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JEFFERSON BACKROADS

A Happy Little Publication

PO Box 344 Michelle Fain Ralph Fain Side Kick Owner-Editor Grenada, CA 96038 (530) 640-0100 www.JeffersonBackroads.com

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JEFFERSON STATE FLIXX FEST PROGRAM FLIP



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FLIP THIS ISSUE OVER TO VIEW THE FLIXX FESTIVAL PROGRAM !!

Cover Image - Designed by Michelle Fain. Whimsical Chunky Birdie painted by Michelle Fain.

Jefferson Backroads is proudly published for Law Abiding Citizens, our fellow Independent, Free Thinking, Hard Working, Old School, Patriotic American Rebels who live in or travel through our Rugged & Beautiful State of Jefferson Region. The same true INDEPENDENT NATURE and OLD SCHOOL ESSENCE of "The State of Jefferson Region" can be found in Small Towns all across Rural America. We are proudly keeping our Patriotic American Spirit Alive.

Here at Jefferson Backroads, we focus on the positive, the fun, the amazing local businesses, the history and The Adventure!! Our papers are distributed in the first week of each month throughout Siskiyou County, California and in many surrounding communities.

Subscriptions are available by mail within the USA for only \$36 per year which covers postage and handling. Please mail check payable to Jefferson Backroads: P.O. Box 344, Grenada, CA 96038. Include your full name, mailing address and a phone number or email.

Our publications can be read ONLINE 24/7/365. Thank You for vour Positively Amazing Support!

Editor/Owner: Printed by: Feature Writers: Michelle Fain & Side Kick Writer Ralph Fain Cascade Printing, Klamath Falls, Oregon John Driscoll Jen Bryan Judy Sartor Hank Nelson

Gail L. Jenner **Bill Wensrich**

Jefferson Backroads was started up in April 2010. Anyone can read our publications each month FREE via our website and Facebook page.

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OPENING FEATURE STARRING CHARLIE PLUMMER, STEVE BUSCEMI, CHLOË SEVIGNY BASED ON THE NOVEL BY PORTLAND, OREGON WRITER WILLY VLAUTIN LEAN ON PETE

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FILMS BY OREGON AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FILMMAKERS AND/OR FEATURING OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



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KIFF2018 6th Annual Klamath Independent Film Festival



Lean on Pete, Courtesy of A24 Films

Already the only full festival experience dedicated to Oregon films and filmmakers, and our very northerly California neighbors, this year's KIFF became the top recipient of Oregon film submissions, further establishing KIFF as the place to see and experience Oregon independent film!

The 6th annual Klamath Independent Film Festival will once again open at the Ross Ragland Theater in Klamath Falls, Oregon, with a Friday night gala and opening feature "Lean on Pete" starring Charlie Plummer and Steve Buscemi September 14, 2018. KIFF2018 carries over to Coming Attractions' Pelican Cinema on Saturday the 15th for a full day of feature films, and returns to the Ragland Sunday September 16th for short films, awards and final filmmaker Q&A.

The Ross Ragland Theater is a 700+ seat, genuine Art Deco movie theater renovated beautifully to serve as Klamath

Falls' cultural arts center, while Pelican Cinema completes the festival theatre experience with all your movie-going concessions and amenities.

"Lean on Pete" follows the emotional journey of a teen searching for a home with a retired racehorse in tow. Based on the novel by Portland, Oregon writer Willy Vlaudin.

6 more features and 28 shorts fill out the KIFF2018 program from Oregon and Northern California filmmakers, and films completed in Oregon/Northern California over the last year or so. For full details including trailers, synopses, tickets and more visit klamathfilm.org/festival.



