



William C. Elder

Astoria

May 24, 1918 — Oct. 30, 2017

World War II veteran and longtime Astoria, Oregon, resident William C. "Bill" Elder passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Monday, Oct. 30, 2017 at the age of 99.

He was best known locally for his many years as one of the management personnel with Ocean Foods of Astoria Inc. He made several acquaintances of local fishermen and fisheries personnel up and down the West Coast and in Alaska.

Elder was born at home on May 24, 1918, in Portland, Oregon, to John R. Elder of Omaha, Nebraska, and Alice Fay (Hubbard) Elder of Mitchell, South Dakota. He had two sisters, one older, Mildred (Elder) Bridwell, and her husband, Walter Bridwell, who both preceded him in death; and one younger sister, Margaret (Elder) Woods, who survives. Her husband, Charles Woods, is deceased.

He attended elementary school in Oak Grove, Oregon, and graduated from Milwaukie High School in 1936. After high school, he attended business college, studying accounting/bookkeeping for one year at Oregon Institute of Technology, and for one year at Multnomah Junior College.

During that time he worked several different jobs which include Oak Grove Drug Store, Vern L. Wenger Radio & Appliance Store in Portland, as a lifeguard at Oswego Lake and in Gladstone on the Clackamas River. From 1939 to 1941, he taught swimming and life-saving courses for Clackamas County.

On Jan. 2, 1942, he enlisted in the Coast Guard in Port Townsend, Washington, after the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. During his time in the Coast Guard, he was first stationed stateside at the Point Adams Coast Guard Station in Hammond, Oregon. During his time at Point Adams, Elder received a Letter of Commendation from the Coast Guard commander after swimming with the Coast Guard Lifeboat Triumph, with the heaving line attached, through breakers, to a tuna boat stranded on Peacock Spit north of the Columbia River. After attaching the line, they were able to tow the boat to safety.

In late September 1942, he met his soon-to-be wife, Catherine N. Erickson, at a USO dance in Astoria; she preceded him in death in 2012. Shortly after they met, Elder was notified that he would be deployed to the South Pacific after the person who was supposed to go broke his arm. He had only a day's notice to say his goodbyes, but vowed to keep in touch with Catherine.

He was stationed on the USS Hunter Liggett as the Navy mail clerk, with the rank of boatswain's mate second class. He joined the Asiatic Pacific Campaign, South Pacific Area, and Solomon Island Campaign, Guadalcanal through Bougainville, receiving two Bronze Stars for his efforts there by operating the landing barges that brought the troops from the ship to the beach on Guadalcanal; then back to the American Area Campaign, where he received the World War II Victory Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal.

During his time in the South Pacific, he continued to write to Catherine, and proposed to her in one of his letters. She accepted his proposal, so he sent money to his sister to purchase the engagement ring, and while on leave in December 1943, they eloped on New

Year's Eve in Oregon City, where his sister, Mildred, and her husband served as witnesses.

After their marriage and the USS Hunter Liggett's return to the United States, Catherine joined Bill in San Francisco, and later San Diego. In early 1945, they returned to Hammond, where Bill was again stationed at Point Adams Coast Guard Station, where he remained until his honorable discharge on June 3, 1946, in Seattle.

Elder and his wife made their permanent home in Astoria, where they raised their four children, William R. Elder, twins Richard A. Elder and Donald D. Elder, and their daughter Sandra K. (Elder) O'Kelley. Elder worked as a commercial fisherman in trawling and tuna operations, and served as secretary of the Otter Trawl Union.

In March 1948 he was hired by Sebastian Stuart Fish Co. in Astoria as office manager, but became more involved with operations of the plant. In 1966, he was named assistant manager when Sebastian Stuart changed hands, and Ocean Foods of Astoria was formed. He retired after 40 years with the company, and later was rehired on a retainer basis for seven years, overseeing several Ocean Beauty holdings along the West Coast and in Alaska, and was also associated with the Oregon Trawl Commission for six years.

Bill was involved in several civic and athletic activities. He played several years of fast-pitch softball with local teams, and while still in the Coast Guard at Hammond, he played both handball and racquetball at the YMCA, and later at Tongue Point after the Y closed. He was a 43-year member of the Astoria Golf and Country Club, resigning just this year; a 60-plus year member of the Astoria Elks Lodge BPOE No. 180; a longtime member of the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans; a member of the Columbia River Maritime Museum; and, most recently, became the oldest member of the Clatsop Post 12 American Legion.

Elder is survived by his son, William R. and spouse, Marlene, and their children, William Jr., Rachel, Matthew, Leah, Daniel and Aaron, as well as their spouses, significant others and grandchildren; son Richard A. and spouse, Patricia, and their children, Peter, Scott and Sarah, as well as their spouses, significant others and grandchild; son Donald D. and his children, Jason and spouse, Kim, and Jennifer; and daughter Sandra K. and spouse, Shawn O'Kelley, and their children, John, Catherine, Nicole and Lindsay as well as their spouses, significant others and grandchildren; his wife's sisters, Winifred Doran and Frances Crandall and spouse, George Crandall; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Public viewing will be Friday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, with funeral services at 1 p.m., at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave., in Astoria, Oregon. Private interment will follow immediately after the service.

A public celebration of life will be held later this month. Details will be posted in The Daily Astorian.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Columbia River Maritime Museum or a charity of your choice.

