

...Astoria: A Look Back in Time

From Page 3

Staff there were union members once upon a time, but no more.

Salmon runs, already in decline from over-fishing, irrigation, and small hydroelectric dams, were decimated by the big dams constructed in the 1930s and 1940s. And in the upper Columbia stretching into

Canada, salmon runs were wiped out altogether by the Grand Coulee Dam, completed in 1942 without fish ladders.

In 1950, the cannery owned by the Union Fishermen's Cooperative Packing Company was sold to Peter Pan Seafoods. It closed, and was later destroyed by fire. Where the cannery once

stood, today sits a luxury boutique hotel, with rooms starting at \$179-a-night, the Cannery Pier Hotel features an authentic Finnish sauna and an indoor museum about Astoria's cannery heyday.

The Columbia River Fisherman's Protective Union survives as a group promoting conservation.

The Columbia River Packers Association — the employer group formed to compete with the cooperative cannery — lives on after multiple corporate mergers in the name of one of its brands, Bumble Bee. Just not in Astoria. Bumble Bee, Astoria's last working cannery, closed in 1980. A run-down free-admission museum commemorates it now, on Pier 39 at the east end of Astoria, along with a wall bearing the signatures of hun-

dreds of Astorians who used to work there.

By the time the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed in 1943, Astoria's Chinese numbered just over 100. The last Chinatown buildings on Bond Street were torn down in August 1941 to construct U.S. Route 30. In 2012, the City of Astoria constructed the Garden of Surging Waves, a monument to commemorate the contributions of the Chinese to Astoria's history. It's located at the intersection of 11th Street and Duane, next to the American Legion hall.

Today, scattered through Astoria's historic downtown, public trash cans are decorated with images from old-time salmon can labels. The town's biggest industry is tourism. And its waterfront past is part of the allure.



ABOVE: Liisa Penner, archivist with the Clatsop County Historical Society, points to a set of Sanborn fire insurance maps that show a densely packed Chinatown where U.S. Route 30 sits today.

BELOW: View from the parking lot of the luxury Cannery Pier Hotel: Pilings are nearly all that remain of the canneries that once ran the length of Astoria's waterfront.



The City of Astoria constructed the Garden of Surging Waves to memorialize the contribution of Chinese workers.

...IBEW Local 125 pickets PacifiCorp

From Page 1

eliminated the defined benefit pension plan in favor of a 401(k) savings plan, and increased health insurance premium co-pays from a 90-10 (employer-employee) split, to 80-20, and more recently to 74-26. Additionally, higher deductibles are taking even more money out of workers' pockets.

As a result, Eri says Pacific Power has the lowest wage and benefits package of any utility in IBEW Local 125's jurisdiction.

This race to the bottom is driving down the pool of skilled linemen at the company — the ones who perform high-risk work directly on the electrical system, including high-voltage transmission and distribution lines.

Several union members walking the informational picket line told the Labor Press that veteran linemen are leaving for jobs at other utilities, and that newly-minted journeymen coming out of the apprenticeship training center are going to work for everyone *but* Pacific Power. The high turnover rate has led to lots of forced overtime — from 400 to 600 hours a year.

"Berkshire has no blood, sweat or tears invested like we do," said Brian Penfield, a 20-year employee. "We're losing a lot of talented younger guys who see no reason to stay here,"

Bargaining has been ongoing since September. Talks have

narrowed down to wages and medical. Eri said there are no takeaways currently on the table, but wage increases don't come close to making up for the concessions workers have taken

in the past.

At press time, the sides were in their second day of bargaining with a federal mediator. There was no word on how those talks were going.



Bright Now! Dental
General • Specialty • Orthodontics

Serving Union Members and their families for Over 35 Years.

- General, Specialty & Orthodontic Dentistry under one roof
- Convenient locations & extended hours
- Same-day emergency appointments
- No Cost to Participate – there are no additional membership fees or dues
- No Restrictions – No Per Visit Charges
- Acceptance is guaranteed
- We accept dental insurance, self-funded Union plans & reduced rates for uninsured

New patient check-up package*

\$19 Exam & X-rays

For more information please call:
Dave Surrige (503) 502-2557

BrightNow.com   

Several locations to serve you:

Beaverton
4655 SW Griffith Dr., Ste. 105
503-644-1400

Grants Pass
1021 NE 6th St.
541-479-6696

Gresham
443 NW Burnside Rd.
503-492-8487

Hillsboro
7206 N.E. Cornell Rd.
503-640-9999

Milwaukie
17186 SE McLoughlin Blvd.
503-659-2525

Portland
3580 SE 82nd Ave.
503-777-0761

Salem
831 Lancaster Mall Dr. NE, Ste. 2
503-362-8359

Wilsonville
25700 SW Argyle Ave., Ste. F
503-682-8552

Northwest Dental Associates, P.C.; Charles Stirewalt, DDS

Vancouver
2101 NE 129th St. Ste. 101
360-574-4574

Peter Vu DDS; Christopher Koening DDS; Charles Stirewalt DDS

3250 SE 164th Ave., Ste. 102
360-891-1999

Peter Vu DDS; Christopher Koening DDS; Charles Stirewalt DDS

Nurani, Mitchell, Kim, P.C.; Ahyoung Amber Kim, DDS

* \$19 Exam and Digital X-rays - Retail price \$260 (ADA Codes 150 & 210). New cash patients only. There may be future costs based on diagnosis. Offer is subject to change, cannot be combined and expires 5/31/15. © 2015 Smile Brands Inc. All rights reserved.