

Reflections ELAINE TRUCKE

Seven wonders of Cannon Beach: The cannon's journey

Ever wonder how Cannon Beach got its name? The story is as confusing as most historical rumor-wrapped tales, but it is still pretty darn good.

A land parcel at Elk Creek grew to be the town known as "Eola," which eventually became Cannon Beach. But that's not really the story we are going to focus on.

The focus of this story is of the original cannon that was discovered along the coastline in 1898. This caronade initially washed up in Arch Cape in 1846. Where did it come from? Well, the very first cannon to be discovered in our area was torn, along with a portion of the decking, from the USS Shark.

USS Shark

The Shark, a U.S. naval schooner, wrecked on the Columbia River bar on Sept. 10, 1846. During the wreck, Lt. Neil Howison ordered three masts chopped down and all 12 of the ship's cannons jettisoned in an effort to help lift the ship off of Clatsop spit. Before the ship's crew could take action, the ship began to break apart, and pieces of the wreckage were scattered all over the bar.

A piece of that wreckage with several cannons attached washed ashore in what is now Arch Cape. Midshipman T.J. Simes was sent to visit the location, and his report indicates that he was successful in "getting one cannon above the high water mark," but high tides forced him to leave the two others buried (You might remember the exciting story of two cannons being discovered in Arch Cape in 2008.)

In a twist of events, the cannon that was retrieved was lost again. However, tales of the cannon swirled. In December 1863, mail carrier John Hobson reported seeing a cannon in Arch Cape Creek (also known as Shark Creek). Soon after, however, the cannon became lost when tides buried it in the sand. Rumors of the peek-a-boo sightings of the cannon continued to spread.

Lost cannon

On May 29, 1891, early coastal settler James P. Austin established the first post office at Arch Cape and named the area "Cannon Beach," which reflected his hope of finding the lost cannon.

Austin knew that the cannon was supposedly buried in a creek bed nearby, and he reportedly spent much time and money on his endeavor to find the lost artifact, no matter how unlikely his discovery might have been. He searched unsuccessfully for the cannon until his death in 1894.

Four years after Austin's death, mail carrier George Luce spotted the cannon in the waters of Arch Cape Creek. He ran to tell Austin's wife, and neighbors John and Mary Gerittse lent their team of horses to pull the heavy item out of the water.

Austin's wife had the cannon placed in front of the post office in honor of her husband, and it was housed there (I believe) until 1945.

The cannon moves

In 1945, Mel Goodin purchased and platted the land known as Cannon View Park. To make way for home sites, the cannon needed

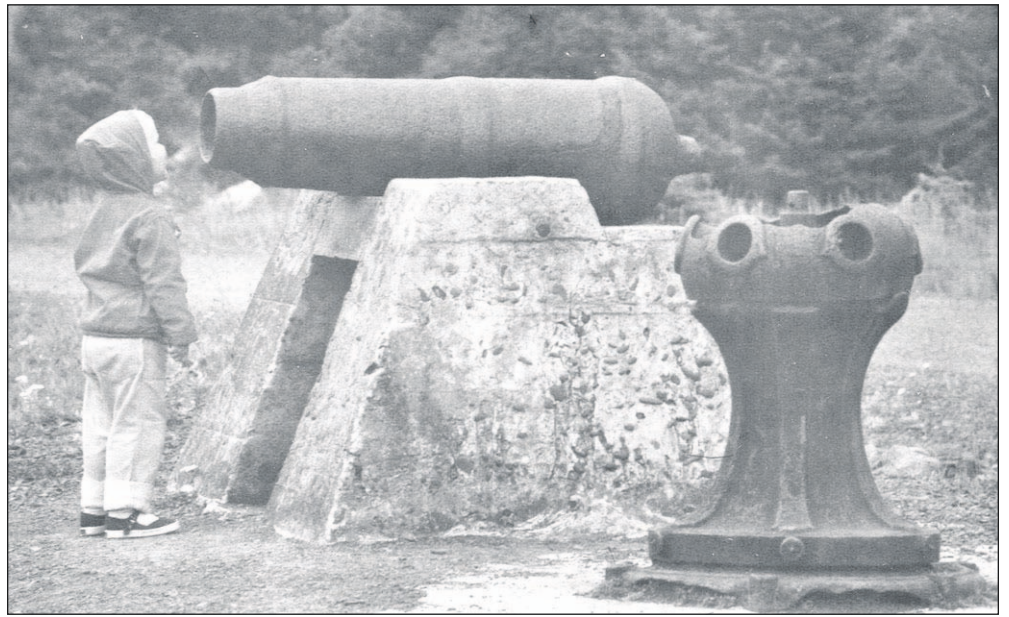


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to be moved. George Van Vleet, of Van Vleet Logging, donated one acre to the state on which to place the cannon. The Oregon State Department of Highways prepared a site on the east side of U.S. Highway 101. According to an article in *The Daily Astorian*, Goodin, who was the owner of the cannon, donated it to the public. The cannon and accompanying artifacts then were moved to the new location. How Goodin became the owner of the cannon, I'm not sure.

