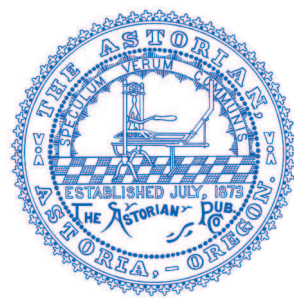


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2007

So far, California sea lions have been winning their contest for survival with the Washington and Oregon salmon heading upstream to spawn. That may be about to change.

Washington, Oregon and Idaho are asking Congress for permission to kill more than 80 sea lions a year to protect the salmon they feast on.

Since federal rules gave sea lions greater protection in the 1970s, the population of these salmon predators has grown as more gentle efforts called "nonlethal hazing" have not scared them away from their favorite meat.

Sea lions on the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam have been blasted with rubber buckshot, chased by boats, harassed by firecrackers and rockets and subjected to noise from underwater speakers.

The sea lions and the salmon have potent allies. Backing the salmon are the three Northwest states, American Indian tribes and four of the region's members of Congress. Backing the sea lions is the 10 million-member Humane Society of the United States.

The confrontation involves two of the nations pre-eminent environmental laws: the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

When it comes to wind and rain storms, Astoria has more than its share — enough to uproot trees and undermine hillsides.

But Astoria's abundant wind and water are also great resources that have the potential to produce clean, renewable energy, and city leaders are looking to do just that. A hydroelectric and wind power project feasibility study is now underway.

If results are favorable, Astoria could generate electricity to sell to utility companies and generate revenue for the city.

50 years ago — 1967

Ten students in the marine technology department of Clatsop Community College will fly to San Francisco Thursday with their instructor, Capt. J.S. Elsbree, to bring north an 80 foot boat, the Belle, owned by Elsbree's brother, J.H. Elsbree.

Elsbree is currently living aboard the vessel, a former Alaska cannery tender which has quarters for a dozen people on board. He plans to bring the boat to the East End Mooring Basin here and expects to make his home in Astoria.

The collegians are making the trip to gain experience in practical seamanship.

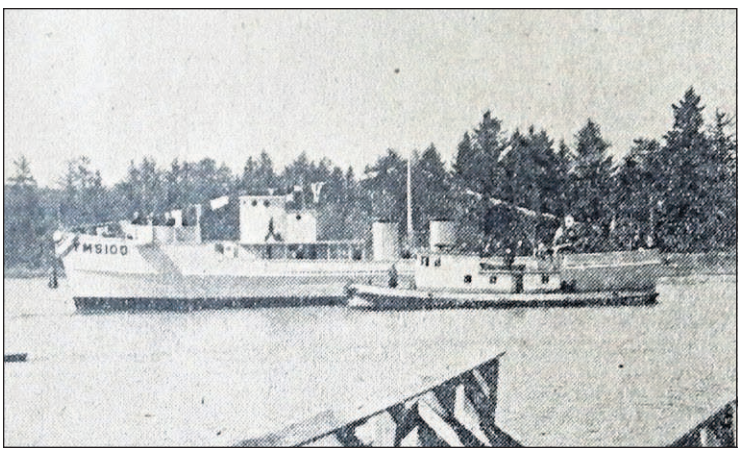
The City Council took under advisement Monday night a recommendation by the traffic safety committee to increase the penalty for overtime parking from 50 cents to \$1.

Purpose of the recommendation, the committee said, is to discourage the practice of "meter feeding" by people who leave their cars parked downtown all day long.

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Organizations and residents on the peninsula have for almost a year appeared before or written letters to the State Parks & Recreation department about appalling conditions of the North Jetty road west of Fort Canby.

A trip on the road indicated it is in such poor condition, it is impossible to travel in excess of 5 mph without causing damage to the car. In many cases holes as large as 6 and 8 feet in diameter appeared.

75 years ago — 1942



The Daily Astorian/File

The U.S. naval minesweeper YMS-100 rides on the Lewis and Clark River after her launching from the Astoria Marine Construction Co. ways Sunday. Three more of the craft are under construction and a total of 12 135-foot minesweepers will be built under present contract. Launching cradle is seen in the foreground.

Most of Astoria and a big contingent of Navy folk from Bremerton and Seattle were on hand at the bustling big Lewis and Clark River plant of the Astoria Marine Construction Co. Sunday morning to watch the YMS-100 slide majestically and with dignity into the water.

The YMS-100 was first to be launched of the four new 135-foot wooden Navy minesweepers that have been under construction since last summer in a big new iron-roofed shipbuilding plan just north of the old Astoria Marine plant on the tidelands beside Lewis and Clark River.

The pinball machine is steadily beating out the parking meter in the competition for John Public's spare nickels, if figures in the city treasurer's office are indicative of "which gets what."