Lean on Pete, Courtesy of A24 Films



September 1 & 2, 2018 Saturday, 10 to 5 & Sunday, 10 to 4

Over 150 Quilts by Local Artists <u>Featured Quilters:</u> Mickey Weston of Weston's Quilting & Fiber Arts & Diana Fogle -Accidental Quilter- for 18 Years

Boutique, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Vendors



Quilt Judge: Arlene Arnold Admission \$3.00 Mount Shasta High School Gym 710 Everitt Memorial Hwy Mount Shasta, CA

For questions, Contact Quilt Show Chair Kim Jenkins kjisaiah4031@gmail.com

Quilt By Katie Caldwell will be exhibited at the quilt show in September. Title: "Capay Valley" with almond orchards in bloom.

AUTUMN IS NEAR AND I AM SO GLAD!!

As the Editor and Publisher of Jefferson Backroads, I constantly yearn to do more "creating." I love every facet of what I do to gather and build this happy little monthly publication. I find inspiration and creative sparkles from anywhere & everywhere!

At the moment, I have no less than 11 current creative projects to contemplate and focus on. My creative energy is vital to do:

- (1) family photo albums and scrapbooks
- (2) art journals, mosaics, wood carving, calligraphy projects
- (3) designing and creating patchwork lap quilts
- (4) designing & doing my own vintage trailer renovation
- (5) planning & dreaming of our next girls art weekend
- (6) designing and organizing my colorful craft workshop
- (7) big edits that are in progress to my website
- (8) baby and doggy sitting adventures for all my sweet kiddos
- (9) Adobe Illustrator online classes
- (10) dreaming of attending more arts & crafts workshops
- (11) oh yeah, and creating our monthly publication.



All of this is nothing new. I strive to stay busy. I thrive on my long list of creative projects. I cannot imagine MY LIFE if I didn't have bunch of fun stuff to do, to ponder, to analyze, to plan, to anticipate and to captivate ME.

This has been a long, bloody hot, miserably smoky summer. So amazing to see the sunshine and mountains again! With so many people's lives affected and also so many beautiful super heroes being been revealed, we thank Heaven for ALL our Super Heroes.

Autumn is my favorite. I can already feel the winds of change. Thank you as always, for all your support & encouragement. *–mfain*



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Percentage of proceeds going to **Carr Fire Relief Fund**

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Stitching in the Ditch

Stories by Judy Sartor of the Mount Shasta Lily Quilt Guild www.ShastaLily.org

Photo Bomber Quilt by Marlene Ludlow



Congratulations to all of the guilters who exhibited their lovely quilts and works of art at the Siskiyou Golden Fair. A special Attagirl to Jeanne Welch for her impressive showing. Although she may not guite believe it, you can spot Jeanne's guilts from across the room. And that's without looking at her stitching.

I thank those of you who hopefully attended our Quilt Show over Labor Day weekend. Now, I like to mess with the concept of time, but even I have trouble with this one. I am, after all, writing this two weeks before Labor Day weekend while pretending that the show has already happened. (I have been doing the data entry for the show, and the pictures are

awesome.) Anyway, the Lilies thank you for attending our show. We hope that you enjoyed the colorful array of guilts and the group of vendors that we assembled.

Turning to another of my favorite subjects, I love Quilt Shops. I enjoy looking at the new samples. But more important, seeing the array of fabric colors is like running into-and hopefully through-several rainbows. Purples? They are there. Greens? Also smartly represented. And the blues? Doesn't that one arc fit better as a green? Hmm. And all of the other color options browns, oranges, reds, and yellows-an entire feast for the eyes. Wow!

Then I check out fabric lines for my favorites. Does Hoffman have anything new in their digital spectrum series? And what is happening with Stonehenge? Their fabrics are a gem to work with. And I like their colors.

Now one of my favorites has always been the Laurel Burch line of fabric by Clothworks. Of course, I am enchanted by her cats and horses.

And then there are her butterflies and hummingbirds. So hard to decide! Laurel Burch was fiercely creative, and I liked almost everything that she did. She was a real talent, lost too soon.

Back to the Quilt Shops. I also enjoy watching people to see what fabrics they are attracted to. Quilters help quilters, and sometimes it just takes an extra pair of eyes to turn a corner or to see another possibility. I tend to watch that process, as my color choices are not always in synch with somebody else's.

