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OPINION

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 4 • 2015

125TH ANNIVERSARY FLASHBACK

1890 | THE WEST ❖ FLORENCE TIMES ❖ THE SIUSLAW OAR ❖ THE SIUSLAW NEWS ❖ SIUSLAW NEWS | 2015

This year marks Siuslaw News' quasiquintennial, our 125th anniversary, a remarkable achievement for any business in a small community like Florence. To commemorate this milestone, throughout the year we'll feature some of the town's history as originally published in the newspaper, including historic articles and photos from more than a century ago.

Loading lumber at Siuslaw Port in 1910

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED FEB. 5, 1960 ❖ THE SIUSLAW OAR, VOL. 32, No. 36

Ben Shirley recalls loading lumber in these schooners in 1910, the year he came to the Siuslaw.

The scene pictured (at right) is at Hurd Lumber Co. mill that later became Porter Bros. It stood for many years on the site of the present city docks.

Mr. Shirley was one of the loaders in the summer and remembers that in the operation, there were four men on the dock who placed the lumber in parcels in a sling. A donkey engine on the boat lifted the load aboard. Four workmen,

usually of the boat crew, carefully stacked it in the hold to balance. Next, the deck was loaded until water came over the rear. Tarpaulin was secured over the load.

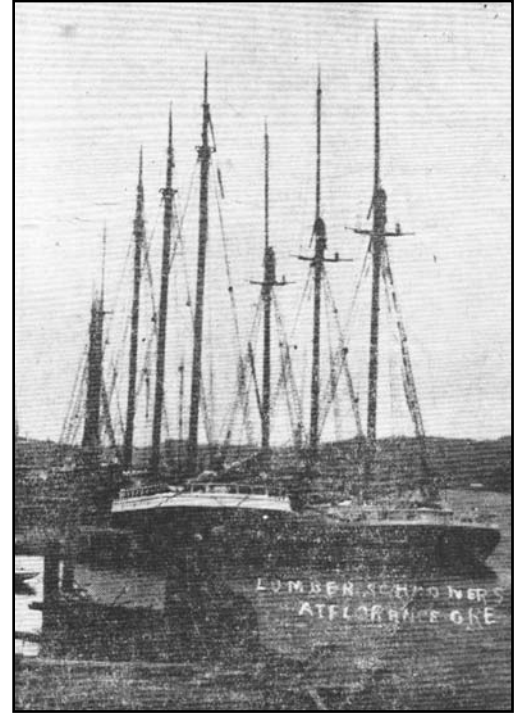
Shifts were 10 hours, with 10 a.m. coffee break and an hour at noon for lunch. Often the loading was carried on round the clock and took two days. The market was good for Siuslaw lumber and little time was lost in port.

The three-masters started coming in the spring, usually one at a

time, but occasionally three or four — such as the Oakland, Sausalito, Hugh Hogan and Washcalore — would be docked at the mill.

The loaded schooners were towed to sea by tugboat and, with sails unfurled, the ships were on their way to San Francisco and the waiting market. Rough air-dried fir lumber was principal cargo from the mill.

Mr. Shirley arrived here Jan. 5, 1910, following employment in a mill at Coburg.



This photo, "Lumber Schooners at Florence, Ore.," shows ships docked at the city's port in 1910.

NEIGHBORS



Hawaiian Adventure — Part III

BOB JACKSON
NEIGHBORHOOD CORRESPONDENT
For the Siuslaw News

Because of the contrasting life-experiences as a logger, tugboat and construction worker, I am nonplussed at the rigid protocol that states formal, sartorial attire, including the wearing of a tie, must be observed before entering the dining room of this luxury cruise ship.

The menu itself is an eye-popping experience. I order papaya, stuffed with lobster and curried rice sauce for dinner, plus some other things with French sounding names that I cannot

pronounce. The selections on the menu would put a fine hotel to shame.

Every course in the dinner is presented as if it had been prepared for a photo layout in a gourmet magazine. We have our own table, complete with fresh flowers — even a finger bowl; something I had never seen before, and tried to drink out of (before Peggy stopped me).

