



THE BANDON LIGHT

Sponsored by: The Joe and Frances Naumes

Family Foundation Inc.

A PUBLICATION OF THE BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BANDON — “By the Sea”

Bandon, With Its Rugged Coast Line, Has Acquired a Character Distinctly Its Own. Beach Mining Is an Industry. Wonderful Haunts for Sportsmen Are Nearby. New Era of Prosperity Promised Bandon.

Recently a visitor dropped off a hundred-page magazine published in 1928 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Coos Bay Times. It focused on the cities on the bay, but also celebrated other Coos County town. This article from that milestone publication presents a good picture of Bandon in 1928, as seen by our neighbors to the north.

ALTHOUGH Bandon By-the-Sea is thought of by pleasure seekers as the playground of Southwestern Oregon, those who consider the city from an industrial angle, are now more than optimistic for its future since the federal appropriation for harbor improvements at the mouth of the Coquille River.

City Close to Beach

The city of Bandon is situated within a stone's throw of the Pacific Ocean. Miles of beautiful beach extend to the north and south of the entrance to the harbor. The coast line is dotted with huge rocks which break the continuity of the sandy stretches

and add to the beauty of the scenery. Wild bird life of all description inhabits the rocks and adds interest to the beach both summer and winter.

A Sportsman's Paradise

Sportsmen find this community a most interesting place. A state trout hatchery is located near town from which the streams are stocked. Lakes and tide flats afford duck shooting in the fall. Big game is

Morgan Service Station



Located One-Quarter Mile From Bandon On the Highway, and Operated by Mrs. George B. Morgan, Who Also Rents Five Neat Cabins.

Milestone Year Ahead

By Elaine Stohler

The year 2026 is going to be an amazing year. The United States will celebrate 250 years as a nation. The semi quincentennial will be celebrated on July 4, 2026. That date marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As exciting as this national event will be, the Bandon Historical Museum is also reaching a milestone. The museum was incorporated in 1976 (coinciding with the national bicentennial and the interest in history it generated) which means that the museum will soon celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Throughout the years, the museum has worked to collect and preserve the history of Bandon and the surrounding area. In the year to come, the museum will also be offering programs, displays and celebrations that highlight our first 50 years.

Stay tuned!

found everywhere in the hills surrounding the city.

Bandon need not depend upon the resort season for prosperity. It has a population of 2,500. The community is wealthy from an industrial standpoint. It affords opportunity for capital and enterprise in various departures.

Timber is the foremost natural resource and lumbering the leading manufacturing industry. The total amount of timber standing in the Coquille Valley back of the harbor of the Coquille River is estimated at fifteen billion feet. In addition, there is in the northern part of Curry County another billion feet which is tributary to Coquille River.

The annual production of lumber products in the Bandon district has approximated 60,000,000 feet.

Dairying is the second largest industry, with over

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THE BANDON LIGHT

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

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

Board of Directors Board Officers

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Vice President..... Mary Schamehorn
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Nancy Murphy	Reg Pullen
Brian Vick	Berta Dargen
Sheri Wright	Sharon Haga

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

Bandon Historical Society
PO Box 737
Bandon, OR 97411
Phone/Fax 541-347-2164
E-mail:
bandonhistoricalmuseum@yahoo.com
Web: 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 generations,
call us—we need you.

The Museum is OPEN
Monday through Saturday 10-4
and 7 days a week June through September.
**On the corner of
Fillmore Ave. and Highway 101**



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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



**Gayle Hankwitz
Executive Director**

We had hoped to share
“Ground Breaking News,” the
story of the start of construc-
tion on our new Don and Joan
Lynam Events Center, in this
edition of *The Bandon Light*.
And perhaps by the time you
read this, work will be underway.

The project is moving forward, just not along the
predictable path we had imagined when we learned
Don Lynam's estate had left us over half a million
dollars to add an auditorium to the property. I'm sure
Don assumed, when he wrote his will, we could build
anything with the amount of money he left us.

