



Cedar Mill News

Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2006

INSIDE

Hwy 217 repaving.....	2
Summer reading.....	2
Watershed tour.....	2
Before it was	
Beaverton.....	3
Valley Ponderosa.....	5

Sue Conger leaves a community legacy

Sue Conger touched so many aspects of Cedar Mill, we decided to ask several community members to contribute their memories of her and the ways she shaped the community.

By Peter Leonard, Executive Director, Cedar Mill Community Library

On May 15, our community lost an amazing woman. Sue Conger was one of the early forces behind the establishment of the library and served on the library board twice over a 25 year period. She was one of the founders of Miscellaneous Etcetera Super Sale (MESS) and later the Second Edition Resale Shop. Sue was instrumental in preserving the old Cedar Mill Post Office (JQA Young House) which will soon be restored by the Parks District. When Sue saw a need or a problem she didn't just offer advice, she rolled up her sleeves and got to work.

She used her interior design training to draw up plans and designs for every library renovation and often negotiated with vendors for the best possible deals. During the library's most recent renovation, she selected furniture, car-



Sue, at left, pitches in at the 1999 Books 'n' Bloomers fundraising sale for the library. Also pictured are Dorothy Bolger and Bev Cathcart

peting and sketched different layouts. Whenever we had a space or design problem in the library or in the resale shop, Sue would be able to miraculously come up with a solution. It's easy to design with an unlimited budget. Sue always looked at ways to reuse older products and furniture. It's amazing what new upholstery and paint can do to make an older piece look new. She also knew that investing in quality was better than purchasing on price alone.

Continued on page 4

Next Meeting

Cedar Mill Business Association

Tuesday, June 20, 2006, 7:30 am

Place: Cedar Mill Community Library

Topic: To be announced

Featured Business

Cedar Mill Farmers' Market

Eight years ago, two Cedar Mill residents, Rhonnda Edmiston and Leilani Esping felt a need for a community-building event in Cedar Mill. Because we lack a community center, plaza, or even a park in which to gather, Leilani and Rhonnda saw the need for some sort of social hub in the community. Along with a handful of volunteers they recruited to help that first year, they started the Cedar Mill Farmers' Market in 1999. The original location was the parking lot between the library and what was then the Hi-School Pharmacy (now Walgreen's).

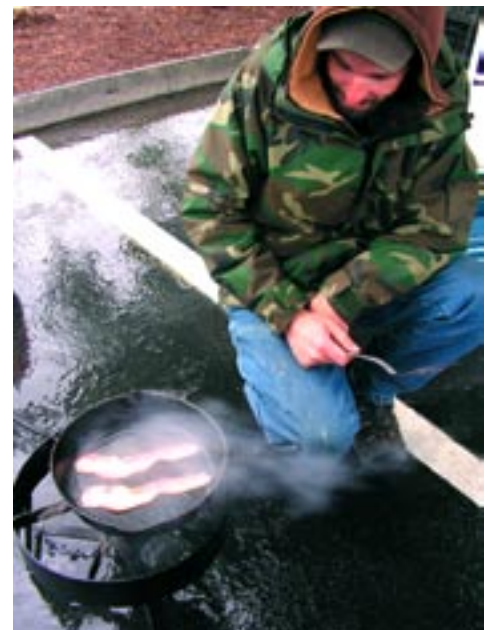
Leilani moved to McMinnville during the 2002 season. Mark and Dina Gross had gotten involved in the early days, helping occasionally with set-up and take-down. They became more involved until a couple of years later they found themselves volunteering to co-manage with Rhonnda. The market had moved to the Safeway parking lot while the library expansion was taking up its original space. Rhonnda is still in the area, but because she's always had a full-time job and kids to raise, she was happy to step back and move on after making sure the Market had what it needed to keep going, leaving Mark and Dina to run the Market.

In 2005, Dina Gross approached the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District for help to keep the Market going. General Manager Ron Willoughby decided that supporting a real local Farmers' Market was something he'd like to see THPRD do, to provide a more urban-level service to the community.

Location: in the Safeway parking lot at the corner of Cornell & Murray.
Hours: Saturdays 8 - 1 through September 30th; extended to October 14th if the weather is good.

Dina says, "It seems to be a common misconception that Mark and I just show up on Saturday and hang out while the

Market runs itself. We do 'hang out' and enjoy the day while we work, but the Market certainly doesn't go on auto-pilot. Maybe I should take that as a compliment, that things run smoothly enough it doesn't seem to be much work!"