As for me? I'm a collector, so you can imagine what is

happening to me with the current



digital wave. I need lots of help! Mickey Weston just laughs at me. She is no help for a fabriholic. But I don't care! I still love fabric stores.

> "It is good to dream! After I dream, I envision, and after I envision, I create."



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Laurel Burch

VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF SISKIYOU COUNTY

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF SISKIYOU COUNTY.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6, 2018 IS THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL DINNER TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS AT THE SISKIYOU GOLDEN FAIRGROUNDS IN YREKA, CALIFORNIA.

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Siskiyou Quilters that's our name. Sewing quilts for 300 Vietnam Veterans is our game.

No dues, no meetings, just being thankful for our Siskiyou County Veterans especially the 300 Vietnam Veterans who will be honored at a big dinner on October 6th put on by the Veterans Assistance Program of Siskiyou County. Vietnam Veterans will receive a personalized certificate of acknowledgement for their service in Vietnam from Congress, presented by Congressman Doug LaMalfa, AND a personalized lap quilt, approximately 45" X 67", 100% cotton, made by the sewers and quilters of Siskiyou County.

Contact Marilyn Berger, Weed 530-859-2037 or Kenna Edwards, McCloud 530-604-6899.

Yes, stitch in the ditch OK for quilting. Yes, you can zig-zag or fancy stich binding.

To make donations to Veterans Assistance Program contact Jay Dancer 530-598-6979.

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Sample of Patriotic Color Quilt Above and Label Information Below

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Backroads Adventures by Ralph Fain

"By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather And Autumn's best of cheer."

-Helen Hunt Jackson



"September's

Reward"

Finally, September! It's here with cooler temperatures and nights made for sleeping. The sluggish heat of summer is dissipating as the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer. It has been a long, hot smoky summer this year. It's been a cranky summer.

Thankfully we have four distinct seasons in our State of Jefferson. September brings the change from Summer to Fall. I would have to believe we are all ready for this change. Fall is my favorite time of year. I like summer, but too much heat for too long, can be too much. September is the Goldilocks month. Not too hot nor too cold but just right!

September is also the harvest month in our neck of the woods. Blackberries are ripe and fresh cobblers are the order of the day! Our gardens have been producing for a little while now but in September every bit of hard work and attention to our plants is returned tenfold. September's Reward for faith, diligence, love and hard work throughout the summer results in fine organic eating through the winter months. The work is far from over when the gardens produce. The work continues but shifts gears to canning and prepping the food for storage. Canning is becoming a lost art, even in the State of Jefferson. It takes time. It takes work. It takes a knowledge and love of the process. The rewards far outweigh the work. The self-satisfaction of a job you completed from start to finish is enjoyed in every meal. All folks I know who can their own food are darn proud of the end result. They should be darn proud of themselves too for being strong, independent and resourceful. I believe the day will come when their expertise will be highly valued and sought out. One day, the old ways will prevail once again.

September's Reward also arrives with the fall run of salmon and steelhead on our rivers. It arrives with the opening day of dove season and deer season. Soon to follow will be hunting for ducks, geese, pheasant, quail and chukar. Catfishing on Lake Shasta is getting hot and the big cats are hitting the bait. If you have never had fresh catfish cubes beer battered and deep fried with a side of hush puppies, well, I just feel sorry for you! I realize that being a hunter, fisherman or gatherer is not so politically correct these days.



We are a dying breed. But I, like most country folk, don't give a rats a\$\$ about being politically correct. I was taught to live and let live and mind my own business. Some folks would do well to abide that very wise philosophy.

Again, like those who grow and can their own food, I believe the day will come when the expertise of the hunter, fisherman and gatherer will be highly valued and sought out. One day, the old ways will prevail once again. Did I just repeat that sentence? Maybe it's worth saying twice.

