

Newport: craft shops, unique restaurants, olde world style and sandy beaches

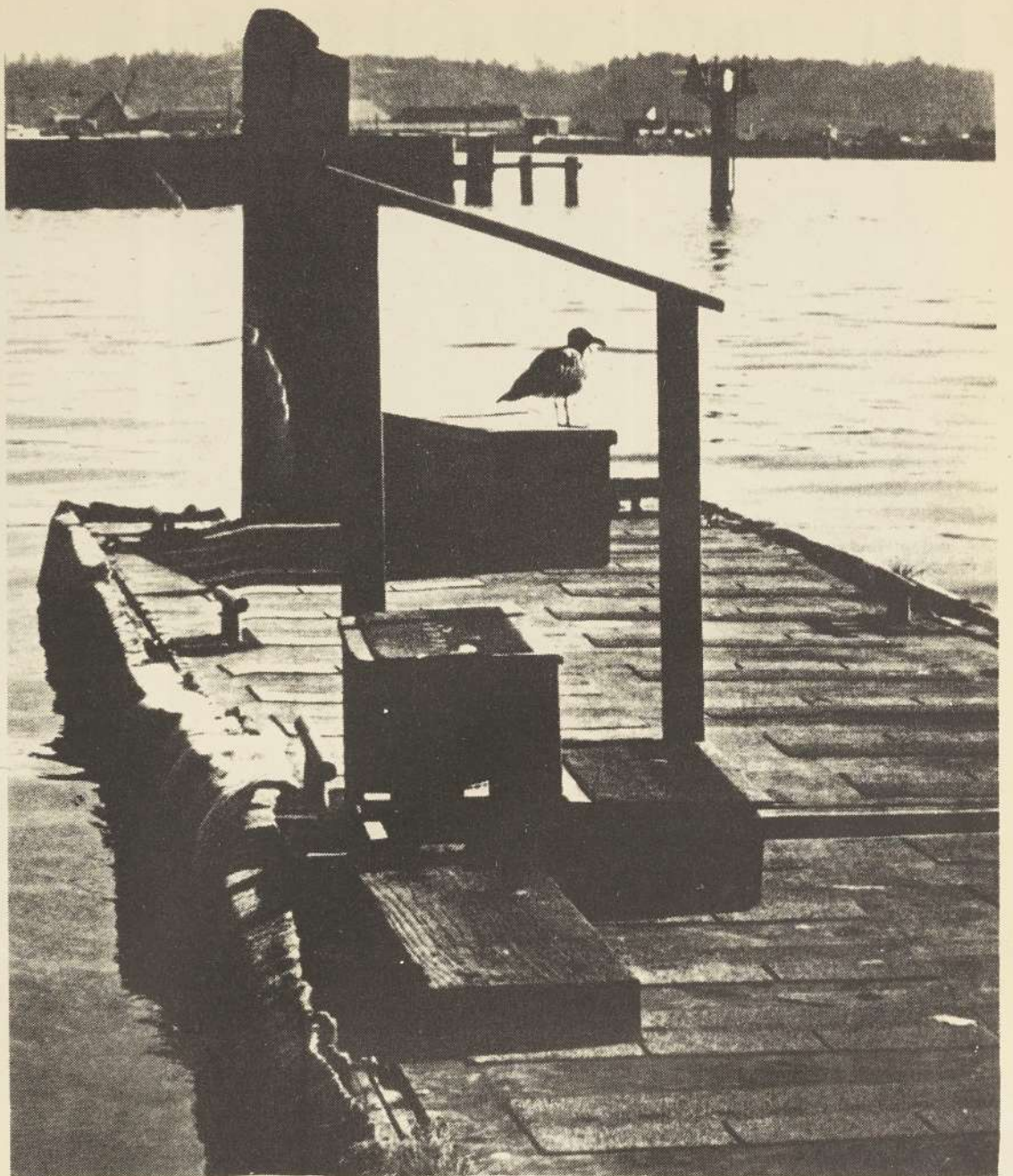


Photo by Lorraine Stratton

By Lisa Chitty
Of The Print

School is out and you are stuck working five days a week, leaving just two unreasonably short days to recuperate and begin the seemingly unending grind.

Two days does not leave a whole lot of time to take off and enjoy the 'free time' between driving. Don't despair! There does seem to be a bright spot shining through the clouds. Those clouds are breaking towards the Oregon Coast - Newport to be exact.

Newport has managed to retain its quaintness in a rapidly growing coastal establishment. While other communities resort to cheap motels and quick-stop restaurants, Newport is thriving with craft

shops, unique restaurants, and an olde world style enhanced by the leisureliness of the fisherman.

Agate Beach is located miles north of Newport. The sand is white and clean with sloping, grassy hills and lots of driftwood for those hot dog fires.

Moving south and back to town - Yaquina Bay State Park is located to the right of the Newport Bridge and overlooks the bay to the left and the Pacific Ocean on the right.

The road underneath the Newport Bridge bay front and the beginning of a fascinating adventure. There are many charter services dotting the sidewalks, advertising tuna, deep-sea, salmon, and crab fishing.

Shops displaying stained glass, pottery, handmade clothing, and jewelry are abundant and extremely crowded with eager buyers, hoping for a little memorabilia from the seashore.

Adjacent to the harbor and boat dock is the Undersea Gardens. Supposedly it is world famous. I can't recommend spending your hard-earned money to see this. The gardens seem to be deteriorating and in dire need of repair. It is also considerably outdated in decor and environmental awareness. Although, there are some interesting shows with the divers pointing out various types of marine life in the mirrored aquariums.

Another aquarium allows the curious to handle living star-

fish and other small marine animals.

If time permits a walk down the wooden ramps leading to the boats is well worth it. Often one can see big salmon displayed by a proud fisherman, willing to share his 'secret' with a good listener.

Now, after all the walking, hunger strikes. The bay front has just the place. Mo's, a converted garage, still sporting its big doors. The garage doors are opened on nice weather days onto the busy streets, offering a select vantage point.

It is not unusual to stand in line at Mo's. The seating capacity does not exceed 50 at the most. Rubbing elbows is all part of the Mo's experience. The

tables are arranged highschool cafeteria style. This provides for the meeting of many people not in your dining party.

The speciality of the house is a huge bowl of steaming clam chowder with a pat of fresh butter. The crab salad is generous and the crab is right out of the bay. It is served with lots of lemons and a thick 1000-Island dressing. A fillet of sole is offered with fries, bread, chowder, and a small salad. The only thing palatable is the chowder.

A good meal at Mo's consists of chowder, crab salad, and homemade berry cobbler - well worth the price, which is surprisingly inexpensive.

Newport is a refreshing way to spend a short weekend at a reasonable price.



Photo by Paul Byers
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