

# ~NOTICES ~

**Fire Volunteers** meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall for equipment maintenance and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for training.

Fire Commissioners meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Taylor's church

Lyle School Board meets the next to last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

#### E-mail Addresses

If you are a resident of Fire District #14 and receiving the *High Prairian* and you have an e-mail address we would be pleased that you share it with us. You will receive community notices. Your e-mail address will not be used for commercial purposes. Contact Douglas Taylor (highprairie@gorge.net) or Lozetta Doll (tomloz@gorge.net). Thanks.

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 23

"If you don't know where you're going, you may find yourself somewhere else when you get there!" So spoke the old philosopher as he addressed the need for planning. High Prairie is on the move! It's an exciting place, with lots of new development happening. All of which has led some folks to ask: "Do we know where we're going?" Other Klickitat County communities have developed a "Comprehensive Plan" for their growth. Should we do the same?

Our High Prairie Community Council meeting in August will be devoted in its entirety to this question. Curt Dreyer of the Klickitat County Planning Commission will be with us that night to help us understand what a "Comprehensive Growth Plan" is, and how to develop one if that is what we should choose. This will be a single agenda "special meeting". All committee reports and other items will be submitted in writing for distribution, and if urgent agenda items need action, your Executive Committee will make interim decisions and report them for official endorsement at the September meeting.

Myrin Bentz, President High Prairie Community Council

#### THANK YOU!

Skyline Hospital's Emergency Medical Service Levy won strong support from area voters with a 74.84% approval rating. This high approval rate is the highest reported of any hospital measure in Washington Hospital district memory. "I was really pleased," said Mike Madden, administrator of Skyline Hospital. "We hadn't seen that strong of an approval rate before, and we're thrilled. It validates some of



the other things we're trying to do and the direction that the hospital is going. We feel pretty good about it." With the six-year levy's approval, Madden said the hospital would be able to keep two emergency medical crews on duty at all times. "We're going to look at more involvement with the outlying first responder units."

Skyline hospital will also be able to continue rotating ambulances into the hospital's three ambulance fleet at a rate of a new ambulance every two years. The Skyline Hospital Board of Commissioners would like to express a huge thank you to the voters! This level of support validates our efforts and demonstrates the acceptance of all the good things that have been accomplished recently.

#### HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Audrey Bentz

Have you seen the new directory? Thanks to the great work of Ondine Moore and Cindy Henchell, it is so well done. What fun to look at names and see all the interesting hobbies and talents of friends, or to find addresses for people for whom we were not certain of their location, or a quick phone number or email address when we needed to contact someone. Thank you Ondine and Cindy!

But, we are lacking many High Prairie neighbors. They will be putting out an updated directory in the future. So if you wish to be in it, or wish to correct or update your present information, be sure to contact Ondine at krebacious@earthlink.net or 509-281-0444. If you did not receive a copy, check with her or Myrin/Audrey Bentz, and we will get you one.



#### The High Prairian

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The High Prairian can also be viewed on the High Prairie web site: http://www.highprairie.us

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

#### Link to very interesting web site

I don't know if you've seen this site, but, from crotalus (buzz worms), to cougars, to coyotes and many other critter neighbors; but it is an excellent source on their natures, as well as great tips on coexisting with them. I found it of great interest & information. I thought it would be of interest to you, and maybe worth a link to it in the *High Prairian*. It's also specific to WA as it is a WDF&W publication.

http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/index.htm Jack Bruckner, High Prairie

Just a quick note to let you know I really enjoy reading your news publication... Knowing how much time and effort this takes for everyone involved— I wanted to say "Thank you!" for taking that time.

Information and fun what a combination. :) Dianne Howard, Lyle

Your paper is getting better with each issue! I'm impressed.

Robert Layton, Ashford, CT

## GARBAGE CONTAINERS: SOMEBODY GOOFED

Doug Taylor

Allied Waste, who supplied the containers for our annual community cleanup, informed us that they found several illegal items in the container at the water fill-up site on Struck Road: refrigerator, appliances, propane tank, and paint, among other items. If we are to use their services next year they request that we have both containers in one place, manned while containers are open and padlocked at night.

