



# THE BANDON LIGHT

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A PUBLICATION OF THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Bandon Girl Reigns Over the Redhead Round-up in 1934

We only have black and white pictures of Bandon's Elaine Jacobs, but we know she had striking, naturally red hair. She was the queen of the Redhead Round-up in 1934.

In the 1930s, the Redhead Round-up was one of the wackiest, yet most successful, promotional events on the Oregon Coast, bringing thousands of visitors annually to the communities that would eventually incorporate to become Lincoln City.

The *North Lincoln County Beach Resort News* described the June 1934 event like this: "Redheads of every description, freckled, tall, thin, fat, trekked to Taft from all over the state Saturday and Sunday where they were rounded up, feted and each one given a fitting souvenir of the occasion and the outstanding ones of each group were given cash prizes by the Taft-Nelscott Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of this unique show."

"It was estimated that there were approximately two thousand cars in and around Taft bringing upwards of six thousand spectators to enjoy the varied programs," according to the *Beach Resort News*.



*The Redhead Round-up brought thousands to the Oregon Coast in the 1930s. Image courtesy of the North Lincoln County Historical Museum.*



*These three foot by three foot metal signs hung from telephone poles in Taft during the Redhead Round-up. Image courtesy of the North Lincoln County Historical Museum.*

Miss Jacobs

made the trip to Taft with Miss Gladys Edwards of Langlois, representing Curry County. The seven girls in the Redhead Court came from the seven coastal counties.

Elaine was chosen as the Coos County candidate at the "Redhead Special Dance" at the Silver Spray Gardens on Coquille Point, June 16, 1934. Dance patrons bought a 75-cent ticket, good for ten points in the name of their town's candidate, and 12 dances. The local contest and Elaine's trip to Taft were sponsored by the Coos County Chamber of Commerce.

Judging the other redhead contests--oldest, youngest, most freckles, best costume, etc., --was part of Queen Elaine's duty. The only requirement for entering the contests was having naturally red hair.

World War 2, when travel to the coast was discouraged, ended the Redhead Round-up, but Elaine Jacobs retained her crown of naturally red hair.

RED-HEAD QUEEN



MISS ELAINE JACOBS

This picture of Miss Elaine Jacobs of Bandon was taken at Taft, Oregon, where as representative of Coos county, she was recently elected queen of the Red-Head Round-up.

*Bandon Western World*  
July 5, 1934

# THE BANDON LIGHT

A publication of the  
**Bandon Historical Society  
Museum**

Executive Director.....Gayle Hankwitz  
Native American Consultant... Reg Pullen

## Board of Directors

President.....Donna Mason  
Vice President..... Mary Schamehorn  
Secretary.....Faye Albertson  
Treasurer.....Jim Proehl

## Board Members

Kathy Dornath	Rick Hinojosa
Mary Stewart	Nancy Murphy
Reg Pullen	Brian Vick

## Nominating Committee

Doreen Colbert	Elaine Stohler
Donna Mason	Carolyn Russell

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of each month,  
4:00 pm at the Museum. All members and guests  
are welcome to attend.

## Newsletter Layout Jim Proehl

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Bandon Historical Society  
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Bandon, OR 97411  
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[bandonhistoricalmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:bandonhistoricalmuseum@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org)  
a 501(c)(3) organization

If you are interested in Bandon's history and  
would like to help preserve our past for future gen-  
erations, call us—we need you.

The Museum is OPEN Monday through Satur-  
day 10-4 and 7 days a week June through Septem-  
ber.

Volunteers are waiting to help you and answer  
your questions about Bandon's history.

Enjoy Bandon's rich, wonderful history!

Located at: 270 Fillmore Avenue, Bandon, OR

**On the corner of  
Fillmore Ave. and Highway 101**



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Gayle Hankwitz  
Executive Director

**“There is nothing permanent  
except change,” Heraclitus**

That quote really rings true at the museum right now. At our May board meeting, Museum Board President Doreen Colbert announced she is moving in June and Board Vice-President Elaine Stohler announced she is moving in July. They are moving in different directions but both are leaving to be closer to family. We will miss them and the great jobs they have done for the museum. We wish them Godspeed.

Two board members offered to step up and fill the vacancies. Donna Mason agreed to serve out Doreen's term as president and Mary Schamehorn

offered to finish Elaine's term as vice president. A vote of the board approved the interim change in officers. The membership will have the opportunity to vote for a new slate of officers in December.

