

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Knappa
[næp•ə]

noun

1. A small, unincorporated community in Clatsop County situated 15 miles east of Astoria out U.S. Highway 30 on the southern bank of the Columbia River

Origin:

Indian word for the village on this land was *Tle-las-qua*. Present day Knappa takes its name from pioneer settler Aaron Knapp, Jr., who lived in the area for many years and served as the first postmaster of the Knappa office beginning in 1872. The post office was closed in 1943.

"I am visiting Knappa and send some facts relative to the place, which may not be uninteresting to your readers. Knappa lies about eighteen miles from Astoria on the Oregon side of the river, on the slough. It has a very fine landing and covered wharf, owned by A. Knapp. There some seven logging camps in this vicinity, having their commercial, social and religious center at Knappa. It has a fine agricultural region in the rear, with some thirty or forty farms and three good schools well supplied with children and teachers.... Mr. Knapp says it is his intention to build a sawmill at the wharf this season, which is very much needed to supply lumber for building purposes at home, and which will help in many ways to build up the town."

—Letter to the Editor, "Knappa Items," *The Daily Astorian*, Thursday, March 30, 1882, p. 3

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You never know what stories you'll come away with when you visit the Triangle Tavern in Astoria. Photo by Matt Love

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

Over the years, I've gathered many a great unsolicited story in Oregon Coast bars and taverns. Many of them have found their way into my books. In fact, one of the stories, the legendary tale of a drunken Paul Newman, a chainsaw and a pool table, inspired and informed an entire book.

It happened again, recently, at my favorite back table in Astoria's Triangle Tavern. I suppose it was more of an encounter rather than a story, or maybe it's all the same thing.

I was editing my latest manuscript, drinking a Fort George Vortex, staring at the river, listening to Blue Oyster Cult's "Don't Fear the Reaper" on the jukebox, when I heard a man across the room ranting at the bartender. The NFL draft was blaring on television, and the man was loudly and profanely complaining about the high beer, parking and ticket prices at Seahawk games. He sounded positively Marxist on the subject of obscenely high player salaries. He was giving it to them good and even threw in the word "peon."

I absolutely loved his tirade and wrote some of his lines down.

The man ended his performance by promising the bartender he'd return. He walked toward me, toward the back exit, and right as he passed, I said, "I loved your speech. It made my day."

He stopped, turned and smiled. His age was indeterminate. He was dressed in denim, head to toe. Oh, I almost forgot. He also wore a white Seahawks T-shirt.

What followed was the most wonderfully brief bizarre non sequitur exchange in my life.

He thanked me and said, "I'm agent 99?"

"Agent 99?" I said.

"Did you know that the lead singer for Quarterflash is the greatest female rock singer of all time?"

"Really?"

"She's a cross of Celine Dion, Madonna and Pat Benatar. And she plays the sax!"

He paused for a moment and then screamed, "Go halibut!" gave a first down signal, and bolted out the door.

Matt Love is author/editor of 13 books about Oregon. They are available at all coastal bookstores or through www.nestuccaspitpress.com. He lives in Astoria.

COLUMBIA BAR

The Chunnel

By RYAN HUME

After opening at 5 p.m. on one of the recent beautiful spring days we have been having, the sun continued to taunt bartender Josh Baer through the open door of the Voodoo Room in Astoria.

Pedestrians milled about 11th Street. Skateboarders glided down Marine Drive. With this in mind, he concocted a crisp libation he had come up with last spring for such a day.

"This one's untitled," he said. "Would you like a name for it?" I inquired. Without another soul in the bar, he seemed game.

The French elderflower liqueur and rose flower water heightened the herbaceous qualities of the English-style gin (Hendrick's specifically is from Scotland), while the fresh lemon juice and sparkling wine added a crisp finish and some effervescence to the floral notes.

I got to thinking of other things that connected the British Isles to the continent, and I present to you, The Chunnel, named in honor of the subterranean train tunnel beneath the English Channel.

Ingredients

- 1 ½ ounces Hendrick's Gin
- 1/4 ounce St. Germain Elderflower Liqueur
- Juice of half a lemon
- Ice
- Sparkling wine, as needed
- A few drops of rose flower water*
- Lemon twist

Directions

Add all the ingredients except the sparkling wine and rose flower water to a



cocktail shaker and shake until cold. Strain into a martini glass. Top off with sparkling wine, add the drops of rose flower water and garnish with a twist of lemon.

—Recipe courtesy of Josh Baer, bartender at the Voodoo Room, Astoria

*Rose flower water is a distillation of rose petals. Used sparingly, it can change the flavor profile of a cocktail or custard or add a nice scent to a load of laundry. Available locally at Pat's Pantry in downtown Astoria.

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