Ben Cunningham tends bacon samples sizzling behind the Northwest Heritage Pork booth

As with any big event, there are at least twice as many hours behind the scenes in the week before the Market than there are for the 11-hour-long Saturday workday. Then of course there are many organizational hours in the 3-4 months preceding Opening Day. Dina laughs, "Did I mention that volunteers are welcome?"

Volunteer at the Market

The Market is actively seeking volunteers to join the fun through October 14th, on a

Continued on page 6

Summer Reading Sign-up Begins

Developing an appreciation for reading at a young age provides positive and creative outlets for a child's energy and imagination, as well as a strong foundation for their future. According to reading experts, kids who do not read over the summer lose about one-third of a grade level by the beginning of the next school year.

Reading Rewards: Every child who signs up for summer reading will receive a coupon good for one free activity at the Family Fun Center & Bullwinkle's Restaurant. Local Starbucks stores have donated "Cool Cards" good for a complimentary "coffee-free" blended beverage for local libraries to award to participants throughout the summer when they visit their local librarian to discuss their reading goals. Every child who meets their summer reading goal will receive a coupon good for an all day Oaks Amusement Park ride bracelet for only \$3, for use at the Summer Reading Celebration. Washington County will host their party on Wednesday, August 16. Ask your local librarian how you can qualify to attend your county's celebration.



Harmony School schedules dance performances

In June, students from the school will perform at the Farmers' Market every Saturday at around 9:15 am, weather permitting. The first Harmony School recital is June 24th at 5pm. Summer camps begin on June 26th. Their website www.theharmonyschool.org lists classes and events as well.

Our Creeks, Our Selves: Watershed Tour of Rock and Bronson Creeks

Our creeks are the stories of ourselves. Their health, flow, and the wildlife they support all reflect the human condition, past and present. Join the Rock Creek Watershed Partners as we explore the state of Rock and Bronson Creeks on Saturday, June 17th from 10am to 1pm.

The headwaters of these creeks begin in the slopes draining Skyline Blvd and the west hills and wind their way down through Cedar Mill, Hillsboro and Beaverton. Flowing through agricultural, forested, and urbanized areas, Rock and Bronson Creeks reveal our behaviors. On our tour, we'll discuss cultural and natural history, wildlife, watershed health, and ways to enjoy our natural areas through recreation.

Suggested \$5 donation, but no one turned away. Advance registration required; call 503-629-6305 x2953 or email awilson@rcwp.org

Other tours scheduled are Willow and Cedar Mill Creeks on July 15 and Beaverton and Beaverton's Johnson Creeks on August 19.

Highway 217 repaving project will begin soon

Oregon Mainline Paving, a contractor for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is beginning work in July to grind and pave OR 217 from 72nd Avenue in Tigard to the U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) interchange. The pavement on OR 217 is severely rutted from the 108,000 vehicles a day that use the highway. This 6.39 mile stretch of highway was last repaved in 1994. The contractor will also pave a one-mile section of the Sunset Highway westbound just east of OR 217. This \$6.5 million preservation project includes the following

upgrades: grinding and paving the roadway and most of the ramps in the project area; modifying and extending guardrail; constructing ADA ramps at the terminus of select ramps on OR 217; replacing ramp meters and signal loop detectors and installing new and/or improved signs.

Tentative Schedule

July & August: replacing signs, modifying and extending guardrail, constructing ADA ramps, and paving on- and off-ramps. September: grinding and paving on OR 217 and U.S. 26. October - December: permanent striping & cleanup work.

Note: Due to the 2007-2008 OR 217 Modernization Project, paving on northbound OR 217 will be between 72nd Avenue and TV Highway only. The remaining section will be paved as part of the modernization project.

Traffic Impacts

Project construction will create congestion and delays throughout the summer and fall on OR 217 and U.S. 26. Highway lanes and on- and off-ramps will temporarily close during nighttime hours. In addition, there will be intermittent sidewalk closures and lane closures on local streets intersecting OR 217 during off-peak hours.

Due to the high traffic volumes on OR 217 and U.S. 26, it is required that all lanes be open without restrictions during daytime hours. Closing the lanes during the day would create backups and serious safety concerns. Due to this restriction, traffic impacts and most work will be conducted during overnight hours.

Open House Scheduled June 22

Join ODOT staff at a project open house Thursday, June 22 to learn more about this project and ask questions related to construction, schedule, and traffic impacts. This is an informal open house that will allow for direct interaction with ODOT staff. Drop by anytime from 5 - 8 p.m on Thursday, June 22, 2006 at the Beaverton Resource Center, 12500 SW Allen Blvd. (at Hall Blvd.), Beaverton. For more information, contact ODOT Community Affairs: 503-731-8247 or Lili.D.Gordon@odot.state.or.us. OR 217 Preservation Project web site: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/hwy217/ The web site will link to weekly traffic impact information once construction begins.



