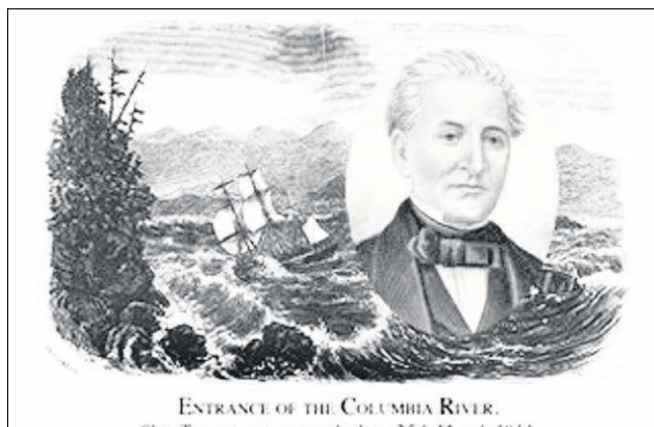


THE GARDEN OF EDEN

ENTRANCE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.
Ship Tonquin entering the bar 25th March 1811.

Did you know that 204 years ago Sunday (April 12, 1811) is the date that John Jacob Astor's merchant ship, the *Tonquin*, anchored off what is now Astoria to establish a trading post here? A highly detailed and entertaining journal by M. Gabriel Franchere, pictured inset, a Canadian clerk aboard the vessel, published in 1854, tells of the adventure first-hand. You can read it online at <http://tinyurl.com/MFranchere>

"The entrance of the river, which we plainly distinguished with the naked eye, appeared but a confused and agitated sea," he wrote about the bar crossing, "the waves, impelled by a wind from the offing, broke upon the bar, and left no perceptible passage."

While the ship waited outside the mouth of the river to enter, "... the captain caused a boat to be lowered, and Mr. Fox (first mate), Basile Lapensee, Ignace Lapensee, Jos. Nadeau, and John Martin, got into her, taking some provisions and firearms, with orders to sound the channel and report themselves on board as soon as possible. The boat was not even supplied with a good sail, or a mast, but one of the partners gave Mr. Fox a pair of bed sheets to serve for the former."

Needless to say, the boat and crew were never seen again. Another boat that was sent out also disappeared, but one of the crew was found later on shore, very much alive, but naked, having miraculously survived the bar.

After a few harrowing attempts, the *Tonquin* finally made it across March 25, headed for the relative tranquility of Baker Bay to rest, then finally sailed upriver. An image from the journal of the *Tonquin* crossing the bar is shown.

"We imagined ourselves in the garden of Eden; the wild forests seemed to us delightful groves, and the leaves transformed to brilliant flowers," Franchere noted wryly of their arrival at what became Fort Astoria. "No doubt, the pleasure of finding ourselves at the end of our voyage, and liberated from the ship, made things appear to us a great deal more beautiful than they really were."

IN HARMONY

The Huffington Post recently ran a story about a sea organ (morske orgulje) on the coast of Zadar, Croatia (<http://tinyurl.com/musicwaves>). Yes, it is exactly what it sounds like it is — a 230-foot long pipe organ, conceived by architect Nikola Baai after a new jetty was built at the port — that is played by the wind and waves on the sea. It is pictured, courtesy of Oddmusic.com (<http://tinyurl.com/musicwaves2>).



According to the article, here's how it works: "On its surface, the organ looks like large marble steps leading into the Adriatic Sea. Below, however, lies a series of narrow channels that connect to 35 organ pipes. Each set of steps holds five organ pipes each and is tuned to a different musical chord.

"As waves and wind push air through the channels, a song pours through the organ pipes and out onto the steps above. The sounds produced rely completely on the wave energy's random time and space distribution."

Visitors say its music is "hauntingly memorable" and "rather rhythmic and even hypnotizing." You can hear its eerie harmonies for yourself, as there are two videos of the Sea Organ on the HuffPost page. Can you imagine one of these along Astoria's Riverwalk?

