

AMBASSADORS OF THE SEA

History series
hosts aquarium's
Keith Chandler

By Rebecca Herren
Seaside Signal

Built in 1924, Arthur and Lillian Viggers opened Seaside Baths and Natatorium on Aug. 31 — three blocks north of the turnaround — to compete with the already-in-business Oates Natatorium on the Prom at Broadway.

The saltwater swimming pool was filled with filtered water drawn directly from the ocean and a children's wading pool was at the entrance. One attraction was a large fountain in the shallow end of the main pool where multiple people could sit or stand, Seaside Aquarium general manager Keith Chandler.

Unfortunately, the natatorium didn't survive the Great Depression and closed in 1931. It sat vacant for several years until a few investors, including George and Greta Smith, who managed the Depot Bay Aquarium, decided that Seaside was a good location for an aquarium.

Chandler, who has been with the aquarium since 1979, spoke at the April 26 History and Hops event presented by the Seaside Museum and Historical Society, held at Seaside Brewing Co. On the upper level of the building was an outdoor balcony viewing area to watch people swim.

The aquarium

By happenstance, the Smiths and investors came upon the vacant, yet promising-looking structure of the natatorium, Chandler said.

The building was already piped and plumbed, and with a few renovations, the Seaside Aquarium took shape.

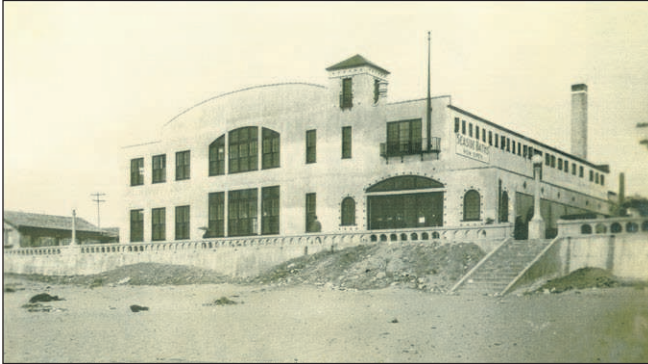
A floor was built over the main pool, the children's pool became the new seal tank, fish tanks were installed and the fountain was repurposed into a hexagonal fish tank in the center of the room. The aquarium opened May 25, 1937. The viewing balcony was soon removed to make room for the Sea Water Apartments, which opened in 1938 and remained popular rentals until 1970. The rooms are now used for storage and consumes any item Chandler can't throw away.

Since its first renovation in



SEASIDE AQUARIUM

Casey, born May 25, 2014, is the youngest seal born at the Seaside Aquarium.



SEASIDE AQUARIUM

A circa 1924 photo of the Seaside Baths and Natatorium.

1937, the aquarium has gone through two more. In 1976, the building was resided. The apartment windows were removed and covered up due to constant leakage from the rain, and "to make the building structurally sound," Chandler said. Another residing was done in 2001 and new windows were installed to give the building "the same look" as when it was first built.

When the aquarium acquired the 36-foot gray whale skeleton from Fort Stevens in 1998, an alcove was built onto the south side of the building, extending out over the original sidewalk.

In 2013, the aquarium added a display featuring the skeletons of a harbor seal and a harbor porpoise. That same year saw the remodel of the Discovery Center, expanding the touch tank area to allow for more space and above tank viewing, which Chandler believes people get more from when they visit. "It adds a different perspective when you look into a tank from above."

The residents

The aquarium's proximity to the ocean and its abundance of marine life has helped fill

its tanks with a variety of fish, sea anemones, star fish and an octopus or two.

The aquarium has also been a place of refuge for injured or beached mammals and birds. In 1967, it took in a beluga whale, one of three in transit to Portland. Two died before arriving in Seaside and the third lived only a short while. In 1988, the aquarium received its first Orca whale from Sea World. The staff named it Feiko (pronounced Fake-o) because it was made of fiberglass. Feiko can be seen hanging above the ticket booth.

In addition to the touch and viewing tanks, the aquarium's main attraction is its harbor seals.

Known worldwide for its successful breeding program, the aquarium was the first to breed harbor seals in captivity and currently has 11 in house — all born at the aquarium. Tubby, Jr. was the first successful birth born in 1952. Casey, the youngest, was born on the aquarium's 77th anniversary May 25, 2014.

The famed harbor seals have always been a source of global news, whether in print or on television. In the days

before Facebook and Twitter, there was Paul Harvey, a well-known radio broadcaster who reported on the newsworthy activities at the aquarium.

One such bit of news that caught Harvey's attention was the abduction of Victor the lobster. Donated by Safeway, the lobster was stolen in 1994. When the thief saw Chandler chasing him, he dropped the lobster and took off. With a broken shell, the lobster died a few days later.

Since the tragic incident involving Victor, the aquarium created an interpretive center. Staffed full time during operating hours, someone is always available to educate, provide lessons and answer questions about the aquarium, its inhabitants, and the beach.

Ambassadors

Chandler and his staff continue the aquarium's ambassadorship for education through public awareness programs and partnerships such as:

- Seaside Beach Discover Program
- Marine Mammal Stranding Network
- A drop-off hub for the Wildlife Center of the North Coast
- Friends with Friends of Haystack Rock
- Discovery cards Program

"We started the Discovery Cards to explain the different events people had questions about on the beach," Chandler explained. The first card created was about diatoms and now includes 25 cards.

The aquarium remains the oldest, privately-owned aquarium on the west coast, and on May 25, it will be 81 years old.

Teevin & Fischer quarry changes hands

A \$5 million deal

By Edward Stratton
The Daily Astorian

The Teevin & Fischer Quarry in Seaside has been sold to North Dakota-based Knife River Corp. for \$5 million.

