



# WEBFOOTER EXTRA

## September 2022

### Memories of Hood River's Koberg Beach



Photo of American Red Cross workers enjoying a picnic at Koberg Beach in Hood River, Oregon in the 1930s.

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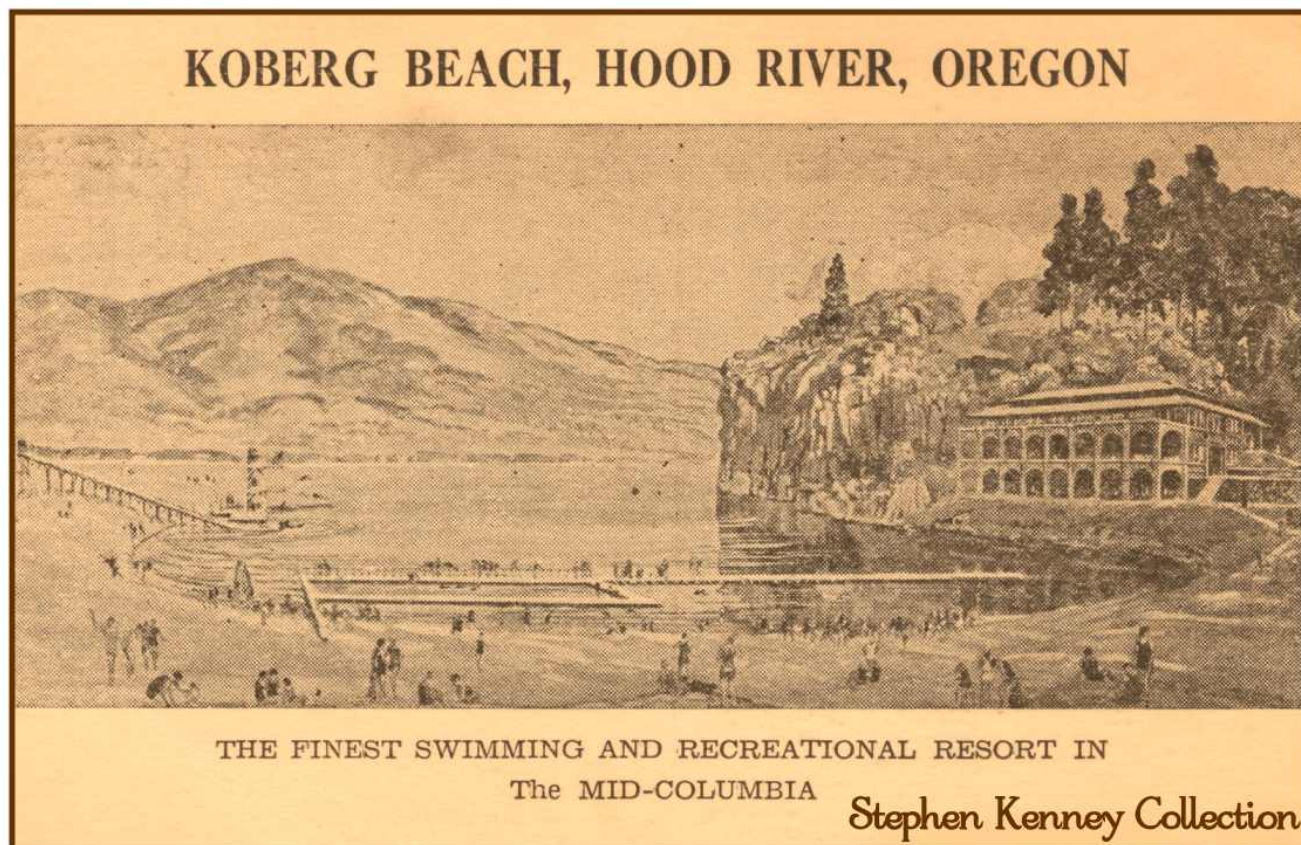
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# Memories of Hood River's Koberg Beach



Lithographic postcard view of Koberg Beach and Swim Pavilion in Hood River, Oregon in 1936. Postmarked July 1, 1936 in Hood River, Oregon.