This is where the story gets a little tense and even political. I was told that an unidentified individual was stealing artifacts from around the cannon. At first, a chain, or two went missing, and then other pieces, until, finally, a portion of the cannon was "cut off."

According to a story reported by *The Daily Astorian* on April 12, 1989, the cannon and capstan had been repeatedly vandalized. It was because of this vandalism that the Clatsop County Historical Society and the Heritage Museum in Astoria chose to remove the artifact and put it on display in a safe and secure environment. On April 13, 1989, the original cannon and capstan



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A child peeks into the cannon; the photo was taken in 1957. Several people have claimed to be the child, but who it is remains uncertain.

were moved from the highway site to the Heritage Museum in Astoria.

As part of an agreement with the Arch Cape Community Club Committee, the Clatsop County Historical Society placed an exact replica where the original cannon once stood.

To the history museum

What happened to the original cannon? Well, after some years, the cannon and capstan were given to the fully established Cannon Beach Historical Society with the express understanding that the artifact would be stored with the highest museum standards. The dates are questionable, but it looks as though the cannon arrived at the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum in the mid-2000s.

In 2012, the original cannon and capstan were sent to Texas A&M to undergo a conservation process to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The cannon, capstan, and other artifacts were removed from the shore, and possibly the USS Shark. Many of these artifacts were stolen or damaged in the late 1990s.

stop the oxidation that had occurred during the time they were exposed to the elements. The cannon that Cannon Beach is named for will once more go on display at the beginning of next year at the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum. Though the story of the cannon is still a sore spot for some, I

believe that it is one of the wonders of our coast. From ship's hull to town icon and everything in between, that little 1 ton cannon has had quite a journey.

Elaine Murdy Trucke is executive director of the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum. Her column appears once a month.

Uncorked Ramblings STEVEN SINKLER

A look at some wines you've (maybe) never tried before

Here's how a wine tasting usually works: You put some money on the counter, and, in exchange, you hope to taste some outstanding wine.

Occasionally, people are truly out for a strictly educational experience, but let's get real for a minute here: Most people are in chill-out mode and are hoping to get large pours of really great wine. In exchange, they are likely to buy a bottle or two of their favorites so they can continue what has become an enjoyable experience. I can tell you straight up, I've yet to hear someone complain about a large pour or a "bonus" pour!

So, on Saturday afternoons, while most guys are working around the house, spending time with their kids or taking a well-deserved nap, I am hanging out with customers in the tasting room, pouring wine into their glasses and telling the stories of the wines they are tasting. I love it when the room is full and people are having a good time. And, it's even better when the customers really like the wines in the lineup.

My plan is always to help

our customers find some new favorites and give them a solid, "Enjoy the vino!" as they head out the door.

To that end, the Saturday tasting lineup typically consists of four local wines: two whites and two reds. The staff and I research every wine in the store, so you can count on every wine on our tasting bar being delicious.

Shake up

For the most part, we showcase wine from the Pacific Northwest because that's what most of our customers are interested in. Recently, though, I decided to shake up the Saturday lineup and named the tasting, "Wines You've Never Tried Before."

A couple of weeks before the tasting, I starting working with the distributors to identify delicious wines made from lesser-known grapes. This isn't as easy as you'd think. Across the world, wine is made from more than 3,000 different grape varieties, but the truth is that most wine comes from about two dozen grapes, and those are the ones we are all most famil-



STEVEN SINKLER

iar with. I second-guessed myself a number of times wondering what the reactions would be and if I was potentially risking our otherwise strong reputation, especially with our regulars.

The first "wine you've never tried before" was aligote by Steele Wines (California). Aligote is the second most widely planted white grape in Burgundy, following the chardonnay grape. Aligote is also widely planted in Hungary and other Eastern European countries.

Very few customers had ever tasted aligote before, but, happily, it was very well received. Score one for the unknowns!

