



The Scandalous Scallion

BY MEGAN LEE

Someone said that the **Rummage Sale** is like the Market's Community Water Cooler. It is, sort of. Market folk congregate at this ever-changing site under the guise of *rooting for unknown treasures*: Tools, jewelry, clothes, knickknacks, yoo-hoos, archaic books, bric-a-brac, postcards and memories To chew the fat. If you listen, you'll hear, "Guess what *I* saw at the Rummage. It's our **box of chocolates**. While browsing you never know whom you will see, what you will find or what you may hear. Folk like **Kenneth Morgan**, a frequent seller, can spin many a story—as can the shoppers, its repository for "**the strangest find ever**."

The spot, in the **Sanitary Market** (named as such because in the olden days no animals were allowed) next to **Kitchen Basics** and across from the **Emerald Kettle**, is rumored to be the **oldest continuously operating rummage hall in Seattle**. On any given day one can literally find just about anything, it is difficult to resist sneaking a peak, especially during this slower **LOCALS**-time of the year: January through March. This lethargic winter season in the Market, when many farmers are gone, **others head subterranean** and the rest of us are conjuring up ways to go on vacation. We wearily welcome 2006, with the usual trepidations, predictions and hopeful excitements, but **it's worth taking a quite minute to reflecting on the Jive of '05**—the Market's **98th** year of continuous operation—there was good bad and grey.

The Market community continued unusual-usuality, the **standard 'truth than fiction'** existence:

The seemingly sacrilegious smoking cessation situation ban inflicted more social impositions than predicted. One

anonymous Market worker was spotted smoking a joint in a nook in the Main Arcade and when casually asked what's up he said, **hey I think the penalty for smoking this is less than for smoking cigarettes**" Others could be spotted rushing around and measuring 25-feet their way. (The Sinatra song would be apropos here.)

The institution of **Patty Summers' Cabaret**, in the Corner Market, lamentably came to an end. Opened in **1984**, this surprisingly large hole-in-the-wall showed everything from

Patty Summer's trademark Jazz and Blues, especially her strong singing to Opera to Punk Rock. It was a locals' hangout. Her and **husband/musician Gary Steel** kept the place going for **over two decades**, (a lot changed during that time) through all the **trials and tribulations**, Summers would be up on stage singing and during intermissions pop into the kitchen to make pizzas or bring around drinks. She made a CD about 9/11. Still a legend, **it won't be the same sans Summers**. We want to know more about **this book she talked about working on!**

Artist **Nick Elazar**, in the **DownUnder** outside **Golden Age Collectables**, was propositioned with an interesting proposal. A couple came by and the man wanted to have the woman painted **NAKED** (sort of like Jack in "Titanic"). Startled at first, Elazar said, "**OK, we'll do this somewhere else and it will cost you \$400**." They haven't returned, yet. Masked within the droves of holiday shoppers a few celebrities were spotted: New semi-Seattleite **Trey Parker** ("South Park," "Orgasmo") was spotted. So was (believe it or not) **Kathy Casey**. And so on..

The lighting of holiday decor added spectacle and glitter, illuminating the season and the darkness, no matter how apathetic it hard not to get wee bit choked up. It began with the

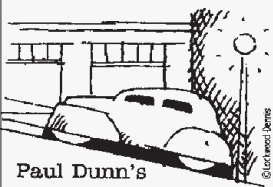
SCALLION continued page 11



A WINTER STORY

BEST GRAPHS

The Market News enters the New Year with a new editor whose new ideas call for "theme" issues each month. This month's theme is "Market Bests and Favorites". Let's give this theme concept a solid chance. It might lead to a month when the theme is



Post Alley Passages

What follows are paragraphs about recent columns not written. For many reasons, some ideas merit comment, but don't have the weight to carry a full column. Newspapers, magazines, and television handle this "too small to stand alone" status in different ways. In newspaper tradition three dot paragraphs were used to print the tidbits, thus the title "Paragrapher" for a columnist of short items. Magazines use small items as fillers at the bottom of columns, like the New Yorker's famous newsbreaks or the Harper's Index. On television the practice goes to countdowns of small stuff, or lists under splashy graphics titled: "Outrages of the Week" or "He Said What?" Internet bloggers are the most recent practitioners of unrelated short paragraphs of fact and opinion. So, this month Passages plants some small seeds of thought into this already well-ploughed field of words.

