

## The Sky's The Limit!

Steve Brigham, Editor

First off, I just want to say that I've helped with a heck of a lot of fundraisers in my life, but our May Ducky Races are the most fun I've ever had! Such an experienced army of volunteers, all extremely well-cast, well-experienced, and doing their jobs like the pros that they are, year after year! Thrills and spills in this year's races, to be sure, with a very challenging racecourse that had some duckies race ahead at the start, only to be foiled by the myriad of random eddies that lay in their eventual path. Congratulations to all the winners, including our Raffle winners, topped by Donna Traycik, who was the lucky winner of the priceless hand-made queen-size quilt (see photo at right).

But now, on to the future. In Westport, California, we've definitely got a great abundance of Land, Sea, and Sky. So much so, that sometimes it's hard to decide which to focus on! But both recently and soon, the Sky is the one making news. Did you see that great annular solar eclipse on the evening of May 20<sup>th</sup>? Even though it was filtered by some light clouds here on the coast (so no Bailey's Beads for us), it was great viewing (especially since it came around cocktail hour!). Took me back, it did, to the last great sunset annular eclipse on the Pacific Coast, which I viewed from the Beach at Del Mar, CA 18 years ago.

Now, there's another eclipse about to happen, and that is the partial lunar eclipse that you'll see if the skies are clear in the very early morning of June 4<sup>th</sup>. Just a little after 4AM, the eclipse will be at its peak, just when the moon is the fullest. It's worth waking up early for, if you've got a clear view of a clear western sky! And just 35 hours later, there's more!

So many of our great celestial events happen so very rarely (at least from our perspective). We've got a



great one for you coming up on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – one that you'd have to live until the year 2117 to see again! Starting at 3:06PM on that day, our precious “sister planet” Venus will (again, from our perspective) “transit” across our sun – a 7-hour process that happens in pairs 8 years apart, but only once a century (this is the second in the 2004-2012 pairing).

We're all used to seeing Venus as “the brightest star in the sky” – but that's at night, and so you may be surprised to see it as a tiny dot in front of the sun when you view the transit, which is probably best followed on the Internet. If you want to view this event in person, you'll need solar-rated mylar at least, so do some research on proper eye protection. Don't ever try to look directly at the sun, even if you're wearing sunglasses, for permanent eye damage can result.

On June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:09PM, we will mark the Summer Solstice, when the Sun (from our perspective) traces its northernmost arc in our sky and our day is the longest of the year. This begins our 6-month countdown to 12/21/2012, the Solstice that some people think will herald the End Of The World! In December, will we be partying like it's 1999? There'll be lots more on this in upcoming issues of the *Westport Wave*, so stay tuned!

## Westport Village Society News

Thad Van Bueren

Westport-Union Landing State Beach is still slated for closure on June 30<sup>th</sup> despite a rumor that it might be taken off the closure list. The Cahto Tribe submitted an agreement to operate W-UL, and their proposal is now in the process of review in Sacramento. The Westport Village Society decided at its meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to support the Cahto Tribe's proposal and offer to help apply for a grant from the California State Parks Foundation if the tribe wants assistance. Cahto Environmental Director Sonny Elliott has indicated this matter is under consideration by the tribe and they will get back to WVS. The deadline for the second round of grants has been extended to June 8. First round grant awards averaged \$25k.

The WVS has launched its web site and you may want to visit regularly as the content grows. The address is <http://www.westportvillagesociety.org/>. It includes past newsletters, happenings, local history, and how to join WVS and get involved with our activities. In other news, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Rubber Ducky Race on May 13<sup>th</sup> was a great success, and we thank the many community volunteers who helped us stage this event!! The proceeds are still being tallied, but appear comparable to recent years. Proceeds are used to support the management of the headlands. We would also like to thank Buster Dwyer of Fort Bragg for mowing the Headlands event area in May with his big tractor.

### Water District News

The Westport County Water District Board of Directors will conduct a meeting on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at the Westport Firehouse to discuss a proposed rate increase. As stated in a May letter to our customers, this proposed increase would establish a new rate of \$166/month for residential water and sewer service, and \$262/month for commercial water and sewer service. All interested are invited to attend.

