

Bits and Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay

A woman's prerogative – change her ideas. We didn't go to the beach over night. Left home at 8:00 a.m., got home at 7:00 p.m. Breakfast, Elderberry Inn – Air Museum in Tillamook – Lunch, Sambo's in Lincoln City – Newport, Ocean Aquarium. Sharks all around, was quite a strange feeling. Home

by way of McMinnville. No, we didn't stop at either Casino. The day was beautiful and we spent only \$7.35 above our White Elephant gift. Thank you for the lovely day.

It's fun to listen to the weather man predict showers and turbulence and then have sunshine all day, but when he hits it, look out.

While walking around behind a dog leash, I've noticed a trend in dogs – not many Police, Doberman, Rottweilers, Collies or Shepherds any more, but puppies – Jack Russells, Border Collies, Blue Heelers, a dear Chihuahua, rag mop types, mini-Dachshunds, my mini-Australian Shepherd and an Eskimo Dog (that's what the

young master called his Huskie cross). Most of them from nine months to three years-old. Are we becoming a kinder, gentler people? I hope so.

But those dumb duck mothers at the lake are taking their young (little fuzz balls) into deep water or into the parking lot. There used to be about 20, now there might be six or seven. Anyone know how to talk duck to their mothers? The wide mouth bass are having a field day.

Remember when "Loose lips can sink ships"? Well, it's Dejavu at the Senior Center again.

If things aren't going your way down there, walk in and talk to those in charge. (Show your face and give your name) Step in their shoes, smell all the odors they have to inhale while handling all the fancy, nice looking (on top) things. Get your eyes full and your hands dirty and your heart sick because of stuff that comes in looking great, but can't be put out to the public because of the true condition of clothing, household workable goods and smells. They do not have laundry facilities nor the help to make everything almost new again. Don't wait for our new home – come in and help.

And, while on the subject, stores may give the Center bread, veggies and pastry they can't sell before it's no longer fresh, but the center has to pay someone to go get it, handle it, haul it and unload it. All those goodies a lot of you are taking for nothing. Please help the Center help you and put in a fair donation. A \$10 cake is worth more than 10 cents or not even a thank you. Get what you need. Give all who need a chance to have what you take.

Oh, the weather, isn't it wonderful? What have you been using your spare time for? Me,

short time in the sun mowing, weeding, planting and then hiding in the house with a good book. I



find them at the Senior Center.

Ever hear of "The Christian" by Hall Caine? A fascinating story of early England and the church, copyright 1896-1897. Yes, you read right. The second book, "The Valley of the Giants", by Peter B. Kyne, copyright 1918, I've just started "A Gentleman of Courage", by James Oliver Curwood, copyright 1923. All excellent reading. Young folks wouldn't understand this kind of writing. Pure pleasure, with suspense, love, humor, etc., without all the trash thrown in.

Did you ever get a line of a childhood song stuck in your brain – "Do you ken John Peel with his coat so gay, do you ken John Peel...?"

[...when he is far, far away with his hounds and his horn in the morning?

Remainder of the verse supplied by Dirk Andersen]

Here is a great big Bite:

I've been walking and watering my dog at the lake for a year now, same as many other locals, but Memorial weekend, some low soul, who cared only for himself and his dog, took the leaky hose and the old pot the park had put out in friendship to dog owners (the cash value might have been 25 cents), took them in daylight.

I am giving our dogs another pan, but I want you to feel real proud of what you have done to our trust and friendship. Can you walk under the belly of a pregnant alligator?

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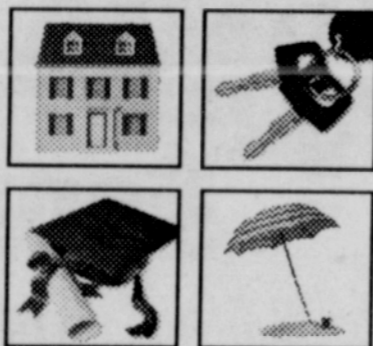
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*You are cordially invited to a reception
in honor of
Ralph and Barbara Sturdevant
on the occasion of their
50th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, June 7, 2003 ~ 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Scout Cabin in Hawkins Park ~ Vernonia*

Light refreshments will be served. No gifts, please.
The pleasure of your friendship is the greatest gift of all.