Slow down folks and enjoy September's Reward. Hit a local

farmers market and partake of the goodness found in home grown food. Enjoy the warm days and cool nights. Listen for the sounds of migrating geese, they are coming. Look closely, the trees are beginning to change colors and the smell of fall is in the air. Blink and the next season will be upon us!



"For all I can really do is stand here in September's rain savoring... soaking it all in, slipping... and simply holding on to poetry, for dear life."

-Sanober Khan



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Collier Interpretive & Information Center, Yreka, California - located at the Junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 96. Stop by for a visit... Or call us at (530) 475-3814

Map of Siskiyou County in Extreme Northern California



Our Beloved State of Jefferson Region



A Brief History of The State of Jefferson Written by Gail Jenner

Today's State of Jefferson refers to portions of Southern Oregon and Northern California. Originally this region represented the "second half" or "northern mines" of the famous gold rush of 1849-50, but it never received the kind of historical reference that the Sierra Mother Lode did, even though it contributed as much, if not more, to the coffers of the two states. Moreover, the region was easily overlooked after the gold rush, since it continued to be less populated and more rural than the remainder of the two states.

> Because the people who have settled along the northern boundary of California and the southern boundary of Oregon have always been of an independent nature, it seems fitting that this region has attempted, on numerous occasions, to create a new state, not just in name or principle, but in reality as well.

The principle is not a new one, however, but has its roots in the area's history. In 1852, a bill to create a new state died in committee. On Dec. 19, 1853, THE DAILY ALTA OF CALIFORNIA of San Francisco suggested that Northern California and Southern Oregon could both benefit if a 'new state' could be created. Some suggested it be called 'Klamath.' Others suggested the name "Jackson."

At a meeting held on January 7, 1854, in Jacksonville, Oregon, Lafayette F. Mosher spoke about a state of 'Jackson.' Unfortunately, as the son-in-law of General Lane, with well-known pro-slavery and anti-Indian beliefs, the proposed state's identity was tainted by prejudice and unfounded fear.

In 1854-55, the State Assembly tried to split California into three states: "Shasta" to the north, "Colorado" in the middle, and "California" to the south. But the Senate let the bill lapse. In 1877-78, some again pushed for "Shasta" in the north, but the U. S. Congress vetoed the proposal.

By the fall of 1941, most communities in and around the region were behind the idea of secession. In a contest held by the Siskiyou Daily News, the name "State of Jefferson" was officially born.

Several Oregon and California counties joined in. In order to garner attention, a protest was staged along Highway 99 near Yreka. Members of Yreka's 20-30 Club stopped cars and passed out a declaration and pledged to secede every Thursday until the State of Jefferson became recognized as a state.

The movement gained momentum and Stanton Delaplane won the Pulitzer Prize writing about the conditions leading up to The State of Jefferson's "official" secession. A gubernatorial race was held, complete with a parade and speeches and even a dancing bear, but then, on December 7th, 1941, the bombing of Pearl Harbor took precedence over the region's rebellion.

Even today, the dream lives on for this unrealized, some might even say, mystical State of Jefferson. With majestic Mt. Shasta at its heart, and the Cascades forming its backbone, the region's wild rivers and rugged peaks both isolate and, at times, insulate its residents from the more populated outside world. Ranching, mining and logging have been its traditional source of wealth, but now recreation and tourism compete as major industries.

But it's the people who reside here that make the greatest contribution to

the character of this region we call The State of Jefferson.

34th Annual Barbeque and Dance Presented By The Gazelle Fire Department Auxiliary

Saturday September 8th, 2018 5:00 - 6:00 P.M. - Social Hour 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. - Dinner Drawing, Auction & Gun Raffle to follow 7:00 P.M. - Last Call - Dance to DJ

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All proceeds will go towards purchasing Medical and Fire Equipment for the Gazelle Volunteer Fire Department!



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Upcoming 2018 Events:

<u>Film Being Shown at the Avery</u> on Friday September 21 at 9:30pm. Check out the Flixx Fest Program in this issue for more info!

