



NWSeaport

Maritime Heritage Center

Otto Loggers  
Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center  
PO Box 9744, Seattle, WA 98109  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Northwest Seaport presents *Gold Rush Tugboats*: a  
Celebration of Historic Tugs which Ferried Klondike Fever**

**SEATTLE, WA (September 20, 2012)**

Celebrate **Gold Rush Tugboats** with Northwest Seaport on Sunday September 30 when the historic tugboats *Elmore* and *Arthur Foss* will be open for public boarding at Lake Union Park's Historic Ships Wharf. Relive Klondike Fever from the decks of these classic workboats on which miners shivered with anticipation of hitting pay dirt.

Activities for the entire family include: Tours of Vessels, Engine Start-ups & Whistle Sound-offs. A National Park Service Ranger from Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park – Seattle Unit, will be on hand to provide more information about the Gold Rush, the event making Seattle the anchor town of the Northwest coast.

Gold Rush mania hit the world when miners carrying more than two tons of gold arrived in Seattle and San Francisco in July 1897. In Seattle the steamship *Portland* arrived on July 17 carrying sixty-eight miners who shared stories of rivers lined with gold. The following year, the tugboats *R.P. Elmore* and *Wallowa* ferried freight and passengers to and from Seattle and Alaska ports, staging grounds for the Gold Rush.

Northwest Seaport Executive Director, Otto Loggers, said, "In 1898, A Seattle captain named E. Caine bought the *Wallowa* to tow barges between Seattle and Skagway during the Klondike Gold Rush. Captain Caine owned two other tugs, three sailing ships and several barges, which he operated as the Pacific Clipper Line. The *Wallowa* towed barges and sailing ships for two years under Captain Caine, before being sold to Puget Sound Sawmills.

"The *Wallowa* was renamed the *Arthur Foss* and is a National Historic Landmark and museum ship owned by Northwest Seaport in Seattle. Built in 1889 to tow sailing ships into the Columbia River, she also towed ships and barges to Alaska



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during the Klondike Gold Rush and came to Puget Sound as a logging tugboat. As a Foss Launch & Tug Company tugboat, *Arthur Foss* gained distinction as the star of the 1934 MGM movie "Tugboat Annie," one of the most powerful tugboats on the West Coast, and the last vessel to escape Wake Island before the Japanese invasion. Now, *Arthur Foss* continues her career as a heritage vessel. *Arthur Foss* uses a 700 horsepower direct-reversing Washington Iron Works diesel engine."

Tugboat owner, Deek Meek, said, "The historic tugboat *R.P. Elmore* was built for the Elmore Packing Company of Astoria, Oregon. Her original steam engine powered the vessel while it worked the lower Columbia River and made tows between Astoria and Tillamook, OR. In 1898, she participated in the Gold Rush and ferried freight and passengers to Alaska. She was purchased by the American Tugboat Company of Everett, WA, renamed *Elmore* and plied Puget Sound for nearly 80 years."

Today, the 78-foot *Elmore* docks in Port Ludlow, WA and is powered by a four cylinder Atlas-Imperial diesel engine.

## Gold Rush Tugboats

Event Details:

Sunday, September 30, 2012 | 10am – 5pm

Aboard the historic tugboats *Arthur Foss* and *Elmore*

Lake Union Park, Historic Ships Wharf, 860 Terry Ave N., Seattle, WA 98109

Presented by Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center, [www.nwseaport.org](http://www.nwseaport.org)

## About Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center

Northwest Seaport, founded in 1964, preserves and interprets the maritime heritage of Puget Sound and the Pacific Northwest. At Seattle's Lake Union Park Northwest Seaport museum ships, the tugboat *Arthur Foss* and the Lightship No. 83 *Swiftsure*, provide a hands-on venue for family education and vocational training programs. Recent Northwest Seaport events include Gold Rush Tugboats, on-board story time for toddlers, tugboat tours, maritime music and overnight experience programs.

Historic Ships Wharf – At Lake Union Park

P.O. Box 9744, Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 447-9800 [nwseaport.org](http://nwseaport.org)



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## **Links:**

### Presenting Organization:

Northwest Seaport <http://www.nwseaport.org/>

### Partnering Organizations:

Retired Tugboats Association <http://retiredtugs.org/>

National Parks Service, Klondike Gold Rush – Seattle Unit  
<http://www.nps.gov/klse/index.htm>

The Steamer Virginia V Foundation <http://www.virginiav.org/>

Maritime Folknet <http://www.maritimefolknet.org/>

### Sponsors:

Fremont Tugboat Company <http://www.fremonttugboat.com/>

Old Tacoma Marine <http://www.oldtacomamarine.com/>

### Tugboat and Wharf Information:

ARTHUR FOSS <http://www.nwseaport.org/arthurfoss.html>

ELMORE <http://retiredtugs.org/3/boat-roster/display-boat-details/?id=42>

Historic Ships Wharf <http://www.atlakeunionpark.org/activities-park/visiting-vessels-historic-ships-wharf>

## **ELMORE Docking Plan for September 30**

1100 Open for Public Boarding

1245 Depart north wall: Tugboat Tour of Lake Union aboard ELMORE

1400 Return to north wall: Public Boarding

1700 Closed for Public Boarding

## **ARTHUR FOSS Docking Plan for September 30**

1000 Open for Public Boarding

1700 Closed for Public Boarding

## CONTACT

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