



Fair Family

NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 8

ONE CREATIVE FAMILY

January 2007

Family Album



© 1987 photo by Dominic DeFazio

Bubble On!



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Fair Family Calendar

January

- 25 Elders Committee Meeting, 7 pm, OCF office
- 28 Highway pickup, meet at 10 am at the Ware Barn

February

- 5 Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, EWEB Community Room, 4th and High, Eugene
- 5 FAIR FAMILY NEWS DEADLINE
- 13 Land Use Management and Planning Committee meeting, 7 pm, OCF office
- 15 Applications to perform on stages available
- 22 Elders Committee Meeting, 7 pm, OCF office

March

- 5 Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm, EWEB Community Room, 4th and High, Eugene
- 5 FAIR FAMILY NEWS DEADLINE
- 15 Applications for Teen Crew available

April

- 1 Deadline to submit applications to sell a new craft or perform on stages for 2007 Fair
- 1 Booth registration packets mailed out

July

- 13, 14, 15 Hippiе heaven in 2007

Happy Birthday to Our Fair Family Aquarians

- Roger Absten.....Lot Crew
- Diane Albino.....Community Village
- Isabella Barnswallow.....Construction
- Ken Birkes.....Traffic
- Dennis Burrage.....Lot Crew
- Derek Dahlen.....Lot Crew
- Heather Darrow.....Path Rove
- Casey Demaline.....Registration
- Kevin Dougherty.....Advertising
- Nancy Farquhar.....Security
- Heather Farquhar.....Security
- Joe Gale.....Main Camp Security
- Bob Grek.....Water Crew
- Chela Guyette.....Vegmanecs
- Deb Hardwick.....Bus Crew
- Anne Henry.....Crafter
- Jason Kelly.....Fire Crew
- Stuart Larsen.....Pre-Post Security
- Ramona Laumbach.....Pre-Post Security
- Ian Metler.....Recycling
- Glenn Millstone.....Lot Crew
- Julia Mooney.....Crew Services
- Randy Nowell.....Vegmanecs
- Laura M. Ohanian.....Admissions
- Bill Pirruccello.....White Bird
- Robyn Porter.....Registration
- Tom Schueneman.....Lot Crew
- Anne Marie Schultz.....Hospitality
- Frank Sharpy.....Fire Marshal
- Mike Sheffield.....Pre-Post Security
- Cory Sullivan.....Ambiance
- Barry Sullivan.....White Bird
- Bill Verner.....Far Side
- Mick Westrick.....Fair Central
- Todd Williams.....Pre-Post Security
- Margi Willowmoon.....Crafter
- Bear Wilner.....Camping

Be the First on Your Block to See the FFN

If you enjoy surfing the Web, please consider getting your FFN electronically. You'll find full PDFs of the Fair Family News, including pictures, ads, stories and Board minutes, starting with this issue, on our Web site:

<http://www.oregoncountryfair.net>.

If you want to print it, indicate "fit to paper" in the page scaling option in your print dialogue box. If this works for you and you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please e-mail norma at office@oregoncountryfair.org.

We'll try to have the FFN posted by the 20th of each month, so check around that time for the latest issue and we'll work on developing a process to let you know automatically when the FFN is available for your perusal. Let's save trees and postage money.

If you've already sent norma an e-mail indicating you would like to receive the FFN online, there's no need to write again. She has that info on file and will take you off the mail list starting with the February issue.



FFN Bubbleheads

- Michael "Bubble Up" Ottenhausen
- norma "tiny bubbles" sax
- Emily "Bubble Bath" Semple
- Joseph "Microbubbles" Newton
- Dominic "Double Bubble" DeFazio
- Cynde "Bubblicious" Leathers
- Dan "Bubblegum" Cohn
- Suzi "Bubbly" Prozanski
- Brad "Bubble Wrap" Lerch
- Mary "Bubble Machine" Shuler

Keep In Touch

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www.oregoncountryfair.net



Attention Booth Reps

Keep an eye on your mailbox in early April to find your registration packet there. If you've moved recently, please let us know your new address to make sure your packet gets to the right place at the right time.

Highway Pickup Jan. 28

The next highway pickup is Jan. 28. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Ware Barn. We sure would love to have a few more of Our Caring Family come out and join us for a very satisfying way to show our larger family who we are.

Peace Conference Seeks Volunteers

by Suzi Prozanski, Fair Family News

The Oregon Network for Compassionate Communication (ORNCC) seeks volunteers to help plan and present a conference on nonviolence and peace at the University of Oregon in March 2008. Conference organizers want many people from across the region to share how nonviolence contributes to a way of life in harmony with human and ecological needs.

The Network is reaching out to Fair family because "the Oregon Country Fair represents a model of intentionally organized community that sustainably engages in welfare-building while enjoying leisure activities," says Michael Dreiling, a sociology professor at the University of Oregon and member of the ORNCC Conference Planning Committee. "The Fair reflects values of nonviolence and inclusion. It's a community-forming organization that creates a sustainable space for building culture as well as for playing." He says that people involved with the Fair would be well suited to help present the ideals of the nonviolence conference.

The Network plans a co-created event and seeks individuals as well as groups to participate in the planning process, including initial planning, funding and networking, coordinating workshops, or working hospitality during the conference. General workshop themes include: Community, Culture & Diversity; Economy & Labor; Education; Entertainment; Health & Well Being; Media & Information; Partnering, Parenting & Families; Politics & International Relations; Protection & Justice; Spirituality; Sustainability; and Youth Programs.

Area teams and coordinators are needed for each of these umbrella themes to plan panel discussions, workshops, showcases and entertainment.