It has been over 5 years since Water District rates have been increased, and rising costs have made this one finally essential to our continued operation. In preparing our current budget, we have cut costs as much as is prudently possible without sacrificing the quality and reliability of our service, and so this proposed increase of 27% is less than the 45%

increase of 5 years ago. We now have a very efficient and dependable water and sewage system – much better than Westport has ever had before. We will continue to be both cost-conscious and prudent, as we continue to give our customers the safe, efficient, and reliable service that they deserve.

In May, we completed the annual mowing at our water treatment plant, which allows us to safely and efficiently distribute treated water onto our absorption fields during the summer. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Buster Dwyer, who accomplished this big task at a very low cost and in record time.

### Oddz 'N Endz

Donna Brigham

Greetings from the Westport Recycle and Transfer Station! With spring in the air, we find ourselves venturing out into our yards and garages, and finding, much to our dismay, mountains of garbage and recycling just waiting for a strong back and a sunny day. Never fear – we're open every Thursday (10AM-2PM), Friday (10AM-2PM), and Saturday (10AM-4PM) – soon, your mountains can become molehills, or even sinkholes if you're especially industrious!

One quick note on recycling protocol, and that is that you must remove all plastic caps from your redemption plastic beverage containers. The plastic caps themselves can be recycled with your other non-redemption plastic, so please separate them before you come in. You'll get a gold star if you do! Perhaps you've noticed our brand new fish flags this year. Special thanks to Jim Generaux for the many hours he spent constructing our flag pole and for providing the rainbow koi and brilliant goldfish windsocks. When you see these flags a-flyin', you'll know we're open!

### The Time Traveler

Thad Van Bueren

I have always been curious about the white picket fence on a distant hilltop east of Highway 1 and north of Abalobadiah Creek. It marks the old Newport Cemetery, and on May 23 I got the chance to go there with the permission of landowner Will Jackson. Bill Knapp and Evan Tornell hiked in with me to examine the graveyard that is variously known as Knob Hill, Kibesillah, Belobeda, and Newport Cemetery.



View south from center of Newport Cemetery with Bill Knapp and Evan Tornell in the McRae plot at left.

I knew something about the cemetery from old sketch maps and lists of burials shared by Nedra Lancaster. Some additional burials are suggested by additional research. Armed with those records, we hiked up the hill to have a look. It was a nice sunny day and the view from the cemetery is breathtaking. This was place of final repose for many early pioneer settlers of the local area. It was chosen for the symbolic significance of the location. Like the Westport Cemetery, this graveyard has a view west toward the Pacific Ocean. Unlike Westport, it also lies on elevated ground. All the graves are oriented with heads toward the west, where the setting sun is associated with departure. Burials took place here between 1872 and 1950. Forty-two burials are known, but some were later relocated to the Rose Memorial Cemetery in Fort Bragg.

The earliest burial was that of Enoch Judson Whipple, the last manager of the Mendocino Reservation. He was stationed at the Ten Mile Outpost when the facility closed in 1866. He had a liaison with a Yuki woman from Leggett at the time, according to the diary of Jeremiah Standley who visited Whipple at the Ten Mile Outpost that year. Whipple bought lands north of the Ten Mile and was associated with early development of the area. He died of tuberculosis in 1872, but was later moved to Rose Memorial Cemetery. The last known burial at Newport Cemetery is that of Thomas Dashiell in 1950.

The symbolism and sentiments expressed on some grave monuments has always interested me. The ones at Newport Cemetery include lambs on many of the

headstones for children, one with a weeping willow, and another with a Masonic theme depicting a bricked archway. The headstone of Frank Moss is a good example. He died as an infant at 17 months on September 10, 1879. The headstone depicts both the lamb and a sentiment cut in script at the bottom. Child mortality rates in the early period of settlement were much higher than today, and many are represented here. Ten of the 28 graves with monuments were children under 10 years of age.



The marble headstone of Frank Moss.

