



THE BANDON LIGHT

A PUBLICATION OF THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

STAMPEDERS RACE TO THE GOLD FIELDS OF BANDON MUSEUM!

Kids are panning for gold at the Bandon Historical Society Museum, through the inspiration of a new-to-the-museum volunteer and the support of a business sponsor, **The Sunset Motel**, and the **Coquille Tribal Community Fund**.



Before he moved to Bandon, **Ron Loya** was a volunteer at the museum in Mariposa, California, a community in the heart of the California gold rush country. Ron has shared his experience with gold panning as a museum educational program, with us, another community with ties to the gold rush and mining.

The museum's first venture was to take the gold panning program to a session of 4-H camp at Camp Myrtle Wood, near Bridge. The kids from Bandon Summer Recreation panned gold at the museum as a stop on their history hike. Local Boy Scouts assisted Ron with that day's program. The program has continued during some of the

Museum's Free Summer Sundays with gold panning taking place outside the Museum in the parking area.

Funds from a Coquille Tribal Community Fund grant for educational materials purchased the equipment used for the program. Every young panner takes home a vial of gold flakes courtesy of The Sunset Motel. "We refer to the gold Ron salts the pans with as 'Sunset Gold,'" said museum board president Jim Proehl. "We were fortunate that someone came along with a good idea at a time when we had both a grant and a willing sponsor to support the program."



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Bandon Historical Society

Bandon Historical Society Museum

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Native American Consultant... Reg Pullen

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| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Doreen Colbert | Mary Schamehorn |
| Donna Mason | Carolyn Russell |

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

The date has been set for our "Night At The Museum" event. Thursday, October 25, 2018 from 5 PM to 8 PM. We will have 50 tickets available at \$10 each for anyone who wishes to attend. Current museum Sponsors will receive 2 complimentary tickets. Complimentary beer, wine and hor d'oeuvres will be served. Roaming about the museum will be several "experts" to answer any question you may have about Bandon's history. This will be a great time to visit the museum and enjoy an evening of fun while learning about Bandon. Contact the museum, (541)347-2164, to get your tickets now.

I recently had a friend approach me about organizing a monthly gathering of local Bandonians that would meet and exchange old stories. I thought she had a great idea so we are going to give it a whirl, starting Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 1 PM in the Museum. To keep the conversation going, we will have coffee and some of **Kathy Dornath's** great cookies available. Please join us to share your Bandon stories or, if you prefer, just listen to the stories of others. If you have any questions or more ideas on this please call me at (541)347-2164. I am excited to start this history-social event. I am sure I will hear some stories that I have never heard before and maybe some stories I wish I hadn't heard!

Gayle Nix
Executive Director

Donations and New Members

Donations in Memory of: Dr. Del Remy, Leroy Nelson, Norma Norton Robertson, Eileen Scott, Violet Howard, Kerry Goard, Dean Conyers, Betty Hiley

Memorial Donors: Margaret Wichman, Kathy Dornath, Susan and Bob Coraor, Judy Knox, Susan Pipkins, Carolyn Russell, Jeanette Brooks, Margie Nelson, Linell Seegall

New Members: Margie Nelson

We also have many membership renewals and want to thank each and every one of you for renewing! Your memberships are important in letting us know of your support for the museum and in helping to fund the on-going activities. Thank You!



Eileen Scott

Eileen Scott 1943—2018

Longtime museum staffer, Eileen Scott, 75, recently passed away. In her duties at the museum, she assisted Judy Knox and later Gayle Nix to keep the day-to-day operations flowing smoothly until her retirement in July of 2017. After her retirement, she continued to attend some of the museum events and meet with museum members to stay in touch. We appreciate her for her many contributions and will miss her company.

Gaels take Bandon by Storm

Murder at Two Mile — A True Bandon Story



sensational and made the headlines across the country as the investigation into the death took place. The obvious murderer was the husband, Dr. Fred Covell, whose previous three wives had also died. We will not spoil the story for you but it involves mysterious marks on the body, witness lies, detectives, astrology, and forensic science. If you did not have an opportunity to attend, there is some discussion of providing an encore performance later this year and also in future years. Watch for those announcements.

The murder mystery production by the Gaels Readers Theater was a great success with all three of their performances being sold out. The Bandon Historical Society played a role in the event with historical research and by providing displays of historical newspaper prints from that time period.

The 1923 story of the murder of Bandon wife and mother Ebba Covell was



Duncan Turner—Student Employee

Providing students with a summer employment opportunity at a museum offers a way for them to learn how to work with people, learn about the town, add a solid reference to their resume and earn some extra cash.

Duncan Turner, a Bandon High junior, has worked this summer as our student employee. Duncan's jobs have ranged from pruning shrubs to building exhibits and making signs. One of his largest jobs has been doing data entry to create a "finder" for the memorial boards.

