



Photo by Matt Love

The Chester Club & Oyster Bar in South Bend, Washington, sits on pilings over the Willapa River and serves fresh local oysters.

## A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

### Chester Club and Oyster Bar

"Old, real old," the bartender at the Chester Club and Oyster Bar in South Bend, Washington, said when I asked the joint's age. I was there killing time before my presentation at the Pacific County Museum, one of the more charming little museums in the Pacific Northwest.

Old, real old. That's good enough for me. I tend to hate "new" in bars and restaurants.

The Chester Club sits atop pilings on the winding Willapa River. At low tide, there is nothing but beautiful brown grooved mud below you. Mud is good. Mud is a wonderful contrast to all the concrete in our lives.

I ordered a soft drink and surveyed the Chester's interior: two pool tables, a real CD jukebox (not the accursed digital kind,) old beer and liquor promotional posters featuring buxom women, hundreds of faded photographs documenting historic partying, and a huge black and white photograph of a local high school quarterback from the feathery 1970s, who was the spitting image of a wily young Ken Stabler, formerly of the Oakland Raiders and recently deceased.

What more could you ask from the décor in a great dive bar in rural Washington?

Something else about the Chester Club. They serve deep-fried oysters and oysters in shot glasses. The oysters are local. Everything about this joint feels local. They made me feel like a local, and I was there for half an hour at 11 a.m. on a summer weekday.

.....  
Matt Love lives in Astoria and is the author/editor of 14 books about Oregon, including "A Nice Piece of Astoria: A Narrative Guide." They are available at coastal bookstores and through [www.nestuccaspitpress.com](http://www.nestuccaspitpress.com)

## word nerd

By RYAN HUME

### Moor [mʊər]

*noun*

1. (People) a member of the Muslim group descended from Arab and Berber ancestry and hailing from north-west Africa which conquered Spain in the 8th century

2. (British) a wide-open and overgrown tract of uncultivated land; also, a swamp or game preserve

3. a place for mooring, like a dock

*verb*

4. to fix or secure an object, esp. a boat or ship, in place by line, cable or other means



Photo by Damian Mulinix

Boats are moored at the Port of Ilwaco in Washington.

#### Origin:

The three different primary definitions — referring to the people (proper noun, always capitalized), the British usage as applied to wild lands and the verb and noun forms meaning anchorage — all arrived at a common spelling following separate paths.

Before 1393, the people were known in English as *More*, which was borrowed from the Old

French of the same spelling by way of the Latin *Maurus* and the Greek *Mauros*, which referred to an inhabitant of Mauritania, the ancient African nation from which the Moors originated.

The British term meaning wasteland or marshland traces back to the Old English *mōr*, first recorded in *Beowulf* in 725.

The verb referring to the act of fixing a ship arrives from *moren*,

probably before 1200 and is related to the Old English *mærel*, which was a rope that could be used for such an act. *Mooring*, as a noun, has its first known use occur in 1420.

"In the background, with its own audience of sea lions, Port of Astoria staffers started stringing orange safety fencing along the first finger pier of P Dock, one of the three the Port has left at the East End Mooring Basin."

—Edward Stratton, "Haul-out hurdles," *The Daily Astorian*, Tuesday, May 5, 2015, P. 1

"We look on Astoria as the great fisheries port of this area. We hope you get your mooring basin, which will add materially to the \$20,000,000 the fishing industry brings annually to your community. We want to help get that mooring basin," Moores, who is also president of the Portland Rotary club and vice-president of Commonwealth, Inc., told the large gathering of businessmen at the luncheon held at Amato's Supper club."

—"Portland Men Visit Astoria," *The Oregonian*, Thursday, Feb. 28, 1946, P. 10

The United States Air Force Band of the Golden West

*The* **Commanders**  
**JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**FREE CONCERT**

**Liberty Theater**  
1203 Commercial Street  
Astoria, OR  
[www.liberty-theater.org](http://www.liberty-theater.org)

Tickets available at the box office  
503-224-8499

**August 30, 2015**  
**4:00 PM**

[www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil](http://www.bandofthegoldenwest.af.mil)  
<https://www.facebook.com/bandofthegoldenwest>  
<https://twitter.com/bandgoldenwest>

Like Us On [facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [Twitter](#)

## The Illahee Apartments



*Downtown Astoria's  
Most Respected  
Apartment Complex  
Since 1969.*

**1046 Grand Avenue  
Astoria, OR 97103**

**503-325-2280**