The cemetery has a total of 28 stone headstones that are mostly made of marble, but also including two made of dark gray granite for Farquhar R. and Mary J. McRae. I was surprised to find there is no perimeter picket fence, but instead six separately fenced family grave plots. You can inspect inventories of people buried in local cemeteries including this one on the History page of the new WVS web site. Some plots include heritage roses, mock oranges, and periwinkle. Some fences and monuments have collapsed and the barbed wire perimeter fence used to keep livestock out is also in disrepair. Newport cemetery is located in a rectangular easement managed by the Westport-Ten Mile Cemetery District, a County agency.

On an entirely different subject, Lee Tepper and Dorine Real recently confronted three people who were engaged in looting the Headlands Park in Westport with the aid of metal detectors. The ringleader identified himself as Jeremy James of Fort Bragg. They were able to persuade him to desist. But perhaps you wonder why? The first reason is that archaeological resources provide a unique and nonrenewable source of information about aspects of the past that were not written down. They are a valuable community resource that can only be “read” with careful scientific study. Once disturbed, those stories are permanently lost.

Second, it is a misdemeanor under Penal Code 622.5 to destroy archaeological and historical remains both on public and private property. Other state laws apply on lands managed or held in trust for state agencies like our Headlands (held in trust for the Coastal Conservancy). It takes caring members of the community to protect our local resources. Thanks Lee and Dorine for your action!

### June At the Westport Hotel and Old Abalone Pub

Have you tried our new early summer menu? Spicy crab cakes are back as a dinner choice. On the dessert menu, we have Daniel’s choice of the best seasonal fruit, presented as a pie, crisp, or cobbler. At this time of year, the sun shines almost until closing, so you can dine on the deck and watch the sunset while having dessert. Sean Hathorne continues to play his flamenco guitar in the Pub most Fridays (except First Fridays – he plays on Saturdays those weekends).

On Father’s Day, June 17<sup>th</sup>, bring Dad to the Ugly Tie Brunch! He will receive a mimosa and a truly ugly tie, absolutely free. That evening at 7PM, our Story Hour will honor fathers and grandfathers. Come just to listen, or bring a story to read or tell. If there’s time, we may do a dramatization of one of the classic stories featuring a bridge (hint: it is about three animals, and they aren’t bears).

The Bridge Art Show will continue on display all month at The Westport Hotel. This has been a very successful show, with several photos of the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, photos and paintings of both the old and the new Ten Mile Bridge, and portraits of many other local bridges. The second reception for the Bridge Show will be on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30PM to 8:00PM – even if you attended the opening reception, come back to see some additions to the show, or just to sip wine and nibble hors d’oeuvres.

The week of the Fourth of July, we will be serving barbecue every evening, at the Pub or as a picnic. We expect to have other expansions of our regular hours, so stay alert for the OPEN sign! You can always call us at 964-3688 if you have any questions.

### June 2012 Westport Calendar

- June 4<sup>th</sup>** – Full “Strawberry” Moon and Partial Lunar Eclipse, 4:12AM
- June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Election Day
- June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Venus transit of the sun, 3:09PM to Sunset
- June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Westport MAC meeting, 7:00PM at the Westport Community Church
- June 14<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9- 9:30AM
- June 17<sup>th</sup>** – Father’s Day Brunch, Westport Hotel
- June 17<sup>th</sup>** – Story Night at the Westport Hotel, 7PM
- June 19<sup>th</sup>** – New Moon, 8:02AM
- June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Summer Solstice, 4:09PM
- June 28<sup>th</sup>** – Bookmobile, Westport Store, 9-9:30AM
- June 30<sup>th</sup>** – BRIDGE SHOW Art Show Reception, 5:30PM to 8:00 PM at the Westport Hotel
- June 30<sup>th</sup>** – Westport County Water District meeting, 7:00PM at the Westport Firehouse

Send items for the next newsletter to Steve Brigham at westportwave@aol.com. You can also subscribe by email to get the full color edition at wvs@westportvillagesociety.org. Please consider joining WVS to support our activities.