

Cottage Grove Retrospective

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

Aug. 7, 1985

Downtown to Celebrate

Downtown Cottage Grove merchants and shoppers are gearing up once again for the second annual Main Street Celebration—a community festival designed to promote downtown as an attractive, progressive part of the city.

Sponsored by the Downtown Restoration Association, this year's affair will be held August 10, and will open with a fun run-promenade and will end with an old fashioned street dance.

A special 12-page pullout section in this week's edition of The Sentinel has a complete listing of scheduled events.

"The idea for all this was really just to celebrate the efforts of the Downtown Restoration Committee," says Celebration Chairwoman Diane O'Renck. Last year the committee hung flower baskets from various

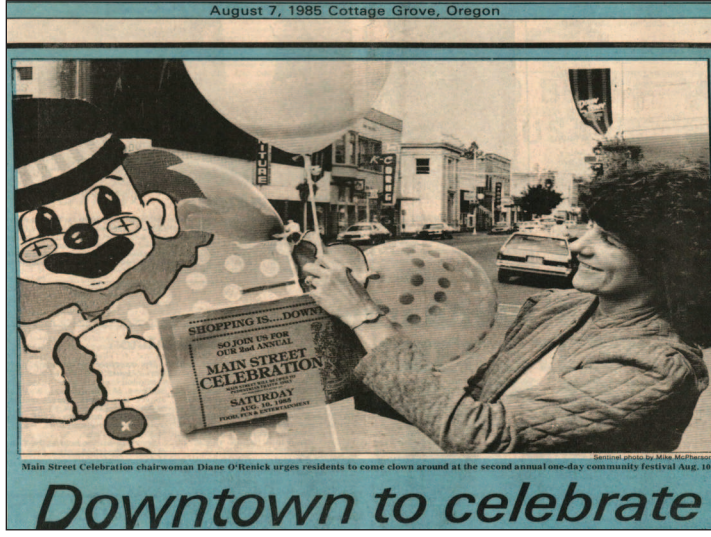
locations along Main Street, while this year colorful banners were added to further spruce up downtown.

O'Renck estimates the celebration attracted about 2,000 people last year and she hopes this year's event will draw at least 2,500.

She places part of her big crowd hopes with three new events to this year's slate of activities. For the first time a combination fun run and walk-dubbed "The Celebration Race and Promenade," — will be held. Other new events include a talent contest and the street dance, which will be headlined by the rock band "Fat Chance."

The talent show is open to anyone interesting in entering one of five categories—individual vocal, group vocal, individual instrument, break dancing and miscellaneous.

Applications are available at KNND, Uptown Printing, and Pen and Press. The entry fee is \$1, with a grand prize of \$50 to be awarded. Top three category



August 7, 1985 Cottage Grove, Oregon

winners will walk away with \$15, \$10, and \$5 respectively. Finals will be at 5 p.m. on a stage set up downtown. Main Street from 5th through 8th Streets will be barricaded from traffic throughout the Celebration from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Other events will include various sidewalk merchant sales, four showings of "Surpressed Desires," by the Cottage Theatre, a chicken barbeque, an arts and crafts show, face painting and entertainment.

"The whole idea for the Main Street Celebration is to have a good turnout of people from Cottage Grove and the surrounding area and for everyone to see what downtown Cottage Grove has to offer," says O'Renck.

"Hopefully out of all this, the downtown area will continue to grow."

POLICE BLOTTER

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

Aug. 3

Theft

A large black leather purse was stolen from a woman at the highway 99N Goodwill store. The purse contained two wallets, credit and debit cards, social security info, car and house keys, and a Samsung S5 phone, estimated value: \$200.

Aug. 4

Burglary

Subjects broke into the Econo Clean on E. Gibbs Ave the night before through the back window. The officer reported that nothing was missing from the business.

Aug. 5

Theft

The caller advised police that someone had broken into a large trailer parked in front of the Cottage Grove Yamaha on Palmer Ave. Tools and other items were stolen. Fingerprints were lifted from the trailer but came back with negative results.

