Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 02: Historical Highlights

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1855 - A treaty, negotiated by José Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon Territory, relegated Native Americans, including members of the Nestugga, Tillamook, Clatsop, and Nehalem tribes to a reservation in the Little Nestucca River Valley. The Native Americans established a fish culture focused on salmon.1

1876 - Native Americans left the Nestucca Valley when the 1875 agreement was rescinded in order to allow Anglo-American settlers to homestead the area. As the region was populated, fishing and farming grounded the local economy.2

Fishing was done primarily on the Nestucca River with gill nets. Some fishermen attempted to cross the treacherous Nestucca Bar to reach the ocean.3

1880 - Joe and Mary Woods founded the village of Woods.4

1884 - Thomas Malaney homesteaded 145 acres of land located inside the horseshoe that was shaped by the Nestucca River. He platted the proposed town site and named it Ocean Park. On July 27, 1884, he platted the town of Ocean Park.5

1893 - The cannery was closed until 1899. During this time fishermen took their fish to Astoria to sell, both from McMinnville, introduced House Bill 282 to outlaw all gear on the Nestucca other than hook and line, commonly called angling.6

1905 - Measure 12 (Oregon Angling on Nestucca Bay Act) was filed by the Pacific City-Woods Area Chamber of Commerce.7

1906 - The Elmore Packing Company purchased the cannery just before the 1906 earthquake and fire. Ocean Park was declared a city and the Nestucca River was reopened to commercial fishing.8

1907 - After the flood, the town was moved downriver to higher ground and closer proximity to Nestucca Bay. It was called Malaney’s Addition to Ocean Park. By this time Thomas Malaney had died and his sons, John and Albert Malaney owned the land. R. C. Magaddi flirted with the Malaneys in the financial ventures of the town.9

1909 - The cannery reopened as the Astor Packing Company and ran for three years.10

1910 - Early 1900s - Tensions increased between commercial fishermen (gillnetters) and recreational fishermen (anglers) mounted on the Nestucca River.11

1917 - And for two dollars per person, Walt Fisher began rowing passengers from Hill Street, known by locals as McMinnville Heights, to Cape Kiwanda in the distance.12

1925/1926 - El Nino returned to the northern Pacific and salmon harvest in the Nestucca dropped from 605,576 pounds in 1925 to 385,863 pounds in 1926.13

1927 [January 27] - State Representatives Arthur Mc-Phillips and Walter Russel, both from McMinnville, introduced House Bill 282 to outlaw all gear on the Nestucca other than hook and line, commonly called angling.14

[February 24] - Governor Patterson signed HB 282, closing the Nestucca River to commercial fishing.15

[May 27] - Measure 12 (Oregon Angling on Nestucca Bay Act) was filed by the Nestucca Local of the Tillamook County Fisherman’s Union and the Clatsop Grange No. 355 in an effort to overturn HB 282.16

[June 28] - Measure 12 failed by 61,352 votes (53% to 47%) as Oregon citizens voted to uphold the law. The Nestucca River is still closed to commercial fishing.17

1930 - The Salmon River Highway (Hwy 18) cutoff to Lincoln City provided tourists access to the central coast communities. The new road to Lincoln City, the decrease in tourists dollars and other financial ventures caused by the Great Depression, and the closing of the river created a perfect storm that almost led to the demise of Pacific City. A bridge was built over the Nestucca River, replacing the ferry that operated from about 1917 to 1930.18

1949/1950 - After the flood, the town was moved downtown to higher ground and closer proximity to Nestucca Bay. It was called Malaney’s Addition to Ocean Park. By this time Thomas Malaney had died and his sons, John and Albert Malaney owned the land. R. C. Magaddi flirted with the Malaneys in the financial ventures of the town.9

As early as 1894, William Scott, George Miles, Rufus Whiteman and others began “rowing out from the surf-protected shore south of Cape Kiwanda” to avoid the Nestucca River Bar.11

1989 - The cannery reopened as the Astor Packing Company and ran for three years.10