> Popovich Comedy Pet Theater on Friday October 26. Call or Watch for more details!

<u>ROBIN HOOD</u> - Performance by Etna Junior High is coming at the end of October, 2018. Watch for Details!

Avery Memorial Theatre

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT MT. SHASTA SISSON MUSEUM

Whing Golf Tournament and Fundraiser Sunday, Sept. 23, 2:00 p.m., \$60/person, \$220/group of 4. (Reserve your place by Sept. 16) 530-926-5508, Email: museum@mtshastamuseum.com.

Glaciation of Mount Shasta

A presentation by Steve Bachmann - Thursday, October 4, 7 p.m.



A FEW FUN 2018 EVENTS

September 1-2: Shasta Lily Quilt Show in Mt. Shasta. See Page 8.

Aug 30 - Sept. 3: InterMountain Fair in McArthur, CA. 530-336-5695.

September 6-9: Tulelake Butte Valley Fair, Tulelake, CA. 530-667-5312.

September 8: Rescheduled Jefferson State BREWFEST in Dunsmuir, California. See Page 8 for more info!

September 8: Gazelle 34th Annual Volunteer Fire Department BBQ & Dance. See Page 24 for details...

September 8: Ninth Annual Art, Wine & Brew of Lassen at Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mineral, California. Call (530) 595-4480 for info!

September 14-16: McCloud Mountain Bluegrass Festival. See Page 4 for details.

September 14-16: Klamath Independent Film Festival in Klamath Falls, Oregon. See Pages 6-7 for details.

September 15: Sizzlin' September Show n Shine, Yreka, California. Call the Yreka Chamber of Commerce for more info at 530-842-1649.

September 15: 9th Annual Red Bluff Beef n Brew, downtown Red Bluff, California. From 5-10 pm. Contact Tehama County Cattlewomen for more info!

September 20-23: Jefferson State FLIXX Fest Film Festival in Fort Jones. Flip this entire September issue over to see THE FLIXX FEST PROGRAM. Best film festival in the entire REGION!!

September 21-23: Montague Hot Air Balloon Fair in Montague. See Page 11 for info. One of the best events of the entire YEAR!!

September 22: Hot Air & Hot Rods, Montague, California. Call Montague Parks & Recreation at 530-459-3030 for info!

September 22: 22nd Annual Redding Beer & Wine Festival, Redding, California. Hosted by Viva Downtown. Call 530-243-7773 for info!

September 29-30: Redd Sun Music Festival, Redding, CA. Call 530-229-0036.

September 30: 12th Annual Great Pumpkin Festival in Los Molinos, California. Call Julia's Fruit Stand at 530-354-4775 for more info!

October 6: Benton Air Faire, Fly in & Car Show, Benton Air Center, Redding, California. Call 530-241-4024.

October 13: Annual McCloud Apple Harvest Festival & Heritage Quilt Show. Call the McCloud Chamber of Commerce for info at 530-964-3113.

October 20-21: Yreka Gun Show in Yreka, California. See Page 20 for details.

YOU CAN FIND DATES OF MORE QUILT SHOWS ON PAGE 14.



INSPIRATIONS FROM THE FOREST

Real Life Logging Stories by Hank Nelson, Wasilla, Alaska

(Hank's Beloved Continuing Saga...)

"Coming of Age"

The "Boys" slapped me on the back... joshing around... and I was lapping it up like a Cheshire cat on a warm bowl of butter milk. Blackie was pleased at the way I'd have everything laid out in order and in sequence, as I tagged along on the trail doing things... errands and keeping up. Every now and then Blackie would take time out and hike the trail to "look things over." Afterwards he'd head back down the trail, but not before complimenting me on "doing a good job" and then maybe subconsciously give my suspenders a quick snap or two! Truth was I felt as tall as the trees. Blackie liked the idea of my enthusiasm, as to lining things up, being the "Mule" and so forth and so on. He smiled and gave me a pat on the back: "Keep up the good work, Lad!"

