

HISTORY AND HOPS

When logging ruled in Clatsop County

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
For Seaside Signal



Katherine Lacaze

Jim Aalberg, a fourth-generation Oregonian and the great-great-great grandson of Westport's founder, Cpt. John West, shared stories from his book, "Historical Company Towns of Clatsop County."

Logging towns are an integral part of Clatsop County's history and several descendants of these once economically and culturally relevant towns still live within the communities, bearing recollections and stories of bygone days.

During a History and Hops event Feb. 28, amateur historian and author Jim Aalberg shared the histories of sawmill company towns such as Westport, Wauna and Bradwood, which he wrote about in his recent book, "Historical Company Towns of Clatsop County." As with Aalberg's first book, "Westport Oregon: Home of the Big Sticks and Gold Medal Salmon," Aalberg has given ownership and rights of "Historical Company Towns" to the Clatsop County Historical Society.

To write the book, Aalberg, a fourth-generation Oregonian and the great-great-great grandson of Westport's founder Cpt. John West, relied on old trade publications, court records, newspaper articles, censuses, and other documentation, along with more than 100 photographs and illustrations. He also interviewed dozens of people who grew up in the once flourishing logging and mill towns. The stories they shared highlight a history that defies common perceptions of company towns as sources for economic slavery and instead conjure images of an idyllic, albeit hardworking, existence.

The companies actively recruited employees to come work in the towns—married men preferred, bachelors not preferred, and drinkers unacceptable, according to old advertisements. The companies provided homes for the employees, along with other institutions, such as churches, schools, libraries, and hospitals, Aalberg said, adding, "They had to

be nice communities."

These communities organized baseball teams, held dances, formed bands, and had other sources of entertainment, as well. Occasionally, the companies would provide social gatherings for the employees and their families, as captured by a 1929 photograph depicting a group reveling in Seaside for the day, picnicking and taking bi-plane flights.

People and events of Westport's history

Westport was operating for about 120 years, from 1852 to 1972, making it the longest continuous sawmilling location in Oregon's history. Westport also was the site of the state's first salmon cannery and originated the oldest American salmon-canning brand still in existence, although the label was sold and the product is now canned by a company in Liverpool. It was the only location with a skid-row tunnel built to haul logs down from the hill using oxen.

As Aalberg shared, the history is rife with interesting characters, such as Charles McGuire, an employee who married Ellen West, the youngest daughter of John West. When she died, McGuire married her sister, Jane West.

"With Jane, he picked up all of John West's real estate properties he had in downtown Astoria," Aalberg said.



R.J. Marx

Property to be developed for a Grocery Outlet in Seaside.

Grocery Outlet wins planning approval

By **R.J. MARX**
Seaside Signal

'IT IS A SOLUTION, AND ODOT SEEMS HAPPY WITH IT. I'M ALWAYS RETICENT TO DO THESE THINGS, BUT I THINK THE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET HERE.'

Chris Hoth, Planning Commission chairman

With a new plan to widen and restripe the roadway, the Seaside Planning Commission gave its unanimous OK Tuesday, March 5, for a new 18,000-square-foot Grocery Outlet.

A 175-foot-long "turn pocket" along U.S. Highway 101 southbound into Avenue N will satisfy the state Department of Transportation and the Planning Commission's requirement for a left-turn lane, representatives of Main & Main Capital Group said on behalf of Grocery Outlet.

