

Oates' Ocean Water Swimming Pools

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/18

Annual Meeting / History & Hops
Times Theater - 5:30 PM

5/11 and 5/12

Mother's Day Tea
Butterfield Cottage - 1:30 PM
(Reservations required)

5/30

History & Hops
Seaside Brewing Co. - 6:00 PM

7/4

4th of July Cake Walk
Seaside Museum - 1:30 - 4:00 PM



Pictured above is the Oates' Ocean Water Swimming Pools, circa mid-1910s.

A brief history of John Edgar Oates, the natatorium at the turnaround, and the culture of indoor swimming in the early 1900s.

The natatorium at the Turnaround was built by John Edgar Oates in 1912. J.E. Oates was from South Carolina, but married a local lady named June Stanley. June was a descendant of Mr. E.M. Grimes who, in the late 1800's, owned most of what is now the downtown section of Broadway and Columbia. There is a rumor, though never validated, that June gifted the Natatorium land to Mr. Oates as a wedding gift.

The two swim pools, in the Natatorium building, were constructed with mixed concrete. John Royce, who worked on the building project said that they worked their concrete mixers 24 hours a day so there would be no concrete joints in the pools which would cause leaks. Saltwater tub baths were installed on the second floor. Saltwater for the pools and tubs was piped in from the ocean.

Swim tickets were \$1.00 and tub baths were \$0.50. Swim pool customers had private dressing rooms. "Locker Boys" would lock and unlock the dressing room doors for the swimmers. The Locker Boys would work two four-hour shifts daily, seven days a week. The pay was 12 ½ cents an hour.

Swim pool customers were permitted to come and go from the ocean although Mr. Oates was disturbed when he heard that some ocean bathers were changing their clothes in the public restrooms under the Turnaround rather than purchasing a ticket to his swim pools.

In 1944, J.E. Oates died, and the building was sold to the Raw brothers who purchased the property for \$52,000.00. The pools continued to operate, but only during the summers.

Continued on next page...

As Seaside's Mayor I have issued a proclamation for April for "Volunteer Recognition Month". As your museum president, I hereby express my deepest appreciation for all of our volunteers. Your commitment, passion, and unwavering support have been the heartbeat of our institution. You have created new stories, retold old ones, and helped our visitors to appreciate and understand our past. You have made the Seaside Museum a must-see stop for guests of all ages! I'm excited to continue this journey with you. New exhibits await, more stories want to be told, and more connections are coming. Together, we'll weave more memories, inspire more minds, and celebrate the magic of our Seaside!