Duncan's computer skills have made him especially useful.. "We haven't found a job yet that Duncan can't do," said Director Gayle Nix.

Joseph Bain Insurance and an anonymous donor provided the funding for this summer's student program. This is the fourth year the museum has hired a student to work in the summer. We have been pleased with the results of this program and hope to be able to continue it in future years.

Duncan Turner working with the Memorial Boards

Photo Find

Historical material comes into the museum in a number of ways. When a customer brought a pile of wedding photographs into Bandon Feed and Firearms, (perhaps because the business also deals in antiques) co-owner **Goodnight Lucas** recognized they might belong in a museum. Lucas donated the photos to the Bandon museum.

The series of 21 photographs document the wedding of **Louis Felsheim** and **Anne Sweet**. Felsheim owned and published the *Western World*. The Sweet family is prominent in Bandon's history. The photos capture not only the wedding but a host of familiar faces in attendance and the church where the wedding took place.

The pictures are a timely find. St. John's Episcopal Church is 125 years old and has invited the museum to help celebrate its anniversary. The wedding photos will become a centerpiece of the photo display the museum is putting together for the anniversary program.



Anne Sweet with her father W. J. Sweet at St. John's Episcopal Church

125th Anniversary Celebration

St. John's Episcopal Church
Eighth Street and Franklin Ave.

3:00 PM
Saturday, September 22

A joint historical presentation
by the Bandon Historical
Society and the congregation of
the church

The public is invited



St. John's Episcopal Church undergoing remodeling

100 Years Ago....

It was on July 17, 1917, just a few months after the US had joined Britain and France in the war in Europe that a 40 year old Scotsman, born in New Zealand and living in Bandon, volunteered to join the British Expeditionary Force. William Greig, a "heavy lumberman", must have felt a powerful sense of duty.

The files in our Museum contained the August 18, 1955, *Western World* obituary record for William who was then apparently known as

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Hometown Memories

by Doreen Colbert, Museum Board Vice-President

Recently, my brother sent me a link to the local newspaper in my hometown from September 1960. I read it with interest, as the stories in it are my history. Montague, Wisconsin, is a lot like Bandon, as its economy was based on timber, fishing and agriculture in the beginning. I have been volunteering at Bandon's museum for a few years now, and I keep learning the history of my adopted hometown. As I read the old paper, I was familiar with many names, places and events. In Bandon, I have to work harder to learn this local history, as I wasn't born and raised with it. I hadn't realized what a difference it makes to live a history versus learn one.

In the 1960's news, there was one headline that really stands out in my memory. It was the story of Nancy Ann Fleming, the sister of a classmate of mine who had just been chosen Miss America! It was amusing to me that my brother chose this particular issue to send me, as he was not even alive then! I vividly remember the town holding a Welcome Home parade for Nancy Ann, and my handicapped aunt wanting to have her picture taken with Miss America. There was a reception and lots of the town turned out, so of course there was a big picture of the crowd on one page, and my aunt did get her picture taken. It reminds me of the Cranberry Festival.

There were the usual ads for many local businesses. The most expensive car advertised then cost \$1595 dollars, and you could rent a nice "modern" house for \$45 a month. There were ads for my eye doctor, the pharmacy where I would later work at the soda fountain, and my next-door neighbors decorating store. The service clubs and churches mentioned all their recent good works naming a few members of my family who held offices. There was a column telling everyone who was visiting whom in the last week, who went on vacation, who had dinner at a friend's house lately, and what was coming up for some other families. It was like one giant party line! Sound familiar?

On one page the entire annual budget for the city was spelled out, with detailed information about where every dollar was going and why. An article about the economy was pretty important, because the town's economic base had been in decline. Then several chemical companies decided to locate and provide wage jobs for round 500 families. That was a boom time which later came to a screeching halt after polluting our lakes, land and air. (Think Love Canal). Today there are Tech companies on those campuses.

The school district gave the statistics of enrollment for the year and made the decision to accept out of district students. There were 36 students in the high school that year. They were looking for a place to make a football practice field, and they hired a few new teachers that I had years later! Small town schools are something I am very familiar with.

I visited Montague last year, and in some ways, it is still the same. The polluting companies are all gone and the waterways are clean now. The old neighborhood hasn't changed much, though I wish someone had told me that my home had been painted. It is almost 50 years old! The house had been condemned when my parents bought it when I was five. Dad had skills and a love of building and fixing things, so it was a lovely house to grow up in. We found an old trunk in the attic when we moved in, and it was filled with old newspapers. Many stores are still the same, and some cousins own them now. Others have come and gone, but the community is thriving- mostly on tourism. Some of my family would like it if I would move back, but you can never go back, only forward. So now I am here, and enjoying all Bandon has to offer past, present, and future. I have so much to learn!



