

Getting the Seaside experience — in stereoscope

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

JOSHUA HEINEMAN



This is something of a detective story. To fully appreciate it, you first need to understand the importance of train connections and the impact of stereographs at the turn of the 20th century — and their place in Seaside's history.

There was already a well-established tradition of families spending summers in Seaside to beat the heat of Portland and the valleys long before Highway 26 was constructed. Seaside's depot was constructed in 1899 and, each Saturday morning, you could find families gathered to meet working fathers who arrived by train, spent the night, and then returned to the city again the following evening.

Hence, the "daddy train" notion was born and that particular weekend service was widely known by its informal name. There are several nods to this tradition around town, including a remarkable mural in front of the museum.

Around the same time — in the late 1800s and early 1900s — there was a popular form of entertainment in which the public would immerse themselves in collections of 3D photographs using stereoscopes. The source material for these were called stereographs and consisted of two photo pairs taken from slightly different angles and placed side by side.

The stereoscope combined the



Travelers and friends wait outside the Seaside Station, circa 1915.

two into one scene for the viewer, lending the illusion of depth. Think of the magic feeling you get when looking into a ViewMaster as a child and you'll have a good idea of the experience.

Much of the surviving stereograph collections in the world consist of scenic views and travel scenes. Back then, I imagine people would marvel at feeling transported somewhere else momentarily.

Nowadays when looking into a 100-year-old stereoscope, we're transported not only somewhere else but to some other time, as well, adding a new layer not available to the original audience. You've got to count your blessings where you find them.

Seaside would have had stereographs for viewing and for sale along Broadway, which was still known as Shell Road then.

As an already-popular beach destination with rail connection

to Astoria and Portland, Seaside would have also been well-represented in the stereograph archive. However, that turns out not to be the case exactly. Here's where the detective story begins.

Circa 2012, back in another life, I collaborated with the New York Public Library on a web app called the Stereograminator.

This tool allowed users to transform historical stereographs from the library's collection into shareable 3D web formats, either animated gifs or 3D anaglyphs. It proved wildly popular, earning coverage in places like The New York Times and going viral across the internet. That's a story for another time. Suffice to say, this was an engaging way to repurpose historical photo archives in the modern age.

So, naturally, I went looking for original stereographs of Seaside when I arrived on the North Coast to live and work in 2018.

This quest was both fun and frustrating.

While I highly recommend thumbing through the amazing photo archives at the Seaside Historical Society Museum, there were no surviving stereographs of Seaside to be found.

Undeterred, I contacted the Clatsop County Historical Society to inquire about their archives and it turned out they had no Seaside stereographs on hand either. Had they all — each and every one — been lost to history?

Luckily for us, the answer is no. I had a contact at the Oregon Historical Society and, after some searching, it turned out they did indeed have two original stereographs of Seaside tucked away in storage out in Gresham. We were able to get them digitized thanks to Erin Brasell and Robert Warren of OHS.

And — wouldn't you know it — the two scenes are about as

iconic as you can get. One stereograph shows children among a crowd gathered for the famous "daddy train" at the Seaside depot.

The other shows Ben Holaday's Seaside House, the renowned resort that really started it all back in the 1870s. Both images will be turned into replica stereographs and donated to the museum.

We've also converted the "daddy train" stereograph into an animated gif à la my NYPL project and posted it along with an excerpt of this story at SeasideOR.com in the Seaside History section.

Most importantly, I can sleep at night knowing we have at least a couple of these important historical items in our local collections.

♦ ♦ ♦

Got a comment or question? I'd love to hear from you. Write me at jheineman@cityofseaside.us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School district lowers asking price for buildings

Norris & Stevens, Inc. and Popkin Real Estate, LLC have been chosen to exclusively market for sale the Seaside School District properties: Seaside High School, Broadway Middle School and Gearhart Elementary School.

The Seaside School District expects to be completely moved out of the properties by fall of 2020 at which time the sites will be available for redevelopment. Understanding the properties will most likely be redeveloped, and the potential costs associated with demolishing the buildings, the school district has decided to lower the asking prices to spur activity from the development community.

The new prices will be: \$3.5 million for the Seaside High School, \$2.9 million for the Broadway Middle School and \$1.2 million for the Gearhart Elementary School.

The school district is confident they will identify the right buyer to create a successful repurpose of the sites that will benefit the community and help complete the school district's transition to the new school campus.

