



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

The left side of this photo shows the interior of the former women's waiting room in the west wing of Astoria's former train depot in June 2011, just as the Columbia River Maritime Museum began to fundraise for the building's \$2.5 million restoration. On the right, Sam Johnson, the museum's executive director, stands in the same, nearly 1,400-square-foot room of the restored building in January 2013, just before its opening and dedication as the new Barbey Maritime Center. The building now hosts workshops, exhibits and community events.

FAMILIAR NORTH COAST BUILDINGS HAVE STORIES TO TELL

By DAN HAAG

Noted architect Frank Lloyd Wright claimed "Every great architect is — necessarily — a great poet. He must be a great original interpreter of his time, his day, his age."

Certain buildings are more than bricks, wood, stairs and miles of electrical wiring; they are poetry in perpetuity.

From roller rink to playhouse

Cannon Beach's iconic Coaster Theater is renowned for its robust theatrical schedule. Purchased in the 1960s by theater enthusiasts Richard and Margaret Atherton, the building was extensively renovated as the new Coaster Theater by Maurie Clark in 1972.

Locals and visitors are likely quite used to the intimate playhouse and can't imagine it serving any other purpose.

But once upon a time, attire for a night out at the familiar Hemlock Street building called for roller skates rather

than an evening gown or suit and tie.

The Wave Roller Rink, built in 1924 by Ray Walker, was one of Cannon Beach's early sources of entertainment. For the low, low price of 35 cents, patrons could happily skate all day. Kids rented skates that simply clamped onto their shoes, and "skate setters" — who wore a skate key around their necks — would tighten skates as needed.

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