



THE BANDON LIGHT

A PUBLICATION OF THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bandon 100 Years Ago

WWI Ends—Flu Pandemic Continues

Bandon was in the grip of the Spanish Flu when the World War I came to an end on November 11, 1918, one hundred years ago. The Bandon Historical Society Museum marked the hundred-year anniversary by putting special emphasis on World War I during its annual Veterans Day Special Exhibit which led to some additional research on what was happening in Bandon during World War I.

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet's population—and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, according to the History Channel.

By November of 1918, the Spanish flu was old, but continuing, news in Bandon. The town had been on quarantine since mid-October. Theaters, pool halls and ice cream parlors were closed. The pages of the *Western World* were dominated by news of who was sick, who had recovered, and who had died.

"Under Government orders all men employed at the Moore Mill & Lumber Co. plant, beginning today, must have their throats and nasal passages sprayed once daily" the *Western World* reported October 31. "The spraying will be done by a member of the U.S. Army medical department,"

Barbers were required to wear gauze masks. Company A of the Bandon Home Guards quit drilling. Dances, meetings and social gatherings were suspended.

The schools were closed. "Principal **John L. Gary** has conceived the idea of a correspondence course and beginning next week students of Bandon High will commence doing their work at home," said a *Western World* article November 7, 1918. Basketball games were canceled. Of more concern, the entire debate season was in jeopardy.

But on November 11, 1918, World War I came to an end. "The influenza ban in Bandon was knocked into a cocked hat on Monday, when glad tidings arrived that Germany had signed the Armistice terms," reported the *Western World*, November 14, 1918.

"By ten o'clock some of the businessmen had gotten together, talked it over, and decided that the populace must be given an opportunity to give vent to its sentiments. In the meantime, the spirit had moved **Mayor Topping** and he officially declared the day a holiday. It was decided to have a parade at 2:30 and all patriotic, military and other organizations together with the public generally were invited to participate. The mills shut down and all business suspended at noon.



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Bandon Historical Society

Bandon Historical Society Museum

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Native American Consultant... Reg Pullen

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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



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a 501(c)(3) organization

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

Check it out!!

If you have not noticed, drive by the museum and check out the new siding that **Greg Butler** and his crew have installed on the building. When it is finished, nice gray octagon shingles will be put on the gables with new black shutters and the trim colors will be white with some black accent trim. Keep an eye on the progress.

The museum board voted to take money from our sustainability fund to pay for the new siding and repair. It turned out to be a timely decision, as the wood rot and repair on the north and south sides were worse than we anticipated. If we had waited much longer, we might not have had a building to repair! When Butler Construction is finished, our building will be sounder as well as better looking.

Anthony Zunino at Freedom Graphics prepared a proposal for new signs to compliment the new exterior. We have applied for grant money to fund the new signs.

We are looking forward to the New Year because we have some interesting programs lined up. We close for Christmas and remain closed through January. We will be reopening for 2019 on February 4 and are looking forward to showing off our newly renovated museum!



Gayle Nix
Executive Director

Donations and New Members

Memorial Donations: were made in memory of **Oceania Smack Morris, Tony Russell, Vivian Kranick Brown and Ava Olson**. Donors were **Roger Brown, Carolyn Russell, Alma Russell and Careen Pierce**.

New Members:

John Sweet
Mike and Karen Allison
Bud Searer
Madeline Seymour
Robert and Gail Davis
Peter Hughes

Therese and Kevin Kent
Steve and Cheryl Howard
Christine Hall Family
Rob and Lorna Cooper
Bob Amundsen and Vikki Dane

1918 Flu Strikes Down Bandon Couple



Lux in Averill Cemetery

This epidemic was different from other epidemics in that it didn't concentrate on the elderly or the very young but rather on the 20 to 40 year old age group. Large cities were especially hard hit due to population density. Nevertheless, Oregon, though sparsely populated, was not left untouched. **Mathias and Bessie Lux** were a young couple with an infant son, **Lowell Lux**. Mathias had quit his job as a

porter in a hotel in Coos Bay (Marshfield) to work at the Coos Bay Shipbuilding Company to help with the war (World War I) effort. Both he and his wife contracted the flu. Bessie died on December 16th of 1918 and Mathias died five days later. Bessie was 21; Mathias was 24. In the obituary it says that Mathias "was thought to have been out of danger when his condition became suddenly worse and he gradually sank." Their tombstone is to the left of the path leading through the cemetery.

The last photo is of Lowell Lux's Bandon elementary grade 1A class in 1925. Lowell is the small boy in the center of the center row. In 1925 he was 7 years old. He was raised by his aunt and uncle and became a successful businessman in California. He passed away in 1996.



Mathias with baby Lowell
1918



Veterans Day Celebrated

A packed house listened to **Colonel Jonathon Park, MD**, talk about the conflict in Afghanistan as part of the Veterans Day program at the Bandon Historical Society Museum Saturday, November 10. The doctor, who practices locally with the North



Bend Medical Clinic, shared his first-hand experience of serving in the Afghan conflict.

