



Nestucca Spit Press

An Independent Oregon Press Publishing Books About Oregon

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New Release (Spring 2015)

McCallandia: A Utopian Novel

Nestucca Spit Press announces the release of *McCallandia: A Utopian Novel*, by Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall. *McCallandia* is a novel of alternate history that imagines the iconic Oregon governor Tom McCall becoming president of the United States and the nation taking a different, better path.

McCall, who served as Oregon's governor from 1967 to 1975, is best remembered for his quip encouraging outsiders to "visit, but don't stay." But his administration saw an unmatched record of accomplishment, especially in the environmental arena—the Bottle Bill, the Beach Bill, statewide land use planning and the cleanup of the Willamette River. He sanctioned the first and only state-sponsored rock festival, Vortex I.

In *McCallandia*, the governor has the chance to take those ideas to the national stage when he becomes Richard Nixon's choice to replace Spiro Agnew after a scandal forced the vice president's resignation in 1973. When the Watergate scandal brings down Nixon the following year, it is McCall, not Gerald Ford, who steps into the presidency.

Although McCall is the star of the book, the novel also features a cast of memorable supporting characters, including Hunter S. Thompson, Ken Kesey, Steve Prefontaine and John Lennon.



Hall is a native Oregonian who grew up during McCall's governorship and was inspired by his example to pursue careers in journalism and politics. He was a volunteer in McCall's ill-fated 1978 comeback campaign for the governorship. Hall lives in Newport and has served as a Lincoln County Commissioner since 2005. "Tom has been one of the formative influences on my life," Hall said. "He inspired me to go into both journalism and politics."

Nestucca Spit Publisher Matt Love calls *McCallandia* "the best political novel ever written about Oregon. I knew when I read the manuscript it would become the press' first novel release."

Hall said he hopes readers will come away from *McCallandia* with a better understanding of how McCall's unique leadership helped shape Oregon, how he could have influenced the country for the better, and what he was like as a husband, father, colleague and friend. He also hopes readers will be inspired and look for ways to carry McCall's legacy forward. "Dystopian novels are the rage these days," Hall said. "This is probably the first utopian novel since *Ecotopia*. I hope readers will have the desire to envision a better world, and see that we can all still help make it happen. That's what Tom McCall's career was all about."

Hall has drawn on his reporting background to craft a novel with a structure all its own, combining conventional narrative with imaginary magazine and newspaper articles, diary excerpts, interviews and oral history transcripts. The book also includes an original illustration by James Cloutier, who produced the "Oregon Ungreeting" cards that were popular during the McCall years.

The book was printed by Pioneer Printing in Newport and is distributed exclusively through Nestucca Spit Press' web site, independent bookstores, and at live events. For information on purchasing the book, visit www.nestuccaspitpress.com/ *McCallandia: A Utopian Novel* by Bill Hall, Nestucca Spit Press, 2015, \$20, 154 pages, illustrations, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", paperback