



THE BANDON LIGHT

A PUBLICATION OF THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Memories of Bullards, Oregon

by Dorothy Chandler

This undated manuscript was located in the Museum files.

Although Bandon is my hometown, my address, until I was about 21, was always Bullards, Oregon—a post office that no longer exists.

Bullards Store and Post Office was a large, two story building set on pilings in the Coquille River. It was located on the west side of the ferry dock on the north bank of the river, about two or three miles upstream from the mouth of the river at Bandon. The road had been built up over the driftwood and the store floor was level with the road—no steps into the store for storekeeper and postmaster, Lester Bundy, in his wheelchair.

He lived nearby, about a block and a half away, west of the store on solid ground. There was a railed wooden sidewalk built alongside the road from his house to the store so his wife, Pearl, could push him to and from the house to the store. She was a retiring, timid little dark-haired lady. She often carried her little pet chihuahua or terrier (some kind of tiny dog—I remember him being so nervous, barking and yipping a lot). Mr. Bundy was an austere fellow, with a long narrow face, thin nose and lips, keen blue eyes surveying the world through wire rimmed glasses. He

always seemed old to me, with his sparse grey hair neatly combed from a side part. I was a little in awe of him and all us kids tread lightly in his store—Daddy and Mother had warned us repeatedly that we were not to horse around or play in the store. The Bundys had no children of their own.

The upper floor of the store, reached by a covered outside stairway, was used mainly for evening lodge meetings and occasional community functions, as well as for elections. The door was always locked and I think I was only in there maybe once or twice. Anyway, to my childish mind the upper reaches of the store were mysterious and off limits. Many times, while waiting for our parents to get done with their talking and shopping, it was a big temptation to play on the dark, spooky stairway, but we knew we would be in trouble if we got caught—being crude wooden steps, they were noisy if you tread on them.

But, we were very familiar with the public restroom at the store—a two hole outhouse underneath and at the back of the enclosed stairway. I was always sort of scared to go in there. If the tide was in, the water and driftwood would be slapping and bumping and rolling around not far below the holes and if the tide was out, it looked a long way down to the driftwood studded mudflats—a most unsanitary



(Continued on page 4)

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A publication of the
Bandon Historical Society

Bandon Historical Society Museum

Executive Director..... Gayle Propeck Nix
Native American Consultant... Reg Pullen

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Vice President..... Mary Schamehorn
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Kathy Dornath Reg Pullen
Brian Vick

Nominating Committee

Doreen Colbert Jim Proehl
Donna Mason

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

Newsletter Layout

Bob Coraor



Bandon Historical Society
PO Box 737
Bandon, OR 97411
Phone/Fax 541-347-2164
E-mail:

bandonhistoricalmuseum@yahoo.com

Web: www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org

If you are interested 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 and 7 days a week June through September. Volunteers are waiting to help you and answer your questions about Bandon's history. Enjoy Bandon's rich, wonderful history! Located on the corner of:

270 Fillmore Ave. & Hwy 101

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Gayle Nix

From the Desk of the Director

Just a quick look at 2017 in review...

- Starting In January we moved the office and the research room, and painted the new office.
- Had a SWOMA meeting (Southwestern Oregon Museum Association) after a hiatus of a couple years.
- Volunteers updated our shipwreck exhibits.
- **Bob Fisher** shared his shipwreck survival story.
- Western World donated bound newspaper editions starting from 1917.
- **Greg Butler** and crew stabilized our floor; we were closed a few extra days.
- During spring break we had lots of visitors.
- The 2017 "50 Years Later Scholarship" concept began.
- **Bob Fisher's** sharing of the shipwreck story returned by popular demand.
- Past Perfect classes and software were donated through a grant to the Coos History Museum. Past Perfect is a software program designed to help small museums keep track of their collections.
- Long time board member **Betty Hiley** died.
- **Mack Handsaker** was selected as the 2017 "50 Years Later Scholarship" recipient.
- A City lot was given to the museum; we will use it for extra parking.
- Boy Scouts working on the parking lot as part of their Eagle Scout service project.
- Summer recreation kids here as part of the summer recreation program.
- Volunteer "thank you" picnic.
- Class of '67 at museum to start off their 50th class reunion; the museum had lots of pictures and albums for the class to look at.
- Bandon Gaels Theatre group did a wonderful dramatic reading of the book "Bandon Burns".
- 81st Fire Anniversary program.
- October, my one year anniversary!
- Veterans Day program organized by **Rick Hinojosa**.
- Annual Fundraising letter mailed.
- Christmas Village on display.
- Second graders here to decorate the two small trees with ornaments they made in school.
- Shipwrecks of Curry County program by **H. S. Contino**.
- Closing December 24 through February 6.