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History in the News

Before it was Beaverton

By Nancy Olson, co-author, Cedar Mill History

The property proposed for a Wal-Mart store in the Cedar Mill area lies at the intersection of NW Barnes Road and Cedar Hills Boulevard. Its future use is unknown as of this date but its past history is well known. It was originally part of the Josiah and Mary Hall donation land claim and included several acres of rich beaverdam soil. In 1921, two Greek brothers, Frank and Jim Choban, left their West Portland farm and relocated on a 37-acre tract here which they found ideal for truck farming.

The brothers harvested celery as well as other varieties of vegetables and fruits. Pole beans were sold to a Hillsboro cannery while lettuce, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries and watermelon were hauled to Portland to the Yamhill Market and to a farmers' market on Belmont Street.

The rich beaverdam soil continued to produce heavy crops. Excess produce was donated to the Cedar Mill school lunch program during the school season. Many needy neighbors' tables were supplemented by Choban produce.

In 1928 Jim, the older Choban, journeyed to Greece, returning with his bride, Marika, and the couple, with brother Frank, resumed their farming activities. In later years, the productive acreage required the assistance of the Choban's two sons, George and Paul.

The farming operation ceased in 1965 when Jim Choban died. The widow Marika's sister and brother-in-law, Anna and Jim Christie, moved into the household about the same

time. The family formulated a new use for the land and in 1970, their Greek and American restaurant, "Marika's" was completed, offering authentic Greek cuisine to the community.

The land changed. Barnes Road used to run along the south side of the restaurant and in front of the family home. But Barnes was closed and relocated to its present site. Where the Choban home was located there is now a clinic. The restaurant property is leased to the Tzakis family who run Santorini West as well as Santorini in downtown Portland. It's better known as a nightclub now than for its food.

George Choban recalls that the property to the east of theirs, at the corner of Cedar Hills Boulevard and Barnes, was a dairy farm owned by the Daniels family, called the Le Grande Dairy. Joseph and Bertha (Teufel) Peterkort purchased that westerly portion of the Peterkort property back in the early 1940's. Lois Peterkort Ditmars recalls, "As long as we have owned that portion of our property, it was farmed as different kinds of grain crops. When people started moving from Portland and

urbanizing the area and it was chopped up by roadways, we were put in the same position that farmers outside the urban growth boundary are experiencing today, a lot of homes and roads don't provide for successful farming. Little by little, as the population and roadways grew and urbanization became the land use theme, we were forced into planning its future and now 60 years later, here we are today."

This part of Cedar Mill was originally called Swedeville. We'll cover its history in an upcoming article.



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Sue Conger, continued from page 1

The library's carpets were a higher grade than most businesses would install but Sue knew they would wear better.

There were few library events or parties where Sue's skillful touch with entertaining wasn't evident. And after the parties, after all the guests departed, Sue would take the dishes and glassware home to wash. Sue often hosted parties at her home to honor her fellow volunteers at Second Edition. These were festive events that were eagerly anticipated by all the guests. No matter how busy Sue was with host-



Sue arranges flowers for the wedding reception for Jan Johnson's son at the Octagonal Barn of the Cornelius Pass Roadhouse, one of her favorite places.

ing a large group of 50 or 60 people, she always had time to stop and visit and enjoy the event. She made everything look easy.

Sue lived a life full of community service while raising a family and working. The library and the community are fortunate that she shared her gift of making our community a better place.

From an interview with Jan Johnson, long-time friend and library supporter

Jan first met Sue walking down her street passing out flyers to gather support for the founding of a community library. The original idea was to locate it in a vacant storefront that used to sit at the northeast corner of Cornell and 107th. But then Odus Bales stepped in to offer space in the Milltown shopping center across from the drugstore (which had been the original Bales Thriftway). Jan and her husband Jim have served on the library Board several times.

Jan was an ally with Sue in stopping a development up the street, and from time to time they would gather a group to "traipse out to the County to fight" something they determined to be detrimental to the community.

Jan mentioned that she realized at Sue's Cel-

bration of Life, that, "she knew people we didn't know she knew. She had a far-reaching influence in the community."

Jan continued, "She was a wonderful hostess, who made it look easy. Her kids teased her that she was like Martha Stewart, and called her "Mom-tha." She really knew how to do a lot of things."

