



Shore Acres State Park
Before Friends - 1986

Album 4



Shirley Bridgham

How Friends of Shore Acres Happened

In 1986, the Communication Arts Group at Southwestern Oregon Community College decided to tell the story of Shoreacres and Shore Acres State Park by creating a multi-image slide show to be shown at the 5th annual Multi-Image Festival in September. After the Festival, Shirley Bridgham asked Andy LaTomme, manager at Shore Acres State Park, if the park wanted a copy. He said yes. Not long after, Andy asked Shirley and her husband David if they would like to help start a Friends group – a non-profit corporation in association with state parks. They said yes.

An organizational meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in Room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy LaTomme, John Bergen, Mike Bodkin, David and Shirley Bridgham, John Garner, Marty Giles, George Guthrie, Dick Hansen, Ron Hjort, Tony Mason, and Karen Wuethrich. On that important night, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. in cooperation with Shore Acres State Park began a long journey of success.

The Shore Acres Story was shown in slide format to thousands of visitors for years, then transferred to VHS tape for easier showing. In 2006, it was transferred to DVD. In 2013, it was transformed again, this time with additional photos courtesy of Caitlin Day, James McDermott, Sunset Bay State Park and the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum. Special thanks goes to Phillip Bridgham for rescuing the original sound track.

The program is about Asa Meade Simpson and his son Louis Jerome and the history of the magnificent estate that Louis called Shoreacres. It continues with what Shore Acres State Park was like in 1986 when the slide show was created. ■



Ward Robertson

Aerial and Gardens — 1986



Shirley Bridgham



Shirley Bridgham

About the Friends' Albums

by Shirley Bridgham - 2014

It's time to preserve the Friends' photos and clippings using the following:

- Epson Expression 11000XL Scanner
- Adobe PhotoShop CS-3
- Adobe InDesign CS-3.
- Epson Presentation Paper - Matte
- Epson Premium Photo Paper - Glossy
- Epson Stylus Photo R2000 Printer

I will also save the album pages as PDF files. ■



Ward Robertson

Aerials - 1986



Ward Robertson

Note from Shirley Bridgham - September 2014



Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. was founded on December 4, 1986.

1st annual year Dec. 4, 1986 - Aug. 31, 1987

1st Birthday - Dec. 4, 1987

1st Christmas Lights - Dec. 11, 1987

2nd annual Year - Sept. 1, 1987 - Aug. 31, 1988

2nd Birthday - Dec. 4, 1988

. . . and so on. The annual year runs from September of one year to the end of August of the next year.

What an amazing journey it has been for David and me since 1986. Little did we know when we, the Friends, decided to bring more attention to Shore Acres State Park, by stringing some lights to celebrate Christmas in 1987, we would begin an awesome adventure that continues to this day.

So many volunteers, so many supporters, so many visitors, such a great board of directors, and always so much excellent cooperation from park managers, rangers and staff - all combine to make Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. one of the most successful non-profit Co-ops in the state of Oregon.

All these years, Friends of Shore Acres, Inc. has been truly blessed to remain an all-volunteer organization. It has made it possible to accomplish so many interpretive and physical development projects at Shore Acres. Visit our Information & Gift Center and pick up one of our membership brochures and you will find an extensive list.

I've been privileged to create and produce our slide shows, DVDs, and Newsletters and Journals. Not to mention, designing the lights display and seeing it come together like theater every season. Yes, it's a lot of work, but it's also a lot of fun. David has the challenge of designing and producing new sculptures and maintaining the old ones. When we read the comments in the guest books, we always get enthused to start the next season.

This year, I'm starting a project to preserve the Friends' archives in physical albums — this is the first album — backed up in a digital format for easy viewing by many. We have many photos, news clippings and other materials that will be included in the albums.

As I've started going through the archives, I'm reminded of how FoSA has grown and prospered in order to help Shore Acres State Park, Sunset Bay State Park and Cape Arago State Park. What a great reminder of why we do what we do. Our hope is that in the future, others will experience and enjoy the same opportunities. ■

Note from David Bridgham - September 2014

The following pages (and Albums) are a chronology of the efforts of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc., but even more than that, tell the tale of the enormous support that the Friends have enjoyed from our regional communities.

This was a movement whose time had come. The Oregon State Legislature had passed "Enabling" Legislation allowing non-profit 501(c)3 organizations to adopt a specific State Park to provide educational and interpretive services to its visitors. Well that's the dry legislative speak for find a core user group that loves that park and let it nurture and care for it.



Shore Acres State Park, 13 miles from town, is the touchstone that we all bring our friends and visitors to when we want to show off the beauty of the Oregon south coast. There was a built-in and pent-up desire to shower this special place with community pride and needed TLC. Outreach to our communities started with the planning sessions with FOSA Board members and volunteers. Dreaming of what could be, planning on now and the future.

Holiday Lights at Shore Acres is a night time interpretation of the formal English style gardens and the reflecting pond at the oriental garden. Historically, the original Simpson mansion built on the bluff at the stone wall, was a Christmas present to Louie Simpson's wife Cassie. From the very first lighting event we recognized the importance to the communities to open the Garden House for our visitors and start building traditions. After 27 annual lightings it thrills me to hear from adults with their young family when they tell us they came to see the lights as kids and now they're bringing their families to grow the tradition.

An important cornerstone to the Holiday Lights tradition is the consistency of our focus on major themes. We have stayed true to who we are and where we're at, interpreting the gardens with flower-lights, sculptures that are inspired by what's found in the gardens as well as many marine related sculptures. The Garden House is beautifully decorated with an old time (Simpson era) theme that fits this historic gardener's cottage.

There are those certainties in life - like the tide at our ocean's shore, the Bay and its tributaries - migrating geese, and the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres. When I see or hear a migrating flock of Canadian Geese I get an itch I can only scratch by stringing lights at Shore Acres.

You will see as you turn these pages that the secret sauce has always been to engage our community, give credit and ownership where deserved, and always try to improve this place that we all love. ■

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Founded December 4, 1986



*“The purpose of Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.
is to participate in interpretive, educational,
and physical development programs
with Sunset Bay Management Unit.”*

FoSA Bylaws

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting was held on December 4, 1986 at 7:30 pm in room 12 of Sumner Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. In attendance were Andy LaTomme, John Bergen, George Guthrie, Karen Wuethrich, Marty Giles, Ron Hjort, Mike Bodkin, John Garner, Shirley Bridgham, David Bridgham, Dick Hansen and Tony Mason. Andy LaTomme opened the meeting by giving background information about the establishment of non-profit corporations in association with state parks.

Mike Bodkin reviewed the legal steps necessary to establish a corporation and to certify it as tax-exempt under federal and state laws: fees to be paid, legal liability of corporation members and the formation of an initial board of directors.

Discussion followed on the details of the above presentations. The group agreed that a preliminary date of June, 1987 was a goal for establishing the tax-exempt status of the organization and that the group should forego any solicitation of funds until this status has been obtained.

Those present introduced themselves to the group and completed a sign-up sheet with their names and addresses. Each person was asked if he or she desired to serve on the initial board of directors. All except Andy LaTomme, Ron Hjort, Karen Wuethrich and Mike Bodkin responded "yes."

Some discussion followed about the number of state park employees to be allowed to serve on the board at any one time. It was generally agreed that no more than 1/4 of the board should be composed of state park employees, however formal action on this was deferred until bylaws are adopted. It was agreed that the Sunset Bay State Park district manager would serve as a non-voting member of the board. There was some discussion about this and it was understood and agreed that the group would not undertake any projects without the approval of the district park manager or his designee.

Nominations were opened for chairman. Dick Hansen and John Bergen were nominated and declined. John Garner was nominated and unanimously elected. He conducted the balance of the meeting.

A motion to name the organization the "Friends of Shore Acres, Inc," was proposed, seconded and passed.

Mike Bodkin was named to act as legal agent for the Friends of Shore Acres (hereafter referred to as the "Friends") and was thanked for his work thus far. Discussion followed regarding the purposes of the Friends as required for the incorporation papers.

Mike Bodkin stated that he would use wording from a similar organization's application and that he expected the incorporation papers would be returned by the next meeting.

Friends of Shore Acres
December 4, 1986
Minutes - page 2

It was decided the scope of the organization would be discussed when bylaws were presented for adoption at a later meeting.

There was discussion about membership in general, voting vs. non-voting membership and graduated membership fees. Action on this was deferred until a later meeting.

A collection was taken to cover the cost of the incorporation fee. A total of \$13.00 was collected from the group.

It was proposed and approved that Mike Bodkin act as initial incorporator for the Friends.

Additional discussion about the purpose of the Friends took place. It was felt that the purposes stated in the articles of incorporation should be broad enough to allow the group to participate in a broad range of activities, including physical development in the park.

The agenda for the next meeting was discussed. It was decided that bylaws and the setting of goals for the group would take up most of the meeting. The board was asked to be prepared to discuss possible goals and committee assignments for that meeting. Dick Hansen was selected to lead the discussion on bylaws.

Andy LaTomme was asked to bring a copy of his park's master plan to assist in coordinating the goals of the Friends with those of State Parks. He was also asked to prepare a draft set of bylaws, based on those used by existing cooperating associations, to be mailed to board members before the next meeting.

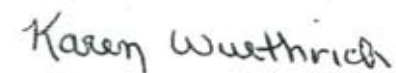
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

Karen Wuethrich was asked to prepare minutes of the meeting.

The date for a second meeting was set for January 13, 1987. Shirley Bridgham was asked to arrange for a meeting room at SWOCC. The suggestion was made that the board consider a fixed meeting date, e.g., the second Tuesday of each month. It was felt that this was a good idea, but no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wuethrich

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Annual Year - September 1, 1990 - August 31, 1991

September 11, 1990 - Annual Meeting - Garden House at Shore Acres



Shore Acres Garden - View from Garden House - September 1990

The World, September 6, 1990

Coast happenings

Friends to gather

The Friends of Shore Acres will hold the organization's annual meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 11, at the garden house in the Shore Acres Botanical Gardens.

The meeting is open to the public. A board of directors will be named during the meeting.

This year over 350,000 visitors have toured the formal gardens of the former Louis B. Simpson estate near Charleston.

If you would like to join the organization of volunteers or learn more about it, call Shirley Bridgham at 888-2525.

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Minutes of Annual Meeting, September 11, 1990

Annual Meeting of the Friends of Shore Acres Inc. was called to order by President David Bridgham. Tony Mason, Elise Hamner and Al Alaskson were not present.

Visitors were Ann Warner and an associate representing the Wave Walkers (Volkspart). They presented to the board the history and current activities of their organization. The Volkspart group is interested in using the park area as an on-going site for folks-walk seasonal walks. They would like FOSA to enter into an agreement with them to serve as a registration center (GAIC) for volksmarchers. FOSA would collect fees from participants and do registration paper work. In return FOSA would get \$.25 for each paying participant.

Board will not make any decision on their request until next board meeting. It will consult with parks staff to see if such an agreement would be acceptable to park policy and FOSA goals.

The nominating committee proposed that Shirley Bridgham, George Guthrie and Elise Hamner be nominated to fill their expired positions and that Connie Eslinger, Eric Hamner and Dick VanNatta be nominated to fill "permanently" their appointed positions. Motion passed.

With no further nominations, Shirley moved and Dick seconded a motion to confirm all nominees as board members – motion passed.

Copies of the annual report were passed around and reviewed. This report will be taken to the Co-op conference and made available to all at the Volunteer Dinner, October 4th.

It was noted that this year was a "building year" for the GAIC with a lot of money going into establishing adequate inventory of sales items – therefore expenses were quite high in relation to income.

It was noted that almost 100% of holiday light pledge goal has been received.

Meeting adjourned.

GG:DB 9/22/90

Shore Acres - Positive Publicity

Page 4 — Prime Time — October 1990

Notes & Comments

A Popular Place

That Shore Acres is a popular place is no surprise. But that the gardens are one of the most popular places to visit in Oregon is. According to the Oregon Economic Development Department's visitor count for January through July of this year (compared with the same period in 1989), Shore Acres trailed only the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry in Portland, Crater Lake, and the Hatfield Marine Center in Newport. Shore Acres drew 197,764 visitors in the first seven months this year, up 17 percent from a year ago.

And that's despite relatively little promotion statewide and out of state and the fact the gardens are 14 miles off Highway 101, the main tourist route. It speaks well of the promotional work done by The Friends of Shore Acres.

Speaking of Shore Acres, it strikes us there's a relatively painless way to raise more funds for the park. Each weekend during the summer the park service charges visitors a modest \$1 a car. But the gardens are just as popular during the week in summer as on the weekends. Why not charge \$1 a car six days a week, leaving one free day for the local folk, and collect from all those out-of-county and out-of-state visitors? Certainly, \$1 a car isn't going to stop many people from enjoying the gardens and would provide more funds to maintain and improve them.



Bay Area gets favorable reports

The Bay Area has been enjoying quite a bit of favorable exposure in various newspapers, and other media outlets recently, according to the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Each time that a story appears, the chamber gets calls from that particular area, and more people become interested in seeing our area, or relocating, the chamber reports.

Among the mentions recently include three papers located on the West Coast, along with one magazine.

"Take Shore Acres, regal, formal

gardens, smack dab in the middle of a wild stretch of Pacific shoreline near Coos Bay," reported the Vancouver, B.C., Sun. "Shore Acres stands out like a ball gown in a smoky jazz bar."

"One of these days a major airport will be in operation in this region, and then watch out," wrote Gerry Frank of The Oregonian, in his column Friday Surprise. "When travelers experience what has been one of the best kept secrets in America, the area will never be the same."

"Local residents finding a Northwest passage," read a front page article in the Torrance, Calif., Daily Breeze, using Coos Bay as its example of a destination town in the northwest. "When the family heads for Coos Bay on the coast of Oregon in a few weeks, they'll be following a well-paved path," the story continued.

In addition, Motorhome magazine's September 1990 issue featured a five-page story on the Bay Area's many attractions entitled, "Coos Bay Jewels." The story listed

many specific facts about Shore Acres, its history, and the Christmas celebration at Shore Acres.

This attention was compounded recently by the inclusion of McCullough Bridge in a nationally syndicated crossword puzzle, which prompted "hundreds of calls" to the chamber from aficionados across the United States.

And the notice hasn't been limited only to the printed media, as both television and film have been active in the Bay Area also.

