

A look at life in Seaside in the 1920s and 1930s

Looking back again in history, Seaside during the early 1920s seemed a sunny, happy place, with a new editor of the Seaside Signal. E.N. Hurd liked to keep a mostly positive outlook in the newspaper in spite of uncertain financial situations sweeping across the nation. The previous editor of the signal, Robert Watson, had a personal vendetta against one of the local saloon owners, B.J. Callahan, and often used the paper to state his opinions about Callahan and other things he liked or didn't like, as loudly as possible. The new editor changed this to everything he reported being slightly sugar-coated, even while small rural banks across the United States were steadily failing at the rate of about 600 a year in the 1920s leading up to the great 1929 stock market crash. Seaside's own bank failed in 1927, coincidentally at the same time as the Seaside Signal changed hands. However, from the headlines in the Seaside Signal, it seemed all was rosy in Seaside. A few indicators that some things were tight were mentioned in the paper: gasoline shortages as gas for cars ran out in the entire county, and new expected shipments were not up to meeting the demand. The automobile was still fairly new and car accidents were listed

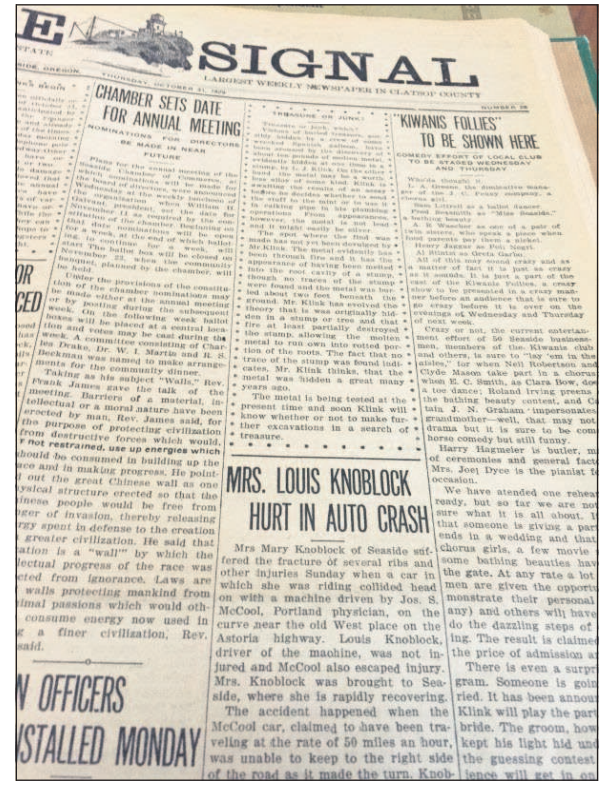
BETWEEN THE COVERS ESTHER MOBERG



weekly, often with cars tipping over on the beach or being stuck in mud for hours at a time. Most accidents resulted in bruising or cuts and scrapes with only a few serious injuries when cars collided. The mayor apparently took some people out for practice in avoiding the larger mud holes but even so people seemed to still get stuck. In the 1920s, Seaside contracted for water from the city of Warrenton, who used the Skipanon River as their main water source. The water flow to Seaside through clay pipes was at times problematic, and in 1925 Seaside created a new water system and watershed for Seaside. At this time Gearhart signed up for water from Seaside, however they would eventually end up going back to buying water from Warrenton. In one incident between Seaside and Gearhart, the water bill in one month for the city exceeded their total budget for the year because the meter said millions of gallons went to Gearhart, when in fact they only received several hundred thousand

gallons due to faulty water pressure and leaky pipes. Water resources in the 1920s across the county were often problematic due to pipes that lacked the right pressure, how far they were from the source, and an inability to properly maintain the pipes. The Bungalow, the local dance pavilion, burned down in the 1920s and a New Bungalow was built that held the local dances and included new styles of music including a saxophone player. As usual, most summer businesses in the west part of Seaside closed in September for the fall and winter after the summer visitors left.

In the 1920s the Women's Club was the main supporter of many activities for the city including the dahlia fair and the city library. Over 300 books had been received by the library during the summer of 1920 as visitors came to Seaside and donated reading material to the library. Mrs. Hurd was president of the club through 1920. The Woman's Club had several different groups including 'home economics', 'literary department', and a 'music department' from which the club meetings were entertained on various topics. Both the Breakwater (men's chamber group) and the Women's Club worked together to put on fund-



One Signal editor was considered "soft" on hard news. This is the Signal the week of the 1929 stock market crash.