CASA TAKES THE CAKE



A cake prepared by Tongue Point Job Corps culinary arts student, Emily Gonzalez (pictured), sold for \$451 at a Clatsop Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) fundraiser event," a little bird at Tongue Point told the Ear. "It was called 'Chocolate Disaster' because as Emily removed it from the oven, one layer cracked in half. Efforts to repair it were successful, and led to a delicious dessert."

Ann Lederer, CASA program manager, gave the cake a rave review. "Please thank Emily Gonzalez for this incredible creation," she wrote. "I've included a half-consumed picture (shown, inset) ... Next year I'll be sure to take one just of the Tongue Point dessert before it is devoured!"

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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TRAVELING TREE



Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula resident Janelle Hux found an unusual tree trunk washed up in Long Beach on Saturday. It had lots of sea life growing on it that sure looks like pelagic gooseneck barnacles (<http://tinyurl.com/trunkbarn>), the same critters that have been bonded to several other items that have come in off the Pacific that are known to be 2011 Japanese tsunami debris. Janelle's photos of the tree, and a close-up of its passengers, are shown.

The Ear mentioned seeing lots of washed up tree trunks at the beach, but never one completely covered with live barnacles, to Janelle. "I've never seen anything like it either," she recalled, "except on those boats that washed up from the tsunami debris."

This isn't the first tree that's come across the ocean from Japan. Kyle Iboshi of KGW reports that back in December, Long Beach resident Russ Lewis found a 20-foot long tree section on the beach during a cleanup, and it was also covered with mussels and barnacles (<http://tinyurl.com/decentree>). Samples were taken and tested by the Oregon State University wood lab, which determined it was probably a Japanese black pine.

So what happened to this latest tree segment? Not research, anyway. "The next day, someone had cut the middle out of it and was filling his truck with firewood," Janelle told the Ear. "The circle of life."

"And it didn't smell so good, either," she noted.

TRIPLETS



The anniversary of the sinking of the HMS Titanic on April 15, 1912, is nigh, and the Ear has been saving this nugget to mark the occasion.

In February, gCaptain.com featured Bill "Engineer Guy" Hammack (www.engineerguy.com), who talks about the White Star Line's Olympic-class ships — which included the Titanic and her twins, the *Olympic*, and *Britannic* (<http://tinyurl.com/eguy-Titanic>).

He gleaned the information from the 1909 to 1911 editions of London's Journal the Engineer, which included many photos and graphics of the ships while under construction, from the keel up, at the Harland & Wolff Shipyard in Belfast, Ireland. *Olympic* and *Titanic* (right) are shown in the last time they were photographed together.

An Olympic-class ship required 3 million rivets, and 7.5 tons of gearing was used to reduce ship vibration — the goal was comfort and luxury, not speed. Ships were painted light colors for launching, so they'd show up better in photos, then painted black later to conceal the streaks on the ship's sides caused by loading coal; 650 tons of oil were shoveled into the boilers per day to produce steam, which was piped to the engines.

The *Olympic* had a stellar career, serving as a troop ship during World War I, and later making more than 500 trans-Atlantic voyages. *Britannic*, serving as a hospital ship during World War I, either hit a mine, or was torpedoed, and sank in an hour. And we all know what happened to the *Titanic* after her fateful meeting with an iceberg.

Nautical history buffs no doubt recall that the great-grandson of Astoria's namesake, John Jacob Astor IV, died in the Titanic disaster. His pregnant wife, Madeline, made it into a lifeboat, and gave birth to John Jacob Astor V four months later, Aug. 14, 1912, in New York (<http://tinyurl.com/jjastorV>).

