

GRAB BAG

BOOK SHELF // GLIMPSE // WILDLIFE // POP CULTURE // WORDS // Q&A // FOOD // FUN



PHOTO BY MATT LOVE

No one has ever ordered a shot of pumpkin pie-flavored vodka in Rod's Bar & Grill in Warrenton.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

By MATT LOVE

Rod's Bar & Grill

It was a clam tide morning in Warrenton and my associate and I strolled into Rod's Bar & Grill after building a driftwood fort at Fort Stevens State Park.

The joint was packed. In a corner booth, a birthday party unfolded for a 6- or 7-year old girl. I did a double take. I'd never seen a kid's birthday party in a bar. I dug it. It was just mom, dad, the kid, presents, a stuffed animal, balloons and streamers. There was a big chocolate cake, with candles, too.

My associate and I ordered Rainiers in cans. We also ordered a basket of clam strips, and I asked to substitute onion rings for French fries. The female bartender agreed with a smile. A few minutes later, the order materialized with fries and no onion rings. I didn't say a word. A clam strip basket with fries is a clam strip basket with fries. They have real

problems in Rod's.

I surveyed Rod's liquor selection. It was somewhat odd, a little lacking in spots, a little all over the place. I dug its asymmetrical mystery.

A couple of vodka flavors I'd never seen caught my eye: pumpkin pie, marshmallow and whipped (cream). The bottles had little graphics of pumpkin pie, a marshmallow and whipping cream. My god! I thought to myself. Who orders whipped cream-flavored vodka on the Oregon Coast?

I asked the bartender about it. She told me for a spell, whipped was hot stuff, and she couldn't keep it in stock. Then the fad dried up just as fast. She also told me no one had ever ordered a shot of pumpkin pie. My faith in drinking humanity was partially restored right there.

It was time to go. As I

was leaving, a man sitting at the bar turned toward me and made eye contact. He said, "Is your name Tom?"

"No."

"You look like someone I used to know, a music producer in L.A."

"That's not me."

Or maybe it was. Maybe I did have a former life in the industry, scored a hit record with Sniff and the Tears, and hung out with The Bangles. Maybe I was living incognito on the Oregon Coast, surviving on royalties from a forged song credit or two, trying to write my rock 'n' roll memoir.

I liked being mistaken for a record producer from the mid '80s. I considered showing my appreciation for the compliment by buying him a whipped. But I just couldn't do it. I liked him.

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Matt Love is the author/ editor of 14 books, including "A Nice Piece of Astoria" and "Of Walking in Rain." His books are available at coastal bookstores or his website, nestuccaspitpress.com

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Tillamook

[tɪləˈmʊk]

noun

1. a native Salishan people of the North Oregon Coast or a member of that people

2. the extinct language of the Tillamook people

3. a town and county on the North Oregon Coast. The city, which is the county seat and had a population of 4,935 in the 2010 census, is located near the southeast end of a bay of the same name

4. a popular brand and cheese factory located on U.S. 101 that produces a variety of dairy products, including yogurt and ice cream. More than a million people visit the factory each year

5. *Tillamook Head*: a high promontory located in Ecola State Park five miles south of Seaside.

The jagged bluff, which rises more than a 1,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean, is part of the Oregon Coast Trail and is also notable as Lewis and Clark crossed it in 1806 to buy the blubber of a beached whale from natives, which is how the park got its name

6. *Tillamook Rock*: the larger of two basalt sea rocks lodged in the Pacific Ocean and visible from Tillamook Head. Tillamook Rock is famous for housing a lighthouse that was operational between 1881-1957. For many decades the lighthouse acted as a columbarium, a resting place to intern crematory remains, before its license was revoked in 1999

Origin:

From the Salish language. First recorded in William Clark's journal in 1806 as both *Killamook* and *Kilamox*, other variations of the name have been recorded as *Killamoux*, *Callemoux* and *Killimous* among many others. The 'T' in *Tillamook* does not enter into the picture until the 1850s, around the

time that the county was created.

Tillamook Head also takes its name from William Clark's journal as he recorded his legendary crossing of the headland to trade with the people living on the coast south of the rise in what is now Cannon Beach. The Clatsop Indian word for Tillamook Head was *Nah-se-u'-su*.

"Seaside and Gearhart lie on a beautiful stretch of beach which is broken on the south by Tillamook Head, a wooded cape that juts abruptly into the ocean. The walk from Seaside to the point of Tillamook Head is one of the popular Clatsop Beach excursions. Those who make it are repaid by a close view of one of the most remarkable lighthouses on the American coast."

—"Summer Resorts Along Oregon Coast Draw Vacation Throngs," *The Morning Oregonian*, Saturday, Feb. 4, 1911, P. 3

"Near Seaside, another large landslide brought down several more trees and cut more than 50 feet out of the Tillamook Head trail, leaving hikers to make their own route around the destruction."

—Edward Stratton, "Triage on Tillamook Head," *The Daily Astorian*, June 3, 2016



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Tillamook Head Sunset" by Solfrid Price at Trail's End Art Association.