

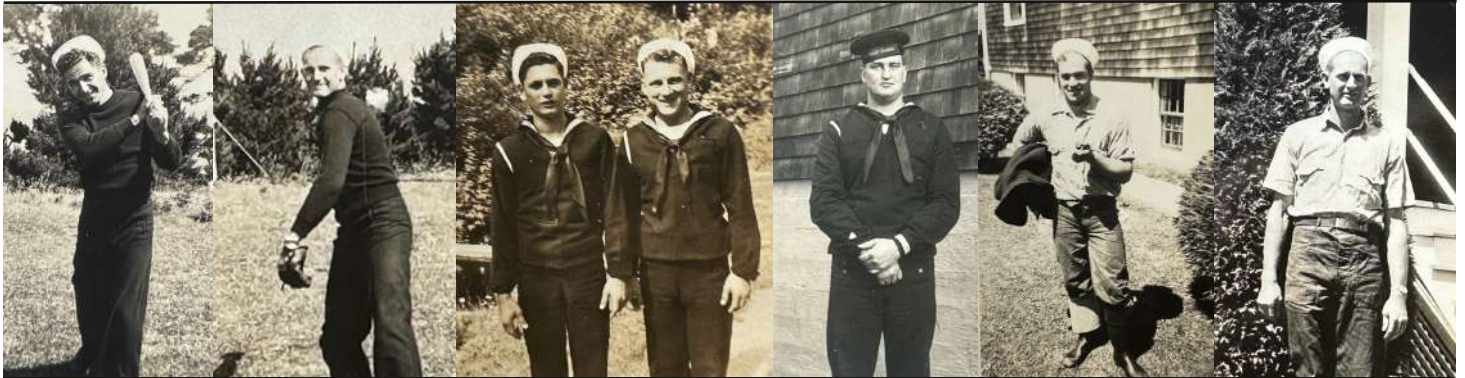
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

*of the*  
**CAPE BLANCO  
 HERITAGE SOCIETY**



**CBHS BOARD MEETINGS:** Currently held at Point.B Studio 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 ~ Faces from the 1940s



Scenes of everyday life at the Lifeboat Station from the early 1940s from the collection of Howard C. Robertson. Donated by Elaine Schuller.

The Cape Blanco Heritage Society recently received an intriguing collection of photos depicting life at the Port Orford Lifeboat Station in the early 1940s. The images show men who were stationed at the museum engaged in everyday activities: playing baseball on the station lawn near the water tower; cleaning the ramp of the boathouse; gardening and maintaining the grounds and exploring the beach down in Nellie's Cove.

"My father, Howard C. Robertson, was stationed at the Port Orford Lifeboat Station during 1942-1944," states Elaine Schuller. "In looking through his belongings, I found the enclosed photos taken while he was there. I don't know the names of these men, however I thought the Cape Blanco Heritage Society should have them for the history of the museum."

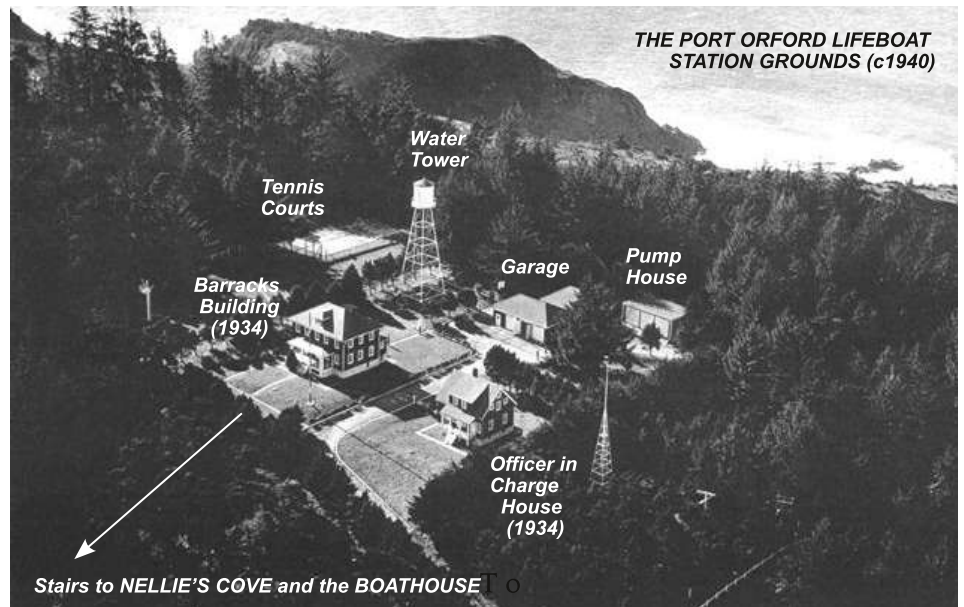
In March 2024, our [News of Note](#) featured Dale Hansen (stationed from 1941-44). The men mentioned in his interview could be in these photos: Nils Nielsen, Lester Holloway, Elmer Winbeck, James Lindquist, Don Nielson, Harold Cuffman, Art Hinderlie, Donald Grange, Stanley Rosenthal, Jimmy Waugh and Don Douglas to

name a few ([view a list of all known men stationed at the Port Orford Lifeboat Station here](#)). In that 1998 interview, Hansen quipped that there was no drinking at the station and signs in town prior to the war read "Dogs and sailors: Keep out!"

This period of time is notable as Port Orford's World War II era, with 1942 bringing attacks on our shore in what would later be realized as the only known bombing(s) of the continental United States from the

air. The usual crew of 13 men increased to well over 100, the most stationed at the facility at any one time. There were six bedrooms in the barracks building and during this period the men even had to sleep in the attic. Once the barracks reached capacity, Neptune's Lodge (now the Castaway Motel) or the Port Authority building were leased to house the overflow.

The boathouse was once located on Nellies Cove, 280 feet below the Port Orford Heads. Access was provided by



a steep 532-step wood and concrete staircase. The site of the old watchtower is accessible further west at the end of the Tower Trail. Coastguardsmen took 4 hour shifts day and night in the tower in all types of weather conditions. If a man missed his watch three times in a row, he was dishonorably discharged.

Do you recognize anyone in these photos? You can view the full collection at [Port Orford Historical Photos](#). If you do, please let us know. Send email to [heritage32@frontier.com](mailto:heritage32@frontier.com) or a note to P.O. Box 1132, Port Orford, OR 97465. We are also interested in photographs of the Port Orford Lifeboat Station from any time period to help preserve a more complete history of the museum. 🗺️



## 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
	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>	