

# The Infamous Terrible Tilly: An Exhibit at the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum

The Cannon Beach History Center & Museum invites you to explore the history of Oregon's most isolated lighthouse, the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse. On a secluded rock, just over a mile from Oregon's rocky shores lies the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, commonly referred to as Terrible Tilly.

Construction of the lighthouse was no easy feat. Workers spent six hundred arduous days building the lighthouse before completing at the end of 1880 - Tilly's light shone for the first time in 1881. She acted as a warning beacon to thousands of vessels skirting the coastline on their way to the mouth of the Columbia River. The Columbia River became a busy part of marine commerce in the mid-to-late 1800s. This was and is still considered one of the most dangerous river mouths in the world.

Ships lost to the sea were so common that the waters became known as the Graveyard of the Pacific.

The Tillamook Rock Lighthouse was an important part of the Columbia's marine routes, until 1957 when she was decommissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard. Lighthouse keeper Oswald Allik, the last civilian keeper, wrote in the logbook, "Farewell, Tillamook Rock Light Station. An era has ended. With this final entry, and not without sentiment, I return thee to the elements. You, one of the most notorious and yet most fascinating of the sea-swept sentinels in the world; long the friend of the tempest-tossed mariner. Through howling gale, thick fog and driving rain your beacon has been a star of hope and your foghorn a voice of encouragement. May the elements of nature be kind to you. For 77 years you have beamed your light across desolate acres of ocean. Keepers have come and gone; men lived and died; but you were faithful to the end. May your sunset years be

good years. Your purpose is now only a symbol, but the lives you have saved and the service you have rendered are worthy of the highest respect. A protector of life and property all, may old-timers, newcomers and travelers along the way pause from the shore in memory of your humanitarian role. Oswald Allik - September 1, 1957"

Some say that life after being decommissioned was even more interesting and unique than the life spent protecting ships from shore. From rumors of mob connected owners, to grand ideas of a quiet vacation rental, to life as a place for the dead to rest in peace. This exhibit is well worth your time! This exhibit closes May 15, 2015. The Cannon Beach History Center & Museum is open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. Admission is by donation. For more information visit [www.cbhistory.org](http://www.cbhistory.org) or call 503-436-9301.



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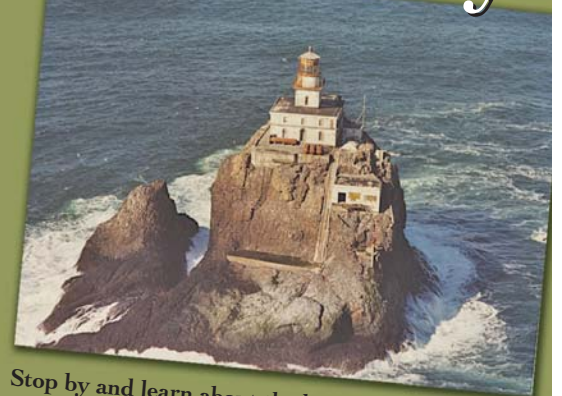
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**Betsy Johnson**  
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Cannon Beach History Center Museum presents:

## The Infamous Terrible Tilly!



Stop by and learn about the history of this unique lighthouse with stories from lighthouse keepers, and even what happened after the lighthouse was decommissioned by the US Coast Guard in 1957

OPEN WED - MON  
1:00 - 5:00PM  
1387 S. Spruce  
Cannon Beach, OR  
503-436-9301  
[www.cbhistory.org](http://www.cbhistory.org)

**DON'T MISS IT!**  
Exhibit closes  
May 15th



Also enter our Spring Raffle. A \$5 ticket buys you a chance to win an original glass vase graciously donated and created by Jim Kingwell of Icefire Glassworks. Funds raised will help build a new and improved exhibit for the original Cannon Beach cannon