

A film's love song to Cannon Beach

More words have been written about "Goonies" than all the works of Godard or Antonioni, LOL, and this week there are going to be a lot more. It's the 30th anniversary — the 30th Anniversary Celebration for the "Goonies" — and the coast will be host to fans and buffs to meet the stars, trace hallowed film location grounds and share the fun. For those who grew up with it, in the words of one 33-year-old Cannon Beach resident, "I watched it so many times I wore out the VHS tape."

Alas, I was in the age group that fell between the "Goonies" cracks. But I did catch up with the film 30 years later. On Memorial Day weekend I powered up the laptop DVD with the goal of understanding the "Goonies" phenomenon. Beware! There is a LOT of screaming and long scenes too complicated to really figure out. Characters have names like Chunk and Mouth and Data. But you'd be cheating yourself to get all snooty. This film has survived three decades because of a more archetypal appeal. I like best what Roger Ebert wrote at the time of its release: "'Goonies,' walks a thin line between the cheerful and the gruesome, and the very scenes the adults might object to are the ones the kids will like the best."

In this year's March Atlantic Monthly (yes, "Goonies" recog-

CANNON SHOTS

By
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nized by Atlantic Monthly!) Garin Parnia wrote: "Generations of Americans can still remember a time when parents and their kids could go to the multiplex and enjoy original youth-oriented films that weren't either animated, part of a billion-dollar superhero franchise, or adaptations of overwrought young adult novels."

The analysis is right on. The audience Pirnia describes is returning to Astoria and Cannon Beach three decades later to celebrate the lost remembrance of their youth, the

inspiration and the excitement they felt when they were young enough to fall hook, line and sinker for a magical adventure story.

How that story came to possess magic was because of the superior talents of the filmmakers, including producer Steven Spielberg, director Richard Donner, and scriptwriter Chris Columbus, along with the exuberant performances of its cast. And the anchor for all of us on the North Coast is the locations. The film is a love song to Astoria and Cannon Beach. According to fast-rewind.com, a film location website, the truck rally takes place near Haystack Rock; Brand rides Data's sister's bike at the entrance road to Ecola Park, and along this same long road is where the four boys ride their bikes.

Long, long ago in a place far away, the CBS documentary series "The 20th Century" immortalized "the Rock," a stern, imposing close-up of the Rock of Gibraltar. "Get a piece of the rock" was the message. The "Goonies" made Haystack Rock its artful symbol, a precursor of the worlds that George Lucas and Pixar were only able to construct using animation or computer technologies. For all the film's silliness, the Rock is real, solid, and offers a pathway into the time-space continuum. For those who live and visit here, it is also part of our backyard.



Images taken in Cannon Beach during the production of the movie "The Goonies" over a period of several months in 1984.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

There are literally dozens of activities here and in Astoria; for a complete list go to goondocks.org. In Cannon Beach, on Sunday, June 7, at 9 a.m., the Truffle Shuffle 5K Run/Walk starts at the Tolovana Wayside. "The Goonies" film will be shown Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at

the Coaster Theatre Playhouse, and Patrick Lines, a retired Oregon State ranger who was on the set during the filming in 1984, will be at Ecola State Park the entire weekend.

Remember: Goonies never say die!

Reflections ELAINE TRUCKE

The Oregon Coast in 1941: Rumors, fear and war

The Cannon Beach History Center & Museum's latest exhibit World War II on the Oregon Coast explores a series of historic events, shared stories and artifacts. What is missing are several stories that occurred in Oregon and pretty close by that not many recall or even know about.

One of our favorite stories came from the Oregon Military Museum and was contributed to by several 41st Infantry Division veterans. Many have heard of the 41st Infantry Division's role during World War II, but prior to leaving the states this National Guard group was deployed to defend the Oregon and Washington coastline against possible Japanese landing. The story they shared was of the SS Mauna Ala, a Matson line freighter that was delivering Christmas supplies to the troops stationed at Pearl Harbor. The ship carried 60,000 Christmas trees, 10,000 turkeys, 3,000 chickens, tins of Almond Roca and more.