The board decided to raise museum annual membership fees after many, many years of remaining at the same rate. The price of an individual membership will raise from \$15 to \$20. A family



***Interim Board President Donna Mason prepares a special June wedding dress exhibit.***

membership will raise from \$25 to \$30. We are doing away with our “business” membership. We were never really sure what that meant. A life membership remains \$250.

Speaking of members, we have added seven new members and two life members since the first of the year. Welcome to our new members and thank you to everyone who has renewed a membership.



# Local Parks Share the Story of Oregon's State Park Centennial

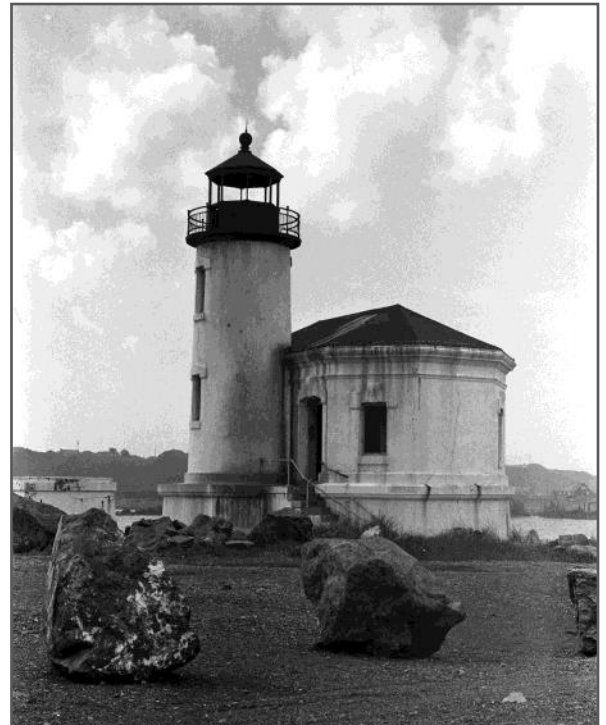
Oregon is celebrating 100 years of state parks in June of 2022. While none of the many local state parks sites were established in that year, many feature a history that goes well beyond a hundred years. The collection of photos from the Bandon *Western World*, preserved by Mary Schamehorn, includes many state park images.



*Below, an airplane taxiing through Bullards Beach State Park in 1966 on its way to taking off from the open stretch of road to the west.*



*"CENTENNIAL YEAR visitors (the caption is referring to the state of Oregon's centennial in 1959) will make good use of this new access road and parking area at the beach in Bandon Wayside State Park, between Natureland and Tanglewood, on the Beach Loop Road, judging from its looks in the graveled stage," reads the caption on this Western World photo from April 9, 1959. Though not identified in the caption, the children are likely Western World editor Louis Felsheim's children.*



*The lighthouse at Bullards Beach park in 1971.*

## Free Sundays Kick Off Summer

Free Summer Sundays began Memorial Day weekend at the museum and will extend through the Cranberry Festival weekend in September.

Since 2018, First Interstate Bank and Best Western Inn at Face Rock have sponsored free admission on Sunday summers.

We don't think our \$3.00 admission fee is particularly high but "free" appears to be a very attractive price. Free Summer Sundays have become our biggest draw. Several connected activities take place on Free Summer Sundays.

Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, will be "Build a birdhouse" day. Kids can bring dad, grandad, or any other responsible adult, tour the museum for free and build a birdhouse in the museum parking



*A den of Cub Scouts built birdhouses in 2019.*

lot. Birdhouse building time will be between noon and 3:00 pm. We have lots of bird house kits, but if your birds really need a home, come early.

July 24 will be a Free Sundae Sunday when visitors can enjoy an ice cream sundae in the parking lot as part of a visit. Fun events on Free Summer Sundays are provided by FARM & SEA Market and The Beverage Barn.

The Classic Car Klatch will bring vintage cars to our parking lot August 14. Board member Rick Hinojosa coordinates and organizes the event. The cars will roll into the museum's parking lot mid-morning and roll out some time after lunch. Every classic car is a historic object.

The South Coast Striders hiking group will use the museum as a starting point August 21 for guided hikes that explore local history. Visit the Coos Trails website for more details.

Museum admission will be free all three days of the Cranberry Festival, September 9 to 11. A display of gowns worn by Cranberry Princesses will highlight the museum's Cranberry Festival display.

