

Volume V, No. 2

Quarterly Newsletter - Winter 1992

75 cents

A Memorable Year



84,000 Lights, the "best year yet."

Photo by Ward Robertson

COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THE 62,000 VISITORS

Saw Oregonian article, had to come - Lovely! We'll be back to see the gardens - Portland My 5th visit, 2nd sign in - it's about time I offered to help! - North Bend Thanks for putting up all these lights, they are beautiful - Concord CA This is better than any huge display such as Rockefeller Center - magnificent! - Denver One of the nicest displays I've seen in the entire country - Monrowe, Michigan This has been great, an added delight to this great Christmas, thank you - Portland Prettiest place in Oregon at Christmas - Roseburg

More >>

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC. Quarterly Newsletter published fall, winter, spring, summer

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Sharon Fortune

888-3173 Pearl Groves 756-5684

Holiday & GAIC Sales Volunteer Coordinator

Ellen Garner 888-3484

Entertainment

756-6789 Wanda Graham

Host Volunteers (Individuals)

267-4037 Bonnie Koreiva

Host Volunteers (Groups)

756-5401 Shirley Bridgham

A MEMORABLE YEAR - COMMENTS

(continued from page 1)

Came down from Portland to see your magnificent X-mas garden absolutely beautiful - Portland

Out of this world for beauty - Long Beach CA

Our 2nd time here - It's just beautiful! - Grants Pass

Much better than last year and it was great!

Regina Saskatchewan Canada

A lovely find on our long drive! - San Jose

Very special - Colorado Springs

Beautiful! - Astoria

A lovely celebration - Jacksonville OR

Absolutely perfect!!!!- Grants Pass

Phenomenal! Great job! ! - Portland

Great! Read about it in Oregon Coast - Klamath Falls

Very nice, must come back each year - Redding

It's very impressive - Osaka Japan

Fabulous fantasy - Rochester NY

A fairyland! - Konstauz Germany

Beautiful! Thank you! - Portland

Absolutely breathtaking! - Corvallis

Fabulous - Boise

Beautiful lights and Oregon - Holland

Well worth the trip - gorgeous! - Mt. Vernon CA

Tasteful with a touch of excellence - Bandon

What a beautiful tradition - Eugene

The Christmas spirit is alive and well here! - Springfield

Thank you for a wonderful gift - Newport

It's becoming a family tradition - family of 10, North Bend

So glad I drove over to see this - wonderful! - Eugene

The best holiday display I've every seen - Eugene

It's beyond description! - Portland

WOW! - Spokane

What can we say, except a huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, money and energy to make Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres 1991 the best year yet - THANKS!!

Shirley and David Bridgham

From Oregon Parks and Recreation

Linda Lopez, Volunteer Coordinator and Editor of Oregon Parks and Recreation Gazoop, reported in the January issue, "Dave Talbot said to me recently, after visiting the Lights, 'It's exactly the kind of event that we envisioned for our Friends groups: extended hours for the park, wonderful event, public involvement and support, and visitor satisfaction. It was a winner all the way 'round.' "

Thanks, Dave.

Volunteers put in hundreds of hours . . .



Getting trees . . .



Putting them up . . .



Decorating . . .



Stringing lights . . .



Placing new pelicans . . .



Stringing more lights . . .

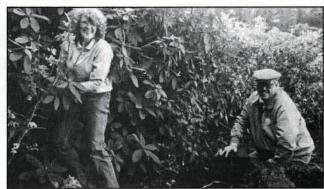


Even babies helped . . .

Volunteers worked hard . . .



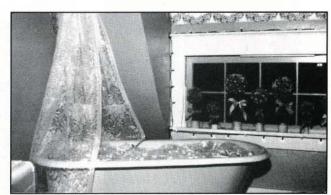
Setting new posts . . .



Stringing more lights . . .



Moving a bathtub - Will it fit?



It did!!

4,500 VOLUNTEER HOURS!

