

HISTORIC

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Courtesy of Cannon Beach History Center and Museum

Sailors stand near the wreck of the Glenesslin.

Whiskey was the culprit

By ELAINE
MURDY-TRUCKE
For The Daily Astorian

It was a beautiful sunny day Oct. 1, 1913. Residents, like Paul Bartels, flocked to the beach to enjoy the unusually calm fall day. As Bartels set up to photograph the beautiful calm Pacific, he noticed a ship sailing unusually close to the Nehalem shores.

During a 1978 oral history interview Paul recounted his impressions of the wreck of the Glenesslin, "The Glenesslin came in at Neahkahnie Mountain. The day was nice

and the old sea captain, he had been hittin' it pretty heavy, because they were coming ashore. You see, they wanted to get rid of the whiskey," Bartels said. "They were all pretty well loaded up, and he said he was going to lay down a while. At 2 o'clock he was woken up and they had changed course. They were coming up on the rock and there was no wind so they just plowed right into the rock."

Paul took several pictures of the event with his, "old-timey camera," he goes on to say, "You know the kind that you have to throw the black

rag over your head?"

The Court of Inquiry held to determine the cause of the wreck confirmed the suspicions of helpful beachgoers who helped tie lines to the rocks on shore and pull the 21 drunken crewmen to safety.

There was no mistaking the odor of liquor on many of the survivors, reports said. For his negligence, Captain Owen Williams, master of the ship, as well as his second mate John Colefield, were suspended for six months. The first mate F.W. Harwarth got off with a reprimand.



Courtesy of Cannon Beach History Center and Museum

Sailors stand near the wreck of the Glessnesslin.

The mystery deepens around the source of Earth's water

WASHINGTON (AP) — The mystery of where Earth's water came from got murkier recently when some astronomers essentially eliminated one of the chief suspects: comets.

Over the past few months, the European Space Agency's Rosetta space probe closely examined the type of comet that some scientists theorized could have brought water to our planet 4 billion years ago. It found water, but the wrong kind.

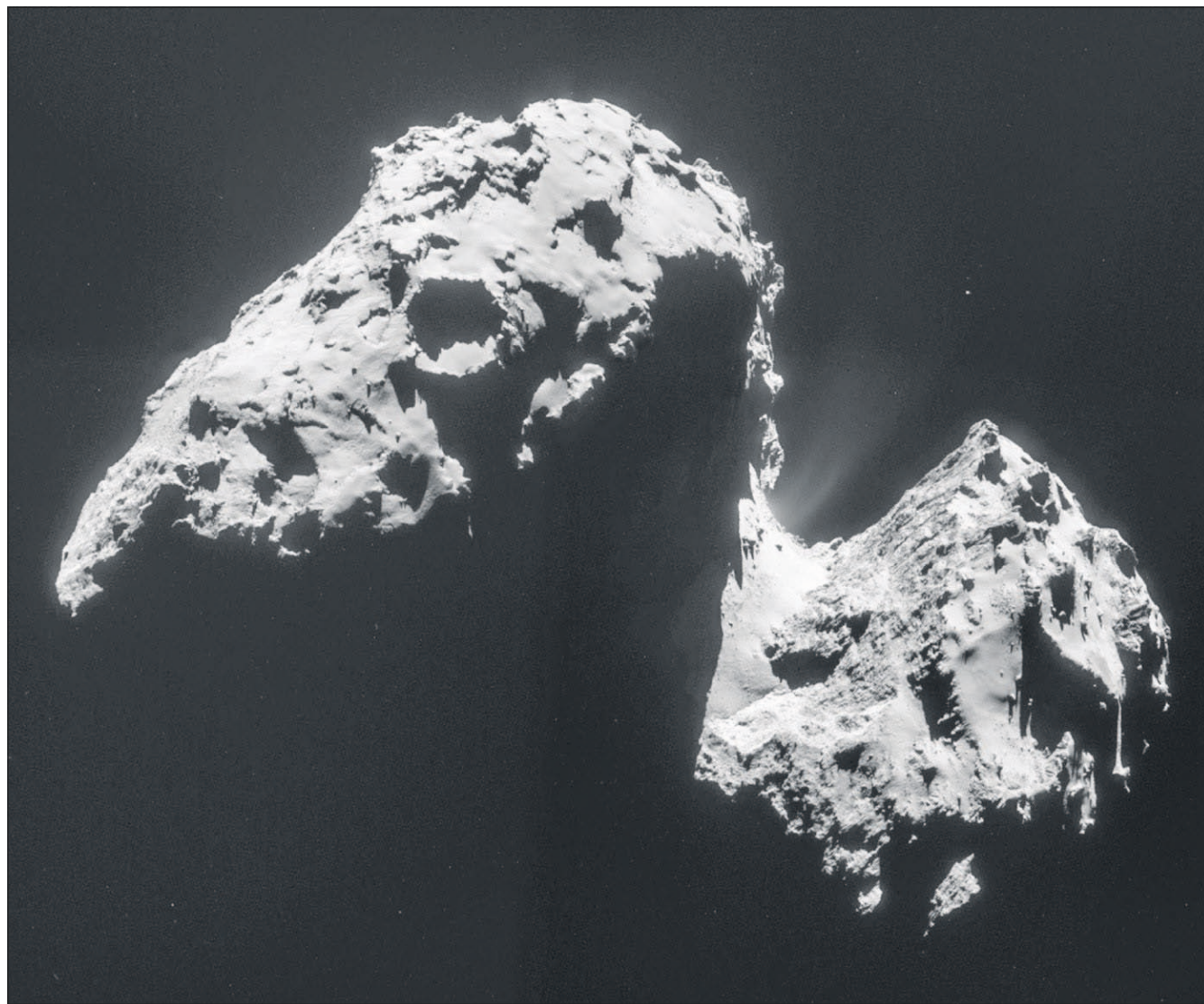
It was too heavy. One of the first scientific studies from the Rosetta mission found that the comet's water contains more of a hydrogen isotope called deuterium than water on Earth does.

