

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

May 23, 1935

Crowd in overturned truck miraculously escapes

A truckload of young folks in a CCC truck, on their way from Eugene to CCC farewell dance at Layng Creek station, miraculously escaped with only minor injuries to a few in the party when the truck, struck by another car, went into the ditch near Goshen and turned completely over. The cab on the truck probably saved passengers from being crushed. The party probably was saved from being burned by the fact that the driver retained consciousness and quickly shut

off the ignition. Gasoline had already started to trickle into the driver's compartment.

Other CCC trucks were following and occupants of these tore away woodwork of the overturned truck and rescued the occupants. Two girls were injured severely enough to require medical attention. They were brought here and later continued on their way to the dance.

The truck was struck by a passenger car driven by a woman. According to the operator of the truck, the passenger car had traveled a distance on the shoulder of the highway, then jumped onto the pavement directly in front of the truck and a short distance away. The passenger car also went into the ditch, but did not turn over and suffered only minor injuries.



May 24, 1995: Minding the gap — Dick Krantz of T.G. Nelson Electric works on the Curin Bridge. The historical bridge is just one of several in the area that are undergoing major repairs.

Waste roundup coming May 30

A household Hazardous Waste Roundup has been scheduled in Cottage Grove on Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at South Lane County Fire and Rescue, 233 Harrison Avenue in Cottage Grove.

The collection is free for hazardous waste that is from household sources, up to 35 gallons total per customer. Hazardous waste from businesses, schools, churches or non-profit organizations may be subject to disposal fees. What to bring: Paint, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, car care products, arts and crafts products, and other household hazardous waste. Check labels for words like flammable, corrosive, poison, caution and danger. Please don't bring: Empty containers, drums, radioactive waste, asbestos or explosives. Any empty containers can be safely thrown in the trash. For information about disposal of radioactive waste, asbestos and explosives, call 541-682-4120.

Businesses, Non-Profit Organizations, Schools and Churches which generate small amounts of hazardous waste may pre-register to bring that waste to this event. They must pay for disposal of the waste, but most can save money by using this program, rather than hiring a contractor on their own. Please call 541-682-4120 for more information on hazardous waste disposal for households or businesses.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

May 11

Missing child, Bohemia Elementary

The school's resource officer was told by staff of two missing juveniles that were seen just before school started but went missing. Other students reported seeing the juveniles walking toward the baseball fields. The officer located the juveniles west of the baseball fields, escorted them back to school and released them to school staff and parents.

Public hazard, Row River Rd.

The reporting person requested an officer to pickup and dispose of a used syringe laying behind the dumpster to the rear of the building.

Information, The Bridal Shop

The complainant at the station

asked to speak with an officer about being the victim of a theft that occurred on April 27. A male subject came into the business asking for gas money, was given \$5 and promised to pay it back by mail but never did.

May 12

Traffic stop — Bike, S. 10th St.

Multipile suspects brought into custody for interfering, resisting and assault on a public safety officer.

Criminal mischief, Hwy. 99

The caller said that when he arrived home he found his front window had been shattered and his front door kicked in, but it doesn't appear that an entry was made. The caller thinks that the suspect may be a friend of a friend who is upset that he did not give them money.

May 13

Suspicious subject, Grover Ave.

The caller reported seeing a male subject walk through her yard at 10:30 that morning. The subject matches the description of a subject involved in a strong arm robbery that occurred on May 12.

Trespass, S. 6th St.

The complainant reported seeing three subjects trying to take building supplies out of the vacant house. The complainant saw two males come out of the side entrance carrying an expensive-looking door. When the complainant approached the subjects, they dropped the door, jumped into a truck and left. Afterward, a female came out of the same door, jumped on a bike and left as well.

May 14

Suicidal subject, Washington Ave.

The caller, who was out of town, said he received a text from the subject which read, "When you get home, the door will be locked, the kids will be asleep and I will be dead. Tell them that I went to heaven." Officers contacted the subject and determined that she was not a threat to herself.