We have tried to use the honor system for dumping. We've notified people on the Dos and Don'ts of items that can be dumped. We do appreciate the majority that went to much trouble of sorting their garbage and then moving it to the front of the container so others could have room to place their garbage.

Still, some problem items slipped through. We just can't allow certain items to be placed in the containers, and most can be recycled free at the Dallesport dump site. We may try to have a private container for used metal and appliances next year.

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

Dona Taylor

Congratulations to Paul and Gladys Strait on their 70th wedding anniversary.

They were married June 20, 1937. At a coming celebration on June 24, 2007 in Newberg Oregon, Grandson Luke will wear Paul's wedding suit and granddaughter Melissa will wear Gladys' wedding dress.

Also Congratulations to Myrin and Audrey Bentz on their 50th wedding Anniversary. They were married June 2, 1957. Their children hosted a celebration party on June 2, 2007 at the Bentz' Morning Song retreat. In lieu of gifts/cards the couple suggested a small donation to the "Moringe Sokoine" girl's school in Tanzania. Such a gracious idea.



Graduating from Goldendale High School on June 8, 2007 was Kassandra Call. She is the daughter of Tom and Lori Call who live on Mott Road.

## **NEW E-MAIL ANYONE??**

Lozetta Doll

Doug Taylor and I have both spent some time lately updating our community e-mail lists so that we can keep community members informed of the latest announcements and happenings in the High Prairie area. If you have not been receiving e-mails from Doug or myself, you are probably not on our lists. If you are interested in receiving notices of local concerns, please contact Doug at highprairie@gorge.net or myself at tomloz@gorge.net. Likewise, if you have changed your e-mail address, we would appreciate your letting us know.

## HIGH PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB

Lozetta Doll

Any book lover is invited to join in on any upcoming meetings:

**June meeting** – Monday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ed and Linda Daughetee. The main book to be discussed is *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris.

**July meeting** – We haven't chosen a place yet for the July meeting, but the book for discussion in July is *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy.

August meeting – Monday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Doll's. The book chosen is *Dreams of the Kalahari* by Carolyn Slaughter.

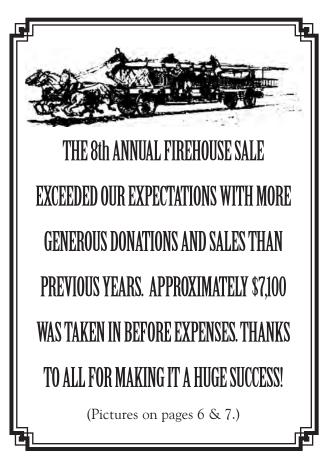
All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. For more information, call Lozetta Doll at 365-0010 or email her at tomloz@gorge.net.

Speaking of books, the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Bookmobile is now on its summer schedule which means that the bookmobile comes to the Fire District 14 Fire Hall every other Tuesday from 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The dates are as follows: June 19, July 3, July 17, July 31, August 14 and August 28. Anyone wishing a library card can sign up for one at the bookmobile.

## ROADSIDE CLEANUP A SUCCESS

Dona Taylor

The third annual High Prairie Roadside Cleanup, held on April 16–20, was again a huge success. With the experienced neighbors leading the cleanup, the project went extremely well. John Longfellow from the County supplied litter bags, flags, hats, vests and caution signs, and volunteers scoured local roads for litter and de bris. Some even went over the area a second time, making sure nothing would be left to detract from our scenic beauty. The volunteers also found it an excellent time to clean the cemetery grounds. Myrin Bentz generously provided a pickup and trailer for transportation of debris to the Dallesport transfer station.



# DANIEL SLATE GRADUATES from UNIVERSAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Ruth Slate

Sid and Ruth Slate traveled to Arizona in March for their son Daniel's graduation from Universal Technical Institute. Daniel attended the Institute to become a diesel and industrial technician. (It was a pretty easy course for him since he was raised working on his dad's semi and various kinds of farm equipment.) He graduated on March 9th with a 3.51 grade point average. While attending school he also worked full time at the TA Truck Stop in Tonopah, Arizona, to gain experience out in the field. He is currently working on becoming an ASE-certified Master Technician for diesel.