Holiday Lights – The First Lighted Sculptures – 1990

Herons / Cranes Sculptures Created



L-R - David Bridgham, CDT and Frank Smith, CDT at Bay Area Dental Lab , Coos Bay



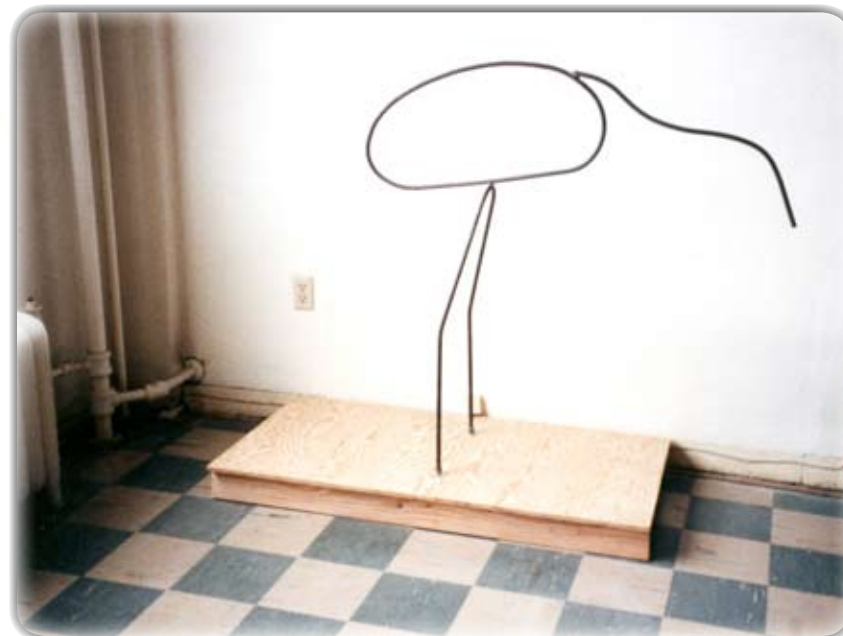
Bronze Herons / Cranes 1986

The bronze herons/cranes in the Lily Pond were the inspiration for the first lighted sculptures to be added to the Holiday Lights display.

The sculptures were designed, fabricated and lighted at Bay Area Dental Lab in Coos Bay by owners David Bridgham and Frank Smith. At the time, David was Co-Chair of the Holiday Lights and Frank was a dedicated volunteer.

They finished the sculptures in time to display them at the Appreciation Dinner in October (see next page) followed by the Lights Display in December.

2014 Note: The lighting for the sculptures changed through the years as the technology changed; first with original style miniatures, then tungsten rope lights (2004) and LED rope lights (2010). ■



New sculptures sparkled with original style miniature Christmas lights.



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Oct. 3, 1990



Shirley Bridgham and President David Bridgham

"MILESTONES AND MEMORIES"

We celebrated this past year's activities with a volunteer appreciation dinner October 4, 1990 at the Red Lion Inn. Marty Crouse and Chris Rosman treated the crowd to instrumental music during the social hour. A fine dinner was followed by a few words from M. C. Al Aslakson, FoSA Vice President.

An eloquent keynote address was given by Andy LaTomme, Sunset Bay Park District Manager and a 12-minute slide program, *Milestones and Memories*, reviewed highlights of our '89-90 activities.

Following the slide program, President David Bridgham recognized many of the volunteers for their hard work and many hours of volunteer time.

FoSA Journal, November, 1990



Lighted Heron Sculptures created by David Bridgham and Frank Smith will be added to the Holiday Lights Display



Large crowd enjoyed a fine dinner at the Red Lion Inn, Coos Bay



Mike Perkins, Carol Ventgen, Guest, Debbie Webb, Dick Hansen, Bernice Hjort, Dean Webb, Ron Hjort

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



Parks and Recreation Department REGION 3 PARKS HEADQUARTERS

365 N 4TH, SUITE A, COOS BAY, OREGON 97420 PHONE (503) 269-9410 FAX (503) 269-0909

October 4, 1990

Dave Bridgham
3111 Fir
North Bend OR 97459


Dear Dave:

I want to tell you how much I appreciated last night's volunteer recognition dinner.

It is truly impressive how much has been accomplished in the last four years. I have really been impressed with the work that the *Friends of Shore Acres* has accomplished.

It is truly a pleasure to be associated with such highly motivated and professional individuals. You make us all look good. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,


Ron Hjort
Regional Supervisor

RAH:c



FRIENDS GATHER

by David Bridgham

The 3rd annual Co-op Conference was held at Silver Falls State Park October 12 and 13. Nine Friends groups were represented as well as three more that "wanta be." And, while we all have similar goals to help our parks, we are all unique in our own way.

From a mining museum at Collier to an exceptional gift center at Vista House . . . from a military installation at Fort Stevens to magnificent waterfalls at Silver Falls . . . from an historical pageant at Champoege to the legend of the haunted Yaquina Bay Lighthouse . . . from hiking trails at Tryon Creek to the proposed linear state park, Banks Vernonia (21 miles long and 60 feet wide!) . . . from Cape Blanco's elegant Hughes House to thousands of lights in the gardens at Shore Acres . . . all have something unusual to offer the hundreds of thousands of people who visit each year.

Recapping our activities keeps us in touch and gives us a sense of belonging to something bigger. We learned more about community resources. I told them that we're blessed with a pro-active community.

We workshopped on board retreats and our chief editor, Shirley Bridgham, presented on newsletters. Eight of us went to this year's conference and we've come back with lots of good ideas on how Shore Acres can shine even brighter.

FoSA Journal, November, 1990



Linda Lopez leads discussion.



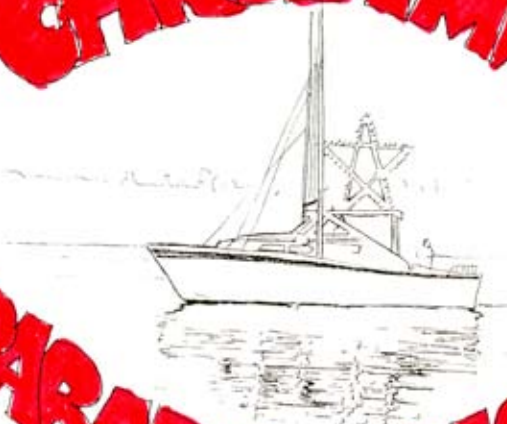
George Guthrie, Jerri Van Natta and David Bridgham

Getting Ready for Holiday Lights



The South Coast Offshore Yacht Club
Presents It's Annual

CHRISTMAS




PARADE of LIGHTS

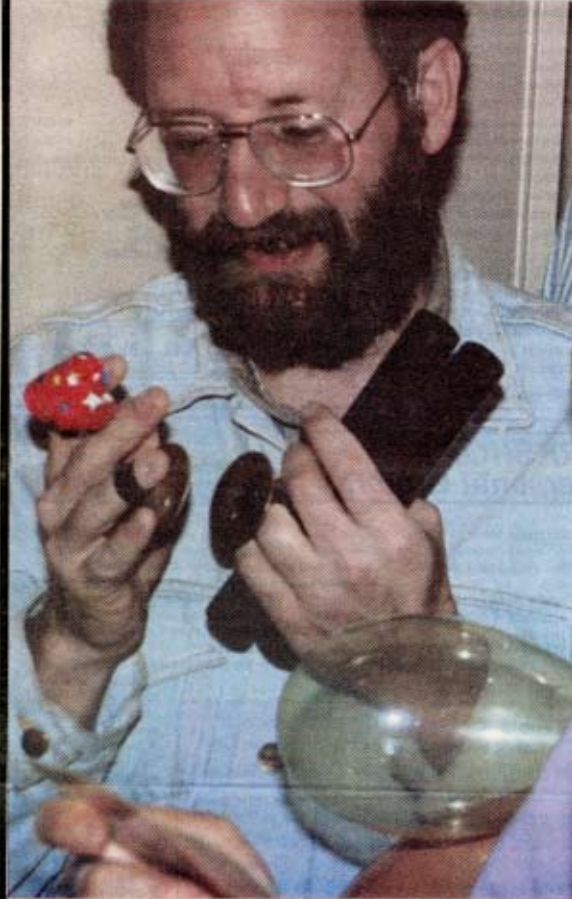
6PM Saturday, December 8, 1990
from City Dock, Coos Bay
to Charleston Harbor

After, Visit Shore Acres Display of 40,000 Lights

Courtesy of Tom Ransford, South Coast Offshore Yacht Club

 **KEN KEYES COLLEGE**
Dedicated to Personal Growth

Quarterly Fall Issue, 1990



Joy of Living

Creating Joy in your life is what it is all about . . . starting from where you are right now! This is a tremendous workshop for new and intermediate participants. Learn to apply Living Love to your life. The focus here is on uniting "heart and head." Carolling at Shore Acres Park with their Christmas light display, revelling in the change of years, all this and more. Sign up early to insure your place - we had a full house last year.

The World - October 17, 1990

Help light gardens

Volunteers who bring some 40,000 lights to the formal gardens at Shore Acres State Park each Christmas will begin a series of fall meetings at noon, Thursday, Oct. 18, in Rooms 102 and 103 of Empire Hall on the campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College.

The meetings will continue at noon Thursdays, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, and 15, with volunteers making plans for the show of holiday lights in the gardens and garden house.

The gardens will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. weeknights and from 3 to 9 p.m. weekends between Dec. 8 and 31 for those visiting the lighting display. Refreshments are served in the garden house and there is free entertainment each night, weather permitting.

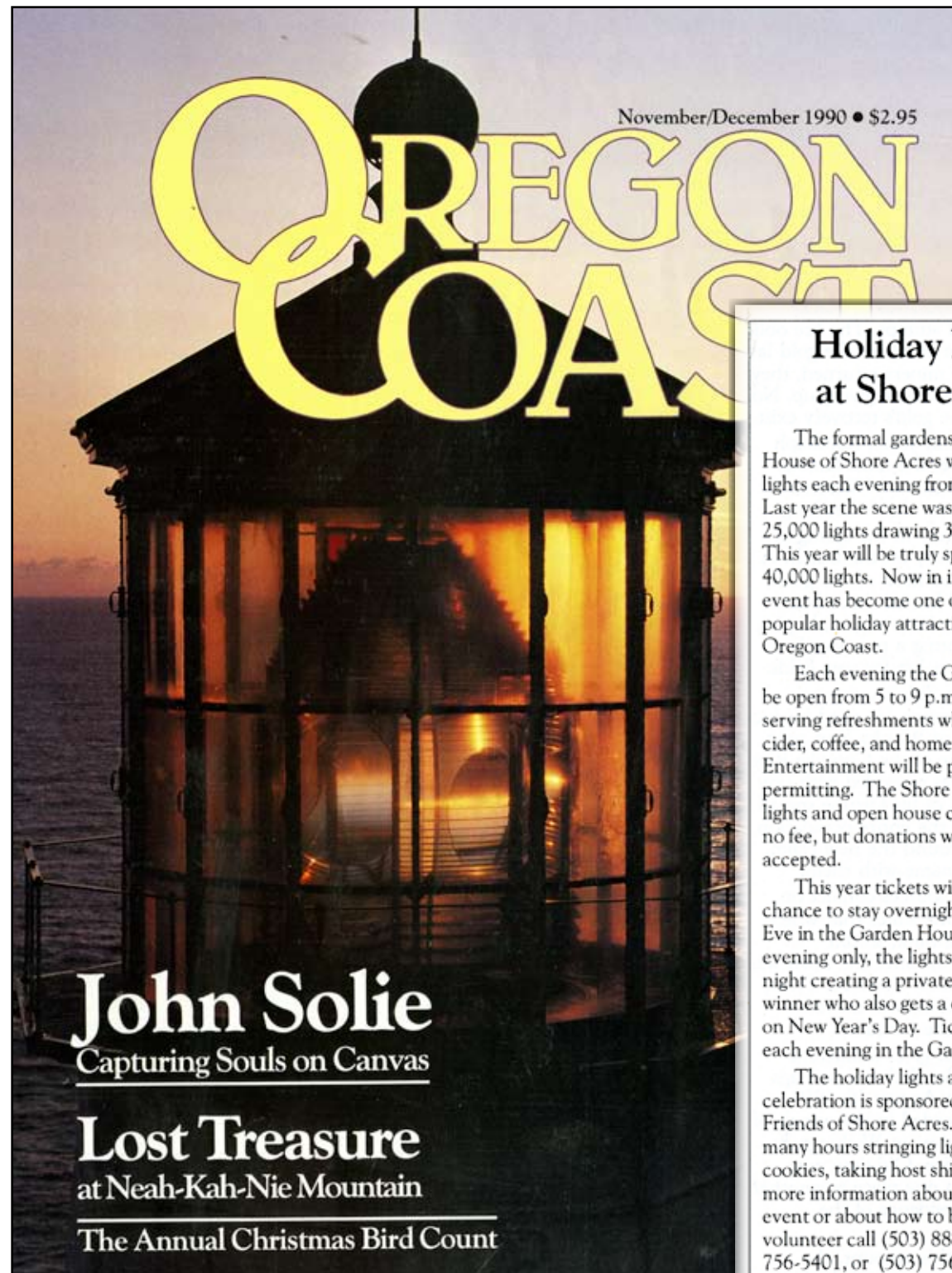
Lights will be put up in the gardens Nov. 23, 24 and 25 and Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. If you plan to help, call 756-5401 and leave a message.

Groups or individuals who would like to entertain should call Kotch Graham at 756-6789.



The fireplace in the Garden House got a new myrtlewood mantel hand crafted by Andy LaTomme, Manager, Shore Acres State Park.

Regional Publicity by Oregon Coast Magazine



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres

The formal gardens and Garden House of Shore Acres will be ablaze with lights each evening from December 8-31. Last year the scene was dazzling with 25,000 lights drawing 35,000 visitors. This year will be truly spectacular with 40,000 lights. Now in its fourth year, this event has become one of the most popular holiday attractions along the Oregon Coast.

Each evening the Garden House will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. with volunteers serving refreshments which include hot cider, coffee, and homemade cookies. Entertainment will be provided weather permitting. The Shore Acres holiday lights and open house celebration charges no fee, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

This year tickets will be sold for a chance to stay overnight on New Year's Eve in the Garden House. For that evening only, the lights will remain on all night creating a private fairyland for the winner who also gets a catered breakfast on New Year's Day. Tickets are available each evening in the Garden House.

