

Tall ship passes through McNary Dam

Corps of Engineers allows the public to watch Lady Washington pass through locks

By **JADE McDOWELL**
Staff Writer

Visitors to McNary Dam got an up-close look at the Lady Washington on Monday as the tall ship passed through the dam's navigation lock.

The ship is a full-scale replica of the original Lady Washington, which was the first American ship to make landfall on the West Coast of North America in 1787. It has been used in the filming of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl," "Star Trek: Generations" and also appeared in the television shows "Revolution" and "Once Upon a Time."

Dozens of people showed up Monday morning to get a look at the ship, but Jill Fraser of Hermiston had a special reason for wanting to come. Her friend Lee Phelps worked on the ship until his death a few months ago, and his ashes were shot out of one of the ship's cannons in Astoria as a tribute to his dedication to tall ships like the Lady Washington.

"I couldn't make it to that memorial, so I thought I would come in his honor," Fraser said.

She said she enjoyed getting a good look at the ship and having a chance to honor her late friend.

Ruth Carollo of Hermiston was also at the dam on Monday. As the water in the lock slowly drained away, allowing the ship to go from the high water to the east of the dam to the lower water on the west side, she explained to her three grandchildren how the lock worked.

She said a few weeks ago she had tried to bring the children, ages 2, 4 and 6, to the Washington side of the dam to see the locks and fish ladders but was told that it was only open to the public on special occasions. When she heard the locks were being opened to the public to view the Lady Washington she grabbed the grandkids for a day trip.

"I just thought it would make a really fun outing to see the big ship," she said.

She said the kids seemed like they were having fun and she enjoyed herself too.

"It's just fascinating looking at all the intricacies of the lines," she said.

The gate at the McNary Dam lock is 106 feet tall. The lock is 683 feet long and holds 38 million gallons of water. On Monday the Lady Washington, which was headed back toward the coast after a week docked in Richland, went through by itself.



The Lady Washington enters the lock at McNary Dam.

STAFF PHOTO BY JADE McDOWELL



Onlookers wait for the Lady Washington to go through the McNary Dam locks.

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The Lady Washington waits for the water to lower inside the McNary Dam locks.

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Left: The Lady Washington is lowered through the McNary Dam locks.

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The Lady Washington sits at the bottom of the McNary Dam locks while passing through the dam on Monday.

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A Record Breaking Friendship

Darrel Sallee and Cody Ohl's friendship began in typical Darrel Sallee cowboy fashion. Like the many people before Cody, Darrel offered a "Hand-Up" to the young Texas calf roper — a place to call home while Cody made the "Northwest Run". Starting at the Farm-City Pro Rodeo and ending at the Pendleton Round-Up, for 20 plus years, it was Cody's "home away from home" — and it was a good one! Home-cooked meals, accommodations for his horse, and anything to help Cody in his pursuit of a NFR qualification.

The 2014 National Finals Rodeo was Cody's twentieth NFR. His 6 World Championships and over 3 million in career earnings were not going to be the end to his story. The 10 rounds are a dream come true for all cowboys no matter how many times you have been there. But this year, Cody rode into Las Vegas with a heavy heart for his good friend Darrel. Despite Darrel's courageous battle with cancer, it was obvious he was in the last go-round of his life.

Prior to round 3, on national television, Cody dedicated his run to Darrel. He roped his calf in 6.6 seconds and won the round. The day of round 6, Cody received news of Darrel's passing. The NFR back number displays Cody's hand-written message, "Rest in Peace".

In round 7, Cody was on a mission. He won the round and with that win, tied the all-time NFR record for most go-round wins at 51. It wasn't over yet. On national television and in front of a sell-out Thomas & Mack crowd, he dedicated round 10 in memory of Darrel. Displaying true Cody Ohl style, he was 6.8 seconds and won the round. This win gave him the record for most go-round wins (52) in the history of the NFR.

For 51 go-round wins, Cody traditionally tossed his piggin string into the crowd during his victory lap. But on his 52nd win, he quietly coiled his rope and placed his piggin string back over his shoulder. He later sent a signed back number, his 10th go-round rope and piggin string to Hermiston for the Sallee family. This truly was one record breaking NFR; complemented and treasured by one record breaking friendship.

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