

Eyewitness: Japanese attack on Ore.

By Bob Larson
Guest Columnist

Editor's note: Bob Larson, longtime Camp Sherman resident, died on February 12 at the age of 92. See his obituary on page 20.

On September 9, 1942 a rare Japanese pontoon plane dropped an incendiary bomb on the Siskiyou National Forest east of Brookings, Oregon. This bomb, and another dropped by the same plane, was the only direct attack to the continental United States by an enemy plane during World War II. The second bomb was never found.

The following is my account of what happened on this day.

I entered Oregon State College in 1942, enrolling in Forestry Management. At the end of the term, I was out of money and luckily obtained a job in the Chetco District of the Siskiyou National Forest. When fire season began, I was made a roving fireguard stationed on the Winchuck River.

After Pearl Harbor, some of the lookouts along the coast were on 24-hour duty. One of these was Mt. Emily, where I was sent in early September to relieve Howard Gardner's wife who needed to make a 3-4 mile trek into town for supplies. On September 9, 1942, just after daybreak, Howard woke me up to look at a plane flying south of Mt. Emily going west. It was an odd-looking

plane, quite small, with pontoons. We reported it to Gold Beach Ranger Station and they relayed the information to the Roseburg Filter Center.

After breakfast, I headed down the trail because Howard's wife was on her way back to the lookout. When I got back to my vehicle, I drove to Hanscom's store in Harbor to pick up supplies. While there I received a call from District Ranger Ed Marshall. He told me to pick up a man and head for a fire on Wheeler Ridge. Freddie Flynn and I headed up Winchuck River Road to the Wheeler Creek Trail. After several miles, we ran into Howard Gardner and Keith Johnson. Keith had been sent from Bear Wallow Lookout and Howard from Mt. Emily. They said, "I bet you can't guess what started the fire?" I said, "Lightening?" They said, "No, it was a bomb."

We hiked back to the site of the fire; some black thermite pellets were still burning. The fire had not had a chance to burn too hotly due to a local rain shower that morning. Gold Beach was contacted and Ed Marshall was told the fire was started from a bomb. I met Ed the next morning at the trailhead. He and Les Colvill, Assistant Supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest, went back to the fire site with me.

There was a small crater where the bomb imbedded, and we dug around and

found the end of the bomb with the timer and Japanese inscription. The bomb had severed a small tree. Ed contacted the Army office in Gold Beach — no one had thought to contact them initially — and soldiers were sent to the area September 10.

The Japanese plane that dropped the bomb was from a submarine. A number of years after the war, the pilot of the plane made several trips to Brookings as a goodwill mission. On his last trip, he presented his samurai sword to the town of Brookings. Mr. Nobuo Fujita died at 85 years of age.

At the end of the summer of 1942, I decided not to return to college and went home to Southern California and joined the Navy. I spent three years, three months serving as a Navy gunner on merchant ships. All of my sea duty was in the South Pacific — Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines.

September 1946, I returned to Oregon State College, now Oregon State University, to continue my forestry studies, graduating in December 1948. I worked in forestry for 45 years, living first in Western Oregon and later in Central Oregon, where my wife and I lived for 28 years, primarily in Camp Sherman. I phased into real estate and out of forestry a few years after moving to Camp Sherman and retired when I was 77 years old from Sisters Realty.

Boyle to play soccer for University of Redlands

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

Senior Molly Boyle has officially committed to play soccer for the University of Redlands, in Southern California. Boyle has played soccer since she was 4 years old, and this marks her 13th year. In addition to being a four-year varsity starter for Sisters High School, Molly has played for some pretty elite teams: three years for the Bend FC Timbers and three years for the Olympic Development Program (ODP).

Soccer has always been a big part of Boyle's life, and it was only natural for Molly to pursue the opportunity to play at the collegiate level. She looked at a lot of options, including the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), a Division 1 school.

Molly told *The Nugget* that UCSB just wasn't the right fit for her.

"The school was just so big and I knew that I wouldn't adjust well going from Sisters to a school of that size," said Boyle. "And, I didn't want to commit my collegiate life entirely to soccer. I wanted to be able to focus on my studies, too."

Boyle strongly considered attending California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), a Division 2 university, but after a visit



PHOTO BY RONGI YOST

Molly Boyle is going to be a Bulldog soccer player. realized that wasn't the right fit either.

"The campus was extremely spread out and

See **BOYLE** on page 17

**SISTERS
GARAGE DOORS**
Sales • Service • Installation
Residential • Commercial
*Broken Spring
Specialist*
Dale Lester CCB#151832
541-815-1523



We keep you
up-to-date
every day!



Find us on
Facebook

Become a fan to receive notifications
of breaking news, events and more!



Facebook.com/NuggetNews