

Author recalls Seaside during World War II

The affects of war on a small coastal town

By **REBECCA HERREN**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, started out as any other Sunday. The family of Gloria Linkey, along with other Seaside, attended church. Shortly after Rev. Dutton began his sermon, a man went up to Dutton and whispered something into his ear. That, Linkey said, was when everything changed. “Rev. Dutton announced that the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor.” He said a prayer for peace and dismissed the congregants.

“Nobody could figure out how this happened,” Linkey said. “We just huddled around the radio all day. The reports of the casualties and the devastation were very slow coming in.”

By the end of day, Seaside was in blackout, which would continue throughout the war. No lights could be on, painted rocks had to be flipped over and gas was rationed. Seaside had been thrust into the war years. “A Town Called Seaside” is Linkey’s latest book and the subject of her discussion in March at the Seaside Library. Though the book con-

sists of historical bits of information about Seaside, she kept the topic on pre- and post-World War II and the affects the war had on this small town.

“The innocence was gone and we now knew we were in the fight,” Linkey said.

Curfew

Seasiders were not allowed on the Prom after 4:30 p.m., or on the beach during the winter. There was an 8:30 p.m. curfew for the beach and the Prom during the summer. “The only one’s on the Prom were the MPs (military police) in their jeeps going up and down making sure we were safe,” she explained. “There were air-raid wardens who would knock on your door if you had a light showing. It was very different and sobering for all of us.”

Linkey said no one was prepared and how they got prepared had to be “a miracle and by the grace of God.” In school, the war was discussed in class daily, noting on the wall maps where the allies were, where the Germans were and where the Americans and Japanese were.

Soon, everyone adjusted to this new way of life.

Then it came, she said, the night of June 21, 1942. The Linkey sisters had a few friends over for a slumber party and since they were telling ghost stories had left the curtains



Seaside resident Gloria Linkey is the author of three books: “Abby Rescues Animals,” “Native American Women: Three Who Changed History” and “A Town Called Seaside,” her newest book.
Rebecca Herren

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Gloria Linkey

opened. Late into the night, the girls heard noises and went to the window. They saw lights flashing from the ocean toward shore. They ventured outside and almost immediately, the military police screamed, telling them to go back inside. “Get back into the house, we’re under attack. It’s a Japanese submarine, he’s shelling the coast.”

The teenagers’ thought, “Wow!” and stayed outside to watch. Years later the Linkey sisters realized the stupidity of their actions. But, as Linkey explained, “We knew, I think, instinctively, we were watch-

ing history and that was what we wanted to watch.”

Shelled Fort Stevens

According to Bert Webber’s “Retaliation: Japanese Attacks and Allied Countermeasures on the Pacific Coast in World War II,” a Japanese submarine shelled Fort Stevens on June 20, 1942, to raid shipping off the American coast. The next evening, the I-25 (submarine) came in close to shore — through a fishing fleet to avoid minefields off the Columbia River — and took position near Fort Stevens. The crew then fired its deck gun inland.

Even though the mouth of the Columbia River was well fortified, Fort Stevens never did open fire because, Linkey pointed out, “They didn’t want them to know how far off base they were.” The Japanese had begun shelling about 6 miles south of Fort Stevens.

It was later learned that the commander of the submarine knew they could not hit anything, but wanted Americans to know how vulnerable their coastlines were. “And could at anytime launch an invasion on the West Coast,” Linkey added. The impressions of the war years in Seaside were infused into the memory a young Linkey. But that night in June was most indelible. “That night I remember more than any other night,” she said.

The flavor of Seaside began to change.

Families of the servicemen came, homes were rented out and businesses stayed open during the winter. Even the high school grew with the influx of new families. “There were people with Brooklyn accents and accents from the South. It was interesting and gave Seaside more of a cosmopolitan feeling,” Linkey said.

Tragedy

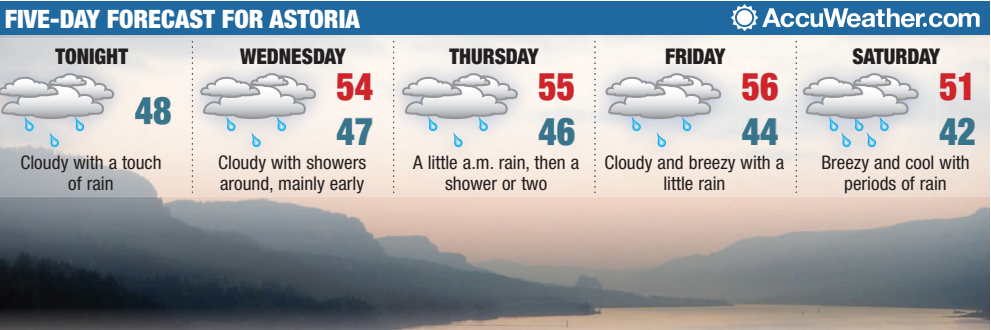
The one tragedy during that period, she noted, was of Seaside’s only Japanese family who owned a small curio shop.