Please sign our online guest book at www.caldwellsmortuary.com

Warrenton commissioners advocate for library levy

Election takes place Tuesday

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — With only six days until the election, a town hall meeting in Warrenton Wednesday night became one of the last public forums for city commissioners to advocate for a levy to fund library operations.

Measure 4-189 is the first time in nearly 15 years that the city has asked voters to consider increasing the library's operational levy. If the measure passes Tuesday, the levy would jump from 9 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value to 33 cents, raising an estimated \$933,773 over the next five years.

It is a modest increase, enough to ensure the library, "an important part of our community," wouldn't have to draw on other city funds to stay open and could add some services, Commissioner Rick Newton said.

Library board members say the community support is there. Members of a local political action committee, Save Our Library, have printed and distributed posters and walked door-to-door to encourage people to vote "yes" on the levy.

Kelsey Balensifer, library board chairwoman, said she thinks the support would



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The shelves at the Warrenton Community Library are full after staff and volunteers moved to a new facility at the end of May.

have been there for the library even if it were still located in Hammond.

But the move to Main Avenue this summer brought the library into the middle of downtown. Traffic through the library — and awareness of what it offers — has greatly increased, she said.

In a presentation about the library Wednesday night, site manager Nettie-Lee Calog said the next big step for the library if the measure passes is to add automation services — library bar codes on the books and a computer system that tracks where the books are and allows people to browse the library's catalog on their home computers. Library staff and volun-

teers still hand stamp due dates on the books and keep track of the collection through a card catalog system.

Calog also hopes to add a children's librarian and be able to be open in the evenings.

"Right now, we're just bare bones," Calog said, crediting a diligent group of volunteers with keeping the library afloat. The library has only two paid employees, both working part time.

Overall, Mayor Henry Balensifer said, "We're going to offer more."

As Calog started talking about what she plans to do "if the levy passes," she paused and corrected to, "when the levy passes."

States seek candidates for fishery advisory groups

The Daily Astorian

Oregon and Washington state fishery managers are looking for candidates for advisory committees that provide guidance on sport and commercial fishing issues on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Each term is for three years, beginning in 2018. The groups meet two to four times a year and assist with developing recommendations for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and smelt fisheries. Members are expected to provide comments on issues in the North of Falcon season-setting process for salmon fisheries, managed jointly by the two states. They also provide comments on Columbia River Compact commercial fishing hearings and joint state hearings on recreational fishing regulations.

"Advisory group members provide an important voice for the fishing public," said Tucker Jones, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's program manager for ocean salmon and Columbia River fisheries. "We are looking for candidates who are interested in filling that role."

The states will choose up to 20 candidates for each advisory group, striving to represent various aspects of the fishing industry on the Columbia River.

Any group or individual may submit a nomination, and nominations will be accepted through Nov. 30. Nominations must include a resume with contact

information and a statement that describes the nominee's fishing experience, interest in serving on the committee and ability to communicate with constituents. Current members may reapply but should contact state staff.

Nominations may be submitted by mail to John North, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 17330 SE Clackamas, OR 97015, by fax at 971-673-6072 or by email to john.a.north@state.or.us

More information may be found at the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department's Columbia River Fisheries Management page online.

County accepting applicants for tax panel

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County residents can now apply to serve on the county Board of Property Tax Appeals next year.

While the Board of Commissioners appoints one person, three other positions are selected by the county clerk from a pool of applicants who do not hold public office. County employees or employees of other taxing districts in the county are not eligible.

The appeals board considers requests from residents to decrease their real market or assessed property values. It also can excuse penalties or late filings of property returns. The 2017-18 board will meet several times during the day in the early half of next year.

Applications are due Nov. 27 by 5 p.m. Forms are available at www.co.clatsop.or.us, the Clatsop County Manager's Office at 800 Exchange St. in Astoria or at 503-325-1000.

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Fall Bazaar & Holiday Sale

**Craft Items • Gifts • Baked Goods
Holiday Decorations & much more!**

NOVEMBER 3rd & 4th 9AM-4PM

CLATSOP CARE CENTER
646 16th St., Astoria

Proceeds from the sale will be used to support a variety of resident activities

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CMH General Surgery Clinic Has Moved

The CMH General Surgery Clinic and wound care services has moved to a new location. The new location will give us more space and allow us to serve you better:

Professional Office Bldg #1
2055 Exchange Street, Ste 270
Astoria, OR 97103
Phone: 503-338-4670
Fax: 503-338-4671

To reach the new location, park on the west side of Columbia Memorial Hospital and enter through the main doors. Make a quick right and follow the hallway to Professional Office Building #1. Use the stairs or elevator on your left to reach the second floor and Suite 270.

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Clatsop Post 12 Food Bank Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner

All Proceeds to the Clatsop Food Bank

Friday Nov. 3rd
4-6 pm or until gone
\$8⁰⁰ **6PM**
"Karaoke Dave"

Children's Christmas Toy Fundraiser
BBQ Pork Rib Dinner
All Proceeds to Clatsop County Children

Saturday Nov. 4th
3-6 pm or until gone
\$10⁰⁰ **Music by Greg Parke**

Both Dinners are Open to the Public
ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
Clatsop Post 12
1132 Exchange Street
325-5771