

CELEBRATING  
**GEARHART'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

# World-class city on the Oregon Coast

Major events in Gearhart's history from its founding to the present day

1850 — Phillip Gearhart, a local settler, arrives in Gearhart.

1889 — Gearhart is established and named for Phillip Gearhart.

1890 — Marshall Kinney purchases property land plats the town site of Gearhart Park in 1890, the same year that the Astoria & South Coast Railway arrives, in which Kinney is an investor.

1890 — The first Hotel Gearhart, opens on the present-day site of City Hall. When the second Gearhart Hotel was built on the oceanfront, the first hotel is renamed the Neacoxie and used as hotel staff quarters. The first was destroyed by fire in 1913.

1890 — Ridge Path is designed between Cottage Avenue and Neacoxie Creek.

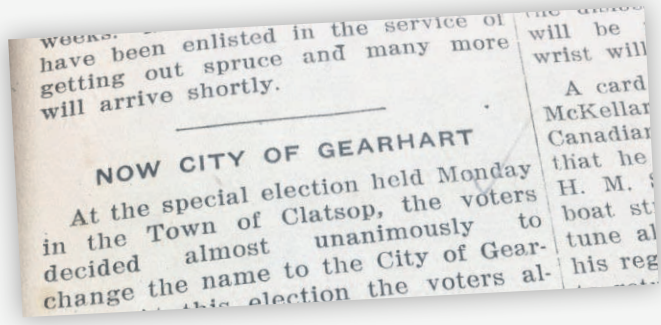
1897 — Gearhart Post Office opens.

1898 — Through train-service from Portland is inaugurated as Gearhart thrives.

1901 — Marshall Kinney



**Gearhart's Mayor Matty Brown and former Mayor Kent Smith at the Gearhart Firehouse.**



FILE PHOTO

**1918 Signal article recognizes the adoption of Gearhart's charter.**

develops a full nine-hole golf course, touted as "the finest in the country."

1909 — Gearhart School District is formed.

1911 — Gearhart's first school on A Street opens to classes.

1913 — Hotel Gearhart burns, replaced by what is described as a "monumental shingled hostelry perched on the foredune like a huge Cape Cod Cottage."

1915 — William Samuel Badger, a contractor and road builder, moves to Gearhart. Badger is to become the first African-American to serve in public office in Oregon in 1918 as a member of the City Council, in a state with racial exclusion laws on the books during his term and remaining law until 1926.

1918 — Gearhart, formerly part of the town of Clatsop, is incorporated. P.A. Lee was elected mayor; F.L. Hager, auditor and police judge; and D.B. Schroeder, treasurer.

1920 — Gearhart's popula-

tion is counted at 128.

1923 — Second Hotel Gearhart opens; the structure is to entertain guests until demolition in 1972.

1924 — City Hall is dedicated.

1929 — Development stalls after the stock market crash of October 1929.

1932 — City offers municipal work to those unable to pay their water bills.

1937 — Gearhart Fire Department is formed under the leadership of Harold Tyberg, the first fire chief.

1938 — Carl Lolk wins the mayoral election, unseating incumbent J.L. Burgess by three votes.

1943 — Enter the elk: The Signal reports elk which make their home along the Necanicum valley "have become particularly obnoxious," turning their attentions to the shrubs, lawns, garden plots and the pastures of the farms along the valley. "As they are tame as cattle, there is nothing much to do be done about it without harm-

ing the animals," the Signal writes.

1943 — Representatives of Seaside and Gearhart meet to consider a merger of the two cities. If the plan had been adopted, the result would have been an enlarged municipality with about 4,000 people, extending from the base of Tillamook Head to a point about two miles north of the mouth of the Necanicum River.

1947 — Gearhart's Lesley Miller advocates the establishment of Gearhart Park, stretching along the ocean front north of Pacific Way. Miller envisioned it as "a place to play baseball, football, have a picnic, or just sit, relax and watch the sunset."

1948 — Bids for a new elementary school in Gearhart are received. The new building, estimated to cost \$58,000 including the site, is sited on a 5-acre tract facing Sixth Street.

1948 — Meetings of the elementary school boards of Cannon Beach, Gearhart and Seaside, seek an administrative merger of the elementary schools.

1951 — The old schoolhouse on A Street is sold by the district into private ownership; a two-room annex acquired by the newly formed Trail's End Art Association.

1951 — A fluoridation plant is established for the Gearhart water supply.

1953 — The remains of an 18-foot to 20-foot killer whale washes ashore.



COURTESY GEARHART REMEMBERED

**Lesley Miller, who dedicated herself to preserving parkland in Gearhart.**

1953 — The City Council accepts the annual budget of \$13,433.70.

1953 — William Badger dies at age 75.

1958 — Volunteers build firehouse on Pacific Way with a budget of \$20,000.

1959 — Gearhart enacts first zoning rules, labeling South Marion Avenue "Residential-1" in response to a request for a garage for logging trucks in the dunes.

1968 — Dunes north of Gearhart considered as a location for a county convention center. The center would be located on the foredune facing the ocean.

[See Timeline, Page 4B](#)

**Gearhart's Grand Hotel in an undated photo by Fred H. Kiser.**

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## COAST GALLERY AND NUMISMATICS

*"a different kind of gallery"*

Coast Gallery and Numismatics is the northwest coast newest gallery. Opened June 1, 2018, Coast Gallery and Numismatics exclusively features original oil paintings and wood fired ceramics by Jeff Whyman MFA University California Berkeley 1981. Jeff Whyman lived in Cannon Beach for over 10 years and taught at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon. From around the world we also offer exotic shells and choice world coins. Regards coins we offer complimentary appraisals on Saturdays.

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