

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!

SCENES of Yesterday ~ THE OLD BOATHOUSE



The old Boathouse nestled in Nellies cove c.1960 including the 532 stairs. Photographs by Bob Courtright via portorfordhistoricalphotos.org.

Years ago when the Port Orford Lifeboat Station was an active site manned by the U.S. Coast Guard, the boathouse was located in Nellie's Cove, 280 feet below the main station area (all Forge River-type stations had a detached boathouse). Access was provided by a steep 532-step wood and concrete staircase. A concrete breakwater was constructed between the rocks in 1939 to allow safe passage through the narrow channel out to open waters to the south and to protect the boathouse from waves during a storm. To fuel the lifeboats, crewmen carried five-gallon cans down to the cove, one can in each hand, until the tanks were full. In 1934, at the time of station commissioning, the station was assigned the following rescue craft:

- 36ft. 8in. Type TR motor lifeboat No. 4070/CG36375,
- 25ft. 10in. Type S motor surfboat No. 4197/CG25546
- 25ft. 6in. Type S pulling surfboat No. 4423/CG25408 and
- Pulling dory No. 445

In 1946, a brand new 36ft. 8in. Type TRS motor lifeboat CG36498

replaced the originally assigned motor lifeboat. After Station decommissioning in 1970, the CG36498 was transferred to Station Umpqua River. It has subsequently been restored and is on display near the Port Orford Lifeboat Station Museum.

The boats were hauled out of the water on a cradle mounted on the rails. When needed, they were launched down the rails and out to sea. The station also had a single axle boat trailer on which either the motor surfboat or the pulling surfboat could be transported.

The boathouse burned down in the late 1970s, a victim of apparent arson. All that remains are the concrete pilings that can be seen from the Cove Trail at Port Orford Heads State Park. The Cape Blanco Heritage Society and Oregon State Parks once hoped to restore a major portion of the steps and build a viewing landing above the former boathouse. However, this was deemed not feasible and the project was removed from our Annual Plan. If properly designed, the steps and overlook could become an engaging interpretive tour with our existing nature trails and outdoor exhibits. ✨

Riley Creek School Visits The Lifeboat Museum

The students of Riley Creek School in Gold Beach made a field trip in October to visit the Port Orford Lifeboat Station Museum for a day of fun, discovery and learning of local history. They were greeted by our volunteer hosts and engaged in a scavenger hunt seeking historical objects that are housed in our Forge River-type station, the only one of its kind left on the West Coast.

It was a successful visit and an honor to present to these young students. Many years of care and research have gone into building our Smithsonian-grade exhibits and we hope that more visitors make the trip to experience them in 2024. We have plans to add interactive exhibits in the future that will attract history buffs both young and old to inform and guide tomorrow's historians. ✨

CBHS HAPPENINGS : Annual Membership Meeting at City Hall

We are pleased to announce that the Cape Blanco Heritage Society will host their first membership meeting since 2018 at the Port Orford City Council Chambers. We will screen “*Samurai in the Oregon Sky*” by Ilana Sol, award-winning filmmaker and archivist.

The film is a well-researched and documented account of the 1942 attempt by Chief Flying Officer Nobuo Fujita to ignite large forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. It also recounts the aviator’s repeat visits to our area in the aftermath, and our community’s reaction towards this individual once perceived as an enemy due to unfathomable circumstances of war.

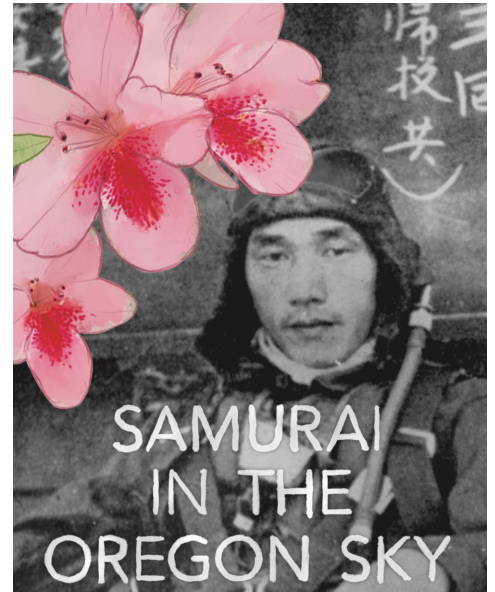
Fujita came up with the idea of using a submarine-based seaplane to launch attacks on the U.S. mainland, as well as the strategic Panama Canal. His idea was approved and the mission given to the I-25. His two attacks on Oregon in September 1942 constituted the first attacks on the continental United States since the British invasion in 1814 during the War of 1812. He remains the only enemy pilot to have ever dropped bombs on the

continental United States.

In the short course of a month in 1942, three attacks were on or near our coastal shores: 1) on the 9th of September, there was a fire-bombing attack east of Brookings; 2) on the 29th of September, there was another firebombing attack east of Cape Blanco; 3) on the 5th of October, came the sinking of Larry Doheny off the coast of Cape Sebastian. All three attacks involved an I-25 submarine equipped with a Yokosuka E14Y1 seaplane of Fujita’s special design which could be disassembled and stored on the sub to facilitate stealth attacks.

In later years, Fujita made peace with himself and his regretful role in the war by visiting the United States in 1962 when invited by the City of Brookings Jaycees. In 1992, 50 years after the attack, he planted a redwood tree at the site of the bombing east of Brookings.

For more information, visit our [website archive](#). Additional history was sourced from “*Leon White: Port Orford’s Bicentennial Mayor*” ✨



SAMURAI IN THE OREGON SKY
A Story of Reconciliation

THE CAPE BLANCO HERITAGE SOCIETY PRESENTS
A documentary by award-winning filmmaker ILANA SOL

NOVEMBER 11 & 12

SATURDAY EVENING 6 PM **SUNDAY MATINEE NOON**

At the PORT ORFORD CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.
The Saturday Screening is for CBHS Membership with the Sunday Matinee OPEN to everyone.
More info at capeblancoheritagesociety.com/events

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.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	DUES
NAME:	INDIVIDUAL	\$ 15
ADDRESS:	FAMILY	\$ 25
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	BUSINESS or ASSOCIATE	\$ 50
PHONE:	CITIZEN HISTORIAN	\$ 100
EMAIL:	BENEFACTOR	\$250—\$500
FAVORITE CBHS SITE:	LIFETIME MEMBER/MAJOR GIFT	\$1,000
	TOTAL ENCLOSED:	