the age of 16. Her father then moved the family out of the city to a country farm, where she was to enjoy the farm life. There were dogs, cats and farm animals to keep her occupied and safe. Elizabeth was the seventh of 10 children, with six older brothers.

In 1955 her brother, Bob, introduced her to Donald Lampien, a guitar-playing country singer. They married in 1956. Don and Elizabeth worked and played hard. Elizabeth became the mother of five children, John, Sofie, Irene, David and Carol. Don and Elizabeth traveled across the U.S. numerous times before settling in the Pacific Northwest in 1968.

By 1975, Elizabeth and her family lived in Seaside. One job she enjoyed was the time she spent working for the Seaside Hospital as a housekeeper. She also worked as a bartender in local bars and taverns, where she loved to visit with people. Elizabeth worked for a time with a senior citizens travel group, planning and helping with trips to Reno and other fun destinations. Elizabeth was very involved with the Women of the Moose in Seaside, and was proud to have been their senior regent. She had a great smile, and loved

Mary Marjolaine Bruer Truedson

Dec. 10, 1922 — June 10, 2017

Mary Marjolaine Bruer Truedson, known by many as Marge, several by Granny T, some by Auntie M, and five by Mom, died in her sleep June 10, 2017 in Seaside, Oregon.

She was born to Faye and Henry Bruer in a logging camp in Kerry, Oregon, on Dec. 10, 1922, the wedding anniversary of her soon-to-be favorite uncle, Bill, who left his young wife that stormy night to drive a railroad handcar up the line to fetch the doctor in a driving snowstorm.

Marge grew up dividing her time between Clatsop and Columbia counties. She had one brother, Wesley Bruer, who preceded her in death in 2013.

She graduated from St. Helens High School in 1940, where she was well known for her art and roller skating skills. She lived through the Great Depression, learning the value of "waste not, want not."

She married Carlton Purvis and together they had three children: Carla, Marcia and Mel. The marriage ended, and later she married Donald Truedson, and they had two more children: Patti and Paul.

Mary and Donald made their home in St. Helens. Donald worked at "the paper mill." Besides being a wife and mother Marge painted, drew, sewed, crocheted, and even worked for Carl Brandenfel of Brandenfel's Baldness Scalp Hair Care Health Beauty Toiletry. Marge

didn't work for the infamous hair care division, she worked for Oregon Holly, gift baskets and parcels.

She made everything from "Kissing Balls," made from pine cones and mistletoe, to elaborate swags and baskets. She even made a few designs of her own. She and her coworkers often came away from work giggling, "probably from the glue."

After the last of her five children graduated from St. Helens High School and Donald retired, they sold their house and moved to Seaside, where Marge devoted a great deal of her time to painting. She took classes, joined the Trail's End Art Guild, and even had a small room in a co-op where she sold paintings, cards, rock people and sand dollar Christmas ornaments, among other things. She loved oil painting with brushes the best.

The couple traveled by air, rail, ship and car all across the U.S. mainland, Mexico and the Hawaiian Islands. Donald preceded Marge in death in 2006.

Marge is survived by her five children, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even a couple great-great grandchildren.

No funeral is scheduled. Any memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Crematory in Astoria/Seaside is handling the arrangements (www.hughes-ransom.com)

people.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Lampien; her son, David Lampien; and her grandson, Joshua Lampien.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Kenneth (Lyda) Detert of Fon du Lac, Wisconsin; a sister-in-law, Carol Lampien of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; a son, Donald Lampien (Lois) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; a son, John Lampien (Ruth) of Toledo, Washington; a daughter, Sofie Burke (Steve) of Seaside; a daughter, Irene Veelle of Seaside; a daughter, Carol Read of San Antonio, Texas; her grandchildren, Theresa Stanley, Darrell McClure, Andrew Lampien, David Lampien, Daniel Veelle, Jacob Burke, Stephanie Stevenson, Kristin Blankenship, Christopher Lampien, Dustin Lampien, Tiffany Stacey and Amanda Miller; and 21 great-grandchildren.

A service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 17, 2017, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside, Oregon.

SEASIDE AAUW

(American Association of University Women)

ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS TO NORTH COAST FEMALE RECIPIENTS

The Seaside branch of AAUW is proud to announce two scholarships to be used to further the education of two deserving local female students. AAUW's mission advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Fund raising and offering scholarships is an integral part of the Seaside AAUW Scholarship Foundation.

Through a written application and a personal interview, Maritza Casarrubias exhibits the qualities of perseverance, academic achievement and goal setting that qualifies her as an excellent recipient for the \$2,000 scholarship award. She will attend Clatsop Community College where she will pursue a Bachelor of Arts in dental hygiene. She resides in Astoria with her husband and two children.



Monica Alward is a 2017 graduate of Seaside High School. Her Upward Bound experiences of creating art for the community and working with the environment in community improvement, led Monica to apply and be accepted at Portland State University where she will pursue courses in architecture and environmental studies. She resides in Seaside. The \$1,000 June Stromberg Memorial Scholarship will help defray the cost of her education.



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