It was an incredible effort by so many; we can't begin to publish all the pictures. But here are some of the stats we've estimated:

50 garden light stringers, 3 weekends, 1600 hours

50 people, 6 organizations, outside trees, 200 hours

24 people, garden house decoration, 600 hours

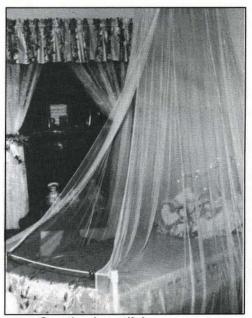
10 people, light sculptures, 150 hours

expansion of underground wiring by volunteer state parks staff, corrections workers, licensed electricans, 300 hours

2 park hosts ran the GAIC and closed the park 15 nights, 180 hours

Friends volunteers ran the GAIC weekends, 95 hours

220 hosts averaged 4 hours duty each, 880 hours



Creating beautiful rooms . . .

Entertainers and visitors . . .



Harmony Inc Sweet Adelines . . .



Girl Scout Troop 272 . . .



Children listened . . .



North Bend Presbyterian Singers . . .

MORE HOURS AND STATS

350 entertainers, 175 hours
35 cooky bakers, 250 hours
51 lights un-stringers and
house un-decorators, 306 hours
15 tree dismantlers, 75 hours
4 storage experts, 22 hours
(lights and inventory put away)

2200 dozen cookies consumed (26,400) 936 gallons of cider (78 cases of frozen apple juice) 200 gallons of cranberry punch 7 cases of coffee

62,000 visitors from 24 countries, 42 states, 3 territories, 166 Oregon cities and towns

Many people visited more than once, some as many as 6 times!

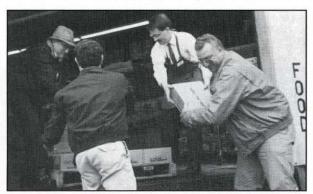


And children visited . . .

We will need even more help for Holiday Lights '92

Expanded hours, more lights, more visitors, more cookies!

Fred Meyer donated 50 cases of apple juice . . .





Thousands of cookies were baked . . .





Bed & Breakfast winners, Bruce & Sharon Carlson stayed . . .







<<< And Friends President David Bridgham (left) and Harry Wilson shared the satisfaction of another successful season.

Special thanks to Ward Robertson, Luis Velasquez and Memo Jasso for special holiday photography.

Memories . . .

by Andy LaTomme, Sunset Bay Park District Manager



By now, most of you have heard that David G. Talbot, State Parks Director will retire in November, 1992, after 28 years of service to the people

of Oregon.

In the months to come, I am certain that many glowing and well deserved editorials will be written about the impact he's made upon the state of Oregon and his influence upon state park systems throughout the United States.

But let me share one of my first, and most memorable, experience with Dave.

In April, 1972 (goodness, how time has flown!) I moved to Oregon with my bride of eight months to begin work as one six newly hired park management assistants. After a one-week, whirlwind orientation at the Salem park's office (then occupying about 1/3 of one floor of the Highway Department Building), we settled in Harbor, Oregon to begin my work at Harris Beach State Park.

Now, as Sue was raised in Salt Lake City and I in New Jersey, we were experiencing a real culture shock living more than 100 miles in any direction from the nearest J.C. Penney store. Our home was half of a rundown duplex about 100 yards north of the California Border; our neighbor was an alcoholic wife-beater; Sue was pregnant with Matthew; dirt, leaf debris and an occasional salamander came out of the water tap; and the only telephone we could have gotten was an 11-party line with a Crescent City, California exchange.

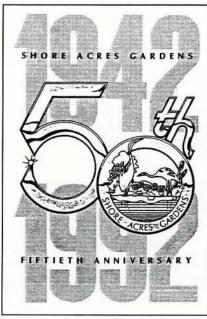
To top it off, the work wasn't quite what I had expected --Wednesdays and Thursdays off working two night shifts, two morning shifts and a regular shift; a bunch of old-fashioned co-workers who seemed interested only in laying asphalt and cutting down trees; then there was the work itself -- mowing lawns, collecting fees, picking up litter and garbage and cleaning restrooms. After all, I was a college graduate who knew all the answers about how to protect natural resources and provide meaningful outdoor recreational experiences to park visitors. So I was really beginning to wonder if Oregon State Parks and I should go our separate ways.