**Editor's Note:** Adapted from an article by Cheryl Shampoe.

When they found a basalt cliff and a beautiful white sandy beach in 1860, John and Nancy Stanley decided to homestead what would later become Hood River. They thought this was a perfect location to operate a ferry across the Columbia River to Bingen, Washington.

The ferry was made up of a barge for hauling livestock and wagons that was pushed by a sailboat carrying people. When the wind was with you, the ride only took twenty minutes. Steamboats often stopped at Stanley Rock, which was named after the homesteaders, instead of at Hood River because the channel there was very unpredictable.

John H. Koberg came to Hood River from Schleswig in Holstein, Germany in 1887. He married Emma Lage, the daughter of one of the first families to settle in the Pine Grove area. In 1894, the Kobergs purchased 120 acres of river land from John Stanley. They developed the original pasture lands along the Columbia River and used 20 acres for a truck farm, which is a small farm where fruits and vegetables are grown for selling to the public. Peaches, asparagus, and tomatoes grown by the Kobergs became famous and were in high demand at Portland markets.



**C.S. Reeves real photo postcard view of the Swimming School for boys at Koberg Beach in Hood River, Oregon in 1928. Postmarked December 24, 1928 in Hood River, Oregon.**

The biggest event of the year was the 4th of July celebration. Everyone in the area descended upon Koberg Beach. They started the day with picnics, then danced in the evening. Afterwards, they finished the evening with a fireworks display from a barge offshore.

Many local events were held at Koberg Beach. The Apple Growers Association and other large groups held their annual picnics, along with water carnivals. There were beach games, horseshoes, baseball, watermelon eating contests, and even boxing matches.

Children who lived in the area received free swimming lessons at Koberg Beach. In 1930, the American Red Cross sponsored the first "Learn to Swim" school at Koberg. In 1936, approximately one thousand children attended the program. A bus transported the children from town over Indian Mountain Road to the Beach.

That same year, Hood River's own water park with a long waterslide and three-level diving platform were added. However, it all came to an end. The opening of Bonneville Dam in 1938 took a toll on Koberg's resort.





Real photo postcard view of the covered outdoor swimming area and refreshment stand at Koberg Beach in Hood River, Oregon circa 1930. Postally unused.



C.S. Reeves photo view of Water Sports at Koberg Beach in Hood River, Oregon circa 1926.





Photo of dancers at the Koberg Beach Dance Pavilion in the 1930s.

As the waters of the Columbia River rose, they washed over the wonderful beach, and assaulted the once magnificent pavilion, undermining the lower floors and rendering it a safety hazard. The cottonwoods were submerged in the rising water. In 1951, the federal government purchased the property to build an exit and a rest area to service the new four-lane interstate highway.

**Learn to Swim**

Red Cross Swimming School for  
boys and girls starts

**July 13**  
at Koberg Beach


Boys from country—Wednesdays  
Girls from country—Thursdays


School busses bring you to  
the beach

**Free**      Learn Life Saving      **Free**

All Boys and Girls  
are Welcome

**Post Card**





L. M. Bently,  
Rt. 3, Box 277,  
Hood River, Oregon

**Stephen Kenney Collection**



## Snap Shots at the Big Picnic Program

Here is just a small bit of the all-day picnic program: Indoor baseball games for men and ladies. Golf at the Hood River course. Races and contests for men, for women, and for the young folks. Horseshoe games, swimming and diving. There are bathing cribs for children and life guards are in attendance. Dancing in the pavilion, music and the Artisan's big special banquet for members and new members they secure.

Every Artisan within driving distance of Hood River should come to this big banquet

**SUNDAY, JUNE 29, ALL DAY**

Admission to Koberg Park and Beach Free

(Signed) THE ARTISAN KOBERG BEACH COMMITTEE

*Stephen Kenney Collection*

Advertising card for events at Koberg Beach on Sunday, June 29, 1930.



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