Battle Ready
The National Coast Defense System and the Fortification of Puget Sound, 1894–1925
David M. Hansen

Altered landscapes and an array of concrete structures—remnants of Puget Sound fortifications—serve as silent reminders of a unique chapter in history. The ocean inlet’s wide entrance, deep waters, and recurrent fog left it vulnerable to attack. It finally became part of the National Coast Defense System in 1894, when the value of real and personal property along the shores surpassed $160 million.

With the completion of construction on Point Wilson, Admiralty Head, and Marrowstone Point, the harbor became one of the most heavily guarded in the United States. Technical advances improved batteries, carriages, guns, communication, and fire control. Effective resistance also required a sufficient number of highly trained enlisted men.

The removal of guns for use in World War I, as well as the redirection of specialized troops to field artillery units heralded the defense system’s demise. Eventually, armed forces abandoned permanent fortifications in favor of mobile artillery. None of Puget Sound’s five forts ever saw battle, but like many military installations, they were most valuable as a strong deterrent.

Battle Ready describes designs, innovations, frustrations over implementation plans, and the experience of serving in the fortifications. The extensively researched volume summarizes the fascinating saga of Washington State’s seacoast defense, presenting the broad story in both a national and local context.

“[Battle Ready] tells the story of the West in a concise and compelling way, leading the reader from one era to the next, making a strong argument for new strategies in the current Global Society era.”
—Lorie Higgins, Ph.D., Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, University of Idaho

“[Battle Ready] is an important contribution to the field...the first scholarly attempt to describe the evolution of the seacoast defenses of Puget Sound and to put them in the context of national defense policy.”
—Bolling Smith, Editor, Coast Defense Journal

NEW TITLES

Rethinking Rural
Global Community and Economic Development in the Small Town West
Don E. Albrecht

The vastness and isolation of the American West forged a dependence on scarce natural resources—especially water, forests, fish, and minerals. The small towns clustered near these assets were often self-sufficient and culturally distinct. By 1941 mass media, as well as improved transportation and infrastructure, propelled these sequestered settlements into the mass society era. Today, the internet is shaping another revolution, and it promises both obstacles and opportunity. Some formerly prosperous communities struggle to survive, while others attempt to cope with unprecedented growth.

Seeking to understand the impact of a global society on western small towns, the author, director of the Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University, conducted strategic planning roundtables in thirteen states. The gatherings brought three major concerns to the surface: sustaining natural resources, creating vibrant rural economies, and enhancing educational and employment prospects. Rethinking Rural summarizes characteristics of the isolation, mass society, and global society eras. It provides an overview of western environmental history and explores the significant challenges identified during the forum discussions. More importantly, it offers guidance to community leaders, policy makers, and scholars seeking ways to address poverty, increasing inequality, and shifting demographics, as well as resource management and conservation issues.

“Rethinking Rural tells the story of the West in a concise and compelling way, leading the reader from one era to the next, making a strong argument for new strategies in the current Global Society era.”
—Lorie Higgins, Ph.D., Extension Specialist and Associate Professor, University of Idaho

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Cover photo from Alaska State Library, U.S. Coast Guard 17th District Photograph Collection, PAC Ed Moreth, ASL-PCA-313-08-15
Minutes before supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef, before rocks ripped a huge hole in her hull and a geyser of crude oil darkened the pristine waters of Prince William Sound, the ship’s lookout burst through the chart room door. “That light, sir, it’s still on the starboard side. It should be to port, sir.” Her frantic words were merely the last in a litany of futile warnings.

The parade of ultimately unkept promises began the next day. President Frank Iarossi pronounced that the Exxon Shipping Company had “assumed full financial responsibility.” A week later, Alaska Governor Steve Cowper spoke at the Valdez Civic Center. “We don’t want anybody to think that they have to hire a lawyer and go into federal court and sue the largest corporation in America.”

Cordova native Bobby Day flew over the spill and realized his livelihood was in jeopardy. He struggled with feelings of betrayal and guilt and later, the tensions of a divided community. His intimate story lends a local perspective and conveys the damage inflicted upon individuals and the fishing industry.

In the end, lengthy investigations revealed cover-ups, reckless management, numerous safety violations, and a broken regulatory process. Lawmakers aligned with businesses rather than citizens, and fishermen spent nearly twenty years in litigation. Despite a massive cleanup effort, oil remains on the beaches and continues to impact marine life.

Red Light to Starboard documents a story that stunned the world, recounts regional and national history, and explains how oil titans came to be entrusted with a spectacular, fragile ecosystem. It discusses the disaster’s environmental consequences as well as failed governmental and public policy decisions, and tracks changes that, through opportunities for citizen input and oversight, offer hope for the future.

