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## *Launching through the Surf* Traveling Exhibit Panel 15: Yamhill County Connections

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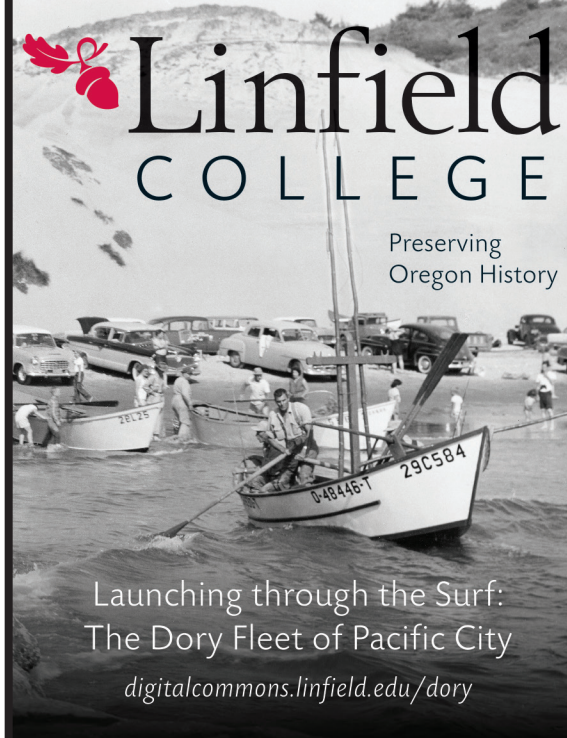
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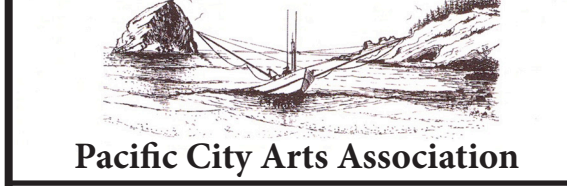
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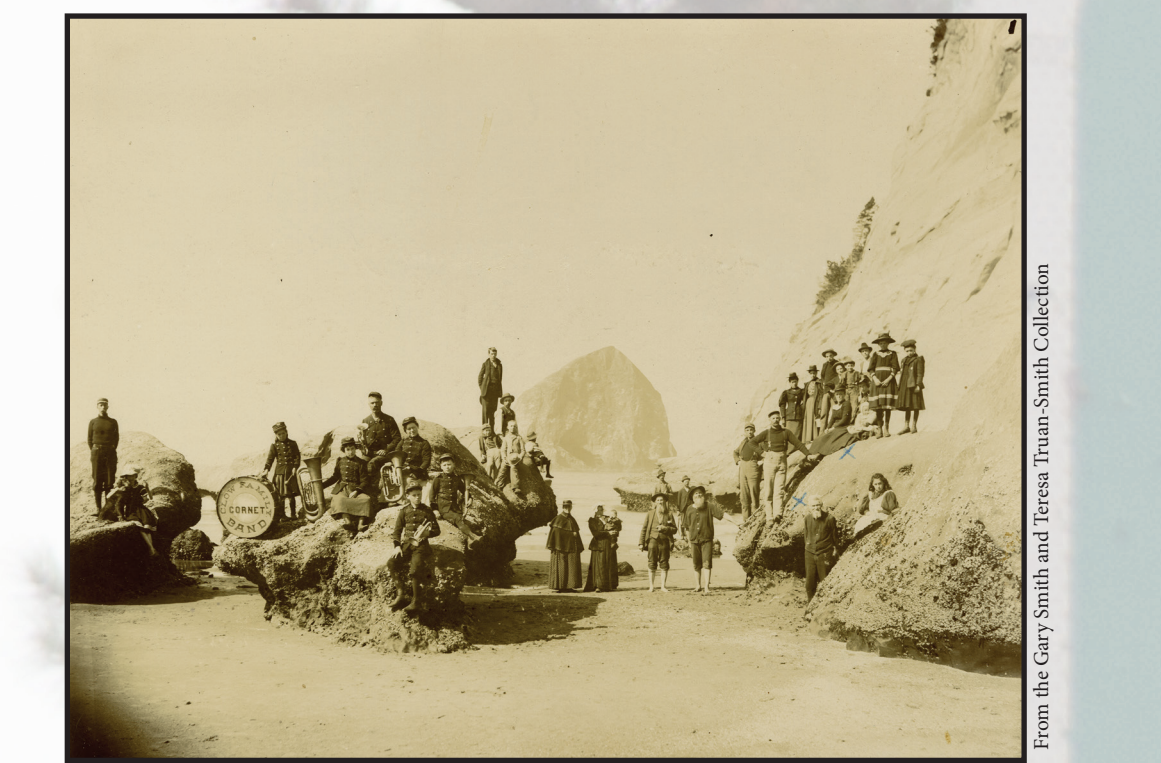