Area teams and coordinators stepped up for some of the work at the Dec. 3 organizing meeting in Eugene, Michael says, but more volunteers are needed. Planning meetings will be held monthly. If you would like to volunteer, send your name, phone number and e-mail address to Michael Dreiling at 541-337-4285 or dreiling@uoregon.edu.

For more information about the Network, visit www.orncc.net.

Get on the FFN and/or Voting Membership List

Some of you may still not be on the lists of your choice, namely, the mailing list that will get you this newsletter every month and/or the membership list so you can vote!!!! So, check some of the following and mail to: OCF, Membership/Mailing, 442 Lawrence Street, Eugene, 97401.

[] I am not receiving the Fair Family News. Please put me on the mailing list.

[] I do not know if I am on the membership list. Please verify my name and send me a membership application if I am NOT on the list.

I am with (Crew or Booth):

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Crew Leader/Booth Rep:

Who can verify my participation:

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[] This is a new mailing address.



Recently Unclassified Material

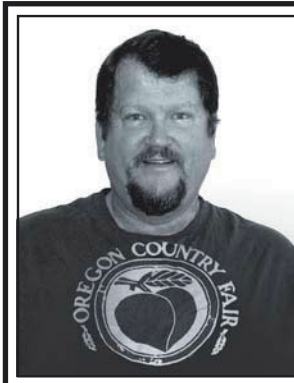
We accept UnClassifieds up to 30 words for \$5 each, per issue. Send listing with \$5 to O.C.F.-F.F.N. 442 Lawrence St. Eugene, OR 97401. Questions, or for info. about display underwriting Email bradlerch@aol.com or call Brad @ 541-485-8265 (UnClassifieds not paid for by paste-up won't run)

Massage therapists at Holiday Market. Byron Hanks Lic #696 from "Magic Hands" & Maryann Barber Lic #3229 from the "Mothership" invite fair family for an awesome massage. Lane County Fairgrounds Booth #226. Available all weekends 10-6.

Judy Wright, Animal Communicator at Holiday Market invites you to bring a clear, recent photo of your pet for a telepathic reading. Booth #226, all weekends from 10-6.

Peach-I the Dragon wants your photos of our wonderful Dragon procession to create a gallery on the lair. Please send them to Peach-I PO Box 50894 Eugene, OR 97405.

LOST! Mooney the Walrus: well-loved stuffed walrus lost probably somewhere near Kid's Loop. He is greatly missed. If found, please call Jen at 360/866-1725, leave a message.



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- 2/1 New Monsoon & Blue Turtle Seduction
- 2/3 Tony Furtado Band CD Release Party
- 2/4 Deerhoof and Blackblack
- 2/6 Mike Dillon's GoGo Jungle /11 Eyes
- 2/10 Of Montreal and The Blow
- 2/13 Erin McKeown and Eleni Mandell
- 2/15 Neko Case @ McDonald Theatre
- 2/17 Harold Von Killian's No-Ring Sideshow & Traveling Spectacular
- 2/18 Bobby Previte's Coalition of the Willing

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The Bubble Guy's Fair Beginnings

© 2007 by Suzi Prozanski, Fair Family News

Editor's Note: Tom Noddy, the Bubble Guy, was interviewed by Suzi Prozanski in the Fair's History Booth on July 9, 2004, as part of a Fair oral history project. In this article excerpted from that interview, the Bubble Guy tells about his first few years at the Fair.



© 1987 photo by Dominic DeFazio

Tom Noddy leads the parade with floating bubbles and a smile.

somebody I knew — Moz Wright, the fire-breather and sword-swallower. He worked out how I would get my pass. At that time they didn't really have people organizing where vaudeville performers played. There were street performers. We played the streets of the Fair.

There actually were a couple of locations on the wide parts of the trail where people regularly performed. Reverend Chumleigh, with the help of the Flying Karamazov Brothers and others, initially created Chumleighland. That is, with machetes, they hacked out the brush from an area and built a stage (where the W.C. Fields Stage is now). There also was a wide part of the trail where Archaeology is now that was called Daredevil Meadows. There was a little bit of a box one year and they'd stand on it, but it was just a wide part of the trail, kind of a dusty little spot. (That was a precursor to the Du Caniveaux's Daredevil Palace.)

Deni Shadegg, who eventually became a vaudeville coordinator, bless her heart, was married to Moz. Deni became the first of a small group who wore red noses and staff T-shirts, so we could recognize them as the equivalent of cops for us. But instead of the Mod Squad of '70s TV show fame, they were our Vaude Squad. Their job essentially was ... well, from my perspective, what Deni's job looked like that year was that she was running us around from place to place. When there was a gap or some performer didn't show up, she'd fill the gap with one of the other Vaude performers.

And so I did a hundred shows. I was trying to fill — I don't know, maybe not a hundred, but it seemed like it — just tons and tons of shows, just running around like crazy, which meant coins in the hat, 'cause that was the only money involved in any of this then. The truth is, I was on the streets and I just wanted anybody to pay attention to anything I ever said, really. I didn't know when to stop and when to pass the hat. I just kept going. My street shows were like that, you know, three audiences went by before I ever passed the hat!

The Karamazovs were really good and Chumleigh — these guys who learned how to peak their show and pass the hat. They'd rush into the crowd. People were baffled. They didn't have time to reach for coins; they couldn't look at how big the bill was. And when I passed the hat, I'd say, "Give me coins, bills, joints, a place to crash tonight, a ride north in the morning, that's OK. You don't have anything? Neither do I — ha ha ha, nice day!" And so I got that kind of money, you know?

