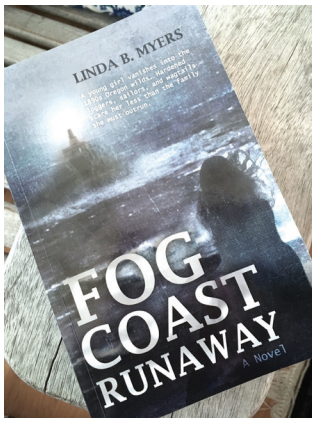


# Digging into a historical novel set in Seaside

By EVE MARX  
For Seaside Signal



The genre of historical fiction is a popular one and growing all the time. Telling a story about a particular time and place and developing characters based on actual living people requires a talent not just for writing fiction but an interest in research as well.

There are a handful of authors who do it really well, including Ken Follett (“World Without End”); Philippa Gregory (“The Other Boleyn Girl”), E.L. Doctorow (“Ragtime”), and Umberto Eco (“The Name of the Rose”). It’s a gift to be able to do historical fiction well. Linda B. Myers, a Port Angeles, Washington-based author, has the gift.

In a telephone interview from her home, Myers said the idea for her latest novel, “Fog Coast Runaway” set in Seaside and Astoria in the 1890s, started at a turnout on Highway 101 near Cannon Beach where she strained to read the words stamped into a monument telling the story of a dog rumored to have been the lone survivor of an 1890’s shipwreck. Doing research about that dog, who in her story is called “Shep” led Myers to learn more about the many shipwrecks in the area and the men who built and then manned the lighthouse that

came to be known as “Terrible Tilly.”

“Fog Coast Runaway” isn’t a story about dogs, however, or even men. Mostly it’s about the life and times of a handful of plucky women. A tough Finnish lady runs an Astoria boarding house with an iron fist. A 16-year-old girl/woman on her own starts up a hairdressing business and masters the fine art of “keep ‘em separated” to serve her cheerful prostitute clients as well as respectable matrons. Another Finnish woman creates a niche as a hotel cook. A wealthy married lady visiting Seaside from San Francisco becomes a benefactress to the novel’s protagonist, Adelia, a 13-year-old runaway who left home after her brother tried to rape her. A twist on the story is the secret that must be kept; the wealthy woman mistakenly believes she murdered her violent husband in self



Author Linda B. Myers, whose book “Fog Beach Runaway” is set in Seaside.

defense when in fact Adelia killed him.

“Fog Coast Runaway” doesn’t pull any punches what life was like on the north Oregon coast in the 1890s. The author skillfully brings to life the daily dangers. She also does a delicious job describing the idylls of Victorian-era Seaside from a vacationer’s point of view.

“Two-thousand ships went down against those rocks,” Myers said, wonder-

ingly. She said it took her two years to research and write the novel. She thanks Liisa Penner, the archivist at the Clatsop County Historical Society in Astoria, and the Society’s Heritage Museum for providing a font of information. Elaine Truicke, executive director of the Cannon Beach Historical Center and Museum, she called a “gold mine” of information.

“If you want to know what

**‘IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT FLOWERS BLOOMED IN SEASIDE IN 1890, THE SEASIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM IS A MUST-SEE VISIT!’**

flowers bloomed in Seaside in 1890, the Seaside Historical Society Museum is a must-see visit,” Myers said. She also thanked the Seaside Public Library librarians who helped her dig for tidbits.

“Fog Coast Runaway” is a brisk, page-turning read. There are some saucy scenes and the author mastered the slang of the day scattering throughout her characters’ dialogue logger terms, sailor speak, and brothel lan-

guage. She makes it crystal clear what it was like to be a woman in Seaside and Astoria in 1890, which, amazingly, turns this historical fiction into quite the feminist story.

“Fog Coast Runaway” is available at Beach Books in Seaside and also the Cannon Beach Book Company. Or order on line via LindaB-Myers@yahoo.com. For a complete list of this author’s work, log on to lindabmyers.com.

## Hood to Coast: Teams can now sign an online pledge to prevent creating waste

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snacks in reusable containers, as opposed to individually wrapped items.

Teams also can sign an online pledge to commit to preventing creating waste. If every van were to convert to reusable water jugs and bottles, they could collectively avoid an estimated 157,000 single-use disposable plastic bottles throughout the course of the race.

The implementation of these strategies will allow organizers to establish metrics for determining the event’s average resource recovery rate and gauging waste reduction efforts in the future, as well as identifying new sustainable solutions and waste prevention incentives that could be used.

“This year, we’ll at least be able to create a baseline,” Newkirk said. “We can use

that baseline for creating goals for increasing that recovery rate over time.”

### Finish line

This will be the 30th year Hood to Coast has used Seaside to host the Finish Line Party at the beach for participants. Like the varied terrain and starting point at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, Floyd said, the party on the beach is one of the iconic aspects of the event

that people have come to expect and look forward to.

“They definitely like coming and experiencing a lot of the same things,” he said. “We are selling people on the venue as much as the actual race.”

Teams filter into town from early morning until night during the second day of the race, and the public is welcome to join the party. This year, the Brian O’Dell Band will perform from

1:45 to 4:45 p.m., followed by the sponsor awards and a trophy presentation for the overall winning women’s and men’s Hood to Coast and Portland to Coast Walk teams. At 5:30 p.m., organizers will announce the results of the Providence Cancer Center fundraising campaign. Radical Revolution will then perform at 6:45. The awards ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. Sunday at the main finish area

stage on the beach.

