

THE BANDON LIGHT

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E B A N D O N H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

Shindler's Pharmacy Closed Forever

By Mary Schamehorn

When the Shindler's Pharmacy closed its doors forever on October 8, it signaled the end of nearly century of Shindler drug stores in the Bandon area.

Steve Wilson, long-time owner of the store, announced that he has merged with Rite Aid and will work there as a pharmacist.

One of the founders, Otto Shindler, who was born July 1894 in Milwaukie, Oregon, moved to Coquille after returning to the states from World War I where he had served as a medic on the front in Europe, according to a bit of history from his grandson, Bo Shindler of Gold Beach, a native of Bandon. Otto went to work in Coquille as a pharmacist for Sy Fuhrman and shortly thereafter became Sy's partner.

Otto's wife, Geneva Shindler, was born January 1897 in Langlois and was raised in a Coquille boarding home by her aunt. After graduating from Oregon Normal School (now Western Oregon in Monmouth) and teaching in Cave Junction, Geneva returned to Coquille where she was working in the Coos County Courthouse as a clerk when she and Otto met.

Otto and Geneva were married in Coquille in 1921. On their honeymoon they rode the paddle wheeler from Coquille to Bandon where the second Fuhrman-Shindler pharmacy had been established.

According to information in Dow Beckham's book, "Bandon By-The-Sea," in October 1927, Fuhrman and Shindler, owners of the Rexall Drug Store, bought the Orange Pharmacy, another local drug store. They combined the stocks of both stores and moved into the northwest corner of the Ellingson Building on Alabama and First streets, where the Arcade Tavern now sits. Later on, the businesses were separated, with the Fuhrmans operating the Coquille store and the Shindlers owning the Bandon store.

C.Y. Lowe (grandfather of the late Edgar L. Capps) established the same Rexall store 35 years before, May 21, 1891. The drugstore remained in the Ellingson Building until the 1936 fire. It later moved to 10th and Alabama.

Otto was the dispensing pharmacist and Geneva stocked shelves and helped customers. They would ride the train several times a year on buying trips to get supplies for the store. Otto's income was used for their home and lifestyle, and Geneva's wage (about \$80 a month) was dedicated to their retirement and was invested.



Otto Shindler in his drugstore, which was located in the downtown area in the building now occupied by Winter River Books

Geneva was proud of the fact that the store and their home were among the first to be rebuilt after the fire.

Otto was a member of the Bandon City Council at the time of the fire, and he worked side by side with Mayor Ed Capps (father of Edgar Capps) to help rebuild the city.

John Fetterman became a partner with Otto in the early '50s. Otto died of heart failure July 16, 1954, and shortly thereafter, an insurance-funded buy-sell agreement financed John's purchase of Otto's interest from Geneva.

John Fetterman owned the store in Bandon and also opened one in Empire, which was also named Shindler's Pharmacy.

The store was later purchased by Steve and Judy Wilson, who operated it for many years.

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Trish Conyers

Bandon Historical Society Museum

Executive Director.....Judy Knox
Staff.....Eileen Scott
Native American Consultant.....Reg Pullen

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Donna Mason Mary Schamehorn
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Nominating Committee

Donna Mason, Jim Proehl, Brian Vick

The Board members meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4 pm at the Museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

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www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org

If you have an interest in Bandon's history and would like to help preserve our past for future generations, call us - we need you. The Museum is OPEN Monday through Saturday 10-4 pm. June through September we are open 7 days a week. The Museum closes for the month of January. Our volunteers are waiting to help you and answer your questions about Bandon's history.

Enjoy Bandon's rich and wonderful history
270 Fillmore & Hwy 101
(at the only stop light downtown)



Judy Schultz Knox

**F r o m t h e D e s k o f
t h e D i r e c t o r**

Fall is in the air, can ya feel it...I love 'fall' in Bandon, but then I love being a Bandonian during all of the seasons.

Our great museum is doing well. The visitor count for the year is 4,040 - last year at this time it was 3496. We are open winter hours now which is 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday, 10 am – 4pm. We close December 23rd and will re-open Monday, February 1st, 2016.

Our museum family had a pretty rough year. My husband of 38 years, Ron (Feathers), died June 3rd and I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all the support and caring for both of us.

Shirley Watters, one of our long-time front desk volunteers, died in August. We will truly miss her smiling face and her friendship.

