

MILITARY HERITAGE CHRONICLES — The military 'Jerry' Can



BY CAL APPLEBEE
Special to the Siuslaw News



Above) 1951 Nesco water can on the left; unknown vintage Radiosteel fuel can on the right; (far right) USN "Rum" container

One of our military vehicle club members recently shared a story regarding the ubiquitous "Jerry" can from World War II that was pretty interesting, and since I have a few in my collection I did some research and learned even more about this iconic symbol which so many of us hang on the back of our military vehicles.

Even though the Allies had various versions of their own mobile fuel storage cans leading into WW II, most designs were not that practical.

The Nazis actually had developed and began using their design in the late 1930s.

The United States didn't delve into redesigning a better can until 1942, and even then still pursued a different design — one that persisted in quality control challenges and design flaws leading to significant fuel loss and waste from leakage.

After multiple failed attempts to design a suitable fuel can, including attempts to redesign the existing World War I container, the Allies allowed the British, who were ahead in the game, to produce all the cans needed for the invasion of Europe on D-Day.

I couldn't determine the exact manufacturing start date for the United States, but

it's probably around 1942.

Since then, thousands of fuel cans have been manufactured and, like other military items, by multiple sources including Bennett, Conco, Rheem, Monarch, Nesco, MCC, Radiosteel and USMC — which is sometimes confused with United States Marine Corps., but in reality stands for U.S. Metal Container Company.

Markings on the cans vary with some showing USA on one side and/or QMC on the other, which was changed in the 1950s. On the bottom, the stampings usually represent three lines referring to the manufacturer, manufacturing



standard and date line, which is typically shown as 20-5-42; this really represents 20 liters, 5 gallons, and year 1942 (not May 20, 1942). There are also some cans which bear USN markings as well — go Navy! I have about a dozen cans in my collection, in various condition and for uses, including a couple of the square tins for USN use. They are fun to collect, great to use and are getting harder to find good examples. To learn more about military heritage visit www.kilroycorps.com on the website of the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

Summer to sizzle with Flamenco at FEC Friday

Seattle-based flamenco dancer Savannah Fuentes brings her latest show, "El Sol de Verano" ("Summer Sun") to the Florence Events Center on Friday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Spanish flamenco encompasses the full spectrum of human emotion in its three key elements: Song, guitar and it's signature percussive instrument: *dance*.

Fuentes will be joined by one of southern Spain's most promising singing prodigies, Jose Manuel Perez.

Perez acquired a deep understanding of el cante flamenco (flamenco singing) by observing master artists in flamenco clubs of his hometown of Seville.

Though only 22 years of age, the Latin crooner has already performed with a long list of today's most prominent flamenco artists, including Paloma Fantova, Maria Juncal and Moi de Moron.

"El Sol de Verano" is his first public appearance in Florence.

Fuentes and Perez will be joined by guitarist Bobby de Sofia.

Originally from Bulgaria, Sofia discovered flamenco while in Los Angeles and continued his studies in Andalusia with artists such as Pedro Viscomi and Paco Arroyo.

He currently performs regularly at the various flamenco clubs in the Los Angeles area.

Born in Seattle to parents of Puerto Rican and Irish ancestry, Fuentes began her studies in Seattle and continued in Spain with dancers such as Belen Maya and Cristobal Reyes.

She currently tours throughout the western United States and has independently produced over 250 presentations and workshops featuring inter-

nationally recognized flamenco singers.

Don't miss this chance to experience the enchantment of flamenco in an intimate setting.

Tickets are \$23, with VIP seating available for \$35.

Student tickets are \$15, with youth tickets available for \$8 at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Young singers, songwriters to perform at KXCR FolkFest

KXCR 90.7 FM's Summer FunFolkFest introduces three young performers to Florence Wednesday, July 15, at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Highway 101 and Heceta Beach Road, at 7 p.m.

Amy Sue Berlin, Dana Louise Idlet and John Craigie bring the vibrancy of youth to the stage.

Berlin knew she wanted to live in a warmer place. When the time came, she moved to Austin, Texas. One day she picked up a guitar and started to listen to the words coming to her from somewhere. She found a pen and never put it down, as lyrics seem to flow freely out of her, she says.