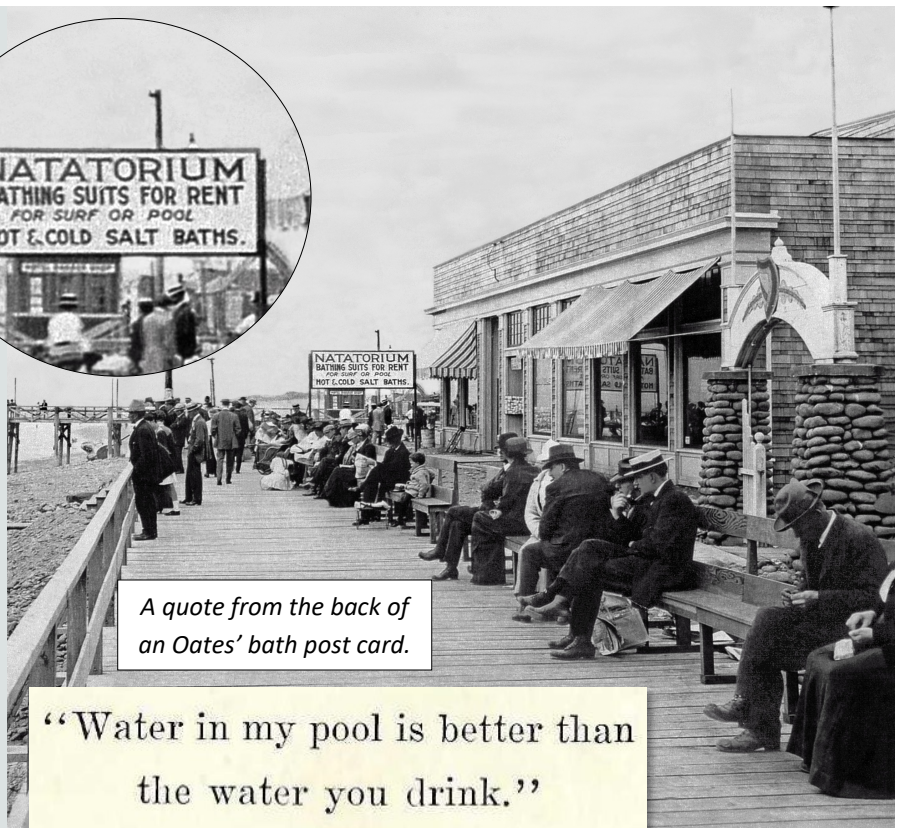
Steve Wright

Continued from front page...

The private dressing rooms were eliminated and small lockers for the swimmers were installed. Separate large dressing rooms were built for men and woman. An upper ocean-facing area of the building was remodeled and rented to the local American Legion for club purposes. In 1952 they moved to their current location along the Neawanna River on east Broadway.

By 1955, the novelty for saltwater swim pools was subsiding and they were costly to maintain. The pools were converted to freshwater, and the tubs were eliminated. In 1958, the Raw brothers sold the property to Mr. Louis Albert, a soft drink distributor from Portland who owned a home on south Prom. The selling price was \$175,000.00. In 1967 the building was torn down and for several years the lot was used for public parking.

In June of 2002, Trendwest Resorts Inc. had converted the lot into a 283-unit ocean front resort which was developed at a cost of approximately \$73 million.



A quote from the back of an Oates' bath post card.

“Water in my pool is better than the water you drink.”

JOIN US FOR AFTERNOON TEA ON

Enjoy sweets, savories, and select teas at the Butterfield Cottage! Reservations required.

Saturday, May 11th

Sunday, May 12th

at 1:30 PM.

Scan or click on the QR Code to purchase tickets!

(Members only through 4/10)



History & Hops is a series of local history discussions hosted by the Seaside Museum on the last Thursday of each month, September through May, at Seaside Brewing Co.

These events are free to attend and everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

April 18th

Times Theater @ 6 PM

RJ Marx

Seaside Riots of the 1960s

May 30th

Seaside Brewing Co. @ 6 PM

Julia Triezenberg

Lightship Columbia: Sentinel of the Sea

DO YOU HAVE SPARE TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

COME VOLUNTEER!

We are open **Wed-Sat**, with two volunteer shifts available:

11:00 - 1:30

or

1:30 - 4:00

You can sign up for as little as one shift a month!

Email us if you are interested!

seasidemuseum@gmail.com

IN WITH THE OLD

The importance of proper cataloguing cannot be understated. There are items that have been in our collection for many years that have been entered into our database without full names, titles, explanations, or stories. When we are organizing our collections, sometimes we come across fascinating objects that leave us scratching

our heads. Lucky for us, we live in the age of the internet and can usually (but not always) locate enough information to give us a clearer idea of what an item was used for and how it works. Pictured here, is the Hardie Fog Gun, made in the USA by The Hardie Manufacturing Company in Hudson, Michigan. The gun portion would be attached to a hose, then to a pump— often with the Hardie name— on the fire truck which would then be hooked up to water. This tool would have been used to apply water to an interior fire. When used correctly, the water droplets break up into even smaller units allowing a quicker conversion to steam, which absorbs more heat from the air in the room. Versions of this device are used in modern-day firefighting.



If you own an item or find something of Seaside's history, contact the museum. We'd love to learn more about your Seaside treasure.



The Seaside Museum received a \$1,000 grant in January 2024 from the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition, a county organization affiliated with the Oregon Cultural Trust. The museum was able to purchase shelving and other archive materials to help preserve and store materials telling the story of Seaside's history.

Not all materials the museum owns are always on exhibit. The museum's Collections Room contains artifacts from Seaside's organizations, businesses, events -- and

the people who lived or visited here. The new shelving specifically is designed to better store the large linen boxes that contain clothing worn in the past -- such as gowns worn by those competing in the Miss Oregon pageant, uniforms of sailors in WWII, children's clothing and a variety of clothing that helps bring to life various eras of Seaside. The museum is very appreciative of this grant and supports the work of the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Oregon Cultural Trust empowers Oregonians to leverage their support for nonprofit arts, heritage, and humanities using the Cultural Tax Credit. When individuals match their cultural donation with a gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust, a portion of their state taxes fund more than 1,600 cultural organizations. They will receive up to a 100% refund in the form of a state tax credit. For more than two decades, the Oregon Cultural Trust has awarded close to \$40 million, and counting, to the cultural nonprofits around the state. For more information: www.culturaltrust.org. The Clatsop County Cultural Coalition awarded \$11,500 in grants to eight organizations in 2024.