"We are excited to expand into the Northwest Oregon market and are happy to welcome Teevin & Fischer to Knife River," David C. Barney, Knife River's president and CEO, said in a release. "We have extensive operations in Oregon, and this acquisition is a great strategic fit for us. It also signals that Knife River is in growth mode. Our company was built on strategic acquisitions, and we are looking forward to completing more deals in the right markets."

Knife River, one of the largest construction material producers in the United States,



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

The 45-acre quarry south of Seaside has been sold to Knife River Corp.

is a subsidiary of publicly traded MDU Resources Group Inc., based in North Dakota. The company has numerous locations throughout Oregon, including nearly 10 other quarries.

Local timber and mining magnate Shawn Teevin and Scappoose-based construction

contractor Thomas Fischer purchased the quarry from Howard E. Johnson & Sons Construction Co. in 2006 for \$1.6 million. The quarry employs more than 10 people and provides crushed rock and other construction aggregates to regional contractors and the state Department of Transportation,

along with retail landscaping materials. The quarry recently provided more than \$2 million worth of rock for the new Walmart in Warrenton.

Teevin Bros. still owns a quarry along U.S. Highway 30 near the Bradley Hill overlook.

The Seaside School District will need between 50,000 and 80,000 cubic yards of gravel for its new \$100 million, K-12 campus, said Jim Henry, the school district's project manager. Bidding opened Thursday, April 26.

Knife River spokesman Tony Spilde said the acquisition, completed Friday, has been in the works for several months and was not based on a specific project. Knife River intends to rehire the existing employees, he said.

"It's a good strategic fit for us," Spilde said of the quarry. "This is a long-term deal."

'Flock' event includes educational events, scenic rides

Flock from Page 1A

raising the visibility of women motorcyclists while empowering them in a classically male-dominated sport.

About 100 women rode into Seaside over the weekend from all over the West Coast to attend a variety of educational classes, panels and scenic rides around the Oregon Coast.

While the origin of the group name is based on Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach, event organizer and Global Moto Adventure founder Ruth Belcher decided to move the event to the Seaside Convention Center due to a lack of affordable space to rent in



BRENNA VISSER/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Pat Jacques teaches conference attendees dirt biking techniques at "Flock to the Rock."

vention Center due to a lack of affordable space to rent in

Cannon Beach, as well as to accommodate more activities and a larger crowd.

"We wanted to up-level the experience from last year," Belcher said. "We wanted to extend it, make the conference more inclusive. Education is essential to our attendees."

One of those new panels followed a project Belcher herself was a part of called "Chickastan," where 12 women from across the world came together tour through Pakistan. The trip was inspired by Liza Miller, a friend of Belcher's, after Miller interviewed Moin Kahn on her podcast "Motor-

cycles and Misfits." Kahn, a motorcyclist himself, was disheartened with how his home country of Pakistan was being represented in American media.

So in response, Miller decided to gather a group of motorcycling friends to see it for themselves, connect with other female riders in Pakistan and film their journey to make a documentary that would portray a different narrative.

"We're trying to change perception one rider at a time. Honestly, most of us felt safer there than we do here," Miller said.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SECURITY

COASTAL ALARM

SYSTEMS

503-738-9003

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Residential & Commercial: Burglary & Fire Protection, Video Surveillance, Central Station Monitoring, Remote Arm/Disarm

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Seaside, Oregon • www.CoastalAlarm.net • info@CoastalAlarm.net

CCB# 201010 • Reg.# 977689-99

FLOORING

CCB# 205283

you walk on our reputation

Carpet Corner

Flooring • Installation • Carpet Cleaning

3470 Hwy 101 Suite 102 • Gearhart, Oregon
503.739.7577 • carpetcornergearhart.com

LANDSCAPING

BOB McEWAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

EXCAVATION • UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
ROAD WORK • FILL MATERIAL
SITE PREPARATION • ROCK

OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIKE AND CELINE McEWAN

503-738-3569

34154 Hwy 26, Seaside, OR
P.O. Box 2845, Gearhart, OR

SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SINCE 1956 • CC48302

FLOORING

Laurelwood Compost • Mulch • Planting MacMix
Soil Amendments

YARD DEBRIS DROP-OFF
(no Scotch Broom)

503-717-1454

34154 HIGHWAY 26
SEASIDE, OR

Laurelwood Farm

TREE REMOVAL

QUALITY TREE REMOVAL

HIGH CLIMBING • DANGER TREES
PRUNING • STUMP GRINDING

JUSTIN J. DAY

FREE ESTIMATES (503) 338-5780

Warrenton, Oregon • Licensed • Bonded • Insured • CCB# 214256 • WA#QUALTR831PO

CONSTRUCTION

Randall Lee's **0% FINANCING AVAILABLE**

Flooring America

Window Treatments, Fabric, Designer Wallpaper, Visit Our
Counter Tops, All Flooring and Miele Vacuums *Outlet!*

2311 N. Roosevelt Dr., Seaside, OR 97138 • 503-738-5729
rfflooring@yahoo.com • www.RandallLeesFlooring.com

Randall Lee's Flooring Outlet • 3579 Hwy 101 Gearhart • 503-738-6756
Warehouse pricing • Open to the Public • Hundreds of instock rolls & remnants • In House Binding

TIRES/WHEELS

is changing its name to

Same great service
YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR TIRES
CUSTOM WHEELS • AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

Hours: Mon-Fri 8-6 Sat 8-4	503-325-2861 For emergencies 503-325-0233	35359 Business Hwy 101 (miles crossing) Astoria, OR
----------------------------------	---	---

ADVERTISING

YOUR AD HERE!

Our Business Directory is an inexpensive way for your business to advertise with us!

ONLY \$25

APRIL OLSEN

Call **503-325-3211**

to discuss new and exciting ways to promote your business on the North Coast