

A look at life in Seaside after ‘The Great War’

BETWEEN THE COVERS

ESTHER MOBERG



As World War I ended and life started to return to normal in Seaside, many changes occurred rapidly. In 1919, The Seaside Library was housed in the recently renovated Soldiers and Sailors club that had been turned back over to the city for library, public restroom, and civic meeting use. The city had added women’s restrooms and made a nicer meeting place. In 1919 a collaboration was formed between the Seaside City Council, Breakwater Association (men’s civic group), and the newly formed Women’s Civic Improvement Club to raise funds for the restroom and library. There had already been a ladies civic group in town but it disbanded during World War I. Mrs. Hurd, one of the two vice presidents of the new Women’s Civic Improvement Club, was the current mayor’s wife. The new women’s group began to take the library in hand and met regularly to develop the library’s place in the community. 50 books were donated to the library from this group including two boy’s books and a set of 14 Waverly novels by Sir Walter Scott. The plan was to continue to add to this collection throughout the winter of 1919. Weekly meetings of the new ladies club, held every Tuesday at the restrooms and library or city hall, included everything from arranging the books in the library to card parties. In August of 1919 it was mentioned that hundreds of visitors and locals were visiting the new restrooms and library and another place it was mentioned that 5,000 visitors and locals visited in July alone.

Food socials, bake sales, and craft fairs were held to raise funds



Traffic at the Turnaround by the Prom in the early 1920s.

COURTESY SEASIDE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

to keep the library and restrooms open during the winter time in 1919. Thanks to a storm during one of the fundraisers, attendance skyrocketed and the ladies group had to run to the grocery store to quickly make more food. At this particular fundraiser they raised \$215 dollars. This doesn’t seem like a lot in today’s prices until you compare it to a fundraiser for the fire department that same year which raised \$150 to purchase a new fire truck.

Wild storms in Seaside haven’t changed much over the past 100 years. High winds in the winter of 1919 took the roofs off buildings and snapped off trees. One small bridge was washed away as well, taking with it 30 feet of the main water pipe that supplied Seaside with water. For over 24 hours the city of Seaside was without water as well as having

their telephone lines down. Logs that were being held by the Prouty lumber company on the Necanicum river (near what is now the current mill pond park) washed down the river and nearly out to sea and it was feared that the Broadway bridge might be damaged by so many logs in a jam but the bridge handled the logs running against it, and lumbermen were able to gather up the majority of the logs again. In some places water was four feet deep on the roads. The winds were estimated to have been around 80 miles an hour.

During 1919 to 1920 some other items of significance in Seaside were proposed that you may have heard of or remember: The Lewis and Clark salt cairn was given to the Oregon Historical Society by Mrs. Charles Moffitt. A pier stretching out into the water from the end of

Broadway was planned. That same year, Tillamook Head trail was planned as a driving route starting in Seaside, going over Tillamook Head, and ending at Indian Beach. A road was also created from Thompson Falls Road in Lewis and Clark to Seaside for the ranchers out in Lewis and Clark to have access to the coast. Talks had begun to build the Young’s Bay Bridge. The turnaround was also created and the prom was continually being rebuilt (the wooden sidewalk would often need replacing) with more sections added over time. A ‘competent man’ was hired for the new bureau of information for visitors during the three months of summer and this bureau was located in the library in addition to the librarian Miss Clara Gilman who ran the library services and restrooms. The city and Break-

water club together paid a total of \$150 per month in 1919 for the Librarian’s salary and maintenance of the library and restrooms.

On Christmas day 1919, 19 young elk, mostly does, were brought to the coast from Wallowa County to add to the native elk in the area. They arrived by train and people from Seaside piled on the train to ride with the elk to their final destination in Necanicum valley. At one point prior to 1919, native elk in Clatsop County had been driven to near extinction after the elk were hunted for their horns, hides, and teeth.

As you can tell, things were hopping back in 1919 after the war, and there was much to keep the good people of Seaside busy, especially during the summer months.

LETTERS

Now is time for federal tsunami funds

With less than 90 days to go until the planned Seaside school bond election, it would seem that Sen. Ron Wyden should be reporting back about the amount of funds the federal government will provide for relocating Seaside schools out of the tsunami inundation zone.

It was reported that on his visit several months ago to Seaside, he was quite vocal about the federal government sharing in the funding for this effort.

It would also seem that if the federal government ponies up a contribution then the State of Oregon should match these federal funds. Is this an input that the voters can expect to hear from Rep. Deborah Boone and Sen. Betsy Johnson?

