

OBITUARY

Roger William Otto
San Mateo, California
Sept. 10, 1920 — Aug. 23, 2020



On Aug. 23, 2020, Roger William Otto died of heart failure in San Mateo, California, just a few weeks short of his 100th birthday. Roger was born on Sept. 10, 1920, in the Seaside, Oregon, home of Mary Knoblock, a practical nurse who took the maternity patients of Dr. Otto Hagmeier into her home for childbirth and the usual two-week “lying in” that followed.

Roger’s parents, Dorothy and Frederick Otto, and Roger’s grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Otto and Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Godfrey, were active in the civic and business life of the community.

Roger and his younger sister and brother, Janet and Kenneth, lived with their parents in a house on the south Prom, near the Salt Cairn. Their father made a swing set for them from some of the materials from the old boardwalk that had been removed when the concrete Prom was built.

Each summer, the family moved to their basement apartment so that they could rent out the upstairs to guests. Roger walked to Seaside Elementary School, sometimes stopping to greet “Old Mr. Gilbert” (Seaside businessman and former mayor Alexandre Gilbert) as he worked in his yard.

When Roger was older, he helped in B.W. Otto’s grocery store and sold newspapers on the street in downtown Seaside. During the Depression, Roger’s father was let go from his job as a clerk at Carter’s Grocery. Jobs in Seaside were scarce, and, in 1932, the family moved to the Portland area.

Roger continued to spend summers in Seaside, visiting his grandparents. He returned to Seaside many times. In his 90s, he celebrated several Thanksgivings with extended family at the Seaside condo of his niece.

Roger graduated from Portland’s Grant High School, then studied business at Multnomah College. He worked at First National Bank of Portland until he entered the U.S. Coast Guard.

He married Barbara “Jean” Allen in 1941, and she was able to accompany him to his post in Port Townsend, Washington.

After the war, he returned to banking in Portland. In 1957, he transferred to Transamerica Corp. in San Francisco. He spent the remainder of his career at Bay Area financial institutions, culminating in 24 years at Bayview Federal Savings, where he served as assistant vice president and research director.

He was active in community affairs, including serving as the president of the Mission Merchants Association, as a scoutmaster and a volunteer in a variety of activities supporting youth. In 1984, his wife Jean died

of cancer. He retired the following year. In retirement he took up karate, eventually earning his black belt and teaching classes to others.

In 1987, he married Bernice “Nece” Wasserman. They loved to travel, and took numerous trips around the U.S. and abroad. Nece died of cancer in 2003.

Well into his 90s, Roger volunteered weekly at the San Francisco Zoo. He was also devoted to his Unitarian Universalists in the San Mateo community.

Roger is survived by his daughter, Linda (Otto) Kenefick, of Greenbrae, California; his son, Steve Otto, of Danville, Washington; grandchildren, Forrest Otto (Shaina), of Ferndale, Washington, Caitlin Kenefick, of New York, New York, and Chris Kenefick, of St. Helena, California; and great-grandchildren Aiden and Alora Otto, of Ferndale, Washington.

One dead after Highway 26 crash

Seaside Signal

A Seaside man died Saturday after crashing off of U.S. Highway 26.

Officials say Kevin Hollenbeck, 54, was the sole occupant in a Ford

F-350 truck and was heading westbound when he drove off the roadway near milepost 30 and down an embankment.

Police responded at about 8:27 p.m. and Hollenbeck was pronounced dead.



Smoke alarm helps two to safety in Seaside blaze

Seaside Signal

Two residents are safe after a house fire at 2735 Sunset Boulevard early Monday morning.

At about 5:30 a.m., a smoke alarm awakened the residents, who notified 911.

“The takeaway here is the smoke alarms saved their lives,” Seaside Fire

Department Div. Chief David Rankin said.

Both police and fire responded to the blaze, which caused about \$50,000 damage to the kitchen and living area.

Seaside firefighters received mutual aid assistance from Gearhart, Cannon Beach and Hamlet fire departments.

Firefighters left the scene at about 7:30 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Aug. 28
7:26 p.m., Avenue K and the beach: People are warned of unlawful lodging.

Aug. 29
2:43 a.m., 700 block Avenue Q: A disturbance is reported.

Aug. 30
8:36 a.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: A person is arrested on a warrant.

4:30 p.m., 400 block Seventh Avenue: A person is arrested on a warrant.

11:52 p.m., 900 block First Avenue: A person is arrested and charged with DUII.

Aug. 31
1:39 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

6:50 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 by Trucke’s: A person is pulled over for failure to drive in lane.

9:56 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register for their annual sex offender registration.

10:03 p.m., 800 block Seventh Avenue: A runaway is reported.

Sept. 1
12:01 p.m., River Walk: Police on scene for a disturbance.

4:03 p.m., 600 block S. Lincoln: The owner of a barking dog is notified of complaints.

8:00 p.m., Library: Subjects reported smoking marijuana and playing guitar in front of the library are advised they are trespassing. They say they will go play guitar in a park.

Sept. 2
2:14 p.m., Police headquarters: Sex offender registration.

3:55 p.m., Lewis & Clark: A person is arrested for DUII.

4:35 p.m., Avenue H and U.S. Highway 101: A disturbance is reported.