The holiday lights and open house celebration is sponsored each year by the Friends of Shore Acres. Volunteers spend many hours stringing lights, baking cookies, taking host shifts, and more. For more information about this popular event or about how to become a volunteer call (503) 888-4902, (503) 756-5401, or (503) 756-3732.

Special holiday events and activities happen all along the coast from Astoria to Brookings. For more information see the December issue of *Oregon Coast Getaway Guide*.



The Garden House aglow at Shore Acres State Park, Charleston. *Alice Richter*

Christmas Trees from the Coos County Forest



*Fred Gonzales,
Coos Head Builders Supply
North Bend*

With the help of the SWOCC (Southwestern Oregon Community College) Forestry Club and Professor Bill Lemoine; the Coos County Forestry Department and Bob Laport; and Coos Head Builders Supply and Fred Gonzales, four large Christmas trees were cut, delivered and placed in Shore Acres' formal garden for volunteers to decorate. ■



Forestry Club volunteers and Professor Bill Lemoine (R)

**VOLUNTEERS
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**
* * *



*George Guthrie, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent,
Shore Acres, Ranger Frank Eckley (hidden) and David
Bridgham, Holiday Lights Co-Chair*

Holiday Lights - Stringers Alert !!!
Shore Acres Gardens
Saturday, November 24 Noon - 5
Sunday, November 25 10 am - 5
Saturday, December 1 & Sunday December 2 10 am - 5
Come and help string 42,000 lights and don't forget the Preview Night
for Volunteers and the Media - Thursday, December 6 at 7 pm !!!
For information call 756-5401.

Friends' Christmas Tree for Center Walkway



Bill Mault, Alice Richter, Betty Mault and Merrie Holbert



Merrie Holbert, Alice Richter, Andy LaTomme and George Guthrie



Bay Area Work Center volunteers help Park Manager Andy LaTomme and Frank Eckley (hidden) put up the large Christmas tree in the center walkway.



Beautiful!

A New Idea



Debbie Webb had a terrific idea - "Let's get some organizations to decorate three of the large outdoor trees!" When everyone agreed, she said, "I'll see who I can get." Next thing the Friends holiday committee knew, dozens of new volunteers from Pacific Power & Light (Debbie Webb, chair); the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay (Rosemary Padgett, chair) and the Friends of South Slough Estuarine Reserve (Mary Enstrom, chair) were working on unique ornaments to decorate their trees. The result? Three distinctly different trees to delight daytime as well as night time visitors. ■



**Bows, Silver Garland and Lighted Top
by Pacific Power & Light**



Pacific Power & Light Volunteers

Friends' Quarterly Newsletter, February 1991



Photo by Shirley Bridgham

Employees of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay decorate one of three theme trees in the formal gardens of Shore Acres State park as work finished up for grand opening Saturday of the annual Holiday Lights display. The port, Pacific Power and South Slough employees decorated the theme trees, while the Friends of Shore Acres volunteers have installed more than 40,000 lights in the gardens near Charleston. Open house at the gardens - complete with entertainment and refreshments - begins Saturday and runs every evening through New Year's Eve. Weekend hours are 3 to 9 p.m.; weeknight hours are 5 to 9 p.m. For information, call 888-4902 or 756-5401.

The World, December 4, 1990



Oregon International Port of Coos Bay Volunteers



**Nautical Theme by Oregon
International Port of Coos Bay**

Living Ornaments for an Outdoor Christmas Tree

by Michael Graybill



Simple in means rich in ends . . . a phrase coined by Bill Duvall, writer and proponent of the much disputed concept of Deep Ecology. One simple phrase and an offer to participate in our region's most spectacular celebration of the winter season, combined to form the prime ingredients for one of the Christmas trees at Shore Acres Gardens.

After the Friends of Shore Acres called the South Slough to offer an opportunity to decorate one of the trees, the staff and Friends of South Slough discussed how we would go about

decorating the tree. The hope was to adorn the tree with living decorations. This way, daytime visitors to the gardens would have an opportunity to see something more than bows, bulbs, and wires.

The other challenge was to come up with some simple decorations capable of withstanding the unpredictable winds, rain and snow of Shore Acres. Winter is a very busy time at South Slough, so another very important consideration was the decorations had to be easy to make. I enjoy working in my woodshop on weekends and I had thirty or so short pieces of western red cedar left over from building a fence in my back yard. I had planned to build some type of bird boxes with these scraps as it is something of a tradition for me to build feeders or nest boxes for my friends and family. I was aware that a friend had discovered some very nice plans for a simple yet appealing wren nest house so I called her for the plans. Other staff members took up the tasks of making bows, and drumming up materials for suet seed balls and pine cones. The book with the plans is entitled Bird Houses by John McNeil, published by Pacific Search Press. The Coos Bay Library has a copy of the book.

I planed the rough sawn fence scraps, and with the help of my table saw had the materials for 30 wren nest boxes ready for assembly in about 10 hours. While I was moth proofing the basement with lots of red cedar sawdust, my wife Jan was upstairs rendering about 20 lbs of beef fat donated by Albertson's Market.

The fat was for suet seed balls and it is necessary to heat it in the oven at about 250 degrees in order to separate the useable fat from the gristle. The fat was in the oven all day but the actual time needed to pour off the liquid fat was nominal. Jan read a book while the slowly simmering fat turned the upstairs to the smell of a fast food burger joint. We used two five pound bags of bird seed and poured the liquid fat into Pyrex cake pans that were about two thirds full of seed. While the fat was still liquid, we stirred the seeds to make sure they were well coated. After the pans were filled we set them on the front porch to cool and solidify.

That evening friends and co-workers dropped by to assemble the decorations. In about two hours we had assembled 30 beautiful bird boxes, filled 25 large pine cones with the suet and seed mixture, and formed another 30 or so plum sized balls of the remaining seed and suet mixture. The seed balls were wrapped in plastic onion bags and a similar material manufactured by Quadel Industries in Coos Bay. It was a fun

winter evening and the Shore Acres birds welcomed our treats during the cold winter. On all our visits to the gardens the tree was full of sparrows, chickadees, and kinglets. As we were taking the decorations off the tree the birds were still eating the last of the seed.

Some of the nest boxes have been distributed to friends and family as late presents, ready for occupants during the breeding season. You might want to try these types of decorations on your trees next holiday season. It is a lasting celebration of a winter project. ■



Bird Houses and Bows by South Slough Friends & Staff
L-R - Jeanne Rumrill, Steve Rumrill, Dean Russell, Carolyn Russell, Marti Martin, Jan Hodder, Mary Enstrom, Volunteer, Marty Giles

Thanks to all who helped!

Getting the Garden House Ready



In the Garden House window, Park Manager Andy LaTomme offers advice to Ranger Frank Eckley in the lift bucket at the peak. The lift truck project was filling woodpecker holes in the trim and siding. The plastic was over the porch to protect a non-skid stair-tread paint while it dried.



A brave volunteer, Bob Golden, puts up lights to outline the front of the house.



In the Garden House, David Bridgham, Holiday Lights Co-Chair (center), discusses the lighting plan with park staff Bill Moragne, Andy LaTomme and George Guthrie.

In the Garden - Volunteers of All Ages



Shore Acres' Landscape Maintenance Superintendent George Guthrie delivers a garden cart full of extension cords made by Marvin Blenz to volunteers (L-R) Alice Richter, a Friends' volunteer, David Bridgham, Bill and Betty Mault, and Merrie Holbert.



GE String-a-long miniature lights decorate the garden, leaving many empty boxes behind.



Kocher-Livingston family string hedge lights. L-R - Kaylee Kocher, Morgan Kocher, Gerry Livingston and Charlie Kocher



Debbie Webb



Bill Mault and Archi Rosenthal



Ginger Sawyer

New Signs Help Visitors Find The Way



John Nelson and Vergil Goodrich of the Oregon Highway Division installed new confidence signs, provided by Sunset Bay Park District, at strategic highway locations.



George Jones and David Bridgham



Rick and Ellie Martial and George Guthrie strung lights on the new sign at the park entrance. Lighting the entrance sign was made possible by Phil Matson and King Phelps of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board and George Jones of Day-Ford Electric.



Confidence Sign added in downtown North Bend



Early evening is a favorite time to see the lights.

Positive Publicity by The World

Page 4B - THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Thursday, November 22, 1990

'Tradition' shines at Shore Acres

CHARLESTON — They call it the "instant tradition."

A Christmas lighting display in the formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park is only a few years old, but it has already become a solid fixture in the holiday season of the Bay Area.

This year, about 42,000 lights will twinkle in the gardens from Dec. 8 through Dec. 31. Music and entertainment will echo through the gardens every night; the garden house will be filled with antiques, holiday decorations and the biggest collection of home-baked cookies for miles around, served — of course — with hot beverages.

The open house for the holidays

**Open every night
from Dec. 8 to Dec. 31**

will run from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weeknights, and from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends, Christmas Eve and Christmas night. There is no admission charge or fee involved.

It's all a community project of the Friends of Shore Acres, a non-profit group formed to enhance the use of the park. It has been involved in several projects at the park year-round, including operation of a gift shop, educational tours, and fund-raising for park improvements.

But the Holiday Lights project is clearly the biggest, attracting the help of hundreds of volunteers and drawing thousands of visitors.

Part of the magic is that there are no other lights in the area around the garden, a gem carved out of a coastal forest, to distract from the lights in the gardens. The event also fills a void in South Coast holiday activities by providing a public, non-commercial display that literally outshines anything else on the South Coast.

It's grown so big — chairman Shirley Bridgman says 44,000 lights are ready to go up in the entire formal portion of the garden this year — that crews have scheduled two full weekends to get the lights and wires all strung, from the tip of the garden house to the top of special Christmas trees that become the focal points of the display.

Already, volunteers have spent countless hours checking last year's lights and replacing dark bulbs. And counted the collection of working lights, adding up to the 42,000 total.



World file photo

The garden house at Shore Acres State Park is the centerpiece in the holiday lighting display that opens on Dec. 8.

Hardly a bush or shrub in the entire formal garden will be without lights this year. Bridgman already has her sites set on lighting the pond area of the garden in 1991.

Adding to the charm is a chance to tour the Garden House, which is usually closed to visitors. The house is carefully decorated for the season, complete with decorated trees of its own, antique holiday cards, and anti-

que toys that might have been presents in the house back when it was occupied by the Simpsons of Shore Acres.

Music and entertainment are provided each night by volunteer groups. There's an outdoor stage for the dry nights. When the weather is damp, some groups have chosen to go ahead with their entertainment on

the porch of the garden house, opening the doors for the crowd inside to hear the music.

The cookies come from a Friends of Shore Acres baking crew, supplemented by donations from throughout the community. They are served up by yet another corps of volunteers who offer to spend an evening as hosts in the garden house.

pouring beverages, passing cookie platters and answering questions about the park.

Though the event is free, donations are accepted, with funds plowed back into more lights and a more extensive lighting system for the next holiday season.

The Friends of Shore Acres will also be selling chances on what the

group calls "the ultimate bed and breakfast." The winner of the drawing will get a chance to spend New Year's Eve in the Garden House, waking up to a catered breakfast on New Year's Day.

For more information about the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres or the Friends of Shore Acres, call 888-4902 or 756-5401.

Publicity for Shore Acres, Other Communities & Activities

Thursday, November 22, 1990, THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore. — Page 5B



World file photo

Before the lights

Before the switch is thrown on the lights at Shore Acres State Park, hundreds of hours of effort have been put in by park personnel, the Friends of Shore Acres support group, and dozens of other volunteers. The effort

takes special wiring, checking old lights, buying new lights, putting up Christmas trees, stringing lights (scheduled for two weekends this year) decorating the garden

house, baking cookies, organizing entertainment, signing up hosts for every evening of the event, and — eventually — taking down the 42,000 lights and wiring for storage and

repairs before next year's event. For more information about the event, see the article on Page 5B, or call the Friends of Shore Acres at 888-4902 or 756-5401.

Boats light up as well

The annual lighted boat parade sponsored by the South Coast Offshore Yacht Club is set this year for Saturday, Dec. 8.

The date was chosen, according to organizer Tom Ransford, to coordinate with the opening night of the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres.

Those watching the boat parade, which originates in downtown Coos Bay are encouraged to follow them down the bay to Charleston before driving out the Shore Acres State Park to see the lights there.

The boat parade, open to any interested and decorated boat, is set to sail at 6 p.m. from Coos Bay's City Dock, with boats assembling at 5:30 p.m.

The parade will go from city dock up the bay to Eastside before sailing down the bay to Charleston, according to Ransford.

Anyone interested in participating can call Ransford for information at 888-7216.

Some of the best spots to catch the boat parade, according to those familiar with the event, include from city dock itself, where a broad expanse of water offers lots of reflections as the boats travel to Eastside and back. The darkness of the dunes and the North Spit also provide a good backdrop for viewing and photographs from along the waterfront in the Empire and Barview districts.

Other communities plan own Christmas displays

The holiday lights at Shore Acres State Park are not the only holiday lighting traditions along the South Coast.

Coordinated downtown displays — chiefly with white lights — are planned in Bandon, Port Orford, and Gold Beach as well.

At Bandon, the Festival of Lights 1990 will run from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31, and will include lighting of the Coquille River Lighthouse, an annual lighting contest among homes and businesses, special events, a live nativity scene and a drawing for prizes.

The festival is sponsored by the Bandon Chamber of Commerce.

The official opening will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Visitor Center in the Old Town district, featuring costumed carolers from Encore Presenters' production of "A Christmas Carol" and the lighting of the community Christmas Tree.

Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman have both been invited to arrive on a fire engine to hand out candy canes for kids of all ages.

At the signal of the community fire horn, lights all over Bandon are scheduled to be turned on, including lights placed on the lighthouse by the Bandon Fire Department.

For more information about the Bandon festival, call the chamber office at 347-9616.

The Gold Beach "Festival of Lights" is slated to begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, when the switch is thrown on more than 50,000 Christmas lights throughout the town. The Festival of Lights continues through Dec. 31, sponsored by the Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce and Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce Merchants' Committee.

As the Christmas tree is lit at city hall, sirens will signal everyone else to turn on their Christmas lights at the same time.

Immediately following the parade, "Santa's Parade" will wind through town and conclude at the Curry County Fairgrounds for refreshments and entertainment.

The event also marks the beginning of a city-wide decorating contest. In addition to lights, residents are encouraged to use garlands, wreaths, ornaments and their imaginations to decorate homes and businesses. Winners will be announced in December.

For more information call Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-452-2334 (inside Oregon) 1-800-542-2334 (outside Oregon) or locally at 247-7526.