But costs have risen dramatically since Don died
in 2022. Sheri McGrath of Coos Curry Consulting has
led us through a process of permits and engineering
more complicated than we ever imagined. Our build-
er, Morrison Gederros Construction, has had to re-
sharpen the pencil to keep the project within our
means. Both have dealt with us most patiently.

Because we are uncertain about the state of our
parking lot and building, we are rethinking several of
the events we typically do at the museum in the fall,
such as marking the anniversary of the 1936 Fire and
our annual Veteran's Celebration. Watch for museum
programs, the third Tuesday of each month, at the
“Meet and Greet” at the Bandon Fisheries warehouse.
Listen for fire spots and veterans' stories among our
History Minutes on KBDN and other Bicoastal Media
radio stations.

When Lori Osborne learned we were not planning
to hold our popular “Night at the Museum,” she gra-
ciously offered her Bandon Fisheries Warehouse
space to host a “Night FOR the Museum” Thursday,
October 9, from 5 to 7 pm.

Sharon Haga will again provide the delicious food.
There will be a no-host bar. Jim P will again come up
with some clever activities to tax our brains. Tickets
are \$15 per person. Please come out and support our
museum. It's a fun fund-raiser. To get your tickets,
stop by or call the museum, 541-347-2164.

We have a very busy fall coming up!

Keep an eye on the progress of the new Don and
Joan Lynam Events Center.

**We had hoped to complete this project without
mounting a fund-raising campaign, but if you
would like to contribute to our building fund . . .**

Collect McKay's Receipts

McKay's Markets has supported the Bandon Historical Museum for years by giving us a return on receipts collected by our supporters. In 2024, we received \$1,168 from the McKay's Advantage Sales Receipt Program.

Please continue to save McKay's receipts that were issued within the last six months and drop them off at the museum. We will do the rest! We appreciate everyone who has helped us collect receipts and most especially McKay's Markets for their continued support!



Museum Board President Jim Cawdrey, McKay's Manager Jim Cornish and receipt donor Ted Brown launch a program to support local museums by collecting store receipts in 1993. Western World collection photo

We Will Miss Mikeal

We bid "Good bye and good luck" to Mikeal Sisco Esquibel, our student employee. Mikeal will begin college this fall at Oregon State University.

Salaries for a student employee have been sponsored for many years by Joseph Bain Insurance, supplemented by a couple more anonymous donors. Mikeal came recommended by Nina Minkler, his predecessor at the job.

This is the second summer he has worked for us. When he started back to school last fall, he discovered he could

earn a high school credit by volunteering through the school year. So, he has been a constant among us for more than a year. We will miss his quiet presence, subtle sense of humor, and dogged work ethic.



Scanning photos, documents and yearbooks is among the many jobs Mikeal Sisco-Esquibel has done for the museum.

Night at the Museum Becomes "Night FOR the Museum"

Because we expect to be in the midst of construction when October rolls around, we will be unable to host our popular "Night at the Museum" at our usual location.

However, construction will not stop us from celebrating the museum. Join us October 9 at the Bandon Fisheries Warehouse from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for delicious food, good company, and a special "History Detective's Most Challenging Challenge."

Stop by the museum or give Gayle a call at 541-347-2164 to reserve your spot. Tickets are \$15 per person and proceeds benefit the museum.

Come and enjoy a "Night FOR the Museum" away from the museum.

"Meet and Greet" Programs Help Spread Bandon's Story

No one was sure if the idea would catch on when Lori Osborne decided to host a weekly "Meet and Greet" at her Bandon Fisheries Warehouse Café, but she included the museum from the start. Each weekly gathering features a speaker. Her idea was gearing the programs to people new to the community. In its second year, "Meet and Greet" events have become a community staple. The museum program is regularly the third Tuesday of each month.

Sometimes the program features a short talk followed by a short walk. For example, a history of the Coast Guard Building was followed by a building tour.

Though not in the regular museum spot, a program in August featuring museum board member Reg Pullen and Troy Anderson from the Coquille Tribe talking about indigenous languages attracted one of the largest crowds ever.

