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Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 11: Turning Oars for a Dory

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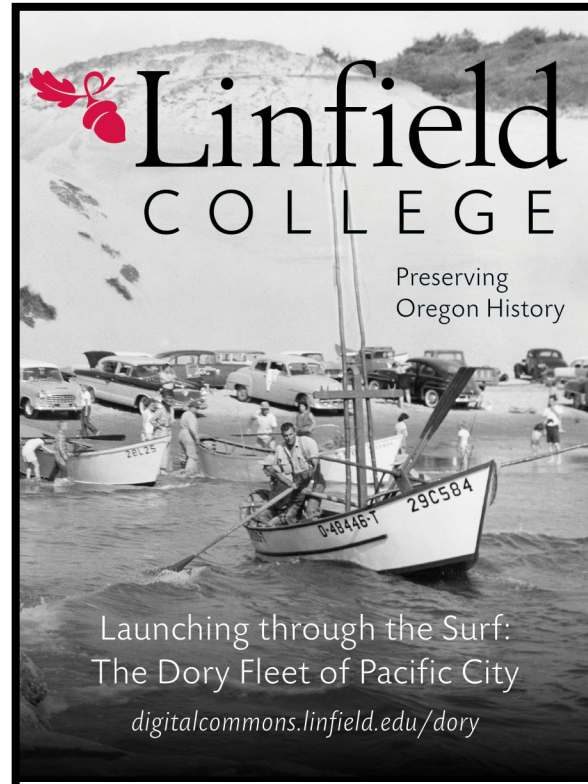


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Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City

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Image 1

Image 1 features the “buisness end” of the lathe. A motor, which operates the cutter head that has three blades in it, sits on the center left side. Image 3 shows the location of these blades as they are sharpened. The headstock is visible in the center of Image 1. It holds the blade end of the oar blank. The headstock is made from a piece of ship channel with a pin in the middle that helps secure the blank in place.



Image 2

Image 2 depicts the tailstock of the lathe. The center of this fits into the opposite end of the oar blank, shown in Image 6. Adjusting the wheel on the back end puts pressure on the back of the oar blank to help hold the material in place. The spacing between the headstock and tailstock is long enough to turn a blank that is 10’-6” long.

Image 4 reveals the pattern of the handle and the round portion of the oar as it moves down to the paddle end. A pin, which is connected to the cutting head, rides along this pattern.

Image 5 shows the “follower arrest.” This machine part goes around the shaft of the oar to help stabilize the material as the cutting head moves down the handle. At a specific point the follower arrest will trip from the carriage as the cutting head gets close to the wider blade of the oar.



Image 6

Terry checks and centers the oar blanks. Paul cuts two blanks from Sitka Spruce or old growth Douglas Fir timbers, 2-1/2” thick by 9” or 10” wide and 14’ long.



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5

Turning Oars for a Dory

In the early 1960s, Paul Hanneman and Terry Learned purchased a basic homemade lathe for turning oars. When the partners went to pick it up from the farmer in Tillamook who built it in the 1930s, they found a basic shell and a number of loose parts in boxes. They brought the lathe back to Paul's shop and reassembled it. It consists of a number of Model T Ford gears, wood pulleys, and leather belts that create forty-four speeds for the lathe.



Image 12 depicts the beginning of the shaping of the oar blade. At this point Terry operates the cutter head by hand. He cranks the cutter with one hand and operates a lever with his other hand. This helps form the angle and depth of the cut to create the diamond shape on the blade. The follower arrest has been tightened to support the long handle to keep it from shattering as pressure is applied to the blade during the shaping process.



Image 12



Image 14

Image 14 provides a close-up view of the final shape of the diamond pattern that has been cut into the blade.



Image 13

Image 13 shows the process of shaping the blade from the opposite side. It provides a better view of Terry's two-handed process of running the cutter head with the crank wheel in his right hand and the angle lever with his left hand.



Image 7

Image 7 shows Terry running a belt sander on the handle as the cutter head continues down the shaft of the oar.



Image 9

Image 9 illustrates Terry guiding the cutter head of the lathe as it carves the handle grip of the oar. The grip is rounded off to better fit the operator's hand.



Image 8

Image 8 provides a better view of the contour shape of the handle grip. Here, Terry uses a belt sander to remove rough surfaces as he slowly works down the shaft of the oar blank.



Image 10

Image 10 shows the follower arrest securing the shaft of the oar as the material turns and the cutting head continues to move down the oar blank.



Image 11

Image 11 features a long shot at the point where the cutter head has been disengaged from feeding down the shaft of the oar. As the oar continues to turn, Terry uses a sander to smooth the surface from the handle to the blade.



Image 16

Paul holds a pair of finished Cape Kiwanda Wood Products oars. After Terry completes the turning of the oars, Paul cuts off the headstock end with a saber saw and then completes the finish sanding of the entire oar. Finally, using a mix of oil-based stain and turpentine he applies a finish and burns the Cape Kiwanda insignia into the blade.



Image 15

Image 15 showcases the results of the morning's work of turning oars. The oars are now ready for Paul to complete the finishing touches.