## "Join Us" for the Museum Volunteer Potluck in August

A volunteer potluck will take place at the museum Thursday, August 18, at 5:00 PM. A main dish and beverages will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. You're also welcome to bring your own beverage. "But don't worry if you can't put something together. There's always enough. Just come," says volunteer coordinator Kathy Dornath.

"We can always use new volunteers at Bandon's History Museum. We hope to see some new faces at our volunteer picnic," said Director Gayle.

There are lots of roles for museum volunteers.

Front desk volunteers typically work one three-hour shift a week. We also need a corps of front desk substitutes. "It's a good way to meet people and learn about local history. Believe me there is always more to learn about our beautiful little town," says Gayle.

As schools get back into the practice of taking field trips, we will need to reassemble our team of people who enjoy working with children.

Volunteers often start with an "assignment" but work best once they find a niche that matches what they enjoy doing with a role that helps meet our mission of "Collecting, preserving and sharing local history." There's always more history.

"Volunteer jobs can be ongoing, but if you just want to help with one project, we won't hound you," says Gayle.

You don't have to be in Bandon to be a volunteer. There are a number of research, writing and graphic arts jobs that could be done "remotely."

Kathy Dornath trains and coordinates desk volunteers. Museum board president Donna Mason is a good person to talk with about helping with exhibits and projects around the building. Volunteer Jim Proehl is a good contact for volunteers interested in helping with research, writing or educational programs.

A good start for anyone interested in volunteering is to call director Gayle and share your interests and contact information. Even better, stop by and talk.

### *New Members:*

#### **Individual and Family Members:**

**Robert Cox**

**Barbara Coulson**

**Rick and Kelley Jones**

**Maud Capps**

**Mary S. Fini**





## Sending Visitors to Find a Message in a Bottle

The museum is participating in the Chamber of Commerce's **"Message in a Bottle—Bandon Style"** promotion which is being tried for the first time this year. The museum is a Sandpiper level sponsor.

Beginning in June, hundreds of decorative bottles are being hidden on local beaches, both north and south of the mouth of the Coquille River.

Each bottle contains a clever note as well as a list of sponsoring businesses where the finder can claim the piece that completes the bottle—a string of colored mini lights.



Sponsoring businesses receive material to explain the program. "It's a bit as though our desk volunteers will be able to share the insider's knowledge with visitors about something they may have seen advertised on TV or online," said director Gayle.

A number of coastal communities have had success with promotions that plant glass balls on beaches. The Bandon program uses a similar approach but offers a different product. By participating, the museum supports a local promotional activity designed to bring visitors to Bandon and bring the museum to the attention of those visitors.

## Photo Find . . .

**Board Vice President and Bandon Mayor Mary Schamehorn donated this image of some beach goers near Coquille Point. Notable in the picture are the rest room and bath house located on the bluff. Another photo from a different angle reveals another pair of such buildings obscured, from this angle, by the rock .**



## All School Reunion in August

An All-School, All-Class Reunion will be hosted by the museum Saturday, August 6, in the Bandon High gym from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Admission is free. Anyone who has attended school in Bandon is welcome.



**Alumni at the 2015 All School, All Class reunion.**

Bandon All School Reunions have typically been held every five years, but COVID restrictions in 2020 interrupted the five-year cycle. "When we see how well this reunion goes, we'll decide on how to get back into the cycle," said Museum Board President Donna Mason.

"We'll bring some photos, scrapbooks and annuals for people to share. We don't really plan on providing any further program because we've found that what people mostly want to do is get together and talk," said Donna.

# Convention Delegates Relax with a Day at Bandon “By-the-Sea”

Director Gayle received a letter in April from the Depot Museum in Canby, Oregon and attached was a ribbon with the words Bandon “By-the Sea” and the date August 22, 1909. Carrol Barrow from the Canby Museum thought our museum would be a better home for the artifact.

We went to the *Historic Oregon Newspapers* website to find out what may have been happening in Bandon on that date.

In August of 1909, the Oregon-Idaho Development Congress was holding meetings in Marshfield (later renamed Coos Bay). After spending Friday



*To get to the beach for some fun, convention goers took the train to Coquille, then boarded one of two steam paddle wheelers to get to Bandon. Someone misspelled the boat's name on this photo.*

and Saturday doing business, the group was traveling to Bandon on Sunday for some fun.