Watch our Facebook page for "Meet and Greet" programs.



Reg Pullen and Mary Schamehorn speak at a "Meet and Greet."

Lionel T. Berryhill Slide Collection Contains Rich Local Images

Two small tightly packed boxes that arrived in the mail in June are yielding a trove of new photographs for the museum's collection.

"This is the collection of photos taken by my great uncle Lionel Thomas Berryhill during his time in Bandon. You have my permission to use them however you like. We just ask his name is given credit for anything published," Cris Sanguino wrote in an accompanying note.



Lionel T. Berryhill in 1980. Photo courtesy of the Schamehorn collection of Western World photos.

Lionel T. Berryhill was taking photographs in Bandon from the middle of the 1970s to the middle of the nineteen eighties. The boxes held several thousand color slides.

Lionel Berryhill worked in advertising on the Oregon Coast in 1920s introducing a new product, "Jello." He studied commercial art at Grays Academy of Art in Detroit, Michigan, and worked as an advertising photographer for General Motors before operating his own photography studio in Redwood City, California, from 1943 to 1959. He did freelance photography work in Apple Valley, California, until he moved to

Bandon with his wife Margaret in 1970. Margaret died in 1979.

The phrase on his Bandon business card, "Photography for Pleasure," suggests his was a retirement business. But he did sell photos and his lo-



The Breuer Building on Second Street c. 1979. The museum has many photos of the building but few in color. Catie Shindler ran Hand Me Down Kates in the annex on the left. Lionel T. Berryhill photo

cal work was displayed at many galleries, including Rivers End Gallery in Bandon.

Berryhill died in Bandon in 1990 at the age of 91.

Color slides are a rich medium that yield high resolution images when digitized, which the museum has the equipment to do. Though none of the slides are labeled, slides typically have the date developed stamped on them, and we know the range of years Berryhill worked in Bandon.

The initial job was to sort the slides by subject matter and put them into protective sleeves. We've seen enough to know that most of images are local, though he took some interesting shots in Coquille, Port Orford and Coos Bay.

His photos seldom feature people. He favored boats, old buildings, the lighthouse, and the beach. He had a great eye for clouds. Even after we cull out duplicates and damaged slides, the collection is likely to yield over 3,000 images. It's a scanning and labeling project that may take several years.



The fishing vessel Jaybird at the docks in Bandon about 1974. Dennis Lindahl fished Jaybird. Lionel T. Berryhill photo

History Minute: Edgar Saves the Silver, Loses His Dignity

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

His father, the mayor, was pretty busy when a fire was bearing down on Bandon in 1936, so it fell to, Edgar, his 11-year-old son, to help Mother protect the valuables. They packed up the jewelry, the sterling silver, the best dishes and loaded all in the car.

But when fire swept their neighborhood, Edgar Capps and his mother fled on foot.

The Capps' Beach Loop home burned in the fire. But the car turned up later, undamaged, at the junction of Two Mile and Rosa roads. Nothing was missing.

Edgar and his mother spent the night standing in the river, the water warmed by the fire, feet wet, their faces dry and chapped.

Sometime in the night, someone passed around a tube of something that soothed like lip balm.

They slathered their faces.

When the morning light found Edgar, his face was covered with bright red lipstick.

And that's a little history from Bandon's Museum.



***Edgar Capps at the beach circa 1937.
Photo courtesy of Maud Capps.***

Listen to Bandon History Minutes
on Real Country KBDN and other
Bicoastal Media local radio stations



A Plaque Marks the Spot in Port Orford



Our colleagues with the Port Orford Historic Preservation Commission installed a plaque this summer to mark the location of the Peter John Lindberg house in Port Orford. Lionel Berryhill took this photo of the house in 1982. The house burned December 26, 2021. A good starting point to find more about Peter John Lindberg and to connect with more south coast history is: <https://blog.portorfordhistoricalphotos.org/the-lindberg-house/>

Want to Help with Scanning?