Per an executive order signed by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942, all Japanese living on the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington state had to move. The family sold everything and moved back to Nebraska. After the war, Japanese families were allowed to return to their homes. But, Linkey said, they never returned and “we never knew what happened to them.”

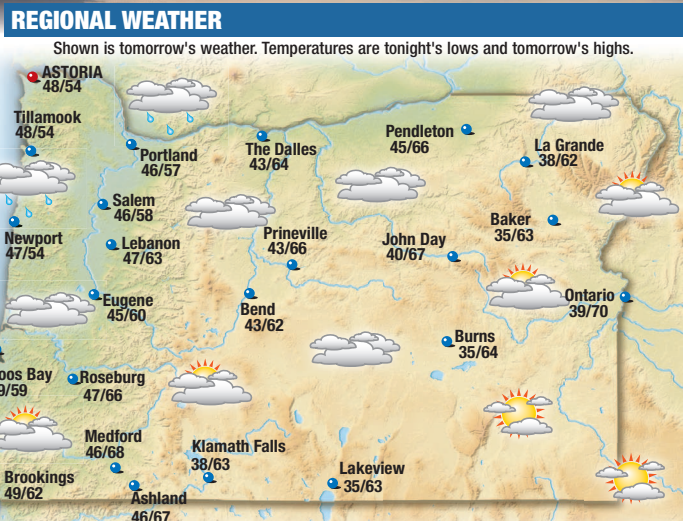
After the war, Seaside no longer opened its doors on Memorial Day and closed on Labor Day. Seaside proved it could be a sustainable, full time resident town, not just a summer respite for the wealthy. “We have grown from this little tiny town to where people can now reside 12 months out of the year, if you can take the rain,” said Linkey. “We have everything that any town needs.”

Linkey grew up in Seaside. She was connected here at a young age and never thought of leaving. Then, when her parents decided to move to Laguna Beach, California, her dad requested she accompany her mother. That was in 1948.

The desire and yearning of those earlier times never left her heart and she couldn’t wait to return. It took more than 40 years, but the opportunity finally presented itself in 1989 and Linkey moved back to the town she loved.



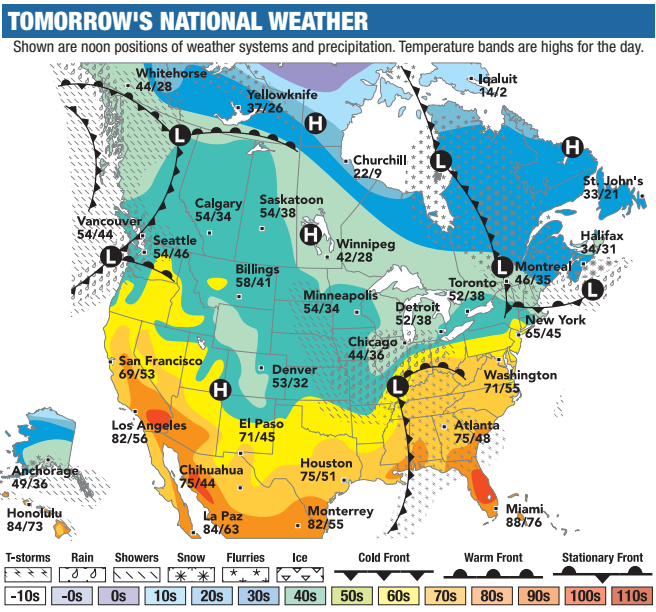
ALMANAC	
Astoria through Monday.	
Temperatures	
High/low	54°/35°
Normal high/low	55°/40°
Record high	70° in 1966
Record low	29° in 2008
Precipitation	
Monday	Trace
Month to date	0.13"
Normal month to date	0.63"
Year to date	32.46"
Normal year to date	25.47"
SUN AND MOON	
Sunset tonight	7:48 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday	6:48 a.m.
Moonrise today	1:08 p.m.
Moonset today	3:22 a.m.
Full	
Last	
New	
First	
Apr 10	Apr 19
Apr 26	May 2



