

Nifty Tidbits: by Chuck Rigby

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John Jacob Astor, wealthy New York businessman, organized the American Fur Company in 1809. Competition from other companies created reduced profits, so he reorganized the company and called it the Pacific Fur Company. In September 1810, Astor sent out two parties to meet at the mouth of the Columbia River. At that time there were no companies with fur trading posts on the west coast. The overland party led by Wilson Price Hunt, known as the Astorians, had many difficulties and ordeals before the survivors arrived at the site of present day Astoria.

The second part of Astor's plan was to send a ship around Cape Horn of South America and then meet the Astorians at the Columbia River. It would carry supplies, trade goods, and more men to build and operate a fur trading post or fort. This ship,

the Tonquin, was commanded by Captain Jonathon Thorne, described by one writer as "a cantankerous and unreasonable man". The ship started with a crew of 20 plus the officers, but they also picked up at least 20 Hawaiians when they landed at Hawaii to pick up more supplies.

The Tonquin arrived at the entrance to the Columbia River on March 22, 1811. As usual, there was a sandbar at the mouth of the river. Almost all ships had a difficult time crossing the bar because of the winds, high breakers, and shallow water. Captain Thorne did not want to wait for a calmer day, so he sent out a small boat with five men to search for a passage. This boat was quickly overturned, the five men lost and never recovered. A few days later another small boat with three men was also lost before the Tonquin was able to enter the Columbia.

Shortly after unloading some of the supplies, the Tonquin sailed north to Vancouver Island in order to begin trading for furs.

Clayoquot Sound is the final resting place for the Tonquin and crew. The story, compiled from Native American reports, states that the Native Americans overwhelmed the ship and killed all the men on board. One wounded crewman crawled into the hold and using the gunpowder there, blew up the ship, himself, and at least 100 warriors plus others located in nearby canoes.

The sandbar that blocked the Columbia River was the result of natural geologic processes that are still happening today. All rivers carry sediment, which is deposited when the river reaches the ocean or a dam on the river. In some areas, such as the Nile or Mississippi Rivers, a delta is formed which extends the mouth of the river. In the Pacific Northwest there is a strong, cold, Alaskan Current which moves south along the coast. This current carries the river sediment south until it washes back on the beach by waves or remains offshore as a sandbar. There are sandbars across the mouth of all

rivers and bays in Oregon, Washington, and Northern California.

The current also causes waves to hit the beach at an angle. The backwash, or retreating wave goes back out perpendicular to the beach. The net result of this is a gradual zig-zag movement of sand down the beach from north to south. This movement is called long-shore drift which contributes to the bar at the entrance to any opening in the beach. Dredging is one solution, but building jetties out into the ocean seems to be the most common temporary solution. Brookings Harbor is a good example. It doesn't stop the long-shore drift, but it traps the sand on the northern side until it builds up enough to move around the tip of the jetty. Jetties also break up the force of strong storm waves so that boats can move in and out of the harbor more safely. Human beings have found a way to change some of the effects of geologic processes, at least temporarily.

Oregon FBI's Tech segment: COVID-19 vaccine ID card scams

Today: Building a digital defense against COVID-19 vaccine ID card scams.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center—or IC3.gov—has issued a warning about scams involving that oh-so-important piece of paper that millions of Americans are now carrying around in their wallets.

The FBI—along with our partners at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—are seeing reports of individuals selling fake COVID-19 vaccination record cards and encouraging others to print fake cards at home. Fake vaccination record cards have been advertised on social media websites as well as ecommerce platforms and blogs.

Vaccination record cards are intended to provide recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine with information about the type of vaccine they received and when they may be able to receive a second dose of the

vaccine. If you did not receive the vaccine, do not buy fake vaccine cards, do not make your own vaccine cards, and do not fill-in blank vaccination record cards with false information.