Recording more of our documents and pictures as digital images is a process that helps the museum fulfill its mission to collect, preserve and share local history. The scanned images can be stored on the cloud to back up our physical collection. Digital media is the growing mode for sharing information.

We do a lot of that work in-house by scanning and labeling photographs, documents, negatives and slides. There are countless hours of work to be done.

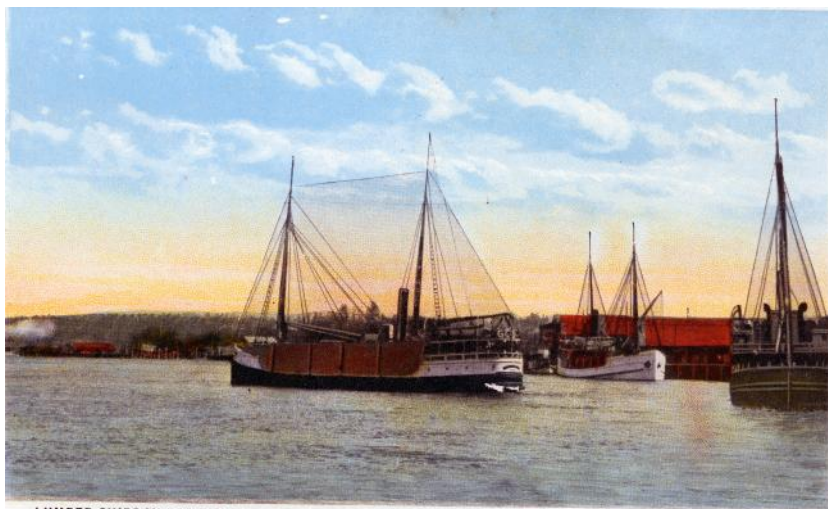
Anyone who can type and is comfortable operating a computer can scan. We'll teach you. If you are familiar with local places and faces, that's a bonus.

Would you like to help? Contact director Gayle and we'll schedule a time to learn the ropes.

“New Era of Prosperity Promised Bandon”

Continued from Page 1.

a million dollars paid yearly to the dairymen of the Coquille Valley. The district has over 10,000 milk cows. Cheese and butter are also made in the community.



LUMBER SHIPS IN BANDON HARBOR.

Bandon photographer James Croxall produced post cards contemporary with the Coos Bay Times golden anniversary edition.

Stock raising has been one of the main branches of agriculture for many years, the vast ranges in the foothills and cut over lands being utilized. Sheep and goats are also found profitable in the range sections.

The climate is ideal for poultry. A number of successful poultry plants have been established within the past few years. Mild winter weather and an abundance of green feed stimulate winter egg production.

This is a natural berry country. Wild blackberries cover the hillsides and wild huckleberries are found on the glade lands. The finest strawberries in the world are grown here; in fact, conditions are ideal for all kinds of small fruits and berries. There is much suitable berry land that can be purchased at

low prices.

Numerous peat bottoms have been developed into heavy-producing cranberry bogs. The annual crop of cranberries now shipped from Bandon amounts to thousands of boxes.

Vegetables and Bulbs

Vegetables, particularly celery, broccoli and head lettuce, can be grown here to perfection; also flowers of all kinds. Roses bloom all through the year and bulbous plants can be grown commercially to great advantage. Bermuda Easter Lily bulbs have been shipped to all parts of the country from here.

Gold, Platinum and Coal

Beach mining has been an industry for many years, much of the platinum supply mined in the United States having come from this community. Gold, platinum and other precious metals are taken from the black sands and quartz and placer mining is found in the hills back from the ocean.

Coal is mined at several places along the river. According to eminent geologists, this entire section is underlaid with coal.

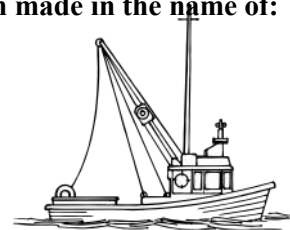
Salmon Fishing an Industry

The salmon that run from the ocean into the Coquille river and other streams of this section have made it possible to build up a substantial industry. There are two salmon canneries, a cold storage plant and several icing and shipping stations on the river and near Bandon.

