



# Shore Acres State Park Before Friends - 1986

Album 5





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.*

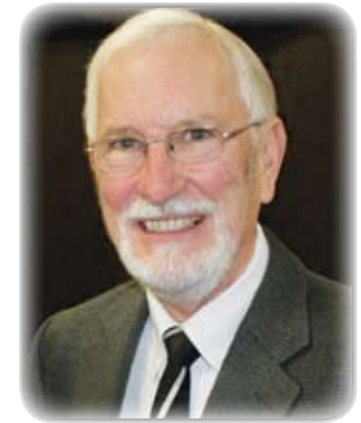
*This year, I'm starting a project to preserve the Friends' archives in physical albums — this is the first album — backed up in a digital format for easy viewing by many. We have many photos, news clippings and other materials that will be included in the albums.*

*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.

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## 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.

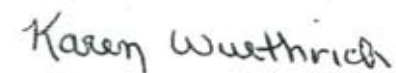
Andy LaTomme was asked to prepare a press release announcing the formation of the Friends with special mention of Mike Bodkin's contribution.

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, 1991 - August 31, 1992

## September 3, 1991 - Board Meeting - Garden House at Shore Acres



*Radiant Roses at Shore Acres Gardens*



### FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC. - MINUTES BOARD MEETING - SEPTEMBER 3, 1991 GARDEN HOUSE, SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

President David Bridgham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All Board members were present except Eric and Elise Hamner. Park Hosts Ben and Pauline Barnett were guests. August minutes were reviewed and accepted. (Dick Hansen moved and Ann Koppy seconded).

George gave the August treasurer's report for the general account. Copies of the new monthly report form were discussed. Shirley talked about our accounting system and the budget process. The 1991-92 Budget will be presented at the annual meeting, September 10.

Tony reported that the GAIC account balance is \$3,291. Post cards represent 18% of sales, books 33%. Simpson book was most popular. Total sales for this calendar year is about \$30,000 with an average of \$96 / day, with a 170 day season.

Report on dedicated funds indicates that the Viewbook and Interpretive signs grant project are still in process with two \$5,000 CDs reserved. An additional \$5,000 is ear-marked for Holiday lights and Nightscaping expenses. The remaining \$4,000 of un-dedicated funds in the general account is available for Holiday start-up. The Fred Meyer Donation Committee has granted us 50 cases of apple juice for our Holiday event (value \$700).

David reported on the Executive Committee meeting: Tony will work with Andy to develop suitable sales items for the 50th anniversary celebration. We will use the logo developed by State Parks' artist Kevin Kohler with some modifications, as well as a design Tony and Phyllis Love have submitted. We want to do a 50th sweatshirt and a poster. West Coast Paper has given us a good price on paper shopping bags printed with Friends, Holiday and anniversary logos. We are looking at an etched glass cup for anniversary sales and we'll have a mug, sweatshirt, etc for Holiday sales. All items will be sold at the GAIC and not in the Garden House.

The November newsletter may have color on the front and back covers. We are not required to seal or fold the newsletters when mailing.

*Parkers* for the United Way concert Friday, September 6, should meet at 5 pm. This should serve as a preview for how "moonlight and roses" may work.

Annual meeting, September 10 - We will nominate and elect members to board positions. Officers will be elected at the October Board meeting. Ellen Garner was appointed to be nominating chair person for both board and officer positions. We have 4 expired board positions and 3 unfilled positions.

Dick Hansen showed the board a giant postcard and will research details for possible sales.

Holiday lights will be checked September 5 and 19, 7:30 pm at the Bridgham's. Holiday planning session will be Oct. 10 at SWOCC 12 noon.

Andy reported on proposed 93-95 Biennium budget cuts. A proposed 25% cut in all funding to parks would cause consideration of closing or reduction in seasonal operation of certain parks. Closure might be based on how much money a park brings in. Parks that come close to "paying their own way" will have a greater chance of staying open - parks like Shore Acres that are less cost efficient may get closed. This is still just planning similar to what is done every biennium. Actual decisions will be made in Salem at a future date. Friends may be able to help.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

GG:SB 9/26/91



# “Events, Activities, Accomplishments”

September 10, 1991 - Annual Meeting - Garden House at Shore Acres



*Dazzling Dahlias at Shore Acres Gardens*



## FRIENDS OF SHORE ACRES, INC ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 1991

GARDEN HOUSE - SHORE ACRES STATE PARK

President David Bridgham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

David gave the annual report - Events, Activities, Accomplishments - which included the following highlights: purchase of "Ferox" slip proof coating for wood decks; eight Board members and Park staff attended annual Co-op conference at Silver Falls last Oct.; selection of Living History project person Linda Comstock, with subsequent completion of that project; transferred over to state parks inventory - AV equipment and Garden House refrigerator; established a Volks-Walk seasonal walk with the cooperation of the Wave Walkers (Volksport) on the coast trail; three Board retreats [Annual agenda, Heritage Center, Job descriptions for Board members]; executive committee meeting about 50th Anniversary.

Holiday Lights '90 new activities included "Lights Display" highway signs; three outdoor trees decorated by regional organizations; [South Slough, PP&L, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay]; Coordinators for major activities within event [Hosting, Entertainment, House Decoration, Cookie Baking]; more host nights with organizations; orientation for host Captains; new highway entrance sign with lights; park-n-ride; bed and breakfast night; holiday photo note card; GAIC open nightly; light checking crew; opening crew. Holiday Lights '90 stats included: 42,000 visitors; 142 Oregon cities; 46 states; 24 countries; 6 Canadian provinces; 2200 dozen cookies.

Additional annual firsts included first outside audit completed; first edition of FOSA \ Parks brochure printed; nightscaping design contract awarded; agreement with Shoreline Education Awareness (SEA) instituted [to provide interpretive services for Simpson Reef; new "smart" cash register purchased for GAIC; August newsletter printed on recycled and recyclable paper; reprint of The Simpsons of Shore Acres available at the GAIC.

Following a review of the proposed by-law amendments (from previous board retreat), Ellen Garner made a motion that the bylaws be amended to create two new positions; President-Elect and Past President and that these positions as well as President be limited to a one-year term starting with the 1991-92 slate of officers. Ann seconded the motion. Motion Passed. Duties of the President-Elect and Past-President (the new positions) are outlined in the report entitled "Board Retreat - Board Officers and Job Descriptions".

Ellen reported that the 1991 expired Board positions of David Bridgham, Tony Mason, Ann Koppy and Al Aslakson have been filled with nominations of the same people for another term of office as Board members. Ellen further reported that two of the previously vacant Board positions might be filled with the nomination and election of Georganna Casey (1), and Bob and Doris Emmett (jointly holding a position). Shirley proposed that all the nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast. Tony seconded the motion. Motion passed. Elected to a successive term on the Board was: David Bridgham, Al Aslakson, Ann Koppy and Tony Mason. Elected as new members to the Board were Georganna Casey and Doris and Bob Emmett. Discussion followed on possible positions of Corresponding Secretary and Archivist/Historian. These will be appointed positions.

The board decided to change the monthly board meeting from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday of the month effective November 1991. Shirley made the motion and Tony seconded. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

GG:SB 9/26/91



## Preparation at Bridgham's



*Spare lights are ready.*



*Frank Smith*

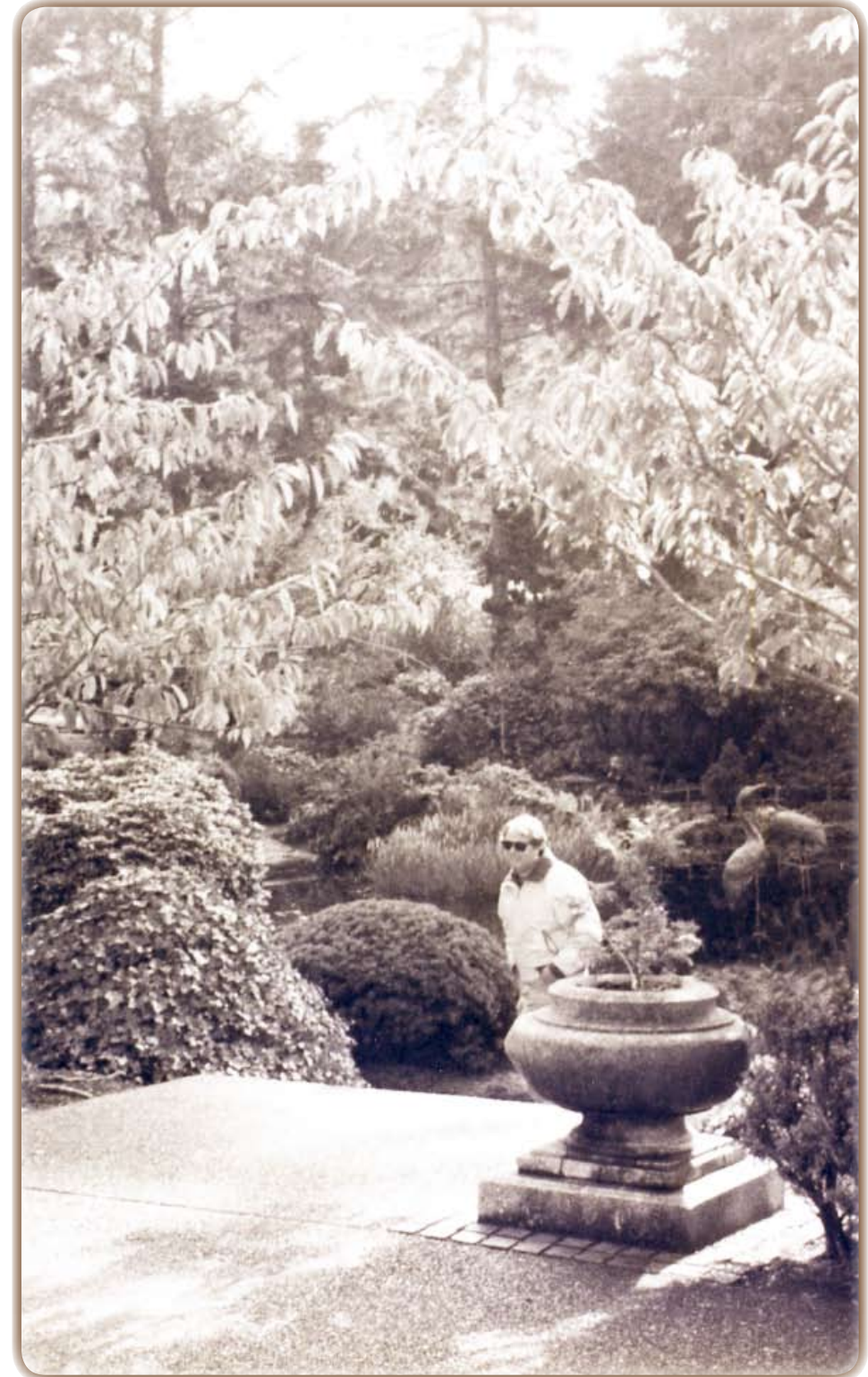


*Alta Wilson*



*Mike Perkins*

## Expansion to the Pond



*Holiday Lights and new permanent garden lightscaping will expand to the Oriental Garden and Lily Pond this coming 5th season.*



# Shore Acres Pond – A Perfect Place for “Lightscaping”

4,000 FEET OF UNDERGROUND WIRING INSTALLED AT THE POND.

WIRING PLANS BY TOM KYLE, KYLE ELECTRIC, INC.



*Park Manager Andy LaTomme and Park Ranger Shirley Stentz go over plans with George Jones, electrician from Kyle Electric.*



*Landscape Maintenance Superintendent George Guthrie and Park Manager Andy LaTomme volunteer to help.*



*George Jones*



*George Guthrie and George Jones*



*Shirley Stentz*



*Tom Kyle*



# Volunteer Recognition Dessert - Oct. 19, 1991

The Friends' Gift Shop volunteers were recognized for their many hours of service with a dessert at the Garden House on October 19th. Each was presented with a certificate of appreciation.



**President David Bridgham**



**Volunteer Manager Tony Mason**

David Bridgham, Friends' President brought the group his personal greetings and a thank-you from the board. He explained some of the plans being considered for enlarging the gift shop for next season. Everyone agreed that any enlargement would be welcomed.

Tony Mason shared a questionnaire he had obtained at the fall Co-op Conference. Many of the questions did not pertain to our situation but consensus was our visibility could be improved with better lighting and signs. We also decided we were doing a good job in our small space.

Gift Shop hours for the holiday season were discussed. Park hosts will work during the week, with Friends volunteers working the weekends. It was decided to form teams of three for each night volunteers need to work.

The dessert was arranged by Connie Eslinger and Ellen Garner, volunteer coordinators. ■



Volunteers receiving certificates (clockwise from Manager Tony Mason and President David Bridgham) - Florrie Fox, Ellen Garner, Lorna Richards, Gladys Ivy, Winnie Pitsenberger, Helen McElravey, Vera Fusano, Phyllis Shelley, Rose Slevoigh, Charlotte Skinner, Claire Kinman, Connie Eslinger

Volunteers unable to attend who have served faithfully this past season include Beth Andersson, Anna Mae Barnes, Georganna Case, Bob and Doris Emmett, Chris and Donna Flammang, Bill and Lois Harvey, Vivian Day, Jean Kyle, Irene Quick, Alice Richter and Janet Nelson. They received certificates at a later date. ■



**President-Elect  
Connie Eslinger**



**Volunteer Coordinator  
Ellen Garner**



**Volunteer Coordinator  
Winnie Pitsenberger**



# Publicity in “The World” Gets Results

THE WORLD - NOVEMBER 1, 1991

## Help Shore Acres plan Christmas

It might not yet be Thanksgiving, but it's already time to start planning the annual holiday lights display set for Dec. 12 to Dec. 31 at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston.

The display involves thousands of holiday lights in the formal gardens of the park, but it also takes hundreds of volunteers to get the job done, according to Shirley Bridgham, co-chair of the event for the non-profit Friends of Shore Acres.

In particular, it takes entertainers, cookie bakers and hosts.

Anyone interested in entertaining – carolers, dancers or musicians – can contact Wanda Graham at 756-6789 to sign up for an evening's entertainment. Any volunteer should remember the entertainment is weather permitting.

Those who want to help bake cookies can call Sharon Fortune at 888-3173, who is organizing two cookie baking sessions – one for Nov. 23 and one for Dec. 7.

Last year, according to Bridgham, the cookie volunteers baked 1,700 dozen cookies.

Volunteers are needed to help sew items for the garden house ranging from pillows and mantle covers to decorating a small Victorian bathroom. The home will be decorated for the holidays on the theme of “Seaside Fantasies,” with Ann Koppy at 756-6320 or Connie Eslinger at 267-0570 organizing the effort. Call if you would like to help sew, or help with decorating the house when the time comes.