Free admission for the day was provided by **Edgewater's** restaurant and **Ocean Spray, Bandon**. Museum board member **Rick Hinojosa** has been the organizer of the museum's Veterans Day events for several years. The museum parking lot was covered with restored and replica military vehicles. Inside, local collectors including **Steven Joyce, Cliff Lint** and **Alex Tessman** shared their military collections.



Veterans Day (Continued on page 6)

New Flight Gear Display

“It inflates to help with circulation up to 5 Gs; after five Gs, you have to grunt—do a straining maneuver—to help the suit keep the blood flow going to your head,” said **Dave Hankwitz**, who has first-hand knowledge of the US Air Force Pilot Flight Gear now on display in the Bandon Historical Society Museum’s military section.

A visitor has to dig a little to find the anti-G suit. It’s under the pants, jacket, survival vest, and parachute harness that are all components of the flight suit, topped by a helmet and oxygen mask.

“This flight gear was used on my last flight in an F-15 at my retirement,” said Hankwitz. “I was honored to have served in the Air Force and Oregon Air National Guard.” Dave is museum director **Gayle Nix**’s “significant other.”



Dave Hankwitz in his flight gear ready for a flight!



Hankwitz was on active duty in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970 working on the SR-71 Blackbird spy plane at Beale Air Force Base in California. He was an Environmental Control Specialist on the aircraft as maintenance personnel.

Dave rejoined the Air National Guard in Klamath Falls, Oregon in 1986 and served through 2004. As an Aircrew Life Support Specialist, he took care of the pilot’s flight gear, inspecting and fitting it to the aircrew members. He also instructed fliers in egress, parachuting and survival on land and water.

“As an instructor, I was authorized to fly in the back seat of the fighter jets to experience the usage of the flight equipment and aircraft strapping-in procedures. I was fortunate to fly in the F-4, F-16 and F-15 during my career,” said Hankwitz.

The fighter pilot flight gear is realistically displayed on a new mannequin, purchased with funds from a Trust Management Services grant that museum volunteers have been using throughout the year to upgrade exhibits and displays.

The flight gear display was added just in time for the Veterans Day special exhibit and program November 10.

"Promptly at 2:30 the Bandon brass band with some 15 pieces struck up the air 'There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight,' and before the day was over their prediction was confirmed," reported the *Western World*.

The band, the Home Guard soldiers, the Coast Guard, the GAR (Civil War Veterans) and the Camp Fire Girls formed a parade that "turned out to be the biggest event of its kind in the history of the city."

"It was a great day for the parents of the boys in the Service, and they fully enjoyed every minute of it," the *Western World* reported. The mothers joined the parade, bearing banners and making noise. "Their joy was sincere and it made the whole town glad to see them happy."



WWI era parade with the Gallier Hotel (central building) and the Bandon Athletic Club (building on the right)

"In the evening the band boys appeared on the street attired in a variety of comic costumes. For the first time Bandon danced on the street," reported the *Western World*.

About two weeks later, there was a resurgence of the flu.

A project sponsored by **Face Rock Creamery** and Bandon **Mayor Mary Schamehorn**, to convert the microfilmed collection of Bandon newspapers into a digital format that can be accessed by computer, made the research work on Bandon during World War I much easier.



Guess who is in the back seat!



Holiday Suggestions

Make This a Patriotic Christmas

Do it by remembering our gallant boys in khaki who are at the front and on their way. The hardships of war require that our soldier boys carry only such articles as are necessary to their comfort and health.

We offer a number of suggestions both timely and appropriate:

For the Soldier Boys

Pocket Knives at values from 60c up
 Durham Military Safety Razor sets at \$1.00
 Razor Straps at values from \$1 to \$2.50
 Shaving Brushes at values from 25c to \$1.50
 Little Gem Safety Razors at \$1.00
 All the leading brands of Safety Razor Blades.

For Those at Home

COMMUNITY SILVERWARE
 ELECTRIC PERCOLATORS AND IRONS
 PYREX AND EARTHEN CASSEROLES
 FINE SCISSORS AND SHEARS
 HAND AND SAFETY RAZORS

STRUCTO SETS, \$1 to \$4. Foot Balls and Boxing Gloves.
 Kwik-lite Pocket Lights. Fine Fishing Tackle
 Thermos Bottles. Boys Wagons and Tricycles.
 Coaster Wagons.

See Our Window and Win a Kwik-lite FREE

McNair Hardware Co.

THE HOME OF GOOD HARDWARE

PHONE 481



Members of the Spruce Division

To commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I, museum volunteers prepared extra exhibits on the roles of the Spruce Division and the Home Guards in Bandon during WWI.

Approximately 150 people visited or participated in the museum event, held a day before Veterans Day.



Bandon's Averill Cemetery on Veterans Day



History Mystery—Solved??