I fell and broke my shoulder in April. Kathy Dornath (long-time board member and volunteer) fell and broke her wrist and cracked her hip, but we are both back on the job at the museum. Joye Olson, another long-time front desk volunteer, fell and broke her ankle. She is still recuperating and we wish her a speedy recovery. We hope and pray 2016 is a better and healthier year for everyone.

Some of our long-time board members have stepped down, but we are grateful they are continuing to be involved with the museum. Craig Tresidder, Andy Christensen, and John Gamble are no longer board members. Mary Schamehorn was asked to fill one of the vacant positions and she accepted. We would like to THANK each of the former board members - Craig, Andy and John - for all the years and the time they gave to Bandon's museum. Their contributions have helped make the museum what it is today.

We have enclosed the "Ballot for 2016", along with your 2016 membership dues. We hope you can continue to support the museum and we will continue to show off Bandon's history to all who visit us.

Happy Holidays, and come visit your museum.

Judy Schultz Knox
Museum Director

THE ORIGINAL HOME OF THE MUSEUM WILL BE PLACED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

By Jim Proehl

Currently labeled as the Masonic Temple, the building housed the Bandon Historical Society Museum when it opened in 1976.

“The history of this building is rich,” reports the Bandon *Western World*. “The First National Bank of Bandon erected this two story, concrete building in 1915. That bank closed in April of 1925. During the 1920s and 1930s, the second story of the building was the telephone exchange for the West Coast Telephone Company.

“The Bandon fire of 1936 breathed new life into the building as it was one of the few commercial structures to survive the fire and the nearby Bank of Bandon moved in.

“When the Bank of Bandon moved to new quarters in 1954, the building housed the publishing plant for the *Western World*. The Bank of Bandon sold the building to the Bandon Masonic Lodge Corporation in 1955. It has occupied the building since and rents the first floor to merchants: The Cobbler’s Bench and the Spirit of Oregon.”

Bill Russell of the Bandon Masonic Lodge, Harv Schubothe of the Greater Bandon Association, and city councilman Peter Braun, whose cobbler’s shop is in the building, played prominent roles in the campaign for the building.

The historical society supplied photos and documentation to help with the nomination process.

The March 4 *Western World* reported, “The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation has forwarded the nomination of the First National Bank of Bandon — the Masonic Building, as many

know it — to the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.”

“The State Historic Preservation Office’s Ian Johnson and Julia Larsen, the summer intern from the University of Oregon’s architecture school who developed the nomination forms as part of her work for the State Main Street program and the Greater Bandon Association, presented the nomination to the committee.”

The committee noted two major reasons to list the building, according to the *Western World*: “First, it recognized that prominent and prolific Marshfield architect Bror Benjamin Ostlind was commissioned for the Classic Revival style structure and that all of his commissions in the region are either demolished or heavily altered, leaving this as his only extant significant building. The committee also noted the concrete construction, one of six concrete buildings built in Coos County from 1880 to 1915, is the only one left standing.”

“It really is a major accomplishment and I’d like to commend the Greater Bandon Association, which was instrumental in getting the historical information,” said Peter Braun. “It was a collaboration and we need more of those.”



First National Bank building after the fire.
September 26, 1936 FireOsborne collection



Masonic building today

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

A project to restore the plaque that marked the location of the Gallier Hotel to its rightful place was recently approved as an Eagle Scout service project for Max Underdown, a Scout with Bandon Boy Scout Troop 313. Max is the son of Cathy Underdown. His twin sister, Darby, worked for the museum this summer.

Local Eagle Scout projects must be approved of in advance by the Chinook District Eagle Board to assure they meet the standards for an Eagle project. Max completed and submitted a detailed project proposal. The museum board of directors also approved the project.

Several years ago, the marble plaque was commissioned by the Gallier descendants and embedded in the sidewalk near the site of the entrance to the Gallier Hotel. The historical society aided the family with the marker.

When the City replaced the sidewalk in 2009, the plaque and its surrounding square of concrete was preserved and given to the historical society. The plaque was displayed outside the museum, where it caused some confusion since it was not on the site it identifies. Now, it has been returned to a corner of the Port of Bandon property near the old Coast Guard building, near enough to its original location to give a better idea of where the Gallier Hotel once stood.

Max worked with Port manager Gina Dearth and Harbormaster Bob Shammot to incorporate the plaque into the Port's landscaping.

The object weighs several hundred pounds and required heavy equipment to move it. Max and his project helpers helped restore the museum's landscaping where the plaque had rested.

