

COLUMBIA BAR

The Yucca

By RYAN HUME

Mary Todd's Workers Bar & Grill likes to wear its eccentricities proudly. From the oyster-shell ashtrays on the back patio to the numerous brassieres hanging from the ceiling fans inside, this is a place that revels in a good time.

The Yucca, its signature cocktail, is no exception. Bold and stiff, this punch is said to have originated out of the river rafting community, where it was mixed up in large gallon-sized jars for an all-day sip and drift. Word has it this arrived at Mary Todd's by way of Prineville, Oregon and a bartender named Cama.

Really, a Yucca can be anything as long as it preserves these basic tenets: booze, fruit, sugar and ice shaken till the glass ices over.

At Mary Todd's, they wrap a pint jar in a towel and really give it what for. It takes a bit of work, all that shaking, but a perfectly frozen glass filled with a delicious, boozy lemonade is certain to cure many ills on a hot summer day.

Ingredients:

3 ounces vodka (double shot)

One lemon, quartered
Simple syrup
Ice

Directions:

Add vodka to a 16-ounce Mason jar with a lid. Squeeze three of the lemon quarters into the jar and then add the remaining lemon quarter whole. Top off the jar with ice, then finish it off with the simple syrup. Close the lid tightly and wrap securely in a kitchen or bar towel and shake.

Keep shaking.

Then shake it some more.

All in all, you will probably want to shake it for a good five minutes. When the ice has completely frosted the jar, enjoy.

—Recipe courtesy of Bjorn, bartender at Mary Todd's Workers Bar & Grill, Astoria, Oregon

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Cathlamet [kæθ•ləm•it]

also, *Kathlamet*
noun

1. *Kathlamet*: a Chinookian tribe that lived on the Columbia River in Oregon and southwestern Washington. Also, the language the tribe spoke, a dialect of Chinook

2. Located on the north bank of the Columbia River opposite Puget Island along the Ocean Beach Highway in southwestern Washington, this town of 532 — according to the 2010 U.S. census — is the county seat of Wahkiakum County

Origin:

A large Indian village for many generations. First marked on a map as "Cathlamah" by Lewis and Clark in 1805-1806; this is generally thought to be a misspelling on the part of the explorers of the Indian word, *calamet*, meaning "stone" as a nearby river has a bed

littered with rock. Other variations followed, including "Kahelamit" by Dr. W. F. Tolmie of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833. When the area was first settled by whites in 1846 by James Birnie, also of the Hudson's Bay Company, the area became known as "Birnie's Retreat" for a spell before being designated as *Cathlamet*, with this official spelling, in August 1851 when a U.S. Post Office was established.

"Cathlamet on the Columbia was, from time immemorial, the center of the Indian people on the Lower River. ... Chinook was only a mud beach, a mere fishing station, but Cathlamet was an Indian town before Gray sailed into the River or Lewis and Clark passed by on their way to the sea."

—Thomas N. Strong, "Indians of the Lower Columbia," *The Sunday Oregonian*, Nov. 10, 1901, P.1

"My father, James Birnie, came from Aberdeen, Scotland, to Montreal in 1816, and there spent two years acquiring the French language and making preparations for the journey West in the service of the Northwest Fur Company, whose headquarters were at Montreal. ... In 1844, or perhaps earlier, he sent a force of men to clear the land and erect the necessary buildings at the 'Retreat,' as the present Cathlamet was then known, and in the following year he moved there, taking among other things a band of Spanish cattle which he had pasturing on Clatsop Plains; the herd and its descendants remaining for many years."

—K. D. Birnie, "Cathlamet's Early Days," *The Morning Oregonian*, Monday, Dec. 30, 1901, P.8

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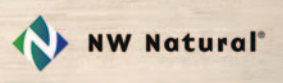


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