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**The Dorymen's Assoc.**  
PROTECTING OUR TRADITIONS AT CAPE KIWANDA



In the 1890s, Bernard McPhillips opened a campground on his property. In the summer and early fall Yamhill County residents trekked over the Coast Range in horse-drawn wagons to enjoy the beaches and Nestucca River fishing.



During a reunion, members of the McPhillips family pose at Cape Kiwanda. Bernard McPhillips is the gentlemen in the lower right corner of this 1896 photo.

The Yamhill County connections to Pacific City are often multigenerational. It was not uncommon for extended family members, neighbors, and friends to gather in Pacific City for fun and fishing.

The family of Mel Ferris now includes five generations of Pacific City dory fishers. Mel began dory fishing in Pacific City in the 1950s. His wife, Joan Nollette Ferris, fished with her father, Lawrence Nollette. Their children, Bill Ferris and Sherry Ferris McConkey, began fishing with them as youngsters. Sherry's daughter, Shawn McConkey Best, also began fishing at a young age and now continues the tradition with her husband, Zach, and their son, Rusty, who experienced his first dory fishing trip at age three in August 2014. Sherry and the Best family continue to live in McMinnville.



Scott Rabe (L), Sherry Ferris (C), and Bill Ferris (R)



Walter W. Russell with his wife, Mary, and children, Ruby and Raymond

Although a few fishermen ventured into the ocean before 1927 via the mouth of the Nestucca River or the beach at Cape Kiwanda, most of the commercial and sport fishing at Pacific City took place on the Nestucca River. On January 27, 1927, two Oregon state representatives from McMinnville, Arthur McPhillips and Walter W. Russell, introduced House Bill 282, calling for the closure of the Nestucca Bay and its tributaries to commercial fishing. The bill passed both the House and the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Patterson on February 24, 1927. Although it may have been inevitable, this government action forced commercial fishermen to find ways to adapt to ocean fishing in order to maintain their livelihoods. They did so by modifying their river boats to become seafaring dories. This event, put into motion in part by two McMinnville residents, was the catalyst that led to the creation of the Pacific City Dory Fleet.



Joan Nollette (L) and her father, Lawrence Nollette (R)



Bill Ferris at the stern, Sherry Ferris, Joan Ferris, and Jean Rabe (center left to right), and Wayne Rabe at the bow

While it is impossible to include a comprehensive list covering more than a century of interactions, the images in these panels provide a glimpse of a few of the many people who have forged connections between Pacific City and Yamhill County.

