

LOVE FOR ANNIE



This caught the Ear's attention: "We as a small community our here are trying to come together and raise funds at this benefit to help this lady, Annie Jackson," Faith Samuelson wrote. "... I cannot wrap my mind around the heartache she is living."

Here's the story, from the GoFundMe page set up for Annie (www.gofundme.com/loveforannie): "On the evening of Jan. 13, 2015, Annie Jackson lost the love of her life, Nathan Jackson, at the young age of 35, in a car accident very near their home in rural Vernonia, Ore. The evening before, Annie and Nathan had celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary (the couple are pictured).

"... Now that Nathan is gone, Annie is forced to figure out a new way to live without the physical, emotional and financial support she has depended on for the last seven years. She lost her part-time job a couple of months ago when her company closed their doors, so she is without an income. She does not want to leave their home that they loved, and where they made many memories together."

A benefit is being held, "Love for Annie," from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday at The Birk (formerly the Birkenfeld Country Store), 11139 Oregon Highway 202 in Birkenfeld (http://thebirk.com), which includes raffles, and a silent auction with lots of goodies to bid on, including two front-row seats (and parking) for a Trail Blazers game. The Ty Curtis Band and Friends headline, and other musicians are donating their time, as well. A jam session follows the musical lineup.

If you have something you'd like to donate for the auction, or have questions about the benefit, give The Birk a call at 503-755-2722.

Annie's friends hope everyone will rally to help her in her time of need. "I know without a doubt if the tables were turned," one said, "she would help each and every one of us out without thinking twice."

UNDER THE CARPET



"Look what we found underneath the removed carpet at Astoria American Legion Post 12," Dave Kinney wrote to the Ear. "It's an inlaid American Legion logo with a missing U (from the center US)."

"The hallway was once hardwood flooring, but later was carpeted over, and it was gone for many years," he explained. "Some members still remember it, and the booths that still show in the flooring from where they were removed."

The carpeting project was started and made possible by the Tongue Point Job Corps Seamanship Department. Pictured, from left, are Billy O'Reilly, Steven Paul Davis Jr., Jade Lyon, Antonio Harris Jr. and Mathew Bogan.

"The veterans and members are very much appreciating their hard work," Dave added, "and a job well done."

CRUISE NEWS



We get some pretty big cruise ships docking here in Astoria, but they don't even come close in size to Royal Caribbean International's new Oasis III class ship, Harmony of the Seas, pictured, courtesy of an illustration by Royal Caribbean International.

According to a story on gCaptain.com (http://tinyurl.com/rcoasi-iii), the behemoth, which is touted as being "the largest cruise ship ever constructed," is in the process being built, and is expected to debut in April 2016.

The ship will encompass 227,000 gross registered tons, 1,700 tons heavier than the other two Oasis class ships, and can "carry 5,479 guests at double occupancy ... and feature 2,747 staterooms ... 16 guest decks and feature Royal Caribbean's exclusive neighborhood concept, as well as new specialty restaurant concepts, even larger staterooms, similar 'smart ship' features to the Oasis of the Seas, and other guest amenities."

No word yet on how much a ticket will cost.

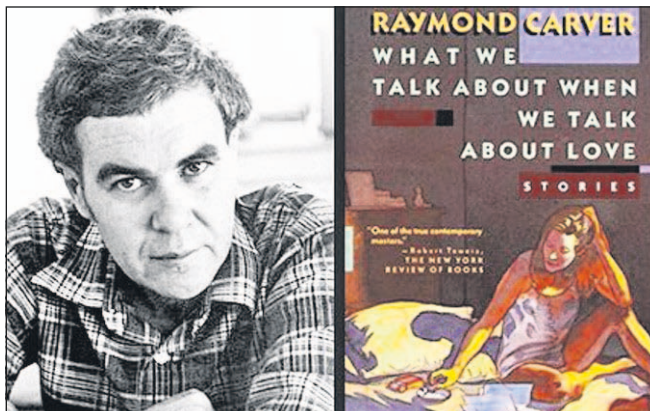
In One Ear



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RETURN OF THE NATIVE



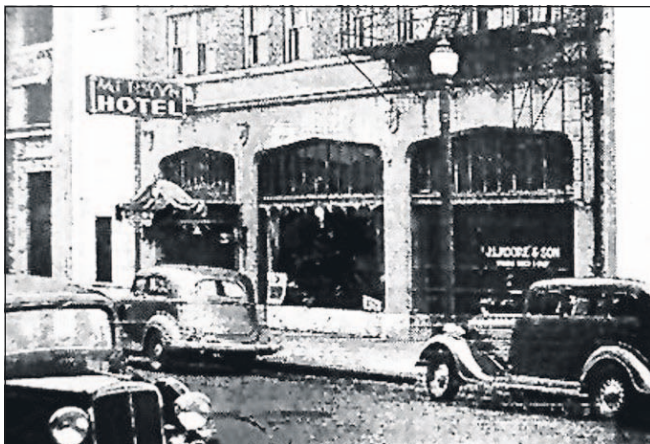
Courtesy of The Chief (http://tinyurl.com/ccarver), the Ear has a nugget of local Hollywood history to share: The movie "Birdman," which just won the Oscar for Best Motion Picture of the Year, revolves around the stage production of a short story, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love."