But in fact there were lots and lots of shows, which is what I needed, actually. The streets were wonderful training, partly because they give you quantity. There's something to quality. Maybe there are people who are born with talent, I'm not quite sure. But I know that quantity alone teaches. Live on the corners, don't get any dollars, and you have to do it so many times a day that eventually even stupid guys figure it out. ... Eventually you just learn from doing it over and over. ... So that's what the Vaude Squad helped me do. The Vaude Squad evolved into people who were administering stages and stuff.

But vaudeville came to the Fair before the Fair had vaudeville administration. We preceded them. People had to sneak in and they played the trail side. We were a problem for the Fair. We were clogging up the aisles. If we could stop a few people, that would stop many people. And if many people would stop, then other people thought, "Oh there's a crowd watching something." They became an audience. And then the Fair would eventually send somebody around to try and break up the aisle because we were really stopping traffic. Eventually they figured out that it was a good idea to let us have stages to get us off the trail. And besides, we were

building our own stages, so why should they fight us?

They had a stage in Keseyland. It was a difficult one to play. But when Energy Park first moved in to Keseyland (in 1981, when it was called Oregon Energy Horizons), they decided they didn't want entertainment. So they put a windmill in the place where the stage used to be. They didn't know what to do with the stage. It was just a box anyway. They just hauled it out, put it on the trail. So when I arrived on Wednesday or Thursday that year, there it was sitting on the trail. I said, "Oh that's the stage. You guys going to use it?" No, they're not using it. So I got some friends to help me drag it around the Fair.

We found a wide spot on the trail, right across from what is now the Youth Stage. It was really the road from Main Camp, that big wide spot. There weren't toilets there yet. And I put the box there and I found some driftwood and friends helped me rope it all together. Deni gave us a parachute as a backdrop. ... And so we got hay bales and spread it out over the floor and got some more hay bales for sitting on and declared ourselves to be a stage. Then they came out of Main Camp and saw a stage that they didn't want, but Deni helped convince them to live with it, to let it be.

I suggested we name it the Amelia Earhart Memorial Stage because of the parachute, but we decided on W.C. Fields, instead. It was the W.C. Fields Memorial Stage. And then the next year they put in the toilets right nearby. And you know, in England they call toilets "water closets" and they all say "W.C." on them, so I announced to the audience that they were "standing in the W.C. field." So we understood that we were right in choosing that name because of how events came together.

So for many years that was my shtick. I eventually built these 4-by-8-foot theater flats, black canvas and covers, purple trim that Deni and Marge (Wise) sewed for me. And it was designed to block the wind for bubble magic. I was booking that stage myself. I would do an hour a day of my shows. Then I would search the Fair for street performers who were at the Fair but were not booked. So I didn't know what the show was going to be, but I grabbed Artis the Spoonman to join me and I grabbed David the Minstrel over here. So I took acts off, with some ringers — some really good acts we knew we had — and added people to it.

And then I would do my own show at the end of each day that was just my show. I would communicate to Fair family about what's happening with New Vaudeville. The last show of the day, it was just me, and I'd tell people, "Sit down, it's over anyway. The sweep's going to get here later. You guys sit down, I'm gonna tell you what happened. And I'll give you some bubbles."

So we put vaudeville shows together, just up the way from where the Karamazovs then were doing shows with Chumleigh regularly. In fact one year, my stage — the wood, the platform — floated in the flood, floated down into the entrance of Chumleighland. It was like a precursor, because I did eventually join and help organize shows on that stage.



© 1987 photo by Dominic DeFazio

Tom blows a big one at Chumleighland, aka the Circus.

*With the
gracefull
painting
b*

My Crystal Bubble

by Crystal Starflower Frandsen,
Fair Child Since 1983

Dancing wildly overhead, the majestic giants douse me with glittering fairy dust, then sailed away on colorful ribbons. Mesmerized by all the swirling faces, I quickly become part of the joyous precession. Overwhelmed in wonder, I drift further away from where we were camped in the back of Mom and Dad's booth.

Our mythical parade flows down the path, overtaking all on its route. At the next junction I am unexpectedly aware that I am no longer in familiar territory. In fact, I have absolutely no idea at all where I am on the footpath. From the tip of my nose, the tingling beginnings of tears start, creeping directly into my eyes, and the shock waves of fear strike my face. From inside a waterfall of tears, I survey my surroundings for a face that I might recognize. Then from behind me comes a familiar voice, "What's the matter, Crystal?" It is an old family friend, Dienie, from my hometown of Sisters.

I explain to her that I am lost and trying to regain my composure; we again rejoin the path. I hastily grasp that we are no longer in the mainstream of people. In fact, we journey through an old shingled fence where

charm of a magician, he glides across the stage, with him outrageously beautiful bubbles.

a vacant stage awaits us down below. Small groups of people line up and file down toward the stage.

Patiently frozen in anticipation, I linger in line and we start to move toward the front of the

stage. We arrive at an empty space just waiting for us to claim it. This will be "our spot" for the duration of the show. Marking our territory, we lay down a blanket and get comfortable.

Finally capable of exhaling, I choke on the rushing realization that I am still separated from my parents. A hot flood of panic brings blood to my cheeks, then the panic finds its way promptly to my stomach, which is already working itself into knots. In that moment my dilemma hits me like a freight train. On the verge of a full freak-out, I turn to Dienie.

I am unable to even speak. Dienie takes charge, and rationalizes the situation. We are going to watch the "Flying Karamazov Brothers" and return to my parent's camp afterward. An earsplitting horn announces the act's emergence. Just as suddenly as they came, the worries and fears dissipate with the single blast from the horn.

