Fish counter likes being 'eyes' for biologist

By Dan Gunthrie

"I used to drink my coffee with a straw so I wouldn't miss a fish," said Carol Galbreath, the fish counter at Willamette Falls.

Carol gave up straws when video cassettes were installed at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife facility. Now, for 24 hours every day, a camera monitors th window by which fish going over the falls must pass, and she can play back its record at whatever speed she desires.

"The Indians said salmon run when the dogwood blooms. I've found this to be surprisingly accurate for spring and fall chinook. Maybe chinook and dogwood depend on earth temperatures, but you'd have to ask the biologists about that," she said as we walked to the counting room. It was a snowy December morning and the only fish moving up the river were winter steelhead.

"With steelhead it's less predictable. They'll have a small run before a storm, then a bigger one afterward. They may stop moving altogether when the water temperature drops below 40 degrees."

To reach the room, we crossed the Willamette Falls locks, then threaded a noisy maze through Crown Zellerbach's paper plant and Portland General Electric's power plant. Carol stopped once to measure water visibility by lowering a bicolored disc until its black and white quadrants disappeared. Visibility was 2.8 feet, the most for the month.

Before descending into her concrete bunker, we paused to regard the falls and the sweeping river and snowy Oregon City on the far shore.

"During high water, when logs are crashing outside and water drips through seams in the concrete, it can be terrifying down there," she said. "That's when I get out."

We picked our way down steel stairs, walked along a dark tunnel to a locked door with a peephole, negotiated more stairs to still another door, and entered a narrow inner sanctum: the counting room.

"This is an all-manual room," said Carol as she plugged in a heater, opened vents and turned on a fan.

She checked a pressure gauge to make sure the water intake gates were not clogged with debris. Then she recorded the water temperature (37.5 degrees) and called the U.S. River Forecaster to get the Willamette's flow at Salem (20,00 cubic feet per second). This information would go into today's report to the Oregon Department and Wildlife's Clackamas office, whose telephone message on Willamette Falls fish counts is dialed thousands of time monthly by anglers.

Her details completed, Carol sat down by a battery of clickers used to tally th species and peculiarities of passing fish, and she commenced to watch the video recorder mounted alongside the window. She spoke while she stared at the dancing, empty screen, which was replaying what had happened during the past three days.

"I think and older person is a better fish counter than a young person. That's because this is a sedentary jb. Also, it's confining and lonely," said Carol who began working at Willamette Falls five-and-a-half years ago when her two childeren went off to college.

"The job requires a particular kind of person. You can't be mesmerized by watching the video. You must be consistent. You have to love nature more than money.

"I sum up what I am as 'the eyes of biologists.' I'm an extension of them. They value my opinion, but they still have to make decisions."

No fish passed the window while we were watching. The video recorder was more entertaining, especially when run at high speed. It showed a flurry of 19 and 11 migrating steelhead the two previous mornings.

"See the crumpled dorsal fin?" she asked as one of them flashed across the screen. "That's not a natural fish. It's from a hatchery."

Most of the fish proved to be hatchery stock.

"This is the boring time of the year. I listen to the radio a lot now. I'd go bonkers if it weren't for that. During a heavy run, I don't have time to listen."

The following week, Carol's boredom would be routed by 191 fish on Dec. 24, and by a whopping 265 fish on Christmas Day, when she would tally 81 in a single hour, many with "golden arches" — distinctive scars left by seal teeth. Still, that wouldn't compare with her record of 2,000 adult spring chinook in one day. Spring chinook are additionally difficult because she must separate them into adults, mini-jacks (fish that go to the mouth of the Columbia River only to reverse direction and return as two-year-olds), and jacks (chinook that come back from the sea as short three-year-olds).

"But the most stressful time, the time when I pull my hair out, is during the September onset of the coho run when coho are mixing with tall chinook, summer steelhead, the last of the mini-jacks, even sockeye."

The sockeye salmon are descendents of fish released in 1970 into the Middle Fork of the Santiam River. They tested Carol's credibility when they first began to appear.

