



Metal Head, a new heavy metal music store, opened recently on Marine Drive.

Photo by Matt Love

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

A Glimpse Inside: Metal Head

Where else but Astoria would an aficionado of heavy metal music open a record store in winter that only stocked heavy metal music? Where else but in Astoria would said store only stock heavy metal music played by the likes of Sacred Reich, Helstar and Angel Witch in vinyl and cassette?

The store is called Metal Head, and it is located at 1126 Marine Drive. It just might be the coolest new old thing in town.

I wandered inside Metal Head a few days after it opened and met its owner and operator, John Gentner. I quickly learned John moved to Astoria three years ago and is an illuminated manuscript of all heavy things heavy metal music. In fact, he is heavy metal incarnate in the long-haired rock flesh.

We struck up a conversation about the impact of this particular musical genre, and John said, "When I first heard Black Sabbath as a kid, it changed the game for me." What else is left to say after that? John found a passion, and here he was years later sharing his passion with others. "I'm starting off slowly and building for the summer," he said.

The very thought of summertime tourists buying heavy metal music in a record store in Astoria is one of the happiest thoughts I've had in years. Thank you John.

On my first visit to Metal Head, I inexplicably did not purchase a tape. A few days later, I returned and asked John to recommend me a band. He chose Warlock's 1987 release "Triumph and Agony." When he handed me the tape for inspection, I noticed the cover featured a buxom blonde woman clad in black leather. "The singer's a mega-babe," he said.

Sold.

A few minutes later I slid Warlock inside my truck's cassette player and cranked it up. Track 1... "All We Are" exploded through the speakers. Wow! I thought to myself: *I need more of this.*

Now I know where to go to get it.

Matt Love is author/editor of 12 books about Oregon. They are available at all coastal bookstores or through www.nestuccaspitpress.com. He lives in Astoria.

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Ilwaco

[il-wa-kos]

noun

1. a city in southwestern Washington, opening onto Baker Bay on the Long Beach Peninsula; formerly the site of a large Chinook village, modern-day Ilwaco was first established in 1848 by Capt. James Johnson, platted by J.D. Holman in 1872 and incorporated in 1890. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population was 936

Origin:

Lacking an official spelling, the town was named in honor of Elowahka Jim, J.D. Holman's Chinook neighbor and the son-in-law of Chief Comcomly, who married one of Comcomly's daughters, Elowahka, and was commonly known by her name. Prior to the official establishment of a post office in 1876, the town was also known as Unity during the Civil War era.

"The Ilwaco Railroad, which for about eleven miles ran just a good stone's throw from the golden sandy beach that has made the area famous as a summer resort, was a product of the fertile imagination of Lewis Alfred Loomis, a business man who came to the peninsula in 1872. Loomis and his associates built a wharf at Ilwaco, organized the Ilwaco Steamship Company in 1875, and built the steamship General Canby, which operated between Astoria, Oregon, and Ilwaco."

—Thomas E. Jessett, "The Ilwaco Railroad," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 58, No. 2, June 1957, P. 145

"The story of Ilwaco runs back to 1849 when Dr. Elijah White, realizing that Oregon City was too far from the sea to be a seaport, decided that a place near Cape Disappointment could be built into a future metropolis."

—Mildred Colbert, "Naming and Early Settlement of Ilwaco, Washington," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 47, No. 2, June 1946, P. 182

COLUMBIA BAR

4 Spirits Manhattan

By RYAN HUME

Boasting one of the most striking views on the riverfront, and a mad chorus of sealife to boot, beer is obviously king at Buoy Beer Company and for good reason. Though since expanding into a full bar last May, Buoy has also concentrated on offering basic cocktails with fresh ingredients and locally sourced spirits, like Bar Pilot Vodka, when available.

The addition of 4 Spirits Bourbon Whiskey to a classic Manhattan places

the provenance of this particular drink closer to Astoria, Oregon, than Astoria, Queens.

Now, while technically 4 Spirits Bourbon is mashed, distilled and later imported into the state from Indiana, it is further aged and tinkered with at the 4 Spirits distillery in Adair Village, Oregon, which donates a minimum 10 percent of all proceeds from the sale of the whiskey to various in-state veterans' charities.



Ingredients

2 ½ ounces 4 Spirits Bourbon Whiskey
½ ounce sweet vermouth
Ice
Dark cherry for garnish

Directions

Rinse a cocktail glass with water and ice to chill. Shake liquid ingredients with ice in a cocktail shaker until cold. Strain into a cocktail glass and garnish with a cherry.

—Recipe courtesy of Monica Hernandez, Buoy Beer Company

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