

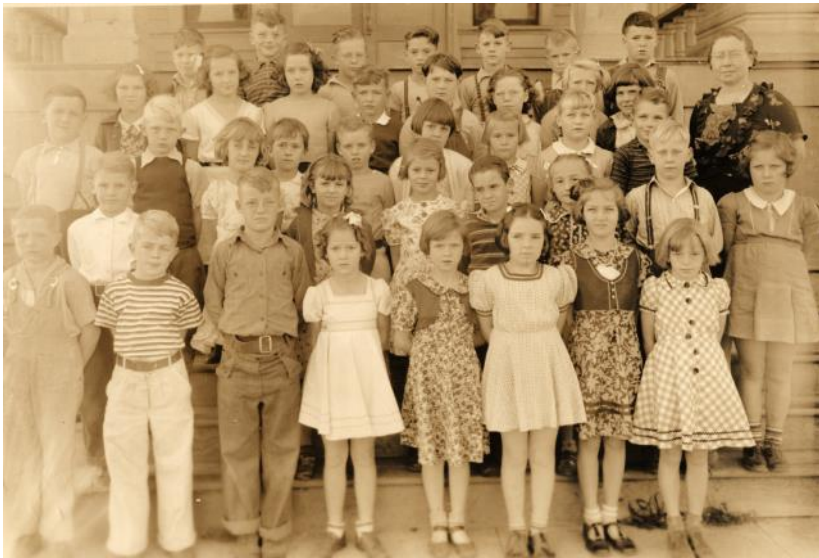


THE BANDON LIGHT

A PUBLICATION OF THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ocean Crest School — 80 Years

by Jim Proehl



Miss Farley's third-grade class posed on the steps of Bandon High School for their class photo in the spring of 1939. Those kids had been through a lot. Born in the Depression, their town and their elementary school burned in the fire that swept through Bandon in 1936. The kids had been going to class in the high school gym since the fall of their first-grade year.

The financial bite of the Depression and the uncertainty about how to rebuild Bandon delayed the construction of a new school. But with the help of the Public Works Administration, a Depression era program to put people back to work, a new building was ready in the fall of 1939. Miss Farley's kids would be the first fourth grade class in the new elementary school.

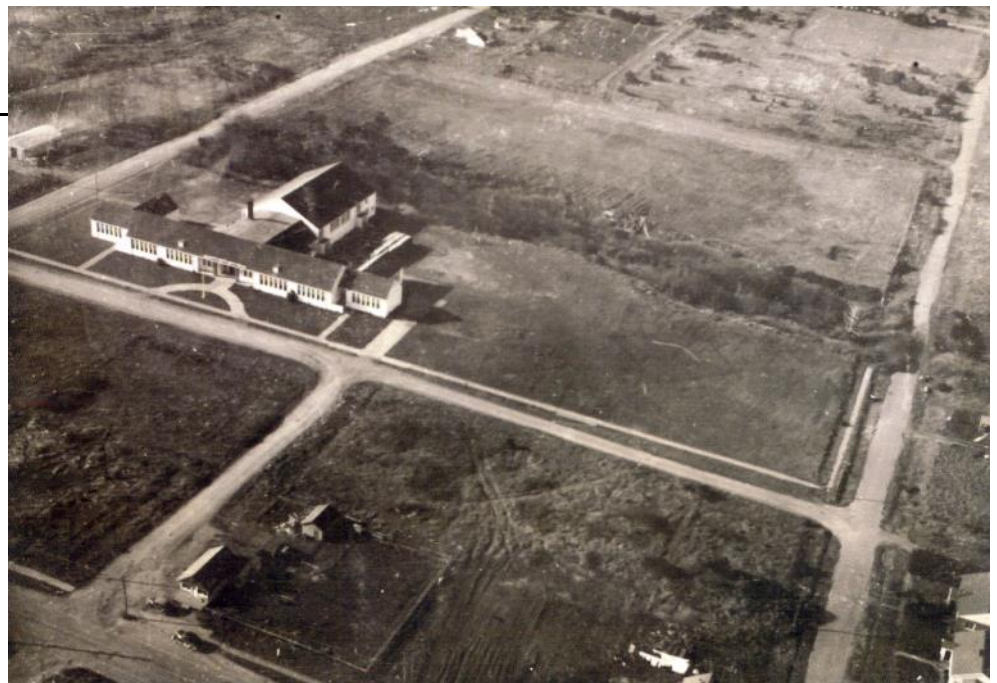
Ocean Crest School turns eighty years old in 2019 but its exact birthday is a little trickier to pin down.

