

Reflections ELAINE TRUCKE

Blimps, subs and World War II come to the North Coast

On Dec. 7, 1941, citizens across the nation who were listening to their radios heard through the static the shocking announcement. The Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

The United States had officially entered World War II.

Fear of an attack on American soil was prevalent across the U.S., but especially along the West Coast. As Les Ordway and George Shields remembered during oral history interviews taken by the Cannon Beach Historical Society, locals in Cannon Beach immediately took action, forming a beach patrol called "the Guerrillas." Guards were also placed at the Arch Cape Tunnel. After dark, blackouts were enforced across the West Coast. Car headlights were wired down, windows covered, and some families even used candlelight rather than risk electricity.

Cannon Beach wasn't alone in its fear. Tillamook had the Tillamook Rangers who patrolled the beaches with shotguns and .22s. In addition to the U.S. Coast Guard, civilian and National Guard patrols, blimps were a regular sight along the Oregon coastline.

Rumors often ignited fear among Oregon coast citizens. Locally, a rumor spread that Japanese paratroopers were hiding out atop Marys Peak. Local families had "grub boxes" with provisions packed and ready to disappear into the hills in the event of an attack.

In June 1942, Fort Stevens was shelled by an offshore Japanese submarine, increasing the feelings of fear and doubt. Many argue that this was nothing more than an exploratory shelling or just a show of force against the U.S. The attack succeeded in showing local coastal families what Japan was capable of. To make matters worse, Japanese collapsible-wing airplanes dropped incendiary bombs on coastal forests.

In 1944, Japan began launching balloons carrying explosive and incendiary bombs. These balloon bombs drifted east along the jet stream to the west coast of the United States. Of 9,000 balloon bombs that Japan admitted to sending



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to the U.S., there were 342 incidents. Of these, 45 occurred in Oregon; only one resulted in casualties. On May 5, 1945, a pastor's wife and several children accidentally triggered a balloon bomb just east of Bly, Ore.

The Second World War ended Sept. 2, 1945. Sev-

enty years later, the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum is opening an exhibit on the war and showing its effects on the Oregon coast. The exhibit will feature stories, memories and history relating to the war and to the experiences of those who lived here.

While some information is available, the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum would like to collect varying perspectives of WWII. The museum wants to hear from those who rationed their supplies, watched the shores or whose lives were touched by the war. War can have lasting effects, and the exhibit is meant to analyze these effects on the Oregon coast and Cannon Beach.

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Monday and can be contacted at 503-436-9301.

Soldiers examine a shell crater in a patch of skunk cabbage at Fort Stevens in the aftermath of an attack by a Japanese submarine. (National Archives, image no. ARC 299678)

SUBMITTED PHOTO



A U.S. Navy blimp patrols a field. Although the picture indicates it is Cannon Beach, the location could be outside of town.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U.S. Navy blimp patrol was stationed out of Tillamook. The base there is home to one of the largest wood-frame buildings ever constructed. This photo is taken in Tolovana Park.

Uncorked Ramblings STEVEN SINKLER

For the fifth year, it's time to 'Savor Cannon Beach'

Savor Cannon Beach is here again; let the wine and food flow!

For the fifth year in a row, foodies and wine lovers from across the Pacific Northwest are trekking to Cannon Beach for a weekend of delicious vino and bites. I can't wait for it to begin!

Event organizer, Gary Hayes has packed the four days full with exciting activities, including: the Thursday Night "Throwdown"; Friday's "What Varietal Is It?" and "Battle of the Blends"; Saturday's "Bordeaux, Burgundy and Rhone" and the Wine Walk; and the "Sparkling Wine and Brunch Bites" session Sunday morning.

Hopefully, Mother Nature won't deliver the same deluge that she provided last year for the Wine Walk when it absolutely poured cats and dogs. But, if she does, you can follow last year's crowd — just go with the flow and embrace it! We watched in hysterics as people came in looking like they had gone through a car wash, dumped the rainwater from their glasses and smiled their way to the tasting room!

Of course, The Wine Shack wouldn't miss being a participant of the event again this year! We'll be selling many of the wines you'll find throughout the festivities. We can't get

every one of them, but we'll have a large selection.

Medal winners

Also, we will be pouring some of the top 2015 Savor Northwest medal winning wines from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday in the tasting room. Then, from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, we will be pouring Pudding River wines, also in the tasting room. Usually, we have Sean Driggers, Pudding River's winemaker, handling the pouring responsibilities, but he isn't able to make the trip this year. Never fear, however, we will have the incredible Lee Roberts pouring Pudding River's delicious wines, and Lee always does a mighty fine job behind the bar.

There will be 37 or so wineries pouring wine around town in various retail stores, art galleries and restaurants as part of this year's Savor Cannon Beach Wine Walk. Gary is expecting the Wine Walk to be sold out again this year, which is good news for the Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center because the proceeds of the Saturday event are donated to this well-deserving local charity.

With this many people in town and a huge crowd expected on Saturday in particular, I'd like to pass along some "Wine Walk" tips so everyone can have a great — and safe — time.



STEVEN SINKLER

Eat lunch

Take time to visit one of Cannon Beach's yummy restaurants prior to participating in the Wine Walk. A full stomach will ensure that you will survive the tastings with minimal impact! Rich, creamy foods in particular, help your body handle the wine you will be enjoying later in the afternoon.

Not a race!

With 37 wineries scattered around town, it's not possible to visit every location and drink every wine. Instead, check out

the map and plan out which wineries and stores you'd most like to visit. If you want to start at The Wine Shack, we're conveniently located next to the Coaster Theatre, where the Wine Walk begins. Whatever you do, take it easy and pace yourself.

Spitting is OK

Wine judges and other wine professionals don't always drink the wine they are evaluating. They take a sip, swirl it around in their mouths, then spit out the wine into the dump bucket. It's OK to do and doesn't offend. You can also dump excess wine if your pour is too big. Keep in mind the more wine you spit/dump out, the more you can try.

Keep moving

Each wine station is going to be very busy; about 500 Wine Walkers are expected. Please don't belly up to the tasting bar and block out the other participants. Instead, af-

ter you've received your pour, check out some art or look at the store's merchandise. Heck, it's a great time to purchase that beautiful piece of art, jewelry or clothing you've been checking out, so go for it! (Pardon the obvious plug for my fellow store owners.)

Visit again

In less than five years, Savor Cannon Beach has established itself as one of the finest wine and food events in the Pacific Northwest. A small team of

people work hard all year to give you the very finest food and wine experience. When you combine this with the luxurious hotels and our incredible views, you have an event that is unmatched. We'd love to see you here again next year!

Whatever you do, please remember to drink responsibly. Maryann and I want to see you again soon in The Wine Shack.

Steven and Maryann Sinkler own The Wine Shack in Cannon Beach. His column appears every month.

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