Completing the project was the final requirement in Max's work to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.



Eagle Scout candidate Max Underdown preparing to move the Gallier Hotel plaque to a new location

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYEES

Three high school students spent a part of their summer vacation working for the Bandon Historical Society Museum. Darby Underdown, Samantha Dow and Ally Richert were each hired to work 50 hours for the museum.

The students were involved in all aspects of the museum's operation. They did lots of sorting and organizing, scanned photographs, made thousands of copies, performed research tasks, typed documents, greeted and helped visitors, and kept the plants watered.

Darby Underdown is a 17-year-old senior at Bandon High. She is on the cheer, speech and dance teams as well as being a member of Interact Club. She was also Queen of the Cranberry Festival court.

Samantha Dow, a Bandon High junior, enjoys hiking and nature. She likes art and drawing and helped paint the "Go Native" mural on the Bandon Mercantile building. An Oregon native, she has lived in Port Orford and Bandon. "I enjoy school in general but history is my interest," said Samantha.

Ally Richerts is part of the fifth generation of Ricerts to live in Bandon. The 17-year-old Bandon High senior is on the varsity softball and basketball teams and is senior editor of the yearbook.

Seventeen students applied for the summer work and fourteen came to the museum for interviews with museum board president Dean Conyers and Jim Proehl, vice president. "I think any of the students we interviewed would have done a good job for us," said Proehl. "It was a luxury to have such a good field to choose from."

Bandon High's leadership class chose to award \$500 of grant money through Community 101, a program of The Oregon Community Foundation, to initiate the museum's student employment program.

The Norman Sprague Foundation of Bandon was a community sponsor for this year's Bandon High grant program. The balance of the students' salaries came from the museum's personnel budget.

The museum's board wants to continue the program next summer and into the future.

Louis and Anne Sweet Felsheim

by Mary Schamehorn

After being married 65 years and spending their lives in Bandon, a local couple died recently within six weeks of each other. Louis L. "Lou" Felsheim died July 31 at the age of 92. His wife, Susan Anne Sweet Felsheim, died September 14 at the age of 89, after being diagnosed with leukemia. They had lived many years along the Coquille River at Randolph, after spending their teenage years as neighbors on Ocean Drive.

Louis Felsheim

Louis Langdon Felsheim was born in Bandon on March 9, 1923, the second child and first son of Louis Daniel and Grace Lucille Felsheim. He picked up his passion for photography while working alongside his father at the *Western World* newspaper in Bandon, which he later owned and edited. His niece, Mary Dufort (now Schamehorn), went to work for her grandfather and uncle in 1959.

Lou graduated from Bandon High School in 1941. His love of playing the trumpet sprung up when he was 13. In both high school and college, he played in a band. He earned his degree in journalism from the University of Oregon until his education was unexpectedly interrupted by World War II.

Louis served in the US Navy on landing craft in the South Pacific. During his tour, he was aboard the now famous USS Ozark, and during a mission of the invasion of Iwo Jima, a landing craft that Louis was commanding capsized, causing them to spend the night on the beach with the battle raging all around them. While his vessel was off the coast of Iwo Jima, he witnessed the raising of the US Flag on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945, which was captured by a photographer and is now a famous war memorial.

In 1946, he received an honorable discharge from the Navy, having earned the rank of Lieutenant JG.

Following the war, Louis returned to Bandon to work at the *Western World*, which he took over in 1962 and continued as the owner/editor until his retirement.

Anne Sweet Felsheim

Anne, who was born in 1926 in Bandon, was the youngest of W.J. and Theresa Hanly Sweet's five children, which included A. W. Sweet of North Bend, Don Sweet of California, and Helen Mayes and Piercy Sweet, both of whom are deceased.

The first 10 years of her life were spent at Queen

Anne Cottages on Beach Loop, but when the 1936 fire destroyed their home, the family moved to their ranch at Elk River. She attended Sixes Grade School four years . . . at first in a one-room school with 24 students. Later, when attendance increased, two teachers were hired and both rooms were used. This building is no longer standing.

When she was a junior in high school, Anne and her family moved back to Bandon in 1942 as a result of World War II and the gasoline shortage.

After graduating from Bandon High School, she attended Stanford University.

Lou and Anne were married March 9, 1950, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bandon. They had four children, Laurie (deceased), John, Jim and Carol, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Lou had one sister, Martha Dufort, also a Bandon native, who died two and a half years ago at the age of 96.