Finally, the schedule is filling up for groups of at least six people each evening to pour beverages and serve cookie in the garden house during the Holiday Lights display. Those wishing to help fill up the schedule can call Bonnie Koreiva at 267-4037.

### VOLUNTEERS CREATE “SEASIDE FANTASIES”



*Jean Donason, Connie Eslinger and volunteers at work in the Garden House*



## Drawing for trees at *The World*



Photo by Brad Garrison, The World

David Bridgham, right, president of Friends of Shore Acres, helps representatives of several groups see where their agencies will be decorating trees during the annual holiday Lights at Shore Acres display next month. Participating in the drawing to see which group got which tree were (counter clockwise from Bridgham) Tricia Shreck of House of Myrtlewood, Kevin Kimball of Southwestern Oregon Community College, Merrie Holbert of Friends of Shore Acres, Sandy Bowman of Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, JoEll Jenkins of Pacific Power and Mary Enstrom of Friends of South Slough. The Holiday Lights and Open House will run from Dec. 12 to Dec. 31, with 75,000 lights in the gardens and antique holiday decorations in the Garden House. For more information, call 756-5401. ■

STORY IN THE WORLD - NOVEMBER 5, 1991



# 26,400 Cookies Baked at North Bend Junior High School Nov. 23 and Dec. 7, 1991



**Team Leaders**  
*Sharon Fortune and Marty Wheeler*



***What  
a Team!***



*Sharon Fortune, Charlotte Skinner, Vera Fusano, Carolyn Tecube, Maxine McKenzie, Marty Wheeler, Jean Sorenson, Lyn Topits, Nona Demaray, Iva Adams, Helen Shefstad*



*Maxine McKenzie, Charlotte Skinner, Jean Sorenson*



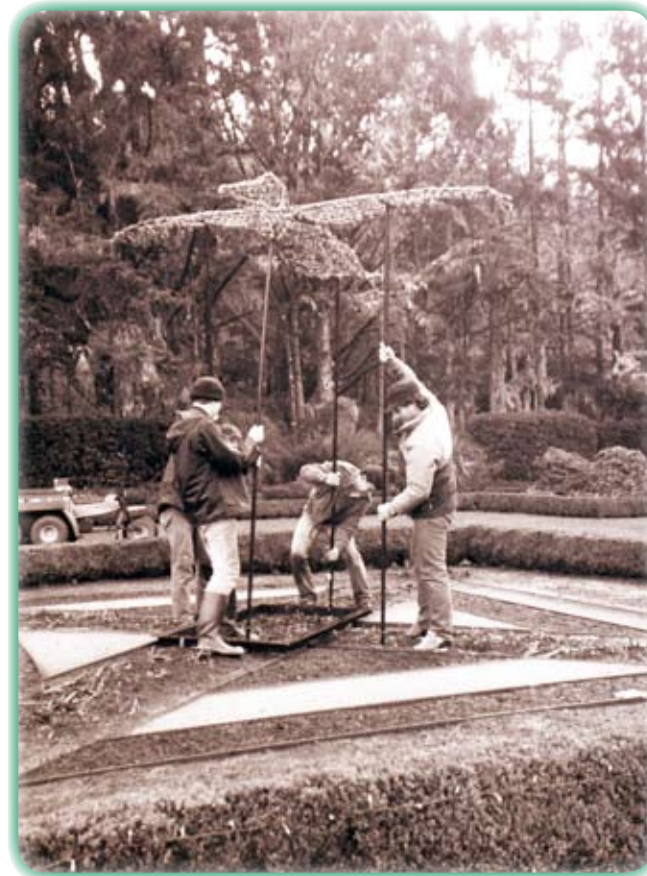
*Marty Wheeler*



*L-R - Jean Sorenson, Maxine McKenzie, Nona Demaray, Charlotte Skinner*



# Getting Ready . . .



*"Planting" a Pelican*



*Moving a bathtub - "Will it fit?"*



*Kent and Ethel Ferris string hedge lights.*



## DATES TO REMEMBER

HOLIDAY LIGHTS SET-UP

NOV. 23 AND 24 \* 10 AM - 5 PM

NOV. 30 AND DEC. 1 \* 10AM - 5PM

DEC. 7 AND 8 \* 10 AM - 5 PM

RSVP YOUR HELP 756-5401



*Decorating the Entrance - Bill Mault, Alice Richter, Betty Mault, Dick Van Natta, Archi Rosenthal*

### DEC. 12-31

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND OPEN HOUSE

4 PM - 9 PM EVERY NIGHT

INCLUDES CHRISTMAS EVE,  
CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

**DEC. 25** - DRAWING FOR BED &  
BREAKFAST WINNER

**DEC. 31** - LAST NIGHT OF HOLIDAY  
LIGHTS '91

**JAN. 4 AND 5** - TAKE DOWN LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS



*"Planting" a Christmas tree*

*Graphics by Phyllis K. Love \* Photos by Luis Velasquez*



## Getting Ready . . .



*Donna Smith, Frank Smith, Bob Golden*



*Donna and Chris Flammang*

*Awesome  
Volunteers  
Always!*



*Bingo and Ginger Sawyer*



*Al and Judy Aslakson*



# Promising Publicity

Page 16 — THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Friday, November 29, 1991

## Enjoy the holidays on the South Coast

### Get a grip on the Christmas season by planning for moments with your family

Have you ever wanted a Santa's-eye-view of the South Coast during the holiday season? He must have several hundred thousand colored lights to guide him Christmas Eve!

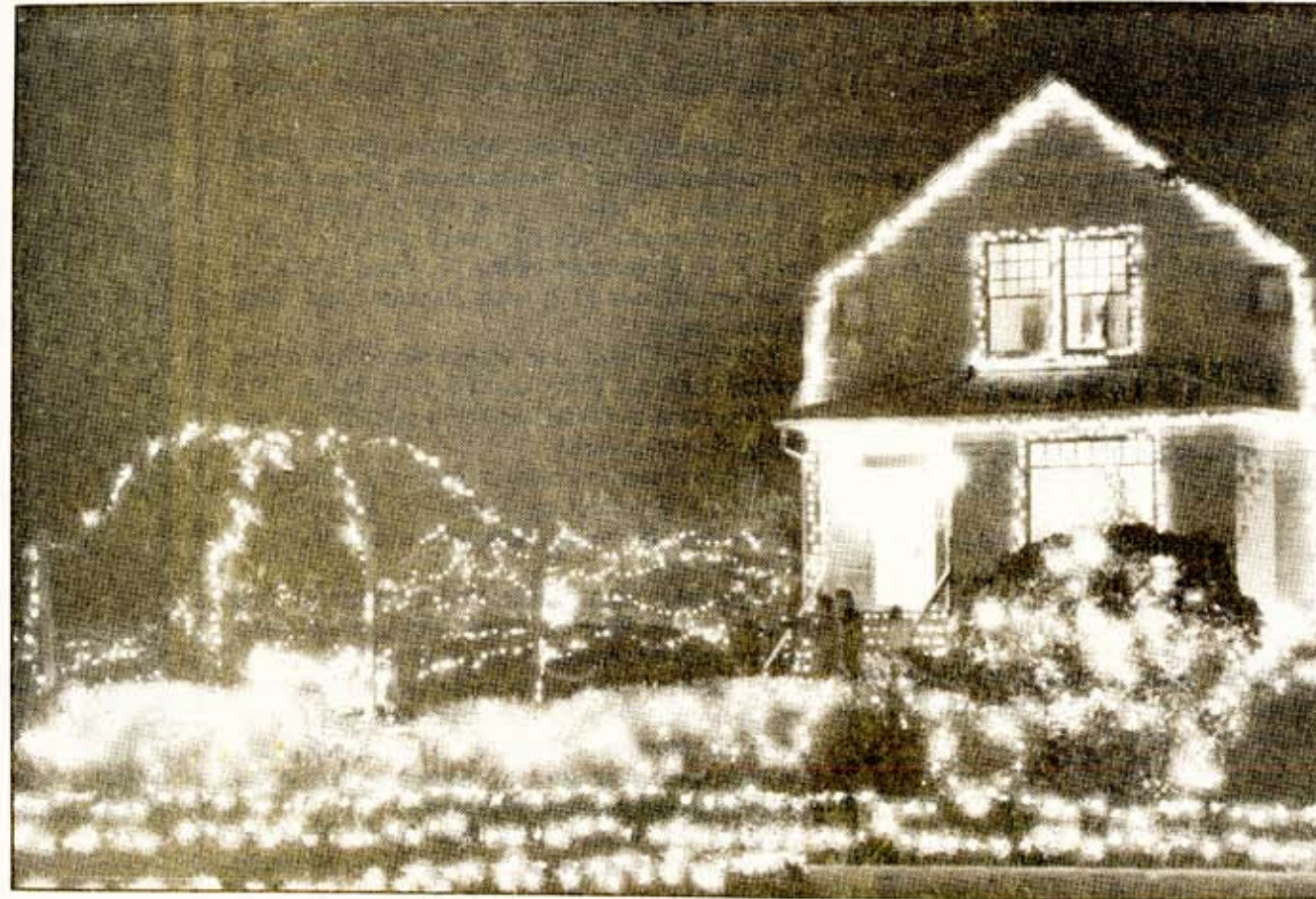
Here is an early list of the lighting ceremonies and displays planned this year:

**In Coos Bay and North Bend,** Christmas trees will be ceremoniously lighted. The Coos Bay tree festivities are planned for 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 29, in the first block of the downtown mall, with Mayor Roger Gould pulling the switch, choral groups singing and cider and cookies from the Coos Bay Downtown Association. North Bend's tree will be lighted by Mayor Timm Slater at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, with music and goodies, too. Organizers are deciding right now whether to put the gorgeous tree in its traditional spot on Highway 101, or to crown the new North Bend Community Center with greenery and lights. Watch The World for the location.

In the biggest display of holiday lights, some 75,000 will glow in the formal botanic gardens at Shore Acres State Park again this year, attracting thousands to the warmth of the season, displays and goodies in the gardener's cottage, and entertainment from local groups. The free festivities begin Thursday, Dec. 12 and continue to Dec. 31, with the gardens open from 4 to 9 p.m. every night, including the holiday nights. For further information call 888-4902, 888-3732 or 756-5401 for further information. Watch The World for a schedule of entertainers, more on the cottage decorations.

**In Coquille,** the city of Coquille will sponsor its second annual Christmas celebration at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the auditorium of the community building. Elementary students will sing, there will be a tree decorating competition for kids from kindergarten to eighth grade, a brass quartet will play. Winners of a citywide business and residential Christmas lighting competition will be announced. Call 396-5131 for further information.

**In Myrtle Point,** the city Christmas tree will be lighted at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30, at Duane Netland Park and the First Presbyterian Church. The city plans many other Christmas activities, too, including a



Over 75,000 lights will fill the gardens at Shore Acres beginning Dec. 12.

dance Dec. 7, a Nativity parade Dec. 14, and a Christmas cantata on Dec. 15. (See nearby story.)

**In Bandon,** the community Christmas tree will shine at 5:15 p.m. or so on Sunday, Dec. 1 (moved from Saturday due to the football championship game between the Bandon Tigers and the Silverton Foxes) at the visitor center in Old Town, with Mayor Jim Cawdrey and members of the Bandon Centennial Commission attending in Victorian attire. Carols will be sung. Boats in the Bandon boat basin turn on lights at the same time

for a shimmering display on the water. Call 347-9616 for further information.

**In Gold Beach,** Mayor Marilyn Schafer will throw the switch on more than 50,000 Christmas lights along Highway 101 in ceremonies at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 30. The city Christmas tree lights up at the same time, too. Some 100 buildings stretching over 17 blocks of the downtown core participated last year, Schafer notes, and this year promises to be even bigger.



# More Publicity and An Invitation

The World, Coos Bay, Ore., Friday, Nov. 29, 1991

## In Other Voices

### Lights will all be up by the Dec. 12

From Andy LaTomme, Sunset Bay Park District Manager, in the Friends of Shore Acres newsletter:


"As I wandered around the Oriental pond last week, I was struck by a strange feeling of deja vu. There was rain, and sticky blue-clay mud, and open trenches, and more mud, and inmates with shovels, and still more mud, and parksfolk with shovels, and even more mud, and a vision of daily pages falling off of a calendar like leaves from a tree as Dec. 12 approaches.

"Is this 1988 or 1991? It must be 1991 because the trenches surround the pond instead of criss-crossing the formal lawns.


"Have faith, my friends; it'll all get done before the master switch is thrown on 75,000 holiday lights and the even'tide lightscaping around the pond. As the man says: 'Yer gonna hafta see it ta believe it.'

"I was amused to note that a magazine considers the holiday lights a 'regional attraction.' Either they didn't read last year's guest register or else the Southern Oregon Coast now stretches from Seattle to Los Angeles."

Prime Time, December 1991



Holiday Lights at Shore Acres



Warm the cockles of your heart at the Holiday Lights.  
Wouldn't Clam Chowder or Oyster Soup go great?  
At the Charleston Boat Basin 888-5711



OREGON STATE PARKS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

CHRISTMAS TOUR - SHORE ACRES  
AT SUNSET BAY STATE PARK  
South of Coos Bay



December 12 & 13, 1991

\*\*\*\*\* "COME SEE THE LIGHTS" \*\*\*\*\*

You are warmly invited to attend our third annual Christmas Trek. This year, we are combining pleasure with business by including a co-op presidents and managers meeting on Thursday afternoon. Non-presidents will have the afternoon to visit, shop, relax, or travel to South Slough Preserve.

We will have at least one van for the Portland area, leaving from Tryon Park at 5:30 a.m. Cars will be parked at the staff house in the equipment yard. Look for signs.

The other van(s) will start from Transportation Motor Pool in Salem, 2800 State Street, at 6:30 a.m. There is parking in the lot next to the motor pool area. It is next to the State Police Office so it should be safe.

Sites are available at Bastendorff Beach County Park for hosts who want to travel with their RV's. The cost for full hook-up sites are \$7. The park is located approximately two miles north of Sunset Bay.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Pony Village Lodge in North Bend. Rooms range from \$29.00 to \$39.00, plus tax, based on the number of occupants. Food costs will vary; there will be two lunches, two dinners and a breakfast to pay for.

