

“The Story of The Big Mouth” Newspaper & A Yachats History with Civil Disobedience (Compiled 2020)

By Joanne Kittel and Michael Hempen, Co-Chair & Board Member, View the Future

Acknowledgments

Information in this history was obtained from oral interviews with people who were involved with the development of the Commons and Yachats Youth and Family Program, specifically: Jim Adler, Billie Jo Smith, Stacey Smith, Chis Graamans, Blythe Collins, Karl Christensen, Carl Miller, Leon Sterner, Phil Schuster, Susan Stoddard, Valeria Tutrinoli, Caroline Bauman, Jessica Waddell, Joan Stephens, Kathy Smith, Quinton Smith, Jackie Martine, Debbie Jackson, Lynn Chamberlin, and David Chamberlin. Most of those interviewed continue to call Yachats their home.

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Who remembers the “Big Mouth” newspaper? Showing up in the most unusual places at unpredictable times from 1990 to 1994 “Big Mouth” was an “underground” newspaper that saturated the community of Yachats. No one knew who the authors were. There was lots of speculation. Most people read the paper and saw the tongue-in-cheek humor. Some were offended and angry. But there was no doubt the creativity was ingenious.

Papers appeared in front of stores, at the post office, even inside the “Newport News Times,” (most likely inserted in the middle of the night when the paper was delivered in a stack outside the Yachats post office). Leslie Glode, the “News Times” editor at the time, sent a blistering message in the editorial section of the newspaper that the insertion of “Big Mouth” into the “News Times” was a federal crime, which added to the humor for some. Some of those humorous articles addressed serious issues.

The following is a sample of “Big Mouth” newspaper

GRADUATION SET

The Fraternal Order of Perfection (Ten Mile Creek Chapter) will hold its annual commencement ceremony on the first full moon in May. Theme for this year's graduation is "I'm Okay, You Go To Hell!"

LIONS RECRUITING

The Yachats Lions Club is looking for a few good men, or more accurately, boys, to join its ranks. According to recently elected president, Ken Gagne, the local chapter must lower the average age of its membership by 9 years or risk losing its affiliation with the national organization. "We can't get down to that average age with the population we've got here", says Gagne. "We would need a constant stream of 30 year-olds and there aren't enough in Yachats." Consequently, the Lions are looking for fewer recruits of a younger age. "We figure nine 11 year-olds or maybe seven 9 year-olds would hold us for a few years," says Gagne. "Any younger than that they'd get bored at meetings." Anybody who knows a young man who enjoys going out to dinner, playing Bingo, and acting grown-up should contact Ken Gagne at 547-4099.

NEW STUDY CONFIRMS BI-DIRECTIONAL ATTITUDES

Are your attitudes being determined by the access you have to the world? According to a recent study written by Grants Pass sociologist Arthur Kredenshal, we could be more the direct product of our environment than we have ever previously thought possible, even to the point of being able to predict attitudes by the number of roads running through a community.

The study, published in the Spring issue of "Esoteric Sociology", was based on an exhaustive survey of 62 small towns which were geographically situated in such a way as to limit choice of travel direction. Some of the towns were at the bottoms of deep mountain passes, while others were trapped on the seacoast by inaccessible wilderness. Kredenshal's survey information on these areas was compared with the findings of the National Attitude Indicator Study (NAIS), and revealed a number of significant discrepancies.

"Polarization is the key mechanical element in these populations", Kredenshal commented, "a definite 'either-or' attitude becomes entrenched in the town's collective personality and renders action impossible. As a consequence, most of the areas studied are suffering from inadequate water supply systems, sewage disposal problems, an inability to levy a reasonable tax and will schedule countless hours of public meetings in order to avoid having to make an actual decision."

SIGN SCAM SCOOP

The Oregon State Highway Department is denying reports that the numerous political signs along U.S. 101 in Yachats are actually survey stakes for a new four lane highway through the city. Investigation by the BIGMOUTH has revealed the same covert pre-construction techniques were utilized recently north of Florence.



DAMN PLAN ANNOUNCED

The Oregon Department of Water Resources have announced tentative plans to damn the Yachats River. The damn will be located where U.S. 101 crosses the river.

The damming of the river will flood the Quiet Water subdivision resulting in a new fresh water reservoir to supplement the city water supply. Asked if the plan would upset Quiet Water residents Mayor Chamberlin implied, "We're damned if we do and damned if we don't."

Other residents seem to express little sympathy for the Quiet Water home owners saying, "Damn it anyway!"

WITCH-HUNT CANCELLED

Next week's scheduled witch-hunt has been postponed due to poor burning conditions. "I know how much everybody's been looking forward to this," said Fire Chief Steve Hamilton, "but I can't issue a hunt and burn permit until the index drops a little."



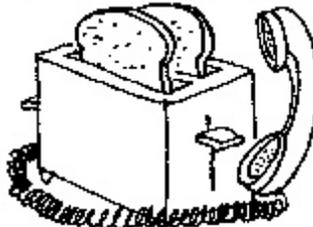
ADOBE LANDS CONVENTION

Ed and Karen Pfannmuller announced Tuesday that the Adobe Motel has been chosen as the site of the 1990 convention of Islamic Jihad, a Lebanese fraternal organization. More than 200 members of the club are expected to arrive at the end of August for a week of fun and frolic on the Oregon coast. "It's amazing that they'd come half-way around the world to Yachats", says a beaming Pfannmuller, "but they're going to book every room I've got and just take the place over."

Preparations for the guests must begin well in advance, says Pfannmuller, as the organization has a number of special requirements for the comfort of its members. The kitchen and kitchen staff must be sterilized, the gift shop will be re-stocked with religious items and handguns, and all forms of luggage must be removed from the premises. "Different folks, different strokes", says a philosophical Pfannmuller, "I'm sure there won't be any problems."

SI-LINES COMING

The Pioneer Telephone Cooperative and South Lincoln Public



Utility District have recently agreed to a partial merger of operations which will allow the two companies to share the same transmission lines. The new arrangement will provide a number of benefits to local customers such as cutting in half the number of lines running through town, supplying power to residen-

ces through their telephones during temporary outages, and enabling customers to place long distance calls thru their toasters. Work will begin soon.

YACHATS ALL WET

The Oregon Division of State Lands has designated the city of Yachats as state wetlands. A spokesperson for the state told the BIGMOUTH that due to the enormous amount of rainfall this past winter it was the only logical thing to do.

NEXT ISSUE:
The BIGMOUTH "Weight-a-minute" Diet!"

Acts of Civil Disobedience

Occasionally in Yachats, civil disobedience became the call for some community members. One example in the mid-1980's was a strong negative response to the planned Quiet Water development and the issue of filling the wetlands that were located on the north side of the Yachats River. Another was in 1992, Greg Staples, a realtor and owner of a number of acres on Horizon Hill road clear cut its 16+ acres. There was a huge negative outcry.

In reaction to the Staples clearcut, on April Fool's Day large billboard type signs appeared throughout Yachats overnight. Signs said, "Humpy's Naughty Nautical Arcade – Eagle Beaver Escort Service;" "Rolling Bird's 24-Hour Truck Stop and Mini-Mart Mall – All-Nite Diesel - RVs Welcome;" "Jack In the Box - Drive Thru;" Lincoln County Drug Rehabilitation Center by Feel Well Corporation." There were more.

Photos of three of the April Fool's signs.

