

# Story of the Water Tree

By Louise Parmenter

In 1971 we acquired property at the north end of Kalum Lake in Rosswood, with the idea of using the place for camping. The next spring we moved our camper trailer out, also a little JD cat to clear the brush and thin out the trees with hopes of thinning out the mosquitoes and black flies at the same time.

While exploring the area, we discovered a spring above the road beside Dry Creek. For convenience, Don decided to pipe the water from that beautiful, clear spring down to a big cottonwood tree beside the road. At this point, the road was very narrow with a one-way bridge across the creek. In order to be safe while filling our trailer with water, Don pushed out a road between old cedar stumps to the cottonwood tree. He drilled a hole through the tree, put a 3/4-inch pipe through the hole and fastened it to a hose from the spring. He buried the hose and covered its route up the tree with a piece of cedar bark, hiding the pipe completely except where it came out of the tree. This resulted in a mystery for some people who could not see how the water got into the tree.

After a few months, we noticed that people were hauling water from the tree in everything from thermoses to three hundred gallon tanks. The system worked very well for everyone.

Later, the Highways Department rebuilt the road and [with Don's assistance] relocated the pipe into a different big cottonwood further upstream. The Department of Highways also made a generous parking lot for the convenience of water users. [In so doing, the waterline was paved over, helping to add to the mystery of the water tree.] This tree is a popular tourist stop and is used by the traveling public as well as some Terrace residents and local people. **From "History of the Magic Tree" by Don and Louise Parmenter, published in *Recollections from the Terrace Area*. 2009**

Don Parmenter created this water-collecting-hot-spot nearly fifty years ago, and it has been delighting folks ever since. Don, who is now ninety-eight years old, says, "We think it's the best water in the world."

***Rosswood. 2020***