Please RSVP by December 4, 1991, to allow for accurate reservations and food count. You may contact either:

Michelle Remmy at 378-6305 or Martin Wheeler at 378-5020

#### AGENDA

<u>December 12:</u>	11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	President's Meeting and Lunch (everyone else on their own)
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner at Red Lion, Coos Bay
	7:00 p.m.	Leave for Shore Acres Lights
<u>December 13:</u>	8:30 a.m.	Room Checkout and Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Board Vans for Hughes House
	12 noon	Lunch in Bandon
	1:00 p.m.	Travel up Highway 101
	4:00 p.m.	Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Tour
	5:00 p.m.	Dinner Together (location to be announced)
	8:00 p.m.	Arrive in Salem/Portland



# Support and More Publicity

The World, Coos Bay, Friday, Dec. 6, 1991



Dear Shirley: 12-2-91  
Please accept the enclosed  
gift to help toward the Xmas  
light expenses at Shore Acres.  
Keep up the good work!  
Coos Head Garden Club  
Jolly Sperry, Treas

The World, Dec, 4, 1991

## Other events

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS** can be seen in many South Coast communities, ranging from more than 100 businesses along the downtown highway in Gold Beach, to the boat basin near Old Town, Bandon, to the annual display attracting thousands of visitors to the botanical gardens at Shore Acres State Park, south of Charleston. The gardens will be open every day, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, from 4 to 9 p.m., with entertainment most evenings (unless the rain is just pouring). Punch and beverages, and over 1,500 dozen cookies, will be served in the garden house, decorated in the spirit of a Victorian Christmas. Call 756-5401 for further information. A full schedule of entertainment will be published in a later edition of The World.



## Coast Life



Photo courtesy Friends of Shore Acres

Some 75,000 Christmas lights will greet visitors at Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens this year, with over 1,500 volunteer hours spent turning the garden into a holiday fairy land. The Friends of Shore Acres volunteers have been stringing lights already, and cookie bakers, under cookie chair Sharon Fortune, back row, at far left, have baked 602 dozen. They need more help this weekend, beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 7., at North Bend

Junior High School. No need to call, if you'd like to help bake, just show up! Cookie bakers here include, left to right, front row, Jean Sorensen, Nona Demaray, Maxine McKenzie, Charlotte Skinner, Lyn Topits, Helen Shefstad, and Iva Adams; back row, left to right, Fortune, Carolyn Tecube, Vera Fusano and Martha Wheeler. Bonnie Koreiva and Helen McElravey, not pictured, also helped bake.

## Shore Acres to shine!

Gardens open Dec. 12-31, every day from 4 to 9 p.m.

Some 75,000 lights will shine at Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens this season, thanks to the volunteers marshalled by the Friends of Shore Acres.

The lights go on, and the gardener's cottage opens, Thursday, Dec. 12, and will remain open through Dec. 31, from 4 to 9 p.m. each evening, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve.

Last year, some 45,000 visitors from 46 states, 14 countries and six Canadian provinces enjoyed the gardens, the nightly entertainment, and the cottage, dressed in Victorian finery, heirlooms and holiday decorations. Thousands of cookies and gallons of punch and coffee were served.

This year, volunteers have added additional vintage decorations to the cottage and the smell of baking cookies is already in the air!

Lighting decorations at various points about the garden have been undertaken by the people of Pacific Power and Light Co., the Friends of South Slough, the people of the Oregon International Port

of Coos Bay; the House of Myrtlewood; the people of Southwestern Oregon Community College and the Friends of Shore Acres.

There is no fee for the Christmas festivities at the gardens, but the Friends of Shore Acres raise funds for the park throughout the year and donations are always welcome.

In the past, the group has provided a slip-proof deck surface for the interpretive center entrance, plant identification markers, a multi-image slide show used throughout Oregon, audio visual and playback equipment and funded other services to enhance visitors enjoyment of the historic park.

Plans for the future include "light-scaping" similar to Butchart Gardens at Victoria, B.C., a larger information center, management of the gardener's cottage to allow multiple use, reconstruction of the historic water fountain in the gardens and interpretive materials for the three-miles of coast trail adjacent to Sunset Bay, Shore Acres and Cape Arago state parks.





# More December Publicity

The World, Dec. 4, 1991

## Input asked on park fee hike proposal

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department will accept written comments on various proposed fee increases and rule changes through Friday, Dec. 27.

The Parks Commission recently proposed raising overnight camping fees by \$1 with new fees ranging from \$13 for a full hook-up site to \$9 for a primitive site. The commission also proposes to eliminate an off-season discount of \$3 per night for campers, and to raise group tent camping and group picnic fees.

If adopted by the commission at its next meeting Jan. 28, the new fees would begin May 11.

Some changes in rules would become effective immediately following commission action. Those proposals include:

- Standardizing group facility registration and reservation processes;

- Authorizing managers to

restrict public access to specific park areas to protect resources;

- Revising rules for extra vehicles at Detroit Lake State Park; and

- Reducing the area where nudity is allowed at Rooster Rock State Park.

The combined proposed fee increases would generate an additional \$873,000 in revenue during the following year. The 1991 Legislature recommended that 75 percent of any state park fee increase should be spent for purchasing land with the remainder spent to repair facilities.

"During the past decade, State Parks has become much more reliant on fees, with user fees and recreation vehicle registration fees providing nearly 60 percent of the current budget," said Parks Commission Chair Brian Booth, Portland. State General Fund support has dropped to 15 percent, he noted.

"As a result, the department budget for the past eight years has contained meager amounts for property purchase, averaging only \$245,000 annually," Booth said. "Meanwhile, property values have skyrocketed, and particularly for prime park locations with ocean, lake or river access.

The current two-year parks budget

contains about \$1.5 million for statewide property purchases, but \$900,000 is dependent on future lottery income.

To obtain more information about the fee and rule proposals or to send comments, contact Rick Braden, Parks and Recreation Department, 525 Trade St. S.E., Salem, 97310, or call 378-6305.



The World, Dec. 6, 1991

## Campsite gift certificates are available

SALEM (AP) — State park officials think a night's free camping would be a good addition to Santa Claus' bag.

The state Parks and Recreation Department is selling \$10 gift certificates that are good toward costs of overnight stays in the 50 state park campgrounds.

When using certificates, change is given in the form of rain checks that can be spent like cash at state campgrounds.

The certificates can be purchased from the state parks office in Salem, at regional department offices or at any state park that's open during winter months.

The World, Dec. 6, 1991

## Visit Shore Acres to enjoy the lights and join in the holiday spirit

There is entertainment every night during the holiday festivities at Shore Acres State Park botanical gardens.

This year, Wanda Graham has been in charge of scheduling entertainment and a tentative list of groups follows. All entertainment is subject to the weather — and sometimes subject to changed dates, too.

The festivities for opening night, Thursday, Dec. 12, will include the Harmony, Inc., Sweet Adelines Chorus, from 7 to 7:30 p.m.; the Bay Area Community Concert Band, from 7:30 to 8 p.m.; and the North Bend Presbyterian Church Choir, from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

The next evening, Dec. 13, the Oregon Coast Music Association Madrigal Singers will perform, with the time to be announced. The North Bend High School jazz choir will sing from 7:30 to 8 p.m., and the Gold Coast Men's Barbershop Chorus will sing from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14, the entertainment begins with Girl Scout Troop 272 from 5 to 5:30; Don Loftus on accordion from 6 to 7 p.m.; the Southwestern Oregon Community College concert choir will perform from 7 to 7:30 p.m., and the Southwestern

ensemble from the college will perform from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 15, Kim, Kevin and Mikah Paulson will sing from 6 to 7 p.m., with the Bay Area Foursquare Church choir singing from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Camp Fire Boys and Girls will sing from 7 to 7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16, with the SWOCC community choir performing from 7:30 to 8 p.m., followed by the Reedsport High School choir from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 17, the North Bay Chorus will perform from 7 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 entertainment will be announced later.

Thursday, Dec. 19, Rose Jameson will sing and play the guitar from 7 to 7:30 p.m., and the Fred Meyer Carolers will sing from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 43 will sing from 6:30 to 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20, followed by harpist Carol Ann Smith from 7 to 8 p.m. and jazz guitar duo Fred Gonzales and Ron Potts from 8 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21, will feature the North Bend Assembly

of God church choir from 4 to 5 p.m.; the PraiseCenter drama group from the Foursquare Church from 5 to 6 p.m., with the Rainbow Cloggers performing from 6 to 7 p.m.

Also Saturday, Dec. 21, the Charleston Community Church Choir will perform from 7 to 7:30 p.m., followed by the Runeberg Dancers from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Carolyn Regal and Wanda Graham from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

Entertainment for Sunday, Dec. 22 will be announced later, and the Rainbow Cloggers will perform from 6 to 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 23.

Geno the Clown will entertain from 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Christmas Day entertainment will be announced, as will entertainment for Dec. 26.

The jazz guitar duo of Gonzales and Potts will perform from 8 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27, with Geno the Clown performing again from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 and the Rainbow Cloggers will dance again from 6 to 7 p.m.

Entertainment for Dec. 29, 30 and 31 will be announced later.

### Want to know more? Like to entertain?

Do you want to know more about the Shore Acres holiday events? Perhaps volunteer? Here are the key telephone numbers:

756-5401 is the number for general information or to find out ways you can help outdoors.

756-6789 is the number to call if you, or your group, would like to entertain. Ask for Wanda Graham.

267-4037 is the number to call if you would like to serve as a host or hostess in the gardener's cottage. Ask for Bonnie Koreiva.



# Ready for Apple Cider

The World, Dec. 7, 1991



Photo by Shirley Bridgham

Volunteers and Fred Meyer employees help unload 50 cases of apple juice donated by the corporate store office to the Friends of Shore Acres for the hot apple cider that will be served during the Holiday Lights display that opens Thursday at the state park outside of Charleston. The final decorations are

going up this week — including 75,000 lights — for the annual event that draws thousands. Helping with the unloading were Friends President David Bridgham, Store Director Loren Davis, Store Food Manager Chuck Carncross. Terry Clinton and Lou Leberti.



# Welcoming Entrance



4:00 – 9:00 Every Night



Walk-Thru Display



# Ready for Visitors



5th Annual Holiday Lights – Dec. 12 thru 31, 1991



Lights Display Expanded to the Pond



# Ready for Entertainment



*North Bend First Presbyterian Church Choir*



*Gold Coast Men's Barbershop Chorus*



Planned for 75,000 Lights; Ended With 84,000 Lights!

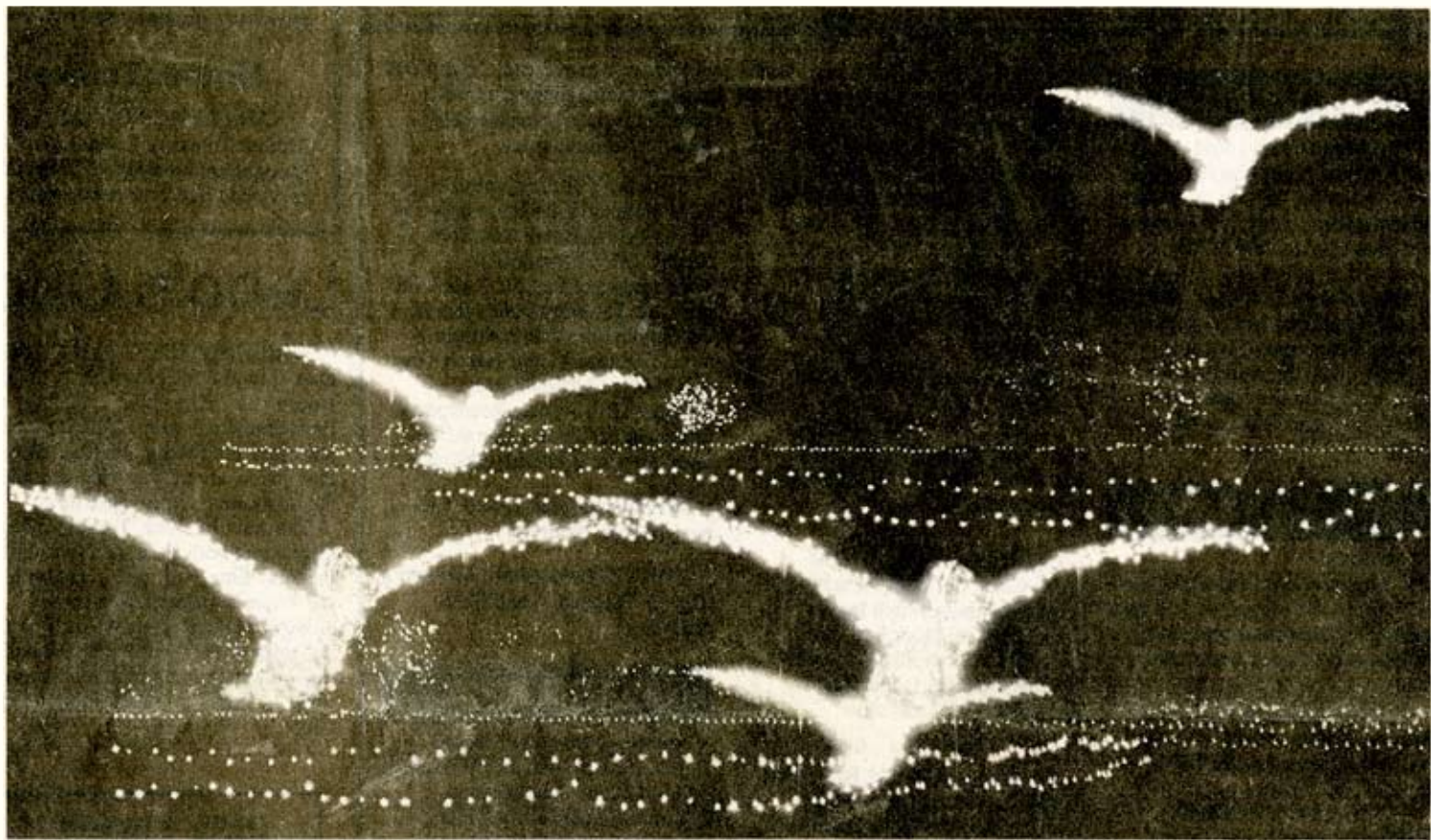


*View from Upstairs Window of the Garden House – Photo by Ward Robertson*



# Ready for Visitors

The World, Dec. 13, 1991



World photo by Mike Sweeney



World photo by Charles Kocher

## The lights are on!

Two new pelican sculptures turn into a flock of lighted birds in multiple images of this year's Holiday Lights display at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston, where more than 1,000 people turned out for the opening night. Dozens of volunteers have strung 75,000 lights, built pelicans, dug trenches for electricity, baked thousands of cookies, decorated the garden house, signed up to pour coffee, and agreed to provide entertainment for the event. The lights are on from 4 to 9 p.m. every night through New Year's Eve, including Christmas; entertainment depends on the weather. Admission is free, but donations are accepted and the gift shop will be open. Over 45,000 attended last year's display.