After we had been in Harbor a couple of months, we decided that we just had to see a real big city or we'd shrivel up and die, so we drove to Portland on my weekend. As we wandered through the aisles of Import Plaza, I heard a voice say "Andy LaTomme?" I turned and was surprised to see Mr. Talbot approaching us with a big smile and his hand extended. He introduced me to his gracious wife, Ann, and I, in turn, stammered my introduction of Sue. We talked for several minutes during which Mr. Talbot inquired about our well-being and how we were adjusting to life in Brookings. He left us with some kind words of encouragement, and after we went our separate ways Sue remarked how nice it was that the Parks Division Administrator knew who I was and was so genuinely concerned for our welfare. I thought at the time it was remarkable that he had recognized me because the only time we had met was during that first orientation week when he gave the six of us a welcome to state parks talk.

I, like Sue, was touched by his personal concern for one of his new employees. I reflected during the long drive home that if Oregon State Parks was led by someone who went out of his way to make a new employee feel like part of a

family, then maybe Oregon State Parks was a pretty good agency to work for after all. Twenty years later, I still haven't changed my mind. Thanks, Dave.





(reverse printing for publication purposes)

50th POSTER AVAILABLE

Shore Acres State Park will celebrate its 50th anniversary in December. A commemorative poster has been designed by State Park's graphic artist Kevin Kohler. The four-color poster (black background, gold to bronze letters with highlights) is a limited edition and each one is signed by the artist.

The poster sells for \$25 and net proceeds from sales will go toward a memorial fountain in the center of the Gardens.

You may order your golden anniversary commemorative poster from the Gift and Information Center, Mail Order, P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420.

GARDEN NOTES

by George Guthrie, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent

Once again, Shore Acres (and everybody else for that matter) is in that special "twilight zone" between seasons and events - the holiday lights and decorations are all gone and the spring bulbs and flowers have yet to arrive.

Granted, we've had a very mild winter so far, but most gardens - including ours - tend to look kind of subdued at this time of year - compared to the masses of color that will be coming on in a couple of months.

Still, there's a surprising amount of nice stuff to see here and there throughout the park without a

lot searching: pink and red kaffir, lilies, pink begonias, yellow and purple crocus in the garden beds; narcissus (early daffodils) in the former fountain; and near the parking lot scattered flowers of hino crimson azaleas are the most obvious. A little more searching should turn up flowers starting up on Oregon grape (by the garden house) and Darwin's barberry (by the pond) and, of course, primroses tucked away in stray corners - pretty good for early February!!

Of course if you're driving out, you might want to check out some of the pretty flowers you can see in other folks' gardens along the way - various types of rhodies such as Christmas Cheer and rhododendron mucronulatum (a pink-flowering deciduous rhodie from Korea) and camellia (Adolph Adusson - a big red flowered variety).

Evergreen viburnums are all showing early flowers and last, but not least, pussy-willow buds are doing throughout the area.

Gee, I guess there's more floral stuff going on than I thought - so no matter where you are - at the Gardens or by your own door step - take another look around you - spring is closer than you think!!

george

Autograph Party

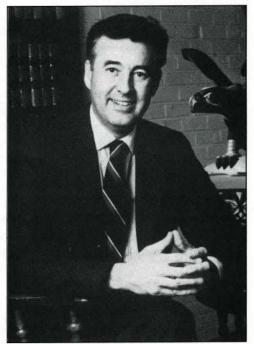
Stephen Dow Beckham will be available to sign copies of his new expanded edition of *The Simpsons of Shore Acres*, Sunday April 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Garden House at Shore Acres

Gardens. The book tells the history of the development of Oregon's unique botanical gardens and state park on the Cape Arago Highway.

Beckham began work on this account when he was a college student. In 1966, a portion of the history appeared as *Captain Asa Mead Simpson: Lumberman and Shipbuilder* in the Oregon Historical Quarterly. Through the assistance of the late Isabelle Tower and Edna Going, Beckham obtained a number of early views of the estate, including interiors of the first Simpson mansion. Barbara Simpson Griffin of North Bend, daughter of Louis J. and Lela Simpson, provided additional photographs and information about her childhood at the estate, then known as Shoreacres. Jack Slattery, longtime collector of Coos County photos, shared additional view used in this publication.

Stephen Dow Beckham, a native of Coos Bay, is a professor of history at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. A graduate of the University of Oregon, he holds his M.A. and Ph.D. from UCLA. For the past 23 years he has taught courses on the American Indian, the American West, and United State History.