The plural of condominium is condos. News releases herald the coming of new Market neighbors at Second and Pine, Fourth and Virginia, and First and Union. Builders of these swell high-rise abodes call them City Suites and Homes, Urban Estates, Sky Villas, and penthouses. The moving trucks will be here sooner than our Market Centennial. Before that, Washington Mutual's 40-some story headquarters will house over 4000 office workers a block closer to the Market And, by spring, the LaSalle Creamery Project will be complete, with a new, expanded Senior Center, 24 low income apartments, and the relocated Spanish Table on the Western Avenue street level. All of this soon to be followed by the huge Whole Foods store at 2200 Westlake.

Sara Anderson, Market resident and designer, has published, "*A Day At The Market*", a colorful and charming book for very young children, and the adults who read to them. The Market Foundation benefits from sales. Sara thanked the people who helped with production, including "Alf Columns". Passages' investigative agents decoded this sobriquet of Alf Collins, long time Historical Commissioner and former Seattle Timesman, who has built a lot of columns, one paragraph at a time. However, the "columns" references his insistence on including in the book the historic columns in the Market arcade, made of plaster and wood, not paper and ink.

Readers who do not use the

Internet can skip this paragraph.

The recent revelation that Wikipedia is more accurate than the Encyclopedia Britannica came as a shock to many. But it was probably not a surprise to adherents of open source software, built on user correcting procedures. Open source is a system based on a universal desire to get it right. This leads to a request for someone to take the time to correct the Wikipedia entry for the Pike Place Market. Bill Stalder, PDA operations chief noted some recent errors of fact and emphasis. Readers able to navigate the editing protocol are welcome to dig in.

..PDA buys the First and Pine Building. The acquisition unites the formerly separate ownerships of the residential and commercial units. This is the first expansion of the PDA's property holdings since the Market Garage was built in 1989.

Missing in applications to the Historical Commission for public art installations in the Market. 1. The John Turnbull Good-bye piping and vine vase created by Buster Simpson on the Market Clinic's brick corner at Post Alley and Virginia. 2. The mosaic tile installation on the North side of the elevator housing in the Heritage Plaza off Western. The work is titled Market Woman, by Pike Place Senior Center Artists, taught by Dionne Haroutunian in a program sponsored by Robert and Mary Barrett and Seniors Making Art. The responsible parties might want to step up and apply for approval.

Health Care Factoid: In 2002 the US spent \$5,267 on health care for each person (45% or \$2,364 was government money). Canada spent \$2,931 (almost all of it, \$2,048, was government money). This means everyone at Granville Island Market has health care coverage. Probably less than half at our Pike Place Market do.

Best Reuben Sandwich in the Market. This competition hungers for sponsorship by the publisher. 'Passages' is the premier Reuben Sandwich Tester West of Omaha (the birthplace of the comestible delight). Look for details in future issues.

Print Shop. Passages recently renewed contact with a class mate from 8th grade print shop, when school systems had shop classes to introduce male students to manual trades in metal, wood, masonry, and machines. It was a long ago time when there were promising futures in those trades. Girls were offered domestic arts classes like cooking and sewing and other skills not rewarded in any commercial trade. Print shop opened an exciting new way to look at the printed page. Sentences and paragraphs, indentations, white space, and type fonts all took on new meaning. The structure and organization of the words on the page and the punctuation and critical marks rose to eminence for the first time. A new vocabulary and acute reading skills were learned such as, pica, upper and lower case, font, lead, headers, proof sheet, proof-reading, and the confidence to read upside down and backwards. Try that with this page.

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