Domestic Assault

Caller reported that a woman assaulted her and has been stealing items from her and using drugs at an apartment off of Highway 99. Both the caller and suspect were taken into custody.

Please see **BLOTTER**, Page 11A

CITY BEAT

Scenic bikeway rating

City Manager Richard Meyers attended his first meeting of the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Committee on Tuesday, Aug. 4. The meeting involved about a 30-mile bike ride on a proposed scenic bikeway. The committee evaluated the ride based on criteria for scenic bikeways. They

will be meeting again to review the ratings and consider the proposed bikeway. Meyers is the official representative on the committee from the League of Oregon Cities to represent the interest and concerns of cities around the state.

Museum painting now complete

The brick chimney that was part of the Cottage Grove Historical Society Museum at Birch and H Streets was removed last year by Public Works staff. The City says the chimney had become unstable and was in danger of falling. The removal of the chimney left a hole in the

side of the building, which was repaired using siding identical to the original siding. Because the chimney removal occurred late in the year, the siding underneath the chimney was not painted to match the rest of the building. This week, the unpainted section of the building was primed and painted to match the rest of the museum structure.

OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A
things settled down. Not much — but enough.

Hastily the three surviving boats were launched with a little over half the crew on board to row for shore. They would come

back 12 hours later for the rest of them...if they could survive.

They did. When the boats returned to the Shark, they found it battered and waterlogged but with the several dozen shipmates (and their captain) still clinging to the wreckage, all of them tied to the rigging with lifelines to keep from being swept away.

Not a single sailor was lost, or even badly hurt. Not one — out of a crew of more than 70 men.

When the last members of the crew reached the beach, soaked through and exhausted from their ordeal, they found a great bonfire blazing on the sand and their comrades all gathered around it. They'd found a great deal of driftwood clustered along the beach, which had burned very nicely. It was, they later learned, the wreckage of the sloop of war Peacock,

which had come to grief on the opposite shore of the river just five years before.

The castaways ended up stuck on that beach for months, although their British rivals from the Hudson's Bay Company hastened to bring them food and supplies. They built a log house at Point George, which they dubbed Sharkville, and waited in it for a vessel that they could charter to take them home.

But while they were waiting, the barque Toulon — remember the Toulon? The ship that hired the only river pilot, and then promptly stranded on a sandbar below Fort Astoria? It now returned from a journey with the news that international negotiations between Britain and the U.S. had resulted in a decision to set the boundary between them permanently at 49

degrees — the modern border with Canada.

So in the end, the castaways of Sharkville ended up being the first to hear the news. And upon hearing it, Howison ran the Shark's flag up a makeshift flagpole, and for the first time ever, Old Glory was flying above the undisputed American territory of Oregon.

Meanwhile, the ship had broken up, and sections of the deck with the ship's carronades attached had washed up on a nearby beach — just north of Arch Cape. Three pieces of artillery were found, and then another; one of them was dragged out of the sand and brought up on shore, where it stood outdoors exposed to the elements for more than 100 years in a little town that was named after it: Cannon Beach. Recently, it was sent off to the Nautical Archaeology program at Texas A&M University for expert restoration work, and the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum is currently in the midst of

a GoFundMe campaign to raise the \$30,000 it needs to provide a proper climate-controlled exhibit space for this 190-year-old piece of Oregon history.

In 2008, two more cannons from the Shark were found by a beach walker, farther to the north; these, also refurbished by Texas A&M, were placed on display at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria last year.

(Sources: Shine, Greg P. "A Gallant Little Schooner," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Dec. 2008; Tobias, Lori. "Cannons from USS Shark Come Back Home to Oregon's Coast," Portland Oregonian, 16 May 2014; <http://www.gofundme.com/ourcannon>)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY Aug. 13 53° 74° Sunny	FRIDAY Aug. 14 52° 81° Sunny
SATURDAY Aug. 15 52° 83° Sunny	SUNDAY Aug. 16 52° 84° Sunny
MONDAY Aug. 17 53° 84° Sunny	TUESDAY Aug. 18 53° 84° Sunny

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