

# 'Memories of Megler' exhibit celebrates 50th anniversary of Astoria-Megler Bridge

## Ilwaco heritage museum opens exhibit July 29

ILWACO, Wash. — Fourteen miles from the mouth of the Columbia River, the 4.1-mile Astoria-Megler Bridge links Astoria to Point Ellice at Megler in Pacific County, Washington.

The area now known as Megler stretches around a historically important point of land with a rich transportation history for the Lower Columbia River. Water crossings by ferry began in 1908 at the site that is

now the Dismal Nitch Rest Area and continued until the opening of the Astoria-Megler Bridge 50 years ago on July 29, 1966.

The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum will open an exhibit exploring Megler from its acquisition by the Ilwaco Railroad and Navigation Company through the steam-ship era and into the auto-ferry years. Utilizing historic photographs and first-person memories, the exhibit "Memories of Megler" captures the end of the ferry era and the beginning of contemporary auto travel on U.S. Highway 101.

"The opening of the bridge was a big deal for coastal communities at the mouth of the Columbia River," said Betsy Millard, executive director of the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. "Easier auto access opened up both sides of the river to more travelers and made Astoria much more accessible to local residents."

"Memories of Megler" will be on view from July

29 through Oct. 2. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 2.

The museum is located at 115 S.E. Lake St. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free on Thursdays thanks to the Port of Ilwaco.

For more information, call 360-642-3446 or visit [columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org](http://columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo of the ferry sign at Megler was taken in May 1931.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo shows the early construction of the Astoria-Megler Bridge. The bridge was opened on July 29, 1966.



### Schedule of Classes and Events

**Astoria Studio Tour:**  
July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

**Wildlife Drawing with David Kitler:**  
August 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

**Zentangling with Sandi Kelley:**  
August 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and September 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Marbling Papers with Ellen Zimet:**  
August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

**Stronger Design with Linda Rothchikld Ollis:**  
September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

**Turning Your Marbled Papers into Masterpieces with Liz Walker:**  
September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

**Photo Image Transfer with Corrie Dietz:**  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Oil Painting with Robert Paulmenn:**  
Beginning in October 2016

**On-going Watercolor classes:** Every Wednesday afternoon  
**On-going Acrylic classes:** Every Thursday afternoon  
**Open Studio:** Every Thursday  
**Art videos and movies:** Every Friday

**Second Saturday Art Walks**

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo shows the ferry offloading vehicles at Megler, Washington.

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### Crossword Answer

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