FILE PHOTO

raisers that helped beautify the city and purchase books for the library. One joint fundraiser they did was based on the 1849 pioneer and gold rush days and included Wild West themed dances (held at the New Bungalow), games, sideshows, and other curiosities. Some books that

were added to the library shelves in 1920 (that you may still read today) included books by Zane Grey, Gene Stratton Porter, Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, the Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling, and some of the Tarzan books by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

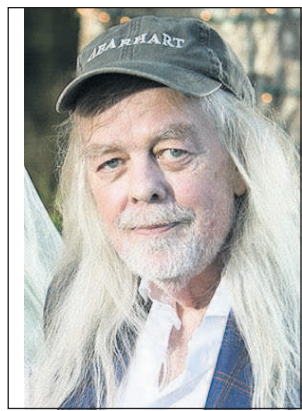
OBITUARIES

Michael Evenson Allen Nov. 21, 1951 — Oct. 19, 2016



Michael Allen

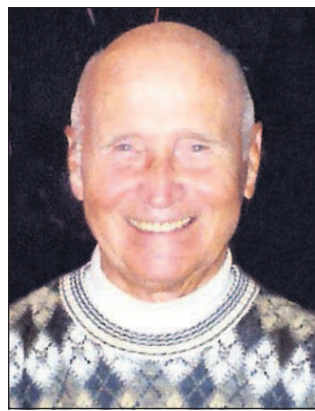
Michael Evenson Allen died at his Gearhart home on a rainy Wednesday evening, Oct. 19, 2016. He was surrounded by his children, to whom he was an excellent father, and who love him more than anyone; his sister, whom he loved, and whose loving support during his final days was invaluable to him and his family; and two of his oldest friends, whom he loved and who have made a lifetime of memories with Michael, even if many of those are from a lifetime ago. Michael was born on Nov. 21, 1951, to two wonderful parents, Devere Franklin Allen (July 4, 1927 — Dec. 17, 1997) and Margaret Carol Evenson, born March 21, 1929, and still with us today. He grew up in Clatskanie, the eldest of four siblings, and is survived by Debby Brown of Hillsboro, Steve Allen of Portland and Kathy Ormseth of Saratoga, California. During his formative years in Clatskanie, he met many of the people he still counted as close friends decades later, and he always had a place in his heart for the small town. In his early adulthood, Michael worked for the family business for a time, buying and selling lumber and supervising a mill in North Plains. He also studied music theory at Portland State University in order to gain a richer understanding of the music he so loved to listen to and perform. When many of his best friends remember Michael, it is with a guitar in his arms or seated at a piano. While at Portland State, Michael also studied counseling, and for a time in the late 1980s, Michael did volunteer work with kids living on the streets of Portland. I remember how much it meant to him to be able to help those who really needed it. Michael married Gayle Kerkhoven in 1984, and from their union came Kathryn Nicole Allen (born in 1985) and Donovan Franklin Allen (born in 1989). Michael put everything he had in to be-



Fred "Bob" Thoman

Fred 'Bob' David Thoman Dec. 5, 1928 — Oct. 11, 2016

Fred "Bob" David Thoman, 87, a lifelong resident of Oregon, died Oct. 11, 2016, in Tualatin. He was born Dec. 5, 1928, in Portland, Oregon, and was the only child of Fred David Thoman Sr. and Antonette Molinari Thoman. Bob married Donna Darlene Pearson on Aug. 23, 1950 in Portland. Their love for one another was so strong and enduring, and in 2016 they celebrated their 66th year of marriage. Bob was a child entertainer who sang and played banjo with his double cousin, Tommy Thoman. He and Tommy were like brothers, and entertained at many venues in the Northwest for years, including events for disabled veterans. Their entertainment opportunities included an appearance on one of Portland's first live television broadcasts. Bob graduated from Jefferson High School in 1946. He attended Oregon State University, and served in the U.S. Air Force. As a young man, Bob went to work for Northwest Marine Iron Works, where he advanced to the role of CEO and president. He cherished his working relationship with company owner George Grebe, and worked very hard to serve the company well in his trusted role as president. Bob was a loving and devoted husband and father, and enjoyed spending time with his family more than anything. Members of the Resurrection Lutheran Church, Bob served as a church council member and congregational president for a number of years. Bob was an avid sports fan who loved playing, coaching and watching baseball. He enjoyed playing golf, and was a big fan of the OSU Beavers. He also loved traveling to Disneyland and to the family cabin on Mount Hood with his wife and children. In later years he enjoyed taking annual trips to Kauai with his wife, family and friends. After retiring, Bob and Donna moved to their condo in Gearhart, Oregon, in 1985. Shortly after, Bob was asked to temporarily take over as acting manager of the Gearhart By the Sea Hotel for six months. He later retired, for the second time, in 1994, after managing the hotel for eight years. While living at the coast, Bob and Donna were faithful members of Our Saviour's