"The question is who brought this water: Was it comets or was it something else?" asked Kathrin Altwegg of the University of Bern in Switzerland, lead author of a study published in the journal Science.

Something else, probably asteroids, Altwegg concluded. But others disagree.

Many scientists have long believed that Earth had water when it first formed, but that it boiled off, so that the water on the planet now had to have come from an outside source.

The findings from Rosetta's mission to the duck-shaped comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko complicate not just the question of the origin of Earth's water but our understanding of comets.



AP Photo/ESA

The image comprised of four images taken with the navigation camera on Rosetta and released by the European Space Agency ESA Nov. 20, shows comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko from a distance of 26 miles from the center of the comet. The mystery of where Earth's water came from has gotten murkier, with astronomers essentially eliminating one of the chief suspects: comets. The European Space Agency's Rosetta space probe closely examined the type of comet that some scientists theorized could have brought water to our planet 4 billion years ago. It found water, but the wrong kind.

Until now, scientists pretty much sorted comets into two types: near and far. The near ones, sometimes called

the Jupiter family, originally come from the Kuiper Belt outside Neptune and Pluto. The far ones hail from the

Oort Cloud, which is much farther out.

In 1986, a spacecraft came within about 400 miles

of Halley's comet, an Oort Cloud comet, and analyzed its water. It proved to be heavier than Earth's. But

three years ago, scientists examined the water in a Kuiper Belt comet, Hartley 2, and it was a perfect match for Earth's, so the comet theory was back, stronger than ever, Altwegg said.

The comet visited by Rosetta is a Kuiper Belt comet, but its water was even heavier than Halley's, Altwegg said. That shows that Kuiper Belt comets aren't as uniform as thought, and it once again complicates the issue of Earth's water.

"That probably rules out Kuiper Belt comets from bringing water to Earth," she said.

University of Maryland astronomer Michael A'Hearn, who wasn't part of the research, called the results startling but said they don't eliminate comets altogether. The water could have come from other types of Kuiper Belt comets, he said.

NASA Near Earth Object program manager Donald Yeomans, however, said the study does pretty much rule out comets.

While asteroids are a good suspect — they probably had more water on them 4 billion years ago than they do now — another possibility is that Earth kept some of its original water in its crust or in ice at the poles, Altwegg said.

Online: Journal Science: <http://www.sciencemag.org>; European Space Agency's Rosetta probe: <http://rosetta.esa.int>



Coming up on our
1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
of SERVING THE WARRENTON AREA!

ROYAL CAB
L.L.C.
Locally Owned & Operated
by Travis Weichal, since 1996

Call us for your transportation needs—
we will make you happy!

• **SMOKE FREE** •
BIKE RACKS ON ALL VEHICLES

Astoria, Warrenton
503-325-5818

Long Beach, WA
360-665-3500

www.royalcab.net