The World, Dec. 16, 1991

## Crowds bigger than ever at Shore Acres

CHARLESTON — Crowds for the Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park are bigger than ever, leading organizers to suggest those who can to visit the lights during the week, and bring flashlights for the walk from parking areas.

In the first four nights, more than 10,000 people have visited the park, which features about 75,000 lights in the formal gardens, according to Shirley Bridgham of the Friends of Shore Acres.

That doesn't include about 4,000 green lights purchased and added over the weekend to fill out this year's display, according to Bridgham.

Parking continues to be a problem at peak times, she said. Visitors are

encouraged to carpool for their visits, and bring flashlights for the walks from the outlying parking areas. Those bringing buses are encouraged to call the park in advance, and to plan on parking the buses back at Sunset Bay State Park rather than wait at Shore Acres.

The display is free, and runs from 4 to 9 p.m. daily through New Years Eve. Refreshments are free in the garden house, and the gift shop is open.

A raffle is being held for the privilege of staying in the garden house on New Years Eve — with all the garden lights on — and being served breakfast on New Years Day. There are only 100 tickets for the drawing, priced at \$10 each.

The World, Dec. 18, 1991

## Other events

HOLIDAY LIGHTS can be seen in many South Coast communities, ranging from more than 100 businesses along the downtown highway in Gold Beach, to the boat basin near Old Town, Bandon, to the annual display attracting thousands of visitors to the botanical gardens at Shore Acres State Park, south of Charleston. The gardens will be open every day, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, from 4 to 9 p.m., with entertainment most evenings (unless the rain is just pouring). Punch and beverages, and over 1,500 dozen cookies, will be served in the garden house, decorated in the spirit of a Victorian Christmas. Call 756-5401 for further information. A full schedule of entertainment will be published in a later edition of The World.



## Editorial

# The spirit of giving is here

**THE SPIRIT OF** giving is definitely in the air. We hear so much that it's hard to share it all, but let us offer a few examples in this column today — with the goal of spurring everyone into action before the holiday is upon us.

Nearly all the cash and gifts stolen by some Grinch from the Coquille Valley Elks Lodge has been replaced. It looks like Christmas can't be stolen after all.

The efforts can be very individual. One couple brought new towels to the Belloni Ranch operations for each of the teens in residence.

And they can be groups doing nice things for individuals. A crew of Bureau of Land Management employees worked together last Saturday to help a single parent and her family fix up, clean up and improve their home.

The gifts of season need not focus on someone's need. The Holiday Lights display at Shore Acres is a perfect example; dozens of people have given hundreds of hours to the delight of thousands of people. In fact, it seems we have had a bumper crop of holiday events and performances and open houses and celebrations this year — most of them free, given just for the joy of the season.

**THE FOCUS OF** the American-style holiday is, of course, making certain that everyone has a gift and a hearty meal for the holiday. There are gift drives, food basket efforts and community meals in almost every community, and the Christmas elves who put them together have their hands full meeting all of the need.

Here at The World, we invite readers to drop gifts under our tree for distribution next weekend. The packages will go out with food boxes collected by the Knights of Columbus with the help of Community Action Program. At least 300 families will be receiving gifts and food through this combined program this year. (And, yes, we do need more gifts!)

That's in addition to the several hundred served by Salvation Army and several hundred more who get help through the volunteer services program of the state Adult and Family Services office in Coos Bay.

Our point in sharing this all is to both give credit to those efforts that we know about and to inspire those who still have the time and energy to pitch in. The time is growing late to make sure that everyone has a brighter Christmas. Find the Christmas elves in your community — whether they are distributing gifts, collecting food, cooking community meals, or decorating for everyone's pleasure — and join in.

There's a feeling of satisfaction in helping that cannot be matched at any other time of the year.

## In the GAIC (Gift & Information Center)



Friends' President David Bridgham and Park Hosts Virginia and Louie Thiring with this season's "I've Seen the Lights" sweatshirt.



*Holiday Lights at Shore Acres Gardens*

Notecard available in the GAIC



# More Publicity and a B&B Note

The World, Dec. 18, 1991

## Snow expected in Coast Range

It's too early for a White Christmas, but some six inches of snow could fall above 2,000 feet in the Coast Range, the U.S. Weather Service in Eugene predicted this morning.

A typical wet, winter storm is sweeping the state, dropping rain and stirring up winds here on the coast, and dusting higher elevations with snow, a spokesman said. The freezing level in the northern half of the state will dip to around 1,500 feet — the lowest it has been so far this winter.

The forecast through the weekend is for more rain, rain, rain — heavy on Saturday, with showers on Friday and Sunday. Temperatures and winds will both moderate after tonight's low, which could dip into the 30s (1.6 C), the weather service said.

No long-range forecast is available for Christmas week yet, but the storm patterns do not look like a repeat of the snow and ice-bound Christmas of 1990 in Oregon, the weather service said.

Page 4 - THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Thursday December 19, 1991



### Sounds of season

Paul Skones directs sounds of the season from members of the Marshfield High School Choir Wednesday in a show for students that was followed Wednesday night by a public performance. Many South Coast

schools are offering concerts this week as the holiday break approaches. Still to come are three concerts tonight: Gold Beach High at 7, Pacific High at 8 and Powers High at 7 p.m. If you still have a yearning for more holiday

music, there is entertainment scheduled nightly — weather permitting — on the outdoor stage in the formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park amid the 80,000 lights of the park's annual Holiday Lights display.

# NOEL

Dear Shirley —

Thanks for being so gracious at 7:00 in the morning — it was a real pleasure chatting with you!

Here is our check for the New Year's Eve B+B raffle. We'll keep our fingers crossed. In any case, we will make a trip to Coos Bay to see the Shore Acres lights — if not this year, then definitely next year!


Thanks again!

Colleen Keyes

P.S. David's name was in the article!



The World, Dec. 20, 1991



See the  
lights sparkle  
at Shore Acres  
4-9 p.m. thru Dec. 31st.

Then stop by  
for a hearty  
dinner with us!

Friday  
Night  
Prime Rib

Fresh  
Fish  
Daily

**SEA BASKET**  
Restaurant

Boat Basin, Charleston

Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

888-5711

Open  
Daily

Front Page - December 20, 1991



**Strolling  
in the park  
in season**

One of the brighter sites on Oregon's south coast during the holiday season is the floral gardens at Shore Acres State Park. The park, about 12 miles southwest of Coos Bay, is open nightly for the last three weeks of December for the Annual Holiday Lights Display. Among those touring the park this week were (from left) Karen and Doug Kime, Mary and Neil Bone, and Bev and Doug Jones. All are from Coos Bay. Story on Page C4.

The Oregonian/STEVE NEHL

C4

## Shore Acres aglow for season

By JOHN GRIFFITH  
*Correspondent, The Oregonian*

COOS BAY — Thousands of visitors are expected to enjoy the Christmas season by viewing tens of thousands of lights in the formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park near Charleston.

The gardens are part of an estate built at the turn of the century by Louis Simpson, founder of North Bend. Heirs of the estate donated it to the state in the 1940s. The mansion no longer stands, but the gardens and Pacific Ocean vistas are enjoyed by more than a quarter million visitors every year. Last year, the State Parks and Recreation Division reported 339,000 Shore Acres visitors.

This is the fifth year that the Friends of Shore Acres, a non-profit corporation that works with the division, has decorated the gardens with Christmas lights. In 1987 the group decorated the gardens with 6,000 lights and logged 12,000 visitors, said David Bridgham, Friends of Shore Acres president and a resident of Coos Bay.

This season, the group installed 80,000 lights and expects to share holiday cheer with 50,000 guests, Bridgham said.

At one corner of the gardens stands the original gardener's house. Friends of Shore Acres serve hot apple cider and cookies there every night from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no charge to see the lights or enjoy refreshments. Entertainment also includes nightly music and Christmas caroling. The event runs through the evening of Dec. 31.

As a special attraction and to raise money this year, Friends of Shore Acres will raffle off a New Year's Eve bed-and-breakfast service for the gardener's house. The holder of the winning ticket gets a night for two in the house, a catered breakfast the next morning and private use of the gardens all night after the park closes at 9 p.m. The lights will remain on for the enjoyment of the lucky winners.

Only 100 tickets will be sold. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at two Coos Bay bookstores, or by calling a Friends of Shore Acres message line at 756-5401.





# The World



Serving Oregon's great South Coast for over 100 years

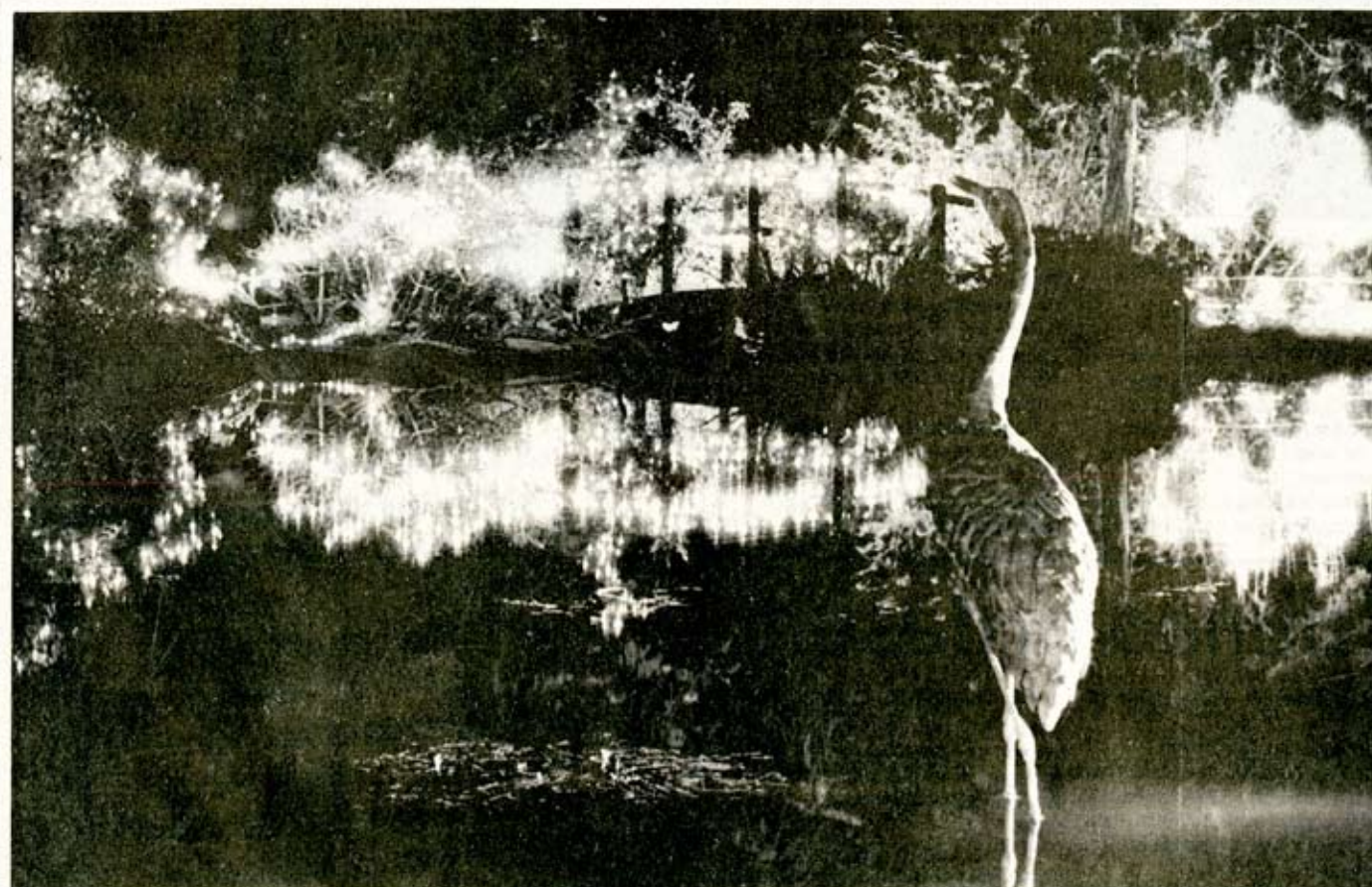
No. 145 113th Year

Published in Coos Bay, Oregon, 97420

Tuesday, December 24, 1991

35 cents

## Holiday sparkle



World photos by Mike Sweeney

The gleam of 84,000 lights in the midst of a coastal forest seems to catch the attention of the heron sculpture in the reflecting pond of the formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park near Charleston. The number of lights, the clear weather and the reputation of the Holiday Lights display is drawing record numbers of visitors to the park, according to organizers. The lights — along with free entertainment and Victorian decorations in the garden house, where free cookies and beverages are served — are organized by the Friends of Shore Acres State Park. The lights are on from 4 to 9 p.m. every night through New Year's Eve including tonight — Christmas Eve — and Christmas Day. Because of the crowds, visitors are encouraged to carpool and to bring flashlights for long walks from the parking areas.





# A Bonus for Visitors to the Lights

THE WORLD, Coos Bay, Ore., Thursday, December 26, 1991

## Parade of gray whales to attract parade of visitors

The parade of California gray whales along the Oregon Coast is expected to draw a parade of visitors to headlands along the coast during the holiday week.

About two dozen sites will be staffed with volunteers to help 10,000 tourists spot the marine mammals in one of the most spectacular wildlife viewing opportunities anywhere in the world.

After a summer of feeding and growing fat in the Bering and Chukchi seas near Alaska, gray whales will be hugging the Pacific coast on their long journey south to the warm lagoons along the coast of Mexico. There, pregnant females will give birth to their calves, wildlife experts say.

Though the tourists will be concentrated over the holidays, the whales should be visible all during January, according to Bill Hastie, Aquatic Education

Program Leader for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Oregonians also have a chance to see the whales on their return trip, usually in April and early May."

Specially trained volunteers will be at the best viewpoints from today through Jan. 1, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Stations established between Yachats and Brookings will include:

- Three sites surrounding Cape Perpetua Overlook State Park, north of Florence;
- At the traffic turn-out located one mile south of the Sea Lion Caves, just north of Florence;
- The Umpqua River Lighthouse near Winchester Bay;

(Continued on Page 3)



World file photo

Whale watchers scan the horizon with binoculars.



## Gray whales attract visitors

(Continued from Page 1)

— The enclosure at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston;

— At Cape Ferello four miles north of Brookings; and

— Harris Beach State Park at Brookings.

Up to 30 whales per hour will be passing any given point on the Oregon coast during this period of time.