These shelving units make an unbelievable difference!



Alecia Berg, Safeway Bakery Manager, and a happy cake walk winner

THE 4TH OF JULY CAKE WALK IS COMING BACK!



After placing the event on hiatus during COVID, the museum is bringing back the 4th of July Cake Walk! Hot dogs and drinks from the **American Legion** will be available for purchase. The museum will be open so you can check out all the new exhibits and other improvements we've made. Plan on stopping by the museum on Thursday July 4th, after the downtown parade, between 1:30 and 4.



If you want to see this event grow to look more like our past Old Fashioned Socials, we need volunteers! No prior experience needed! Even if you are just in town for the week or the day, we would love to have you join us. We will add activities as we gain committed volunteers.
Scan or click the QR code to sign up! Or call 503-738-7065

REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE CLOSED FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF JANUARY?



WE REPLACED THE CARPET!

We were able to replace the 35-year-old carpet with support from Carpet Corner, a long time area business.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT SPONSORS!



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The **Prom Exhibit** looks brighter, again with fresh paint on the walls.

Dragging the Gut is a photo exhibit showing Broadway over the years, especially in the 1950s-60s, when teens would drive around the turnaround so many times they'd run out of gas!



The **Museum Store** has been refreshed and there are new items such as Oregon magnets, new books, glass jewelry, and more.

Thanks to **Sherwin-Williams**, a number of exhibit areas were repainted, and that facilitated new and updated exhibits. The **Fire Exhibit** has a whole new look. The Seaside Fire Department was generous enough to donate some new artifacts and photographs from the fire service of both yesterday and today. The **Logging Exhibit** is being refreshed over the next couple of months with the help of a board member who used to work in the logging field. Now, there is nice fresh paint on those walls -- and photos that show the infamous Tillamook Burn and help demonstrate what it was like working in the woods.



Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, a number of projects in the main building were completed, some of which had been delayed over the years. Stop by and see the changes. You'll be amazed.

Also, work was done behind the scenes, including clearing out storerooms and rearranging the Collections Room, and some electrical work.

A special thanks to our superstar volunteers!

Teresa Taylor, Leah Griffith, Patrick Barker, Paul Finn, and Parni Myers!
Thank you to our staff member, Emily Halverson who brought along her husband, Howard, for all the heavy lifting!

It was a very busy month, but it looks great, so stop in and check it out.

Seaside's Diorama is "Modernized"

In 1999, a group of Seaside High School (SHS) students (Mindy Strimple, Amanda Villarreal, Jenny Vaughn, and Jake Sollar) joined museum volunteers in building a diorama of central Seaside to help celebrate the city's centennial. The display depicts Seaside as it was in 1899, the year it was incorporated as a city. The construction of the diorama qualified as the students' senior Pacifica Project. Then, Shirley Yates came to the museum and volunteered to refresh the display. It again became a SHS Pacifica Project when senior student Tyler Bird got involved. With the help of Shirley and volunteers Linda and Ben Benjamin, and fellow SHS seniors Lora Brown-Jurgeons, Ari Medina and Madi Fleming, Tyler completed the project.

Luckily, the buildings from the original diorama were still in excellent condition, but the trees looked more like tumbleweeds and the earth looked more like a desert, not the vibrant green of Seaside. Thanks to generous donations of over \$640 for supplies, the group made hundreds of trees and bushes; redid the land, streets and beaches; repainted the hills, river and ocean; and added more features. Now you can see a beaver dam on the Necanicum River, for example, and the Lewis & Clark salt cairn. If you look hard enough, you might even see Sasquatch, based on a reported sighting in the 1890s!

Thanks to Shirley & Tyler and crew, the diorama was the centerpiece of Seaside's 125th birthday celebration on February 17th at the museum. It is now ready to help visitors see what it was like to live in Seaside all those years ago.



Shirley Yates and Tyler Bird placing trees.



Live your dream of eternity while supporting the Seaside Museum!

Have you longed to be a train traveler of yesteryear? Perhaps a logger? May a visiting guest or even a cannery worker?