Miss Farley's 3rd Graders, Photo #15013

Construction was just underway in January of 1939 on the site of the three-story Central School that burned in 1936. The location of the new school building confirmed that Bandon was not going to be rebuilt according to any of the model city plans proposed after the '36 fire.

The building was completed on May 9, 1939. The community got its first good look at the building May 26 at graduation for the Class of '39.

"The graduation exercises were held in the new grade school auditorium which was attractively decorated for the occasion. The new steel folding chairs had arrived that very day and were in place to accommodate the large attendance. The auditorium afforded an



Aerial view of Ocean Crest School, ca 1940s. Photo #30010

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An excerpt from: **AF or BF** by Lillian Farley

AF or BF—After the Fire or Before the Fire! Thus are time and events dated for those Bandonians who lived through the days of the Big Fire!

School began at the end of the first week (after the fire). Since the elementary building had been destroyed, partitions were built in the high school gymnasium. The acoustics were fine but built for gymnasium efficiency. The partitions were only ten feet high. The result was that the children could hear the teachers in other rooms better than their own. This led to many laughable incidents. Children are dependable in an emergency and these were no exception. The hum of busy recitations made class work difficult but we had plenty of chalkboard and the children loved the game of following printed and written directions. Sometimes we enjoyed incidents heard over the partition, as did all classes the day my third graders were using a pet rooster as an art model. Like other “pet” models, he was very cooperative. However, he couldn’t resist a big crow. The entire building became very quiet—the children wanted to be sure of what they were hearing. Obliging, he gave an even louder crow and they were really convinced. How everyone did laugh! The rooster had a chance to go home a bit early so that classes could go on undisturbed.



Bandon High School with gymnasium on the right, ca 1948. Photo #44510, Vedder collection.



Making History Today

Thanks to **Sunset Oceanfront Lodging’s** sponsorship, the Museum was able to add a nice Father’s Day event (making a bird house) to its Free Summer Sunday lineup of family activities. The weather also cooperated for the thirty or so children who were present. These photos will go into the Museum’s photo archive and 20 years from now, when someone is looking through them...they will be history!



Bandon Cub Scouts at the Father’s Day Event

The Glass Ball — A True Glass Treasure

By William V. Sherer



Glass float found by William Sherer is now on display in the Maritime Room at the Bandon Historical Society Museum.

In the early spring of 1949 I was invited to accompany **John Gamble**, his mother and a friend of Mrs. Gamble on an adventure along the Oregon coast. We drove south on the Loop Road to approximately the Sunset Motel. There we departed the car and walked to the beach. We all walked south to just west of Bradley Lake. Needless to say that being an eight years old I ran ahead of the others hoping to discover a special treasure. I found a mass of seaweed entangled with rope. Attached to the rope was a gift from a place faraway (an aquamarine large glass ball). It is a glass float from a Japanese fisherman's net. I extracted the glass ball from the seaweed and tossed the rope away. I proudly and carefully carried the special treasure back for the others to see what I had found.

I have kept the glass ball all these years. It has traveled across the United States several times; it has even spent a lifetime being the center of many stories for young minds to comprehend. Now is the time to return my special treasure—the glass ball (May 2019) to the place where my story started.

Since I was lucky enough to find it—I am completing the circle and ending my story.

...and that's not the only glass treasure found on Bandon Beach!



One of the Museum's preservation projects is the digitization of the *Western World* photo negatives collection. It is a long, slow process with the current scans covering the year 1988. A unique photo was scanned of **Hazel Colgrove**, of Neptune's Novelties, displaying her beach treasure find. It was a 52 inch glass float covered in hemp rope found along the South Jetty. Hazel said, "It's the best find of my beachcombing career." *Western World*, 13 January 1988.

Hazel Colgrove, Photo #145591

History Minutes on 105.9 FM

Listen for "History Minutes" on FM radio station 105.9, aka The Legend. In addition to buying ad space for museum events, volunteer **Jim Proehl** has been developing a series of spots that share "A little bit of history from the Bandon Museum." The radio spots show up throughout the day. Topics have included the big cheese of 1936, Roseburg Boy Scouts hiking to Bandon in 1916, the outhouses at the Bullards store, and the opening of Ocean Crest School. "It's a challenge to tell much of a story within that amount of time, but it's fun to do," said Proehl. "It's one more channel to share a little local history and keep our name out there."