"There were 16 one year, 16 the next, then 516. My old boss didn't believe I knew sockeye. He was a bald-headed guy. He came out, watched them swin past the window, scratched his head, and said, 'Yup, those are sockeye.' You always have to prove things to biologists."

Learning to recognize and count salmon requires an apprenticeship. as Carol explains it, "The girl who was here before trained me; and when I leave, I'll have to train someone else." Also, every spring the Army Corps of Engineers holds a training session at Bonneville Dam.

"I like to go," said Carol. "Oh, it doesn't help much because of differences in lighting and colors, but there's always some spinoff value."

Statement of Condition

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CONDITION (Including Domestic Subsidiaries) (Dollar Amounts in Thousands)

LEGAL TITLE OF BANK				STATE BANK NO / FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT NO
Clackamas County Bank				71 / 12
CITY: Sandy	COUNTY: Clackamas	STATE: Oregon	ZIP CODE: 97055	CLOSE OF BUSINESS DATE: DEC 3

Dollar Amounts in Thousands		Bil Mil Thou	
ASSETS			
1. Cash and balances due from depository institutions			
a. Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin		2480	1.a.
b. Interest-bearing balances		none	1.b.
2. Securities		8107	2.
3. Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell		8850	3.
4. Loans and lease financing receivables:			
a. Loans and leases, net of unearned income	21060		4.a.
b. LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	125		4.b.
c. LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve	none		4.c.
d. Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve (item 4.a minus 4.b and 4.c)		20935	4.d.
5. Assets held in trading accounts		none	5.
6. Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)		898	6.
7. Other real estate owned		1398	7.
8. Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies		none	8.
9. Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding		none	9.
10. Intangible assets		none	10.
11. Other assets		570	11.
12. Total assets (sum of items 1 through 11)		43238	12.
LIABILITIES			
13. Deposits:			
a. In domestic offices		39702	13.a.
(1) Noninterest-bearing	5897		13.a.(1)
(2) Interest-bearing	33805		13.a.(2)
b. In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs			
(1) Noninterest-bearing			
(2) Interest-bearing			
14. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase		none	14.
15. Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury		none	15.
16. Other borrowed money		none	16.
17. Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases		37	17.
18. Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding		none	18.
19. Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits		200	19.
20. Other liabilities		241	20.
21. Total liabilities (sum of items 13 through 20)		40180	21.
22. Limited-life preferred stock		none	22.
EQUITY CAPITAL			
23. Perpetual preferred stock		none	23.
24. Common stock		310	24.
25. Surplus		1790	25.
26. Undivided profits and capital reserves		958	26.
27. Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments			
28. Total equity capital (sum of items 23 through 27)		none	28.
29. Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, and equity capital (sum of items 21, 22, and 28)		43238	29.

SCHEDULES OF LOANS AND DEPOSITS BY OFFICE, WHEN CALLED FOR, ARE INCLUDED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AND CAN BE REVIEWED AT THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS.

NOTE: This report must be signed by an authorized officer(s) and attested by not less than three directors other than the officer(s) signing the report.

I/We, the undersigned officer(s), do hereby declare that this Report of Income (including the supporting schedules) has been prepared in conformance with official instructions and is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER(S) AUTHORIZED TO SIGN REPORT	DATE SIGNED
s/ Ed Storey	January 31, 1985
NAME AND TITLE OF OFFICER(S) AUTHORIZED TO SIGN REPORT	AREA CODE/PHONE NO.
Ed Storey, Senior Vice President and Cashier	503-668-5501

We, the undersigned directors, attest the correctness of this Report of Condition (including the supporting schedules) and declared that it has been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with official instructions and is true and correct.

SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR
s/ Fred L. Proctor	s/ Roberta Swan	

State of Oregon County of Clackamas

(MAKE MARK FOR NOTARY'S SEAL) Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of January 19 85

and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank

My commission expires March 23 1986 Notary Public

s/ Arlene Miller