Gray whales usually travel in small groups, swimming steadily along at about five knots. They will cover the 6,000 miles from Alaska to Mexico in two to three months, the longest migration of any mammal. The whales feed little or not at all during the migration; by the time they head north again, they will have lost 20 percent to 30 percent of their body weight.

"Mature gray whales are 35 to 45 feet long, and may weigh 45 tons," said Hastie. "They are about the same size and color as a Greyhound

bus. The blotchy gray color pattern is caused by barnacles growing on the whale's skin, or scar tissue left after barnacles were scraped off."

The Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport offers the following whale watching tips:

- Coastal headlands with good elevation provide the best view.
- Go in the early morning if possible to avoid a choppy ocean.
- Pick a calm day. A smooth ocean and overcast day improves sightings.
- Scan the horizon for the "blow" or water vapor blown into the air when the whale exhales.
- Once a blow is located, stay with it — to anticipate where the whale will surface next.

• Gray whales usually blow 2-3 times, about one minute apart, then dive for five to eight minutes and surface to blow and repeat the cycle.

• You will usually see only a small portion of the whale's head and back during a blow — sometimes you can see the tail just before a longer dive.

"Make your whale watch a safe one," cautioned Hastie. "Don't crawl over guard rails to get a closer look, and if you're in a boat, give the whales a wide berth. If you are down near the water, don't get caught by the tide or by sneaker waves. Finally, don't attempt to watch whales from a moving vehicle. Stop your car and enjoy the show!"



Looking North from the Observation Building at Shore Acres



# Highlighting Visitors and B&B Winners

The Courier, Reedsport, Oregon, Dec. 26, 1991

Page 16

Thursday, December 26, 1991

The Courier

## Coastal State Parks welcome winter visitors

Monte Turner State Parks information specialist writes that many people have made camping at the beach a winter or holiday tradition. "They come to watch whales or to observe storms or just to get away from the daily routine," he said.

Of 15 campgrounds open year-round, 11 are located on the coast. (However, Sunset Bay near Coos Bay, which has been open year-round previously, has closed this winter.) Camping rates range from \$5 to \$9. Many special parks facilities at the coast also remain open during the winter, and several offer free holiday activities, including:

- Fort Stevens near Astoria — Beginning in mid-December, the park's Military Museum will feature a display depicting a soldier's Christmas at the fort in 1864. The museum is open 10-4 Wednesday through Sunday during the winter.

- Yaquina Bay Lighthouse in south Newport — Christmas lights trace the outline of the building, while the keeper's quarters are decorated in Victorian style beginning Dec. 14 and 15. That same weekend, carolers and refreshments will be featured at an open house. The lighthouse is open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during the winter.

- Alsea Bay Bridge Visitor Center at Waldport — The new building operates Wednesday through

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and provides information about native tribes, early settlement and transportation methods.

- Shore Acres south of Charleston — Visitors are greeted by carolers, cookies and 75,000 Christmas lights within the floral garden. Activities run Dec. 12 through 31 from 4 to 9 p.m. daily.

- Hughes House at Cape Blanco near Port Orford — The historic Victorian residence will be completely decorated for visitors from 2-8 p.m. on the weekends of Dec. 7 and 14. Refreshments will be served.

While encouraging people to use coastal campgrounds that are open year-round, State Parks officials cautioned coastal visitors to be aware of possible winter storms.

Extreme high tides during the first and later parts of December coupled with possible winter storms could present hazardous beach conditions.

High tides exceed 10 feet are expected Dec. 20 and 21, according to Pete Bond, Parks beach and trails manager.

"People need to be aware of the high tides and storms because they flood beaches and push strong waves over rocks and into driftwood making beach walks extremely dangerous," Bond said. "The tides and waves may also make some trails and viewpoints that are normally safe extra hazardous."

The World, Dec. 28, 1991

## Roseburg couple win stay in Garden House

CHARLESTON — A Roseburg couple has won the chance to stay overnight in the Garden House of Shore Acres State Park on New Year's Eve — just them, the sound of the ocean, 84,000 holiday lights, and the promise of a catered breakfast in the morning.

Sharon and Bruce Carlson of Roseburg bought their winning ticket during a visit to the gardens on Christmas night, just before the drawing for the prize.

The Friends of Shore Acres raffled \$10 tickets for the special bed and breakfast offering, a fund-raiser to help purchase more lights for next year's Holiday Lights display.

The lights are on from 4 to 9 p.m. nightly through New Year's Eve. It has been drawing record crowds this year, leading organizers to suggest that visitors carpool when they drive to the gardens and bring flashlights for walks from the parking areas.



Friends' Donna and Chris Flammang welcome Sharon and Bruce Carlson in the Garden House on New year's Eve.



# Another Successful Season



The World, Dec. 30, 1991

## Shore Acres display on for an extra night

CHARLESTON — The Holiday Lights display in the formal gardens of Shore Acres State Park will stay on an extra night — through 9 p.m. on New Year's Day, according to organizers.

Record-breaking crowds and some confusing publicity led to the decision, according to Shirley Bridgham of the Friends of Shore Acres State Park.

No entertainment has been scheduled, but Bridgham said groups are welcome to come to the outdoor stage and sing, weather permitting.

The formal gardens of the park are decorated with about 84,000 lights, which are on nightly from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free refreshments are served each night in the garden house, which is also decorated for the holidays.

The display has attracted about 55,000 visitors so far this year, 10,000 more than last year's effort in five less days, according to Bridgham. This weekend's visitors included State Parks Director Dave

Talbot, who had never seen the five-year-old holiday lights display.

The crowds have been enthusiastic — both in their comments and their contributions. Bridgham said donations have been "substantial" and will allow the display to grow to 100,000 lights in 1992, along with installment of additional permanent floodlights for the gardens.

The large attendance has also meant that the Friends have had to scramble for more refreshment supplies. By the time the display closes on New Year's Day, Bridgham estimates visitors will have consumed 65 cases of apple juice and 24,000 cookies — sometimes as many as 1,200 a night.

Once the lights are turned off, the next job is taking them down. Bridgham said anyone who wants to help can show up on Saturday or Sunday, Jan. 4 and 5, beginning at 10 a.m. for that work.

"It comes down a lot quicker than it goes up," she added.

Oregon

PARKS AND  
RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT

December 30, 1991

Dear Friends of Shores Acres:


My daughter Sara and I really enjoyed our visit Saturday (December 28) to view "the Christmas lights at Shore Acres". It was spectacular!

We stayed almost two hours and came away with a feeling of exhilaration—not only from the beauty of the lights in that special place, but more importantly the sense of pride, thrill, wonderment, etc. we felt in the Friends and park visitors we encountered. You are a HIT!

What fun to volunteer, work hard, and then have such a smash hit for your park and community.

Congratulations and may your future Christmas lightings be blessed with hot cider, cookies, happy visitors and proud friends.

Sincerely,

  
David G. Talbot  
Director

DGT:al



525 Trade Street SE  
Salem, OR 97310  
(503) 378-6305  
FAX (503) 378-6447

73410-806





## An Appreciation Keepsake

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1992

Dear Shinheng David

I am writing to you to express my thanks and appreciation for the 1991 Shore Acres Display of Lights. It was absolutely fantastic - there are not enough ~~verbs~~ <sup>adjectives</sup> to describe the beauty.

On behalf of all of my family from a son from Seattle and two grandchildren from there on behalf of my sister from Denver, Colo - my sister from Henrichson Oregon, and my children from Salem

and Coos Bay, we all express our thanks to you both and all your Volunteers for a job beautifully done!

It is my hope that this will continue from the support you have received and I would be most happy to find myself for the coming years if needed as another Volunteer in whatever capacity I could be helpful.

Again my sincere thanks for a job beautifully done

Cathleen McHull



# A Note and More Publicity

From Jim and Diane Verger, North Bend, OR

David & Shirley -

Nice article!

Jim and I want to congratulate you on an even more successful year.

We certainly enjoy our time working.

Thumbs up for a great New Year

Jim & Diane

The World, Jan. 15, 1992

## Shore Acres lights a big attraction

CHARLESTON - More than 60,000 people from 166 different Oregon cities, 42 different states and 24 different countries visited the 1991 Shore Acres Holiday Lights display, according to event organizers Shirley and David Bridgman.

The success of the display has them already planning to expand the event in several ways next year - in the number of lights, in the areas of the garden lit for the display, and in the number of nights the lights are

turned on.

This year's display boasted a dazzling 84,000 lights this year, and a first-ever light display in the Oriental garden area of the botanical gardens.

Visitors came from far-away places ranging from Adel to Yoncalita, and everywhere Oregon city or town in between. Those visitors helped consume 2,200 dozen cookies prepared by 31 volunteer bakers working two Saturdays for a total of 225 volunteer hours.

Along with the cookies, 936 gallons of apple cider were drunk, with 200 gallons of cranberry punch and seven cases of coffee swirling down the hatch.

Countless hundreds of hours were volunteered to set up the elaborate lights display itself. Fifty light stringers worked three consecutive weekends, with 51 light "un-stringers" spending six hours last Saturday to take down the display.

With the light display, six or-

ganizations donated decorated Christmas trees, and more than two dozen people contributed items to decorate the garden house.

Helping visitors enjoy the display were 220 volunteer hosts, 16 gift shop workers, and 350 entertainers.

Above all, the cooperation the Friends of Shore Acres received from Oregon State Parks and Recreation helped the "solid community effort" pay off and become reality, the Bridghams said.

Coquille newspaper THE SENTINEL--Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1992--NINE

## LOOKING BACK

### How Shore Acres began

By BOYD STONE

Louis Simpson first saw the isolated, forested site, surrounded by crashing surf, that is now known as Shore Acres, from a ship while sailing from San Francisco in 1905. He bought the property for his wife, Cassie, paying owner Jake Evans \$4000 for 320 acres, and by 1907 had completed a mansion he and Cassie called their summer home. On the first floor was a 56'x32' living room, a spacious kitchen and dining room, with a smaller music room and office/study, and an entrance hall with myrtlewood paneling. The second story was made up of many bedrooms. Dick Wagner, in his book "Louis Simpson's North Bend," describes the third floor as "the ballroom where fabulous parties, replete with French champagne and beautiful women gave Louis Simpson and Shore Acres a reputation for the "good life." Louie's father, Asa Simpson, on his first visit to North Bend after the summer home was completed, saw the house for the first time, sitting on the cliff. He asked, "What fool would build a house in a place like that?"

Louis Jerome Simpson came to Coos Bay in 1899 at the age of 22, to manage his father's sawmill and ship-building business. Art Newton remembered Louie Simpson for his costly experimenting. He was always trying something new in his mill that wouldn't work. Then he would bury his mistakes in the sawdust pile so his dad wouldn't find out about them. Art said that sawdust pile was full of scrap iron.

In 1915, Asa Simpson died. That same year Louie resigned his position as mayor of North Bend and made Shore Acres his permanent

home. A 50'x90' addition was added to the mansion that contained a 52'x26' swimming pool, a "palm room," and a lounging room. Also, that year, Louie and Cassie added the four acre formal gardens and Oriental, sunken lily pond, featuring crushed gravel paths, dahlias, roses, rhododendrons and hydrangeas. The Simpson ships traveled all over the world, and would bring back with them exotic shrubs and trees which were planted in the gardens.

Louie Simpson once told the late Ed Dahl an interesting story. They had delivered a ship load of lumber to the Hawaiian Islands. After they unloaded the lumber they invited some Hawaiian girls aboard and had a party. After awhile, they pulled up anchor and headed for home. They didn't get far when the Harbor Patrol stopped them and took the girls off. Louie always believed those beautiful Hawaiian girls would have made an attractive addition to the Shore Acres.

In 1920, Cassie died suddenly. Then on July 5, 1921, the mansion burned to the ground. Though a fence and locked gate kept cars off the grounds, the gardens remained accessible to pedestrians. My mother and Aunt Nota visited the gardens in 1923. Though there were signs proclaiming, "Do not pick the flowers," those flowers were so beautiful they couldn't resist picking a bouquet. Each had a few flowers in their hands when who should drive through the gate but Louie Simpson himself with a car full of men. Aunt Nota quickly passed her flowers to my mother who didn't have time to hide them, so she held up the flowers and waved at the car. Louie and his friends laughed and waved back as they drove on.

In 1927, Louie Simpson started rebuilding over the ashes of the first mansion, but his fortunes had diminished, and the depression soon added to his losses. The great house could not be maintained, and in 1942, Louie and his second wife, Lela, sold Shore Acres to the State of Oregon for \$29,000 and moved to Barview, where Louie passed away in 1949. The "great house" was used as Army Barracks during World War II. In 1948, it was in such disrepair, the state decided to tear it down. The property laid vacant and neglected for many years, until 1974 when a restoration program was began that has restored the grounds to better than the original, and is now Shore Acres State park.

