

HISTORIC PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Arch Cape Tunnel Cannon Beach, Or
Woodg...

Photos courtesy of Cannon Beach History Center and Museum

The Arch Cape Tunnel.



The Arch Cape Tunnel

By **ELAINE TRUCKE**
Special to *The Daily Astorian*

Since its beginning, Arch Cape has been isolated.

The natural barriers of the Tillamook headland, Hug Point, the Arch Cape headland and Neahkahnie Mountain made it almost impossible to build a road following the coast.

Early settlers would use the beach as a highway, and in the 1910s the roadbed around Hug Point was blasted out, which made the commute between Cannon Beach and Arch Cape easier.

At that time, there was still no road to travel to and from Arch Cape, and it wasn't until 1916 that a surfaced road led into Seaside from Astoria. In 1919, legislation passed for the construction of a coast highway from Astoria to California. The highway known as U.S. Highway 101 was completed in 1936 shortly before tunnel construction began.

In a 1978 oral history conversation with Ed Carlson, he mentioned the difficulty of getting to and from Arch Cape and Cannon Beach, saying that, "before the tunnel was built, when our kids were small, we used to go around to (Highway) 26 and, I think, (Highway) 30, and go around Mohler to Wheeler and drive way up on Neah-

kahnie Mountain, and that was as far as you could go. We had to drive 40 miles to get up there and (we) were only 15 miles from Cannon Beach!"

In 1936, a contract by the Oregon highway department had authorized construction of .62 miles of highway roadbed that included 1,227.1 feet of tunnel, 26 feet wide and 23 feet high at Arch Cape.

Part of the contract included construction of a pile trestle bridge with a concrete deck that would be 166 feet in length. A tunnel was then blasted through the ridge of Arch Cape and high steel bridges were erected to span Arch Cape Creek, Short Sand Creek, and Necamey Creek.

The highway department set the completion date for Dec. 31, 1936, but because of heavy rains, mud, inexperienced supervision, improper equipment, and delay in getting the timber that was used for the lining delivered to the job site, they had extended the completion date to February 1938. However, it wasn't until March 1940 that all of the work was completed, which included replacing some of the treated timber and installing the curbs, gutters, concrete sills, and pavement.

Elaine Trucke is the executive director of the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum.



9-1-WHAT?
THE BEST OF THE WORST CALLS TO ASTORIA 911 DISPATCH

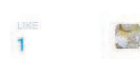
Keep it down

Sometimes you just need a little sleep. Like the woman in Warrenton who called emergency dispatch for help because her boyfriend would not let her go to sleep. Or the person disturbed by a party in a Seaside hotel room. You need sleep. How else will you have the energy to dance drunk in the middle of the street in Astoria on a Sunday afternoon?.

Follow reporter Kyle Spurr on his 9-1-What? Twitter watch, where a few of the sometimes head-scratching calls to area dispatch take center stage. The full feed is at www.twitter.com/9_1_WHAT.



{3/11 @ 1:40 a.m.} Woman requested help regarding her boyfriend not letting her go to sleep. #Warrenton



{3/13 @ 12:54 p.m.} Man dancing in the street appears intoxicated, wearing a dark green coat and brown pants. #Astoria

6:19 AM - 15 Mar 2016



{3/13 @ 8:14 a.m.} Report of a sea lion on the #Astoria Riverwalk.

6:17 AM - 15 Mar 2016



{3/14 @ 1:24 a.m.} Report of a disturbance. Subjects found to be enjoying a party in a hotel room, told to keep the noise down. #Seaside.

6:21 AM - 15 Mar 2016



{3/11 @ 6:08 p.m.} Theft of scooters. #Warrenton

6:16 AM - 15 Mar 2016

While other newspapers give you less, The Daily Astorian

GIVES YOU MORE

From left: Hillary Borrud, Mateusz Perkowski, Paris Achen

CAPITAL BUREAU

Our new **CAPITAL BUREAU** covers the state for you