Fred "Bob" Thoman

Lutheran Church in Seaside, where Bob served on the church council. Community service was an important part of Bob's life in many ways. He served on Providence Seaside Hospital's board of directors for over a decade. He enjoyed delivering meals for Seaside's Meals on Wheels program, and volunteered in other service programs, as well. Bob's life was characterized by his faith in God, love of his family and friends, service to the church and community as well as loyalty to his employer. Bob was known as a family man. He had a very active role in his children's lives as they grew up, and continued that role his entire life. He was their best friend and hero. In later years, Bob was just as active and vital in his grandchildren's lives, never missing a ball game, band concert or dance recital. He was a proud father and grandfather, and a devoted husband who cherished every moment spent with his family. Bob is survived by his wife, Donna; son Eric (Mary) Thoman of San Rafael, California; daughter Jeanette (Rick) Davis of Warrenton, Oregon; grandchildren Chad (Karri) Davis of Bend, Oregon, Heidi Terese of Vancouver, Washington, Todd Davis of Maricopa, Arizona, Matthew (Hannah) Davis of Warrenton, Oregon, and Emily Thoman of San Rafael, California; great-grandchildren Connor and Carson Davis of Bend, Oregon, and Gavin Davis of Warrenton, Oregon; and a brother-in-law, David Pearson. A private burial was held at Skyline Memorial Gardens in Portland. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Bob's name to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Obituary Policy

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

LETTERS

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either owned or (as realtors) sold vacation rentals, and they were hot to get as many on the market as possible. They did. They fought those of us who were trying to preserve the integrity of residential zoning tooth and nail. They won. So, anyone who cannot find rental housing in Seaside can thank those fellows for eliminating the 200-plus or so rentals that used to be here. Every neighborhood is now a motel zone, and there are no strictly-residential zones in Seaside any more. Greed dictated and drove the movement; the City Council and Planning Commission got exactly what they wanted, at a very high cost to the community and its residents. Very sorry to have been right. **Sandy Rea Seaside**

A local solution for workforce housing

"Business leaders call for housing solutions" headlines the Seaside Signal. The CEDR leader speaking to the Seaside City Council "calls for new affordable and workforce housing." There is no doubt that communities have a responsibility for homeless housing, especially for veterans. But before we rush out to create additional programs and levy additional taxes, the business community has its

own homework to perform. Certainly local employment has been shifting to lower wage jobs in the hospitality industry in Seaside and Cannon Beach and retail jobs in Warrenton. Wages in the area have not kept up with housing costs and statewide wage growth. One way to solve local workforce housing problems is to pay workers better. How does one do that and remain competitive? You make your business efficient. The local lodging industry is a prime candidate for this approach. Lodging managers complain about workforce turnover, a tremendous cost to this industry. The area abounds with older adults who need supplemental income and who already have housing. They are great workers for a number of positions in the hospitality industry, yet management in this industry remains unaware of how to use this resource to solve their seasonal problems. CEDR instead of running around crying, "the sky is falling, you need to do something" should do something themselves and help educate Clatsop businesses to better solve their own problems. CEDR should get a copy of "The Aging Workforce: Four Steps to Maximize Older Workers in Your Organization." It's free on the Internet. **John Dunzer Seaside**

Give a gift for children around the world

During National Collection Week, Nov. 14-21, Seaside residents are invited to donate shoeboxes filled with school supplies, hygiene items, notes of encouragement and fun toys, such as a doll or soccer ball for Operation Christmas Child. The shoeboxes are for delivery to children in need around the world. This year, Seaside and surrounding cities residents hope to contrib-

ute more than 29,000 shoebox gifts toward the 2016 global goal of reaching 12 million children. Donations may be dropped off at Seaside North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N. Wahanna, from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday; and 8 to 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 21. For more information visit Samaritanspurse.org.

Show a little 'Laundry Love'

The annual Laundry Love event takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Seaside Laundromat located at 1223 S. Roosevelt Drive. Laundry Love helps families in Clatsop County by paying for two loads of laundry per family, no strings attached. Winter clothing donations are needed for children up to adult sizes. In keeping with the spirit of Laundry Love, free winter clothing will be handed out to people in need

during the Nov. 12 Laundry Love event. Families with children are welcome. Refreshments and drinks are provided. Drop-off places for donated clothing are: State Farm (815 S. Holladay Drive); Seaside Chamber of Commerce (7 N. Roosevelt Drive); Seaside Coffee House (5 N. Holladay Drive); and The Cove (240 S. Roosevelt Drive). Laundry Love is sponsored by At the Water's Gate. For more information, call 541-580-6734.