If the feds provide \$30 million and the state provides \$30 million in funding, then local voters might be much more likely to approve a \$40 million bond.

With no information on federal and state funds that will be available, it would seem to be much more difficult to secure local voter

bonding approval for the whole \$100 million.

**John Dunzer
Seaside**

Ferry memories

The Astoria ferry boat brings back some fond memories of yesteryear. In 1930 and 1940, my parents would put my brother Don and I on a ferry boat in Portland and send us to Astoria during the summer (no adult chaperone).

In Astoria, Aunt Wilma, Uncle Lee and Cousin Carol Gregory would meet us, and we would stay with them at their church, which is now a bed and breakfast next to the Masonic Temple.

At least two times each year (or was it once?), we were each given 10 cents and told to walk down to the ferry landing and get on board and ride over to the Washington side two times, and then get off and walk back home. Seems amazing that children were allowed to get around like that, but we even walked down to the cannery where my aunt filleted fish, and she would give us an eyeball to play with.

I guess we must have been a handful, because we were eventually sent out to the

Schulback farm, where my grandma was busy raising a family whose mother had passed away. We wound up helping peel chittem bark and milking cows.

Mr. Schulback took us to the steam baths in Uniontown, and that was a culture shock for a couple of kids, since nobody wore clothes.

I can imagine how Joe, August and Adolph felt about babysitting two kids, age 6 and 7, but we were put on a bus and sent back to Reedville, and later on to Vanport.

**Bob Cook
Seaside**

Trump and Russia

Vladimir Putin gave Donald Trump a nice present when he released Kremlin-hacked internal Democratic National Committee emails, apparently biased against Bernie Sanders, just at the beginning of the Democratic convention. The result was exactly as intended — disruption and discord among the Democratic delegates at the convention, ending in the resignation of the DNC chairwoman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

During The Donald’s next speech he thanked Mr. Putin profusely for his assistance, as-

serting that this new information from Russia will turn the tide and help him get elected president of the US. Unfortunately, The Donald’s propensity toward speaking before thinking took over at that point, and he then invited his buddy Putin to hack into U.S. State Department computers and locate some other emails that he thought would help with his campaign.

Forethought is definitely not one of Mr. Trump’s long suits, or he would have realized that inviting a foreign power, particularly a more or less unfriendly one, to hack into our government’s computers is very close to treason. When asked early in the primary campaign about Vladimir P., The Donald said that they “have a close relationship.” After this little “error” of judgment in his speech, in a later interview, he asserted that he had “never met the man.” And, he does this with a straight face.

Would Russia like to see Trump as president of this country? You bet. Vladimir is a product of the Soviet Union, and he yearns to make Russia great again (sound familiar?) in that image, lording the power of his huge country over his small neighbors. Trump would

gut NATO, leaving the Baltic states wide open to Russian invasion without any real resistance, just like in Ukraine.

If you would like our country to be a mirror image of Russia, where there is no free press, no freedom of speech, no freedom of assemblage,

no right to address grievances against the government, where the working classes live in extreme poverty and those in power become extremely rich, then Donald Trump is your man.

**Rod Dawson
Seaside**

Registration open now for new Seaside students

Seaside High School announces registration for students who are New-to-Seaside School District will take place Aug. 23-25. Please call the high school at 503-738-5586 to schedule an appointment with the counselors.

New students should bring a birth certificate, immunization records, a transcript and any other documents from their previous school. Returning students (including incoming freshmen from Broadway Middle School) register on Thursday, Aug. 18, seniors, 9-10 a.m.; juniors, 10-11 a.m.; lunch break; sophomores, noon to 1 p.m.; freshmen, 1 to 2 p.m.

Registration and enrollment packets have been mailed.

For additional packets, stop by the high school office. Students must bring these completed forms with them on registration day, along with the required \$25 activities fee. School portraits will also be taken on registration day and students should

bring payment for those as well. All students, including seniors, must have their picture taken, regardless of whether or not a student is purchasing a picture package. New students and freshmen begin school on Tuesday, Sept. 6, for orientation.

Seaside Heights, Gearhart signup

Seaside Heights Elementary School registration takes place Monday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for students last name A-L; Tuesday, Aug. 23, for last

name M-Z. Thursday, Aug. 25, from 4 to 8 p.m., last names A-Z may be registered.

Gearhart Elementary School registration takes place Wednesday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday for last name A-L, Aug. 26, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for students last name M-Z.

Check the school district website for bus schedules (one week prior to the start of school). Wednesday, Sept. 7, is the first day of school for all returning students (grades 10-12). For further information,

please call the school at 503-738-5586.

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