



I did this boat one afternoon on location at the West End Mooring Basin. It's the Linron, a great-looking little boat that someone is trying to put back together. You can see from the fuzziness of the sketch that the rain joined us for a while.

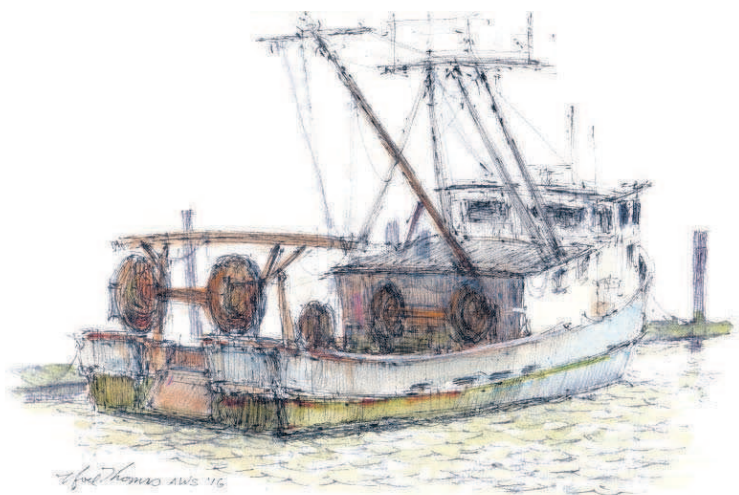
# Sketcherpoet

Astoria artist catches boats — on paper

By NOEL THOMAS  
Special to *The Daily Astorian*



**ABOVE:** This old gillnetter is at the boatyard in the West End Mooring Basin. It's in pretty bad shape, but I think it's going to be saved. I hope so. **RIGHT:** This one is so old there is no name visible on its rusting hull. It's been tied up near the 39th Street pier for years next to the Red Eagle, which is in the same sad condition. It rained a little on this sketch, too.



As a tribute to the fisherpoets, who know well what it's like to be on the vast ocean in a little boat, I've been out sketching some of the boats that have been part of Astoria's fishing history.

I think I'm old enough to tell my "I remember when" story of coming down from Longview, Washington, to the mouth of the Columbia River for the Salmon Derby with my dad in the boat he built.

I must have been 9 or 10 the day my pole went "Bam!", and almost flew overboard, but dad grabbed it, set the hook, then handed the pole back to me.

You don't forget catching your first salmon, not a 25-pounder.

Though I'm not a fisherman, and never owned a boat, I do love to catch them on paper.

*Noel Thomas is an Astoria artist. These and other sketches will be part of this weekend's group art show at the RiverSea Gallery.*