Unfortunately, while en route, Pearl Harbor was attacked and the ship rerouted back to Oregon. After the shocking attack on the Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, Oregon and much of the western coastline had enacted blackouts and radio silence, and of course, the captain of the SS Mauna Ala was unaware that these policies were in place. The ship was also under radio silence for fear of giving away their location to an enemy vessel.

The mouth of the Columbia River bar is considered to

be one of the most dangerous in the world, even under the best circumstances. A dark night in December without navigational aids didn't make for an easy entry, so the SS Mauna Ala ran aground. Thankfully, the entire crew survived thanks to the Coast Guard from the Point Adams station. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Point Adams Station was in operation from 1889 until it was discontinued in 1967, although some documents indicate it may have ceased operation as early as 1963. It was located in Hammond, Oregon.

In an oral history interview conducted by the Oregon Military Museum, veteran Roy Brasfield remembered, "When war was declared, training was interrupted; that night the unit headed for the Longview Bridge on the Columbia River. They were there for a few days when they received a panic message from Seaside — a ship was unloading men on the beach." In another interview with veteran Carl Kostol, he shared, "On Dec. 10, 1941 they heard of an emergency at Camp Clatsop (Camp Rilea). An officers' meeting was called by the Regimental C.O. for E and F Companies. The Regimental C.O. told them a convoy was coming down from the Gulf of Alaska — a suspected invasion. Clatsop Beach was the most likely site for this. So they all went out carrying a full load of ammunition."

Like other Americans, those who lived on the Oregon coast were shocked by



ELAINE TRUCKE

the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The fear that the Pacific Coast might be the next target was very real for all who lived here. "We all know," the Tillamook Headlight-Herald wrote on Christmas Day, 1941, "that the coastal area is the first line of defense."

With this in mind, men went to the beaches to defend the Oregon shores. Instead of Japanese troops they found something a little more benign.

Brasfield remembered that instead of troops off-loading on the beach, they found "the 'men' unloading were actually Christmas trees."

With fully loaded weapons at the ready, Kostol remembered, "They were on post all night but there was not an invasion. A ship ran aground, a Christmas ship headed for Hawaii that had to turn back. Its cargo of Christmas trees started rolling in and some got shot at." He added, "A case of steaks also washed ashore, as well as a case of Almond Roca candy."

In the light of day, the "paratroopers" morphed in several thousand trees, tur-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The SS Mauna Ala, formerly known as the USS Canibas, was steamer ship that was constructed in 1918. It was active until it ran aground at the mouth of the Columbia River Bar in 1941.

key and chicken carcasses, cases of steak, and tins of Almond Roca. The military declared the contents of the SS Mauna Ala "open salvage." The food and trees were gathered up by those stationed at Fort Stevens and Camp Clatsop and were cooked up for all to enjoy. Some of those stationed there were even able to send pounds of food, candy, and other items that washed up home. News spread pretty quickly, as this kind of news is apt to do, and soon beachcombers were milling around the beaches collecting Christmas goodies.

I'm sure a sense of relief came over those that watched Christmas trees float around in the tide. Perhaps that relief even turned into laughter, for what could have been a very serious



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Hotel Bill (pictured) and the Warren Hotel were used as barracks during World War II.

threat, had become festive floaters. With the entire crew of the SS Mauna Ala saved and an invasion turned into something entirely benign, one hopes that those who picked up the butter, salt, steaks, turkeys, chickens, trees, and candy were able to enjoy at least one or two evenings of good food and

good company without the threat of deciduous troopers knocking at their doors.

For more information about World War II on the Oregon Coast, visit the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum Wednesday through Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or check out the Oregon Military Museum's website.