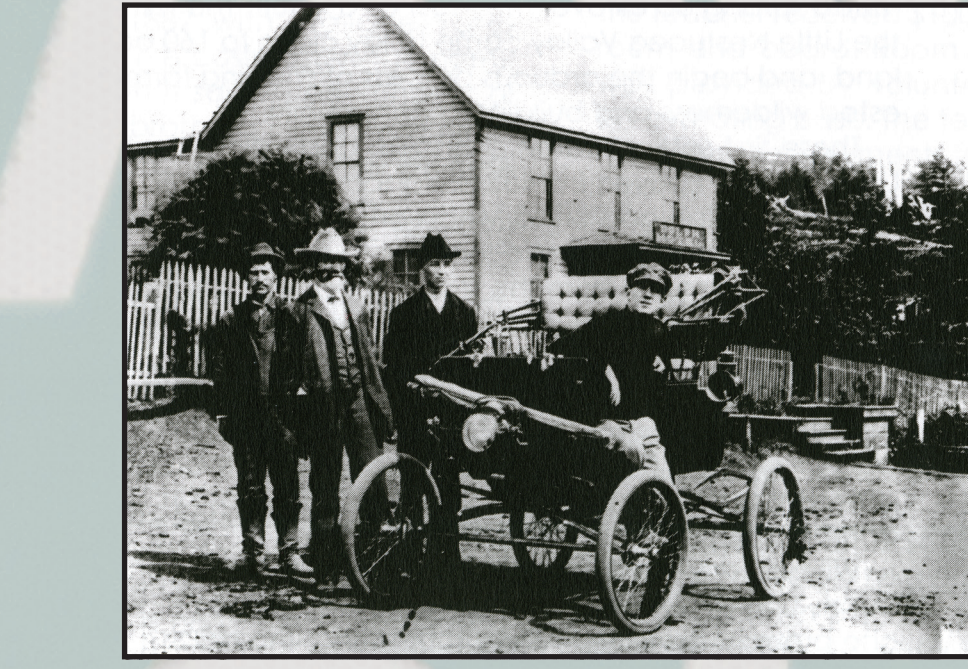
# Yamhill County



Arthur McPhillips, son of Bernard McPhillips

McPhillips Drive, which connects Pacific City and Tierra Del Mar over Cape Kiwanda, was built in the early 1960s. During the opening celebrations, L.O. (Dutch) Shermer noted that "Pacific City and McMinnville have long had a close association". That relationship began in 1888 when Bernard McPhillips of McMinnville purchased 302 acres in South Tillamook County, including Cape Kiwanda. In the first two decades of the twentieth century, F. R. Beals and others promoted Pacific City as the "closest accessible beach to the Willamette Valley." Whether for vacationing, fishing, or escaping the heat, residents from McMinnville and other Yamhill County cities continue to find Pacific City a welcome respite.

<sup>1</sup> Millar, L. "Thursday Ceremonies Open McPhillips Drive." Newspaper article. No additional information available. From the Paul Haneman Collection  
<sup>2</sup> Rissel, S., and J. Noegel. *Nestucca River Country*, 2009.



Ralph and Frank Wortman were the first to drive their car over the new toll road at Dolph, which connected Yamhill County and Pacific City. Mr. Shortridge, owner of Toll Road, is pictured in the center. The photo was taken at what is now the intersection of Highway 22 and the Little Nestucca River road (Highway 130).



Lloyd "Rosie" Rosenbalm of Willamina was a logger and a commercial fisherman. He named his dory *Minga*, his grandchildren's name for his wife.