Daniel also met his girlfriend at the truck stop, where she was the assistant manager. She has a 3-year-old son that loves him dearly. Sid and Ruth moved all three back home with them when they came back from graduation.

Daniel is currently looking for a job close to home, and helping his dad and brother with cleaning and scraping. His specialty is diesel and farm equipment, but he also works on automobiles.

# HIGH PRAIRIE HISTORICAL MEETING

Doug Taylor

The Historical Society met on the afternoon of March 25, 2007 at Tom and Gail Amery's residence. A quorum of the executive officers gathered at 1:00. It was decided at this meeting that, due to lack of attendance and other commitments, the Society would be inactive until further notice.

The regular meeting of the Society was held at 2:00 with a special presentation by Fred Henchell on the Native Americans of Klickitat County. Fred talked about many aspects of the Native American lifestyle here. He spoke of digging camas root, fishing for salmon and drying everything, including berries, for winter use. He also mentioned their annual migratory habit of moving from the fishing grounds on the Columbia River to Mt. Adams country (a distance of fifty or sixty miles or more) for berries and to hunt wild game, like deer. As a retired Forest Service employee, Fred had firsthand knowledge of some of the Native American crafts. He also reviewed several interesting books about High Prairie and the surrounding area that may be available in local libraries.

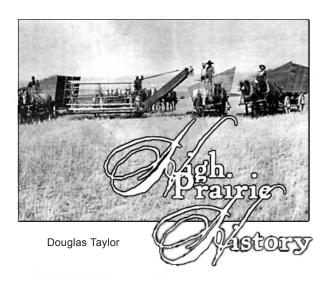
One of the things that I found interesting was about the stripping of cedar tree bark by the Indians. They would make a cut on the bark about head high and strip it down, then use it as a backpack for transporting their huckleberries. They only cut narrow strips so they did not kill the tree.

A very nice potluck after the general meeting was enjoyed by attendees. High Prairie cooks bring their favorite recipes and it's always an enjoyable occasion.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Dona Taylor

Flora Lee McGaughey of 44 Mott Road passed away April 29, 2007 at a Vancouver Hospital. She was 73. The McGaughey's came to High Prairie in 1999. Our sincere sympathy to her husband Charles and their children. She was laid to rest in our local cemetery.



## STONE FENCES

In 1919, when he was a boy of 14 years, my father came to the High Prairie area from Knab near Toledo, Washington. Over the years he related some of our local history to me. Consequently, I thought of him when I was reading a story in the book, Blue Light to Pucker Huddle, about the rock fences seen in the county. My dad told me he thought they were built by the sheep herders. I never questioned this, as I know many years ago there were many bands of sheep in the area. I assumed that they were not built especially to corral or control sheep as much as they were built more out of boredom. The shepherds would spend many hours each day just watching sheep eat their fill of native vegetation and protecting them from predators. Piling rocks would be something to squelch the boredom, as well as good exercise. I would doubt the idea that Indians built them, as the natives liked the wide open spaces and the walls were certainly not horsehigh or bull-strong.

Many of these stone fences can be seen today east of Horsethief Lake and then toward Wishram on the north side of the road. If you would like a different point of view of how the stone fences came into being, purchase the book *Blue Light to Pucker Huddle*. Many varied stories of Klickitat County and its citizenry are found in it. There's a poem of the Klickitat Hills and there's one of the Great Flood of 1964 that inundated a number of small communities including the roads to High Prairie. I found the book quite informative and full of interesting tales of our area in Klickitat County.

Although I've lived here a lifetime, I found much information that I was unaware of.

Blue Light to Pucker Huddle was written by various authors. Its stories are the work of a community effort, organized by the Friends of the Goldendale Community Library and a related writers' group. It can be purchased from Klint's book store in The Dalles or I believe the library in Goldendale.

#### POEM

Kylea Johnson and Jocelyn Weeks

In amongst the rocks and flowers
Lizard feet can dance for hours.
Practicing a light fandango
Brings his lady near to tango.
A favorite rock absorbs the sun
To warm their toes when day is done.