More Positive Publicity

Page 10 — Prime Time — December 1990

Shirley Bridgham: Lighting up Our Coast Life



Shirley Bridgham and her husband, David, are actively improving Shore Acres State Park. They will coordinate placing 40,000 lights in the garden in anticipation of more than 35,000 visitors this holiday season.

By Irene Stoops

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... at Shore Acres. And Shirley Bridgham helps create that look.

A charter member of the Friends of Shore Acres, she spends about 40 hours each

month co-editing (with her husband David) a quarterly newsletter for more than 250 members, coordinating Christmas lights and improving the park.

This is the fourth year the group has lit the garden with Christmas lights—a project that began with

6,000 lights, has increased to 40,000 lights.

"In 1986 we thought we could use extension cords," laughs Mrs. Bridgham, "but soon we had Pacific Power and Light in the garden, and we were in the light business."

The group plans to wire some permanent night lights by December 1991, and later add parking and a heritage center.

"I think it's a challenge to see if we can accomplish the goals we've set," she says.

"David and I both see Shore Acres as a real economic factor," she says.

The Bridghams are committed to making the garden a place visitors will want to see and have fun in the process.

"We always tell our volunteers, 'if you're not having fun, don't do it.' We have met so many neat people," says the enthusiastic North Bend native.

Meanwhile, the number of park visitors has increased from about 4,000 in December 1985 to about 35,000 in December 1989, according to George Guthrie, head gardener.

The group hopes more people will see the garden decorated in the theme "Sea Captain's Cottage" between Dec. 8 and 31 this year.

Friends of Shore Acres is a natural extension of Mrs. Bridgham's friendly personality, her enjoyment of people and nature, and her occupation in media services with Southwestern Oregon Community College.

She created a program entitled "The Shore Acres Story" for

SWOCC's final multi-image film festival in 1986. Still occasionally shown at the park on three projectors, it includes 12 minutes of history and five minutes of what Shore Acres is like now, with images set to music.

"I spent hours and hours shooting old pictures," remembers SWOCC's 19-year staff member and current information services coordinator.

Filming the history of Shore Acres deepened her interest in the park, so she, district park director Andy LaTomme, and eight others began the Friends group in December 1986.

Mrs. Bridgham wants visitors to realize how valuable Oregon Parks and their history are, rather than taking for granted the availability of a groomed garden.

The Friends group has added plant name tags, rose and rhododendron Sundays and a gift and information center.

"It's fun to be part of something that everybody loves," she says.

Mrs. Bridgham was honored in April by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for her service in the Friends of Shore Acres and the Zonta Club, a women's service organization, for which she coordinates a fashion show.

She is also active in the Coos Art Museum, the Coos County Historical Society, the Friends of Cape Blanco, BATS for Jazz and the Oregon Coast Music Association.

"I know that the one way to keep time from going too fast is to sit home and do nothing, and I don't ever intend to do that," she says.

More December Publicity



Senior Citizen Christmas Light Tour
Saturday, December 8, 1990

Tour the lights at Shore Acres, the boats along the bay, and highlight spots around the town.

The busses leave Coos Bay Senior Center and return to steaming hot clam chowder and coffee. Sign Up at either Senior Center today.

Sponsored by:
Skipper's Seafood 'n Chowder House
Woodie's Quik Wok
Coos Bay Inn

This Ad brought to you as a public service from The World

OREGON ADVENTURES

GARDEN HOUSE

As we complete our fourth year as a Friends Co-op, we will have our fourth December of Lights. We've grown from 6,000 lights in '87 to more than 40,000 lights this year. Our "Instant Tradition" continues, beginning December 8th and continuing through New Years Eve (including Christmas Eve and Christmas), you are invited to a holiday wonderland at the Gardens. Hosts from community organizations and Friends volunteers will greet you with hot cider, coffee, cranberry punch and of course, cookies!

Opening night December 8th coincides with the annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade, sponsored by the Southcoast Offshore Yacht Club. You can watch the parade which starts at Coos Bay City Dock at 6 p.m.,

night, with 2 or 3 groups many nights. Carolers, musicians, and dance groups will perform on our outdoor stage, weather permitting. An entertainment list will be available at the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and the North Bend Information Center.

The Garden House will be open from 3 to 9 p.m. on weekends and from 5 to 9 p.m. on weeknights. Thanks to the extraordinary community support we receive, and the endless hours put in by our volunteers, each year gets better and better. Be sure to bring your family and friends to experience, again, that wonderful "old fashioned holiday spirit."

then come to Shore Acres to see the lights. Entertainment is scheduled each

again, that wonderful "old fashioned holiday spirit."

More Than 2,200 Dozen Cookies!



At North Bend Junior High School, Sharon Fortune, Pearl Groves and more than 50 volunteer cookie bakers baked over 1,700 dozen cookies. Another 100 volunteers baked nearly 500 dozen. This was the first year we didn't run out! And thanks to Vend West, we had a place to store them. ■



Sharon Fortune (L) and Volunteers



Sharon Fortune (L), Pearl Goves (R) and team, Dec. 8



Marty Wheeler



Co-Chair Pearl Groves, Sharon Fortune and team, Dec. 1

Continuing Coverage by The World

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Friday, December 7, 1990



World photo by David Morgan

New to the lighting display at Shore Acres State Park this year are lighted recreations of the herons from the garden pond.

Garden lights impress 'elves'

CHARLESTON — The sneak preview Thursday night was for the volunteer elves who put up the decorations — and even they were impressed at the sight.

Walking into formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park to see 50,000 lights shimmering across the tops of plants and shrubs is a touch of Christmas magic that opens formally to the public Saturday night. The lights will be on every night through New Year's Eve.

The free festivities include nightly entertainment and free refreshments served up in the garden house, which is decked out in antique holiday decorations. The hours are from 3 to 9 p.m. on weekends and 5 to 9 p.m. on weeknights.

To relieve parking problems, a shuttle will

run on Friday and Saturday nights from Sunset Bay State Park.

With the number of lights doubled, the tradition of visiting the park growing, and new signs on Highway 101 drawing attention to the show, Park Manager Andy LaTomme said Thursday he expects 50,000 visitors to the park for the lights.

In conjunction with the opening of the Shore Acres show on Saturday, the annual lighted boat parade will occur Saturday night, with decorated vessels sailing from city dock in downtown Coos Bay to Charleston. Organizers hope that boat watchers will travel on out to the park after watching the boat parade.

Other special lighting displays already also in place for viewing this weekend include

community lighting projects in Bandon, Gold Beach and Brookings.

Lighting list

The World is also asking readers to help area residents find the best holiday lighting displays from Brookings to Gardiner so that the newspaper can publish a list of places to see in next Friday's edition of The World.

Readers who are impressed with the lighting displays they've seen can call or write in with recommendations for the Holiday Lighting List. Call during regular office hours to 269-1222 or write The World, P.O. Box 1840, Coos Bay, 97420. Be sure to include an exact location or directions for the home or business you are recommending.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Saturday, December 8, 1990

Winter tourists

There's lots to offer now

WE'VE SAID THIS before but it bears repeating: Labor Day does not end this region's opportunity to attract tourists.

One of the things that proves that statement starts tonight at Shore Acres State Park, where 50,000 visitors are expected to come see the holiday lights display.

The gardens are already popular with visitors. Spend an hour in the park and ask people where they're from — even in the winter — and the answers will amaze you. And now, in just a few short years, the lights have grown from a community Christmas party to a real event that is drawing visitors from out of the area in droves.

The Friends of Shore Acres — and the group's chief organizers, Dave and Shirley Bridgham — deserve congratulations and encouragement for the magic volunteers weave in the park gardens.

While Shore Acres shines brighter than the rest, similar congratulations should go to volunteers in other communities who have organized lighting displays and winter events in an effort to brighten the holidays.

BUT THERE'S MORE than just holiday lights to claim as winter tourism.

As environmental tourism grows, the annual migration of the grey whales along the coast brings lots of folks to our headlands and viewpoints. The growing number of retirees in the tourism market means that watching winter storms from the shelter of a motel room or restaurant dining room is more and more popular. And on long winter evenings, most communities have cultural events that make the weekends more attractive to residents and visitors alike.

And the word is spreading that coastal weather rarely stays bad for very long, the highways and campgrounds are rarely very crowded, and many tourist businesses offer a seasonal discount on their rates.

There's no doubt that the summer fun on the coast will always be more popular with travelers, but let's not forget that the off-season has a charm and pleasure of its own. It's a season we can share — at a profit.

Awesome Sights to Behold



Original Redwood Entrance



Giant Monterey Cypress Trunks Wrapped With Lights

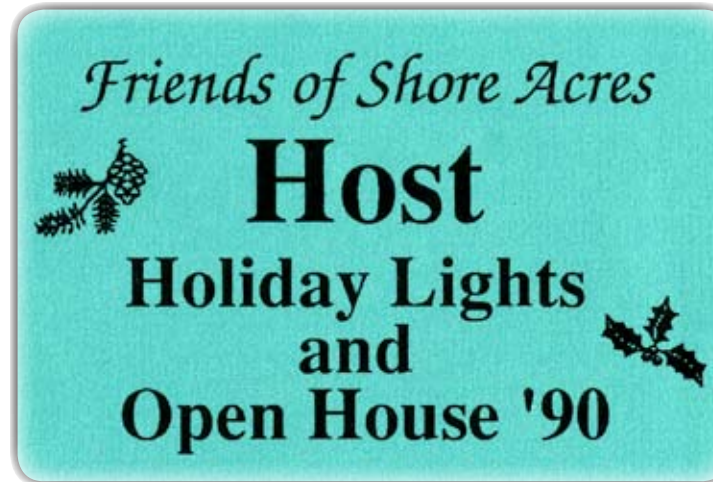


Photos by Friends' Official Photographer Luis Velasquez

A Time for Hot Cider, Punch, Coffee and Cookies



Visitors wait patiently.



Zonta Team

Pat Flitcroft, Mary Nixon, Carol Clayburn, Carol Ventgen



Let's see what's upstairs.



Bill and Lois Harvey



Steve Hooper, Cindy Boe, Jan Hooper



KCBY Team

Debbie Graham, Stephanie Kilmer, Joy McCarthy, Freddi Booth



The clown is Geno Landrum.



David Bridgham and Marvin Blenz

Awesome Sounds to Hear



Bud Baird



Wanda Graham and Caroline



Bud Baird and Wanda Graham

Wanda (Kotch) Graham organized entertainment for the outdoor stage. When weather permitted, visitors were entertained by choirs, guitarists, bands, soloists, dancers and clowns. Some even sang or played in the rain and freezing cold! *A special thanks to them!!* ■



First Presbyterian Church-North Bend Choir directed by Elaine Bessey

The First “Ultimate Bed and Breakfast”

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., November 27, 1990

A special New Year's celebration

John and Tricia Shreck of Coos Bay have won the right to a unique New Year's Eve celebration — bed and breakfast in the garden house at Shore Acres State Park.

The Friends of Shore Acres made the offer in a fund-raising raffle with tickets sold during the current Holiday Lights display in the formal gardens of the park.

The garden house will still be decorated with lights and antique holiday furnishings when the Shrecks stay overnight, with a catered breakfast on New Year's Day.

The Holiday Lights display and open house is open every night through New Year's Eve, with the garden house open to the public from 5 to 9 p.m. on weeknights, and from 3 to 9 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

This year's display, which has doubled in size from last year to include 52,000 lights, is drawing record crowds, according to organizers. On Sunday, Dec. 23, there were waiting lines to get into the garden house at some points during the evening.

For those wishing to help take down and put away the display, volunteers are welcome to show up at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, in the gardens.

Shirley Bridgham, Archivist - “We planned for more than 40,000 lights and ended up with more than 50,000.”



Antique bed in front bedroom awaited the winners, who stayed overnight with all the holiday lights left on and received a catered breakfast New Year's morning.



Kaarina Love and Phyllis Love (not pictured) brought breakfast.



Park Manager Andy LaTomme presented a Friends' Remembrance Plaque to winners Tricia and John Shreck on New Year's Eve.

No. 025		Ultimate Bed and Breakfast		\$10
THE GARDEN HOUSE SHORE ACRES STATE PARK New Years Eve - December 31, 1990 10:00 pm - 10:00 am A Benefit for The Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.				
				
Winners announced at the Garden House December 24th at 8:00 pm. Winner need not be present to win. Drawing limited to 250 tickets. Winner agrees to abide by Oregon State Parks regulations.				
Name <u>John Tricia Shreck</u>				
Phone # <u>267-780400 or 267-0218</u>				

Publicity in the New Year . . .

THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN, JANUARY 6, 1991

Readers share favorite parks

Parks are great stopping places, at home or afar. The January Travel question asked readers to share their favorite park. Here are some of the responses:

Park honors musicians

My favorite park is one in Vienna at the edge of the inner city, near the opera house and the art museums. Its many benches invite the traveler to pause, and it is full of statues and busts of Schubert, Mozart, Bruckner, the Strausses, and other composers who lived in Vienna.

I discovered this park on my first visit to Vienna, and usually began each day with a stroll through it. I would nod to the statue of Johann Strauss, say "Hello, Franz" and "Good morning, Mozart." Then I often would get a pastry at the nearby Cafe Mozart and sit in the golden sunlight in the park. At such a time and place, Vienna's glorious musical past seemed very close.

Stanley Johnson
Portland

Shore Acres special

To me a special place of beauty in Oregon, in all seasons, is Shore Acres State Park, near Charleston

TRAVEL QUESTION

on the south-central coast. One may stroll the formal botanical gardens of lumber magnate Louis J. Simpson or watch the spectacular surf for miles from outside or inside the observation building at the site of the old mansion. There are conveniences for picnicking. Birds abound. From a distance, there's the noise of barking seals.

There cannot be a more breathtaking sight than the splendor of the holiday glow at darkness of the 40,000-plus lights threaded through the garden in December for everyone, young or old, to enjoy.

LaVerne R. West
Glide

Have you lost anything?

If you lost something at Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens during the "Christmas Lights" events you can collect it at the Coos Historical Museum, in Simpson Park, North Bend, now.

Items recovered from visitors to the park during the annual event were stored by the Friends of Shore Acres.

The museum is open 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; it is closed Mondays.

Page 6 - THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Monday, January 7, 1991



Coast Life

Shore Acres holiday lights called 'fantastic' and 'awesome' by visitors

More than 40,000 people visited Shore Acres State Park in December for the fourth annual holiday lights and open house sponsored by the Friends of Shore Acres.

