

Exhibit: About \$2 million is needed to update exhibits, building

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it worked out well that it was unveiled during Black History Month. The exhibit will be up until April.

In her research, Fukami found many stories about York. He risked his life to save Clark from a flash flood on the Missouri River. York and Clark were about the same age. Along the journey, Native American tribes showed a great interest and respect toward York, having never seen a black man before.

At the exhibit, quotes about York from the journals are printed out for visitors to take home with them. One excerpt from September 1804 states, "This day we saw several gangs or herds, of buffalo on the sides of the hills: One of our hunters killed one, and Captain Clarke's black servant killed two."

His voice counted

After reading the journal entries and viewing the artists' interpretations of York, the park wants visitors to ask themselves what they think York's journey was like as a member of the expedition.

One of York's best known moments on the expedition occurred on the Lower Columbia River.

The Corps was barely surviving on the north side of the river in 1805. The members held a vote to decide



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Different depictions of York in art are on display in the visitor center at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

where they should camp for the winter. It included the vote of York and Sacagawea, the bilingual Shoshone woman who accompanied the expedition.

With York's input, the Corps moved to Fort Clatsop. The inclusion did not change his status with the Corps, but it did show his voice counted.

"Once again, the story that the journal gives us is a

sense of what happens when you take an African-American slave and his owner out of the institution of slavery and put them on this journey," Fukami said.

Expanding the experience

The exhibit is accompanied by a permanent display titled "A Man Named York" in the park's visitor center.

Scott Tucker, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park superintendent, said he submitted a funding request this month to the National Park Service to upgrade the aging visitor center. About \$2 million is needed to update the exhibits and the building itself, Tucker said. If funded,



Scott Tucker

work would begin in about three years.

The visitor center lacks interactive exhibits that attract the younger generation, Tucker said. In addition, not all of the park's collections are being displayed since the visitor center does not have the right lighting for certain artifacts.

Funding would help expand York's story at the park, and how the entire Corps connects with the local area, Tucker said.

"One of the goals at the park is to create that next generation of visitor," he said. "Finding ways for people to further explore and expand their experience."

The National Park Service is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. As a part of the celebration, Tucker said, national parks are focused on attracting more younger, diverse people.

For the second year, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will hire a Latino heritage intern through the Environment for the Americas. The intern will help lead summer camps, which host students from the Northwest Regional Migrant Education program.

"We are finding ways for everyone in the community to connect with the resources we have," Tucker said.

Since the York exhibit went up, Fukami said, it has been received well by the public. The park rangers are pleased to see people interacting with the exhibit, and learning more about York.

At the end of each day, the rangers replace the printed quotes about York that visitors take home with them.

"They just hold on to it," Fukami said. "They take a piece of York with them."

Early African-Americans charted course in Clatsop

City leader, actress and entrepreneur left their marks

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The manila folder titled "African Americans" at the Clatsop County Heritage Center is millimeters thick, attesting to the decidedly monochromatic populace.

But among the more notable early black residents were an actress, a local oyster proprietor and possibly the first elected black officeholder in Oregon.

A city councilor

Gearhart was home to the first black man to hold public office in Oregon, according to the book "Gearhart Remembered" by the Gearhart Homeowners Association.

A railway conductor from Cedarville, Iowa, William Samuel Badger arrived with his wife, Emma Badger, in what was then Gearhart Park in 1915.

"No one would sell anything in Gearhart to a black man, so he went across the road onto county land, and he bought a two-wheel cart," said James Whitcomb Broucher Jr., an area resident at the time describing Badger's self-powered buggy for transporting passengers from the station.

In 1922, Badger ran unsuccessfully for Gearhart City Council, during the heyday of the Ku Klux Klan. He lost, but ran again and was elected in 1934 and 1936.

From the 1920s into the '40s, according to the book,



Roscoe Lee Dixon

Badger serviced local roads, maintained properties and ran vacation cabins, renting to white visitors until the Public Accommodations Bill in 1953 desegregated businesses in Oregon.

According to his 1953 obituary for William Badger in the Seaside Signal, the couple ran Badger's Chicken Dinner Inn for 17 years near Gearhart Junction. At the county heritage center, attached to a sign for Badger's, was another for a nearby all-white restaurant, the White Way, opened seemingly in protest by Clifford Johnson.

Socialist songstress

Plenty set Rosa Lemberg apart in early 20th century Astoria. According to "Rosalia," a book on her life by author Arvo Lindewall, Lemberg was born Rosa Emilia Clay in 1875, the illegitimate daughter of an Arabian-Namibian woman and a vice governor of British southwest Africa.

Raised in a Finnish missionary school in Namibia as a child, Lemberg immigrated as a teenager to Finland, where she became one of its first African-born citizens, before

immigrating to New York City in 1904. She married a traveling theater director, Lauri Lemberg, and moved to Ironwood, Michigan, and then Astoria's Finn Town in the 1910s.

Her husband eventually left for another job in California, and Rosa Lemberg, by then with a daughter, Mirja, and son, Orvo, became the drama and choir director for the Astoria Finnish Socialist Club.

In his book on the history of Finnish community halls, Reino Hannula mentioned Rosa Lemberg living in Astoria in 1915 as the club's theater director. He credited her "with the tremendous influence that the little theatre had on the West Coast Finns."