For only \$20.00 you, a loved one, or even your pet can be immortalized in the newly refurbished diorama of historic 1899 Seaside. Act now and be part of living history!



With each \$20.00 donation, a 3/4" hand painted figurine of townspeople or pets will be placed accordingly. In addition a record of each donation and placement will be available for your enjoyment.



SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE TO ORDER ONLINE OR CALL THE MUSEUM AT 503-738-7065





The Sou'Wester Garden Club has been a part of the Butterfield Cottage since the 1990's when they put in the first garden of flowers and plants that your Grandparents would have had in their yard. Nancy Berry, with other members, designed and planted the garden for the museum. Nancy started writing a column for the newsletter in 2003. "In each Newsletter I will try to write something about what is happening in the garden, but please remember that reading about a garden is never as good as visiting one so consider this as an invitation to stop by and smell the roses."

Many of those plants are still part of our garden 30 years later. The garden is still designed and maintained by the Sou'Wester Garden Club. Today, Teresa Taylor and Deborah Finn are co-chairs of the Garden Club. In January the Garden Club received a grant from the National Garden Club for material to build a rustic arbor for our Noisette Alister Stella Gray that is not happy under the shade of the Citizen tree. She will be moved to the west side of the property with her new arbor. Under the Citizen Tree, inside the fence, a shade garden will be planted with Hostas, Ferns, Fuchsias, and other shade-lovers all of which were introduced before 1910.

FEATURED PLANT

Noisette Alister Stella Gray
- 1894 Golden Rambler



We have a number of these roses in the garden, but you'll see them as you enter on either side of the entrance. They are very fragrant and be blooming with beautiful pink/red flowers in late spring and early summer. They can grow up to 20 ft tall and 15-20 ft wide, so we do have to keep them pruned! They are a climbing rose and perfect for the trellis. This plant was introduced first in the United Kingdom by Daisy Hill Nursery in 1912. This makes it a perfect plant for our Heritage Garden of plants from before 1920. They attract butterflies so be sure and look for them when you visit the garden.



Last spring, the museum kicked off the Butterfield Cottage Preservation Project and this spring we are actually starting work.

We found contractors to install new gutters, preserve the windows and fix the siding. It's not a quick process, but you'll start to see the preservation activities this spring and summer. We so appreciate all the gifts that are making this project happen.



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SAT. MAY 25TH 9 - 12

SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER

You will find a multitude of plants to purchase to add to your garden and of course the bake sale with breads and pies and cookies is a real hit. It's a short 3 hours so get there early. Proceeds from the Plant Sale benefit the clubs programs including their support of the Butterfield Garden.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

After 32 years the Butterfield Cottage fence needed a lot of work. A special shout-out and thank you to Patrick Barker who has been cutting the basic pickets and putting up the fence. Another big thank you to everyone else who has been involved in this project. The fence is copied from the original Butterfield fence from 1900. It's been long project to rebuild it (there were 500 pickets that needed to be replaced) and the group has been working through the winter between rain, snow and ice, even a tree limb that fell on the southwest corner of the fence which added to the repair project. Thank you so much for the time and help, the fence is looking so nice.

THANK YOU BUSINESS MEMBERS!

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SEASIDE AQUARIUM

Thank you Seaside Aquarium!



Our September 2023 Saltmakers Return event was recently highlighted in an Oregon Field Guide episode: <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/02/06/salt-making-on-the-oregon-coast-then-and-now/> or web search for "oregon field guide salt makers". This is an interesting comparison between the Lewis & Clark expedition salt making in Seaside and a modern day commercial enterprise, Jacobsen Salt (jacobsensalt.com) at Netarts Bay. Not a lot has changed over 200+ years!

IN MEMORIUM



Ken Ward, longtime museum volunteer, board member and president, passed away at the age of 90 on December 14th, 2023. We miss his smile and his friendly dogs that would often stop by and visit the museum well after he retired. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Sharon.

2024

ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING!

THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH

5:30 PM

TIMES THEATER & PUBLIC HOUSE

133 BROADWAY ST

SEASIDE, OR

HISTORY & HOPS WILL FOLLOW

@ 6 PM

*RJ Marx, retired
journalist, will be
sharing all things
involving the
Seaside Riots of
the early 1960s!*

FOOD AND
DRINKS WILL
BE AVAILABLE
FOR
PURCHASE