## RECUPERATING

Dona Taylor

Steven Johnson returned home today after spending a couple days in the Dalles hospital following an operation. Steve was a former commissioner/firefighter/first responder of Fire District #14. He says he is doing well.

Bud Jester received some injuries from a fall at his home. It is slowing him down but not stopping him.

Gladys Strait had a broken bone from a fall at home.

Several neighbors contacted the flu and it did a number on them for a while. Some were terribly sick and it seemed to last longer than usual.





## HIGH PRAIRIE HIGH JINKS

01

## You don't have to be smart to live in the country (but it sure helps)

Respectfully submitted by Ted McKercher

I think I'll see if this old tractor is salvageable or if I should haul it to the recyclers.

I bought this little ride-around garden tractor about thirty years ago. It was a bright red "Wheel Horse" that did a good job mowing, tilling and hauling. It always started and ran well even without the best maintenance. It sat outside for several years under an old pickup bed liner with a can over the exhaust pipe to keep the rain out. Then I shoved it into the corner of the shop a couple of years ago after closing out a storage facility.

Now, the gas that should have been drained is probably fifteen years old. The fuel system is surely

varnished. I think I'll try turning the engine over by hand. Voila! It's a little stiff but it turns. It hasn't seized! I'll pull the spark plug and put a little oil in the cylinder. The spark plug looks good. I'll give "Little Red" a shot of starting fluid. Engines like that stuff but it could be damaging if overdone.

I'll crank it with this jumper battery. Hey, it started and ran for a couple of seconds. I'm pumped! I think I'll

gamble and buy a few parts...a new battery and cables, new fuel lines and carburetor kit, fresh fuel and an a oil change to see if fifteen years of neglect can be overcome.

It starts and runs! WOW! Pump up the old weather-checked tires and test the clutch and transmission. Everything seems to function.

A test drive down the driveway is now in order. No seat, for that has long ago rotted away. So, I'll sit on this flat spot between the rear fenders. Down the driveway toward the mailbox we go. UMPH!? Everything just stopped so suddenly

that my ever-expanding mid-section kissed the steering wheel. Hmmm, the drive wheels turn, are the brakes stuck? That can't be right. I'll go get a jack and see if I can figure it out. Coming back with the jack, I see at a distance that the lever that normally retracts the mower has dug into the ground. A new cotter pin in the linkage fixes that.

Now to continue out to the mailbox. Second gear seems too slow. Try third with the transfer case in high and a wide-open throttle. Whoa! The clutch engaged so quickly and without the support of a seat I am suddenly lying on my back in the driveway with the tractor hustling away.



Now I'm on my feet running (shuffling?) after my freed "'Horse". Suddenly it makes a left turn and heads toward the white oak grove. I think I can cut it off but then it makes another left turn and comes back parallel with the driveway. That's okay, except now it is crossing through some that "wonderful of Prairie mud" High (don't we love it!) that sucks at my boots and slows me down (if that is possible). The little

red/rusty tractor seems to be headed toward a pile of its old implements. Oh, no! It plowed into one of my "treasured" old Ford Broncos (Myrtie calls it junk just because it doesn't run and has a couple of flat tires).

"Red" is still running and the wheels are spinning, as it is nose to nose with an immovable object. Not much damage. The air filter is crushed and the housing bent, but that's fixable. Maybe I'll haul out the mower, tiller and trailer and see what I can do to make them operable again and to continue this adventure. We'll see.

## **HEART ATTACK?**

Martha M. Hamil

Heart attacks are medical emergencies. Call 911 immediately if you have the symptoms. Most of us know that a crushing (not a sharp) pain in the chest and/or a pain that radiates from the center of the chest to the jaw, neck, or arms signifies a heart attack even if it only lasts for a few minutes. However, this pain occurs in only about half, the male half, of heart attack patients. Women and about 50% of very elderly people have no chest pain. Instead, women usually exhibit one or more of the following during a heart attack:

- Shortness of breath, particularly when waking up
- Weakness
- Unusual fatigue
- Cold, Clammy Sweats
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Feeling of heaviness between the breasts that may radiate to the left shoulder and/or arm

Men may also exhibit some of these symptoms together with the crushing chest pain. Moreover, in either sex, any symptoms that exertion makes worse demand investigation.

