

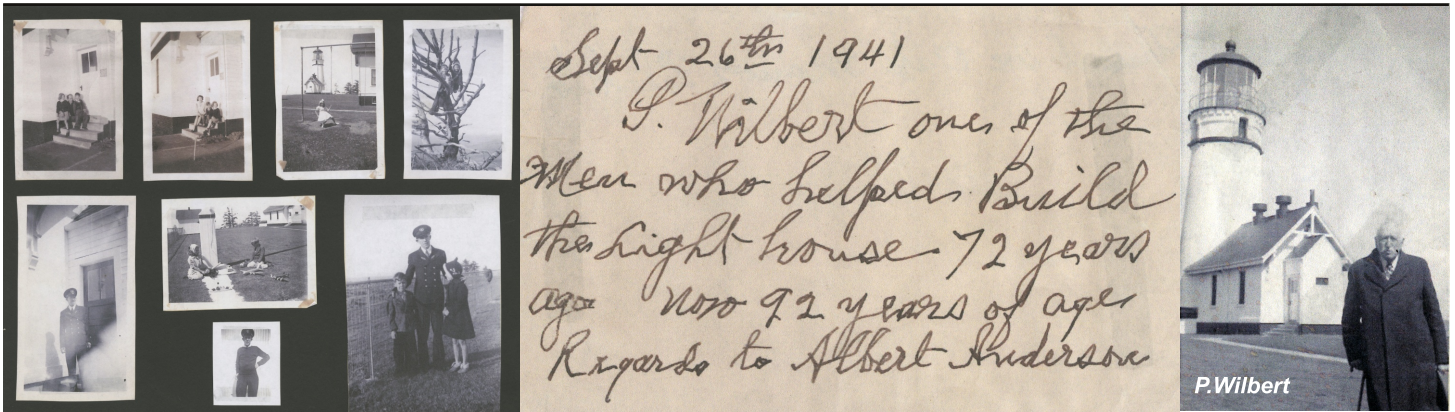
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

of the
**CAPE BLANCO
 HERITAGE SOCIETY**



CBHS BOARD MEETINGS: Port Orford City Council Chambers at 10:00 AM on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
PLEASE NOTE: our meetings are open to everyone who would like to attend. We invite and encourage anyone interested in CBHS to participate!

Memories of Growing Up at Cape Blanco



My name is Eloise St. George, and I am probably the only living person who not only lived at Cape Blanco but also actually met in person one of the men who helped build the lighthouse. I moved to Cape Blanco at age eight in September 1939 when my dad, Albert G. Anderson, became the lighthouse keeper there (*he had worked at Brown's Point Lighthouse during Aug. and Sept. 1939 and Tillamook Rock before that*).

On September 26, 1941, when I was ten years old, a tall elderly man came to visit Cape Blanco. He had come to see the lighthouse that he had helped build in 1870 when he was just 20 years old. He told us that he was 92 years old and remembered many of the episodes that occurred during the building of the lighthouse and the main quarters.

The Sunday before he arrived, the Oregon Journal had printed an article that described the tearing down of an old brick building in Portland and went on to tell of the few such buildings that were still standing. The article mentioned Cape Blanco, saying that available records did not show who the laborers were. You can imagine my enjoyment at meeting

someone who actually helped build the lighthouse.

During his visit, the man had a picture taken of himself standing in front of the lighthouse. He also wrote a note and gave it to my dad. I still have that note. It is dated September 26, 1941, and it says "P. Wilbert one of the men who helped build the lighthouse 72 years ago, now 92 years of age. Regards to Albert Anderson."

A few days later, my dad received a letter from Mr. Wilbert. I still have that letter and its original envelope, which is postmarked October 4, 1941 and shows Mr. Wilbert's return address in Palo Alto, California. In addressing the envelope, Mr. Wilbert mistakenly wrote "Port Orford" as the town, and apparently someone at the Port Orford post office crossed it out and penciled in "Sixes" so that the letter would get delivered correctly. Inside the envelopé was a copy of the photograph that had been taken on the day of Mr. Wilbert's visit; it showed him standing in front of the lighthouse, holding a cane and wearing a long coat. Enclosed with

the photograph was a short note saying "To Albert G. Anderson. In memory of my visit to Cape Blanco Light Station on Sept. 23 1941; which I helped build in 1870 at the age of 20. P. Wilbert."

This is just one of the many memories I have of the nearly eleven years I lived at Cape Blanco (*my dad transferred to work at Alki Point Light Station in Seattle in Aug. 1950, just before I turned nineteen*), I am enclosing copies of the photo, note, letter, and envelope mentioned in this story. along with a photo of my dad posing at Cape Blanco with me and my younger brother when I was about ten years old. When the photo was taken, I looked away from the camera because I was recovering from a case of the chicken pox at the time and didn't want the spots on my face to show.

I hope you enjoy this story of my meeting one of the actual builders of Cape Blanco, It seems amazing that I can be considered a living connection between the construction of the lighthouse in 1870 and the present time as I share this memory now with those who read this page. ✨

GROWING UP at Cape Blanco: Living at a USCG LORAN Station

Can you imagine what it must have been like to live on the grounds of Cape Blanco? We hear stories of brave souls who served as lighthousekeepers, and of their families, but they aren't the only people who had an opportunity to live on beautiful and blustery Cape Blanco. Jo Heinzman is a Langlois resident who used to live there when it was a US Coast Guard Station.

Jo remembers when there used to be many more buildings out on the lighthouse grounds including a LORAN building, the crews quarters, a fourplex where the married couples lived, and a duplex where the chief and first class officers lived with their families. Jo's husband, Richard Heinzman, was the first officer in charge of Cape Blanco and chief petty officer (CPO) when they lived there in the 1970s. A few years later the LORAN part of the station was shut down. Richard turned off the switches and decommissioned the LORAN A equipment in December 1979. He was a chief warrant officer three (CWO3) at the time. After retirement, Richard went on to work for a French company



in Saudi Arabia on LORAN C stations. Richard Heinzman died of lung cancer on Feb 20th 2013 and is fondly remembered by his family and friends in the area.

Jo remembers living on Cape Blanco as being one of the windiest places in memory. "The 14-16 months we lived there we had 6 days with no wind. My two oldest children rode the bus and another three, who lived on base, rode the bus also unless the wind was over

30 knots. We would meet the school bus at the entrance to [Cape Blanco] State Park and if it was over 60 knots the kids would miss school because it was too dangerous to drive off the cape." Other Port Orford school-children at that time, such as Chuck Hansohn, remember the detour to the lighthouse to pick up the coast guard kids making for a long ride to school. In any event, it must have made for a beautiful scenic ride on the beautiful days. ✨

Become a MEMBER of the CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY



OUR MISSION: To provide interpretative and educational services for the Cape Blanco Light Station, Historic Hughes House and Ranch and the Port Orford Lifeboat Station. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible.

Mail this portion of the form with your check made out to:
Cape Blanco Heritage Society. P.O. Box 1132 Port Orford, Oregon 97465.

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CITY/STATE/ZIP:	BUSINESS or ASSOCIATE	\$ 50
PHONE:	CITIZEN HISTORIAN	\$ 100
EMAIL:	BENEFACTOR	\$250—\$500
FAVORITE CBHS SITE:	LIFETIME MEMBER/MAJOR GIFT	\$1,000
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