Beckham is the researcher and writer for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill (BLM), which opens May 25. This facility has over 11,000 quare feet of exhibits telling the story of westward emigration and development of northeastern Oregon. He is also presently working on the content for the Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, and the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Intrepretive Center near Newport. (continued next page)



Stephen Dow Beckham

GIFT AND INFORMATION CENTER

By Tony Mason, Manager

Right now the "gift shop" is closed for the winter after what turned out to be a wonderful holiday season. To put it simply, we had our best month in the short history of the GAIC. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who made this possible.

In fact, the 1991 season was grand, and I am looking forward to '92. And it will be bigger and better. Does that mean we will be expanding in size from our current 8'x8'? . . . stay tuned.

Due to a continuing interest in purchasing holiday note cards, mugs, sweatshirts, and many of our fine books, I am developing a "mail order" service for the GAIC. There won't be a catalog for some time, so I'll be using the newsletter to list some of our products until then

tnen.	
# 460 I've Seen the Lights sweatshirt	\$20.00
(S,M,L,XL,XXL)	
# 551 1991 Holiday Lights Note Card	\$1.50
(6 3/8" x 4 1/2" - includes envelope)	
# 882 1991 Limited Edition Holiday Mug (forest green ceramic)	\$7.00
#2343 Peterson Field Guides, Western Birds	\$15.95
#2361 Simon & Shuster Field Guides	\$14.95
Garden Flowers	

(code keys & color photographs)



Park hosts Virginia & Louie Thiring show Simpson book to holiday visitors.

#2711	The Simpsons of Shore Acres - Beckham	\$6.95
#2841	Taylor's Guide to Roses	\$16.95
#3121	Garden Flowers coloring book	\$2.95
#3211	Bird House Kit	\$3.50
#3213	Bird Feeder Kit	\$3.50
	(precut, preshaped parts, no finishing required, nails included)	
#3425	Your First Garden Book	\$5.95
	(Full of easy to grow, year-round plant projects. Lively cartoon illustrations. 4	8 pp)

Plus many other items.

Send your order to **Gift and Information Center Mail Order**, **Friends of Shore Acres, P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay OR 97420.** Include name/s of items, code number/s (if known), quantity, size, description, and price. Sorry, no membership discounts on mail order items (covers cost of shipping and handling). Don't forget to send a check of money order for the total amount. Minimum order \$10 (except for *NOTE CARD ONLY* orders, which are \$2 each . including shipping & handling.) For more information call me, Tony Mason, at 396-5792. All proceeds go to support interpretive, educational and physical development programs developed by the "Friends" for the Sunset Bay Park District.

We'll be opening the GAIC again in April and we are always looking for help to staff the Center. Call Ellen Garner at 888-3484. Look for new shirts, mugs and other items commemorating Cape Arago's 60th anniversary and of course - Shore Acre's Golden 50th. We'll see you at the Gardens.

Beckham (continued from page 8)

Beckham's recent books include Lewis and Clark College (1991) and Land of the Umpqua: A History of Douglas County, Oregon (1987). OSU Press brought out his Tall Tales from Rogue River: The Yarns of Hathaway Jones in paperback in 1991.

Professor Beckham serves on the planning team for the proposed interpretive center at Gregory Point near the Cape Arago Lighthouse, is a member of the Executive Committee of the End of the Oregon Trail Foundation, Oregon City, and was curator of *Uncle Sam in the Oregon Country* for the Library of Congress in 1990. His wife, Patti, is Music Coordinator, Lake Oswego Schools, and an adjunct professor music education, Lewis and Clark College. Their son, Andrew, is a senior in high school and daughter, Anne-Marie, is a sophomore. He is the son of Dow and Anna Beckham of Coos Bay.

COMPANY'S COMING BEACH CLEAN-UP - MARCH 14TH 8:30 a.m. - Noon



It's time for the annual spring cleanup of Oregon's beaches and you are invited. Park staff Linda Wilcox (Region Beach Coordinator) and Shirley McGuire (Sunset Coordinator) say it will take lots of help to clean the 192 miles of ocean beaches that make up the southern part of the Ocean Shore Recreation Area. And this year, volunteers are in for a special treat. Coos Bay Safeway is donating all the fixin's for hot dog lunches at Sunset Bay, Honeyman, Bandon (The Barn), Gold Beach (Fairgrounds) and Harris Beach. At Sunset, Friends of Shore Acres volunteers will serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to beach cleaners from Winchester Bay to Cape Arago. Lunch will include hot dogs, pepsi, potato chips, apples, oranges, bananas and hot coffee.