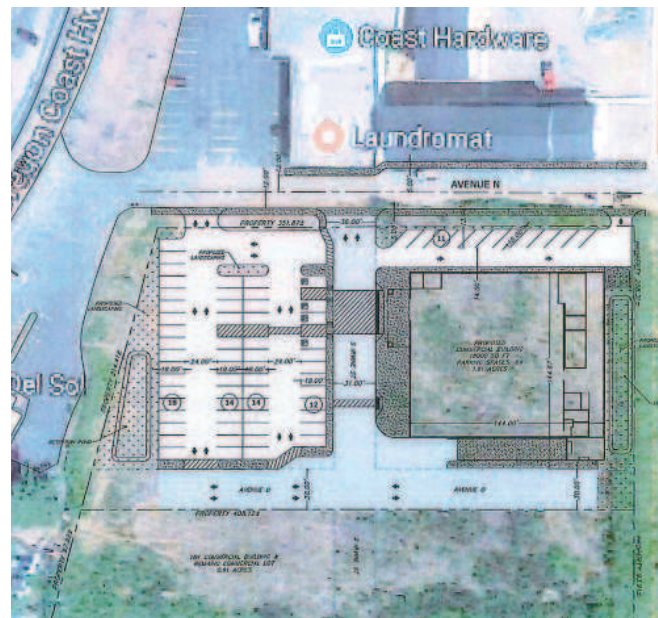
The turn pocket will be developed before the new store opens

"What we've done over the last month is worked with ODOT to come up with something that will work," Main & Main's Dan Dover said.

According to Kevin Cupples, the city's planning director, ODOT emailed approval of the plan shortly before Tuesday's public hearing.

The Planning Commission originally approved the application in November, but it came with a high price: a condition of no left turns in or out of the property.

With an estimated 1,300 daily trips anticipated, commissioners were wary of adding to already long traffic backups, especially in the



Main & Main Capital

Proposed site of Grocery Outlet in Seaside.

summer.

Developers would have needed to come up with the full cost of an estimated \$3 million to add the turn lane.

Main & Main appealed to the City Council, arguing that the cost of the turn lane would exceed the cost to build the store.

In February, the City Council sent the application back to the Planning Commission with one instruction: make left-turn requirements proportional to the project cost.

The revised proposal, prepared by the developer's traffic engineer, satisfies both the

City Council and the concern related to safety and traffic impacts, attorney Dave Phillips said on behalf of the developer.

While it is a "Band-Aid" fix, Chris Hoth, the Planning Commission chairman, said "it is a solution, and ODOT seems happy with it. I'm always reticent to do these things, but I think the conditions have been met here."

Even with the approval, a new challenge to the City Council may be in the works.

After the meeting, Karl Anuta, an attorney for Protect Pacific Northwest, called the Planning Commission's process "improper."

"The Planning Commission looked at, relied on and adopted a document that was never given to the public before this hearing," Anuta said, referring to the ODOT email.

He said he plans to conduct a traffic analysis of the revised plan.

"If this in fact solves the problem, we won't be opposing," Anuta said. "But I can't tell you right now whether that's going to be the case or not."

Dover, meanwhile, looked to the future in a process that has already stretched almost a year.

"I'm happy we got the approval," Dover said. "We're ready to go after all the appeals periods expire."

SEASIDE SPORTS

Baker win ends Seaside girl's season

Seaside Signal

Baker led 19-5 after one quarter, and cruised from there for a 67-31 win over visiting Seaside, in a first round game of the 4A girls basketball state playoffs March 2.

The Gulls played evenly with the Bulldogs in the second quarter, but Baker outscored Seaside 24-8 in the third, as the Bulldogs' pressing defense finally got to the Gulls.

"We knew looking at film that Baker was a talented squad with a number of good players, and that they would challenge us with their tempo on both ends of the court," said Seaside coach Mike Hawes.

"The first quarter they came out firing and we had to be near perfect," he said. "We actually had quite a few opportunities but didn't cash in."

The Gulls had 11 turnovers in the first quarter.

"They man pressed, dou-



Katie Zagata, right, and Trinity Turner, left, go for the ball in a December tournament game.

bled and pressured," Hawes said. "We just asked so much of Lilli (Taylor) and Emy (Kiser), that they got

fatigued. They pressed us to the bitter end and we played hard throughout. What a great opportunity for our seniors,

and they played their all." Taylor scored 11 points and eight rebounds, and Kiser had 10 points.

"Baker and others got their opportunities this year, but I got a feeling man pressuring us in the coming years

might not be wise," Hawes said. "Lilli will continue to be get better, finish stronger and have more stamina."

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SEASIDE Chamber of Commerce

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