Norris & Stevens, Inc. is one of the largest locally-owned, full-service commercial real estate brokerage firms in Oregon and Southwest Washington. A member of the TCN Worldwide network, the firm was founded in 1966 and currently employs around 75 professionals in investment sales, leasing and property management for office, industrial, retail, land, and multifamily properties. The firm's property management portfolio exceeds 5 million square feet of commercial space and 9,000 apartment units.

Hanna Linstedt
Marketing Specialist,
Norris & Stevens
Portland

Time to reconsider bypass?

Oregon Dept of Transportation has money to spend on Highway 101 (Seaside Signal,

Jan. 31) in Seaside with the following goals: "increase safety, reduce congestion, provide accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, among other priorities."

The amounts quoted in recent articles total \$9,560,000. Rather than culverts and turning lanes, let's get a bypass around Seaside. Several years ago ODOT had the funds for this. Local businesses rejected the idea citing loss of business. After witnessing many years of spring and summer Seaside traffic at a standstill, I believe business owners have gotten smarter, and would support a bypass that would allow travelers an efficient, smooth ride north or south around the two lanes of 101 in Seaside. Not everyone wants to stop in this town. Let's talk about it. Let's get ODOT involved. Seaside residents are not the only population affected by dangerous, frustrating traffic here.

Kathy Weigel
Seaside

Common Thread Photo Project

I own Lance Wagner Photography in Seaside. In an effort to build stronger community ties I am offering free environmental portraits for anyone that wishes to participate in my Common Thread Portrait Project.

The goal of the project is to focus on one singular subject to bring people of diverse backgrounds together to share their love for the city we live and work.

America is becoming increasingly polarized with a lot of attention focused on our differences. Religion, politics, gender, propaganda and many other issues are dividing the country. Most likely this election year will intensify the polarization.

While I do not discount the importance of these topics and more, I think it is also important to find positive common threads to bond a community. To find one subject we can all agree upon and share.

Common Thread Photo Project is about focusing on one subject, your love of Seaside. Tell me what you love about Seaside in a short

question are and I will produce your Seaside portrait, for free.

The completed work will culminate in a public show in Seaside, (location to be determined yet), in a hope to bring citizens of Seaside together, leaving all differences aside, and share their portraits, and Seaside love stories.

Please contact me @lwagnerphoto@gmail.com for details if you wish to participate. Must be a Seaside resident or business.

Lance Wagner
Seaside

Vote for Vineeta Lower

I am writing this to encourage people to vote for Vineeta Lower for HD 32 in our May Primary also in our November election.

Having spent time with Vineeta speaking to her as well as working on projects with her, she is a hard worker and listens to concerns regarding our communities. Her many assets and work in areas of government supporting state, congressional and tribal liaison has given her experience needed for our state representative for District 32.

Vineeta's support of #timberunity and the fight against cap and trade, that will reap a huge tax liability on all of us, is showing a true desire to work with all voices of concern. Do you really want Tiffany Mitchell in there continuing to vote huge taxes with that ridiculous "emergency clause" Our communities, all of them, are in danger.

Our loved ones on fixed incomes are in danger with these taxes too. I urge you to support Vineeta Lower for our District 32 by voting for her in May and again in November. We need true change and transparency which new bills in the house are hiding their transactions.

Read that new cap and trade senate bill. You will be surprised, don't be fooled by the biased sides. Contact Vineeta, ask her the hard questions, she will tell you direct answers. Vote, and check your voter registration also.

Christal Kumpula
Astoria

Providence Seaside adds cardiologist

Seaside Signal

Providence Seaside Hospital announces the addition of cardiologist Gary Greenberg, M.D. to the hospital's professional staff and specifically the Providence Heart Clinic North Coast in Seaside and Astoria.

Greenberg is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiology and electrophysiology.

Electrophysiology is a cardiology subspecialty that focuses on helping people manager irregular rhythms and cardiac devices such as pacemakers and defibrillators.

Greenberg earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and served his internship and residency at Oregon Health & Science University. He then completed a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City.

In his free time, Dr. Greenberg enjoys listening to all forms of music, playing guitar, outdoor activities, cooking and traveling.

Dr. Greenberg joins the practice of Providence Heart Clinic North Coast with offices in Seaside and Astoria. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 503-836-4600.



