

## \$3500 IN PROSPECT FOR MUSEUM HERE

Home for Natural History  
Collection Needed.

### TWO OFFERS ANNOUNCED

*Oregonian*  
10-9-31  
Mark A. Mayer and J. C. Braly  
Submit Tenders Contingent  
Upon Other Gifts.

A total of \$3500 was promised by Mark A. Mayer and J. C. Braly, promoters of a natural history museum for Portland, for a building to house the first collections, contingent on the raising of enough money for the first unit, at the meeting yesterday at the Congress hotel of the trustees of the Portland Museum of Natural History association.

Mr. Mayer, who has already given \$10,000 of the \$20,000 necessary to send an expedition to Africa to collect specimens for groups to be placed in the new museum, promised to give \$2500 of the \$3500, in addition to his other pledges, while Mr. Braly, well-known collector of birds and birds' eggs, agreed to give \$1000.

A rough estimate of the cost of the first unit, which will house the 250,000 specimens already promised the museum in addition to the modern groups from the African expedition, set the cost at \$100,000, although the directors were of the opinion that low building costs might bring that figure down. It will require a large building to house the various collections, most of them made by residents of Oregon, which have been promised the museum.

W. L. Finley, L. A. McNary, Ira N. Gabrielson and Mr. Braly were named by W. S. Raker, president of the association, on a committee to consider further the plans for a new building.

Necessity for a modern museum building was pointed out by Mr. Mayer and other members of the board because of the fact that if the African expedition is undertaken there must be some place to put the specimens.

"This expedition to Africa, which will require about \$20,000 to send it off, must get under way soon if it is to succeed," Mr. Mayer explained. "It must be in Africa soon in order to get in on the best season for collecting specimens."

A NATURAL history museum for Portland is among the probabilities of the not far distant future, since the donation of a total of \$13,500, of which \$12,500 is pledged by Mark A. Mayer and \$1,000 by J. C. Braly. This sum is to be applied to the \$20,000 needed for an expedition to Africa to collect specimens. A committee composed of W. L. Finley, L. A. McArthur, Ira N. Gabrielson, and Mr. Braly was named by W. S. Raker, president of the Portland Museum of Natural History association, to consider plans for a new building, the first unit of which would cost \$100,000.

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## *Oregonian* 10-13-31 Sea Monster Believed to Be Whale Ascends River to Columbia Slough

BY JAMES H. MCCOOL.

"There she blows!" This shibboleth of the days when whaling was practiced on the seven seas, before mineral oils and cheaper substitutes for other by-products of the whale were put on the market—long before corsets with whalebone stays were discarded, came to mind yesterday, as the largest "fish" ever seen on an inland waterway of Oregon made its appearance soon after daylight in Columbia slough and gamboled about all morning for the entertainment of hundreds of wild life enthusiasts who soon gathered on the banks of the slough and on the approach to the interstate bridge between Vancouver and Portland.

Milk wagon drivers parked their trucks along the road that flanks the south bank of the slough; oil trucks, laundry wagons and dozens of other automotive vehicles followed, and the occupants took up stations on the bank or leaped over the rail of the bridge to watch the antics of the strange visitor.

Some of the spectators guessed that the finny monster was a young whale, others thought it might be a sturgeon and still others held to the view that it was a porpoise. Among the latter was an old tar of sailing-ship times. This veteran said he saw the aquatic animal in the Columbia river near Longview, Wash., Sunday. He said it came up for air twice while he was looking at it and that both times it spouted water. He was sure it was the

same "fish" that caused so much excitement in Columbia slough yesterday. And he was positive it was a porpoise, as he has seen hundreds of these creatures in his voyagings.

But whatever it was, baby sperm whale or porpoise, the denizen from the ocean was a long way from its native habitat.

A deputy sheriff called The Oregonian's local room about ten yesterday morning and with a quivering voice told the acting city editor that a whale was spouting over in Columbia slough.

This writer was dispatched to the scene with Milton Werschkul, staff photographer. We got to the bridge approach at quarter past eleven, parked our car and hastened to the edge of the water, where groups of spectators were craning their necks and gesticulating. The whale, or porpoise, came up out of the water almost at once and blew a thin stream into the air as it emerged above the surface. It appeared at the distance—about 125 yards—to be about eight or ten feet long, three feet or so in girth at the middle and its tail was fully three feet wide.

We walked along the bank for the next half hour and the object of our curiosity came up out of the water fully 20 times. Several times it spouted a stream of water several feet into the air. It cruised back and forth from the bridge approach to a point about 300 yards downstream. Its motions

were lazily graceful. Sometimes it came out of the water for its full length, sometimes just the tip of its nose protruded, and sometimes only the huge tail rose above the surface. It would come up two or three times in a few moments and then disappear for several minutes, to reappear a hundred yards away either up or down stream.

William L. Finley, Oregon's famous naturalist, who is familiar with the habits of whales and porpoises, said on being acquainted with the actions of the unusual visitor that it might be either a baby "hump-backed" whale or a large porpoise.

"The hump-backed whale at maturity is 35 or 40 feet long," said Mr. Finley. "If the marine creature that came up Columbia slough yesterday is a whale it must be an exceptionally small one and a mere infant. I rather believe it is a porpoise."

The international encyclopedia is authority for the statement that porpoises sometimes ascend rivers, apparently in pursuit of salmon, as far as the water is brackish, but no instance is known of a porpoise or whale coming inland as far as this one did.

If the ocean mammal remains in Portland another day it is certain to cause a traffic congestion at the approach to the interstate bridge, as a sight so rare will not be overlooked by thousands of Portlanders.

Near dusk last night the whale floundered into shore, apparently misjudging the depth of the water, and for a moment appeared to be grounded on a bar opposite the east end of the Swift & Co. plant.

It was able to get back into deep water again, however, and at dark was swimming around in the same area where he has been through the day.

An attempt was made to shoot him by a man on the bank, but none of the bullets apparently reached their mark