Could you walk out to the mailbox last week or last month easily? This week it's an effort. Don't delay calling your doctor; endurance loss often signifies an impending heart attack.

Interestingly, women often show the following symptoms within the month prior to the heart attack:

- Unusual Fatigue (70%)
- Sleep Disturbance (48%)
- Shortness of Breath (42%)
- Indigestion (39%)
- Anxiety or a Feeling of Doom (35%)

None of these symptoms should ever be ignored or put off until tomorrow or a more convenient hour or day. A better time may not exist if you do! We do want to keep our High Prairians.

This article resulted from a discussion during a Needlers' meeting and then 'Googling' heart attack symptoms on the internet. The website www.about. com will provide links to the "official" websites and the latest articles. Among those websites listed, many health-care professionals recommend www.mayoclinic. com. Doctors Larry Long and Kimberly Stutzman checked for any medical errors or omissions. Both contributed some excellent suggestions.

Good Health, and Remember that Laughter is a One of Best Medicines.

## FOUR GENERATIONS

Dona Taylor with Judi Strait

High Prairie is blessed with a rural beauty all its own. We also have many unique, talented and interesting residents, making it a special place to live, such as the four generation Strait family

First generation or matriarchs of the family is Paul and Gladys Strait at 1025 High Prairie Road. They came to the Prairie in 1998 and have 5 children, Paula, Glen, David, Donny (twins) and Louise. Paul a machinist designed a portable keyway cutter and founded Climax Manufacturing Co. in 1965. He made parts for one of our fire trucks, which were no longer available. Now retired, but not idle he works daily in his shop making wonderful wooden household items and 1st quality metal toys.

Gladys is a prize winning bread maker, crocheter, knitter, Bookkeeper for Climax Manufacturing Co. and home maker. On June 20th 2007 they will celebrate 70 years of marriage. Quite a fete.

Second generation is David and Judi Strait at 1227 Centerville Hwy. They have 5 children Gretchen, Jason, Peter, Luke and Jodi and came to live here from Newberg, OR in 1995. Presently they are building a new home. David was a missionary pilot for 13 years in South America. He now is a machine designer at Climax Portable Machine Tools. Judi is a grand champion baker, seamstress and master gardener-raising home grown herbs for her specialty breads and cooking use.

Third generation is Peter and Molly Strait at 26 Prairie Rose Lane. They have 5 children and came to live here in 1999. Peter works for Precision Estimating of "Vancouver, WA" Molly is a homemaker, seamstress and home schooler "mommy."

Fourth generation is Peter and Molly's five children Caleb, Addy, Annika, Katie and Elaine. Both Katie and Elaine were born at home on High Prairie. They all participated in Dec '06 at our historical church in "Christmas around the World" program-depicting the Christmas customs of Sweden.

Quite the multi-talented family and we are fortunate they are active members of our community.



## **BICKLETON MUSEUM DEDICATION**

Doug Taylor

Four Bickleton ladies—Barbara Clark, Jan Brown, Lynn Mains and Sandra Powers—went to state Senator Jim Honeyford of Sunnyside with a vision. The result was the Alder Creek Pioneer Carousel Museum, recently dedicated in early May. It took convincing a legislative committee to approve \$450,000 in state grants, then an impressive effort on the part of the community. The 5,500 square-foot octagonal building serves as a place to store and display century-old carousel horses and as the town's first museum to preserve Eastern Klickitat County history.

"Bickleton has a story to tell and this is a great place to showcase that," said Rick Palmer, Bickleton School superintendent, former principal of Lyle, and a former High Prairie resident. "The ladies did the design and the fellows did the construction, with over a 1,000 hours of volunteer work. Bickleton residents came together and accomplished this,





making it a community center to be very proud of."

The museum's story really began in 1929 when the community acquired a secondhand carousel, built approximately 20 years earlier. The carousel became the centerpiece for the Pioneer Day reunions. But every winter it had to be dismantled and put away to protect the carved wooden horses from the elements and from vandals. (I can hardly imagine vandals in the little quiet town of Bickleton.) Now it has a permanent home.

