

FRIENDS OF THE MARKET

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

This could be The Holiday letter or the Year's End Note or just another in the series. It is the last letter of a very full and effective year for Friends.

The Market Art Project was completed and work begun to place images on our website. Friends signed a contract with Ritama Design (whose motto is: a force for goodness) to restructure our website, due to debut in March. Our original website is still up and viewable. The High Stall Historic Sign Restoration is complete (The restorer spoke at the Annual Meeting). One missing sign has been approved for replication early next year. And, plans are progressing for the 50th Anniversary of Friends in 2014, with lectures, events, and some cooperation with the Market Foundation on Market projects. Whew.

Before the year ends all readers, Friends and fans, are urged to come to the Market and marvel at the holiday lights. The fruits and vegetable light sculptures have been redone in LED form and are wow-worthy

Typecast

Crafting this column was tricky even though Tom Hanks has written half of it.

Let me explain. I wrote Tom a fan letter – for his typing. I thought of him positively as a nice guy who played ‘everyman’ roles in some popular movies. I recalled his baseball adage, “There is no crying in baseball” from a League of Their Own and his Forrest Gump line, “life is like a box of chocolates”. That was about all.

He answered my letter and I thought it was a nice salute to Seattle and the Market.

But, before finishing the column, I thought to check on Mr. Hanks’ history in Hollywood. Wow. He has made over 50 movies, directed several, and produced a load more, plus his is the voice of Woody in all three Toy Stories. Films he was featured in have grossed, worldwide, more than any other movie actor, ever. He has won two Academy Awards, back to back, matching Spencer Tracy’s record. He is a big player in Hollywood. And, if you read on, you will find he’s a regular guy who has fond memories of the Market and Seattle.

In August Passages read a personal New York Times Op-Ed piece, titled “I Am Tom. I Like to TYPE. Hear That?”. Hanks had just finished playing a reporter on Broadway in “Lucky Guy”, set in a 1985 newsroom using silent word processors. “We...would have loved to pound on bulky desk-crowding typewriters for the sound alone.”

He went on: “I use a manual typewriter ...almost every day. My snail-mail letters and thank-you notes, office memos and to-do lists, and rough drafts...of story pages are messy things, but the creating of them satisfies me like few other daily tasks.” The essay continues with a review of the sounds made by various typewriters and a negative comparison of typescript with email and texting. He refers to his many typewriters, “a 1950’s Olympia (need one? I’ve got a couple).” He ends with a universal pardon for all typos and XXXXXing out words, saying, “Such blemishes will become the personality of your typing equal to the legibility, or lack thereof, of your penmanship.”

Passages was moved and amused by this praise of typewriters because I have been using them since the fourth grade. I’ve owned as many as four at one time and currently use a 1950’s Swiss made Hermes. So I wrote to Tom, saying I appreciated his ideas and agreed with his opinions. I mentioned my current

typewriter, the Market News and the Market, and ended, "I am proud to share an emotion with such a good actor and a pretty good writer, to boot."

I mailed my letter in care of his agent in California in mid-August and forgot about it.

Then to my surprise in early November I received a reply from Tom Hanks.

The ribbon was drying up on his Olympia. To assist your reading, his last paragraph reads: "Give the Pike Plade Market a hug for me, and salute Lake Union as you pass by, as the time I spent there on Sleepless i n Seattle is still a high point for the Hanks family."

Paul Dunn can be contacted at: fessdunn@aol.com