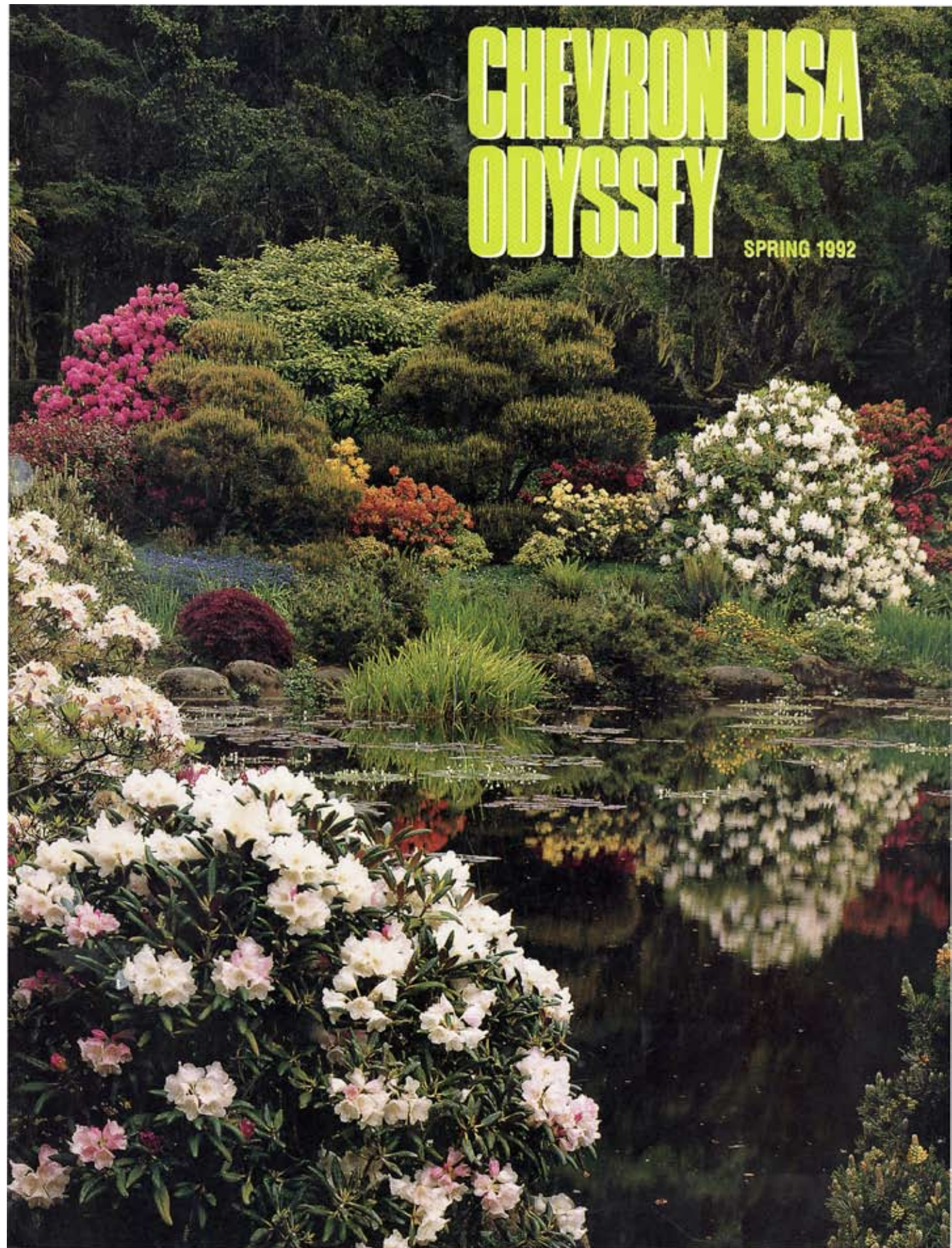
Since 1986, an organization that calls itself, "Friends of Shore Acres," has been throwing parties in the formal gardens each year from before Christmas through New Years that would turn Louie and Cassie Simpson green with envy. This year, 1991, the gardens were decorated with 84,000 lights, and at the "garden house," 936 gallons of cider, 200 gallons of cranberry punch, seven cases of coffee, and 26,400 cookies were consumed by 60,000 party-goers. Everybody agreed that the view of the lighted gardens from the upstairs bedroom window of the "garden house" was breathtaking. Three hundred and fifty entertainers performed on the stage set up in the gardens. For 1992, plans are for an even bigger celebration, with 100,000 lights to be displayed.

Louie and Cassie Simpson would be proud of what they started, but Louie might suggest a few beautiful Hawaiian hula-hula girls would make an attractive addition.



# Priceless Publicity in 1992

*Cover photo:* A highlight of any trip to Oregon's south coast, the gardens at Shore Acres are especially stunning in spring, when the azaleas and rhododendrons burst into colorful bloom (see page 3). Photo by Dick Dietrich. *Left:* Cape May, New Jersey, is the nation's oldest seaside resort (see page 32). *Right:* In Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium on the banks of the Ohio, everybody's seeing Reds (see page 22).





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## To Club Members

Dear Club Members,

In this first issue of *Chevron USA Odyssey* for 1992, we at the Travel Club would like to salute the beginning of a new year together, and to thank you so much for your membership.

With our Members' support, the Travel Club has continued to enjoy record growth, and we expect to increase our membership again in 1992. We are proud of the honor you pay us with your membership, and we are committed to meriting that membership by providing you with the best benefits and services available at competitive price. Your membership helps make that possible: the larger and stronger the Club is, the more it can provide to its members.

Your Chevron Travel Club continually monitors a wide range of potential benefits to assure that the package we offer gives you the greatest value possible. In addition, this year we are continuing to conduct a major benefits survey to determine what our Members want most. If you are contacted for this survey, I hope you'll be able to take the time to respond, because your opinions are valuable to us.

We at Chevron appreciate the close association between our company and our customers. Our goal is to be first in your mind when you make travel plans. We pledge our best efforts in continuing to provide you with the benefits, services, and quality products that will make your traveling both safer and more enjoyable.

In closing, once again I wish to thank every one of you for choosing to belong to our Travel Club and for honoring us through your continued membership and your patronage of Chevron products and services.

We wish you a great 1992!

*J. G. Hardy*  
J. G. Hardy  
President



Barry M. Wheeler

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Marvel at a world  
of rock, wave, and  
wind still remarkably  
untouched by  
humankind

by J. D. Brozen

## Exploring Oregon's South Coast

A wild beauty pervades the southern coast of Oregon. Sea stacks, reefs, and dark stone monoliths preside over deserted shores. Pioneers and developers did not arrive here until the gold rush of the 1850s, and a paved road—scenic Highway 101—resisted completion until the 1930s. As a result, this stretch of the coast from the California border north to Coos Bay remains less scarred by progress and truer to the original than virtually any other comparable section in America. For the visitor, this means a coastline where little has changed for centuries.

At the border with California, the Winchuck River still empties without fanfare into the sea. No hamburger stands or condominiums compromise the view at this humble wayside, which sets the tone for the entire southern coast.

The first town, Brookings, was settled, much as were others in the region, by miners, fishermen, loggers, and others drawn to exploit the natural treasures. In a different way, their descendants have also recognized that there is wealth in nature's gifts. As the warmest winter spot in Oregon, Brookings is now attracting a new wave of settlers—those wanting to retire in paradise. Others who can only pass through can at least pause for a picnic in paradise at Azalea State Park (just outside of town), where the azaleas top 20 feet in height and two hundred years in age. May marks the peak bloom time, culminating in the Azalea Festival held on Memorial Day weekend.

The full force of the coast's visible wealth and primeval power only begins to be felt north of Brookings, at Harris Beach State Park, where the stone formations stranded by time in the surf mount their parade up the coast. Spires tower 150 feet over white beach sands. A half-mile out is Goat Island, a rookery colonized by tufted

**At Bandon Beach, a typical coastal scene features sea stacks—rocky sentinels in the sea—tide pools, seabirds, and a beach that invites an afternoon stroll.**

Barry M. Wheeler





puffins, cormorants, murre (the most common of Oregon's seabirds), and storm-petrels (the smallest of the world's seabirds). Goat Island is the largest member of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, a group of fourteen hundred protected islands, reefs, and rocks, remnants of an even more ancient coastline that is now drowned but for these beacons.



**Above:** Thundering surf towers above observers on the cliffs at Shore Acres State Park. **Left:** Samuel H. Boardman State Park contains many secluded delights such as Natural Bridges Cove.

Nowhere is there a greater profusion of these sea stacks, spires, and chimney islands than in the 10-mile strip above Harris Beach known as Samuel H. Boardman State Park. Here paths such as Indian Sands Trail spiral down through the lush salal and wind-warped spruce to tidal pools, driftwood beaches, Indian haunts, coves, cliffs, and caves. Natural

bridges and arches of stone thrust upward from the sea, castles for sea otters, seals, and sea lions. Such way-side trails feed into the 350-mile-long Oregon Coast Trail, which one can join or leave at hundreds of points along the way.

Also in the park are Thomas Creek Bridge—Oregon's highest, at 345 feet from roadbed to seabed—and Arch Rock, where a considerable passageway has been drilled by the ocean through a sea island. The squirrels along the cliffs have been tamed by legions of visitors. Armed with peanuts, anyone can beguile what are perhaps the friendliest such critters in the West. They leap, they dance, they approach, and they eat out of your hand. A series of three short trails to Whale Head Cove headland, beginning at a parking area south of the bridge, treats hikers to stunning views of the coast.

The spectacular scenery continues well beyond Boardman State Park. Near Myers Creek, a few miles north

of Pistol River, is some of the best idle beachcombing on earth. Sheep march in small untended herds along the beach-grass banks. Windsurfers zip and leap across the waves, shifting side to side like miniature sailing vessels behind sea islands and reefs—the largest of which locals refer to simply as "The Rock." Along this beach one can strike off in any direction for a solitary walk in search of glass fishing floats or sea life in a tide pool trapped between rock and sand.

A century ago, the beach sands were laced with more tangible wealth. "In passing along the coast one could see in every little rivulet that came gushing from the banks particles of shining gold, rolling along the black sands," wrote an early prospector, Joseph McVay. The southern Oregon gold rush of the mid-1850s brought the first great influx of settlers to these beaches, then speckled with river gold.

At the mouth of the Rogue River, the aptly named town of Gold Beach was born in such a boom. The town flourishes today because of the way it has transformed its seafaring and river-running heritage into a modern form of recreation, jet-boating up the Rogue, one of the last wild and scenic rivers in the West.

North of Gold Beach, on the other side of Humbug Mountain, is one of the oldest towns in the region, Port Orford. It owes its founding to what amounts to a living form of gold in Oregon, the great forests. Port Orford's deep-water harbor, today an active charter and commercial fishing port, is located under the same steep cliffs where cedar logs were once transported down to waiting steamships and schooners. Port Orford's roadside beach is dominated by an immense monolith, Battle Rock, where the first settlers resisted an Indian attack in 1851. Today visitors can walk from the beach to the summit of Battle Rock, site of pioneer graves.

The headland north of Port Orford, Cape Blanco, is the farthest point west in the lower forty-eight states—and certainly one of the windiest on the continent. The lighthouse there, which is no longer manned, has been operating since 1870. The



Hughes House, built in 1898 by a Swedish carpenter for an Irish gold miner, has become a turn-of-the-century museum.

The crimson fields of another pioneer legacy—cranberries—lead north to Bandon. Many of these bogs were scooped out more than half a century ago, probably by local Indians and Chinese workers. Their crop is valued worldwide for its deep red hue.

The Bandon Visitors Information Center can help arrange a visit to the bogs during the fall harvest.

Bandon boasts many fine examples of how the natural and pioneer legacies have been combined and transformed to serve a new era. Bandon's Old Town is the most charming on the southern coast. The historic town hotel now houses a distributor of cranberry and other sweets. The old U.S. Coast Guard Building enjoys a second career as the Bandon Histori-



Thomas Creek Bridge is virtually the only sign that humans have ever set foot on this section of Samuel H. Boardman State Park.



cal Society's Coquille River Museum with displays of the logging, mining, shipbuilding, and Na-So-Mah (or Coquille) Indian days. A 36-foot decommissioned Coast Guard lifeboat is dry-docked and on view at Weber's Pier in Old Town. *Sternwheeler Rose*, a 90-foot replica of a historic stern-wheeler, takes sightseers three times a day in the summer up the historic Coquille River past sites of old Indian villages, old shipping and logging towns, Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (a bird sanctuary), and spruce forests. At the Bandon Cheese Factory, visitors can still witness the hand-cheddaring method of cheese making, sample over twenty varieties of cheese, and take home delicious cheddar curds produced fresh daily.

Bandon has also preserved its natural attractions. No coastal traveler would want to bypass Face Rock, a natural tableau illustrating a local Na-So-Mah legend. One can easily make out the defiant upturned face of an Indian maiden transformed into stone by an angry sea monster. Her faithful



Coquille Lighthouse at Bullards Beach State Park north of Bandon marks the mouth of the Coquille River. One of three remaining on the south coast, it is open to visitors.

dog barks from the shore, and bobbing on the waves offshore are her cat and its kittens.

At Bandon, as at Coos Bay to the north, the coast has demonstrated a rare ability to retrace rather than erase its traditions. But it is Coos Bay, more than any other town on the south coast, that remains closest to and most

dependent on its original sources of wealth: timber and fisheries. It has long billed itself as among the world's largest lumber shipping points, and even in this era of threatened salmon runs and diminishing old-growth forests, Coos Bay retains a tenacious grip on its legacy of natural resources. Where else can one see the great cargo ships of the world, towed by

Charleston, home to a fishing fleet, right, is also the site of South Slough National Estuarine Reserve, a marshy meeting place of water and land that attracts many waterfowl.



colorful tugs, seemingly float down the main street, towering over Highway 101 and downtown buildings?

Among Oregon's forest riches is myrtlewood. This hardwood, which is particularly suited to carving and polishes to a high gloss, is actually California laurel. Not surprisingly, it grows widely in the Golden State. However, it is Oregon that has exploited it. Factories, several of which give tours, and showrooms are common along this part of the coast.

It was a local lumber baron, Louis J. Simpson, who developed and eventually sold to the state what have become the three gems of the southern Oregon coast, located outside of Coos Bay. Sunset Beach, said to have been a pirate cove, was Simpson's private recreation spot. Today it is a state park and campground, a favorite of swimmers because its high sandstone cliffs and narrow passage to the sea keep it well protected from wind and storm.

Next door is Shore Acres (see box), the Simpsons' garden estate, located atop a fantastic formation of slanted sandstone and shale. Many feel that this is the single most beautiful sea view on the Oregon coast. A glass observation house, a spot cherished by winter storm watchers, stands on the edge of the cliffs, where waves explode in hundred-foot-high sheets and fragments.

The final gem, at the end of the road, is Cape Arago State Park. This

wild extrusion of primeval land into the ancient sea affords a gargantuan panorama of sea cliffs and rock islands. Simpson Reef often teems with California sea lions, their barks as penetrating as blasts from a foghorn, while local fishing boats bob precariously between reefs and rookeries.

When the deed for Cape Arago passed from Simpson to park superintendent Samuel H. Boardman sixty years ago, on June 1, 1932, it marked the first major acquisition in a vast outdoor gallery of original seascapes, now preserved forever by Oregon law for the "free and uninterrupted use" of future generations.

For information, contact Bandon Visitors Information Center, Box 1515, Bandon, OR 97411, (503) 347-9616; Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, 50 E. Central St., Box 210, Coos Bay, OR 97420, (800) 824-8486; Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Box 940, Brookings, OR 97415, (503) 469-3181; Gold Beach-Wedderburn Chamber of Commerce, 1225 S. Ellensburg, Box 3, Gold Beach, OR 97444, (800) 525-2334; and Port Orford Chamber of Commerce, Box 637, Port Orford, OR 97465, (503) 332-8055. Additional information on visiting Oregon may be obtained from the Oregon Tourism Division, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97310, (800) 547-7842.

## Shore Acres: A Garden by the Sea

The name of Louis J. Simpson is synonymous on the southern Oregon coast with lumber, wealth, and the pioneer spirit. Simpson served as first mayor of North Bend, bringing it and the entire regional economy into the twentieth century. But generations from now his name will be remembered for the estate he gave his wife in 1906—Shore Acres, one of the most extravagant creations of its time, especially on the remote Oregon coast.

Simpson bought the property in 1905 and built there the most lavish dwelling north of California. The house burned down in 1921, and Simpson raised a second, equally grand home on the sea cliffs in 1928.

