

# PICTURE PERFECT

A century-old photograph inspires art installation on Clover Island

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Some years ago, art consultant Barb Carter saw a picture of two women rowing a boat on the Columbia River in a booklet celebrating Kennewick's centennial.

She couldn't forget the image of nicely dressed women out on the river enjoying themselves. It said a lot about the women and the early settlers who established an intimate relationship with the river, said Carter, who also serves on the Kennewick Art Commission.

When the Port of Kennewick sought her ideas to find a unique work of art to be installed on Clover Island, she knew where to turn.

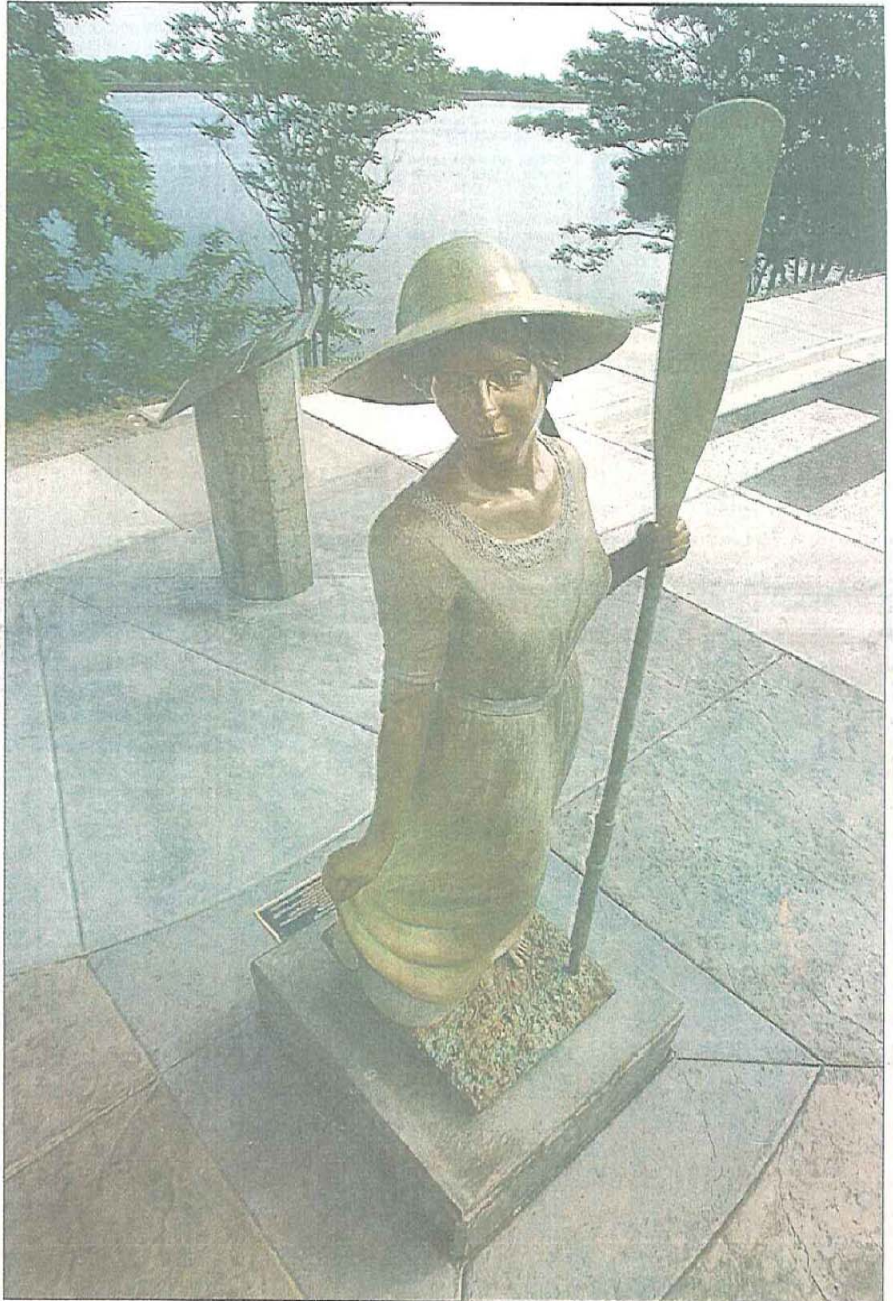
That photograph of Mabel and Dorothy Smith relaxing on the Columbia River from the early 1900s could be the inspiration for artwork the port planned to commission, she thought. And the port commissioners agreed.

The result was a new bronze sculpture, *Call of the River*, which sits in a spot between the port's old office and Cedars Restaurant on Clover Island, sharing space with a bronze etching of the photograph that inspired the statue of a woman wearing a hat and holding an oar. Today, the sculpture will be dedicated when the port celebrates completion of the island's gateway and lighthouse project.

Rodd Ambrosion of Joseph, Ore., who sculpted the bronze, has managed to capture the essence of what the Smith sisters reflected without glamorizing the female form, Carter said. The art recalls the history of Kennewick and the role the Columbia River has played in the lives of the people, she said.

The river was a place to relax and enjoy nature even while it sustained their lives, she said. The etching, which was made in Pennsylvania, provides context for the art.

The picture has another port connection, said Tana Bader Inglima, the port's director of governmental relations and marketing. An uncle of the Smith sisters, Al Smith, was one of the first Port of Kennewick commissioners, and many of the family's descendants — with such last names as Mills, Eby and Otheim — still live in the area, she said. A few of those relatives are expected to come to the ceremony at 8:30 p.m. on Clover Island, she said.



*Call of the River* was inspired by an early 1900s photograph of Mabel and Dorothy Smith, who moved to Kennewick with their families in 1904. The Port of Kennewick and others paid \$45,000 for the piece on Clover Island.

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Art will help create a sense of place on Clover Island, she said. It will draw people to the island, make them get out of their cars and appreciate the art, she said. It will become a catalyst for economic growth eventually as the island becomes a destination, she said.

The art project was funded by a state

grant and money from the city.

Last fall, the port installed a 14-foot-high steel piece, *Catch the Wind*, that symbolizes waves and winds near the boardwalk on the west side of the port's office.

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