(Continued from page 1)

ideal setting for the program, the stage being attractively appointed,” reported the June 1, 1939 *Western World*. The School Board formally accepted the building from the contractor July 14, 1939, according to the July 20 *Western World*. The paper gave a detailed description of the new building and concluded that “Bandon has one of the finest, most suitable grade schools in the Pacific Northwest.”

School was set to open September 5. “The children of Bandon are about to get the break they deserve after having endured the adverse conditions of the past three years,” reported the August 24 *Western World*. One hundred seventy-two students in six grades reported to school on opening day.

The new school cost \$58,000 including equipment. The Public Works Administration contributed \$24,450. As far as we have been able to determine, there never was a dedication ceremony for the school. Perhaps an issue with a booster tank delayed the final bit of paperwork long enough that a dedication would have seemed like an afterthought.

Students are still learning at Ocean Crest School. The original building had seven classrooms. The building has since had two major expansions and was retrofitted for earthquakes last summer. Since we don’t know Ocean Crest’s exact birthday, we’re stretching the eightieth birthday celebration throughout the summer and into the fall.



Bandon Grade School (later Ocean Crest) ca 1940. Mary Schamehorn collection.

Coquille Tribe Pow Wow

The Coquille Tribe celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of tribal restoration with a Pow Wow in Bandon the last week of June. The tribe held its first restoration celebration in Bandon in 1989.

As part of the project to scan the *Western World* negative collection, volunteers found and scanned the photographs taken at the 1989 celebration and of a salmon bake held here in 1988 as the tribe was finalizing the restoration process. The museum has over 200 photos of the two events.

The museum shared the collection with Coquille tribe staff.



Coquille Tribal Restoration Ceremony July 1, 1989. Photo #60408, *Western World* collection.



Coquille Tribal Restoration Ceremony July 1-2, 1989. Photo #60459, *Western World* collection.



Reg Pullen at Tribal Restoration Ceremony, 1989.



Photo Find

Some photographs we recently received from **Don Goddard** shed some light on life in Bandon in the early days of World War 2.

Though all the photographs were labeled as Memorial Day, they were actually of two different events in 1942. Our ability to scan, enlarge and study the 2 by 4 inch prints allow us to pick out details not apparent by looking at the prints. Having a digitized collection of *Western World* editions lets us cross check the content of the pictures with accounts of local events.



One photo shows **Lynn “Buck” Osborne** and **Murlin “Mickey” Peterson** handling a flag at a Memorial Day ceremony at the GAR Cemetery in 1942. Both were World War I veterans and members of Bandon’s American Legion Post 26. What adds interest to the picture is the tarpaper covered building in the background. It gives us a rare look at the “temporary” structures built to house people after the 1936 fire, though clearly still in use in 1942.

Though labeled “Memorial Day,” other parade photos in the series look a little too festive for a Memorial Day

celebration. A story of Fourth of July events in the July 9, 1942 *Western World* reported, “The parade in the morning formed at the creamery, with the U. S. Coast Guard and a color guard in the lead. They were followed by a large Civilian Defense group, including three first aiders in gas masks.”

Photographs of Bandon during World War 2 are rare. Film quickly became scarce and taking pictures was sometimes viewed with suspicion. These photos help open up a “dark” period of local history.



GRADE 5

Mrs. Kirk



Ocean Crest 1973-74

School Photo Books and Year Books

Did you know that our museum has many photo albums from Ocean Crest School dating from 1952 to the present? We also have Bandon Heights and Harbor Lights albums. Some of the books have the children identified; others do not. Perhaps you can help us identify some. We have most of the Bandon High Yearbooks from 1913 to the present. Stop in and visit your classmates through these collections!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Summer Sundays through Sept. 15, 2019 — Free Admission thanks to our sponsors **First Interstate Bank** and **The Best Western Inn at Face Rock**.