Even though Hood to Coast continues to present an athletic challenge for those interested in the sport of running, the appeal has shifted over the years to encompass those who aren’t serious runners but appreciate the team-building and bonding that occurs along the way, Floyd said.

“It’s more about the memories people are making and experience,” he said.



Hood to Coast Race Series

The annual Hood to Coast Relay, an overnight race that starts at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, will conclude on the Seaside beach.

## Community Calendar

### Saturday, Aug. 24

**Dance Fitness**  
8:30-9:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Learn to Play Ukelele**  
9:45 a.m., learn how to play the ukelele with instructor Kathy Ryan; conference room, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

**Qi Gong**  
10-11 a.m., A mind-body-spirit practice that improves one’s mental and physical health; Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

**North Coast Newcomers Picnic in the Park**  
Noon-4 p.m., Gearhart Park, corner of Pacific Way and Marion. Celebration of Gearhart families and friends. Bring a dish to share.

**Certified gemologist**  
1 p.m., antique jewelry appraisal with Danuta Hackett; Seaside Library, 1131 Broadway.

**Hood to Coast Relay**  
Runners finish on the Prom in Seaside; 1:45 p.m., Brian O’Dell Band performs on stage; 5:15, sponsor awards and thank you to the city of Seaside; 5:25 p.m., trophy presentation for overall

winning women’s and men’s Hood to Coast and Portland to Coast Walk teams; 5:30 p.m., Providence Cancer Center overall fundraising results announcement; 6:45 to 11 p.m., Radical Revolution performs onstage.

**Paddle Quest: Going Batty**  
5-7 p.m., Lewis and Clark National Historical Park host a paddle quest from 5 to 7 p.m. Participants will paddle along the Lewis and Clark River and find clues to solve a puzzle. After the paddle, visit with ecologist Dr. Tara Chestnut and join a discussion about bats of the Pacific Northwest; 503-861-2471.

**Wes Wahrmund**  
6-9 p.m., classical guitar, classical guitar, jazz and original tunes, The Bistro, 271 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach.

**Cannon Beach Hootenanny**  
7:30 p.m. Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; coastertheatre.com.

**Bar-K Buckaroos**  
8-10 p.m., mix of country, western and “good time” music, Public Coast Brewing Co., 264 E. Third St., Cannon Beach.

**Sunday, Aug. 25**  
**Hood to Coast Relay**  
9 a.m.. Portland To Coast Walk, PTC High School Challenge,

and Hood to Coast Awards ceremony (main finish area stage on beach).

**The Marin and Erin Show**  
7 p.m., Marin Donohue and Erin Grauff in Musical Comedy Duets accompanied by Dr. Susan Buehler and Dawby Barnes; fundraiser for the Astoria High School Theatre Department. Suggested \$10 donation! CCC Performing Arts Center (the PAC) at 588 16th St., Astoria.

**Monday, Aug. 26**  
**Bingo**  
12:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Taekwondo**  
6-7 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Tuesday, Aug. 27**  
**Pilates**  
8-9 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**TOPS Meeting**  
9:15 a.m., Take Pounds Off Sensibly focuses on healthy lifestyle changes for weight loss, meets weekly. North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N. Wahnana Road, Seaside. For more information, visit nccfchurch.org or call 503-738-7453.

**Pickleball**  
10 a.m., free drop-in game on the courts located behind the Seaside Youth Center, 1140 Broadway.

**Yoga as Medicine**  
10:45-11:45 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Reading the Land**  
1-3:30 p.m., nature hike with geologist Tom Horning, presented by North Coast Land Conservancy, Circle Creek Conservation Center, Seaside; ncltrust.org.

**Taco Tuesday**  
5-7:30 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway, Seaside.

**Tabata**  
6-7 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Author Karl Marlantes**  
7 p.m., Seaside author shares new book, “Deep River,” Beach Books, 616 Broadway, Seaside.

**Wednesday, Aug. 28**  
**Seaside Golf Classic**  
Presented by Seaside Downtown Development Association.

**Good Morning Seaside**  
8 a.m., Weekly coffee and net-

working; Seaside Chamber of Commerce; contact for details, www.seasidechamber.com.

**Preschool storytime**  
10 a.m., bilingual storytimes in English and Spanish; 1131 Broadway.

**Seaside Farmers Market**  
2-6 p.m., products grown, raised, produced or collected in Oregon or Washington; Broadway Middle School parking lot, U.S. Highway 101, Seaside.

**Taekwondo**  
6-7 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Barre**  
6-7 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Nonsense**  
7:30 p.m. Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; coastertheatre.com.

**Thursday, Aug. 29**  
**SDDA Breakfast**  
8 a.m., Pig ‘N’ Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914, www.seasidedowntown.com. Weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host breakfast.

**Pilates**  
8-9 a.m., Bob Chisholm Com-

munity Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Pickleball**  
10 a.m., free drop-in game on the courts located behind the Seaside Youth Center, 1140 Broadway.

**Senior Movie**  
1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Get Fit!**  
6-7 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**And Then Were None**  
7:30 p.m. Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; coastertheatre.com.

**Friday, Aug. 30**  
**Sunset Golf Tournament**  
1 p.m.; four-person scramble presented by Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Foundation.

**Maggie and the Katz**  
6:30-9:30 p.m., New Orleans gumbo of soul, blues and R&B; Sweet Basil, 271 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach.

**Nonsense**  
7:30 p.m. Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; coastertheatre.com.