Whew!! What a great year! Looking forward to 2018!

Gayle Nix
Executive Director



Photo Find!

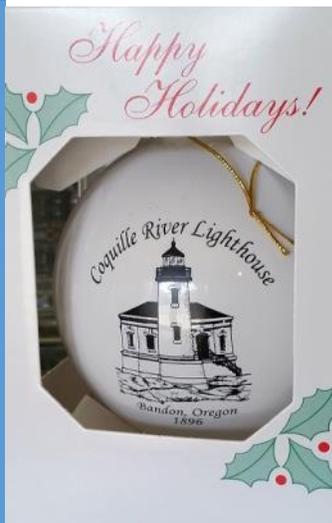


The interest generated by **George Topping's** letter, which ran in the last newsletter and was also read at the 2017 Bandon Fire commemoration in September, caused his grandson, Gary Topping, of Salt Lake City, to look a little further into the family's photo collection. As a result, a significant new photograph has come into the museum's collection.

The photo shows **George Topping** visiting the remains of the family home in the aftermath of the September 26, 1936 fire.

Another photo shows **Amy and George Topping** sifting through the ruins of a burned house. The laughing young woman is not identified.

The museum has lots of photos of the aftermath of the 1936 fire, but few with people in them and even fewer with identified people. A photo that can be linked to a first person account of the '36 fire is a valuable find.



The last day of operation for 2017 will be Saturday, December 23. The museum will be closed for the holidays and the month of January. Reopening will be Monday, February 5, 2018.

The museum will be closed in January but not idle. Volunteers use that time to repair and refresh exhibits. A \$6,500 grant from Trust Management Services is earmarked for exhibit work. Volunteers are invited to come in and help. "Give me a call if

you want to know when we are working," said board member **Donna Mason**, "or just stop in when you see a lot of cars in the parking lot."

Volunteers under the leadership of board member **Reg Pullen** will meet with volunteers from the Coquille Tribe to plan ways to give the Indian exhibits more focus on the local Nah-So-Mah culture. Photo scanning and identification work will continue under volunteer **Jim Proehl's** direction.

Director **Gayle Nix** and volunteer **Ann Remy** will be working together to develop and plan a business sponsorship campaign.

The museum will host a members' social and hold its annual meeting Tuesday, February 6, as a way to celebrate reopening. The event will be from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. After a brief meeting to review the past year, preview the next and confirm the board election results, members will be able to tour the museum and be among the first to see the work done in January. Light refreshments will be served. Non-members can join at the event.

The first program of the year will be Saturday, February 17, at 2:00 PM. **Lionel Youst** and **Richard Ott** will share stories, history and photos of life in Coos County early in the last century. Volunteer **Jeff Moore** heard the pair speak when he was taking a local history class via SWOCC and the Coos Museum and invited them to speak here.

"It looks like we have a strong start for the new year," said museum board president **Jim Proehl**.

Donations and New Members

Pierce, Barbara Dodrill, Judy Knox, Mary Schamehorn, Jean Rittenour, Gayle Nix, Patrice Baugher and Carolyn Russell in memory of **Jim Wise, Debbie Llewellyn, Catie Shindler, Charlie Crew and Butch Richert**.

New Life Members are **Chas Waldrop and Jim and Robin Martin**.

New Members are **John Evans, Chuck and Mary Howard, Tom Goss, Rick and Ande Hofmann, William Dodds, Steve and Cindy McNeil, Robert Hamblock and Bill and Carla Smith**.

Memorial Donations were made by **David Hunt, Careen**



setup and a potential hazard to a small child who might slip! I never heard of any mishaps in there but we always took care to be extra careful—it was usually cool and breezy too and no temptation to linger. My brother Don said the tide came in and flushed the “toilet” twice a day.

On the outside of the store was also the ferry phone, in a box nailed to the building. This phone was connected directly to the ferryman’s house across the river. It was for emergencies only, when the ferry was closed from 10:00 pm until 6:00 am. (I think it was open until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights.) If you needed to cross during the closed hours, you just cranked the phone several times to wake up the ferryman.

As you went in the front door of the store the post office counter and mail pigeonholes were to the left. There was a large glass up against the pigeonholes and you could see into them, but Mr. Bundy personally handed you your mail, taking it from the open side on his side of the counter. No one was ever allowed behind the counter except Mr. Bundy or his wife, but mostly

Mr. Bundy was always there, in his wheelchair, a blanket covering his legs. Rumor had it that there was a wire or string under the counter, attached to a bell in Mr. Bundy’s house and he could pull this string to alert his wife if he needed her to come to the store in a hurry or needed help with a difficult customer. I don’t recall that anyone ever took advantage of him or attempted to rob the store—he seemed to command everyone’s respect and most of the regular customers charged everything and paid by check once a month, so I don’t suppose there was ever a large amount of cash on hand.

