

# When Cannon Beach went to war

**I**t's hard to imagine the fear that gripped the Oregon Coast back in 1942, just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy on Dec. 7, 1941, killing 2,403 Americans and wounding 1,178 others.

The bombing signaled America's entry into World War II, a war that was now based on two fronts. With our involvement, America and Americans for the first time became the target of German and Japanese aggression. Throughout the mid-Atlantic, Canadian and U.S. coast, German U-boats wreaked havoc, hitting targets in New England, New York, Virginia and North Carolina.

A threat from a different hemisphere loomed in Cannon Beach as Oregonians found themselves thrust into the war in an immediate and terrifying way.

Shelling was reported on June 21, 1942 at Astoria's Fort Stevens by a Japanese I-25 submarine under order of Lieutenant Commander Meiji Tagami. While there were no fatalities, for Oregonians, the reality of the war took hold, along with a legitimate fear for life and safety.

Terence O'Donnell writes in "Cannon Beach: A Place By the Sea" that guards were placed at the Arch Cape tunnel, a blackout was enforced and headlights wired down. Volunteers created a "civilian club" to take care of roadways. Rationing was enforced, and residents prepared "grub boxes" in case they needed to flee

into the woods for protection. A civilian defense group called the Guerrillas kept lookouts from the top of Neacome Mountain, along with the Tillamook Rangers who patrolled the beaches with shotguns and .22s. The Army and then the Coast Guard took over the Cannon Beach Hotel and the Warren Hotel, and for the duration of the war, the Coast Guard patrolled the beach on foot and horseback. O'Donnell writes that they were supplemented by aircraft spotters, Cannon Beach women who were installed in huts along the beach and provided with silhouettes of enemy aircraft.

Lt. Tagami's submarine continued to harass the Pacific Coast, launching a floatplane to start forest fires outside of Brookings in September 1942, in what became known as the Lookout Air Raids, the first time our nation was bombed by an enemy aircraft.

Balloon bombs launched from Japan were to terrorize the United States from the Pacific coast to beyond the Mississippi River, with 9,300 launches in 1944 and 1945. One such "unarmed missile" claimed the lives of five civilians at a campground in Bly, an attack that garnered headlines but whose cause at the time was withheld from the American public for security reasons.

Elaine Trucke of the Cannon Beach Historical Museum curated the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum's exhibit "World War II on the Oregon Coast," which marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World

## CANNON SHOTS

By  
R.J.  
MARX



**While there were no fatalities, for Oregonians, the reality of the war took hold...**

War II by exploring the events and emotions of a state at war. Defending our nation from these attacks were the beginning of the region's civil defense system, leading to long-lasting consequences and response.

Women asserted new roles in the workplace, particularly in traditionally male industries as men served overseas. "It changed the family dynamic, it changed the women's role," Trucke says.

Changes came to the home-building industry, which faced new demand from returning GIs and in turn gave rise to the logging industry. Technology developed during the war featured a lighter gas-powered chain

saw, which stimulated the logging industry, and similar developments in roads, farming and dam-building had an immediate regional impact.

"World War II was such a huge shift in so many ways that it really did have an impact on the coast," says Trucke. "We're protected in a lot of ways. This was one of the few times that war was in our back yard. It was right here."

As for the residents of Cannon Beach in wartime, their mobilization and volunteerism was to serve as a model for future generations. "They had a plan. They took action," says Trucker. "They continued about their life. I try to think what my generation would do. As much as they like to think they're emergency 'preppers,' I don't think it would be the same."

### Remembrances

Remember World War II and our veterans 11 a.m. May 25, by joining American Legion Post 168 for a memorial ceremony at Fir Street Bridge. Remember World War II and our veterans 11 a.m. May 25, by joining American Legion Post 168 for a memorial ceremony at Fir Street Bridge.

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum opens their exhibit, "World War II on the Oregon Coast," tonight, Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 at 7 p.m. with two presentations by local historians, authors and documentarians. Friday's presentation will be given at 7 p.m. by Alisha Hamel who will speak about

Oregon's role during World War II. Hamel is a member of the Oregon National Guard's historic outreach program. She is well-known for her documentary, "The Jungleers," about Oregon's military role in combat.

Saturday's presentation will be given at 7 p.m. by Ellen Eisenberg, who will be talking about her latest book, "The First to Cry Down Injustice? Western Jews and Japanese Removal During World War II." Eisenberg has taught history since 1990 and teaches courses in Civil War, American social history, American Jewish history, and a research seminar called "History in the Archives."

Next month, "Oregon Transformed: World War II Legacies on the Coast" comes to the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum on Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m., part of the museum's exhibit "World War II on the Oregon Coast" which observes the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. Featured speakers include Dr. Laura Jane Gifford, a historian of modern American politics with a special interest in the unique dynamics of Oregon's political landscape; Steve McQuiddy author of "Here on the Edge," the story of how a small group of World War II conscientious objectors plowed the ground for the social and cultural revolutions of the 1960s; and Dr. David G. Lewis, an independent educator, author, and anthropologist researcher. The program will take place at the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum, 1387 South Spruce St.; 503-436-9301.

## At the Library

CARLA O'REILLY

# A coworker missed and changes coming to the library

There is a new lonely space at the heart of Cannon Beach Library. At a Wayfarer luncheon on April 29, we honored and bade farewell to Co-President Terri Royse. In order to be closer to family, she and her husband Don have moved to the Portland area. We commend Terri and Don for their difficult decision – but they will be sadly missed by all of us! Thanks to Don's efforts, we transitioned almost seamlessly to computerization a few years ago. And for at least a decade, Terri has been a library vol-

unteer, having served since 2012 as co-president alongside Judy Wood. We will miss your cheerful face and unfailing warmth and kindness, Terri!

