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## The Lure of Water



I've just returned from a trip down the Oregon coast. With digital camera and plenty of floppies, my husband and I set out on a leisurely journey of discovery along the back roads of the central Oregon coast. We had learned that Oregon has several covered bridges (some of which we have already researched). From Yachats, Oregon, we followed the Yachats River upstream until we came to an old red painted covered bridge. After thoroughly photographing the bridge, we photographed the tumbling river and the moss hung trees along it's banks. Returning to the coast, we drove up to Newport and took the highway inland toward Corvallis, along the Yaquina River. At a bend in the road we discovered the Chitwood covered bridge, also painted red. (Look for these paintings in the Americana series in the near future.) Moving on, we found a park called Silver Creek with ten separate waterfalls in the course of seven miles along the creek. Each one is different and beautiful in it's own right. They can be easily accessed and observed. Three of them have trails that lead behind under the waterfalls, for an almost mystical experience. This place is now on my list of favorite spots to return to again and again. To find out more on Silver Creek Park, go to [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org)

Next Issue: Small Towns, Big Cities

Did you ever splash in a puddle? Why? Have you watched raindrops trickle down the window pane? Fascinating? From ponds and lakes to the cascading waterfalls roaring into rivers that chase to the sea, water is alluring to the human creature.

**“We build conveyances to ride upon this silvery undulating, elusive element.”**

Scientifically speaking, we are composed almost entirely of water. Could that be why we are drawn to water in all its forms? Whether for commerce or for pleasure, water has to be conquered. We build conveyances to ride upon this undulating, elusive element. We erect bridges to span it, cast cables to cross it, and carve trails through the wilderness to observe it. Water is cooling and soothing. A swimming pool on a warm day is a delightful way to cool off, to calm down. A large glass of cold, pure water quenches thirst like nothing else can. Consider, too, the tinkle of ice cubes against the glass. In its frozen form, water can be an entertainment. Try ice skating, snowshoeing, skiing, snowmobiling and more. Picture the fleeting beauty of frost on the window or twigs wrapped in a coat of brilliant white.

Then there is the ocean. For hundreds and hundreds of miles the sea rolls toward shore, seemingly in an endless longing to be where man is. It never stops, it never rests. It crashes its waves, small or mighty against rocks and beaches, headlands and lowlands. It wiggles its way into

bays and harbors with a daily ebb and flow.

**“Capturing its liquidity, its movement, its depth and mystery has been my challenge”**

Water reflects. It reflects sky and clouds; trees and masts. It shimmers back to you the tallest of skyscrapers and the tiniest blade of grass. Thus water becomes a subject to be subdued by the artist. Capturing its liquidity, its movement, its depth and mystery has been my challenge for a quarter of a century. One of my first paintings was a river in Wisconsin. Then there were lakes, then waterfalls, now the ocean. I believe I have been able to recreate on canvas and paper all those above mentioned qualities. The colors, mood and atmosphere surrounding the sea are merely props on the stage to enhance the role of the mighty ocean as I paint. I will always be in awe of the sea. I will always thrill at the quiet beauty of a mountain lake. I will paint water; from raindrops to fathomless depth. This is the lure of water to me.

*Carol Thompson*

## Featured Artwork

**Meadow Stream (pastel)**



"You've hiked all morning in a beautiful wild area. The sun climbs high and you are ready for a break. Suddenly, before you, is a 'meadow stream'; cool, refreshing, and beckoning you to rest."

**Mud Bay (Gouache)**



"One of many bays near Olympia, Washington, U. S. A., 'Mud Bay' is exceptionally picturesque. Whether the tidal effect is high water or muddy flat land, you will always see the beauty of unspoiled scenery."

**Haystack (oil)**



"The early morning fog is reluctantly fading, as morning strollers walk the cool, reflective tide line. Will a sharp eye catch the gleam of color? Will someone claim a rare treasure washed ashore at Haystack Rock on the Oregon Coast?"