That house, too, is gone now, razed after Simpson retired to Coos Bay. A glass observation house marks the location. Only the modest but pretty cottage, home to gardeners—and to the Simpsons in the 1920s—survives. Some of Simpson's greatest works at Shore Acres have been revived, however. The two gardens, one of formal English design, the other of Oriental style, make Shore Acres distinctive.

Simpson brought in exotic varieties of trees, shrubs, and plants, including rhododendrons and azaleas new to North America, beginning in 1915. The public was always free to visit his gardens and take seeds and clippings. At its height, before the Great Depression sapped the Simpson fortune, Shore Acres employed five full-time gardeners caring for three thousand plants, including one thousand new bulbs each spring.

Shore Acres was sold to the state in 1942. In the 1970s, a spirited restoration reversed decades of neglect of the gardens. Even the two bronze cranes in the Oriental garden were replicated, in copper. Of Simpson's original plantings, some are known to have survived, including palm trees, rhododendrons, azaleas, boxwood hedges, and Monterey pines and cypress.

Today, the trails Simpson built serve a new generation of visitors. The mansions have vanished, but the gardens have returned, and the sea cliffs, once a pioneer millionaire's private domain, are open to all, unchanged by human progress.



# “Company’s Coming” Beach Cleanup – March 14, 1992

## THE LUNCH BUNCH – HUNGRY BEACH CLEANERS



Volunteers were cold, wet and hungry!

It rained . . . and it was cold . . . but that didn’t stop more than 400 volunteers from cleaning Oregon’s beaches, Saturday, March 14th. The annual clean-up effort in our area was coordinated by Region Beach Coordinator Linda Wilcox and Sunset Coordinator Shirley McGuire. Out of a state-wide total of nearly 8 tons, local volunteers cleaned up 3,025 pounds.

Besides the self-satisfaction that comes from a job well done, volunteers also received a free lunch at Sunset Bay State Park. Andy LaTomme grilled the hot dogs and Friends volunteers Bob and Doris Emmett, David Bridgham, and Bill Traviss helped serve. Coos Bay Safeway provided the food and the Friends added hot coffee. ■



David Bridgham, Bill Traviss, Andy LaTomme, Bob and Doris Emmett



Andy LaTomme (L) grilled the hot dogs in the Sunset Bay Gazebo.



All ages participated and had a great time!





# Weekend jam-packed with events



World photo by Brian McLaughlin

Jerry Merina's dog team raced during Oregon Dune Mail Run this weekend.

## From cleaning up to jazzing it up crowds turn out for sales, fests

### From staff reports

From swinging to the sounds of Dixieland jazz to ogling rare antiques to garbage collecting for operation beach clean-up, South Coast residents had a host of choices for activities last weekend.

### Beaches cleaned

Damp skies Saturday did not keep close to 1,000 people from turning out to lend a hand at the for the seventh annual Oregon Beach Clean-up, as more than 13,000 pounds of garbage collected from Florence to Brookings.

Shirley McGuire, local coordinator for the clean-up from Sunset Bay State Park said the turn-out was up slightly from last year.

"It was up over prior years, but not a lot because of the rain," McGuire said. "Also we are finding the beaches a lot cleaner than in the past."

The Sunset Bay area had 410 people turn-out, including a group of high school seniors from Trinity High School in Salt Lake City, Utah. In all the area collected 3,025 pounds of garbage.

Paul Wayne, park ranger for Humbug Mountain State Park, said the weather down in Curry County was nicer this year than in prior clean-ups. "The day started out kind of drizzling, but ended up getting awfully warm," he said. The Humbug area collected 4,200 pounds of garbage.

Some unique items collected off South Coast beaches included car batteries, a hot water heater, sleeping bag, tire iron, and some crab rings.

Other local figures include: Harris Beach, 171 people, and 2,375 pounds; Bullard's Beach, 110 people, 3,267 pounds; Honeyman State Park, 292 people, and 4,050 pounds.

### Jazz crowds down

Hundreds of people kicked up their heels this weekend as the South Coast Dixieland Clam Bake Jazz Festival brought many different kinds of jazz to the area.

"It was very successful," said Rick Messinger, manager of the Red Lion Inn, which was one of the sites for the festival. The Red Lion was full both Friday and Saturday.

Frosty West, president of the

Jazz Festival this year, said that the out-of-town attendance was good, but that local attendance had decreased slightly. "Maybe due to the economy or whatever, local attendance was down, so overall attendance was down," he said.

Some of the popular out-of-town bands at the festival, according to West, included the Banjo Buddies Dixieland Band from Chicago, Custer's Last Band with Jan Sutherland from Sacramento, and Grand Dominion from Vancouver, British Columbia.

"We had a lot of fine folks here, and the people that did come complimented us on our organization," West said.

The festival was dedicated to Sid Chandler, who was president of the festival until his death last year.

### Antiques turn-out

Persons in search of quieter entertainment and a glimpse at some impressive and sentimental icons of by-gone days attended the North Bend Antique Show and Collectible Sale.

(Continued on Page 3)



Tim Finefrock and his mother Carla Finefrock joined effort



Cheri Sickels and grandson Chad Bunnell cleaned beaches.



# SPRING bursts out EARLY

Weather is ahead of the actual date

By Liz Garone  
Staff Writer

Spring ushers itself in a day early this year on Friday at 12:48 a.m.

But if you've been watching the blossoms, you know that spring weather arrived on the South Coast quite some time ago. The pussy willows have come and gone, the early-bird gardeners are boasting of peas sprouting, and even nasturtiums — a summer flower — are blooming.

But don't be fooled: While it may be officially spring, soil conditions are not yet ripe for all spring plantings.

"This year is unusual with the ground being so cold," says Nancy Jarvis, garden center manager at Coos Grange Supply in Coos Bay. "Most of the warm weather perennials need the warm soil to survive and grow."

Her advice for would-be spring gardeners: Avoid setting out the petunias and the marigolds. Instead, stick to primroses, pansies and flowering spring trees.

Sabrina Wilson, manager of Village Florist and Gardening in North Bend, recommends flowering heather to bring rich color to April showers. Shrubs are also good, especially rhododendrons and azaleas.

Water is at a low this year in many parts of Oregon and the Bay Area is no exception. Precipitation for the year is at 60 percent of normal.

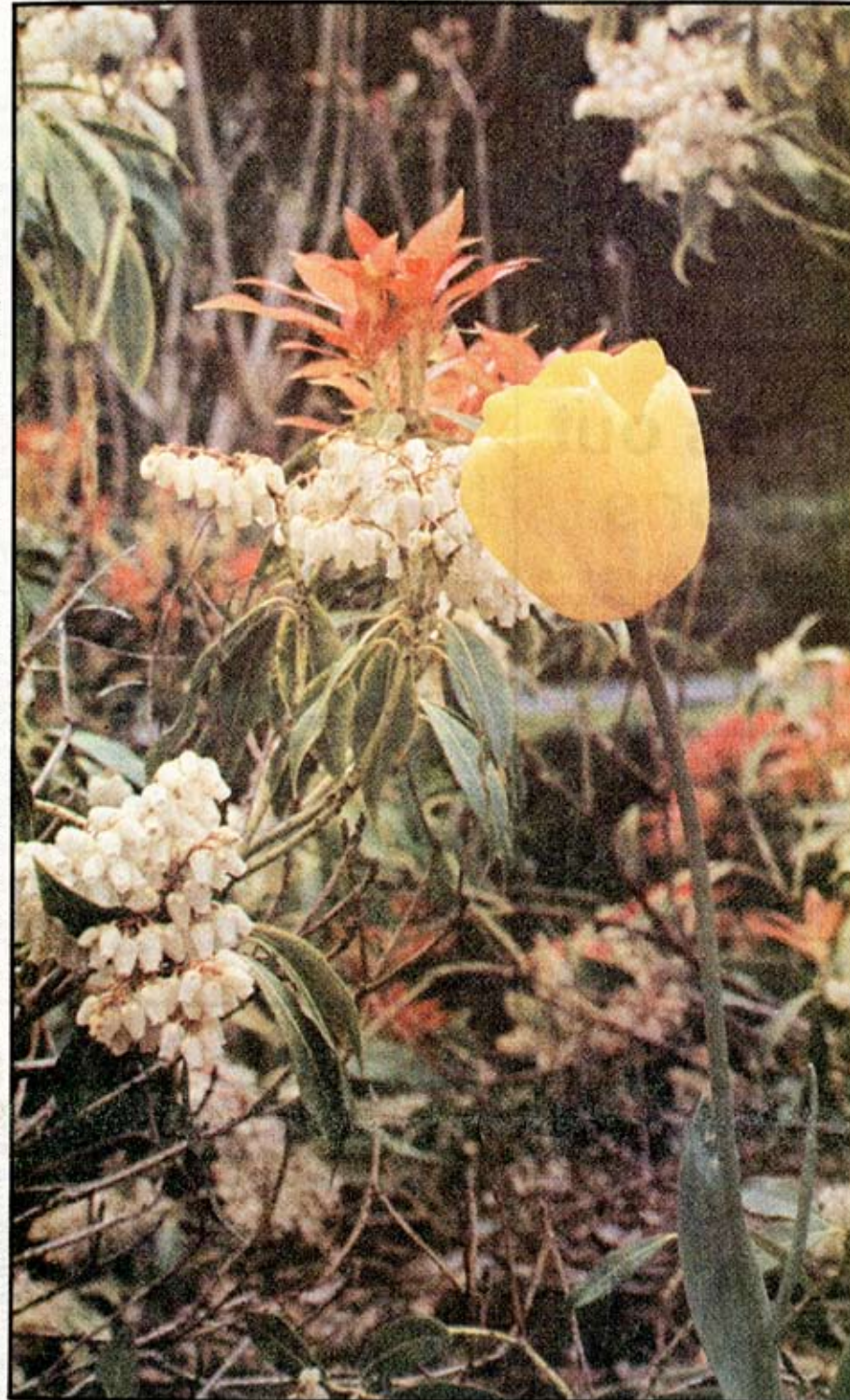
Conserving water usage in the garden is going to be important later in the year, and can be done with the use of soil polymers. Work them into the soil, and they will absorb several hundred times their weight in water. Later, when the soil dries out, they will slowly release the water into the ground.

According to Ben Fawver, retired professor of biology at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) and an avid gardener, peas and other cold crops — such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, lettuces, and spinach — are all ready for planting.

But beans, peppers, and tomatoes are all no-nos for this time of year. "Beans will not sprout when the soil is too cold. They are quite finicky and probably won't be ready (for planting) until the first week in June."

Most importantly, whatever you do, if you remember nothing else, take the advice of George Guthrie, head gardener at Shore Acres: "If you have a two-dollar plant, give it a four-dollar hole." The time you take and the money you spend on your plants will repay itself now and in later years.

Guthrie will be offering an "Easy Care Gardening" workshop on March 24 through the Elderwise program at Southwestern Oregon Community College.



World photo by Mike Sweeney

A tulip blossoms early at Shore Acres State Park near Charleston.

## I Want to Know

**Q:** I WANT TO KNOW how much is budgeted for "The Friends of Shore Acres" out of the Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) budget? How much SWOCC time does Shirley Bridgham spend helping, is she paid, or does she take time off, and who pays for all of the printing that SWOCC does for Shore Acres?

**A:** According to SWOCC Finance Director Kevin Kimball, SWOCC contributes "zero" dollars to The Friends of Shore Acres, and Shore Acres pays for all of their own printing costs.

And Bridgham was adamant in her response concerning any suggestion of pay for her work at Shore Acres. "No, absolutely not," said Bridgham. "I'm a volunteer, as is everyone at Shore Acres — we have no paid staff." Bridgham also stated that she utilizes vacation time she has earned at SWOCC for much of her volunteer work.



## Thank you

March 27, 1992

Dear Shirley and Loue Bridgham,  
Thank you for your involvement in this year's beach clean-up. Almost 400 volunteers picked up 3025 pounds of trash. Our beaches are really clean, now!  
The Oregon State Parks Department has limited resources for this project, so we rely on individual and group assistance for the bulk of the work. Your work at the "Beach-You-Touch" was important in this effort. Beyond the environmental good the beach clean-up achieved, it was an outstanding community service that you and the Friends of Shore Acres did.  
Thanks again for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Shirley McGinnis  
State Park Ranger



# Springtime Activities

## Southern Oregon Coast RESTAURANT GUIDE

Spring 1992



The World, South Coast Week, April 1, 1992

EGON PUBLISHING CO.

APRIL 1, 1992

### Beckham due Sunday to sign latest edition

CHARLESTON — Stephen Dow Beckham will sign copies of his new expanded edition of "The Simpsons of Shore Acres" on Sunday, April 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Garden House of Shore Acres State Park.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of Shore Acres.

The book tells the history of the development of Oregon's unique botanical gardens and the state park on Cape Arago that is now one of the state's top visitor attractions.

Beckham, a native of Coos Bay who is now a professor of history at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, began work on the account of the Simpson family while a college student. The first edition appeared as

"Captain Asa Mead Simpson: Lumberman and Shipbuilder" in the Oregon Historical Quarterly in 1966.

Beckham credits a number of local residents with providing views of the early days of the estate, including the late Isabelle Tower and Edna Going; Barbara Simpson Griffin, the daughter of Louis J. and Lela Simpson; and Jack Slattery, longtime collector of Coos County photos.

The son of Dow and Anna Beckham of Coos Bay, Beckham also serves on the planning team for the proposed interpretive center at Gregory Point near the Cape Arago Lighthouse. He is the researcher and writer for the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Eastern Oregon which opens May 25.



Stephen Dow Beckham  
Author of Shore Acres book



In the Garden House at Shore Acres, Stephen Dow Beckham greeted visitors while his father Dow Beckham visited with Bob Emmett. Later his mother Anna joined Stephen and Dow for a family photo.



# Pond Cleaning Made Easier

*Story by Gregg Nelson, Bureau of Land Management, Photos by Luis Velasquez, Friends' Photographer*



*Gregg Nelson saved goldfish, frogs and newts*



*Travis Nelson picked up coins.*

In 1989 I heard that members and volunteers of the Friends of Shore Acres were volunteering to clean the reflecting pond in the Oriental Garden at Shore Acres. As a Friend, I thought this was my chance to get out and make a time commitment to the park - after all, it's one of the places I take all my out-of-town visitors, and the least I could do is give something back to help it stay beautiful.

I talked two of my co-workers into helping, and the three of us, along with many of the Friends, donned our raingear and rubber boots, and waded into the muck. We spent several hours scraping, sweeping, and shoveling the mud from the sides and bottom of the pond, picking up coins, and trimming back vegetation. This was hard work, but enjoyable, since we knew a clean pond would be our reward. The worst was the last, when the muck got so thick, and the only way to get rid of it was to bucket it into wheelbarrows, and haul it away.

