between the lines

Places Chilling, Places Quaint

Books show two different sides of British Columbia



o you ever sit back with a cup of tea and let your mind wander on the day's events? Sometimes your thoughts follow reality relatively closely, and others they get away from you, recreating incidents in the most fantastical way. Peg Pyner is a pro at letting reality and fantasy mingle. Her book, Lurking Back: East Sooke No-News, is like the diary of someone who dreamed about her day and then wrote her fancies down. It is a look at rural living through a humorous, imaginative, and slightly sassy mind.

Lurking Back is a collection of columns Pyner wrote in the 1970s for the Sooke Mirror. A resident of East Sooke, she looked to the non-events of the quiet community to inspire her weekly writing. Her columns include her thoughts and imaginings on everything under the East Sooke sun, from mythical moose, gardening, pets, hobgoblins, aging, road construction, the 900-year old Seer of East Sooke and her crystal ball—and anything that can (or can't)

happen in a small community.

The columns are more like cute short stories. With little real news to go on, Pyner takes the smallest of occurrences and transforms it into earth-shattering, at times fantastical news. Take, for example, the terrifying, destructive foes to mankind (deer) and their acts of mass destruction (nibbling in a garden). Or the "strange wooden-legged yellow creatures with flashing light heads" (road markers used in construction) that are plaguing the East Sooke streets. Or the frightening kidnapping of her husband (a surprise trip to Seattle planned by her daughters). The result

Peg Pyner Book Launch Preview 1:30 pm Sunday, June 26 Fairfield New Horizons, 380 Cook 384-6542 is a quirky collection of no-news stories that just begs to be called charming.

With some columns it is easier to decipher what is real and what is imagined

than with others. This, coupled with the lack of indication on when each column was first published, leaves me with only one complaint. At times, the blur between fact and fantasy gets too confusing and interupts the flow of the stories. But if you stop trying to force a time line on Pyner's events and just go with it, it stops being a problem.

Pyner's columns must have added some fun and colour to the Sooke *Mirror* and been a welcome read for the residents of the area. Today they are a light and funny look back into our local history, and suit-

able for anyone who likes to daydream.

-Sarah Gignac