Could this be a “History Mystery” solved? We’ve puzzled over this photo of a “machine gun?” mounted on a decorated truck. It’s found in two different collections and identified as being in Bandon, but had no further explanation.

In the course of researching for the anniversary of World War I, we spotted a notice at the bottom of the program of events for the Fourth of July in 1918.

Bandon’s Home Guards was in charge. “There will be no dull moments at the Fourth of July celebration in Bandon if the plans of the various committees of Company E, now preparing the program, materialize. ‘Something doing every minute, and on time,’” reported the *Western World*.



Along with the grand parade, boat drill, wrestling and boxing, and military review in the park was a chance to see a real, army issue, machine gun, FOR FREE on the Fourth of July.

Dance, Etc.

MACHINE GUN EXHIBITION—See the latest model Browning Machine Gun (Air Cooled) on exhibition free. This is the new type of gun recently adopted by the U. S. Army

The background in the photo would seem to match City Park circa 1918. One of our Veterans Day experts did a little research and confirmed the gun in the photo is an M-1895 Colt Browning machine gun, consistent with the World War I era.

All the evidence suggests this is the machine gun on display in Bandon City Park on the Fourth of July, 1918. **Mystery solved?**

Portion of the July 4, 1918 Bandon-By-The-Sea Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2018 — Christmas Village display at the Museum.

Saturday, December 1, 2018 — Patti Boice Strain will present on her new book *World War II-Lest We Forget*, 2PM at the Museum. Free Admission.

Saturday, December 22, 2018 — Museum closes until February 4, 2019. Staff and volunteers will refresh the exhibits for the 2019 season.

Monday, February 4, 2019 — Museum reopens for the 2019 season. Stop by and see the refreshed exhibits.

Sunday, February 17, 2019 — *Murder At Two Mile*, - 2PM at the Museum. A performance by the Gaels Readers Theater group. Free admission thanks to the **Beverage Barn** and **Sunrise Carpet Cleaning and More**.

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 — Museum Board Meeting, and Annual Meeting —Board meeting at 4PM followed by the Annual Meeting at 5PM. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

Rewards Programs

Help Support Your Museum



Did you know that you can support the museum at no additional cost to you? **McKay's Markets** generously donates 1% of the value of your purchase to the museum if you save your

receipts and drop them off at the museum. We collect them and turn them in for the donation.



In addition, if you buy from Amazon you can use their **Amazon Smile** website for your purchases instead. By designating the Bandon Historical Society as your preferred charity, they will donate 0.5% of your purchase to us. Just use <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0671618> (you must use your web browser to get to the Smile site, not the Amazon app on your phone or tablet.)

President's Corner...

By Jim Proehl

Board President



The first time I planned a museum program was in March of 2013. When a family of five happened to come in just as the program was starting, we were delighted. It

brought our audience up to eight.

Mary Johnson from Washed Ashore put on an excellent presentation and was gracious about the sparse audience, but I was disappointed. Contrast that with the packed-to-the-rafters attendance at programs of the last year. What's made the difference? It's a good question with a number of answers.

We've broadened our promotion. An article and an ad in the local paper is important, but it's only a start. Director **Gayle Nix** is developing a growing list of contacts with radio stations, magazines, TV stations and online bulletin boards. We've ventured into social media.

We discovered sponsors provide more than money. The businesses and individuals that **Ann Remy** enlists to sponsor events and programs contribute more than money. They take ownership of the event and help to promote it.

Free is a good price. Our Free Summer Sundays, sponsored by **First Interstate Bank** and **Best Western, Inn at Face Rock**, raised Sunday admission to 924 visitors, compared to 162 Sunday visitors the previous summer. Though traditionally we have not charged admission to programs, to be able to advertise "Free admission courtesy of . . ." makes free sound like a better deal.

That something going on outdoors brings people inside is another lesson we learned from **Rick Hinojosa**. Attendance at Veterans Day events skyrocketed when he invited collectors to park their military vehicles in the parking lot. **Ron Loya** was panning "Sunset" gold with kids in the parking lot on the Free Summer Sunday that drew over a hundred visitors.

Programs can take many forms. Member **Jeff Moore** facilitated speakers who dealt with topics not specific to Bandon. Each drew a packed house. We've collaborated with **The Gaels** theater group to present performances based on local history. Those performances sold out at the library and filled the Sprague theater. Our Night at the Museum was conceived to be like the "Q and A after the speech--without the speech." It was another sell-out.

Sometimes charging is a good idea. I had envisioned the "Night at the Museum" as another free program, but **Robin Miller** suggested we'd get a better crowd if we charged admission and treated the event as a fundraiser. He was right. **Lori Osborne**, of the **Beverage Barn**, and **Face Rock Creamery** provided refreshments. We packed the museum and made a profit.

Success breeds success. The community will turn out for history. The word is out. If you want a good seat at a museum event, come early.

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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