Memorial Donations

Memorial donations have been made in the name of:

Marion Gant
Jim Howard Jr.
William (Will) Shindler
David Eugene Howard
Gena Swenson
Paula Colgrove



Memorial donations have been made by:

Lesa Henson	Ann Remy
Jim Proehl	Gayle Hankwitz
Mary Ellingson	Tom Gant
Jim and Mary Patridge	
Martin and Lisa Potter	
Cutler Cranberry Company	
Greg and Yolanda Martian	
Sharon Ward Moy	
Tom and Susan Pipkins and Melanie and Mark	

New Members:

Life Members:

Joan and Ken Lovell
Arthur and Antoinette Poole
Ann King--Rick Toth
Ray and Nancy Murphy
Alan and Cynthia Kempner
Russ Sisk and Brad Talbert

Individual and Family Members:

John Minor Rebecca Borum Judy Ryan



Milestone: Bandon High School Turns 50 Years Old

By Jim Proehl

“School Opens!” is the headline in the September 4, 1975, *Western World*. First through eighth grade students had already started school September 2. When high school students would start classes was still a bit up in the air.

“A student body meeting for all Bandon High School students will be held Monday morning, September 8, at 8:30 a.m. in the gymnasium,” said Principal Bob Stolz.

“It is still not known whether or not the high school building will be ready for occupancy by next week,” said Stolz, “but we should know by Monday morning, and at that time we will let the students know what we intend to do about school.”



Two weeks before the start of the school year, a lot of work was left to be done at Bandon High School in 1975. Courtesy of Mary Schamehorn's collection of Western World photos.

“I would also like to urge high school students not to go to the new building until it is released to us as it just hampers the contractors from getting the building finished.”

Earlier in the summer, *Western World* reported, “Complex smoke detection system is presently being installed in the new high school as a precaution against the type of tragedy which hit Bandon High on the night of January 24, 1974, when the school was destroyed by fire.”

(For the remainder of that school year and all of the following school year, high school classes were held in shared junior high classrooms and in locations spread around town.)

The high school must have opened in September of 1975, or the newspaper would have reported otherwise. As nearly as I can tell, there was

never a “Grand Opening” of the building. Perhaps the uncertainty about the completion date forswore an opening ceremony. Everyone involved may have been too busy to plan an additional event. Maybe just getting back to business was the best way to move on from the trauma of the arson-caused fire.

I spent 30 plus years teaching at Bandon High. The year I started, the graduating class was the first that had gone all four years at the “new” high school. They didn’t talk about the “old” school.

I didn’t give the building’s history much thought until I retired and started volunteering at the museum. On visits to Bandon High last school year, I asked how the school was going to celebrate its 50th birthday, which only raised confused looks.

I guess Harbor Lights Middle School could celebrate a fiftieth birthday too, though its age is complicated by the fact the older wing of the school, which survived the 1974 fire, was built in 1957.

Bandon High, the new wing of the junior high, the gymnasium and cafeteria complex, and the last addition to Ocean Crest School were all completed 50 years ago. It’s a milestone year for Bandon schools.

Another Milestone: Sprague Community Theater Turns 25

In September, the community is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Sprague Theater, located in Bandon City Park between the library and the community center.

The theater was built in 1999-2000 with the initiative of the Bandon Lion’s Club and funds gathered from grants and fundraisers. Lions Dan Almich and Ray Kelley spearheaded the project to provide a place for live entertainment in Bandon.

Since its first stage play, *South Pacific*, in September, 2000, the theater has hosted dramas, comedies and musicals, dance recitals, a wide variety of musical concerts, the annual Cranberry Festival’s Cranberry Court coronation, weddings, memorials, movie festivals and more.

The theater marks 25 years, Saturday, September 27, with dinner at the community center and a concert at the Sprague.



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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