If you want to help, just show up at the beach parking areas at 8:30 a.m. Someone will be there to meet you with litter bags and instructions. You should dress for the weather and bring a pair of gloves ('cause you never know what you'll find to pick up). Last year, the cleanup for the Sunset Bay District netted about 3.7 tons of

garbage that included 257 bags of garbage, 8 tires, plastic buckets and jugs, large chunks of styrofoam, boards, signs, rope, fluorescent light bulbs, chains, pallets and lots of other junk, even an old stereo. If you'd like to do more, have some questions, or want more information, call Shore Acres, 888-4902, and ask for Shirley McGuire.

S.E.A. DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM

by William P. Russell, President SEA & member of the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Have you ever wondered what kinds of seals make all that racket at Shore Acres? Why are some white, some dark brown and some golden brown? What are those seals doing there? How big are they, really? What about the high pitched squeal of the "seagulls" (is that their real name)? Are they all alike? Which ones are female or male? When do the whales really go by our coast and why? Do the Orca whales come to our waters? How do you say "no" or smile graciously when a visitor is being rude? How do you explain to a child about wildlife?

These questions and more will be answered at the Spring Docent Training Program sponsored by Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA). We are looking for people who have a desire to learn and who want to help the public appreciate our beautiful coast and its wildlife. You will receive training in marine



mammals, shore and pelagic birds, interpretive skills, flora along the coast and intertidal life.

Once you have completed the 8week course, you will be asked to volunteer two days a month, from

Memorial Day to Labor Day, to help SEA with its interpretive program. SEA Inc is an IRS acknowledged nonprofit devoted to providing outdoor education to the public. Membership is \$15 per person or \$25 per family. Membership is required to take part in the training program as dues and donations are the only means of support. If you are already a member of Friends of Shore Acres or SEA, there is no charge for attending the training sessions. SEA will hold an informational open house at The Barn in Bandon, Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m. Training sessions begin Wednesday, April 1, from 7 -10 p.m. at Bandon High School. Bring writing materials and your favorite field guides in marine mammals and shore and pelagic birds. For further information, call Bill or

Joan Russell at 347-3683.

Welcome New and Returning Members - 1992

LIFE
Sause Bros Ocean Towing
Jack & Carol Shinniger
L. L. Stewart

BENEFACTOR

Howard & Rachel Chaney Coos Bay Emblem Club Clair & Diane Jones Bob & Margaret Perkins Al & Ellen Stinchfield R. Georga Taylor Jim & Diane Verger Stu & Shay Weinger

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Teri & Mark Albert
& family
Leroy & Sybil Baehler
Sari & Robert G. Blakey
Ron & Linda Boise

S.J. & Nancy Weybright

Charlotte S. Skinner

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Anna Mae Barnes
Helen Barton
Edreia M. Brady
Candace Cameron
Marlene Dolezal
Jean Donason

Empire City Get-a-Way H. Cranson Fosburg Florence C. Fox George Guthrie Mrs. James A. Hanna Mary J. Hansen Hauser Garden Club Mary E. Hill Alice Hobbs Jo Jensen Carol J. Knapp E. Menken Mildred L. Miller Agness Milton Helen F. Ray Debbie Redmond Alice Richter Archi Rosenthal Hal Sinclair

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STUDENT Kimberley Hanks

THANKS!

Watch for date of the Friends & Volunteers Summer Picnic in the next newsletter.

The Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. is a private non-profit organization with tax-exempt status. Its purpose is to participate in interpretive, educational and physical development programs with Sunset Bay Park District.. Our membership year is January 1 to December 31. As a member you receive a membership card, Friends' decals and the quarterly newsletter. You also receive a 10% discount on sales items in the Gift and Information Center. To become a member or to renew your membership, send your check or money order to The Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay OR 97420. Membership categories include: Individual, Senior or Student \$10; Family \$15; Patron \$25; Sponsor \$50; Benefactor \$100; Sustaining \$250; Life \$500. Gifts and memorials are welcome, as well.

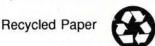




Photo by Ward Robertson

AUTOGRAPH PARTY - APRIL 5 RHODODENDRON SUNDAY, MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10 ROSE SUNDAY, FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 21

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