The whistle on the yarder had finally been fixed and there was a whole new crew and a Whistle-Punk. Johnson, Mack and even Sarge were gone... good guys just getting their feet wet in the line of logging. Most of all I missed the way Sarge had treated me, a green around the gills whippersnapper, stumbling around, tripping over my own feet. "Don't try so hard..." trying to figure out and master the fine art of putting the nubbin around the log... pulling the slack and snap it into the "Bell" hard and fast enough make it ring! And most of all I missed his reassuring smile and his words:" Don't worry, Lad... don't let it get you down. You're catching



on..." he'd chuckle, "He-Heh" and then add... "Always remember Rome wasn't built in a day... takes time!"

At left, typical image of "The Whistle-Punk". Circa 1973 S.E. Alaska. During the days before the "Talkie-Tooter" the whistle-punk had to be "quick on his feet" as he literally held eternity in the palm of his hand and the tips of his fingers. Photo courtesy of Hank Nelson.

Fred and his partner Bones Brainerd worked together on a patch of steep ground that was to be the next show when the crew finished up the patch of second growth. Power saws

had just come on line after a spell of hit and miss and on-the-job application. The two-man saws, Distons, Malls and Titan Blue Streaks, were heavy, unwieldy, cantankerous monstrosities. It literally took two men and a boy just to lug one of those things around over hill and dale, through the thick jungles of vine maples and brush. My job was to follow them obligingly around, bringing up the rear with packsacks, lunch, gas and oil and tools, spare parts, plus extra bars and chains and a handy crosscut saw just in case the power saws wouldn't run. Sometimes the saws took a notion to get an air-lock in the fuel lines and you could yell and curse and until you were blue in the face-- take out your frustrations by giving it swift kick-- when the saw cooled off and was ready, it would start.

The big Douglas fir fat "pumpkins" meant a lot to Blackie, an opportunity to capitalize on the big peeler market. Those logs were platinum, producing the highest premium plywood in the world. So, it was important to lay the big stuff on the ground in such a way not only to save the wood and avoid breakage, but in a manner that would allow the log buckers a chance to buck them into logs without serious mishap.



Photo: Dozer yarding logs from a cold deck. Courtesy Hank Nelson.

I never forgot Uncle Fred's advice about logging, safety, the dynamics and danger. Years later, as a Greenhorn timber faller, on my first tree felling job in Alaska, I recalled Uncle Fred's advice, "Whenever you're working on steep ground, always start at the bottom and work your way carefully to the top of the strip." The crusty old bull buck, as wise as an Owl, noticed and told me that while he saw that I was green around the gills, if I would listen to advice... he thought that maybe I'd make a pretty good cutter. Those words put a fire in my bosom and made me feel as tall as the trees.

Sometimes when we camped out, near or close to the job site, Uncle Fred and I would do a little night hunting-- "spotlighting" he called it. The country was thick with underbrush and tall timber, with an occasional clearing. As we eased along, following a winding trail, trying to be stealthy, the hope was that we might spot a deer in the meadow and we'd have "camp meat." Fred had a long silver flashlight loaded with powerful batteries, with a lens half as big around as headlight on an automobile. When you caught a deer in its glare, you lifted the rifle and aimed between the two small bulbs of light



you saw looking back at you, mesmerized and frozen in time by the power of the flashlight Uncle Fred held in his grip. The deer however were wary, and as scarce as a hen's teeth... but from time to time Fred liked to roust me out of my sleeping bag and say something like, "Come on Buddy, shake a leg... the moon is out, the deer will be browsing... maybe we can do a little night hunting... huh?" It was an adventure in the still of the night, the forest closing in around us as we followed a meandering game trail. Fred walked slowly, stopping now and then, and he'd turn to me, fingers to his lips signaling that I was to keep it down. "No talking...shh!" But I'd keep bumping into him, as I was busy walking with my head turned so that I could tell if a mountain lion was tagging along, sneaking up on me from behind. I knew the score, that Cougars liked to snatch the last person tagging along the trail, or better yet, ambush its prey by laying stretched out on a limb just above the trail, unknown and unseen. I had them figured out, no question. So, I kept bumping into Fred's legs, upsetting the whole apple cart as the saying goes. "Damn it to Hell, kid-- watch where you're going."

