

Carpenter retired after 22 years with Col. County Sheriff's Office

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Captain Carpenter began his career with the Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Bruce Oester. He started as a part-time deputy after working for many years in muffler repairs. He owned Jim's Muffler and More in Scappoose and was very active in the Scappoose City Club before Sheriff Oester hired him.

In 1990, Carpenter became a full-time deputy in the Corrections Division, and in 1997, Sheriff Phil Derby promoted him to sergeant. Carpenter oversaw the planning and construction of the new jail facility

in 1999 after the old jail became unusable. Carpenter spent an equal amount of time (11 years) in both facilities. He said that when the Sheriff's Office moved from the old facility at the courthouse, they had nearly twice the number of inmates as they had authorized beds. "The old jail had a capacity of 38 beds," Carpenter said, "but when we moved to the present facility in 2000, we moved with 75 inmates."

Prior to the move, Carpenter was instrumental in beginning

the Sheriff's work crew to help ease jail overcrowding at the old jail. Afterward, Sheriff Derby put Carpenter in charge of jail programs, where he became well known for his ability to work with inmates and the community in finding jobs for inmates to help keep them out of jail.

Sheriff Derby later promoted him to administrative First Sergeant, where Carpenter expanded his services to the Sheriff on both the Corrections and Enforcement side of the house. Sheriff Dickerson later

promoted him to captain and made him the Jail Commander in 2009.

Though he is retiring from the Sheriff's Office, the sheriff says he still expects Carpenter to remain active in the community, where in recent years he has organized the "Cop Walk for Life", benefitting the American Cancer Society and other philanthropic events. He was instrumental years ago (as a member of the Scappoose City Club) in securing the property from the state and designing the Welcome to Scappoose

sign and totem pole. He and Kelly also were the driving force behind the development of the Scappoose Sauerkraut Festival.

"Jim Carpenter has been a mainstay for Columbia County for many years," Sheriff Dickerson said. "Sheriff Oester, Sheriff Derby and I all recognized him for his talents and connection to the community, and now he will have even more time to devote to his favorite causes. He will be greatly missed."

Ike Says . . .

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finicky way the crappie were taking the lure, most times you never felt a strike.

The commercial fishermen were present again, fishing day and night trying to fill coolers with crappie. The fishing was tougher, though their numbers were greatly reduced from the near mob of people that we were told had descended upon the reservoir in May. This is really becoming a several-pronged problem. First, it is illegal to sell wildlife in Oregon and most other states; the law is clear, but enforcement is simply lacking. Other issues are more social in nature; commercial fishermen are trespassing on private property, getting these lands closed to locals, which in turn is making the locals mad. Being that these commercial fishermen are a minority, rarely speak English, are abusing our fishery and are becoming more pushy and brazen, it will most likely end up with tragic results. State officials seem unwilling to curtail this problem, which has only enraged the locals and will precipitate predictable results.

Donna joined Dad and me for a day of fishing, catching her first crappie and a bunch more. Her motive for showing up though was not to go fishing, oh no, she had far better plans for me! We helped Dad pack up the camp and boat, then we headed to Moab, Utah. We spent two nights tent camping and a full day of hiking in Arches National Park. Definitely put this on your list of places to visit, the country in this region is beautiful and quite different than here at home. We hiked the primitive trail around Devils Garden and were glad that we did, that was a fun and exciting hike. The Colorado River was running high and muddy and we drove up the river for a long way as we headed to our next destination, Estes Park, Colorado.

We flat landers are definitely at a disadvantage when we start getting so high up in the mountains. Donna and I camped at Elk Meadows RV Park, which sits at 7500 feet in elevation. Oh, but that is nothing...the next day we drove up into Rocky Mountain National Park and attained an altitude of 12,200 feet! Later in the day we hiked in to a couple of lakes (with a few hundred other people), to an altitude of 9,900 feet, I believe that is the highest I have ever hiked. Donna, I believe, was starting to suffer from altitude sickness and as soon as we dropped back down to camp her headache went

away.

Donna for years has wanted to see a moose, and in several trips through Yellowstone Park has been disappointed. Well, we finally did it on this trip. While returning from Grand Lake on the western end of the Ridge Trail road in Rocky Mountain National Park, we saw the telltale cluster of vehicles along the shoulder of the road, and I saw a moose standing out in the willows as we drove by. A quick turn-around later, we were ringside to a cow moose with twin calves. We ended up driving down the road a couple hundred yards to a picnic site and ate our lunch while still watching the moose. Later, as we drove back up on the Ridge Trail road, we stopped on an overlook of the basin where we had seen the moose. I grabbed my binoculars and jokingly muttered whether I could find another moose. The first place I looked, there was a big old moose standing broadside! Taking the glasses down and even being at least a mile away, I could still see the moose. Soon I was playing park ranger pointing out the moose to the ever revolving people who stopped at the overlook. Soon though, I got the look, and it was time to leave!

Our next destination was Milnor, North Dakota, where we had a family reunion with my relatives on my grandmother's side of the family. We spent two wonderful days getting acquainted with relatives, some whom I had never met. The Costain brothers, of course, had to take us for a tour of the countryside they grew up in. We visited all the old home sites and marveled along with the brothers at all the water that was flowing from the land. In recent years there has been so much water that some of the fields are better at growing muskrats than corn. In fact, the muskrat problem has become so huge that state trapping regulations have been suspended and it is open season on muskrats. Needless to say, we tried to help the cause as we drove around.

Donna and I had a wonderful trip; we saw a beautifully diverse mixture of landscapes. For the most part, the countryside was lush and green and everywhere you looked there was water, lots and lots of water.

Izaak Walton League,
Nehalem Valley Chapter
meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-429-7193 for location.

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