A special train carried the delegation to Coquille where they boarded the riverboats *Dispatch* and *Coquille* to come down the river. Five hundred people

made the trip. Among those on board were Congressman Hawley, ex-Congressman Binger Hermann, and the editors of several newspapers.

There was a big feed at the hotel, the Bandon concert band performed, and a baseball game was played between the Coquille and Marshfield teams. Many went to the beach and many went to see the bar (we presume that meant the river bar).

The *Bandon Recorder* reported of the delegates, “Where they had expected to see a little village of practically no importance, they found a bustling little city with a citizenship second to none in the west, so far as enterprise, intelligence, and everything that rounds out an up-to-date community.”

The wording on the ribbon clarifies another question. Some people ask whether Bandon “By-the-Sea” is a phrase recently coined by local promoters. It was clearly already in use by boosters in 1909.



## April Program Mixes History and Music

“History Minutes Live” was a program in April drawn from the history spots broadcast on local radio. Museum volunteer Jim Proehl and Bandon Playhouse volunteer Corrie Gant delivered the history. Bob Shaffar, Mike Dado and Jerene Shaffar performed sets of music that interspersed the readings and short videos.



## Memorial Donations

A memorial donation has been made in the name of:

David Pierce  
John Lorenz  
Jack Jones  
Nellie Biggar  
Jean Laub

Careen Pierce  
Margaret Lorenz Tiffany  
Hugh McNeil  
Barbara Ruth Dodrill  
Eileen Maupin

A memorial donation has been made by:

Kathy Dornath  
Delores Barkley  
Robert and Jane Gibbs  
Steve and Cindy McNeil  
Sharon and Doug Moy  
James Maupin's family

Ann Remy  
Bob and Dee Nelson  
Nina McNeil  
Julia Juntunen  
Claudia Harris  
Kathy and Bill Phillips



# The Riverton School and the Last Coal Mine in Coos County

*Here's a little history from the museum in Bandon.*

When they closed the school at Riverton, the last coal mine in Coos County closed too. What was the connection?

Coal-mining and Riverton were both thriving when a new, two-story, school-house was built in 1909. Of course, it had a coal-burning furnace.

There's a lot of coal under Coos County. But its **soft** coal. As more efficient fuels became available--oil, natural gas, electricity--the market for Coos County Coal dried up.

Names on the map are the only remnants of the county's coal industry: Coal Bank Slough, the community of Coaledo, Bunker Hill, where the coal from the Beaver Hill mines was loaded on ships.

The county's last coal mine was operated by Red

Gibbs and his wife Mathilde. When the Riverton school closed in 1955, the Gibbs lost their biggest customer and shut down the county's last coal mine.

*The Riverton school, Coos County coal, little bits of history preserved at Bandon's Museum.*

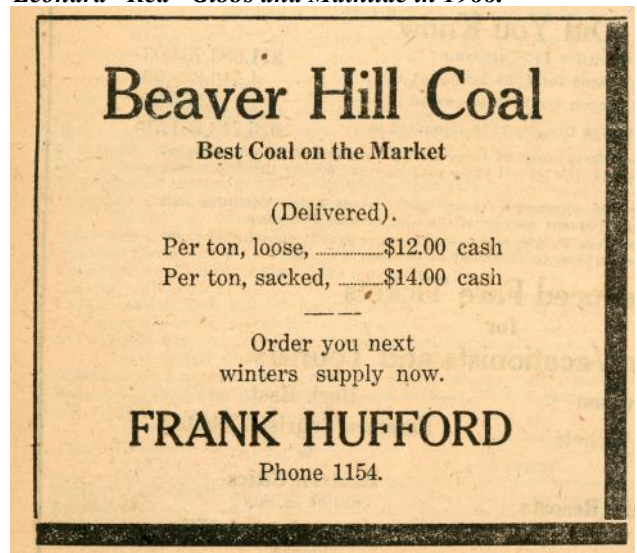
*Listen to Bandon "History Minutes" on KBDN, 96.5 FM.*



*Leonard "Red" Gibbs and Mathilde in 1988.*



*Philip Gibbs at the coal mine located at the head of South Slough operated by the Gibbs family in the 1950s.*



*Advertisement in a 1921 Bandon Western World.*

## 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)

\$20 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$30 Family \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\$250 Life \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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