

HISTORIC

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Clamshell Railroad's first run

By **AMY BOZORTH**
Special to *The Daily Astorian*

ILWACO, Wash. — On July 19, 1888, the quirky narrow gauge railroad that ran along the historic North Beach (now Long Beach) Peninsula celebrated the completion of a 2.4-mile-line stretching from Ilwaco in the south to Long Beach in the north.

Four flatcars fitted with railings, plank seats and cloth canopies overflowed with excited passengers eager to make the railroad's commemorative journey. Banquets held in both Ilwaco and Long Beach celebrated the momentous occasion with speeches presented by local dignitaries, who predicted that this little railroad was but the first in a series of rail lines that

would stretch along the West Coast all the way down to San Francisco.

While these grand dreams never came true, the quirky little railroad, fondly nicknamed "The Clamshell Railroad," "The Irregular, Rambling, and Never-Get-There Railroad," and "The Delay, Linger, and Wait Railroad," by locals, marked the beginning of a new age on the North Beach Peninsula.

By May of 1889, when the Ilwaco Railroad and Navigation Co. had completed its line to its northernmost terminus in Nahcotta, the fledgling communities once separated by miles of bumpy roads were unified by a single rail line that provided regular freight and passenger service. Miles of oceanfront vacation prop-

erty suddenly became accessible and hotels sprung up overnight along the I.R.&N.'s route, establishing the North Beach Peninsula as a premier tourist destination.

Though ending its illustrious career in September of 1930, the Clamshell Railroad is fondly remembered by locals and tourists alike. To learn more about the quirky railroad that ran along the historic North Beach Peninsula between 1888 and 1930, people can attend the Clamshell Railroad Days July 16 and July 17 at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco.

Amy Bozorth is the public relations and membership coordinator for the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco, Washington.



Submitted Photo

The Clamshell Railroad, a quirky little line that connected Ilwaco and Long Beach, Wash.



9-1-WHAT?

THE BEST OF THE WORST CALLS TO ASTORIA 911 DISPATCH

Open container

We hate to stereotype. But when we heard that a driver in Astoria got cited for an open container in a Jaguar, we were thinking, like, pinot grigio or something.

No. Dude had a 16-ounce pounder of Rainier in the center console.

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.

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT

{6/15 @ 8:15 a.m.} Caller reported a man walking down the street with a sword. The man had a cane, not a sword. #Warrenton

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT

{6/15 @ 1:12 p.m.} Driver in a Jaguar put a 16 oz. can of Rainier in his center console. He was cited for open container. #Astoria

9:02 AM - 23 Jun 2016

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT

{6/15 @ 8:02 p.m.} Chicken seen running around the U.S. Bank parking lot. #Astoria

9:05 AM - 23 Jun 2016

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT

{6/19 @ 12:49 a.m.} Caller asks for FBI contact to help with mailing a package. #Warrenton

10:59 AM - 24 Jun 2016

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT

{6/16 @ 12:56 p.m.} Caller reports neighbor has a high-pitched deer deterrent device and it's upsetting his family. #Astoria

9:08 AM - 23 Jun 2016

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