These artists' specialities are flying swords, moustaches, and amazing juggling acts. The smiling horde of spectators prove that The Flying Karamazov Brothers entertain like no other. Relaxation finally takes hold and I am swept away to a world of magic and wonder. Gazing into the thick green mossiness of the nearby woods, I am reminded how unusually special the Country Fair really is!

Drawn back to the stage by a roaring ruckus, I see another mustached, long-haired man. Yet this man is very different from the last men, almost childlike. He is talking to a mouse puppet he has on his hand. The mouse has the funniest and cutest voice I have ever heard! I am immediately taken, and turn to Dienie with many questions. She explains, "this is The Bubble Man," and quietly turns my attention back to the stage.

Realizing that I am really in for a feast of the senses, I gave my undivided attention to the talented Mr. Bubble Man. He introduced himself as Tom Noddy and his sidekick as "Mousey." Opening his bundle, he reaches for a large plastic ring and dunks it into a small pool. He lifts out the wet, soap-covered ring and starts to pull, out of thin air, the largest, most colorful bubble that I have ever laid eyes on!

With the charm of a magician, he gracefully glides across the stage, painting the air with the outrageously beautiful bubbles. Next he reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out a cigarette, then sparks it up. With one hand, he blows the first set of connected bubbles. Then he takes a slow draw off his smoke and blows into a straw that penetrates the bubbles. Inside the bubble geode, he blows four perfectly isolated "smoke bubbles."

Smiling in victory, he rapidly pops the bubbles in his geode. One by one he gets closer to the smoke-filled bubbles. Then, with a knowing grin, he reaches out and touches each one. Slithering effortlessly upward, the trapped smoke is exquisitely freed by its captor.

Proclaiming that he is about to perform his grand finale, he springs to action, clearing his props off the stage. Buzzing with excitement, the crowd prepares itself to be blown away. I can't even begin to envision what this marvelous man has in store for us, these lucky few.

Awkwardly, I make eye contact with quite a few people in the audi-



The identity of this grand finale angel is unknown.

© 1987 photo by Dominic DeFazio

ence. Each one smiles encouragingly at me. This really makes me squirm. Why are these people looking at me? Unsure of myself, I look back to the stage, hoping to reassure myself with the last act. To my absolute confusion, I encounter the deep, vivid blue of the bubble man's eyes.

Reaching out his massive arm, he bends down from the stage and helps me up. I am in shock that he has chosen me to share in his grand finale. Fidgeting, I stand facing the crowd; my feet frozen to the spot he has chosen for me. The next thing I know, he is lowering the largest ring yet over my head.

I rapidly realize that he intends to wrap a massive bubble around my entire body! As he continues with this amazing prank, I set to gnawing on my index finger. Encased in the giant bubble, I am transported into a magical realm of impossibilities!

Here, in my very own Crystal Bubble, I am set apart from all the rest. I can see through this beautiful bubble's colorful swirling skin, straight into the dancing eyes and illuminated smiles of my Fair Family. Yep, he did it! That magician turned me into the "Crystal Bubble Fairy," and I know without a doubt that I am Home where I belong!

Relaxation finally takes hold and I am swept away to a world of magic and wonder. Gazing off into the thick green mossiness of Eugene's woods, I am reminded how unusually special the Country Fair really is!!

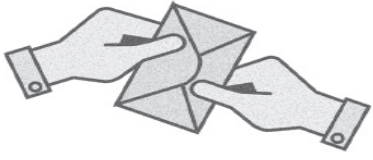
The next few moments go by in a slow subliminal, wavering haze. Shattering that silence, the dismayed voice of my Mother reaches me inside my orb. She is screaming, "THAT'S MY BABY! THAT'S MY BABY! That's my daughter!" In just a fleeting moment I am being helped off the stage. Wow, did that really just happen? Caught up in happy shock, I am funneled back through the crowd to my mother, and then snapped back into reality by the harsh look of sheer terrorized joy on

her face. Asking me where I've been, she shuffles me onto the foot path. Is she crazy? Did she not just see me on stage with a bubble protecting me? "You've been gone for hours," she says. "I've been looking for you and worried sick!" Oh yeah, I had been lost, but not any more!

"Sorry mom, I love you," is all she needs to hear, and we are transported back to the adventurous Oregon Country Fair!

This memory of "The Bubble Man" will bless me throughout my many years to come. Thank You Magic Man!

Crystal says this all happened when she was 4 or 5 years old, probably 1984 or 1985. Her parents volunteered at the Archaeology Booth at the time.



Family Letters

This newsletter is directed to the Oregon Country Fair Family and all material is volunteered from the membership.

Opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair or the FFN.

Letters must be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for length and clarity. Please include name, Fair Affiliation and a method of communication (i.e. phone number or e-mail).

Fair Thee Well: Daniel Woo

We are sad to report that Daniel Woo, who ran the Get Fried Rice booth at the Fair, died Dec. 9 of heart failure at age 57. He lived in Eugene and also owned and ran the Stir It Up booth at the Saturday Market.

A memorial service was held Jan. 14 at the Erb Memorial Union at the University of Oregon. His brother said that Daniel's ashes will be spread at the UO and at the Fair site.



Donations to the Jill Heiman Vision Fund totaled over \$22,298 from the 2006 Country Fair. Thanks to the compassionate hearts of the Fair Family, five non-profit agencies divided that amount and were recipients of \$4,463 each to help provide Basic Needs to members of our local communities. The following is a letter of gratitude from the Director of White Bird, detailing how the funding will be used.

Once again, thank you all for your wonderful support. Happy 2007 to each and every one of you.