They were welcomed by more than 40,000 lights, a fully-decorated garden house, hot cider, coffee, cranberry punch and homemade cookies,

as well as outdoor entertainment.

Hundreds of volunteers worked to make this community tradition a significant part of holiday visitor's plans, organizers said. At North Bend Junior High School, more than 50 volunteer cookie bakers, under the direction of Sharon Fortune and Pearl Groves, baked over 1,700 dozen cookies. Another 100 volunteers baked cookies at home, bringing the total number of cookies to 2,100 dozen.

Four large Christmas trees were brought in and more than 50 volunteers spent two weekends and several days stringing lights and decorating. Three of the large trees were decorated by three different organizations: Pacific Power and Light Co., the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, and the South Slough National Estuarine Reserve.

Connie Eslinger, with the help of another group of volunteers, furnished and decorated the garden house as a sea captain's cottage. State parks staff completed a new gate and ramp at the garden entrance, applied a non-slip surface to the wood entry, extended parking lot lights, and helped Friends with many other tasks.

Host teams, many of them

organizations, took on the job of hosting for 24 nights. They used 4 cases of apple juice, gallons of cranberry punch, and pots and pots of coffee. They also answered thousands of questions about the gardens and the South Coast.

Two guest books were kept, with comments coming from visitors from throughout the United States and the world.

Comments ranged from "Well worth the trip," from a St. Helen visitor to "this is a wonderful place," from a Costa Rica traveler.

Visitors came from throughout the region, from places like Hazard, Ky and Sioux Falls, S.D., as well as Hong Kong and Australia!

Dave Bridgham, president of the Friends group said, "We hope to have a combination of nightscapes and holiday lights at the Orienta pond, isolated colors in the flower beds, more light sculptures, and another unique theme for the house."

After Takedown . . .



Many dedicated volunteers took down the lights display, leaving a pile of the custom made extension cords in front of the fireplace.

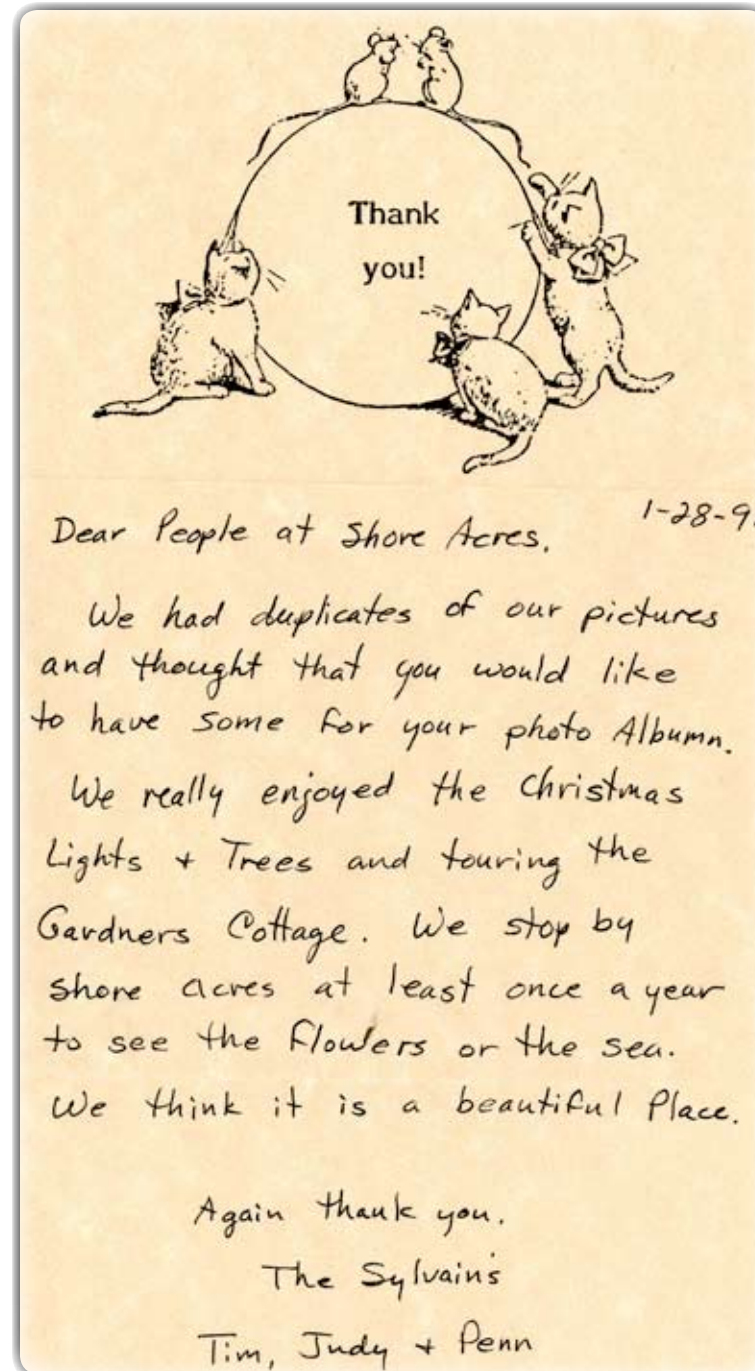
Another pile of miniature lights resided under the front room window.

After drying out, all were boxed and stored, to be used again in the 1991 display.

A big thanks to all who helped! ■



A Thank You and Photos



More Lights and Pond Lights Coming in 1991

Will a Frozen Pond in Decemter Affect Spring Flowers?

GARDEN NOTES

by George Guthrie, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent, Shore Acres

Lets face it, even at the best of times any garden (even Shore Acres) can be a rather subdued place in mid-winter, especially if you compare it with all the color and fragrance of summer flowers. Toss in the effects of a December freeze and the place can look like a real mess.

South African agapanthus look like mush and South American escallonia like toast. Rhodies, roses, and all sorts of other evergreens look like they'll never come back. The prevailing garden color in places is brown or even black - provided there are any leaves left at all.

Yet, despite the freeze damage, the garden goes on. Daffodils are bravely pushing up, some crocus are already blooming and, wonder of wonders, I even saw some flowers on an azalea. And it will only get better.

The mushy agapanthus will resurrect, the toasty escallonia will rebud, and rhodies and roses will flower again. The garden will go on - not because the gardeners are magicians (though we try hard) but because nature is full of surprises and most plants (besides being lovely to look at) are just plain tough.

Would you believe our beautiful bottle brush has been tilled to the ground at least 3 times in the seven years I've been here and has come back every time? Yes some plants are definitely gone (at your garden and mine) but hope like tulips (and dandelions) springs eternal and the majority will be back to normal sooner than you think.

All gardens are a dynamic combination of nature's plants and human minds and hands. Sometimes we tend to treat plants like puzzle pieces and set them around any way we like to create a pretty picture of our choosing.

Time, tide and bad weather are Ma Nature's way of shuffling these puzzle pieces into her own design and reminding us that ultimately we are not masters of the game but partners in life's changing pattern. Meteorological misses (and tricks) are what keep gardeners from complacency and gardens from being merely static sculpture. A garden is something that lives and changes - sometimes for better, sometimes for worse - but this is the real magic that keeps Shore Acres special through every season of the year.

Come out and see for yourself.

George



Friends of Shore Acres Quarterly Newsletter, February 1991



A Frozen Pond in December



Spring is Coming . . .

The OREGON MOTORIST



March/April 1991

Volume 67 Number 2



Photo by Steve Terrill

Splashes of exotic color lure visitors to Shore Acres State Park on Oregon's South Coast

Company's Coming Beach Cleanup – March 16, 1991

MAKE FRIENDS WITH CAP'N BEWARE

by Andy
LaTomme



If you're looking for something to help you get over the post-holiday blahs -- something to help pass the time until summer comes - something that will get you off the couch and into the outdoors -- something that will make you feel good -- something that other people will appreciate -- something that will help the environment -- Have I got an idea for you !!!

Look, we all know that Shore Acres is the best reason for visiting southwest Oregon. But a close second has to be the 192 miles of ocean beaches that make up the southern part of the Ocean Shore Recreation Area.

Well, during the winter they get sort of, uh ... messy. You know -- garbage gets tossed overboard or left behind by some thoughtless folks and more stuff washes up with the tides, and pretty soon -- yecch.

Now, it takes a lot of work to keep our beaches clean. That's why Cap'n Beware, the beach safety bear, and the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department invite you to participate in the 1991 COMPANY'S COMING BEACH CLEAN-UP.

Just show up at the Winchester Bay, Horsefall Beach or Bastendorff Beach parking areas on SATURDAY, MARCH 16, at 9:00 a.m. We'll have someone 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).

If you'd like to do more, have some questions, or want more information, call Shore Acres (888-3732) and ask for Ellie. ■



BEACH CLEANUP

by Ellie Kinney

The cleanup for the Sunset Bay District netted about 3.7 tons of garbage (7,400 pounds). Included in this figure were 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.



Over 255 people came out to help with the cleanup effort, including many community groups. The Oregon Off-Highway Vehicle Association, alone, sponsored the cleanup at Three Mile Beach.

Other help

was obtained from the National Association of Women in Construction, the OATVA, Workforce 2000 (from SWOCC), Coos Bay Power Squadron, North Bend Kiwanis, North Bend High School Key Club and numerous Scouting groups and 4-H groups.

A special thanks goes out to Horning Brothers Sanitary Service in Reedsport and Les' Sanitary Services, Inc., in Coos Bay for hauling away the trash.

Sheriff Deputy Rod Summers was a lifesaver at Horsfall Dunes. He hauled everything off the beach.

We have a lot of ideas for next year's cleanup, including one from David Bridgham. He suggested we start a contest for the most unusual piece of trash found during the cleanup, saving the winning items to use for a public awareness display to show what ends up on Oregon's beaches. ■

Annual Pond Cleaning - March 23, 1991

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Monday, March 25, 1991



Shore Acres' George Guthrie



Friends and BLM Volunteers



Photo by Dave Bridgham

Pond cleaning party

The volunteers outnumber the pots of water lilies Saturday as they clean out the muck from the oriental pond in the gardens of Shore Acres State Park outside Charleston. It was wet and dirty work, but the annual event still attracted a large number of volunteers from the Friends of Shore Acres State Park and the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management, which also donated equipment to help with the

project. And what happens to the coins that park visitors toss in the pond for luck? If they can be cleaned up, the Friends of Shore Acres claim the cash for the group's projects at the park. To end the problem of cleaning the cash, the group is thinking of installing an attractive target in the pond that could be emptied on a regular basis.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COINS?

For the past two years, we have been storing the coins collected from pond cleaning, in hopes that we would be able to get them cleaned and turned in for reimbursement. Many of the coins are not useable because of the material they are made of and because of the length of time they are in the pond. Over the past year, Friend and park ranger Sharon Williams took on the task of cleaning the coins. She also contacted the folks at Pacific Security Bank in Reedsport and they agreed to send the cleaned coins to the Philadelphia Mint. Because of Sharon's hard work and perseverance and the cooperation of the bank, the Friends were reimbursed for more than \$200. ■



Oregon State Parks Co-Ops Honored in Salem

from the Prez . . .

My day in Salem, on behalf of the Friends of Shore Acres, included a morning meeting with eight other presidents of Friends Co-ops state wide. We discussed issues common to all of us, including topics like gift sales and state-wide sales items. Newer friends took the opportunity to ask the more seasoned friends "how to" questions. The exchange of ideas and the sharing of experiences left us determined to meet at least twice a year.

In the afternoon, we went to the Capitol building for afternoon appointments with our local legislators. We talked with them about issues important to Friends of Shore Acres and Oregon State Parks. The fallout from Measure 5 has impacted not only state parks, but their relationship to Friends Co-ops, as well. Many of our cooperative long term projects have been slowed down, but not stopped. State parks have many friends and supporters in the Legislature.

A big supporter is Governor Barbara Roberts. The reception for the Governor that afternoon was the highlight of the day. It was both, my honor and pleasure to accept recognition from the Governor on behalf of the Friends of Shore Acres. Our organization has accomplished a great deal, and it is because of the efforts of many caring people. We can all feel equally proud of what we have done, and look forward to many new opportunities. ■

David



Friends of Shore Acres Quarterly Newsletter, May 1991



Governor Barbara Roberts and David Bridgham, President Friends of Shore Acres

THE WORLD - March 31, 1991

O'Dell, Bridgham honored

SALEM — Two South Coast residents were among 10 presidents of "cooperating associations" involved in helping specific Oregon State Parks who were honored recently by Gov. Barbara Roberts for the time, energy and funds the groups have contributed to Oregon State Parks.

The two are Willie O'Dell of Friends of Cape Blanco and Dave Bridgham of Friends of Shore Acres.

During her term of office, O'Dell started an interpretive sales area, initiated an annual Christmas season event at the park's Hughes House, increased membership in the association, and restored several rooms of the House and arranged a grant to work on more restoration.

Bridgham of Coos Bay, and his wife Shirley, were founding members of the Friends of Shore Acres near Charleston, and are credited with leading the group to success in an annual Christmas Lighting project and

other projects.

The ceremony and reception honored the presidents of the cooperating associations like Friends of Shore Acres was held at Oregon State Parks headquarters in Salem.

Roberts, herself a member of the Friends of Historic Champoege, said the groups provided 34,100 volunteer hours of work during 1990 and have raised \$440,000 over the past year for interpretive and educational programs.

Other associations honored at the reception are attached to Friend of Hsitoric Champoege near Newberg, Friends of Elijah Birstow near Dexter, Friends of Silver Falls near Silverton, Friends of Tyron Creek in Portland, Friends of Vista House near Corbett, Friends of Collier Memorial State Park near Chiloquin, Friends of Fort Stevens near Hammond, and Friends of Yaquina Bay Lighthouse.

Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 12, 1991



In the center of the garden, George Guthrie, Shore Acres' Landscape Maintenance Superintendent and Tom and Ann Drake, Southwestern Oregon Rhododendron Society answered visitors' questions about rhododendrons.



In the Garden House, Friends' volunteers Charlotte Skinner, Donna Flammang, Pearl Affholter served cookies, lemonade and coffee to visitors.



An added attraction in the Garden House, was an exhibit and demonstrations by weavers and spinners from *Headles & Treadles*, *Humbug Mountain Weavers & Spinners*, and local members of the *Northwest Spinners Association*.



In the gardens – an amazing display of rhododendrons and azaleas.

