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WEEKEND BREAK



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Oregon's lost coastal city

The tale of Bayocean inspired Maryland musician's new album

By MALLORY GRUBEN
For The Astorian

Although he lives in Maryland, musician Matt Cutter is intimately familiar with a little-known piece of Oregon's history: the rise and fall of Bayocean.

His band, Rectangle Creek, released an eponymic album about the city in June. Cutter discovered the so-called "city that fell into the sea" while researching for a speculative fiction novel he wants to write about post-ecological collapse in the U.S.

Bayocean was once a resort city on a peninsula between Tillamook Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The peninsula is now covered with brush, with few remaining clues about its history.

"It is literally a ghost city because there is nothing left of it whatsoever," Cutter said. "It's all just flat and smooth for miles and miles. (There is) literally no trace of this town but it's amazing that there was a natatorium — a huge indoor, steam-powered wave pool with a 1,000 seat movie theater. They were trying to build an Atlantic City on the West Coast."

Bayocean has all the makings of a compelling saga: rich investors, luxurious amenities, fearsome natural forces, persevering figureheads and inevitable destruction. It is the tale of how a once extravagant resort des-

VISIT THE SPIT

BAYOCEAN PENINSULA PARK

State Highway 131, Tillamook
(Located on Bayocean Road and Bayocean Dike Road in Tillamook, just east of Cape Meares)

\$10 Tillamook County day-use access parking fee

tinuation eroded away a few decades after it was built.

'The Atlantic City of the West'

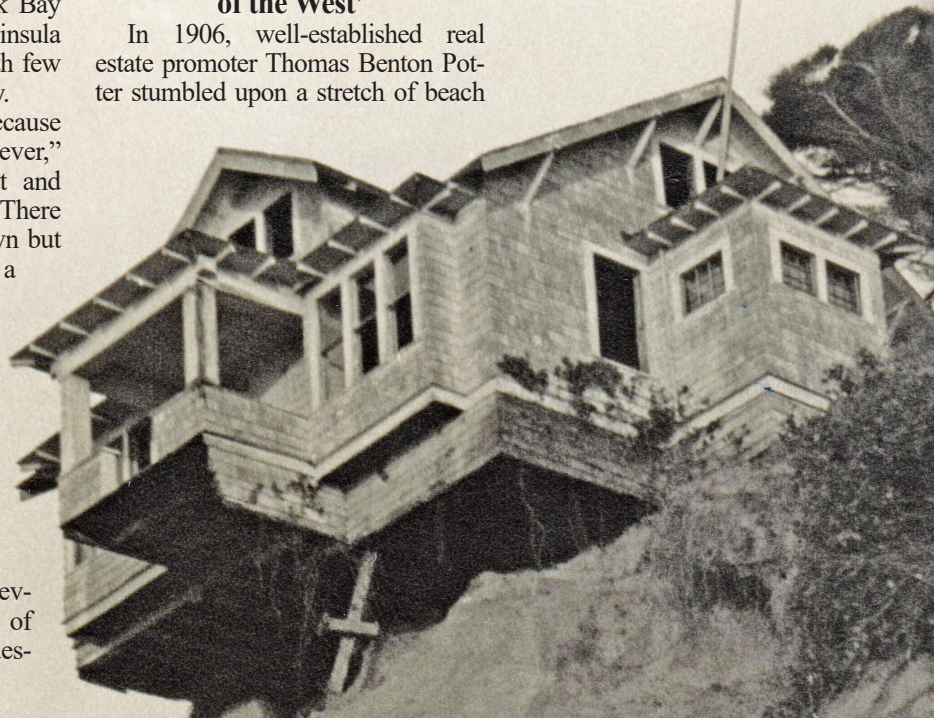
In 1906, well-established real estate promoter Thomas Benton Potter stumbled upon a stretch of beach

between Tillamook Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Potter decided to build a resort community on the land.

Potter and his son, T. Irving Potter, built dozens of lots, recruited buyers and contracted with other developers to erect what they envisioned would become a "playground for millionaires."

By 1914, roughly 2,000 people lived in the resort city. Dozens more vacationed there in the summer.

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LISTEN TO THE ALBUM

'Bayocean,' by Rectangle Creep, is a 22-track album retelling the story of Bayocean.

Online album available at
[rectanglecreep.bandcamp.com/
album/bayocean](https://rectanglecreep.bandcamp.com/album/bayocean)

Rectangle Creep

Bayocean



Tillamook County Pioneer Museum
TOP: One of Bayocean's most prominent attractions was its natatorium. **ABOVE:** Francis Drake Mitchell and his wife, Ida, were the first family on record to buy a plot of land in Bayocean. **BACKGROUND:** Erosion of the beach at Bayocean left a number of houses perched on sand dunes a few yards from the shore, including the Burger Boogie house on Clark Street, pictured here circa 1950.