Back at camp, Fred would stoke up the fire and put on a fresh pot of coffee. All the while, I was still paying attention to the night sounds, a hoot owl from somewhere in the depths of the forest-- a rustling sound of a raccoon coming down to drink or catch a crawdad from the little creek that ran by our camp-- and the crashing sound of maybe a bear! Fred noticed and put his arm around my shoulders. "Don't let things bother you, Buddy. Sometimes critters are just curious, and just checking us out. Like you would do if someone came along and camped out in your backyard." Fred rolled a cigarette, lit up, and when the water in the pot started rolling over a little, Fred would wait a minute or two, then pour in a half a cup of cold water to settle the grounds. Then, using a pair of pliers, he'd pull the pot back from the edge of the fire to let it cool down a little. As we sat alongside each other holding our cups and scanning the star-lit heavens above, listening to the night sounds, Fred would break



Photo: Loading bucked logs onto the truck. Courtesy Hank Nelson.

the silence and say, "What do you say we have a Hershey candy bar, Bud?" That sounded fine and dandy. Fred liked Hershey bars and bought them by the cartons whenever we went to town on payday weekends, so we'd always have a goodly amount on hand. Fred had imposed a quota of one bar per day, no ifs and no doubts. But, every now and then he'd say, "Ah, what the hell... let's have another one, what do you say, Bud?!"

As to the deer, for some reason or other, he never shot at a deer for "camp meat" and when he did spot a doe and her fawns or a spike-buck just starting out in life and feeling his oats-- or maybe an old Gray-back buck deer-- he always had an excuse. He never intended to kill a deer.

During the Depression folks struggled to put food on their tables, as it was truly a hardscrabble life so "side-hill salmon" and jackrabbits were considered fair game. When Uncle Fred took me camping, though, he was adept at showing me how to catch a trout. A grasshopper in the dry grass or beneath a flat rock next to a meandering creek, or maybe turn over a rock at water's edge and snatch a periwinkle... grab either between thumb and forefinger and place it on a small hook. With a small sinker for weight and a fishing line wrapped around the tip of a willow pole, dangle it over a clear calm pool where a trout might be lingering beneath the overhang. If it darted out and latched on Fred would deftly pull it in, remove the hook, bait the hook again and repeat the process. When he'd caught enough he'd fry a mess of trout to a golden brown along with potatoes and pork & beans. It was an irrefutable camp favorite. We'd sit down on a log and chow down on what was considered the ultimate outdoors meal, all washed down with a cup of piping hot coffee brewed in a half gallon size coffee can. Fred would hold his cup and when he swallowed he'd smack his lips and then express his satisfactory assessment of a good hot cup of coffee, "Ahh ... now that's the way I like it, Buddy." Fred encouraged me to wrap both my hands around the cup, especially on cold mornings, so I could feel the warmth. Then I would mimic him, smacking my lips and saying, "Ahh...." He'd laugh and jostle me,



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ruffling my hair. I was in later years to introduce my children to the joys of camping out under the stars, as the sparks from our camp fire spiraled up into the night sky.

But still, for as long as I can remember, whenever we were logging or hiking in on a trail, me tagging along, Fred had a part of a song he would sing repeatedly. It was more of a poem, or just a part of a poem that Uncle Fred would turn into a melody. It went: "Oh, for 40 years we logged with steers, on the shores of Puget Sound, but now we're working' on a big Compound... So take 'err out easy and skin 'err back slow... cause now we're a 'logging... on a Hemlock show."

To be continued...



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