By misrepresenting yourself as vaccinated when entering schools, mass transit, workplaces, gyms, or places of worship, you put yourself and others around you at risk of contracting COVID-19. Additionally, the unauthorized use of an official government agency's seal (such as HHS or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) is a crime and may be punishable under federal law.

Because individuals may use fake vaccine cards to misrepresent themselves as vaccinated, we strongly encourage businesses, schools, places of worship, and government agencies to follow the CDC guidance and continue to maintain physical distancing and to use personal protective equipment.

If you did receive the vaccine, we also recommend you do not post photos of your vaccine card to social media. Your personal infor-

mation could be stolen to commit fraud. More on that next week.

If you believe you are a victim of an online scam, you should

report the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or call your FBI local office.

TECH TUESDAY: COVID-19 Vaccine Cards

- Do not buy fake vaccine cards.
- Do not make or print your own "vaccine card."
- Do not fill in a blank CDC vaccine card with false information.
- Do not post your vaccine card online.
- Report fraud to www.ic3.gov.

FBI FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION **Portland Field Office**

Today in History: The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 21, the 111th day of 2021. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 21, 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

On this date:

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, providing for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

In 1816, Charlotte Bronte, author of "Jane Eyre," was born in Thornton, England.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1918, Manfred von Richthofen, 25, the German ace known as the "Red Baron" who was believed to have downed 80 enemy aircraft during World War I, was himself shot down and killed while in action over France.

In 1926, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was born

in Mayfair, London; she was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and the Queen Mother.

In 1930, fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly 10 years in office and fled the country.

In 1976, clinical trials of the swine flu vaccine began in Washington, D.C.

In 1977, the musical play "Annie," based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 2,377 performances.

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon; however, she was later exposed as a fraud. (Canadian Jacqueline Gareau was named the actual winner of the women's race.)

In 2015, an Egyptian criminal court sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama announced the Justice Depart-

ment was assembling a team to "root out any cases of fraud or manipulation" in oil markets that might be contributing to \$4 a gallon-plus gasoline prices. Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., announced he would step down amid a developing ethics probe over how he'd handled an admitted extramarital affair with a former staffer and whether he tried to illegally cover it up. (The Senate Ethics Committee referred the case to the Justice Department, which decided not to prosecute Ensign.)

Five years ago: Prince, one of the most inventive and influential musicians of modern times, was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis; he was 57. Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's oldest and longest-reigning monarch, drew crowds of well-wishers and floods of tributes on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Jake Arrieta of the Chicago Cubs pitched his second no-hitter in a span of 11 regular-season starts, shutting down the Cincinnati Reds in a 16-0 rout.

One year ago: The coroner's office in California's Santa Clara County received autopsy results showing that a woman who died there Feb. 6 and a man who died Feb. 17 had the coronavirus. (It wasn't until Feb. 29 that the first known U.S. death from the virus was reported in Kirkland, Washington; officials later attributed two Feb. 26 deaths to the virus.) Researchers reported that a malaria drug that had been widely touted by President Donald Trump for treating the coronavirus showed no benefit in large study of its use in U.S. veterans hospitals. In its first-quarter earnings report, Netflix revealed that it had added nearly 16

million global subscribers during the first three months of the year, as stay-at-home orders went into effect.

Today's Birthdays:

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is 95. Actor-comedian-writer Elaine May is 89. Actor Charles Grodin is 86. Anti-death penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean is 82. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 74. Actor Patti LuPone is 72. Actor Tony Danza is 70. Actor James Morrison is 67. Actor Andie MacDowell is 63. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 62. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 62. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 55. Actor Leslie Silva is 53.

Actor Toby Stephens is 52. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 51. Actor Rob Riggle is 51. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 51. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 48. Olympic gold medal pairs figure skater Jamie Sale (sah-LAY') is 44. Rock musician David Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 43. Actor James McAvoy is 42. Former NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 41. Actor Terrence J is 39. Actor Gugu Mbatha-Raw is 38. Actor Christoph (cq) Sanders is 33. Actor Frank Dillane is 30. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 24.

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