Louis and Anne Felsheim and family dressed for the 1959 Oregon Centennial

ARTIFACTS DONATED TO THE MUSEUM

September 2015 – November 2015

1967 beige pair of high heels worn by and donated by K. Phillips

4 quart Oasis canteen, donated by K. Cowan

A bender for cow horns used by the cowboys, donated by J. Davis

Logger's cork boots, donor unknown

Clipper Ship 1906, donor V. Corrie-Cozart

2007 Cranberry queen's gown, crown and silver high heels worn by Queen Mary Lane

Collection of thunder egg rocks, donated by family member of Lee Orcutt

Bandon Recorder dated Friday July 31, 1896 and Friday August 5, 1898, donor B. Wheeler

1980 Festival of the Phoenix program, *Oregon Coast Magazine* 1991, K. Cowan collection

Three handmade pot holders made by M. Thorn, donated by D. T. Mason coll.

Two Safety School patrol badges used at Bandon Grade School, J. Bemetz coll.

1950's stainless electric frying pan with copper lid, never used, M. Erdman coll.

Vent stack cover off the *Oliver Olson* after it crashed on the south jetty in Nov. 1953

Many photographs, tablecloths, doilies, collectable glassware, including white plates, matching white soup bowls recovered from the *Oliver Olson* wreck

A ¾ length white leather coat worn in the 1960s, Sarah Coventry costume jewelry and other pieces of jewelry

A 1963 Official Bandon Cranberry Festival program, E. Hunt Paulsen coll.

MEMORIALS

In Memory:

Bob Butler, Shirley Watters, Mike Morris, Bob Martindale, Ron Knox, Bill Burgher, Lou Felsheim, Anne Felsheim, David Engelbart, Bud Baird, Buster Jacobs, Wilfred Schroeder, Bev Harrington, Bob Sutherland, Jean Ann Shortridge, David E. Handsaker, Earl E. Handsaker, Connie Settle, Pat Settle.

Donors:

Carolyn Russell, John & Chele Gamble, Bob & Susan Coraor, Nina McNeil, Pete & Joan Goodbrod, Michael & Kathy Smith, Trish & Dean Conyers, Ladies Wednesday Bridge Group, Kristy Bowman, Vern & Jeanette Todd, Larry & Joyce Gerber, Carol Acklin, Carolyn Sorenson, Larry & Wanice Sabin, Mary Capps, Jean Rittenour, Kathy Dornath, Don Lynam, Jim Proehl, Linell Seegall, Coreen Pierce, Judy McMakin, Edith Winters, Bob & Susie Webber, Pete Ely, Family and Friends and Judy Knox.

Bandon Historical Society 2016 Ballot
Election of Officers, Board of Directors & Nominating Committee

This ballot will be used by members of the Bandon Historical Society for the election of Officers, Board of Directors, and Nominating Committee for 2016.

You have the option to vote for the candidates listed below, or you may write in a name of your choice.

The names below were selected by the Nominating Committee and presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

You may vote by mail or you may take your ballot to the museum. All ballots must be received at the museum on or before the Annual Meeting, Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 1pm.

Mail to: Bandon Historical Society, P.O. Box 737, Bandon, OR 97411

Officers for 2016 (one year term)

President Jim Proehl or _____
Vice President Mary Schamehorn or _____
Secretary Faye Albertson or _____
Treasurer Nancy Murphy or _____

Board of Directors for 2016 – 2018 vote for 4 (three year term)

Reg Pullen or _____
Betty Hiley or _____
Jim Proehl or _____
Brian Vick or _____

Nominating Committee for 2016 vote for 3 (one year term)

Doreen Colbert or _____
Jim Proehl or _____
Donna Mason or _____

The Annual Meeting is Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 1 pm. at the museum.

JOIN THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YES! Please accept my membership in the Bandon Historical Society

Enclosed is my check

(please check one)

\$15 Individual _____ NAME _____

\$25 Family _____ ADDRESS _____

\$35 Business _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

\$250 Life _____ PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

\$500 Benefactor _____

\$1000 Patron _____

If you would like to contribute to the Bandon Historical Society's

Sustainability Fund, please fill out the information below

I pledge \$_____ to be paid _____ monthly or _____ quarterly or _____ annually

A check is enclosed for \$_____

Please make check to BHS and mail to: Bandon Historical Society, PO Box 737, Bandon, OR 97411

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