To Fair folks from the feathered flock:

Thanks to all of you who donated to the Jill Heiman Fund. And thanks to the Fair itself for matching these contributions with OCF dollars. Put them together and one of the outcomes was a grant of \$4,463 to White Bird. As earlier proposed, we put your gift to work this fall, supporting our safety net, underwriting essential health services to local people with nowhere else to turn.

To be specific,

- \$677 went to advocacy, support and treatment for 11 homeless people in the Eugene-Springfield

Grateful Words from The Bird

by Michael Connelly, Jill Heiman Vision Fund



metro area.

- \$417 went to dental care for 12 people including, as needed, exams, X-rays, anaesthetic and treatment.

- \$767 was spent on 22 weeks of alcohol/drug treatment (two to three individuals) including assessment, counseling, education, group work and monitoring.

- \$923 covered 34 hours of 24/7 crisis counseling for anyone in crisis — anyone having difficulty coping with their lives.

- \$363 paid for the provision of free or reduced-cost medical care for 12 low-income, uninsured people, possibly including MD visits, lab work, diagnostics and medication.

- \$241 covered 10 counseling sessions for adults experiencing mental/emotional difficulties.

- \$262 funded human service information and referral, phone or walk-in, for about 78 people unable to find help elsewhere.

- \$813 went to CAHOOTS mobile response for 11 people on the streets of Eugene, offering intervention and transport to treatment as an alternative to police/public safety response.

As we head into '007,' life's myriad woes and problems have

not disappeared. About 70,000 times a year, 200 times a day, 8 times an hour, someone turns to White Bird for help. Keeping our safety net wide, deep and in good repair calls for energy, expertise, creativity, caring and a large, unruly crowd. Actually, "unruly" is not called for, it just happens.

So — we not only need your money, we could also use your time, your heart, hands, mind and possibly other parts. Not to mention your first-born, second-born, etc. Our volunteer pool is tidal, often running low. If you happen to be a doctor, dentist, therapist or licensed whatever, check in and see if you could work for White Bird and vice-versa. If you happen to be other and wise, we'll train you and put you to work. Classes and on-the-job training start each quarter.

If you or yours need our help, call 342-TALK or 342-HELP or 687-4000. If you want to help out, stick to the 342-TALK number. In any case, here's to a better year and see you at the Fair — preferably not at our Medical Booth.

*R Harrison Dalliance
a.k.a. Bob Dritz
White Bird*



Fair Thee Well: Water Connie

by Tami Wolden-Hanson, Water Crew



Connie Marie West was born in Roseburg, Oregon, on July 30, 1957, and succumbed to the ravages of diabetes in Vancouver, Wash., on Nov. 19, 2006. She was married twice before she and Michael West ("Just Michael" — one of the drivers of the big water truck that brings drinking water to the Fair) were married on Sept. 21, 1996. Connie worked as a bartender for most of her adult life, and she was very good at it. She could stop a fight in the bar or the casino with just a few words. She also had a small nail and hair shop in Portland for about 10 years.

Connie met Michael while working at a tavern in the old Stockyard building. Connie fixed sack lunches for truck drivers and dock workers. She worked at that building for 18 years, both as a bartender and when she did nails. Michael was a married truck driver and flirted with her but never followed it up; they went their own ways and didn't meet again until 1996 when Connie answered a personal ad Michael had placed. That was in August, and they knew right off that they were the ones for each other; they were married three and a half weeks later. Connie came to Fair the first time in '97 and loved the folks and the event, even though, Michael said, "she never saw it with the same 'Fair-colored glasses' that she thought I did, she came along and enjoyed it with everyone else." She was not always very tolerant of other people's foibles! Connie

was at Fair as often as she could, working as Michael's swamper for the years that her health allowed her to attend.

When Connie's health deteriorated, they started to miss Fairs, which is probably the reason most of the Water Crew family doesn't know her. This last summer she told Michael that she wanted to go to Fair in 2007, that they would work out the dialysis thing and all her meds and such so they could both come. Well, Michael and Connie WILL both be there, him in life and "she will be at Fair this year in a small bottle around my neck, and in everybody's hearts," says Michael, so she can have fun with the Water Crew family.

Michael said "I was her sole care-giver for the last six years of her time with us; I was with her when they started taking toes. Then she looked like she got better. We had her diabetes under control but it was too late to do anything significant about her health. In 2004 we came to Fair and promptly both fell and disabled ourselves, so we spent that year either in camp or at the Pumphouse. As long as she was with me, we were both happy. She knew how much Fair meant to me and took it with every other part of me and loved it right with the rest. She loved life passionately and when she liked you, you knew it. She loved the people from Fair because she said they were by far the most friendly she had met."

Connie had been doing dialysis three times a week for two years when she passed, and she hated it, but Michael stayed with her for EVERY session to make it more bearable.

"We went to appointments together," Michael said, "and I never left her side until the final days of her life. The hospital stay at the end started like most of them had over the years, but went terribly wrong very fast. She was in the ICU from the second day of her stay until her passing five weeks later. For the first week she was awake and talking to me, then she went in for another procedure and never woke up after that. I stayed at the hospital as long as I could every day, and talked to her even when she was not awake because I knew she could hear me — her vital signs changed when I came in the room, after all. They had her on a ventilator for the last three weeks, so she couldn't have talked to me anyway.

"I loved her hard for these last 10 years, and will keep on until I go to join her. She was my best friend and partner and her passing left a giant hole in my heart, but like all things, it will heal over time."