With new confidence to follow the creative life as a musician, she's found a path still traveled by her mother, the loved and respected folk singer and songwriter, Anne Feeney.

"I am thrilled to be hitting the road with my dear friend Dana Louise, based out of Fayetteville, Ark. We are both children of professional folk musicians, and neither of us began writing or playing until a couple of years ago," says Berlin.

"Now we are hooked and taking our music on the road. We both play in bands in our respective cities, but we decided to do this tour on our own," Berlin continues. "We'll also be doing a good portion of the shows with our good friend, John Craigie. We both fell in love with his incredible storytelling and his beautiful songs at the Folk Alliance Conference in Kansas City."

Although their music projects have very different sounds, the girls share an honest, playful, truthful message, both performing with wide eyes and smiles.

When these three get together on stage there is an undeniable electric charge that fills the room, connecting everyone.

The concert is free but donations are welcomed.

For more information, call 541-997-2997.

GROCERY OUTLET

bargain market

2066 Highway 101, Florence
541-997-0343

Woody Woodbury
Independent Owner/Operator
Florence Grocery Outlet

Produce • Dairy & Deli
Health & Beauty
Frozen Foods • Fresh Meat
Housewares • Beer & Wine
Organic & Natural Foods
and much more!

We have ample RV parking!

Fire department seeks grant writer

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) is looking for a volunteer grant writer who can locate, secure and administer grants for the Florence area's fire department.

This position will be part of the Fire Corps volunteer program that offers non firefighting volunteer positions to interested community members.

This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who is interested in helping their commu-

nity take advantage of the millions of dollars available through federal, state and private funding opportunities.

If you are good at writing, have experience with grants and want to help your fire district, this is the opportunity for you.

Applications are available at the front desk of the main fire station, 2625 Highway 101, and online at www.svfr.org.

The application period ends July 31, 2015.

KATHLEEN AND NINA'S RESTAURANT

Open Daily 6am-3pm

Home style cooking in a friendly home style dining experience!

We offer a large menu featuring traditional and house specialty items.

Breakfast and lunch specials every day!

Homemade Breads • Homemade Pies

Come in and enjoy breakfast or lunch with us or order take out.

Call in and we'll have it ready for you to pick up!

2015 Siuslaw News people's choice award winner for Best Pie on the Coast!

Our popular breads and pies are available for carry out as well.

3611 Highway 101 ♥ 541-997-7004

Care to hear a little secret?

Not all hearing aids sound the same.

Gail Leslie, Au. D. Sandi Ybarra, Au. D., Doctors of Audiology

Call to schedule a consultation. You'll find we're expert listeners.

FLORENCE: 541-997-7617
1525 12th Street, Suite 2

EUGENE: 541-686-3505 VOICE / TTD
401 East 10th Avenue, Suite 110

www.hearingassociates.net

HEARING ASSOCIATES

Hearing is believing

Burns' Riverside Chapel

— Florence Funeral Home —

**Your Community Friend-
Compassionate Care
for you and your loved ones.**

2765 Kingwood St.
Florence, OR

24 Hours
541-997-3416

burnsriversidechapel.com

Get Results...List With Chris.

Chris Bunch
Principal Broker /
Property Manager
541 997-8877

TR
HUNTER
REAL ESTATE
541-997-1200

739 Kingwood St - Cute, move in ready, in-town home with open floor plan, living room with slider, master bedroom with large closets, washer, dryer and newer appliances included. Oversized garage and RV parking with hookups. Seller will pay up to \$2,500 in closing costs! \$135,000. #2441-15490110

1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

Senior Services

It's easy to relax, knowing these community businesses are here to help with all of your service needs.

Call the Siuslaw News to Join Our Senior Directory
541-997-3441

BRADLEY BERG

ATTORNEY
Wills - Trusts
Probate

733 Hwy. 101
Florence, OR
997-8114

Best For Hearing

2285 Hwy. 101, Florence
997-8866

SIUSLAW NEWS

148 Maple St.
Florence
541-997-3441