UNDER THE SKY	
Tonight's Sky: Use the handle of the Big Dipper to "Arc to Arcturus and spike down to Spica."	
Source: Jim Todd, OMSI	

TOMORROW'S TIDES			
Astoria / Port Docks		Time	Low
Time	High		
	Low		
9:07 a.m.	7.9 ft.	3:14 a.m.	3.0 ft.
10:42 p.m.	7.5 ft.	4:17 p.m.	0.4 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES						
City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	81	60	pc	75	48	t
Boston	42	39	r	45	37	pc
Chicago	55	38	c	44	36	r
Denver	40	22	sn	53	32	s
Des Moines	58	43	c	54	36	c
Detroit	53	38	c	52	38	r
El Paso	75	47	s	71	45	s
Fairbanks	45	28	s	42	22	c
Honolulu	84	73	pc	84	73	pc
Indianapolis	60	45	pc	62	37	t
Kansas City	56	42	r	53	38	r
Las Vegas	70	51	s	76	57	pc
Los Angeles	76	54	pc	82	56	s
Memphis	81	63	s	68	45	c
Miami	89	76	pc	88	76	pc
Nashville	79	58	pc	77	43	t
New Orleans	83	70	s	81	55	t
New York	64	51	t	65	45	s
Oklahoma City	71	43	t	62	37	c
Philadelphia	75	52	t	68	51	s
St. Louis	64	53	c	59	40	r
Salt Lake City	49	32	pc	60	45	pc
San Francisco	65	49	pc	69	53	pc
Seattle	57	46	c	54	46	r
Washington, DC	78	54	pc	71	55	s



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Eastern Oregon counties halt use of traps

Associated Press

ENTERPRISE — Six eastern Oregon counties say they are halting the use of cyanide traps to kill coyotes to protect the state’s wolf population.

The Baker City Herald reported that the federal Wildlife Services and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife came to the agreement to stop the use cyanide traps in six counties after the accidental killing of a gray wolf in February.

Officials say cyanide traps to control predators will no longer be used in Baker, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow and Grant counties.

Officials from both agencies say they are working to improve communication between the entities and share information on future wolf sightings.

Driver, passengers in crash released from hospital

The Daily Astorian

A driver and three passengers involved in a crash on Lief Erikson Drive near 51st Street last Thursday morning have all been released from the hospital.

A blue 1995 Nissan Pathfinder rolled 40 feet down a hill into a backyard after hitting the end of a protective guardrail along the north side of the road shortly after 10:30 a.m.

The driver — Shawn Hall, 34, of Gresham — and a passenger — Nathaniel Eugene Richcreek, 38, of Seaside — were later flown in a Life Flight helicopter from Columbia Memorial Hospital to OHSU Hospital in Portland.

Two other passengers —

ON THE RECORD

DUII

- At 5:32 p.m. Friday, John George Bockstael, 54, of Hammond, was arrested by the Warrenton Police Department on the 800 block of Southeast Marlin Avenue for driving under the influence of intoxicants and harassment. Bockstael allegedly was making threats to employees at the Kia dealership over his dissatisfaction with a car he had bought there. He had left but drove back to the dealership while officers were taking statements. Officers noticed he had an odor of alcohol on his breath, but Kitzman refused to take a breath test.
- At 11:48 a.m. Saturday, John Ethan Osburn, 39, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 2500 block of South Roosevelt Drive for assault. Osburn allegedly engaged in a physical confrontation with his ex-girlfriend.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.
Port of Astoria Commission, 5 p.m., workshop, Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
Clatsop County Fair Board, 5:30 p.m., Clatsop County Fair and Expo, 92937 Walluski Loop.
Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Flag Room, 450 10th St.

OREGON
Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 3-5-2-0
4 p.m.: 1-0-7-7
7 p.m.: 1-9-2-1
10 p.m.: 3-3-2-2
Monday's Megabucks: 8-15-20-21-31-41
Estimated jackpot: \$3 million

WASHINGTON
Monday's Daily Game: 6-4-5
Monday's Hit 5: 09-15-20-26-27
Estimated jackpot: \$170,000
Monday's Keno: 03-06-08-17-25-35-36-38-41-42-47-49-50-53-55-57-63-67-73-74
Monday's Lotto: 02-18-24-26-32-37
Estimated jackpot: \$4.3 million
Monday's Match 4: 10-12-21-23

WEDNESDAY
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 9 a.m., special work session for goal setting, 800 Exchange St., Suite 430, Astoria.
Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Gearhart City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.
Oregon Historic Preservation Plan Public Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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