The Water Crew family kept in touch with Michael and updated on Connie's condition through their ordeal, thanks to technology. We all send our love to Michael and to Connie and our hopes that the scourge of diabetes is soon vanquished.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING



JANUARY 8, 2007

Present: Diane Albino, Katie Cousins, Lara Howe, Paxton Hoag, Jack Makarchek, Deane Morrow (alternate), Palmer Parker (alternate), Anna Scott, Carl Taylor, Lawrence Taylor.

Not: Greg Rikhoff, Bear Wilner-Nugent. (Palmer and Deane voted in their absence.)

Announcements

Barbara said anyone wanting to contribute money (or goods/services for a raffle and prizes) to the Elmira High School Grad Night Committee should contact committee member Lynne Pengra at 935-2353 or write EHS Grad Night, P.O. Box 935, Veneta OR 97487.

Lara said Anne Morris "who for the past two years has been our cutlery queen" has to resign due to health issues. She and her partner Jim McAllister have "been an integral part of this project. They have worked so hard and I am so grateful for the time they have been able to spend on this project."

Jack said Happy Birthday to Elvis (and Leslie added the same this week to Hilary and to Anna's daughter Josie).

Diane said applications close late this month "for a great job as executive director of the McKenzie Watershed Council."

Deane thanked management and everyone else who has been working on a plan to get the Pony Rides back and hopes that Dena will decide to return with the ponies.

Leslie reminded everyone that she teaches at UO winter term, so she will not be in the office on Wednesdays.

Approval of Minutes

The motion titled "Consider Open Letter from Board to Membership" was mistakenly omitted from the list of tabled items in last month's minutes. Lara moved and Katie seconded to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2006 Board meeting as amended. The motion passed: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Paxton).

Member Input

Sara Rich (BUM) spoke in favor of the proposed guideline change stipulating that amplified music not be allowed at the Fair after midnight with the exception of the Midnight Show. She said she needs "support and back-up from the Board" on this matter and that she doesn't like "being the heavy" when she has to deal with people who are playing loud music and bothering their neighbors. She said we "need to build community, we are not isolated." She gets many complaints about loud noise from people with young children, people who have to be up for a 6am shift, or just folks who want to get some sleep. She said some of our neighbors have called to say they have to take a day off from work because they couldn't sleep all night. She has been screamed at by people who don't want to turn their music down and she wants "clear support and direction from the Board."

Deane said there is a 5acre parcel of land for sale next to the Fair and "maybe a Fair member would like to buy it so we'll have a neighbor we're guaranteed to get along with."

(After the meeting Steve W. asked me to add this info to the minutes. He said, "In the interests of developing Fair-friendly neighbors, here's the info Deane mentioned": 24254 Suttle Road, 5 acres, \$209,000, www.hammerquist.com; 24662 Suttle road, one-fifth of an acre, \$193,000, www.rmlsweb.com; and 24300 Suttle Road, 5 acres, \$495,000, for sale by owner.)

Staff and Officer Reports

General Manager: Leslie said because the Fair is a 501(c)3 the end of the year always brings some "lovely surprises" of unsolicited donations. The O'Callaghan Family Foundation of Salem donated \$1500 to the Fair with the stipulation that it be used for "fun". She talked with Michael O'Callaghan to get a better idea of what they might like to fund and explained various projects like Culture Jam, the tenth anniversary of Chela Mela, Vision Quest, Peach Power, art projects, spoken word and many others when Michael said to put \$1,000 of the money toward Hip Hop Hope because "our Mom was a singer and a dancer and she would really like that." Michael said to Leslie, "The Country Fair is not just a 3-day event, it is a loving community and it's life-changing for so many people, and I would like to see that life-style present on that land 24/7 all year." He wanted the remaining \$500 to express that sentiment. Leslie encouraged people to "think about ways to express that, all ideas are welcome." She also said there was a \$750 donation from Brian Bontempo's company Mountain Measurement dedicated to the Vision Quest. Brian's letter stated, "The Oregon Country Fair, right now, is an incredibly inspiring experience, and we see great potential for the OCF to be even more inspiring in the future." *(The entire letter that accompanied this donation is reprinted elsewhere in the FFN.)* Leslie said the Fair's revenue generation is "like a one-legged stool, and we need to let more people know we're open to donations and educate more people about how to take advantage of opportunities such as matching funds through the Oregon

Cultural Trust. She and Steve W. will meet soon with the permaculture conference folks. She was part of a team that drafted a letter to Dena with various proposals for how to bring back the pony rides and she hopes that Dena will accept one of the proposals and "remain part of the Family." She has been dealing with the State Fair about Randy Poole's stolen art and said there has been a change of management at the State Fair that has treated the Fair "very badly," not just about this issue with Randy but in other aspects as well. She said she was "sad to say" her recommendation is that the Fair no longer participate in the State Fair. Her letter to the Board stated, "It's really a shame because there were a lot of people who told us the whole State Fair should be more like LiveArt! - fun, participatory, unique, creative, energized, beautiful, and green. I think we made a significant impression on thousands of people who may never otherwise have experienced a taste of the magic of the Oregon Country Fair."

Administrative Assistant: norma said craft applications are now online. She told people they would be available "in January" and on January 2 she began getting phone calls from people wondering when they would be ready. She told them, "It's not January enough yet." She moved to Leslie's old office (*Leslie moved upstairs*) and is getting used to the new phone system and still setting up voice mailboxes for crews. She is doing the yearly comparison of options for health insurance and said "you'll hear more about that at the budget meeting." The FFN will be available in a pdf format online so if folks want to view it that way they can have their names removed from the mailing list thereby "saving paper and postage." She encouraged coordinators to attend the next Coordinators Potluck on January 20 and wished a "happy new year to everybody."