Image from the Montague Museum Historical Association

Museum Appreciates Volunteers!



The museum's annual volunteer appreciation picnic was held August 25, and as always, was a huge success. The museum supplied fried chicken and beverages and volunteers brought some of those delicious salads, desserts and goodies. Over forty volunteers attended and enjoyed the companionship as well as the food. A special thank you was given to **Kathy Dornath** who has been a volunteer for many years, serving on the board, as our volunteer coordinator, planning many of the museum events and as was pointed out by many at the

event...bakes those great cookies! A museum like ours relies so very heavily on the efforts and support of our volunteers to do much of the work of



keeping the museum running. We thank each and every one of you for the time and energy that you give so freely to the museum!

THANK YOU!



Note on your calendars....

Annual Bandon Fire Event

Sunday, Sept 23, 2PM

Meet the survivors, hear the stories, learn the history of these events that shaped the town of Bandon. Free thanks to Bandon Inn.



Night at the Museum

Thursday, Oct 25, 5PM

Walk the halls of the museum and meet experts to answer your questions. (541)347-2164 for tickets.



Veterans Day Event

Saturday, Nov 10, 11PM

It has been 100 years since the end of WWI. Learn about the Spruce Division who made airplanes from Oregon spruce! Free thanks to Ocean Spray.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 22, 2018 — St. John's Episcopal Church 125th Anniversary at 3PM at the church. An historical presentation will be made jointly with the Bandon Historical Society. Public is welcome.

Sunday, September 23, 2018 — Annual "Bandon Fire" Event at 2PM. Meet some of the fire survivors and learn about the fires that shaped the town we know today. Free Admission all day thanks to our sponsor The **Bandon Inn**.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018 — Museum Board Meeting, 4PM at the Museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

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

Thursday, October 25, 2018 — A Night at the Museum, 5PM to 8PM at the Museum. Tickets are \$10 available in advance at the museum. Join Bandon historians and ask those questions about Bandon that you have always had. Enjoy a beverage and refreshments while you view the many exhibits. Get your tickets before they sell out!

Saturday, November 10, 2018 — Veterans Day Event, 11PM to 3PM at the Museum. Free admission all day thanks to our sponsor **Ocean Spray**. 2018 marks 100 years since the end of World War I and this year's event will have a special focus on the WWI Bandon area veterans.

November & December 2018 — Christmas Village display at the Museum. Stop in and celebrate the season.

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.

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

The SS Ulua, from The Miriam and Ira D. Walsch Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. (1860 - 1920). Steamship Ulua, of "The Great White Fleet."



(Continued from page 4)

William Gregg rather than Greig.

"Graveside services were held at the Odd Fellows cemetery in Bandon Monday afternoon for William Gregg, 78, who passed away August 12. Deceased was born November 20, 1876, in New Zealand. He went to Canada in 1906 and entered the U.S. in 1907. He came to Bandon in 1914, living in this area since that time except for two years that he served in the British army during World War I. Gregg was employed in the woods for a number of years by Chris and Charles Richert and by George Doane. In recent years he made his home with George L. Edwards on Floras creek, east of Langlois. He was a member of the Christian Church."

He returned from the war, courtesy of the British government, on the SS. Ulua leaving Liverpool on May 14, 1919, and arriving in New York on May 25, 1919. The ship's manifest also tells us a number of other facts:

- He was born in Blenheim, New Zealand
- He was 42 years and 6 months old, 5' 10 ½ " tall with fair complexion and blue eyes.
- He was heading to the home of Mr. Hughes, Two Mile, Bandon, Oregon.
- He had previously spent 11 years in Oregon and his occupation was "logger".
- His nearest relative or friend from where he came was Mrs. I. Franz Ward of Marlborough, N.Z.
- He listed his race as Scotch and he was a British citizen.
- He also indicated he intended to remain in the US and become a US citizen.

William did indeed remain in the US and was renting a home on Roosevelt Highway (now US 101) at Two Mile as noted in the 1930 Federal Census and was still single. The record notes that he had filed his "first papers" for naturalization and was working as a "tie maker" in a "tie camp" (logging activity). By 1940, William had become a naturalized citizen and moved to live and work on the stock ranch of Harvey Smith on Myrtle Point road in Floras Creek as a "hired hand". The record also shows that William had completed the 8th grade, worked 50 weeks in 1939 and 48 hours in the week before the census, all for a total income of \$365 in 1939. When he died in 1955, he was living with George Edwards and his wife Mable who were neighbors near the Smith family ranch.

Unfortunately we found nothing else about William. It's not a glamorous story. He wasn't famous; he never married, and apparently was a hard working church goer who just seemed to like living in the Bandon area...who wouldn't. If you happen to know anything else about William, please send an email to info@bandonhistoricalmuseum.org or a letter to our mailing address and we will publish a follow-up article.

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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