It is almost too much for these hicks from Westlake, Ore., to comprehend. And our nattily uniformed waitress informs us that she will be

exclusively assigned to our table until we leave the ship.

It is strange seeing a menu replete with rich expensive food fit for a king, and yet, with no prices, nor any limits — even with the fancy desserts.

We are up early the first morning out, to have what is called a continental breakfast at the pool buffet, as we wanted to avoid the mandatory dress-up routine for the fancy dining room. It is an open-air space, looking out over the swimming pool and the stern of the ship.

I mention to Peggy that it brings back memories of gun watches spent on a dark-gray warship in the Aleutians during World War II. Like back then, the long-winged, ubiquitous albatross are back — dipping

and soaring above our foaming wake, while incredulously overtaking the ship — without ever flapping a wing.

Fresh donuts, pineapple juice, coffee and delicious Danish pastries are leisurely enjoyed. Buffet style, it is like an open-air picnic; with chilled fresh pineapple, papaya, bacon, ham, sausage, hash browns, biscuits, gravy, cinnamon rolls, eggs benedict, etc. It seems nothing has been overlooked.

Because of the fresh sea air and our exuberant spirits, we probably overeat, but we are intending to fully immerse ourselves into every moment of this luxurious, sybaritic lifestyle.

Shortly after breakfast, we enter Long Beach harbor, slipping sedately

past San Pedro and a string of yacht harbors filled with gunwale to gunwale yachts, most appearing to be over 100 feet long. We dock at Wilmington.

I find it difficult to contemplate the reality that there are so many humans living in these big cities who are able to spend lavish amounts of big bucks for pleasure craft like these. The figures for moorage fees, upkeep, insurance, etc., boggles the mind, without even mentioning fuel costs (if they are ever fired up). It is hard to chamber the reality that these scenes of extravagant opulence are repeated in every harbor indented on the hundreds of miles of coastline in California.

And I don't think we are in Florence anymore, "Auntie Em"!

LETTERS

Eels for Romney

The "Gelded Old Party" (GOP) resurrecting two-time loser Mitt Romney for nomination and president, brings to mind the old New England sea coast story where the wife is told for the first time that the body of her drowned husband has been recovered. The delegation approaches the wife to say, "We found Kenny, and he's full of eels." She replied, "Bring me the eels, and set him again."

(With all credit to John Gould, wonderful long-time writer for Christian Science Monitor, author: "Maine Lingo," 1975.)

Rand Dawson
Siltcoos Lake

World-class entertainment

You have done it to me again. As I noted in a previous letter, my friends advised me when recently moving here from Washington, D.C., "you are going to the boondocks, cultural wasteland, forget good music!" Well, after experiencing the magnificent ballet, and then the world class "Les Miserables," you have now given me Marie-Josée Lord. I now must complain because I can find nothing to complain about in this delightful town.

Ms. Lord's performance was achingly beautiful. She bores right into the inmost part of one, and shivers the soul. Her rendering of



"Sempre Libera" from "La Traviata" — "Oh! Oh! Amore! Follie! Gioir!" — was almost too much to bear. It brought me to tears. Then she ended with a soaring rendition of my favorite hymn, "Amazing Grace." Haiti, and Canada, and God, have given us a great gift. Can she move here?

All of us residents have to clap our hands and thank Ernie and Maggie Dowd, Nancy Pearson, Charlie Pennington, and all the

directors and others who are bringing such wonderful performances to us through the Seacoast Entertainment Association.

What's next?

Bob DuBose
Florence

Nutty idea

Free two-year college for all. The president cannot levy taxes or spend the funds without congress. Congress will never allow this because it is a nutty idea. It would flood the schools with D and F (grade) students. Besides, the feds do not yet have control over the state education system. A reasonable idea would be to provide assistance to a student who maintained a 3.5 average in high school and could prove they needed funds for college.

The president believes in income redistribution, which is socialism or communism. Take your pick. He also claims that the biggest problem we face today is man-caused global warming. This is a hoax and can be disproved with one sentence: The rest of the planets are warming at the same rate as Earth.

The biggest problem we face today is the nation of Islam. A billion Muslims want to take over the world.

Martin Cable
Florence

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