Statesman Journal
Salem, Oregon
Monday, May 13, 1991

SHORE ACRES

Park is lumberman's legacy

Story by Ron Cowan
Photos by Gerry Lewin

The Statesman Journal

SHORE ACRES STATE PARK — The natural elements have not been tamed by time or man along the southern Oregon coast.

A turbulent Pacific Ocean with roaring breakers can spray surf more than 50 feet in the air off the ragged sandstone cliffs, salting tortured-looking trees clinging precariously to the clifftops.

But this spectacular landscape has been tamed in its transformation into a pearl-like string of state parks. Their neat public restrooms and picnic tables offer little evidence of an era when this part of the coast was home to a powerful landowner who worked and lived lavishly here.

Such was the story of lumberman and shipbuilder Louis J. Simpson, who has left as his legacy three coastal jewels — Sunset Bay, Shore Acres and Cape Arago state parks. More than 1,200 acres of recreation land was created from what was a private enclave southwest of the lumber and shipping towns of North Bend and Coos Bay.

The centerpiece of the trio of parks is Shore Acres, named by the family of Simpson, a pioneer businessman who founded North Bend, ran for governor in 1918 and once sent his ships around the world.

Today a glass-enclosed viewing shelter with a 180 de-

gree view occupies the site where Simpson built two different mansions. A restored English botanical garden and a shingled, two-story gardener's house from 1906 recall the once-lavish touches of the Simpson lifestyle.

Springtime turns the formal gardens into dazzling squares of red azaleas and multi-colored tulips set amid an emerald-green lawn bordered by lusty, flower-decked rhododendrons in many hues.

June and July bring a glorious flush of roses, followed in the fall by a lavish display of the robust blooms of gaudy dahlias.

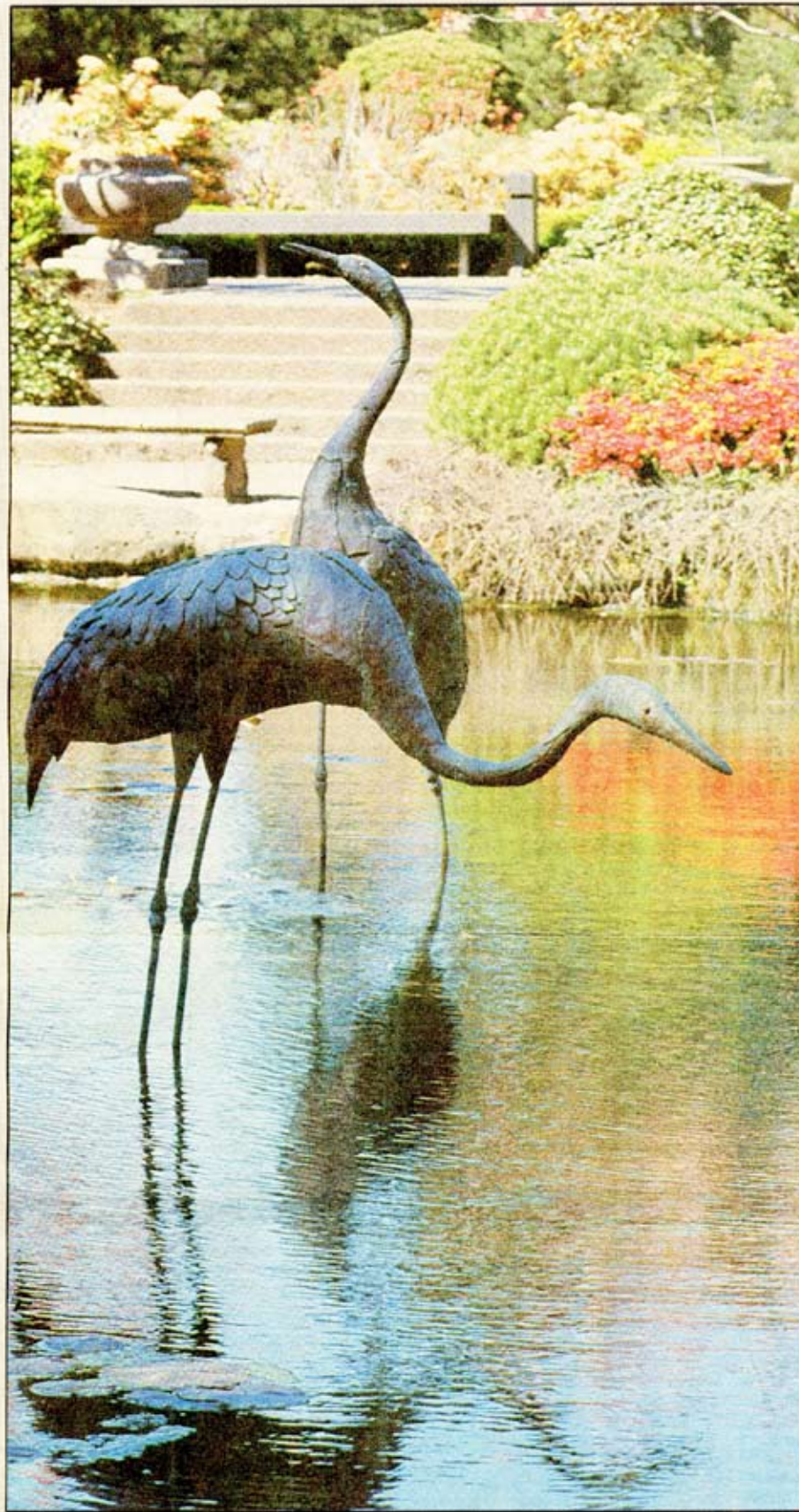
The gem of the display is the 100-foot-long oriental pool at the southern end of the gardens. Two bronze herons browse silently in a pool laced with lily pads and shadowed by Japanese maples, bamboo, moss-covered stone lanterns and an arching oriental bridge.

The ocean makes its presence known with a soft roar, filling the air with a fresh, salty vapor that mingles with the pungent aroma of flowers.

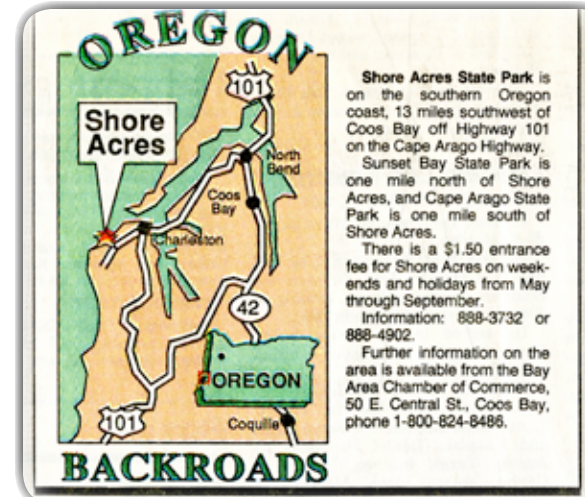
Simpson's onetime estate on the scenic seaward side of the Seven Devils Peninsula also offers irresistible natural drama.

Sculpted sandstone bluffs, many uplifted dramatically to the sky, rise up to 75 feet high and confront an ocean that tests the tilted slabs with sky-washing sprays of foam.

Coves cobbled with stone
Turn to Acres, Page 2B



Two bronze herons decorate the oriental pond, which is surrounded by Japanese maples.



A kaleidoscope of colors dominates a pond at Shore Acres State Park.



The gardener's house is all that remains of the buildings at Shore Acres Estate after a fire destroyed everything else.

Continued Next Page

Publicity Continues . . .

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., June 4, 1991



Petex Alain of France paddles through the blue waters of Sunset Bay with a kayak during a tour of the Oregon Coast with a friend.

Kayaking grows in coast popularity

Skimming silently across a misty coastal bays and exploring muddy inlets ripe with wildlife while piloting a sleek kayak used to be a pleasure known only to a few — but the numbers are growing — and some are making the Oregon Coast a destination stop.

On occasional days, kayakers can be seen playing around in the waves in Sunset Bay, according to Sunset Bay State Park Manager Andy LaTonne. The number of kayakers boating in

Sunset Bay has increased at a gradual rate over the past couple years, LaTonne said.

Coos Bay itself and the Coos River have been mentioned in a new kayak exploration hand guide by Joel Rogers entitled "The Hidden Coast, Kayak explorations from Alaska to Mexico." Contributing to the book is kayaking guru John Dowd, who penned the sea kayaking "bible," "Sea Kayaking."

The book details trips from icebergs

choked Prince William Sound to the sand-blasted shoreline along the Sea of Cortez with pictures as can only be seen and taken aboard a kayak — include a picture of sunrise over the Coos River.

Aiding the popularity of the sport have been changes in the technology of the boats, according to Rogers. Prices for kayaks have continued to go down with new breakthroughs in plastics manufacturing.

Whitewater kayakers — the smaller,

more maneuverable version of a stable sea kayak — can be seen in abundance on the Rogue River. The six-foot-long boats have the ability to snake through the tightest of roaring rapids.

"In the last year and a half we have seen a lot more kayakers on the river," said Karen Hodden of the U.S. Forest Service's Rand Information Center. "It seems people have tried rafting and now want to try something else."

Continued . . .

Acres/Coastal park is lumberman's legacy

Continued from Page 1B

and spread with sand have been cut by the sea into parts of the shoreline. To the north of Shore Acres is fan-shaped Sunset Bay, where Simpson built an inn with a restaurant and cabins in 1913.

Cape Arago to the south offers grand views of the sea, along with the sight and sound of fat sea lions barking on an offshore island.

Gnarled, sculpted trees, as dramatic for their exposed roots as their twisted limbs, cling dramatically, sometimes precariously to the cliff tops along the coast.

Louis J. Simpson was a man known for his esthetic viewpoint and a penchant for the beauty of nature. In 1906, he decided to build a mansion for his wife, Cassie, on a high promontory at the southern end of Shore Acres.

The unpainted, three-story structure became his permanent home in 1916.

The house was more than 100 feet long and had 15 guest rooms, a living room with a huge fireplace and picture windows, a dining

room and a third-story ballroom. A Roman-style basement pool offered swimming in either fresh or salt water, heated by a private plant.

North of the mansion stood a two-story stable and carriage house with a path that wandered along the cliff to two concrete tennis courts at the edge of the cliff. The shattered concrete slab of the courts remains today.

Simpson's crews cleared about 200 acres of the forested land by 1915, discovering a rich peat that gardeners labored over for 30 years in creating four acres of formal gardens.

Hydrangeas, roses, rhododendrons and exotic trees were among about 3,000 plants, many carried from distant lands by Simpson's ships. Simpson even added an electrical plant to light the mansion, formal pathways and plants.

South of the gardens was 200 acres of crops with a dairy and chicken farm.

But Simpson's wife died suddenly in 1920, and disaster

struck his estate itself on July 4, 1921. As Simpson took a walk in the gardens, he saw a glow in the sky from a fire that quickly destroyed his home.

The intense blaze destroyed everything in the myrtlewood-paneled mansion, which had been filled with expensive furniture, a Tiffany chandelier, art treasures and office records.

In spite of the \$120,000 loss, Simpson decided to build again in 1924, hiring a Swedish contractor to construct a two-story mansion that sprawled along 224 feet of the bluff. The 17-room home included a gymnasium and bedrooms with private baths. Much of the timber came from the schooner Brush, which was wrecked on nearby Simpson reef.

But the Simpson fortune was eroded by business reverses. Construction stopped on the uncompleted home, and the 1929 stock market crash did further harm.

In 1932, Simpson decided to give up his farm, donating 134 acres at Cape Arago to the state of

Oregon for a park.

In the fall of 1936, forest fires spread along the hills from Bandon to the south and scorched the lush hills near the Simpson home. The farmer's cottage, the power plant, two barns and other outbuildings were destroyed.

With the arrival of World War II, the coast road to Shore Acres was closed by the military, and Simpson left, selling the remaining 637 acres of his estate to the state of Oregon for \$29 million.

The mansion became a barracks and clubhouse for a tank battalion during the war. The deteriorated building was razed in 1948 and the oriental pool was filled in.

Reconditioning of the gardens was undertaken by the state in 1942 under the direction of Anton Jensen.

Today, Shore Acres has been restored to a peaceful beauty that has made it part of what the state has dubbed "a tremendous trio of state parks."

Simpson's private pleasure has become a public joy.

Parks seek lighthouses

Lease plan would allow more public access



Cape Arago Lighthouse
Funding is a question

From staff and wire service reports

Four historic coastal lighthouses could be opened to the public under a plan being developed by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Under the Coast Guard plan, the state would lease the Heceta Head Light north of Florence, the Cape Blanco Light near Port Orford and perhaps the Cape Arago Light south of Coos Bay. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management would lease the Yaquina Head Light north of Newport.

"Almost all the lights in Oregon are adjacent to state parks or other locations where a lot of people come, but they are unable to get inside the light," said Cmdr. Stan Norman, Coast Guard spokesman. "We'd like to allow that to happen."

Norman adding that the service does not have the resources to provide tour guides.

The Coast Guard is eager for the state to assume the cost of maintaining the lighthouses, which can run to

\$100,000 every five years, Norman said.

Oregon State Parks officials are equally enthusiastic about the idea.

"We are very interested in those lighthouses," Ron Hjort, State Parks Regional Office Director, said. "Adding those lighthouses to the state parks system would compliment the one we already manage at Bullards Beach and Cape Meares."

The discussions are still at a "very preliminary" stage, Hjort said. State Parks is currently doing cost estimates to determine if maintenance and improvements could be handled by the department. State Parks has relied on some state general fund monies in the past — funds that have been hit by Ballot Measure 5 budget tightening.

"At this time I'm not sure where the funding source would come from," Hjort said.

Members of the state Parks and Recreation Commission are enthusiastic about the proposal, said Henry Kunowski of the state His-
(Continued on Page 3)

Parks seeking coast lighthouses

(Continued from Page 1)
toric Preservation Office.

The lighthouses are operational but seldom available for public tours. The Coast Guard plans to keep all but the Cape Arago light illuminated.

Norman said the Cape Arago lighthouse is on an eroding island with a 100-foot footbridge connecting it to the mainland. He said bridge deterioration will make it unsafe in a few years unless \$500,000 in repairs are made.

Perhaps the Coast Guard could spend some money and make the

bigger repairs and turn the lighthouses over to State Parks in "top shape," Hjort said. "There are several different plans we are looking at."