To the right of the doorway was the glass covered candy counter where we spent much of our time peering and wishing and sometimes spending if we were lucky. When we had made up our minds, Mr. Bundy would wheel over and open the case from the back and exchange candy for our money—nickel candy bars and packages of gum, penny stick of candy and licorice and suckers

All around the walls of the store were shelves from top to bottom and several long counters stretched the length of the store, holding an assortment of groceries, clothing, hardware and miscellaneous items. By the time I was old enough to notice, it seemed to me that most of the things for sale were in the front half of the store, but I imagine at one time the store had been busier, before people became more mobile and traveled farther away from home to do their shopping in the larger towns of Bandon, Coquille and Coos Bay. For years, our family bought all our staples there, ordering flour and sugar by the 100 pound sack, canned milk by the case when the cow was dry, buying other things in bulk—such as brown sugar, macaroni, beans, raisins and rice—Mr. Bundy would weigh out the items on his balance scale, scooping beans or whatever out of barrels or large jars or big sacks or boxes, then pouring the weighted amount into a bag and marking on the outside what it was and how much it cost.

Long-time trustworthy customers were invited to serve themselves sometimes. I remember how proud and important I felt the first time he told me to get my own candy out of the back of the candy counter!

In the middle of the store was a big wood heater and on cold days it was a warm spot to stand around and visit. Because of the wait for the ferry, most people would get their cars in line for the ferry and then go into the store to visit, even if they weren’t buying anything. Then when we heard the ferry dock and the cars coming off, everyone would scatter to their cars to get on the ferry and by then those who had just got off the ferry would be coming into the store for mail and shopping, gas, etc. Mr. Bundy was interested in all the news items people talked about and would pass on messages and community news to everyone, so a stop at the store was a necessity for keeping up on the news if nothing else and the only local newspaper was the weekly *Western World* in

Bandon. Funeral notices and criminal wanted notices were tacked up on the wall by the front door.

Mr. Bundy, along with my dad and several other men, formed a committee to get a bridge to replace the ferry. Many of their meetings were held in the store or at Mr. Bundy’s house. In the process of making way for progress, his old store had to be torn down to make room for the bridge approach and widen the road, as Highway 101 changed course to come across the new bridge. A new small store was built closer to his house with a big parking lot. The post office was also moved there. But with the traffic zipping off the bridge and zooming past, fewer and fewer people stopped at the store. Mr. Bundy was getting older, too and it wasn’t long before he retired and closed the store for good. Our address became a rural route out of Coquille—Rt. 1, Box 2210—and we put up a mailbox. Home delivery was certainly handy, but not nearly as interesting or as personal as getting it direct from the hand of Mr. Bundy. [This account has been edited for space...the full account is available at www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org/bullardsOR.html]



Christine Bullard-left front row; center-Lester Bundy, Harry Bundy, his mother. Far right- Pearl Bullard & father Robert



1909 Post Card to Lester Bundy



An Object Lesson

It's a tired looking artifact, and it has a right to be:

This Back Pack--

- Hiked three times, 20 plus miles, to the South Fork of Sixes River
- Hiked two times on the Rogue River Trail from Galice to Agness
- Spent 8 summers at Camp Tsiltcoos (now Camp Baker, between Reedsport and Florence)
- Crossed the United States and back by rail
- Attended the Valley Forge National Scout Jamboree in 1957
- Crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice
- Attended the World Scout Jubilee Jamboree, Sutton Coldfield, England 1957
- Toured through Europe in 1957
- Spent one summer at Camp Spirit Lake in 1962 (Camp Spirit Lake was destroyed when Mt. St. Helens erupted in 1980)
- Attended the World's Fair in Seattle WA.

And those are only some of the places the pack went on the back of **Chuck Ward**, a Scout in Bandon's Troop 17.

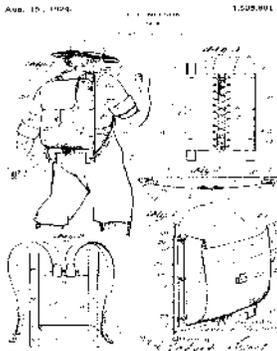
Ward purchased this "Trapper" Nelson backpack about 1953. Ward said it was "pretty expensive for the time" and was a significant investment for a young man. The "Trapper" Nelson backpack was considered state of the art and was "officially" adopted for use by both the Forest Service and the Boy Scouts.