March 24, 2014, marks the oil spill’s 25th anniversary.

Of Related Interest:
**NEW DISTRIBUTED TITLES**

**The Crimson Spoon**

*Plating Regional Cuisine on the Palouse*

Jamie Callison with Linda Burner Augustine

Photographs by E.J. Armstrong

"Start with great ingredients, apply simple cooking techniques, and magic happens."

To Jamie Callison, the Palouse region of the Pacific Northwest is a chef’s playground. A creamery, apiaries, an organic farm, fruit orchards, a cattle herd, and legumes are all located just minutes from his campus kitchen—an “edible backyard” that inspired this delectable collection.

The Crimson Spoon features more than 100 recipes covering an array of palates—from comfort food like Cougar Gold Mac & Cheese to elegant fare like Pear and Mascarpone Ravioli. Many celebrate local ingredients like WSU Wagyu beef, garbanzo beans and lentils, soft durum wheat flour, and world-famous Cougar Gold cheese. Others highlight coastal treasures such as salmon and scallops.

In addition to utilizing high quality agricultural resources, Callison firmly believes that sharing delicious food, beautifully presented, strengthens bonds between family and friends—a splendid reward for pursuing his passion. Gorgeous color photographs showcase his mouth-watering dishes, and passages tucked throughout the pages convey his life story and underscore his cooking philosophy.

Jamie Callison CEC, AAC, is Executive Chef/Culinary Instructor at Washington State University.

Linda Burner Augustine is a Seattle-based freelance food consultant and teacher. She writes the blog AYearAtTheTable.com.

*Published by the Washington State University College of Business*

**Oregon-California Trails Association Books**

Established in 1982, OCTA is the nation’s largest and most influential organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of overland emigrant trails and the emigrant experience. Their quarterly publication, *Overland Journal*, is a membership benefit. Contact: www.octa-trails.org

**Our Faces Are Westward**

*The 1852 Oregon Trail Journey of Edward Jay Allen*

Edited by Dennis M. Larsen and Karen M. Johnson.

An ailing Edward Jay Allen joined a wagon train en route to Oregon in 1852. Despite exhaustion from weeks of strenuous travel, he guided a raft down the Snake River. A foot injury compelled him to risk a harrowing “float” over falls and rapids. Lucky to be alive, he reached Fort Boise and operated a ferry before returning to the trail. Walking with difficulty and short of food and water, he struggled on to Portland. Based on newly-discovered diaries and letters replete with keen observations, poetry, and humor, Allen’s delightfully literate, entertaining accounts bring the emigrant trail experience to life.

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Harold James

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*Published by the Washington State Capitol Furnishings Preservation Committee*
Structural Human Ecology

New Essays in Risk, Energy, and Sustainability
Edited by Thomas Dietz and Andrew Jorgenson

People’s influence on ecosystems can create serious environmental consequences. The phrase Structural Human Ecology describes scientific studies and analyses of the stress individuals and communities place on the environment, human well-being, and the tradeoffs between them. As an emerging discipline, it is devoted to understanding the dynamic links between population, environment, social organization, and technology. Its community of specialists offers cutting-edge research in risk analysis that can be utilized to evaluate environmental policies and demonstrate how to effectively mitigate human impacts on the biosphere. The essays in this volume were presented by leading international scholars at a 2011 symposium honoring the late Dr. Eugene Rosa.

A Yankee on Puget Sound
Pioneer Dispatches of Edward Jay Allen, 1852–1855
Karen L. Johnson and Dennis M. Larsen

In 1852 twenty-two-year-old Edward Jay Allen completed a difficult overland trek to Oregon. His exploits during a three-year stay in Washington Territory featured unique twists and left a distinct, indelible mark. The young Yankee traveled north from the Columbia River to Cowlitz Landing and was promptly drafted as a delegate to the Monticello Convention. After claiming donation land north of Olympia, he led survey and construction teams laying out the Naches Pass wagon road, initiated relief efforts for Longmire wagon train families, explored Puget Sound on a whaleboat, ran for the Territorial Council, and with two others, made the first documented ascent of Mt. Adams.

Allen recorded his adventures in letters and a diary, deftly weaving in descriptive passages, humor, and poetry while eloquently reflecting social, political, racial, and religious views of his time. His hometown newspaper, the Pittsburg Daily Dispatch, published his correspondence. Pasted into a recently discovered scrapbook, his observations deliver new insight into Pacific Northwest history.

Journals

We Proceeded On
Journal of The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

The premier journal of early western exploration, We Proceeded On is issued quarterly and focuses on the iconic journey of the Corps of Discovery, 1804–1806, the early fur trade, indigenous peoples west of the Missouri, and early America.

Website: www.lewisandclark.org

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