Agency assist, Hwy. 99

There was a sighting of a vehicle that matched the description of an Amber Alert. Units assisted Oregon state police with securing the perimeter.

OFFBEAT

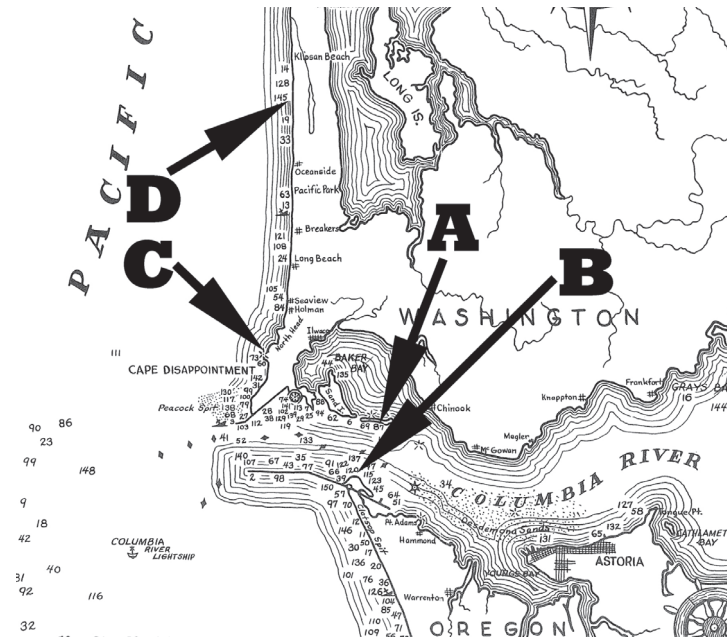
Continued from page 4A

The boat was badly overloaded, and the weather was freshening and the bar was still rough. Wave after wave sloshed over the gunwales of the little open boat; eager hands bailed it out, barely keeping up, as darkness closed in on them. At the oars, sailors took turns pulling doughtily, driving the little boat upriver, all the way to Astoria.

Hours later, backs aching and muscles taxed to the limit, they finally arrived. Soon they were stretched out on the floor of the town hall around a glowing woodstove, drinking in the warmth and sleeping like men in a coma.

They couldn't know it yet, but they weren't alone. Even as they rowed desperately toward Astoria, the crew of the Merrithew was scrambling for its own lifeboats. The Merrithew hadn't even made it as far as the Mindora when it had run aground on Clatsop Spit.

The next day, Captain Staples got the bar pilot to bring him out to survey the wreckage and perhaps consider any salvage possibilities. To their astonish-



The locations of the shipwrecks of the Mindora and Merrithew, and the final locations to which they drifted, are marked on this map as A, B, C and D, respectively.

ment, the mariners found only an empty stretch of sand where the wreck had stood. Over the evening, the tide had come in and worked the vessel free, and — abandoned, unmanned and derelict — it had floated with the river's current out into the

ocean again.

Nor was there any remaining sign of the Merrithew. It, too, had re-launched itself, abandoning all hands on the beach.

A few days later, the wreckage of the Merrithew was found. It had drifted back into shore

and been dashed against the rocks near North Head, on the Washington side of the river's mouth. The Mindora drifted farther; a day or two later, it arrived through the surf just a few miles to the north, near Shoalwater Bay, and stranded itself on the beach there.

No one was killed in either shipwreck. Both were total losses. It was an odd coincidence, this double-date with destiny on which these two ships had embarked when they sailed through the Golden Gate a month before — but its conclusion certainly could have been a whole lot worse.

(Sources: Gibbs Jr., James. Pacific Graveyard. Portland: Binfords, 1950; Marshall, Don. Oregon Shipwrecks. Portland: Binfords, 1984)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://fjinnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: fjinn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY May 21 51° 69° Mostly Cloudy	FRIDAY May 21 47° 72° P.M. Sun
SATURDAY May 22 47° 70° A.M. Showers	SUNDAY May 23 47° 72° P.M. Sun
MONDAY May 24 48° 76° Partly Cloudy	TUESDAY May 25 49° 75° Mostly Sunny

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