But the Coast Guard cannot abandon the lighthouse without the approval of the state Historic Preservation Office because it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The light originally was commissioned in 1866 and twice replaced, the last time in 1934.

If the Coast Guard fails to get approval, "we'll have to look for other

alternatives," Norman said.

A major rehabilitation project is under way at the 97-year-old Heceta Head Light. Yaquina Head Light is to be rehabilitated later this year, and rehabilitation is scheduled for Cape Blanco Light in 1992.

Heceta Head Light is adjacent to Devil's Elbow State Park, Cape Blanco Light is near Cape Blanco State Park and Cape Arago Light is near Sunset Bay State Park. The Yaquina Head Light is within the BLM's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area.

Rose Sunday / Father's Day – June 16, 1991



South Coast Wood Carvers



Don Capehart, South Coast Wood Carvers



All America Rose Selections Display Garden



Mr. & Mrs. George Guthrie, Sr., Ray Duskin, George Guthrie Jr., Jay Dow



THE SIMPSON LEGACY

Beautiful Shore Acres stands as a testament to lumber magnate Louis J. Simpson, whose fortune ended in tragedy.



Of the original buildings on the Simpson estate, the gardener's cottage is the only one remaining.

Story and photos by
KENN OBERRECHT

Let others be dazzled by the beacon as it runs its carousel course from Arago's lighthouse. For me it lights for oh so brief an instant a mansion, barely visible through the fog.

— Robert Harrington

South of the lighthouse at Point Gregory, near the mouth of Coos Bay, on a fine and sunny day in 1905, 28-year-old Louis J. Simpson crawled on hands and knees through the dense underbrush of an ancient coastal bog. Emerging on a benchland meadow 100 feet above a tranquil sea, he knew at once this was where he wanted to build his country home.

Simpson backtracked through brush and timber to the cabin of Jake Evans, where he had stopped earlier for rest and coffee. He asked the old man, "Jake, did you ever think of selling?"

He hadn't. In fact, Jake considered his 320 uncleared acres nearly worthless, until young Simpson convinced him he might be better off living in town. Finally, Evans set a price of \$4,000. "I took him up at once," said Simpson, and later paid the old man in cash.

Louis was the eldest son of Asa Meade Simpson, a master shipbuilder who, with his brother and half-brother, had sailed around Cape Horn to San Francisco in 1850, seeking his fortune in the California gold rush. But precious dust and nuggets were to play only an indirect role in building the Simpson empire.

Asa was not only a skilled designer of ships, but also an able builder of bridges, houses, and any other kind of structure needed in the booming West of the 1850s. He was also an astute businessman, with the toughness and tenacity required to succeed and overcome hardship.

By 1851, he owned a successful lumber business in Stockton, Calif., that relied mainly on East Coast lumber. Aware of vast stands of virgin timber in the Pacific Northwest, Asa made inroads into the

No seascape north or south has more natural grandeur than the cliffs at Shore Acres.

Oregon Territory in the early 1850s, but not without setbacks and tragedies.

Shipwrecks were common then, when navigational aids were nearly non-existent along the West Coast, when indiscriminate seas swallowed ships and crews, and when waters near the mouth of the Columbia River earned the somber sobriquet, "Graveyard of the Pacific." In 1852 alone, five ships sank there, including the schooner Machigone, laden with piling, outbound for San Francisco Bay. Beyond the Columbia bar, in gale winds and surly seas, the ship went down with all hands, including the skipper, Isaiah Simpson, Asa's half-brother.

Four years later, Asa's brother, Louis P. Simpson, was bringing sawmill equipment to Coos Bay aboard the *Quadratus* when the schooner ran aground on the bar. As young Simpson tried to row a woman and her child to safety, surging breakers capsized the lifeboat, and a fierce ebb tide engulfed him.

After losing three more vessels to that treacherous bar, Asa put a steam tug to work, towing ships to and from the harbor, which greatly reduced threats to crews and cargoes. He also salvaged equipment from the *Quadratus* wreck and built a primitive mill capable of producing 10,000 board feet of lumber a day.

Simpson opened a shipyard near his sawmill and erected company housing and a store near the great bend of Coos Bay. Ultimately, his lumber interests extended from Washington's Willapa Bay to Santa Cruz, Calif. His steam tugs not only piloted sailing vessels over hazardous



Ceaseless ranks of waves assault the cliffs at Shore Acres.

river bars, but also plied rivers and sloughs, inlets and bays, towing log rafts to feed the mills. His dozens of barkentines, brigantines, and schooners carried lumber to four continents.

Reared and educated in California, Asa's son, Louis, at the age of 22, left for Oregon in 1899 to oversee the operations on Coos Bay. By 1902, young Simpson had paid \$25,000 for a platted townsite near the mill. He replatted the site, named it North Bend, incorporated the city in 1903, and became its mayor.

North Bend was still in its infancy when Simpson married Cassie Hendricks. Among the many gifts he lavished on her, the seaside land he bought from Jake Evans was her favorite. The property, later

known as Shore Acres, was Cassie's Christmas gift in 1906, by which time a house was under construction there. Originally, it was to be a country retreat, but the house evolved into a mansion and the property into an estate. The Simpsons naturally took up permanent residence.

Reminiscent of Cape Cod dwellings Louis had seen on trips east to visit family, the shingled, gambrel-roofed structure had rooms with more square footage than the average house has today: a 1,792-square-foot living room, for example, and a third-floor ballroom of 2,736 square feet. A 1914 addition included a heated 26-by-52-foot swimming pool.

A two-story stable and carriage house stood just north of the house. Beyond were



The gardeners' designs are photographers' delights at Shore Acres, where pictures seem to compose themselves. Below: A couple of hikers take a break along a trail at Shore Acres.

two oceanside tennis courts, although it's difficult to imagine how anyone could ever concentrate on the game while in the presence of one of the West Coast's greatest scenic wonders. No seascape north or south has more natural grandeur than the cliffs at Shore Acres.

By December, 1948, the ravages of time and neglect had taken their toll, and the mansion was razed.

In contrast to the raw and awesome beauty of the skewed and fractured shoreline was the serene and ordered charm of the formal gardens, where the Simpsons' gardeners toiled in the rich peat soil to cultivate indigenous and exotic flowers, shrubs, and trees. As the Simpson fleet carried lumber to distant ports, ships returned bearing beautiful and unusual plants from foreign lands.

Simpson added to Shore Acres at every opportunity. Eventually the property encompassed more than 1,600 acres. By 1915, the self-sufficient estate had a farm and working dairy that kept chickens, eggs, milk, cream, and cheese in good supply.

A series of bad luck and tragedies foreshadowed the decline and fall of the Simpson empire. Louis made an unsuccessful bid for governor in 1918. Unexpectedly, Cassie died in 1920. In 1921, fire destroyed the beautiful mansion and everything in it.

In 1927, Simpson started building another mansion, this one a 244-foot-long, two-story residence with 17 rooms. His fortune had begun to dwindle, however, and within two years payments to contractors were in arrears. When construction halted, Simpson and his second wife, Lela, moved into the incomplete but habitable house with their two daughters.

In 1934, the Simpsons donated a 134-acre tract to the state for the development of what became Cape Arago State Park. Two years later, the same forest fire that consumed Bandon, a few miles down the coast, destroyed several buildings at Shore Acres but spared the main house.

When the Army closed the road south of the

Cape Arago Lighthouse at the outbreak of World War II, the Simpsons moved to a small house in Barview, near Charleston. In 1942, they sold Shore Acres to the state for \$29,000, a sum far below its value.

During the war, the Army occupied Shore Acres, using the mansion as a barracks and officers' club. By December, 1948, the ravages of time and neglect had taken their toll, and the mansion was razed. A month later, Louis J. Simpson died at his Barview home.

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division now maintains more than 1,200 acres of the coastal property that was once the Simpson estate. Trails traverse the precipitous shoreline and tranquil woodlands, leading to pocket beaches, tide pools, and incomparable picnic spots. An observation building stands where both mansions were built and destroyed, and the exquisite gardens have been restored to their original splendor.

The three adjacent parks — Sunset Bay, Shore Acres, and Cape Arago — stretching along the wild edge of the Pacific on this rugged headland are the best Oregon has to offer. For all of us, they're an unparalleled and cherished legacy.

Kenn Oberrecht is a freelance writer and photographer living in North Bend.



June 21, 1991

A FASCINATING HISTORY . . .



IDEAS

Statesman Journal
Salem, Oregon
Sunday, July 7, 1991

G Opinion: 2-3G

TOP 10 Visitor Attractions

By Ron Cowan
The Statesman Journal

There are things to eat, things to see, things to do, things to enchant, and things that growl and prowl on Oregon's 1990 Top 10 attractions list.

The Top 10 Visitor Attractions of Oregon, compiled by the Oregon Tourism Division, often is a guide to where to go and what to do during the sublime summer months in Oregon.

Kathy Burton, a tourism division secretary who compiles the annual survey, said the list could cue out-of-state visitors on where to go.

The listing, based on tourist counts provided by selected tourist attractions, is sent to 5,000 Oregon, national and international recipients, many of them travel information services.

Salem has one attraction on the 1990 Top 10 list — the Enchanted Forest amusement park. The park ranked number 10 with 201,471 visitors. A second attraction on the Top 20 list is the state Capitol, which ranked number 16 with 118,000 visitors.

Although the Top 10 list has changed little in the past three years, Burton is predicting some upsets with the opening of the new Oregon Aquarium in Newport, the new Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City, and the new Oregon Museum of Science and Industry building in Portland.



Gerry Lewin/Statesman Journal
Multnomah Falls is one of the most spectacular sights in the Gorge.



Gerry Lewin/Statesman Journal
The Tillamook Cheese Factory produces 40 million pounds of cheese a year.



Gerry Lewin/Statesman Journal
Silver Falls is Oregon's largest state park.



Bruce Thorson/Statesman Journal
Mount Bachelor is popular year-round.



Washington Park Zoo's Chinese panda exhibit next year also is expected to have a big effect on attendance.

"I think we're going to see some moving and shaking in the next few years," she said.

Here are some facts on the Top 10 visitor attractions:

1 Multnomah Falls

Multnomah Falls, 1,530,000 visitors. Multnomah Falls, one of the spectacular attractions in the Columbia Gorge, are the highest falls west of the Mississippi River and the fourth highest in the United States.

There are 11 falls along Interstate 84 on the south side of the Columbia River, but Multnomah is the most dramatic with a drop of 620 feet in two levels. A scenic stone bridge at the middle level makes a popular backdrop for pictures.

The falls are so popular that plans are under way to limit parking at the site to reduce the daily visitor count from 1,200 to 1,000, improving the experience at peak visitor periods.

The falls are 32 miles east of Portland on Interstate 84. A visitors' center and a 66-year-old stone lodge with a gift shop and restaurant are at the site. A paved path leads to the top of the falls. There is no admission fee.

2 Washington Park Zoo

Washington Park Zoo, Portland, 866,566 visitors.

The 64-acre Washington Park Zoo specializes in breeding rare and endangered species but has augmented its popularity with new and innovative attractions.

This summer the zoo opened an unusual new environmental exhibit, Africa Rain Forest, the most complex creation in the zoo's history. The 1.3-acre attraction is a slice of tropical Africa with such unusual features as a bat exhibit depicting the jungle canopy and a rain forest machine that creates rain, mist and wind.

In 1989, the zoo opened Africa!, the largest exhibit ever built at the zoo. The four-acre exhibit replicates the dry, open plains of the bush country of East Africa. Hippos, the endangered black rhino, storks and zebras are among the animal attractions.

Other zoo attractions include the penguinarium with its endangered Humboldt penguins, the largest and most successful breeding herd of Asian elephants in any zoo in the world, an Alaska Tundra exhibit and an insect zoo.

The zoo is at 4001 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland.

Admission is \$4.50 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2.50 for children 3 to 11, and the hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: 228-1561.

3 Tillamook Cheese Factory

Tillamook Cheese Factory, 614,832 visitors.

Every year 40 million pounds of cheese with the Tillamook label are delivered to destinations throughout the world, and that product is produced daily at the Tillamook Cheese Factory.

The free tourist attraction occupies a large white and blue building near Tillamook and is run by the Tillamook County Creamery Association.

The factory features an observation deck, a video tour, a dairy industry museum, a retail gift store and an ice creamery.

The county is a land of happy Holstein, Jersey and Guernsey cows that graze on fresh meadows, producing large amounts of fresh, sweet milk for the cheesemaking process. There are 194 member dairies in the creamery association, assuring a plentiful supply.

The factory also produces milk, butter, ice cream and cheese spreads, but its cheddar cheese is the most popular product.

The cheese factory is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily and is two miles north of downtown Tillamook on Highway 101. Information: 842-4481.

4 Bonneville Dam

Bonneville Dam, 497,088 visitors.

Massive, gray Bonneville Dam is another popular stopping place on the Interstate 84 tourist corridor along the Columbia River.

The dam consists of three parts, one spillway and two powerhouses. The dam extends 3,463 feet across the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington.

The dam was a main hydroelectric project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and offers several attractions for visitors.

On the Oregon side there is a five-story visitor center and underwater windows on the fish ladders. Audiovisual presentations and tours of the fish ladders and the original powerhouse are offered daily from June through September.

The summer hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sternwheeler boat tours also are available in the summer, and a state salmon hatchery is nearby.

On the Washington side, accessible by the Bridge of the Gods, tours, audiovisual presentations and underwater fish viewing also are provided. The Washington hours are 8 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the summer.

Admission is free to all areas. Bonneville Dam is 40 miles west of Portland on Interstate 84. Information: 374-8820.

Statesman Journal
Salem, Oregon
Sunday, July 7, 1991

5 Silver Falls State Park

Silver Falls State Park, Silverton, 463,000 visitors.

Silver Falls State Park, Oregon's largest state park, is 26 miles east of Salem on Highway 26, making it a popular day trip for Willamette Valley residents.

The 8,700-acre park's most popular attraction is the Trail of 10 Falls, a seven-mile hiking trail that meanders through stands of second-growth Douglas fir and western hemlock trees. The trail leads near or behind 10 waterfalls, ranging from 178-foot drops to 27-foot torrents as Silver Creek wanders through the canyon.

The attractions include a three-mile jogging trail, a four-mile biking trail and 14 miles of equestrian trails.

The park also is popular for its collection of wildlife and plant species. Deer, beaver, rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks are among the year-round park residents.

Overnight visitors have a choice of an overnight campground with hot showers and restrooms, a group camp at North Falls and the Howard Creek Horse Camp, featuring primitive camping and corrals for the horses.

