

Life and Times “Miniature Masterpiece” Notecards

American Watercolor Society 2012 Gold Medal of Honor

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VISUAL PLEASURE FOR GENERATIONS

Oysterville Giants and Daffodils

March – The Life and Times of the Long Beach Peninsula

After the winter months, March and all its color is a welcome change. On the Peninsula the sights and smells fill my senses and I hunger for color. With the winter rains to nourish the multitude of plant life, the happy colors of daffodils and the gentle softness of cherry blossoms demand my attention. The question is, of these two subjects how to select the images to paint?

Oysterville Giants and Daffodils is a wonderful contrast in size and color. Usually the Oysterville Church catches my eye, however, this time the blooming daffodils by the ancient cypress trees offered a different perspective with the church framed in the background. This charming scene was a pleasure to paint. Just one of the many unique treasures on the Peninsula.

Loyalty Days

May – The Life and Times of the Long Beach Peninsula

May is full of events, starting May 1st with Loyalty Days in Long Beach, WA. To share some background, Loyalty Days is the longest consecutively running Loyalty Celebration in the Nation. Although made an official holiday in 1959, Loyalty Days here started in 1950. Very few communities celebrate this holiday because many are not aware of it. This is an honored tradition of celebrating our loyalty to our country and those that protect our freedoms.

There are two parades for Loyalty Days; the first is for the children right before Blessing the Fleet on Saturday. The big parade is on Sunday. Each year the parade adds more participants. These parades are great fun but the vibrant colors always catch my eye.

Loyalty Days was enjoyable to paint as it was watching. These parades are homespun and many neighbors participate with special floats, the local school with their marching band, and classic cars, always a favorite. The clowns with their colorful balloons are a magnet for the children. This special weekend draws folks far and wide to celebrate together.

Beard's Hollow

June – The Life and Times of the Long Beach Peninsula-New

June starts the season of Festivals and Saturday Market at the Port of Ilwaco, but June is also a time of strolling on the beach. Winter is past and the beach is quiet once again for the summer season.

Beard's Hollow is not far from where I live. Its monolithic rocks thrust from the sand to create an unusual cathedral-like presence on an otherwise flat, sandy beach. The gulls screeches muffled by the crashing waves bounce off the cliffs.

Peninsula Rodeo, Roping Cowboy

July – The Life and Times of the Long Beach Peninsula

As with June, there are many activities and sites special to July such as Sandsation, the creation of sculpture in sand, but the Peninsula Rodeo at the end of July gave an opportunity to show another side to our Peninsula not normally associated with a beach community. Folks come from far and wide with their horses to share stories and a common love of the sport.

In this watercolor, *Peninsula Rodeo, Roping Cowboy*, painting the action of both the rider and horse in contrast to the wide strokes of the background was enjoyable. Painting images that are a step away from one's comfort zone is not only refreshing but exhilarating.

Kite Feast

August – The Life and Times of the Long Beach Peninsula

August is full of activity on the Peninsula from catching the big one off the Long Beach coast to music to your ears, celebrating blues and jazz. It is all about the five senses in August and to top off the month is Kite Festival. This event is so visually rich; I choose this image I thought depicted the experience.

Kite Feast captures the color filling the sky and the festivities kite enthusiasts enjoy beneath them. Vendors from all around the northwest come to sell their wares. Local restaurants and eateries give the crowds a wide range of samplings and of course there are kites for sale. The Kite Festival is one of Long Beach Peninsula's largest events.

Slow Drag-On Your Mark

September – The Life and Times of the Long Beach Peninsula

One of the favorite attractions is the Ilwaco Port Slow Drag. The competition requires the driver to get a running start and then coast in neutral approximately a 10th of a mile. The winner is the rod that crosses the finish line with their rear tires remaining as close to the finish line as possible without touching it. No brakes or accelerator can be used. Needless to say some creative antics are applied to beat the competing car. About 70 cars enter this race with each getting two chances before elimination.

I selected this image, *Slow Drag (On Your Mark)*, as it represents the many and strange combinations entering this unique race. The crowds cheer, the drivers tense and they are off! Then I watched these two fierce competitors crawl to the finish line. Only one of them made it. Notice that *Overexposed Grills* is competing with the Long Beach Dunes Fire Truck. This Fire Truck is used for our 4th of July fireworks, driving up and down the beach on patrol.