



Photos courtesy of Cannon Beach History Center & Museum

Cannon Beach's Main Street and Natatorium in the roaring 1920s.

HISTORIC

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Natatorium was more than a place to swim

BY ELAINE TRUCKE
For The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach's Natatorium was the site of a 30-foot-by-60-foot indoor saltwater pool and bathhouse that served up to 200 guests, providing showers, bathing suits (wool) and entertainment. The word natatorium is the Latin name given to an indoor swimming pool.

Cannon Beach's natatorium was built in 1924 by William Mahon and was often referred to as "The Nat." It was located on the area of the present Whale Park. To fill the pool, they created a long pipeline to Elk Creek, and during high tide, they would pump the water into the pool and chlorinate it, which took about 24 hours.

The Nat had two principal advantages, plus several lesser ones. It was safe (or anyway safer) than the ocean with its undertow and sneaker waves, and it was considerably warmer since Mahon heated his pool, first with cordwood and later with oil. The Nat also provided four private bathrooms, which could be rented for 25 cents, a boon to cottages lacking indoor plumbing. Bathing suits were rented, too, woolen suits that never seemed to get quite dry. Another attraction of the Nat was the viewing balcony above the pool, for there Mahon installed a nickelodeon (a primitive form of jukebox) and thus the balcony became a place to dance. Motion pictures were also shown on the outside wall at night.

Summer after summer for 20 years, the Nat was a place of delight, echoing with the whoops and cries of the bathers, the blaring jazz tunes and the stomp of the dancers' feet. When World War II shortages of chlorine and heating oil forced the Nat to close, something more than the old pool and its raftered ceilings passed, something that reflected an interesting difference between then and now. People did not go to the Nat to exercise, to get in shape by swimming so many laps, and they certainly did not go to train for some competition. They simply went to play together in the water.

Elaine Trucke is executive director of the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum.

'When World War II shortages ... forced the Nat to close, something more than the old pool and its raftered ceilings passed.'



ABOVE: Riders rest on horses in front of the Cannon Beach Natatorium sometime between 1926 and 1928. LEFT: The Cannon Beach Natatorium in the 1920s.

The resurrection of Jesus

By KEN TIPPS
For The Daily Astorian

Many thousands of people of every race through all the world pause at this time of the year and observe in some manner what may be called the greatest event in all human history — the resurrection of Jesus.

Although there will be numerous inspiring sermons, pageants, plays, sunrise services and other activities of Easter observance, some of the things we do have little or no connection to that grand event.

Even the name Easter may refer to a pagan goddess rather than Jesus. Colored candy eggs and bunny rabbits involve fun activities for children, but have little or no relationship with what actually happened.

Scripture tells us that the enemies of Jesus had



AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa

Residents re-enact Jesus Christ's crucifixion on a hilltop in the Petare shanty town during Holy Week in Caracas, Venezuela in 2014. Holy Week commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus culminating in his crucifixion on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday, celebrated April 5 this year.

conspired and arrested Jesus. After the mockery of a

trial, he was crucified and buried. They even sealed

the tomb and posted Roman soldiers to keep it



closed. However, it was all in vain, for on the following Sunday morning, two ladies, hearts heavy with grief and sorrow — Mary Magdalene and Mary the earthly mother of Jesus — went to his tomb, but found it empty (Matthew 28).

An angel appeared and explained that Jesus had risen. Soon, all doubt was removed when Jesus appeared to those faithful ladies and later to his apostles and inner circle of friends.

Within the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to hundreds of his disciples, speaking and teaching many things concerning the kingdom of God. After instructing his followers to take his gospel into all the world, he ascended back to heaven.

Enjoy the season, celebrate and give thanks. The resurrection of Jesus was so important that it should be remembered for numerous reasons, including:

1. It proved him to be the Son of God.
2. It tells us how much God loves us.
3. By it, he conquered sin, death and Satan.
4. He paid the price for the sins of all who will trust and faithfully obey him.

Mary and Mary Magdalene departed that cemetery with great joy — their Lord was alive! May we too, look back on that empty tomb with great joy — our Lord is alive!

Ken Tipps is the minister at the Astoria Church of Christ.

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