The main day use area provides picnicking areas, kitchen shelters, restrooms and a Day Use Lodge. A swimming pond and a rustic playground are part of the attractions.

A day use fee of \$1 a car is charged on weekends and holidays. Information: 873-8681.

6 Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort

Mount Bachelor Ski Area, 459,086 visitors.

Mount Bachelor Ski Area, southwest of the Central Oregon tourist mecca of Bend, draws both summer sightseers and wintertime skiers.

The mountain is on Century Drive, an 89-mile paved loop that passes many mountain lakes and streams and gives a good view of the Three Sisters peaks.

For skiers, there are 10 chairlifts — one rising to 9,065 feet — a skiing school, rentals, cafeterias, concession area, bars, lodges and day care.

The longest run is two miles, with a vertical drop of 3,100 feet, and skiing continues from November through July. Forty miles of cross-country trails also are available.

Mount Bachelor is 22 miles southwest of Bend on Century Drive. Information: 382-2442.

"The new African exhibits at the Washington Park Zoo in Portland have boosted the zoo's popularity with tourists."

Enchanted Forest rounds out top 10 list

Here is the rest of the listing of top ten tourist attractions in Oregon based on 1990 visitor figures:

7 Crater Lake

Crater Lake National Park, near Medford, 410,988 visitors.

Rolling mountains, volcanic peaks and evergreen forests surround this Southern Oregon attraction, a high Cascade Range lake created by the cataclysmic eruption of Mount Mazama 6,850 years ago.

Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States and the second deepest in the Western Hemisphere. The maximum depth is 1,932 feet.

The lake also is famed for its remarkable deep hue of blue and is encircled from October to July by snow, the source of most of the park's annual 69 inches of precipitation.

The road to Rim Village is kept open year-round.

The National Park Service is improving the man-made attractions at the lake, including a \$10 million reconstruction of Crater Lake Lodge — scheduled for completion by summer of 1995.

Relocation of the Rim Village development, with its parking lot, and construction of a new visitor center and overnight accommodations also are planned.

The visitor center is open daily in the summer, narrated boat tours of the lake are offered from July through September and camping is available at Mazama and Lost Creek campgrounds or in the back-country by permit.

Rim Village has a restaurant and gift shop, open year-round.

The park is 65 miles from Medford on Highway 62. Admission is \$5 a car in the summer. Information: 594-2211.

8 Hatfield Marine Science Center

Hatfield Marine Science Center of Oregon State University, Newport, 358,890 visitors.

A prime attraction for summertime visitors to Newport is the Hatfield Marine Science Center on the south side of Yaquina Bay.

OSU conducts research on oceanography, fisheries, water quality, marine science education and marine biology at the site, and the research vessel Wecoma is sometimes open to the public.

Public attractions at the center include a nature trail, a museum-aquarium and films.

In the summer, from mid-June through Sept. 2, Seataqua heralds such activities as evening talks, trips, treks, bay boat tours, dock walks and special films.

The center is on Marine Science Drive on the south side of Yaquina Bay, just east of Newport Bridge off Highway 101. The center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Information: 867-0100.

9 Shore Acres Botanical Gardens

Shore Acres Botanical Gardens, near Coos Bay, 223,228 visitors.



Shore Acres State Park, near Coos Bay, once was the estate of lumberman Louis J. Simpson.

Gerry Lewin/Statesman Journal



Crater Lake, near Medford, is the deepest lake in the United States.

Gerry Lewin/Statesman Journal



The Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport is the site of marine research for Oregon State University.

Ken Cooper/Statesman Journal

and the park has spectacular vistas of the coast.

The two mansions Simpson built on the cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean have disappeared — the first burned, the second was razed — to be replaced by a glass-enclosed observation shelter offering a 180 degree view of the coast.

Sunset Bay State Park, north of Shore Acres, has camping and picnicking, and picnicking and hiking are allowed at Cape Arago State Park to the south.

Shore Acres is 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay off Highway 101 on Cape Arago Highway. Information: 888-3732.

10 Enchanted Forest

Enchanted Forest, Salem, 201,471 visitors.

Roger Tofte, a former artist and draftsman for the state of Oregon, opened this fantasyland on a wooded hillside south of Salem in 1971.

Today visitors enjoy the attractions of Fort Fearless, the mining town of

Tofteville, the spirits of the Haunted House and a trip back in time to the Old World Village.

Live stage plays are offered during the summer at the outdoor Fairweather Theatre, and three gift shops sell souvenirs.

The Enchanted Forest is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from mid-March through Sept. 30. Admission is \$4.25 for adults, \$3.75 for children 3 to 12 and free for children under 2. Admission to the Haunted House is \$1 and the bobsled ride is \$1. The park is seven miles south on Salem on Interstate 5 at exit 248. Information: 363-3060.



Shore Acres Terrace - Photo by Shirley Bridgham - 1986

Oregon Coast Music Festival – Garden Concert – July 12, 1991



Park staff and Friends' volunteers handled parking on the big field.



An estimated 1,700 folks in attendance!



More than 500 raspberry and chocolate sundaes sold.

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., July 13, 1991



World photos by Tom Boyd



Buddy Rowa, from the band Foxfire, signs Leonard Sutton's shirt after their encore performance at Shore Acres Park near Charleston Friday as part of the Oregon Coast Music Festival. Officials estimated between 1,500 and 2,000 people enjoyed the sunshine, the flowers, picnic lunches — and the music, a mix of bluegrass and more from the Rogue Valley group. The festival continues tonight with a big band concert at the Coos Bay Elks Lodge and Sunday with fusion jazz at Harbor Hall in Bandon. (See related story, Page 8.)

Late Summer 1991

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., August 16, 1991



World file photo

The bridge to the Cape Arago Lighthouse is falling down, causing the Coast Guard to consider abandoning it.

Future for Cape Arago light?

By Charles Kocher
Managing Editor

CHARLESTON — The eventual fate of the Cape Arago Lighthouse is drawing concern from several state and federal agencies as the U.S. Coast Guard prepares to abandon the light because of high maintenance costs.

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division Director Dave Talbot told Bay Area residents Thursday he's worried that the lighthouse will be abandoned and allowed to simply revert to nature. He would prefer, he told *The World* today, that "such a fabulous place" be opened to the public as an interpretive site about Indian history and bird habitats.

"Before we make a decision, we've got to involve a lot more people in it," Talbot said this morning, after touring the lighthouse Thursday with State Parks Commissioner Eleanor St. Laurent of Charleston.

Other people are already interested, according to Talbot and the Coast Guard, including the Confederated Tribes, which have an easement to the island that holds the lighthouse for access to a tribal burial ground, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cmdr. Stan Norman, chief of Aids to Navigation and Waterway Management for the 13th Coast Guard District, said this morning the Coast Guard has decided to abandon the light because of the half-million-dollar price tag on repairing the bridge to Squaw Island where the light sits. Using helicopters to service the light is not feasible because of the heavy equipment needed.

The process of giving up the light, he said, has been stalled at the state level, where the Coast Guard has served notice to the State Historic Preservation Office that the lighthouse structure itself is not unique and can be either

torn down or abandoned to nature.

Norman noted that the Coast Guard is working to give up its other South Coast lighthouses to other agencies for public access: Cape Blanco and Heceta Head to State Parks, Umpqua River to Douglas County Parks, and Yaquina Head to the Bureau of Land Management.

That's the kind of process Talbot hopes to promote for Cape Arago, hoping that it can be turned over to the State Parks. His hope carries another provision, however: That the property be turned over in "A-1 condition" and without a major repair price tag.

Talbot said he doesn't want to "frighten" others with his hope to open public access to the site. His vision includes public access only when someone from the tribes, Fish and Wildlife, or state parks would be on the island to tell the public about the features of the site.



In late summer, dazzling dahlias and ravishing roses fill the garden.



Garden Notes – August 1991

Here at Shore Acres, "The Winter of Our Discontent" has turned into the summer of our surprise (and sometimes) disappointment. Let's be honest: some of our flowers still seem to be on the slow track due to a cold winter and a lukewarm (at best) spring and early summer.

Moreover, some stuff that we thought was not damaged at all has apparently elected to start showing off ills at this late date - prominent case in point, the plume cedars (cryptomeria) around the pond and in other places have started turning a lovely shade of red, sort of a fall in summer feeling.

Unfortunately, the pretty color is actually the sign of dead foliage - a delayed response to last December's biting winds. The lower foliage and branches are doing fine but the topmost, and wouldn't you know it, most obvious fronds are really making us see red. My guess is that even the upper branches aren't really dead and will probably sprout back directly from the wood. But we can probably look forward to some kind of high wire act by some dedicated "Parkie" to remove the dead foliage and small branches which will just continue looking and being dead.

We are continuing to suffer delayed die-back in our rose bushes. What happens is that the normal canes just get weaker and weaker and finally die - but, apparently not to worry because at the same time lush and lovely new growth is pushing up from the base.

Unfortunately what usually is springing up is not the original plant we bought but the underground root stock on which it was grafted. Such "root stock - roses" are designed to be tough and vigorous and even in the best of times there can be occasional suckers coming up and competing with the good stuff. Of course after a hard winter like we had, with top growth either killed or badly damaged, the opportunities for suckers are increased. Our advice is get rid of them - the suckers may eventually bloom but they will be poor stuff and certainly not the flower you originally wanted. Moreover, if there's anything left of the good rose the suckers will overwhelm it if left unchecked.

Determining what stem is a sucker is fairly easy - the foliage is of a different color, shape and size than the good flowering stem and in most cases the shoots come from below ground level. Best way to get rid of them is to pull them off rather than cutting as shearing tends to stimulate the "little suckers."

A personal note - for the next few months I'll be on a temporary assignment outside the gardens so you'll have a "George free" Shore Acres. While I'm gone Frank Eckley, a Shore Acres alumnus, volunteer for several Friends' projects, and all around great guy will be filling in as gardener *PooBah*. Frank and Ellie and the rest of our hardworking, intelligent crew will continue to make the park a lovely, clean and green place to visit. Please come out and see their good work.

George



On August 8TH, a visiting garden club enjoyed a guided tour by George.

Personality profiles

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., August 26, 1991

Name: George F. Guthrie
Age: 37 **Current town:** Coos Bay **How long?** 8 years
Occupation: State park manager (head gardener at Shore Acres; acting assistant park manager at Sunset Bay)
Family at home: none
Current car: 1985 Olds Calais
Personal favorites:
Colors: sky blue, grass green, rose red, (least favorites: fog gray, dandelion yellow)
Foods: Mom's pot roast, pizza, homemade apple pie, anything with chocolate
Beverages: Champagne, Kool-Aid
Restaurants: Pizza Hut, Portside
Hobbies: Gardening, hiking, working out, reading, staying alive.
Movie: Star Wars "Play it Again, Sam" (Woody Allen)
TV shows: The Simpsons, L.A. Law, thirtysomething, Wonder Years, Masterpiece Theatre
Music: rock N' roll, classical (almost anything except rap or "easy listening")
Reading: Botany, history, science, philosophy, trashy popular novels
Sports: watching gymnastics, basketball (when Blazers are winning); doing walking, weight lifting
South Coast spots: Shore Acres, Cape Sebastian, Rogue River, anywhere else on the South Coast
Form of relaxation: Sleeping through dumb T.V. programs
Fondest memory: Hoping to find one someday
Proudest accomplishment: Working at Shore Acres
Personal heroes: My Dad; Bullwinkle Moose; all people I work with
Pet peeve: Cheap weeds that grow, expensive flowers that don't
Favorite things about the South Coast: Nicest people



George Guthrie likes gardening, hiking, and the Blazers.

and the most beautiful country in the world — it's all available right here

Other thoughts about yourself: Feel like I'm trapped in a Woody Allen movie, still waiting for the credits to roll. Have a good job in a beautiful place so am probably as lucky as anyone can hope to be.

From Your Editor – August 1991

Autumn leaves are about to fall and I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have worked so hard for the Friends this summer - the park hosts who have run the Gift and Information Center and the Shore Acres Story slide show weekdays; the volunteers who have run the GAIC on weekends and holidays; the volunteers who worked Rhododendron Sunday/Mother's Day, Rose Sunday/Father's Day and the Oregon Coast Music Festival garden concert (would you believe 500 sundaes?), park staff who helped park cars, pick up trash and in general put up with our activities; and state parks for their continual support of "Friends" groups (even though we make more work for them at times).

We are busy planning Holiday Lights and Open House at Shore Acres 1991. This will be our fifth year - and the most spectacular one yet. I remember when we talked about "nightscaping" Shore Acres back in 1987 and someone said, "Why don't we start with some Christmas lights?" We really believed we could string a few extension cords from the Garden House to handle 6,000 lights that December. Luckily, Pacific Power set us straight - and helped us out. Little did we know how our south coast communities would take to a community tradition. But we had a fairly good idea when more than 700 people showed up opening night. Each year since people have asked, "When are you going to do the pond?"

Well folks, this is the year! We will expand the holiday lights to 75,000 and add nightscaping lights in the Oriental garden. A master plan for nightscaping the formal gardens is being designed as I write.

The support we've received from businesses, organizations, members, and others is going to make nightscaping at Shore Acres a reality. It's an exciting time to be a part of Shore Acres State Park and Oregon Parks and Recreation. I feel certain that "the best kept secret" on the Oregon coast will soon become one of the most renowned "destination spots" on the West Coast. ■

Shirley Bridgham. Editor



Friends of Shore Acres Quarterly Newsletter, August 1991

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO CHECK THE LIGHTS
Call 756-5401



They're waiting . . .

LIGHTS CHECKING PARTIES AT BRIDGHAM'S
Thursdays - 7:30 PM - ?
September 5, 19, October 3, 17, November 7
Other dates will be scheduled if necessary.

VISIT THE GAIC

If you haven't stopped by the Friends' Gift and Information Center (GAIC) lately, please do so before the end of the season.

Manager Tony Mason has stocked the Center with a wide variety of books, notecards, postcards, etc., etc., and the quality of every item is excellent. The GAIC has been very busy this summer and volunteers have done an excellent job.

Want to know something about Shore Acres? Ask a volunteer. Want to have a pleasant visit with a park host? This is the place.

And what a good excuse to visit our favorite park! ■

Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 5:

Annual Year - September 1, 1991 - August 31, 1992

Album 4 - Completed June 1, 2016

More Information:
www.shoreacres.net – Journal/Newsletters