Dr. Gary Greenberg

Community Calendar

Friday, Feb. 21

Wes Wahrmond
6-9 p.m., The Bistro, guitar, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach; 503-436-2661.

Richard T. and Friends
6:30-9:30 p.m., New Orleans gumbo of soul, blues and R&B; Sweet Basil, 271 N. Hemlock.

Rising Star
7 p.m., "Rising Star" classical pianist Baron Fenwick will perform Haydn, Rachmaninov, Chopin, and Prokofiev, at Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St.; Cannon Beach.

Seussical the Musical
7 p.m., presented by Seaside High School Drama Department, Seaside High School Cafetorium; tickets sold at the door, \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students 12 and above; \$6 for students 12 and under.

Saturday, Feb. 22
Learn to Play Ukulele
9:45 a.m., for beginners, con-

ference room, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

Discovering Prehistoric Whale Bones
1 p.m., adult event, with Dr. David Taylor, Seaside Public Library.

Wes Wahrmond
6-9 p.m., classical guitar, classical guitar, jazz and original tunes, The Bistro, 271 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach.

Richard T. and Friends
6:30-9:30 p.m., New Orleans gumbo of soul, blues and R&B; Sweet Basil, 271 N. Hemlock.

Bingo
6:30 p.m., families welcome ages 6 and up. Catholic Church Hall, First Avenue and Columbia, Seaside.

Matthew Lindley
7-9 p.m., Northwest Americana with a Southern accent, Public Coast Brewing Co., 264 E. Third St, Cannon Beach; 503-436-0285.

Seussical the Musical
7 p.m., presented by Seaside High School Drama Department, Seaside High School Cafetorium; tickets sold at the door, \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors and students 12 and above; \$6 for students 12 and under.

Sunday, Feb. 23
Buffet Breakfast
8:30-11 a.m., waffles, omelets and more; American Legion, 1315 Broadway, Seaside.

Free Sunday Supper
Doors open 3 p.m.; dinner at 4, all welcome; Our Lady of Victory Church, 120 Oceanway, Seaside.

Richard T. and Friends
5-8:30 p.m., New Orleans gumbo of soul, blues and R&B; The Bistro, 263 N. Hemlock.

Monday, Feb. 24
Pinochle
1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

Jam Session
6:30-8:30 p.m., featuring local musicians, Cannon Beach American Legion, 1216 N. Hemlock.

Tuesday, Feb. 25
Pilates
8-9 a.m., accessible way to build core strength; Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A; sunsetempire.com.

TOPS
9:15 a.m., Take Off Pounds Sensibly focuses on healthy lifestyle changes for weight loss, meets weekly. North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N. Wahanna Road, Seaside; nccf-church.org or 503-738-7453.

Teen Tuesday
3:30 p.m., Blind taste test, Seaside Library, 1131 Broadway.

Wednesday, Feb. 26
Good Morning Seaside
8 a.m., Weekly coffee and networking; Seaside Chamber of

Commerce; contact for details, www.seasidechamber.com.

Preschool storytime
10 a.m., "Rocks are not Boring," Seaside Library, 1131 Broadway.

Making a Succulent Wreath
10 a.m., featuring Stephanie Stevenson; Sou'Wester Garden Club, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Awana Youth Group
6-8 p.m., age 3 to sixth-graders, North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N. Wahanna, Seaside; 503-738-7453.

Thursday, Feb. 27
SDDA Breakfast
8:30 a.m., Pig 'N Pancake, weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host breakfast; 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914, www.seasidedowntown.com.

Rotary of Seaside
Noon, lunch meeting with fea-

tured speakers; Shilo Ballroom, 30 N. Prom.

Seaside Kiwanis Club
Noon, lunch meeting, Pig 'N Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside.

Sugar Thistles
5:30-7:30 p.m., blend of voices and original tunes, The Bistro, 263 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach.

History and Hops
6 p.m., Jerry and Laurie Bowman, Northwest Carriage Museum, presented by Seaside Museum and History Center; Seaside Brewing, 851 Broadway.

'Epic Fail' Story Slam
6-8 p.m., hosted by Pacific Story Slam; Maggie's On The Prom, 580 S. Beach Drive.

Celebrate Recovery
6-8 p.m., Faith-based 12 step recovery from hurts, habits and hang-ups, North Coast Family Fellowship, 503-738-7453.