What was the problem? George Guthrie showed me. The drain was only about 4" across; with a gate valve that only opens half-way, reducing the flow to about a 2" pipe, which keeps clogging; and the drain is a foot higher than the lowest point in the pond - and for a flat-bottom pond, that adds up to a lot of water and muck.

I told George that I thought we could solve part of the problem by borrowing equipment and getting some volunteers from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM - that's where I work). The BLM has water pumps for fires that we could use to pump the water and muck out of the pond.

So for the next two years, 15-20 BLM volunteers with good attitudes (you need one to shovel muck) came out with pumps, shovels, brooms, buckets, and wheelbarrows to help the Friends. But the basic problem with the drain remained.

In March of 1992, Arnie Nee and David Rosenkrance, two BLM engineers, went out to the gardens and surveyed the bottom of the pond. Dennis Graham used the survey to plot a contour map with 0.2 foot contours, which showed the low point, the old drain, and the out-flow area under the bridge. Dennis designed a new drain, and presented the plans to George and Andy LaTomme for approval. All we needed to install the new drain was a clean pond.



*BLM Volunteer and George Guthrie*



# Pond Cleaning Made Easier

The date was set for the weekend before Mother's Day. I posted "Volunteers Needed" signs on all the BLM office doors, with information on what-where-when. On Friday, BLMers Ron Patnode, Chris Hamilton, Al Swanson and I loaded up all the equipment, and got ready for the Saturday cleaning. Saturday morning Ron drove to the park with a fire truck, and we laid down some fire hose to wash down the pond. We started pumping water from the pond, and waited for the volunteers.

By 9:30 the pond was swarming with help – twenty-five BLM family members (14 adults and 11 children), plus four Friends. Together we pumped out the pond, picked up coins, caught goldfish, frogs, and newts, trimmed the brush, and hauled away the muck. The final hour was the same back-breaking bucket-brigade labor as the last few years, but this time everyone knew it was the last time.

On Monday Dennis, Arnie, David, and I were joined by Bill Huret (BLM), George Guthrie, and two Shutter Creek inmates. We cut open the pond with a cement saw, dug under the existing drain, installed a new drain, and cemented the whole thing back up. By Mother's Day the pond was refilled.

Thanks go to Mel Chase (BLM's District Manager, who OK'd the use of the equipment) and Lillie Hikida (supervisor to Dennis, Arnie, David, and Bill). Many thanks also to the volunteers: Chris, Kate, Whitney, and Laurel Hamilton; Jon, Brian, and Kathryn Menten; Jack Vaughn; Ray and Dottie Orazem; Mel Chase; Vicki Ursitti; John Schwartz; Gregg, Connie, Erika, and Travis Nelson; Bob Golden; Scott Knowles; Ron and Louis Patnode; Christian Lorenz; John, Jeremy, and Tim Fields; Alan Hoffmeister; Connie and Arianne Eslinger; Cranson Fosburg; Donna Fawcett; and George Guthrie. Thanks also go to the crew who surveyed the pond and put in the new drain; the Friends for providing coffee, donuts, oranges, pop, and pizza; and Luis Velasquez – local photographer and Friend, who captured everyone's hard work on film.

Hopefully, the next time the pond is cleaned, we only need to pull the plug, hose it down, and count the money. ■



***BLM Pumps - a big help!***



***Bob Golden***



***Cranson Fosburg***



# Shore Acres Biathlon – a Big Success



*Eric Hamner and David Bridgham (R) welcome runners.*



*Eric hands out shirts.*



*Law Enforcement helped.*



*Nick Furman holds up the shirt he designed.*

A sunny and warm May 9th. The event - a biathlon race - 5K run, 20K bike, 5K run. Twenty-eight hardy souls turned out to either run and bike the course solo, or team up to run or bike with one other participant.

Race director Eric Hamner coordinated volunteers to plan and put on the event. These volunteers were from Friends of Shore Acres, South Coast Running Club, city and county police reserves, and an amateur radio club.

Participants look forward to a tradition of biathlons. Participants commented after the race that it was a challenging and beautiful course and they're looking forward to a tradition of biathlons at Shore Acres.

The start/finish/transition area was near the large field at Shore Acres. Runners left the park and ran south to Simpson Reef viewpoint, then back to Shore Acres (5K). Bikers left the park and biked north to the Bastendorff Beach area, then back to Cape Arago for a turn-around, then back to Shore Acres (20K). The remaining 5K run was a repeat of the first. Top finishers, awarded myrtlewood plaques, were Nick Furman (male solo); Alan and Karen Hirschmugl (mixed team); Cindy Evanow and Amy Lovean (female team); and Larz Richardson and Joel Jenkins (male team).



# Twenty-eight Participants

**THANKS** - Tamara Nelson, assistant race director; Eli se and Eric Hamner, Gourmet Coastal Coffees (coffee, refreshments and bike racks); Thomas and Son Distributors (water bottles and Pepsi cups); City of Coos Bay (traffic cones); South Coast Running Club (race clock); Nick Furman (T-shirt design); Friends volunteers - Frank, Donna, and Mike Smith; Carol Ventgen and Mike Perkins; Wally Johnson; and David and Shirley Bridgham. Reserves: Coos County Sheriff's Office-Jim Brende, John Goodwin, Greg Dimit, Charlie Cicorria, and Lisa Bode; from Coos Bay Police Department: Kelley Andrews, Greg Jones, Jason Patterson, Scott LaFevre, Lee Pierson and Andy Osborn; North Bend Police Department, Tom Griffin, Char So, and Dan Gray. Participants said the course was challenging and beautiful. Ham radio operators from the Coos County Radio Club included Ken Bonsall, Joe Davis, Kevin Harkins, Mike Jantzen, Peter Jones, John McReynolds, George Toth, and Carl Siminow. ■



*Ready ... Set ...*



*Go ...*



*Coming back ...*



*Participants said the course was challenging and beautiful.*



# Rhododendron Sunday / Mother's Day – May 10, 1992



To commemorate Shore Acres 50th anniversary as a state park, Rhododendron Sunday, Mother's Day was celebrated with the theme, *Where were you in '42?*

A 1940's hat display and memorabilia relating to women of World War II plus petit fours and punch were enjoyed by visitors to the Garden House.

This annual event always brings many people to the Gardens and many of them have questions about rhododendrons, as well as gardening questions in general. George Guthrie, Shore Acres' landscape supervisor, was there to answer their questions. ■



The Dow family asked George to identify a bright pink rhododendron unlike any in the Gardens; one that he had never seen before. Luis Velasquez took pictures and George said he would do some research to get them an answer. ■





# What's coming up

Linda Meierjorgen, Editor

## Rose Sunday / Father's Day June 21, 1992



### Let Dad smell-the-roses!

The scent of roses will waft through the formal botanical gardens at Shore Acres State Park this Sunday, June 21, with those celebrating Father's Day encouraged to bring dad out for a tour. Theme for the day is "Where Were You in '42?" commemorating the 50th anniversary of Shore Acres. Refreshments will be served in the garden house and members of the Southwestern Oregon Rose Society will be on hand to answer questions for those who would like to grow the queen of flowers in their home gardens. The park is the site of an All-American Rose test garden, so it offers a chance to see – and smell – some of the award-winning roses of U.S. growers. Call 756-5401.

A typical question at Shore Acres is "How do you grow such beautiful roses this close to the ocean?"  
George Guthrie's typical answer is, "You can't."  
*But they do!*



George Guthrie and Helen Doving



Ray Duskin and George Guthrie



All America Rose Display Garden at Shore Acres



## SPECIAL TOPIC: Gardens and Fields

# Record numbers visiting Shore Acres

Some 350,000 come to look and many spend some funds in the area

By Liz Garone

Shore Acres State Park is a summer wonderland right now with roses blooming in full glory, green, lush lawns, foggy mornings and sometimes clear afternoons.

Originally built in 1906 as a summer home for the wife of Louis J. Simpson, a local businessman in lumber, the land went through various stages of splendor and disrepair before being bought by the state in 1942 for \$29,000. After the first home burned to the ground, Simpson built a three-story mansion. During World War II, the former estate was used by the U.S. Army for headquarters. It was 1975 before the garden restoration began which has been completed today.

George Guthrie, landscape maintenance superintendent (the head gardener at the park), is proud of his "baby," as he affectionately refers to the spectacular gardens that more than 350,000 visitors enjoy each year. Guthrie has been with the park for almost nine years, working his way up the ranks to the position he now revels



**Tiptoeing through the tulips**

Thousands visit Shore Acres annually

in. In the winter, he and one assistant are the staff at the park. During the summer, that staff increases to seven or eight fulltime workers, said Guthrie.

While Shore Acres is not directly a big money maker, currently only charging a \$2 entrance fee on summer weekends and holidays, Guthrie says it

does help to stimulate and move the local economy. People come to the Bay Area specifically to visit the park and its host of flowers, thereby "dropping money" into various Bay Area locations.

"It costs approximately \$165,000 a year to maintain Shore Acres," said Andy LaTomme, Sunset Bay Park district manager, who is in charge of doling out funds to the 13 parks he oversees in a district stretching from Brookings to Reedsport. Shore Acres makes approximately \$17,000 a year from summer entrance fees and rentals for weddings and other activities. This revenue is put back into the state parks fund.

The number of visitors to the park and the funds it draws do not impact the budget Shore Acres receives, said LaTomme. Regardless, the number of visitors climbed from 1987 to 1991, boasting a six percent increase, according to LaTomme's most recent statistics.

Often overshadowed by the splendor of the park is the Friends of Shore Acres, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the Sunset Bay Park District with a special emphasis on and interest in Shore Acres.

"Our mission is to provide education and interpretive services in the parks,"

said Shirley Bridgham, a board director and active member in the organization.

Guthrie calls the Friends of Shore Acres "a rallying point" for the park. The Friends was established in December of 1986. The organization works in cooperation with the park system and has approximately 250 members, who volunteer in areas as vast as the park itself. From pond cleaning in March to Rose Sunday on Father's Day and installing plant identification markers, the Friends has helped to make Shore Acres a repeated destination of locals and tourists alike.

"If it was not for the Friends, we would not be able to provide the services we do in the park," said LaTomme.

Each winter, the group gives visitors a chance to experience the park in evening, magical wonderment with tens of thousands of white Christmas lights bejeweling the gardens. This year, more than 100,000 lights will shine from December 10 to January 3, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. every night.

To become a member of Friends of Shore Acres, interested persons may contact the group by writing to P.O. Box 1172, Coos Bay, Ore., 97420. Volunteer opportunities are always available.



# Oregon Coast Music Festival Garden Concert July 17, 1992



*Fresh raspberry sundaes and lemonade*



*Al Aslakson, David and Shirley Bridgham*



# Summer Publicity

The World, July 20, 1992



Artist Jim Davenport, left, presents painting of the gardener's cottage to Friends of Shore Acres President David Bridgman at the cottage recently. The painting will be on view there weekdays.

## Garden gets a painting

CHARLESTON — The garden house at Shore Acres State Park got a new addition recently when Bay Area artist Jim Davenport presented his original oil painting of the flower-surrounded cottage to the Friends of Shore Acres.

You can see the realistic, colorful oil when you visit the cottage at the gardens during the week, until dusk daily. The house is closed on the weekends because it is usually reserved for weddings or other special occasions.

The gardener's cottage was built in the early 1900s as a home to the chief gardener for the Louis J. Simpson family, owners of the Shore Acres estate given to Oregon for use as a park.

The Friends of Shore Acres work to support the costs and activities at the formal botanical gardens complete with a rose test garden, Japanese pond area and formal beds of perennials and annuals, as well as a covered pergola and small gift shop.

Davenport works as a master technician in the service center at Coos Bay Toyota, but at night he works on his art. He uses oils because he can get the "brilliance of color" he favors in his works.

Selections of his work have been displayed at First Interstate Bank, the Coos Bay Library, Captain Bly's in Winchester Bay and the Mindpower Gallery in Reedsport.



## SPECIAL TOPIC: South Coast Tourism

# Tourism and travel near \$3 billion year

By Terry Perrin

Smile the next time a group of tourists asks if couldn't you please take a snapshot of their family frolicking in the edgewater of the Southern Oregon coast.

Those wet, sandy feet will need a place to rest at night and all that frolicking works up a powerful appetite.

Tourists may pan out to be Oregon's most sustainable managed resource.

For perspective, tourism ranks just behind forestry and agriculture in revenue in the state. Because of the state's spectacular beauty, and an astonishing variety of recreational opportunities, Oregon has been successfully promoted as a vacation destination since 1935, when the Travel Advisory Committee of the state Highway Commission (now Transportation Commission) was established.

Tourism and travel-related expenditures accounted for \$2.75 billion in 1990, up 53 percent from just three years before. Employment in tourism accounts for 46,000 jobs, an increase of 24 percent from 1987, according to the Oregon Tourism Division of the Oregon Economic Development Department. Payroll in those jobs totals close to \$520 million.

Oregonians do not hesitate to explore their own state or return to favorite corners of it. Some 15.1 million travelers from inside the state accounted for 68 percent of all visitors in 1990, with the remaining 32 percent of visitors the same year numbering 7.1 million, including 401,000 Canadians and 211,000 from overseas, especially Pacific Rim countries.

Travel spending, broken out by the type of business in which travel expenditures occur, shows retail establishments receiving the bulk of visitor purchases — \$633 million in 1990. Spending in eating and drinking establishments ranked second, garnering \$607 million or 22 percent of the state total. Spending on accommodations accounted for 18 percent of



The magnificent southern Oregon coast, shown here at Shore Acres State Park, attracts international visitors.

the total.

Day travelers contributed \$315 million to the economy, principally on the coast and in the Portland area, and even visitors staying with friends and relatives contributed expenditures of \$578 million. Statewide, campers at both public and commercial campgrounds contributed \$420 million in visitor expenditures in 1990.

Statewide, tourism also generates income from hotel and motel room taxes ranging from .05 percent to .09 percent. These taxes are estimated to have generated \$109.8 million in state tax receipts, plus 29.4 in room tax receipts statewide. (See chart for receipts generated on the South Coast.)

Tourism is big business in Oregon. On the South Coast, smile and say "Bandon Cheese."

The World,  
Business Review  
August, 1992



# Friends of Shore Acres, Inc.

Continued in Album 6:

Annual Year - September 1, 1992 - August 31, 1993

Album 5 - Completed March 20, 2017

More Information:

[www.shoreacres.net](http://www.shoreacres.net) – Journal/Newsletters