Steele's Aligote is crisp and packed full of apple fla-

vors, with nice acidity. This a very food-friendly wine and pairs nicely with salads, cheeses and seafood. Also, at less than \$20 per bottle, it's affordable and a great value.

Second in line

The second wine in the lineup was pinotage by MAN Vintners (South Africa). Pinotage is a relatively new grape, which was created by crossing pinot noir and cinsault. Because of its pinot noir background, MAN's Pinotage had a certain familiarity to it. Pinotage is a delicate red wine, full of red fruit. But, whereas pinot noir has a unique "forest floor" flavor profile, pinotage has flavors of cinnamon and clove. Like pinot noir, this wine would be a good partner with salmon, but the spicy flavor profile would pair nicely with barbecue. Our customers liked this one, too, and even better, it's only \$14. Again, a terrific value and worth taking a risk to step outside your box.

The last wine in the lineup was marechal foch by Airlie Vineyards (Oregon). Marechal foch is a French-American hybrid that is commonly grown in colder climates. I grew marechal foch in Iowa because it makes a high quality red wine and can handle the brutal cold of winter. "Foch" is more of a fruit-forward wine, but it develops nice spice flavors that make it a good match with spicy Thai, rich pasta dishes or your favorite barbecue. Because this wine is made in Oregon, several customers had also tried this wine before.

In the end, then, I'll have to get more creative next time if I want to

stick to the title of "Wines You've Never Tasted Before," but it was fun to treat our visitors to something new and different and to hear their reactions. A few of our regulars gave me a hard time, but, then that's what they usually do, so I'm used to it!

Ready for adventure

The moral of this story is that wine tasting is just that — an affordable way for you to taste wine, ask questions and decide if you want to take a bottle home with you. Keep your mind open because your palate may be up for the adventure even if the grape is unfamiliar to you. And, don't wait for me to find it for you; if you have a wine you want to taste, give me a shout and I'll be glad to order it in for you.

No matter what wine you're drinking, please drink responsibly. Don't ever drink and drive. We want to see you again soon in our tasting room!

Steven Sinkler and his wife, Maryann Sinkler, are co-owners of The Wine Shack in Cannon Beach.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carbon standards

To the editor,

One of the first public hearings of the Oregon Legislature's 2015 session was for Senate Bill 324, which extends the sunset for a low carbon fuel standards program set to expire Dec. 31.

The alleged purpose of carbon standards is to reduce the "carbon intensity" of fossil fuels. Producers of biofuels will be given "carbon intensity credits" for their production of "renewable" energy products. Suppliers of gasoline and diesel will be forced to purchase these "carbon intensity credits" to "mitigate" their carbon dioxide emissions.

The Department of Environmental Quality estimates this will increase the price of gasoline by about 19 cents per gallon. Consumer user groups are estimating costs to be closer to \$1 per gallon.

SB 324 requires no notification of the covert tax to be provided to consumers. Most Oregonians won't realize that they are paying an extra \$2 to \$20 to fill up their gas tanks.

The carbon standards is not really about saving the planet. Even the complete elimination of ALL Oregon greenhouse gas emissions would not result in a measurable difference in global emissions.

It's not about social justice, either. Families living at or near

poverty levels spend the highest percentage of their income for energy. They will suffer the greatest harm by forcing artificial and unaffordable increases in energy prices upon them.

Oregonians concerned about this misguided policy should contact their state representatives and senators and urge them to oppose SB 324.

**State Sen. Doug Whitsett
Klamath Falls**

Why keep insurance company?

To the editor,

A current TV ad line: "So what I want to know is ... why do you still have that insurance company?" We'd like to ask

that question of city of Cannon Beach officials.

A month ago there was a massive failure of the water main 20 feet up the hill from our Cannon Beach home. The 30,000-gallon reservoir drained in about three minutes, then drew more water from its feeder reservoir.

A lot of that water surged down into our property and under our home. Result: large deposits of road gravel, rocks, dirt and sand in garden beds and yard; broken fence; undermined retaining wall, walkway and foundation.

A month later, the city and their insurance company, (CIS - Citycounty Insurance Services), have denied our claim

and refused to do anything to repair extensive exterior damage and clean up the mess they made. An estimate for the restoration and cleanup is hefty.

We are frustrated that the city has been slow to deal with this problem for which it is fully answerable. Where are simple common sense and neighborly respect here? Why doesn't our city have policies and proper adequate insurance, that fulfill their responsibility for the damages their structures have done?

A month ago! So ... why do they still have that insurance company?

**Douglas J Hadley
Cannon Beach and
Charlevoix, Mich.**