Site Manager: Steve W. said, "AndyMan is thousands of miles away on sabbatical in South America, so Charlie and I arranged our schedules over the holidays so that he could go to Ohio to visit his family and I could go to southern Oregon to visit my family." He thanked Charlie, Jeff, Big Mike, and Tommy for all their help in taking care of the site. He said the US Geological Survey has "a web-accessible river gage in the Long Tom River just upstream from the Fair site." For information on site conditions and accessibility, check the National Weather Service hourly observations for Eugene at www.crh.noaa.gov/data/obhistory/KEUG.html. He said when rainfall totals from a winter storm are in the 1"-2" in 24 hours range, the site will begin to flood. Check the river gage at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv?14166500>. A gage height of 10 feet is "about bank-full on the fair site, and heights over 12 feet mean most of the Fair site is flooded and canoeable. After a storm, once the gage height falls below 8' the floodwaters are draining off and most of the site is accessible with kneeboots." He said there have been the usual winter problems with broken tree limbs and flooding and that "most places are doing okay but we lost a big tree and chunk of bank in Upper River Loop between Ark Park and the McKenzie Map booth." Fair staff will work with the affected booths and Path Planning to create a solution but "there is definitely a change coming there." The VegManEcs held "a work party onsite yesterday and there is another one planned for Sunday, February 4 when we'll go into The Hub and Marshall's Landing to remove some invasive non-native plants and diseased hybrid pines." He said Elders and 4A are welcome to join the work party.

Assistant Manager: Charlie has been working on adding information to the website including a yearly timeline for when various events and deadlines occur. He is looking for "a cool computer table so let me know if you hear of one."

Office Assistant: Robin has been involved in "moving the office around" and said people are starting to call for applications.

Treasurers: Hilary said, "Grumpy is in Hawaii working on spreadsheets for the budget meeting two weeks from tonight." When people laughed and said 'sure' she said "no really, he contacted me for updates!" She said the draft of the proposed budget included in tonight's Board packet should be "taken as just that, a draft, because there will be some changes in the next couple weeks." She also said there have been \$10,000 worth of bounced checks, mostly from vendors, written to the Fair over the past 3 years and they will want to discuss that at the budget meeting too. She thanked everyone "who manages their budget well, and pays attention to making this organization successful."

President: Jack said, "Since I'm facilitating the meeting in Bear's absence tonight, I just want to say Happy New Year to everyone and let's move on with the meeting. Thanks everybody."

Committee Reports

Elders Committee

Chris Browne read a short report from their December 13 meeting where they reviewed and approved two new applications, set the date for the

Elders Retreat for April 14-15, and “spent the rest of the evening enjoying a dessert potluck that was enjoyed by 12 very lucky Elders.”

Peach Power Ad Hoc Committee

Anna said since the conditional use permit was approved she has “moved forward with retaining an engineering firm,” then added, “that just means I called Tim but it sounds so much better the other way.” She said, “Tim has the conceptual drawings and preliminary comments from the Lane County Building Department so before we submit we will get all our ducks in a row to make the process smoother. We will work with Charlie to schedule a phone conference with the Committee.” She added, “a huge hug to Hilary for setting up the draft of the funding process for the Peach Power Fund.”

Old Business

Appoint Spoken Word Co-Coordinator

Lara moved and Lawrence seconded that the Board appoint Laura Stuart as Co-Coordinator of Spoken Word

Peach Gallery and Board: Thumbs up all around and Lara said, “Laura is so awesome.”

The motion passed: 10 in favor and 0 opposed.

Consider Expanding Membership Eligibility to Include Participants in OCF-Affiliated Events and Committees

Katie moved and Lara seconded that the Board direct the By-Laws Committee to consider expanding membership eligibility to include participants in OCF-affiliated events and committees.

Peach Gallery: Jeya Aerenon (Construction Crew and Main Camp Inventory Crew) said Culture Jam people are “so involved but not eligible for membership. A lot participants in the OCF entry in the Eugene Celebration parade this year were Culture Jam folks.” Joseph Newton (Recycling Crew) said the By-Laws Committee would have to “come up with the details but in concept this is a great idea because we do a lot and we have to expand beyond the three days.” Leslie said several years ago the Board worked with By-Laws to expand membership eligibility “for instance to folks who worked all year on the FFN. They didn’t work during the event but their effort was still connected to the event.” She said this next part of expanding the definition of membership would serve “to unhook the definition of membership from the connection to a camping pass. Some people work hard on Culture Jam and should be eligible for membership but not necessarily for a camping pass.” Barbara said she has “mixed feelings about this motion.” She would like more people to vote but said it “seems funny that someone could vote for the Board of Directors and never even attend the event.” Jeya said some people work all year on Committees and come to the Fair as an SO but aren’t eligible for membership. Jon Pincus (Elder) said perhaps it would be good to define a certain number of hours worked on a Committee to be eligible for membership. Leslie said she hopes this motion “anticipates the outcome of the VQ process with regard to our diversity and participation outreach efforts.” She gave the example of a woman who currently chairs the Endowment Committee and helps organize the Galleria Philanthropia but who no longer wants to spend the night so receives day passes. Leslie said, “Her membership eligibility is in question simply because she doesn’t have a camping pass.”