Saturday, July 6, 2019 — **Eve Witness Account of Bandon High School Fire** presented by Mayor Mary Schamehorn at 11AM and 2PM. Admission is free thanks to sponsorship by the **Human Bean of Bandon!**

Sunday, July 7, 2019 — **Pan for Gold at the Museum!** 10AM-3PM. First pan for children is free thanks to our sponsor **Sunset Oceanfront Lodging**. Additional pans \$3. Adults \$5.

Tuesday, July 23, 2019 — Museum Board Meeting, 4PM at the Museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

Sunday, August 11, 2019 — **South Coast Striders Historic Bandon Hike** leaves from the museum at 10AM.

Saturday, August 17, 2019 — **Bandon in the 50's and 60's**. Presented by Mayor Mary Schamehorn, 11AM and 2PM at the Museum, Free Admission thanks to sponsorship by **Chas Waldrop Real Estate**.

Sunday, August 18, 2019 — **Pan for Gold at the Museum!** 10AM-3PM.

Sunday, August 25, 2019 — **Car Club Sunday** Stop by the Museum parking lot to see the classic cars that will be visiting us.

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 — Museum Board Meeting, 4PM at the Museum. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

Sunday, September 1, 2019 — **Pan for Gold at the Museum!** 10AM-3PM.

Thursday, September 19, 2019 — **Open House at Ocean Crest School**, 4PM to 6PM to celebrate the school's 80th anniversary.

Friday, September 20, 2019 — **Shaped by Fire, the Surprising Story of Bandon's Schools** narrated by **Jim Proehl**, 3PM at the **Bandon Public Library**.

Sunday, September 22, 2019 — **Bandon Fire Program** presented by Mayor Mary Schamehorn, 2PM at the Museum. Free admission thanks to our sponsor the **Bandon Inn**.

Sunday, October 6, 2019 — **Columbus Day Storm Program** Mark your calendar. Free admission thanks to sponsorship by **5-J's Cranberry Farms**. Times and details to be determined.

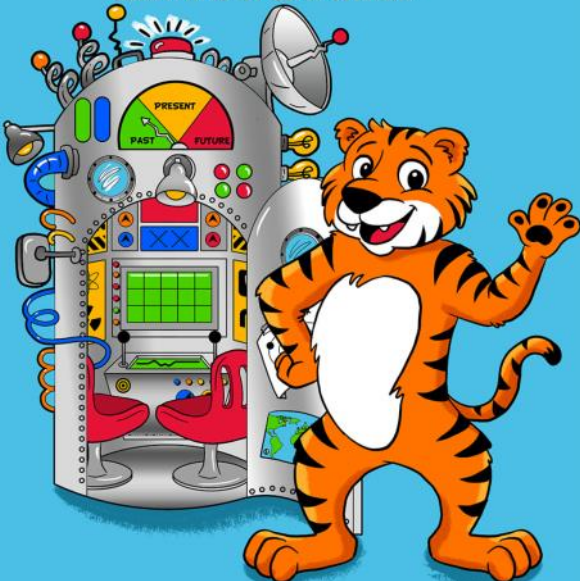
Thursday, October 17, 2019 — **Night at the Museum** Mark your calendar.

Saturday, November 9, 2019 — **Veterans Day Program** Special exhibits 11AM - 3PM. Free admission thanks to our sponsors **Eichelberger and Co. Real Estate** and the **American Legion Post 26**.

BANDON HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENTS

TIME TRAVELING IN BANDON

ILLUSTRATED BY JOAN COLEMAN



ACTIVITY AND COLORING BOOK


A new local history coloring and activity book will soon be available. "Time Traveling in Bandon" is illustrated by **Joan Coleman**, a local children's book illustrator. The book invites "Tiger Cubs" to step into a time machine and explore Bandon's history. It includes word searches, crossword puzzles, mazes, and mystery codes mixed with coloring pages keyed to specific times and places in Bandon's past.

The book will be professionally printed and buyable on Amazon, as well as at the museum.

Joan and her husband Andrew, whose business is called Ink Wonderland, helped guide the museum volunteers through the process of developing and publishing the book.

The new book joins two other coloring books produced at the museum featuring artwork by local artist **VC Fowler**.

The **Cardas** family is the lead sponsor for the coloring book projects. The museum has also used grant money by the Coos County Cultural Coalition and the Coquille Tribal Community Fund to develop the new books.



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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: _____
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\$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:

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For more information on benefits of memberships go to

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

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