



The Flavel House Museum

Contributor Matt Love takes a self with some of his Astoria High School students while on a field trip at the Flavel House Museum in Astoria.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

The Flavel House Museum

The bus rolled north into town. Destination: the Flavel House Museum. It was a sunny morning in May, and I was riding herd over my English Credit Recovery class from Astoria High School. From time to time, they can be a challenging bunch to engage, but I love their rock and roll hearts in an age when rock is dead.

I polled the students and discovered that 14 of 16 students had never set foot inside the Flavel House — and most have lived in Astoria their entire lives. That's why I take field trips.

As I tallied the sad numbers and commented, the bus driver turned to me and said, "I've lived in Astoria for 50 years and have never been either." I invited her to join us, but she had another pick up.

It was a mob scene at the house; a cruise ship had landed earlier. We ventured inside Capt. Flavel's former domicile, and I let the students find their own way through deep-paneled history. "Just be cool," I said. They were.

At one point, I bumped into Luis, and he told me, looking at the high ceilings, "Mr. Love, I think I'd be smarter if I lived in this house." Another student, Shayla, said, "You'll be sure to get some ghost shots in here; they're attracted to me." Two other students, Leoba and Becky, shared the story of the other Flavel House in town with several tourists and delighted them with the tale.

Several of us rallied in one of the parlors and found ourselves standing in front of a huge oval mirror. Naturally, one of the students wanted to take a selfie. To liven things up, I threw us all in the frame together for posterity ... or at least 15 seconds of fleeting fame. A few minutes later, we

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word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Vesper

[ves•pər]

noun

1. East of Seaside, a currently unincorporated and once isolated agricultural community that could only be reached by ferry up the Nehalem River, which separates the locale from Jewell. Vanguard attempts to carve automobile-passable roads in 1900

would result in some of Clatsop County's most expensive infrastructure repairs circa the early 20th century

2. *Old 77 Vesper Lane*: a historic gravel road that slips alongside the Nehalem River

3. *Oregon Vesper Sparrow* (*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*): An Oregon Conservation Strategy-status subspecies of *P. gramineus* that breeds west of the Cascades, winters in the Southwest U.S. or Northern Mexico and rings in the spring in the Willamette Valley; predators include fire, agricultural practices, domestic cats and other invasive species

Origin:

1400s. Related to the Greek ἠσπερά or *ἠσπερά* or *Hespera*, one of the three sunset nymphs in Greek mythology, whose name means, "Light of Evening," and is commonly associated with the planet Venus, this particular offshoot comes into English through a Latinized of the same spelling by way of the Middle French, *vesper*, both meaning, "evening star." In some branches of Catholicism, *Vespers* is the name of the evening prayer service, and is colloquially known as the vesper hour. The date on which Irish immigrant William Johnston named the area in Clatsop County for the evening star is unknown, though Johnston established the

first U.S. Post Office there in 1879 and would go on to build the town's first church out of good, local Douglas fir.

"Vesper is not now a post office, although it had been in the past.

—Lewis A. McArthur, "Oregon Geographic Names," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 2, June, 1927, p. 195

"The late storm has caused the Clatskanie-Mist-Vesper mail carrier a considerable amount of trouble, as travelling was very difficult between Mist and Vesper, owing to the rapidly rising river, bridges out, etc. But Tom is not a fellow to give up and he managed to get Uncle Sam's mail through to Mist from Vesper, when he pressed L. O. Vadnais into service by having him bring the mail over the mountain by auto."

—Chief, "Clatskanie," *St. Helens Mist*, Friday, December 31, 1915, p. 3

Maritime Museum offers Friday and Sunday events

ASTORIA — Join the Columbia River Maritime Museum for our First Friday Nights series from 7 to 9 p.m. June 5 at the Barbey Maritime Center. Plunder some fun at the First Friday Pirate Bash. Assist a landlubber in walking the plank at One-Eyed Willy's dunk tank. Test your range of skill at the Buccaneer bag toss. Sway to the melodies and rhythms of Portland-based musicians Robin Baccior and Chris Miller. Relax with a tankard of grog and some grub at the "Hogshead Tavern" cash bar, courtesy of Fulio's. Come dressed as your favorite pirate persona and win the title of best dressed Swashbuckler.

First Friday Nights are entertaining, casual and social. This series is held from 7 to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, and includes a mix of live music, games, film screenings, skills demonstrations and hands-on activities. A cash bar and inspired snacks will be available. CRMM First Fridays are free of charge.

First Sunday Family Program

The Columbia River Maritime Museum celebrates the next First Sunday Family Program June 7. The programs are a time for fun-filled family experiences and are inspired by the muse-



Courtesy Columbia River Maritime Museum
Kids enjoy hands-on activities at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

um's 3-D movies: "Galapagos" and "Turtle Vision."

Investigate our Crittercam footage of Galapagos residents like the giant tortoise, Galapagos sea lions, albatross and the Galapagos Reef octopus. Create



your very own ocean in a bottle complete with a unique species of jellyfish. Enjoy our Galapagos story time led by a Columbia River Maritime Museum teacher. Influence nature with our Animal Adaptation Magnet Board. Get into character with

our Blue Footed Booby dance lessons. Test your Ring of Fire knowledge in our mapping activity.

First Sunday activities run from 10:30 to 3:30 Sunday, June 7. Included with paid admission, members are free.

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