Uncorked Ramblings STEVEN SINKLER

Summer waxes and winemakers rule The Wine Shack

Summer is heading our way like a freight train and the beautiful weather continues to amaze. I love this time of year in Cannon Beach.

The Wine Shack's 2015 Summer Winery Series is about to begin. Although the series was in place before Maryann and I purchased the store, we've really ramped it up over the past couple of years and continue to hear great feedback about it, and not just from customers. Winemakers started asking to participate and wanting to reserve their weekends well in advance. This event is as popular with the winemakers as it is with the customers! We also keep adding new wineries to the lineup to keep it fresh and listen carefully to customer feedback when we do.

The Wine Shack's 2015 Summer Winery Series

kicks off on June 20 with Trinity Vineyards from Salem. This will be Trinity's first appearance at The Wine Shack. If you aren't familiar with Trinity Vineyards, you need to try their Willamette Valley pinot noir, our store's "Pinot Noir of the Year." Of course, we'll be pouring that wine for all to enjoy. What a great way to get the summer started!

The lineup gains speed quickly with Capitello (June 27), Sokol Blosser (July 3), Pudding River (July 4) and J Scott Cellars (July 11) visiting early in the summer season. These wineries have become fan favorites, as each delivers great wine with an emphasis on fun. No stuffy wine lingo while these wineries are in the house.

Seven of Hearts (July 18) and D'Anu (July 25) make their second visits to The Wine Shack. Seven of



STEVEN SINKLER

Hearts makes a wide variety of wine, while D'Anu is in only their fourth year of operation, but has already received recognition for their delicious wine. I really enjoy giving an up and coming winery a chance to pour their wine and they are so appreciative to get to talk about their product with our wine-loving customers.

In August, we welcome Kramer Vineyards (Aug. 1) and Anam Cara (Aug. 8) to The Wine Shack. Both will

be making their first visit to our tasting room and we can't wait. Kramer has become known for their sparkling wines, while Anam Cara seems to master a wide variety of wine, from Riesling and Gewurztraminer to more classic Chardonnay and pinot noir. In fact, that may be the Anam Cara tasting lineup, right there.

Next up on the calendar, we get into a stretch of wineries that have become Summer Winery Series fan favorites, including Lujon Cellars (Aug. 15), Angel Vine (Aug. 22), Elk Cove (Aug. 29) and Zerba (Sept. 5). It's impossible to predict exactly what's going to happen when these wineries visit, but we do know delicious wine will be flowing. Lujon, Angel Vine and Zerba offer a change of pace as these three wineries don't focus on pinot noir. I know that seems sacrilegious in

this Pinot fueled state, but they pull it off. Elk Cove offers a more classic Oregon wine lineup, but every wine is an absolute rock star.

After Labor Day, we welcome Northwest Cellars (Sept. 12). This will be Northwest Cellars first visit to The Wine Shack. Northwest Cellars is located in Kirkland, Wash., and has become known for their big red wines. We are in the process of adding both Sineann and Walnut City Wineworks to the schedule and expect they will be visiting us in either late September or early October. Both Sineann and Walnut City are fan favorites and each is well-known to Wine Shack regulars.

Before the summer kicks in, you are invited to attend The Wine Shack and Dogs Allowed, Cannon Beach's "Wine Release and Fund Raising Party," on June

13 at the Dogs Allowed store. These two stores are working together to raise money for Clatsop Animal Assistance. We'll be pouring the two delicious Dogs Allowed wines from 3 to 5 p.m. and all tasting fees and wine sales will be donated to help the local animal shelter in Warrenton. Dogs Allowed. Cannon Beach will also be accepting donations of leashes, food, collars, toys and cash for the shelter. You can buy a bottle of wine and help animals. I call that "win-win," or maybe "wine-win." Either way, we hope to see you there.

You can see that the summer is going to be busy — you may need to post this one on the fridge to keep track — I just can't believe that it's almost here!

Please remember to drink responsibly. If you've had too much to drink, please give the keys to a friend.