Jan recalls, "A few years back, Sue & I did flowers for the funeral of a Second Edition volunteer. We asked that the library and shop volunteers & staff bring something from their yards. There were buckets of water in the workroom of the 2nd Edition to accommodate this. Sue did fabulous arrangements. Flower artistry was one of her many, many skills."

"Sue asked that the same be done for her. So the day before her service, floral & greenery donations were brought to the 2nd Edition by library staff and volunteers. That evening, 10 of us gathered at my house to arrange flowers. We did 28 arrangements, large and small, of mixed spring flowers. They were all taken to her Celebration of Life the next day. Many people brought vases of homegrown flowers to the Celebration. Sue would have loved that since she was such a great gardener herself."

"It was a very therapeutic experience to arrange these flowers for Sue. Sue was a bright light for all of us."

By Bill Hagerup, Community activist

I first met Sue in 1994 because of an exchange student from South Africa. Gillian stayed with our family for 3 months, then spent the next 3 months with the Congers. I'm glad we hosted her first, because living with the Congers would have been a hard act to follow! Sue invited my wife and I over to visit while Gillian was staying with her. She and her family filled that big, old, beautiful house off of Cornell with a warmth that is hard to describe: everyone eating, drinking, laughing, enjoying each other's company in a way that you knew was genuine and not just for show.

Although we had only met once or twice before, she made us feel like we were old friends who came over all the time. At the memorial service for Sue I heard the same story over and over: how Sue welcomed everyone around her into her extended family and made them feel at home.

Later, I served under Sue when she chaired two Parks Department advisory committees, first for Cedar Mill parks and trails, and later for the JQA Young house. There I saw a different side of this many-faceted person; more business-like and intent on accomplishing our goals, but still open, honest, warm, and never phony. I will truly miss Sue Conger.

By Virginia Bruce, Editor, Cedar Mill News

The very first time I got involved in local community activities, I met Sue Conger. I had agreed to serve on a Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD) committee to make recommendations about parks in this section of the district. Sue was the Chair of the



Sue's sketch of what the JQA Young House will look like after restoration

committee. Before long, she had connected me to Peter Leonard, the Director of the library, which resulted in the renovation of the library website and the creation of the Cedar Mill site (cedarmill.org). In addition, she told me about the Cedar Mill History book and sparked my interest in our pioneer past.

This was one of the themes of her life – connecting people to help make things happen. She believed in the synergy of groups and committees. She knew that people working together can improve things.

She helped start the Cedar Mill Community Library, and ensured its success by pitching in for tasks from serving on the Board of Directors to raising funds. She pulled a group of people together to design, fund and build a pedestrian pathway along Cornell Road. She saved our historical centerpiece, the John Quincy Adams Young (JQAY) house through her determination during the long years of negotiation with the church, which owned the property, to the sale to THPRD.

I was privileged to serve with her on the THPRD committee to determine the future of the JQAY house. In addition to her leadership, she brought her design skills to the project by helping to meticulously measure and document the house and then draw up floor plans and an accurate sketch of the building in its present state.

To help assure completion of the JQAY project, Sue asked that remembrances be sent to the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation for its restoration. To date, nearly \$1500 has come in! Donations can be sent to 15707 SW Walker Rd., Beaverton, OR 97006. Call Susan Bender-Phelps at 503-629-6300 for more information.

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The Nature of Cedar Mill

Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine

By Kyle Spinks, Biologist, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District

[Editor's note: Back in the May 2005 issue of the Cedar Mill News there was a story about The Old Lead Tree, a solitary ponderosa pine that local boys used for target practice. But what was a large ponderosa doing in the Willamette Valley? Now we know! www.cedarmill.org/news/archive/0505/lead-tree.html]

Oregonians are accustomed to seeing these tall, straight-trunked trees on the east side of the Cascades, so people are surprised to learn that the Willamette Valley has its own variety of ponderosas that do very well in the wetter climates of the valley.

Genetically, they are two distinct races and neither does well transplanted to the other's habitat. The field work for a native stand mapping project was completed in the fall of 2002. Over 950 stands were recorded throughout the Willamette Valley from Beaverton to Cottage Grove. Ponderosa pine bark smells of vanilla when scratched and the red-orange 'jigsaw-piece' plates of the bark of the mature trees are unmistakable. It's quite easy to differentiate the long, three-needle bundles of ponderosa pine from the shorter, paired needles of the lodgepole pine or the five-needle bundles of the western white pine or the sugar pine.