Sept. 3
7:11 p.m., 900 block Ocean Way: A missing person is reported.

10:24 p.m., Broadway and Columbia: A person who reported they were lost and unable to locate their car called back shortly after to say they found it.



Aug. 28
7:34 p.m., River walk behind Star Furniture: Emergency medical response; water rescue.

8:18 p.m., 25th and beach: Fire investigation.

Aug. 29
1:12 a.m., Forest Drive: Emergency medical response.

11:53 a.m., Haystack Rock: Water rescue.

7:55 p.m., Fourth Avenue and beach: Fire investigation.

Fire: 21:28 p.m., 300 block S. Columbia: Fire investigation.

Aug. 30
5:32 p.m., Avenue U and the beach: Emergency medical response.

Aug. 31
9:32 p.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

10:45 p.m., 2400 block U.S. Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

Sept. 1
11:15 a.m., 2600 block N. Highway 101: Police assist fire department and Medix on scene for a bicycle crash.

6:59 p.m., 2400 block S. Roosevelt: Fire alarm.

8:07 p.m., 2400 block S. Downing: Fire investigation.

Sept. 2
6:13 a.m., 1600 block Whispering Pine: Fire investigation.

11:13 p.m., 1200 block Second Avenue: Fire investigation.

2:54 p.m., Roosevelt and Avenue G: Car accident with injuries.

10:23 p.m., Turnaround: Emergency medical response.

Sept. 3
8:58 a.m., Mary Blake Playhouse: Emergency medical response. Medix and Seaside Rescue on scene for an unresponsive subject later determined to be sleeping soundly.

Highway 101 and Delmoo Loop police responded to a report of a crash caused by a 59-year-old Seaside man who made an illegal U-turn. A pickup following from behind had no opportunity to stop. Classic Towing arrived to remove the pickup; the other truck was driven from the scene. No injuries were reported. Gearhart police and the Gearhart fire department assisted.

Lost control, spun out

Police responded to the scene of a one-car crash on U.S. Highway 26 and Jubilee Road in Seaside Aug. 29 at 1:40 p.m. A 55-year-old Benton City woman was traveling westbound when she lost control of her Buick, spun, and crashed into another car traveling westbound. One person was transported to Seaside Providence Hospital with minor injuries. Classic Towing removed both cars. Hamlet fire and ODOT assisted on scene.

Mirror adjustment results in crash

A two-car accident happened on Aug. 29 at 3:53 p.m., on U.S. Highway 101 and U.S. Highway 26 when a 23-year-old Seaside man was adjusting his mirror and didn’t notice the car in front of him stopping for heavy traffic. No injuries were reported and both cars were drivable, although one car was substantially damaged. The Seaside man was cited for following too closely.

Critical injury from doing ‘cookies’

Abraham Leng Cha, 24 from Portland, was charged with reckless driving, reckless endangerment, and injuring a pedestrian Aug. 29 at 5:38 p.m. on the beach two miles north of the Sunset Beach Lane access. Cha was “doing cookies” with his Honda and being videoed by a family member when he lost control and struck the 23-year-old videotaping him. That person was flung up on the windshield and into the air. Multiple witnesses on scene provided medical care. The Warrenton fire department, the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office and Medix were on scene; the critically injured 23-year-old was taken by air ambulance to OHSU. Cha was released to his family members.

Purse snatched

A woman reported Aug. 29 at 11:23 p.m. her handbag was stolen from her locked car parked at Arcadia State Park. She said

she and two friends parked and took a walk; when they returned to the car, she saw her purse was missing but none of the windows were broken. A trooper noticed small marks above one rear window. The victim said she’d just used her credit card in Seaside and thought the theft might be connected.

110 mph driver

Cesar Samuel Gandara, 18, from Salem, was charged with reckless driving Aug. 30 at 7:45 p.m. on U.S. Highway 26 in Seaside when he was stopped for going 110 mph in a 55-mph zone. He had an 18-year-old passenger in the car. He was cited on scene and released.

Disturbance

John Milton Ewen, 63, of Seaside was arrested August 31 at 12:29 p.m. for causing a disturbance in the roadway in Astoria on Lewis and Clark Road. Troopers assisted Astoria police and the Clatsop County Sheriff’s department.



Aug. 1
2:20 a.m., Alarm system sounded due to malfunction, Concession Court, Gearhart.

3:38 p.m., Swimming/recreational water areas rescue, Del Ray Beach access, Warrenton.

5:54 p.m., Emergency medical service, Railroad, Gearhart.

Aug. 3
6:35 a.m., Emergency medical service, Highway 101, Warrenton.

10:53 a.m., Emergency medical service, Sunrise Ridge, Gearhart.

4:15 p.m., Emergency medical service, Seventh St., Gearhart.

Aug. 4
6:42 a.m., Motor vehicle accident with injuries, Roosevelt Drive and Avenue F, Seaside.

4:32 p.m., Emergency medical service, E Street, Gearhart.

10:44 p.m., Emergency medical service, Sunrise, Gearhart.

Aug. 6
9:59 a.m., Emergency medical service, Manion, Surf Pines.

Aug. 7
8:31 a.m., Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire, Shady Pine, Surf Pines.

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Illegal U-turn

On Aug. 28 at 8:47 a.m. on U.S.