

The Gorge Gazette

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Columbia River Gorge, Washington and Oregon



11,249-foot Mount Hood is Oregon's tallest mountain and its most likely-to-erupt volcano

Hood-winked

On a clear day, Mount Hood dominates the landscape of much of northern Oregon.

On a clear day.

You ever seen one of those in Oregon in January?

We saw one.

One.

And we took this picture of it. There is Mount Hood in all its snow-covered glory as we drove along the Columbia River.

We shot it the day before we went to the mountain. The day we went to the mountain, we didn't see the mountain.

—Continued overleaf



Miles in the distance, the sun peeks beneath the edge of the overcast in this view looking downhill from the Timberline Lodge.

Hood-winked

– *Continued from previous*

We are quite sure we were on the mountain. As we drove toward it, it was clear that something white and massive disappeared into the overcast above us.

The signs said we were on Mount Hood, and we followed them to the Timberline Lodge, which by all accounts is 6,000 feet up the mountain's southwest flank at the tree line. The lodge was clearly there, as was the Palmer Glacier out the back door.

But our heads were bumping against the gray ceiling, and the mile of mountain still above us was invisible.

If you saw Stanley Kubrick's movie of Stephen King's "The Shining," you've seen the lodge, too, as the Overlook

– *Continued overleaf*



"Here's Johnny!"

Hood-winked

– *Continued*

Hotel, half buried in snow with Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall locked inside as caretakers waiting for the spring thaw and the return of warm weather tourists.

While the lodge's exterior was used in the movie, the interior scenes were shot on a London sound stage and are different from the lodge's actual interior.



The Timberline's upper lobby

In real life, the Timberline Lodge – built between 1935 and 1938 as a Depression Era federal project – is the only year-round ski area in the United States. Its lobby and public rooms feature displays of skiing history with old Life magazines showing skiers in the pre-polypropylene days of ski fashion sitting around one of the stone fireplaces with their legs in plaster casts.

The lodge serves a nice weekend brunch, which we enjoyed, and the fireplaces are cozy and warm.



The Timberline Lodge on a clear evening

Admiral Samuel Hood

Admiral Samuel Hood, 1st Viscount, fought against the United States during the Revolutionary War, which would seem to disqualify him from being the namesake of major U.S. mountains or American naval vessels.

But in 1791, before what is now the Pacific Northwest was part of the United States, British naval captain George Vancouver explored the coast of British Columbia, Canada and the current states of Washington and Oregon including the Columbia River. He put his name and those of his friends on every impressive thing he found.

Two U.S. Navy ships have carried the name *USS Mount Hood*, but the most famous ship named for the admiral was *HMS Hood*, a British battlecruiser sunk in World War II by a direct hit from the German battleship *Bismarck*. Only three of the *Hood's* crew of 1,418 survived.



Today's picture pages

Emily crosses the parking lot at the Timberline Lodge. The gray thing behind the SUV is a sheltered entrance for use when the snow gets deep.



Mount Hood from Washougal, Washington on the Columbia River

Goodbye from Mount Hood and the Pacific Northwest



Mount Hood seen from 50 miles away in Washington State