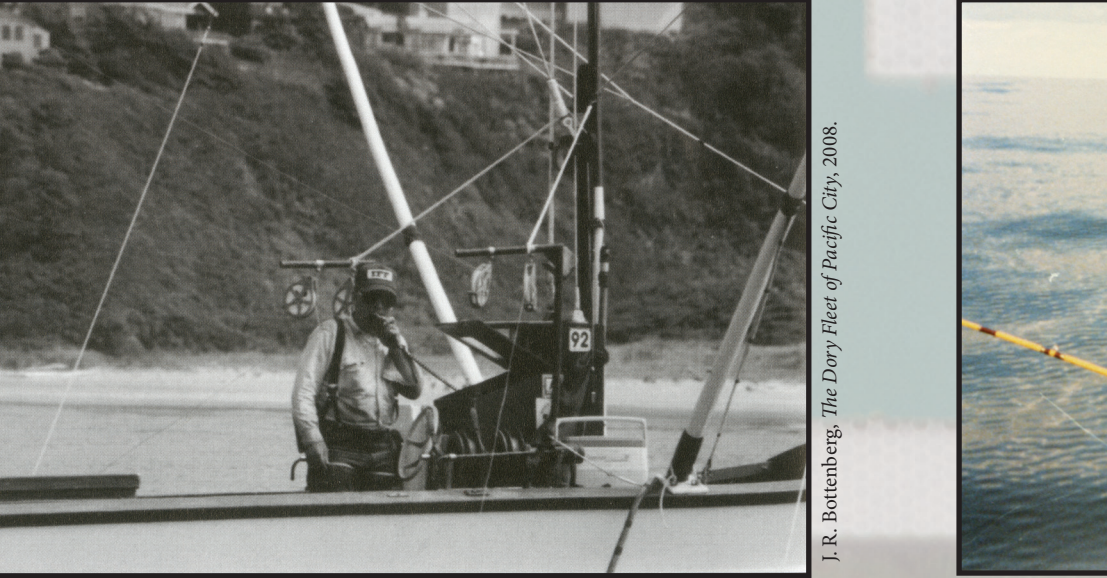
Many McMinnville residents built summer homes in Pacific City. John and Frank Wortman built the first home on Hill Street in 1917.<sup>1</sup> So many others from McMinnville also built cottages on this street that it became known locally as McMinnville Heights, with some preferring to call it McMinnville Row or McMinnville Ridge. Today, second and third generation family members still own many of these houses. In addition to Wortman, McMinnville family names appearing on the Hill Street cottages have included Colvin, Gunness, Macy, Rice, Peery, Smith, and Temple. These photos of McMinnville Ridge (Hill Street) are from the late 1920s. Yamhill County residents also built homes throughout Pacific City.



Like many dory fishers, Mike Cellers of McMinnville began his fishing career as a child. His mentors were his grandfathers and Glenn Martin. Pictured from left to right are Mike, his maternal grandfather Jim Houk of Perrydale, his paternal grandfather Al Cellers of McMinnville, Glen Martin of McMinnville, and Glen Strome of Junction City.