After being offered a teaching job for \$85 a month — twice what she made in Astoria — Rosa Lemberg left Astoria for Washington. She eventually settled in the Great Lakes region, died and was buried in Covington, Michigan, in 1959.

Roscoe's oysters

Badger wasn't the first black entrepreneur in the county.

Roscoe Lee Dixon operated Roscoe's Oyster House in Astoria into the 1880s.

Dixon was born in Virginia in 1843, according to an interview in 1974 with his daughters, Mabel and Myrtle Flowers, by Washington State University researchers for the Black Oral History Collection.

He eventually left on the Underground Railroad to Bedford, Massachusetts, before moving to Oregon, then Astoria, where he was listed in an 1880 census as a single restaurant-keeper. According to the Oregon Historical Society,

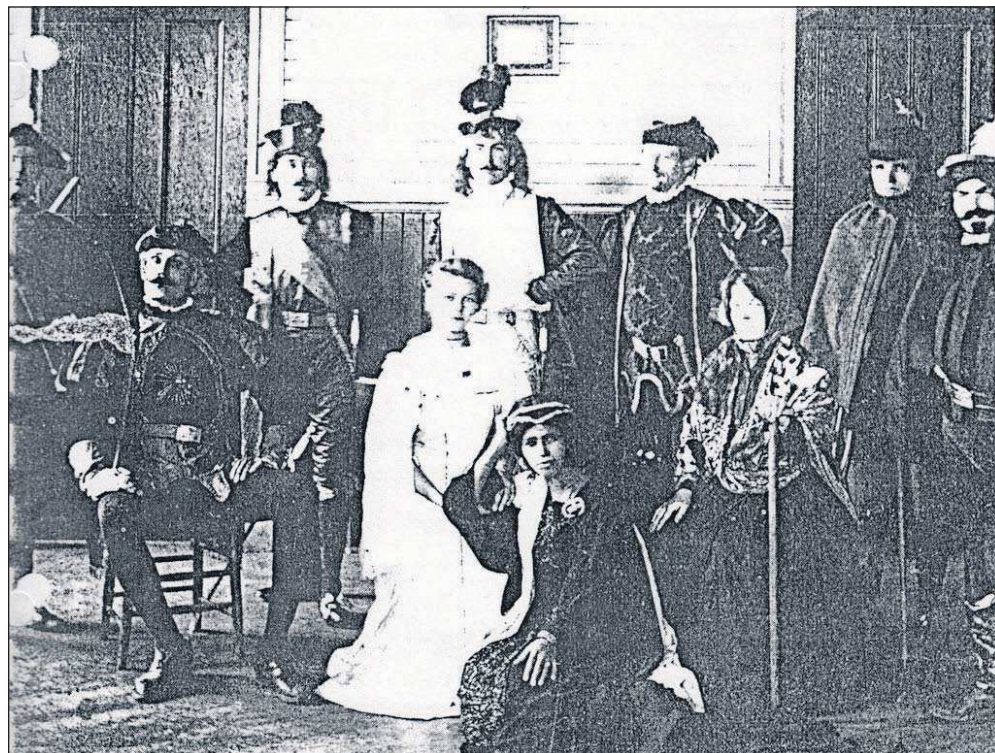


Photo courtesy of Clatsop County Historical Society

African immigrant and Finnish Socialist Rosa Lemberg, front and center, was an accomplished actress and songstress who spent time in Astoria in the early 20th century.

Dixon eventually married Theresa Antoinette Townes.

"I think there was a hotel in conjunction with this oyster house, and on his ledger were the names of many prominent men," one of the Flowers sisters said in the interview, adding the hotel served members of the powerful British commodities firm, Balfour, Guthrie & Co.

"My father lost his business because the railroad ... headquarters did not come to Astoria," she said. "I understand many people went broke at that time. And so then he went to Seattle."

By 1890, Dixon had moved to Seattle, where he died in 1916.



An early glass-plate negative shows Emma Badger, co-owner of Badger's Chicken Dinner Inn and wife of former Gearhart City Councilor William Badger.

Photo courtesy of the Clatsop County Heritage Center

Elk: Residents who violate ordinance could face \$250 fines

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"I think we only encourage them by certain residents wanting to give them food," Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala said Tuesday night after the City Commission gave initial approval to the ordinance. "Absolutely try to refrain from feeding the wildlife."

The ordinance would classify attracting or feeding wildlife as a public nuisance. Residents who violate the ordinance could face fines of up to \$250 for each offense.

Residents could still go out

and feed ducks and use feeders for songbirds or squirrels, provided that the feeders are reasonably designed to avoid attracting wildlife.

Last September, a bull elk went after a Hammond man, knocking him to the ground. The same aggressive elk chased a teenage girl. An officer with the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division tracked the elk and shot and killed the animal.

Another elk later blocked a teenage girl and her younger brother from a school bus stop in Hammond.

Last May, an elk charged a Gearhart woman who was on a hike.

Despite the danger, many see the elk as friendly and endearing.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman described one woman who would drive her vehicle into an elk herd and feed the animals through her window, allowing some elk to stick their heads inside.

Others have been seen taking pictures — even selfies — with the elk.

"It's just dangerous all the way around," Workman said.

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