

Worth the Trip: Astoria *continued from page 10*

fourteen beers on tap. Try the Coffee Brown - it's excellent! And don't miss the glass floor where you can watch sea lions relaxing - the kids, and adults, will love it! (For more about Astoria beer, see the Another Round column in our next issue.)

For breakfast try Coffee Girl at the east end of town on Pier 39. Tucked away inside the old cannery building, the cozy Coffee Girl has delicious baked goods, tasty entrees, inexpensive prices and of course, good coffee - and a great view of the river. The Blueberry Croissant Bread Pudding was delicious and the Breakfast Panini Sandwich and Swedish Veggie Bagel were both extremely tasty.

Vegetarians will love the Blue Scorchers Bakery & Cafe, a worker owned cooperative located right next door to the Fort George Brewery. The Tempeh Rubin was excellent and so was the atmosphere.

For coffee in the morning check out Three Cups Coffee House right under the bridge, featuring Columbia River Coffee Roasters' Thundermuck, a dark roasted and flavorful brew to get your day started.

Of course there is much more to do in Astoria than just eating and drinking. There are plenty of activities to keep the whole family occupied for days. Among the highlights:

• **Columbia River Maritime Museum** This 24,000 square foot exhibit space contains an extensive collection of nautical artifacts with interactive displays on shipwrecks, fishing, lighthouses, navigation and naval history. Remod-



The lighthouse at Cape Disappointment State Park overlooks the Columbia Bar.

eled and expanded in 2001-02, this nationally recognized museum is a treasure trove of wonders.

• **Astoria Column** Perched on the highest hill in Astoria the 125 foot column, with 164 steps to the top, offers spectacular views of the surrounding area and includes fascinating illustrations winding up the outside of the column that document the history of the region.

• **River Walk** Also known as the Astoria River Trail you can travel the entire length of the historic water front (6.4 miles) and enjoy the interesting architecture, shops and views. Ride the trolley in season, bring your bikes and peddle the entire length, or just take a leisurely stroll.

• **Sea Lions** The barking of sea lions is ever present along the waterfront and there are several places where they regularly congregate; the 36th Street Pier is one of the best and most popular spots to watch them swim, sun and wrestle.

• **Lewis and Clark** Walk in the foot-

steps of the famous explorers at several nearby locations. **Fort Clatsop National Historic Park** is the site of their winter encampment complete with replica fort, exhibit hall, interpretive center and trails. Drive across the Astoria-Megler Bridge and 10 miles up the Washington coastline to **Cape Disappointment State Park** which contains eight miles of trails, miles of beaches, two lighthouses and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Spectacular views of the Pacific and the Columbia Bar can be seen from the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse.

A visit to Astoria can be relaxing, fun, informative, and entertaining, and certainly worth the trip.

Fun facts about Astoria

- The first US Post Office west of the Rocky Mountains was established in Astoria in 1847.
- The Astoria Brewery, the city's first brew house, opened in 1872.
- Most of downtown Astoria was rebuilt after a fire ravaged the town in 1922.
- Clark Gable began his acting career at the Astoria Theater in 1922.
- The Astoria-Megler Bridge, the iconic landmark in almost every photo of Astoria, is 4.1 miles long, and opened in 1966.
- The Columbia River Bar, a system of constantly changing sand bars and shoals where the mouth of the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean, is known as the "Graveyard of the Pacific." Because of the waves, wind and currents it is considered one of the most dangerous maritime spots in the world and has caused approximately 2,000 ship wrecks since 1792.
- Most ships that enter the Columbia River have a marine pilot on the bridge. Pilots have decades of experience and local knowledge. Launches transport pilots to and from ships by pulling alongside while the pilots board or disembark by climbing a rope ladder lowered over the side. Columbia River Bar Pilots help ships across the Columbia Bar; Columbia River Pilots assist with the challenging 100 mile upriver journey to Portland.

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