Approximately two hundred people enjoyed the dedication program, representing almost the entire population of Bickleton and guests from surrounding areas, including High Prairie. The school band played, with music teacher Mary Orcutt of High Prairie directing, and politicians congratulated the citizens for a job well done. All enjoyed a celebration and ribbon-cutting for their newly completed museum. The museum will be open to the public Thursdays through Sundays until Sept. 30.

In other notes, Bickleton also boasts the fabled Bluebird Inn, reportedly the oldest continuously operating tavern in Washington, dating to the early 1880s. We enjoyed a great lunch and excellent service there.

And, traveling as guests of Cal and Sharon Edwards, my wife and I were treated to views of the many windmill farms near Bickleton. We also toured the workings of the Allied garbage disposal and the county methane electrical plant at the site. If you're interested, tours can be scheduled and a bus holding ten passengers can be provided by calling:

Allied Regional Landfill

500 Roosevelt Grade Road, Roosevelt, WA

Phone: (509)384-5641 or (800)275-5641

Hours: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

## HIGH PRAIRIE PLANS FOR FIRE HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Amanda Remington, MCEDD

Klickitat County has received a \$389,000 Community Development Block Grant from the Washington Department of Community Trade and Economic Development to build a fire hall and community center in High Prairie. The 6,000 square foot building will house fire and emergency vehicles and will include a training/meeting room, kitchen area, and restrooms with showers. It will be located at 701 Struck Road.

#### Funds for the Building

The property for the building was made possible through a generous donation by Myrin and Audrey Bentz. To date, numerous volunteer hours have been logged by community members, the High Prairie Community Council, and the Fire District. To carry through the project, though, hard dollars are also necessary. Funds for this project are largely committed by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development through the Washington Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The recipient of these grant funds, which total \$389,000, is Klickitat County. Klickitat County has developed an agreement with the sub recipient, Fire District #14. The Fire District in turn is working with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) to provide grant administration and management for the project. Finally, the construction pieces of the project are overseen with the assistance of an implementation committee consisting of fire district and community council representatives. Ira Martin, Rick Carlson, Fred Henchell, Tom Doll, Doug Hutchison, and Mike Chabbert

make up the implementation committee whose meetings are coordinated by Amanda Remington with MCEDD.

#### **Project Requirements**

Community Development Block Grant funds are federal dollars. As such, there are requirements that this project must meet in order to keep grant funds. A few of the important ones are:

- 1. Preparing an environmental review record to determine potential effects the project may have on the environment. The environmental review process has been completed for the project!
- 2. Soliciting competitive bids through a sealed bid process for a general contractor. We must take affirmative steps to attract minority, women, and local bidders. Currently, the implementation team is working on finalizing the building plan and bid documents.
- 3. Ensuring that prevailing wages are paid to employees by all contractors and subcontractors.

#### **Estimated Project Timeline:**

Now the real question: when will this be built? The state helped develop a timeline for the project which estimates that the fire hall and community center will be ready by the end of the year. The next step in the process is completing bid documents which we hope to have done this month (June 2007).

Watch as the project unfolds and look forward to a new building on Struck Road. It will provide a facility for High Prairie community members, a place to hold meetings and plan community projects, and a new home for emergency services and Fire District equipment and vehicles.



# REMEMBER: THE BURN BAN IS IN EFFECT

Have a safe & delightful summer!



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## **MALE BONDING**

Tom Doll

Rods and reels, lines and tackle, Boats, motors and tents, All matters in hand, competitors we are.

The proud bass man and the old salt from Cortez, The whiff of the worm man and the flasher chasing salmon, The troller, the bobber, and the compleat angler.

The search begins for the elusive crappie, An unlikely fish for the masters of their art Who contrive their own method To outdo their opponents' chart.

Up and down the darkening waves, Drifters and trollers are checking all bays, Bobbers, casters and baiters setting their hooks As one should do whenever there is a duel.

The performance was magnificent Each held his own during the days of hue Bonded together in the pursuit of the helpless prey In the canyon waters so blue.