Board: Katie said this motion would help to “move the Fair forward in defining itself as more of a year round event than how it is currently defined in the By-Laws.” Paxton is opposed to this motion because it states in the By-Laws that the “purpose of the corporation is to sponsor the Oregon Country Fair which shall be an annual event intended to educate and inform the public... etc.” He said the Fair is our primary fundraising event and he “finds it hard to believe that someone could be a member of the organization and not attend or be involved directly with the event.” He said he wouldn’t mind a non-voting membership for other people and he doesn’t think camping at the event should be essential for membership. He said it is his “job as a Board member to protect the event” and he sees this as “potentially dangerous.” Lawrence shares Paxton’s concerns about “decoupling the concept of membership from participation in the event” but said he is not sure he would support a second tier of membership. He said part of this problem could be fixed by changing some current wording in the By-Laws such as changing “participation in one of the past two Fairs” to “participation during one of the past two years” and redefining what it means to be a ‘volunteer’. Katie said, “We can be creative in working this out but the Fair is heading in the direction of its purpose being well beyond putting on the 3-day event.” Anna said there should be only one class of membership and that “change comes from within.” She said, “Embrace the change that’s coming. I am hearing the clarion call of youth and I am not seeing that reflected in our voting membership. We need to make a gateway because we are not able to do it with our crew structure.” Palmer said this is “one of the most major changes in the By-Laws” that he has heard in a number of years and a change this significant “should receive input from membership.” He said he feels “huge trepidation” with this change and is “concerned with creepage on this.” He also said

the phrase ‘being prepared for it’ “concerns the hell out of me because I’m not sure I’m ready to be prepared for something when I’m not sure what it is.” Lara said she has “never seen Culture Jam or Committees as being separate from the Fair” and pointed out that the motion simply asks the By-Laws Committee to “consider this idea. We can ask the Committee to consider this and look into all these great questions that are coming up tonight. I will vote for this motion and see what the By-Laws Committee brings us.” Diane said the Fair is our “essential event” and perhaps as we grow we should consider not a second tier of membership but a category of “Friends of the OCF”. She agreed with Palmer that the motion constitutes “a huge change.” Lawrence said membership does not have an age attached to eligibility, that “anyone who otherwise qualifies can be a member at any age.” Jack said, “We’re grappling in the VQ process with some limiting aspects of our 3-day event, diversity being a huge part of this. We’ve got to address that in an active way. Room has to be made for diversity, that is the true legitimate thing we need to create room for in this organization, expanding our inclusiveness of color, ethnicity, religious background, all those things that offend us the most when we see those restrictions elsewhere. We can’t say we want to be diverse and continue to have such a closed restriction on our membership. This is a core value issue.” Deane said he hopes that SOs will be considered in this process so that working SOs can become members because “it seems unfair that they are not eligible for membership now.”

Back to Peach Gallery: (Jack yielded time for further comments from the Peach Gallery.) Hilary said, “When OCF participated in the PRIDE day event, people were saying ‘we really like the Fair, how can we be a part of it?’ and we don’t have an answer to give them.” She said, “I’m not sure this proposed change will address that issue but it’s true we have people out there wanting to be included and we don’t have a way to bring them in.” Jon Pincus said he thinks the issue Jack brought up “is very important but I don’t see it as necessarily the same thing as the structural issue. The way to approach the diversity issue lies in opening up our programming to include more things that diverse populations would want to plug into and providing more opportunity for doing so.” He liked Lawrence’s idea of how to address the membership issue through clarifying the definition of ‘volunteer’ in the existing By-Laws wording.

Back to Board: Palmer said, “As a member of the By-Laws Committee, it sounds like the motion is just asking By-Laws to ‘consider’ the idea and that sounds like we could talk about it and eat chocolate and go home.” Jack responded that Committees are now required to write two written reports to the Board each year and that he “hopes the Committee will come up with ideas but you might write that you considered it and don’t approve of it.”

The motion passed: 7 in favor and 3 opposed (Lawrence, Paxton, Diane).

Schedule Work Session

Lara said she was asked by Virgil to schedule a Board work session with Archaeology. This did not require a vote. The Board agreed to have the work session and Lara will consult with Archaeology to find an available date. The date and place will be announced later.

Guidelines Changes

Background: The Board is scheduled to vote on these two changes at the February 5 Board meeting. Other Guidelines changes were submitted to norma but were simply editing changes that don’t require a Board vote. Tonight the changes were just read into the minutes so membership would be aware of the proposed changes before the vote.

1) Any teen or youth (not on Teen Crew) who comes to the sticker booth for their wristband needs photo ID. If they do not have photo ID their legal parent or guardian with the same last name or the crew person who purchased that teen/youth pass may vouch for that teen/youth’s identification.

2) All sound amplification must end at midnight, with the exception of the Main Stage Midnight Show.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The Board/Budget meeting will be held on Monday, January 22 at 7pm at the Central Presbyterian Church and will deal solely with budget issues. The next regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2007 at 7pm at the EWEB Community Room. The agenda, subject to change, will include the following tabled items: Budget Issues; Guidelines Changes; Consider Open Letter from Board to Membership (Anna); KRVM Blue Moon Stage Proposal (Jack); Consider Admissions Gift Certificate (Deane); Develop Policy on Conflict of Interest (Jack); Wayne Morse Project (Greg); Bioneers Youth Scholarships (Anna); Educational Event Development (Anna); as well as the following new business: Appoint Pre-Fair Kitchen Co-Coordinator, Outer Stages Coordinator, and Ambiance Co-Coordinator; Renew Membership in Lane Arts Council; Peach Power Fund. Consider Donation to Elmira High School Grad Committee was dropped from the agenda for lack of a sponsor.

Minutes by Barbara Edmonds who thanks Neale Donald Walsch (“Conversations with God”) for the following quote: “It is the truth that is eloquent. Truth has an elegance that startles the heart to its own reawakening.”