Gasoline rationing to dealers in Astoria becomes more severe on Thursday when a 13 1/2 percent reduction under the 1941 consumption here is added to the present 20 percent reduction to make a total of 33 1/2 percent, dealers report.



SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

The national championship team behind Seaside Kids

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

The year 1956 represented a time when baseball was America's national pastime and every kid had a mitt with the signature of Mantle, Mays or Aaron.

In Seaside, young players starred not only for the tournament-bound Gulls' baseball team, but the Connie Mack American Legion team, with kids aged 17 to 19. The pitching was so



good, Seaside's Ed Rippet said, that Jim Dickson — a future major leaguer with the Kansas City Athletics —

played second-fiddle to ace Garry Holmes.

Seaside Kids' President John Morris and members Rippet and Jim Auld paid a visit to the Seaside Signal offices recently. They were each children when Seaside Kids was founded in 1956, and the experience was so profound they helped create and sustain a program that provides athletic time and team experience for kids to this day. "Active youth today, active leaders tomorrow," Morris said.

"We followed that team, we watched every game they ever played," Auld said. "That was the age we were. We lived at the ballpark."

Seaside's Connie Mack Legion team played competition from Portland, Forest Grove and Eugene, culminating in a three-day tournament held in Seaside. Seaside won three games in the finals, all of them by shutouts, earning the right to represent the state in the national finals held in San Bernardino, California. Holmes won two and Dickson won one, including a six-hit shutout in a 1-0 thriller.

Bill Fague managed the squad, assisted by coaches Chet Bowser and Bob Paschall and trainers George Gray and Leo "Pop" Leard.

When the Connie Mack team won the tournament in Seaside, Fague began a round of fundraising to get the team to the tournament.

"He said, 'Well, let's see if we can get some money and we'll fly them down there,'" Auld said. "He went through town and people started giving him money, and he recorded every bit of money he received and from who. They got an airplane, got the kids to Portland. None of them had ever been on an airplane before, and flew them down to San Bernardino for this tournament, billed as the West Coast World Series."

Amazingly, Holmes threw two three-hit games, defeating teams from Burien, Washington, and Stockton, California. Pitcher Hugh Springer won Game 2 in a 1-0 shutout. Dickson, while not on the mound, stayed in the lineup and joined Bob Canessa and Eric Blitz in the run-producing department. The team hit .374 in the series.

Seen from Seaside

Maybe you remember those old baseball movies where fans back in the day waited around for



File Photo
Seaside won a national championship in 1956 and spawned the organization Seaside Kids.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
Ed Rippet, Jim Auld and John Morris, lifetime participants and supporters of Seaside Kids.

telegraph operators to post the scores.

Such was the scene in Seaside. "You didn't have a lot of information going back and forth, other than somebody phoning information about the games and positing it in the drugstore windows," Auld said. "People knew the inning and what was going on. When they won that thing, everyone was elated."

Seaside American Legion collected 16 hits and 11 runs in the finale against Stockton.

After the team plane arrived back in Portland, the squad returned to Seaside for what the Signal called "an all-out welcome."

Hundreds of fans were waiting to greet them at the Junction to escort the "Pacific Coast champions" to the Elks Club for a reunion and celebration.

After the party — including a chicken dinner for 165 people — Fague found he still had money left over from the city's generous contributions. "He said I can't figure how to give it back, so let's use that money to create a Seaside kids' youth baseball program," Auld said. "From 1957 on, we operated as 'Seaside Kids Inc.' No kid would be charged to participate in our youth programs.

From that point on, it ran itself." Fague remained in charge until his death in 1985.

Back to the future

Seaside Kids, Inc. is launching its 61st year with a membership drive. Funds provide programs for more than 600 South County kids.

Activities include summer baseball and softball, recreational swimming, third- to sixth-grade football, fourth- to sixth-grade volleyball and boys and girls basketball clinics. Games are played in Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Seaside and Jewell.

Older teams play against teams in the Astoria league and the organization continues its affiliation with the Oregon Junior Baseball Association. Full uniforms are provided, and every athlete is guaranteed playing time.

"It used to be most of our programs were in the summer," Rippet said. "Now they're more concurrent with school. We'd like to think we're doing things for kids in their spare time."

Seaside Kids sponsors free swims in the summer months.

Auld, Rippet and Morris made a pitch for adult volunteers — coaches, concessionaires, even umpires. New programs, like bowling, require reliable staffing. "We need an adult person to step up and say, 'I'll organize it,' oversee it on a Saturday morning," Rippet said.

Big days for Seaside Kids include the Ducky Derby, the Sausage and Pancake Feed and the golf tournament, auction and dinner. And everybody is invited to support the organization.

"We get the people that send money in are often older people who don't even have kids in the program," Auld said. "They continue to send that check in. They recognize the value of Seaside Kids. For us, we can all say it gave us something to look forward to and activities to participate in. It's very important to get kids out and get them involved in some activities and learn teamwork."

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian's* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.