In 1957, Ward was planning to return to work on the staff of Camp Tsiltcoos for the summer, when the opportunity arose to attend the National Scout Jamboree in Pennsylvania and the World Scout Jamboree in England. He felt a strong loyalty to the camp, but the adults in his life encouraged him to take this once in a lifetime opportunity.

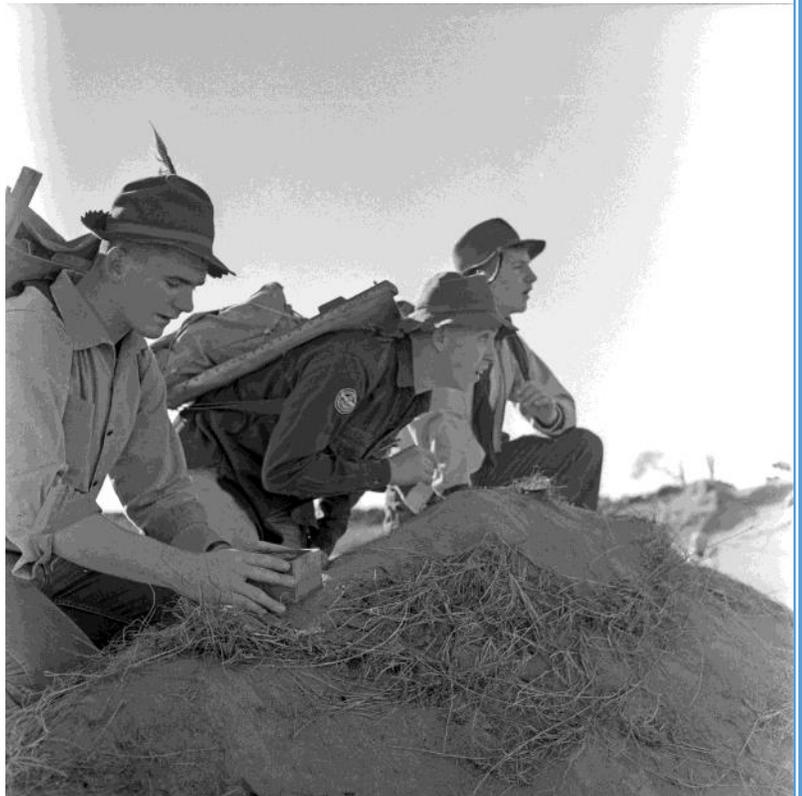
Townpeople helped him raise the \$2,000 it cost to go. Ward said he was very appreciative of the community support and still feels strong sentiment about the way the town got behind him. He traveled far in 1957 and the backpack was always with him.

Ward continued to use the pack after he aged out as a Boy Scout and carried the pack on during his time as a Scoutmaster and on journeys with his sons.

The pack is on display in the museum's Boy and Girl Scout section. It has a great story to tell.



US Patent #1,505,661



Explorer Post 17 members **Chuck Ward**, wearing the "Trapper" Nelson backpack, **Allen Kennedy** and **Tim Cole** participate in a search and rescue drill in the sand dunes, December of 1957.



Second Graders Learning History

Second Grade students from the Ocean Crest School classrooms of **Susie Bemetz** and **Carrie Biasca** visited the museum recently. The students brought hand-made decorations and decorated two Christmas trees.

The classes toured the museum. Nine volunteers, most of whom were retired teachers, delivered mini-lessons at points around the museum.

The theme for the second grade program is “About a Hundred Years Ago.” Volunteer **Jim Proehl** visited the two classrooms before their visit and showed photos and talked about life in Bandon a hundred years ago. Each volunteer guide followed up on the theme.

Volunteer **Ed Norton** parked a 1928 Model-A Ford in the parking lot, which gave students a chance to sit in a car “about” a hundred years old.

Each student left the museum with a “History Detective” badge, printed and assembled in **Jen Ells’** Community Arts class at the high school.

Second grade classes have been making holiday visits to the museum for several years.



Volunteer Ardis Ann Szala, aka Z, explored the workings of a kerosene lantern.



Volunteer Doreen Colbert explained about playing musical instruments.



Students sit in Volunteer Ed Norton’s vintage automobile.

Boy Scouts’ Eagle Project Aids the Museum

Two Bandon Boy Scouts have been working to double the museum’s parking capacity. When the City of Bandon gave the museum use of a former storage yard adjoining the existing parking lot, the challenge was to prepare the lot for cars.