The story was written by Clatskanie native, Raymond Carver, pictured, who became known as one of the finest short story authors in American literature. He left Clatskanie at an early age, and according to the Chief story, he did not return until August 1984, with his wife, Tess Gallagher:

"They stopped at the Clatskanie Library where he autographed copies of his books, and also dined at Hump's Restaurant, where he allowed a reporter from the Chief to interview him. He said that he was touched by the reception he had received in his hometown. Carver and his poetry authoress wife gave an impromptu reading in the Safeway parking lot, as well. They simply put the top down of their Mercedes, stood on the seats and read from one of Carver's books."

Unfortunately, the writer died in 1988 of lung cancer at age 50. But he's still remembered in his hometown. The Raymond Carver Memorial was dedicated, 19 years after his death, at the Clatskanie Library. With the success of "Birdman," perhaps his writing will be rediscovered and remembered by a whole new generation.

TAKE A TOUR



Have you, like the Ear, peeked in the window of Merwyn/Waldorf Hotel on Duane Street, and wondered how the interior must have looked in its prime? Pictured, how the hotel exterior looked in happier days.

"The current Merwyn Hotel was constructed in 1926. Around 1980, it was renamed the Waldorf Hotel," local historian John Goodenberger wrote. "Prior to the Great Fire of 1922, there was both a Merwyn Hotel and a Waldorf Hotel. The Merwyn Hotel was located where the sushi restaurant is today (12th and Commercial streets). The Waldorf Hotel was located half a block from Video Horizons on Eighth and Bond streets."

When the new Merwyn Hotel opened in June 1926, it was operated by A.R. Thompson, who was the manager of the original Merwyn. The hotel closed in 1929 for remodeling, which included enlarging the lobby. It was renamed the Waldorf Hotel in 1980, and converted to low-cost housing. In 1989, it was closed because of health code violations, and it's been closed ever since.

The hotel is listed on the Astoria Downtown Historic District's National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (http://tinyurl.com/adhdMerwyn): "This building is significant for its level of intactness and careful attention to detailing. It is one of the best examples of Late Commercial with Renaissance detailing in the downtown area." Trivia nugget: The hotel's historic name is the Wenkebach Building.

Want an armchair tour? Watch Jeff Daly's video, "Save The Merwyn Hotel," filmed all over the building. You can see it at http://tinyurl.com/jdmerwyn or at the hotel's Facebook page, http://tinyurl.com/FBmerwyn. The view from the roof will blow your socks off.

At the moment, the historic Merwyn has a reprieve from demolition. Will it become another empty space downtown where a historic building once stood? Stay tuned.

A PIECE OF FINANCIAL HISTORY



North Coast numismatists might be interested in a submission by an anonymous county resident regarding the auction of a 1934 \$10,000 Federal Reserve Note, which is pictured. "Saw this and thought it might bring a smile to people," the little bird said.

Here's part of the auction spiel, from LiveAuctioneers in New York (http://tinyurl.com/bill10000): "This is the highest denomination of U.S. currency that was ever legal to own by the American public. This particular note comes from the famous Binion's Horse Shoe One Million Dollar display at Binion's Casino in Las Vegas. Binion had 100 \$10,000 bills displayed at his casino and it was a must-see attraction for years. The display was dismantled in the early 2000s and the \$10,000 notes were sold to collectors ... This is a chance to buy not only a piece of financial history, but a piece of Las Vegas nostalgia as well."

In case you're wondering, the auctioneers hoped to get \$120,000 to \$180,000 for the bill. The final sale price? When the auction ended on Feb. 28, the note went for \$122,850. Yikes.

REBEL WITH A CAUSE



Amanda Burgard of Warrenton and her horse, Rebel, need your vote. They are competing in the Nutrena My Horse, My Life Photo Contest for a \$10,000 gift card from SmartPak, a company that packages equine nutritional supplements, which Rebel needs because of health issues.

"Sweet, goofy, gorgeous, resilient Rebel. A 21-year-old quarter horse mare and the joy of my life," Amanda wrote on her photo entry, which is shown. "We gallop bareback and bridleless, play chase around the pasture and eat our lunch together ... The past five years have been a journey, sometimes a difficult one, but with proper balanced diet, lots of gentle exercise and natural trimming, we have prevailed! Today Rebel runs barefoot and sound around the field with all her buddies, and still enjoys a good gallop on the beach. She is living proof that good nutrition goes a long way."

Vote for their photo at http://bit.ly/1LTIeIG. It looks like the photo was taken in Oregon, but actually it's North Carolina. Amanda's husband is in the Coast Guard, and that was one of the places they have lived before arriving on the North Coast.

Amanda says if she wins, she will donate the majority of the prize to the Equine Cushings' Disease & Insulin Resistance (http://ecirhorse.org), a nonprofit for the conditions Rebel has. "\$10,000 would really go a long way," she noted.

JUST DUCKY



"Petey the duck was found by a concerned local citizen," Alexandria Chandler at Astoria Animal Hospital told the Ear. It was Feb. 27, in the South Slope/Tapiola area, and Petey, who is pictured, has not yet been reunited with his family.

"He was found resting on her front patio, huddled and confused," Alex explained. "A cursory investigation within the neighborhood revealed that Petey had escaped from a nearby house. He was discovered by the startled occupants, and may have been placed there as some sort of prank or practical joke. We ask that anyone who knows Petey, or where he may have come from, to call Astoria Animal Hospital during regular business hours at 503-325-1581."

"Petey is just what we've decided to call him while he's here," she added. "Hopefully he'll find his real home and already has a name; it's just so hard to resist naming him when he's talking to us so much! Very friendly little dude."



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