

Appearance Group Hears Renowned Landscape Architect

By Charlie McBriarty

The October meeting of the Community Appearance Commission (CAC) featured Dick Bell, renowned landscape architect. Bell shared renderings of two of his many projects, a large public university facility and a single family residence.

Prior to sharing his work, Bell introduced himself as a landscape architect who in 1950 was one of the first graduates of the North Carolina State University School of Design to receive a degree in landscape design. He summarized the establishment of NC State as a university and the evolution of the landscape architectural program in the newly formed School of Design from its roots in agriculture and mechanical engineering. The timing of his enrollment in the new program allowed him to become involved with the actual physical master plan of the evolving university. Upon his graduation, at age 21, he received a prestigious fellowship that allowed him to further his studies at the American Academy in Rome as well as travel throughout Europe. There he learned about design, art, culture and religion which significantly impacted his lifetime career as a planner and landscape architect.

Bell described the planning and development of NC State's University Plaza, popularly known as the Brickyard. He described some of the challenges he

faced as he undertook this project. The process of obtaining the thousands of red and white bricks on a limited budget was one such challenge. The rendering of the Brickyard illustrated a plan that was functional as well as aesthetically pleasing.

The plan for a single family home further illustrated Bell's skill in creating a landscape that enhances the physical building as well as the surrounding environment. He expressed his belief that the landscape is best when it blends with the surroundings rather than making a statement about the designer.

According to a recent article in *Metro Magazine*, "Bell's signature project was Water Garden." This 11 acre development served as both home and office for him and his wife Mary Jo, an artist in her own right, for 52 years. Earlier this year the Bell's sold Water Garden and have made their permanent home in Atlantic Beach's Tar Landing, a development for which he conceived and created the master plan more than 30 years ago.

Bell made it clear in his presentation to the CAC that he has not retired from his life's work as a landscape architect. He remains actively involved and expects to be engaged in projects along the Crystal Coast.

Masked Marvels and Wondertales

Carteret Arts Forum is bringing a program to Carteret County that you will not want to miss. *Masked Marvels and Wondertales* features Michael Cooper who combines the mythical and the autobiographical in a one-man extravaganza. *Wondertales* features his breathtaking handcrafted masks, original stories of courage and wonder, outlandish stilt-dancing, and a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime. Michael

Cooper is an eye-popping visual artist and a virtuoso mime whose exquisite performances have dazzled audiences of all ages for almost thirty years.

This show takes place at 2 P.M. on February 28, at Glad Tidings Church, Country Club Rd. in Morehead City. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$5. for children and can be purchased in advance at Poor Richard's Paint Store, J.R. Dunn Jewelers or Dee Gee Books and Gifts in Morehead City or at Clawson's 1905 Restaurant and Handscapes Gallery in Beaufort.



At The Library HAPPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2009

Noteworthy: New Attractions at Your Library! Each month, Bogue Banks public library receives new additions to the adult book collections. The newly acquired books to the collection include: *Extreme Measures* by Vince Flynn, *Private Patient* by P.D. James, and *Red Knife* by William Kant Kruegger.

Activities for Children: Preschool storytime is held each Thursday at 10 a.m. and every other Wednesday at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 5 will be featuring *What's up Phil?*, Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 12 will be *Sweet Valentine*. Thursday, February 19 is *Gung Hay Fat Choy!*, Wednesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 26 is *Peculiar Penguins*. Preschool Storytime is for ages three to five-years-old. Programs are with Ms. Brita.

Featured Artwork: In February the Bogue Banks public library will feature popular Morehead City artist Nancy Gorr. A native of Pittsburgh, Nancy moved

to North Carolina in 1985 and turned her love of fishing into artistic creations through the Japanese art of Gyotaku - "fish rubbing" - recreating the images of her "catch" on rice paper. She is also well known for her floral and still life oil paintings on canvas, wood and metal. In addition to receiving many awards for her paintings and Gyotaku, Nancy has been honored for her dedication to many community art programs and associations. The lucky patrons of the library will be able to see examples of her work in the Art Gallery throughout the month.

The display case will feature the beautiful wood sculptures by former Emerald Isle resident George Brooks. His subjects - shore and sea birds - are very popular with our coastal residents.

The library's regular hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For information call 247-4660.

Faith County - A Hilarious Offering from Carteret Community Theatre

If you love laughter, great fun and brilliant performers, then you should plan now to attend the Carteret Community Theatre's production of Mark Landon Smith's play, *Faith County*, opening February 19 at Joslyn Hall at the Carteret Community College. The play will continue to run February 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28.

The fun begins as the curtain rises at 8 P.M. and the audience begins to get

acquainted with the people and life in Faith County. This is a land of beehive hair, tractor pulls, county fairs and more than its share of unique characters.

Tickets will be available after February 1 at Poor Richard's Paint Store, J.R. Dunn Jewelers or Dee Gee Books and Gifts in Morehead City or at Clawson's 1905 Restaurant and Handscapes Gallery in Beaufort. For further information call 725-4331.

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