Dennis Brutke's double-ender built about 1960



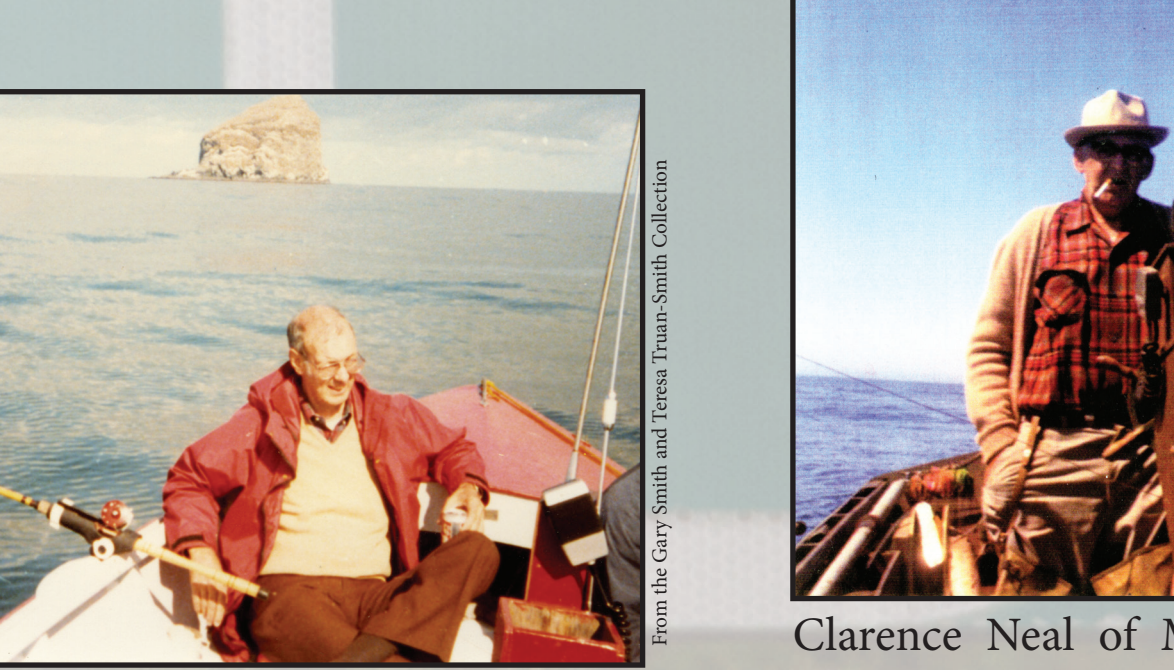
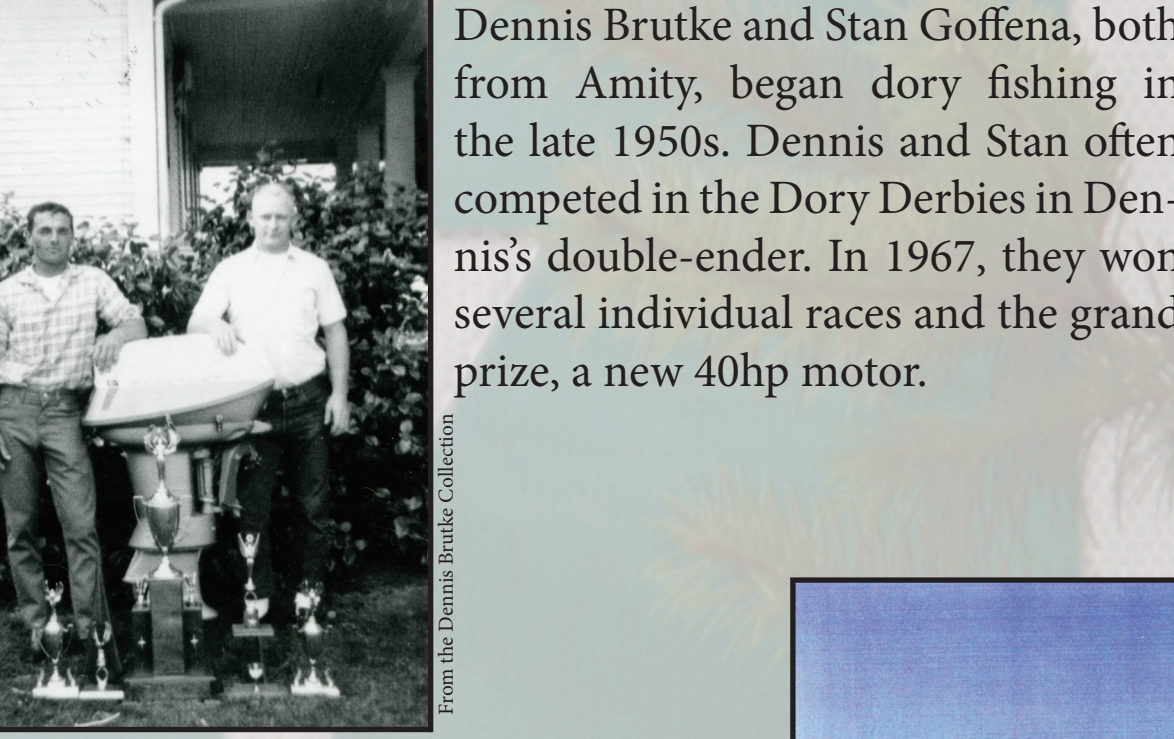
Jack McPhillips, great-grandson of Bernard McPhillips, dory fishing in 1987



Steve Larkins of McMinnville began commercial dory fishing in 1971. He eventually moved to Pacific City. His second dory, pictured above, was named *Larkins*.



Dennis Brutke and Stan Goffena, both from Amity, began dory fishing in the late 1950s. Dennis and Stan often competed in the Dory Derbies in Dennis's double-ender. In 1967, they won several individual races and the grand prize, a new 40hp motor.



Clarence Neal of McMinnville began dory fishing in the 1950s during the double-ender era and later used a square stern.

# Connections