Ponderosas typically grow on drier sites, with shallow or no slope, and prefer lots of sun. They do well in moderately drained soils, but can survive in finer, silty soils. Individual trees can be seen towering above a forest, but usually these originally grew out in the open and the forest later grew up around them. They are often seen in oak savannas or woodlands and many of the same animals that prefer oaks will take advantage of the pines for habitat, food, and refuge. For example, western gray squirrels feed on the pine seeds and nest in the branches, and hawks and owls use the high crowns of the pines for nesting and perching points.

Botanical archeologists have identified pollen from our ponderosa pines several thousand years old and, based upon the pollen counts in soil core samples, have estimated the ponderosa populations peaked and held steady for about

7,000 years, until settlers from east of the Rockies moved into Oregon in the mid-1800's.

The Latin name 'ponderosa' means 'heavy (for the wood)', and indicates why ponderosas have been prized for timber from the earliest times of Oregon settlement. The grain is typically straight and free of defects in a healthy stand. The wood is durable and has natural decay resistance that makes it an excellent wood for construction and finish carpentry. In fact, these traits led to the decline of the valley's ponderosas over the last 150 years.

Today, the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association (westernforestry.org/wvppca/index.htm) actively promotes seed collection from trees and stands throughout the valley to provide native source seedlings for replanting. If you are looking for a tree that will achieve a grand height and add wonderful character to both your yard and your neighborhood, a Willamette Valley ponderosa pine is a fine choice.



A stand of Valley Ponderosa near Stayton, Oregon

[There is a link to a 2005 list of nurseries that carry seedlings on the web version of the News, cedarmill.org/news]

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Farmers' Market, continued from page 1

regular, occasional, or one-time basis. On Saturdays volunteers are needed anytime from set-up at 6am through the Market day, and for clean-up from 1-3 pm. Flexible market support tasks (phoning, running errands, etc.) for other days of the week abound to suit an individual volunteer's schedule. Just call Dina at 503-913-7733 to get started! She says, "I don't think we'd continue to make the big commitment to the Market if it weren't for our all-time favorite and chief volunteer, Ursula Davis. She makes it fun for us to be there each and every Saturday, and fun for the volunteers whenever they can make it. With her consistent help and smiling face, we're happy to keep things going and helpers are happy to show up and pitch in."

Every week, there are teenage volunteers who create balloon animals and paint the faces of young market-goers. Working at the Market



Lone Elder Farms offers an array of lettuce, along with many other locally grown veggies

is a great way for students to give something back to their community (and earn school community-service credit if they need it!) while having fun at a local community event.

2006 vendors

This year the Market will include long-time produce favorites Lone Elder Farms, Bairds Family Orchards, and Townsend's berries, as well as favorite local artisans such as La Provence french linens and bakery items, QuondaBoards, and GD MetalWerks. We'll again see our favorite Olive Lady, Vanessa's Garden, as well as Sweet Ole Larry's Kettle Corn, Graphik Dimensions fused glass art, and Ann's Fun-to-Wear jewelry.

New vendors include Storybook Hill Farm and Nursery with perennials, succulents, shrubs, small trees, and plants & flowers in baskets and pots. "The Brothers W" offer their grilled sausages and other specialty brunch and lunch fare.

The movement toward sustainably-grown food is making Farmers' Markets more popular every year. Two of Cedar Mill's new vendors represent this trend. Northwest Heritage Pork provides sausage and bacon from pigs raised on local farms – mmm, smell those samples grilling! Check out their website at www.nwpork.com

Sierra Alta Specialty Coffees provide coffee beans locally roasted and organically grown in the Jalisco region of Mexico. Owner Mike Watson turns all profits back to the farmers. The coffee is delicious, quite affordable, and makes you feel good.

The Cedar Mill Farmers' Market is a member of the Oregon Farmers' Market Association (OFMA) which provides support and networking through an annual conference and an email list for communication between market managers. OFMA also helps Markets maintain connections with Oregon's Department of Human Services to help administer the Farm Direct Nutrition Programs for WIC and Seniors. Through these programs, produce farmers accept Farm Direct checks so that nutritionally-needy



One of the "Brothers W" prepares a sausage for a hungry Market visitor

Senior and Women-Infant-Children clients have direct access to wholesome locally-grown produce. WIC clients wishing to find out more about the program should call the Department of Human Services Farmers' Market contact at their Portland Office -- 971-673-0056. For senior eligibility and check distribution questions, the number is 1-866-299-3562.

In addition to the vendors, community groups find the Market a great place to spread the word on their activities including Rock Creek Watershed Partners, scouts, Metro's "Drive Less - Save More" Campaign, and the Re-Direct Guide to sustainable living. OSU Extension's Master Gardeners are on hand with information and the bike safety folks will be on hand to check out your bicycle.

More information about the Market can be found on their website cmfmarket.org



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