But not all changes at the library are sad ones! We are very fortunate Kathe Leduc has agreed to join Judy at the helm as co-president. Kathe, also a long-time library volunteer, is well familiar with all aspects of library operations and will be a great addition to the group.

Jeremy Randolph and Sharon Stewart are also

River area due to arranging hospice care for my father and supporting my mother.

I saw one of these life birds during my yearly Mother's Day bird walk; or was it my weekly Sunday morning bird walk or was it my daily bird walk? I was enjoying the stretch on the Indian Creek Trail I had left to explore. I walked and saw many species of birds

ta cemetery. The wreaths, handmade from poppies by the American Legion Auxiliary, are laid on veteran's graves. Each grave is marked with flags placed there by the Boys Scouts of America.

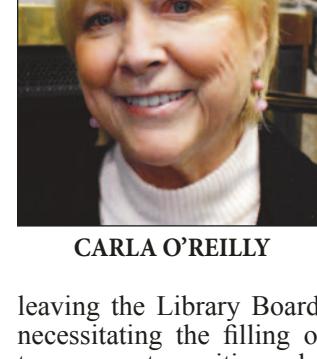
Commander Beach Dan O'Reilly served in the U.S. Navy from 1959 to 1990. His years of service took him around the world on a variety of ships to a variety of ports. The Cannon Beach American Legion is heavily involved in local events and charities. Those include annual food and toy drives during the holiday season, a Red Cross blood drive and a scholarship program for local students. The legion also hosts Casino Game Night, a fundraiser for the Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center.

During the annual ceremony, a color guard with flags from each service branch plays homage to veterans past and present with the playing of taps and presentation of flowers.

There are also short speeches and an invocation.

Post 168 also participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Manzanita

leaving the Library Board, necessitating the filling of two vacant positions by the nominating committee. We're pleased to an-



CARLA O'REILLY

nounce that Cannon Beach residents Ken Quarles and Rance Babb have agreed to join the board. All this became official at our membership meeting on Wednesday, May 6, when officers and new board members were voted in.

Warm thanks to Terri, Don, Jeremy, and Sharon for long-standing service to the Cannon Beach Library, as well as to our new officers and board members.

### And more changes

Office manager Buddie Anderson has been dili-

gently working on our new interactive website, which should be up and running by June 1, if not before. And on our new Library eBooks program that will be launched by July 1. More details will be forthcoming.

June 12 to August 24, we will be holding our second annual summertime reading contest, called "Catch a Dragon by the Tail." Our young people will be competing at their own age levels — children, tweens, and teens. We will track their prog-

ress, award prizes during the course of the summer, and award a grand prize winner from each of the age levels at the end of the summer. For further information, ask at the front desk.

Finally, Jean Furchner of the pricing committee strongly encourages locals and visitors alike to bring in Fourth of July book donations sooner rather than later. The sooner the books are brought in, the sooner the committee can sort and price them. Tax donation forms are available.

## Boac's Bird Notes

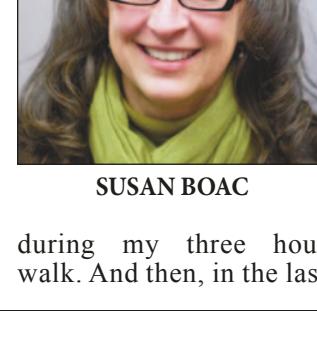
SUSAN BOAC

# Three life birds make for a different kind of spring

In the last three weeks, I haven't been to the ocean, or the South Jetty or the Cannon Beach lagoons, but I have been to the Pelton Regulating Dam in Warm Springs, the Mid-Columbia River shores and the orchards of Hood River. And I have 11 FOYs (first of year) and included in that number, three life birds. I have had an unexpectedly longer stay in the Hood

River area due to arranging hospice care for my father and supporting my mother.

I saw one of these life birds during my yearly Mother's Day bird walk; or was it my weekly Sunday morning bird walk or was it my daily bird walk? I was enjoying the stretch on the Indian Creek Trail I had left to explore. I walked and saw many species of birds



SUSAN BOAC

during my three hour walk. And then, in the last

15 minutes I saw a lark sparrow gathering nesting material in the short grass next to the forest. It was an amazing bird to see, with its very defined head markings. I spied it hopping around first on the ground and then in the low branches of the brush nearby. This is the millionth time I saw an amazing bird on the way just before I reached my car.

The other 10 birds were black-billed magpie, Say's phoebe, house wren, western kingbird, western tanager, calliope hummingbird, MacGillivray's warbler, mourning warbler, black-headed grosbeak and Bullock's oriole. Each with a story to tell, but that will have to wait for another time.

Note: For those of you who follow my column, I have a new car, the UBM

(ultimate birding machine), which is a Prius that I justified as being better at sneaking up on birds under electric power.

Susan has taken up birding as a passion, to the mixed emotions of her husband Scott. The Boacs reside on the Neawanna Creek in Seaside where their backyard is a birder's paradise.

## American Legion to host Memorial Day ceremony

On Memorial Day, May 25, at 11 a.m., join American Legion Post 168 for a memorial ceremony at Fir Street Bridge. Commander of American Legion Post 168 in Cannon

Established in 1948, American Legion Post 168 is a community center that strives to give back to past, present, and future generations.

The post invites Cannon Beach to observe Memorial Day during a ceremony at Fir Creek Bridge, which crosses Ecola Creek on the north side of town. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m.

During the annual ceremony, a color guard with flags from each service branch plays homage to veterans past and present with the playing of taps and presentation of flowers.

There are also short speeches and an invocation.

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## Hands across Cannon Beach



Cannon Beach Hands Across the Sand event on Saturday, May 16. Kristen Allsop led the group in a 15 minute silent meditation in favor of clean energy. This was a world-wide event.

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