Life Scouts **Alexander Schulz** and **Ethan Butler** are developing the parking lot as their Eagle Scout service projects. In order to earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Life Scout must lead a major community service project.

The Scouts have identified two separate projects connected to the lot. Scout Alexander Schulz took responsibility for the parking surface of the lot and Scout Ethan Butler chose to landscape the strip of land between the lot and the neighboring property.



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2017 — Christmas Village display at the Museum.

Saturday, December 23, 2017 — Museum closes until February 5, 2018. Staff and volunteers will refresh the exhibits for the 2018 season.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 — Museum Board Meeting, 4PM at the Museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

Monday, February 5, 2018 — Museum reopens for the 2018 season.

Tuesday, February 6, 2018— **Museum Annual Meeting** and member social 4 to 6 PM. Please join us!

Saturday, February 17, 2018— 2PM at the Museum. Free Admission. Boats, Roads and Growing up in Early 20th Century Coos County. A presentation by **Lionel Youst** and **Roger Ott**.



Thank You!! The **Oregon Community Foundation**

recently awarded us a grant in the amount of \$1700 from the Small Arts and Culture grant program. Funds were allocated to our general operating budget and earmarked for utilities payments.

Trust Management Services awarded the Historical Society a \$6500 grant to be used in upgrading our displays and exhibits.

The **Keisers** generously provided us with a \$2500 grant to be used in the general operation of the museum.

From the August 9, 1917 Western World

“Bottled Sunshine”

Are you as efficient as you should be?
Do your business cares seem heavier than they used to be?

Do you lack some of the old time “pep” and “punch”?

Do you have occasional “off days”—days when everything goes wrong; and little things annoy, or, suggestions of headache, no appetite?

If so, come and visit the

Bandon Sanitarium

DR. FRED COVELL Opposite Hotel Gallier

Electrotherapy, Chiropractic, Thermotherapy,
Hydrotherapy. Suggestions in Diet.



President’s Corner...

By Jim Proehl

Board President

Included with this newsletter is a ballot. Because we are a member nonprofit, the membership selects the board of directors and the officers.

Six board positions are up for election this year. Some are for two year terms and others for three. Board terms are elected on a staggered basis to help the board maintain a mix of experienced and new members. When the organization is running smoothly, the election is just a formality but it’s important we keep the process in place. It gives the board legitimacy and keeps us accountable.

Kathy Dornath, Nancy Murphy and Faye Albertson are current board members running for another three year term.

Rick Hinojosa, Elaine Stohler and Mary Stewart are running for a first board term.

Richard (Rick) Hinojosa retired from Delta Airlines in 2001 then worked for the Bandon School District for nine years. Rick grew up in Hawthorne, California attending Hawthorne High School then Northrop Aeronautical Institute. After four years active duty in the USAF and while working for Delta Airlines, Rick attended San Jose State and graduated with Industrial Arts and History Majors. After being relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, Rick worked as a volunteer at the Commemorative Air Force where he organized history lessons at the hangar for local schools which included tours on the aircraft, displays and talks from WW2 Veterans. Rick also shares his collection of WW2 items with local schools, explaining things from that era. A Viet Nam Veteran, Rick has been instrumental in organizing Veterans Day programs for the museum.

Elaine Stohler was born and raised in New Jersey, although she spent most of her adult life in Arizona where she raised her three children. She retired from a career in education where she worked as a teacher and a reading coach. In 2014, she moved to Bandon and began volunteering at the museum. She has developed a keen interest in the history of Bandon and a strong desire to help preserve that history through the museum.

Mary Stewart has been a resident of Bandon since 2000 when she moved here from Seattle after retiring as Director of the Office of Quality Assurance for Social Security’s Northwest Region. She was president of the Bandon Kiwanis Club for 2 years and she and her husband Russ owned and operated the Boatworks Restaurant for almost 5 years. She has been very interested in the history of Bandon and the surrounding area even before moving here and became both a member and a volunteer at the museum in early 2017. Among other activities, she has been working on enhancements to the museum’s database of donations.

Also on the ballot are the board office positions and election to the nominating committee. Please mark and return your ballot as soon as possible. Thank you!

JOIN THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YES! Please accept my membership in the Bandon Historical Society

Already a member? Please consider a donation to help support your museum.

(please check one)

\$15 Individual NAME: _____

\$25 Family ADDRESS: _____

\$35 Business CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

\$250 Life PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

I'm a Member and would like to make a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____

Please make check payable to BHS and mail to:

Bandon Historical Society, PO Box 737, Bandon OR 97411

For more information on benefits of memberships go to

<http://www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org/membership.html>

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