HONEY NUT GOONIES

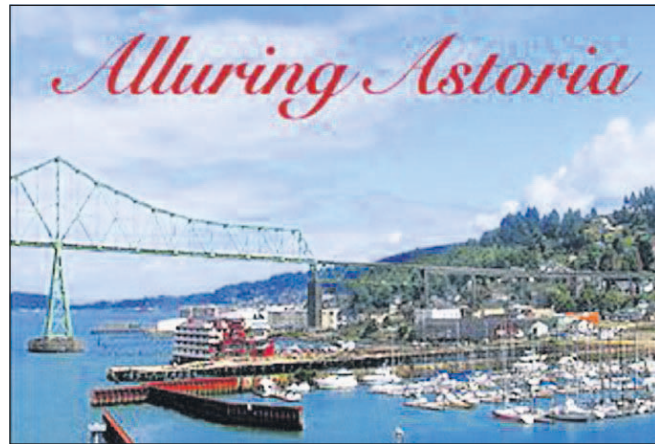


Goonie collectible fans take note: In February, eBay seller buymesoonataol sold a 1985 Cheerios cereal box, issued in Canada to promote the movie "The Goonies," for \$75. The box is a flat, meaning it was never assembled for sale, and is in pristine condition.

Well, if you're tearing up because you missed that opportunity, dry your eyes right now. Buymesoonataol has offered another mint condition flat Goonie cereal box for sale, and it is pictured. Here's the link: <http://tinyurl.com/cheerigoon>. This one, like the last, was issued in Canada, and is in English and French. The starting bid is \$65.

If you're interested, you'd better get moving — the bidding ends Monday morning.

TAKE A BOW, ASTORIA



Alluringly gloomy? Astoria is in the news yet again because of the Goonies. This time, it was a Huffington Post Travel Section piece by Alison Spiegel, "The Goonies Town Is A Real Place, And It's Totally Charming" (<http://tinyurl.com/HPCharming>). Cannon Beach gets some strokes, too, as another spot where the movie was filmed.

"It's never a bad time to relive some serious movie magic and make a trip of it," Alison says, urging people to head to the North Coast — but then neglects to mention the 30th Goonie Anniversary in Astoria June 4-7. Heavy sigh.

Stewart Bell let the Ear know that Astoria received a "glowing report" recently from an unexpected source: publisher and managing editor of *Vernonia's Voice*, Scott Laird's story, "Worth the trip: Astoria." You can read it at <http://tinyurl.com/VVastoria>.

The writer declares that Astoria has, indeed, "reinvented itself as a tourist destination," and goes on to highlight and praise several local businesses, all of whom should be delighted with his overall assessment: "One thing I noticed during our recent visit to Astoria was the quality of the service everywhere we went. Everyone was extremely friendly, knowledgeable and helpful." Well done, Astoria.

TROD THE BOARDS



At the fifth annual 'The Real Lewis and Clark Story (or How Finns Discovered Astoria)' melodrama you, too, can join in the fun! Judith Niland of the Astor Street Opry Company proclaims. "This season ASOC will be holding a nightly (and matinee) raffle for some lucky audience member to get up on stage with the cast and perform in the final act."

Pictured, from the play, William Clark, left, listens to Meriwether Lewis as the villain Krooke watches from under his disguise in the background.

How can you test your acting chops and attain your thespian moment of glory? Performances are at 7 p.m. April 10, 11, 17, and 18, with matinees at 2 p.m. April 12 and 10, at the ASOC Playhouse, 129 W. Bond St. You can buy tickets at the door an hour before show time, but reservations are recommended by calling 503-325-6104.

"The lucky winner gets to join the Corps of Discovery as they finally meet up with Sven, Ole, his Sturdy Sisters and his Mama, of course, right on stage," Judith explained.

"A dream come true," she noted, "for many of those who have secretly longed for the stage." Are you ready for your moment in the spotlight?

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Lower Columbia R/C Society — 8:30 a.m., back room at Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Neahkahnie Mountain hike, starts at Oswald West parking lot next to restrooms at 9:45 a.m. For information, call June Baumler at 503-368-4323.

Pug Socializing Club — 11 a.m., Carruthers Park, Warrenton. For pugs and their owners. Join online at <http://tinyurl.com/pugsclub>. For information, call Dave Kinney at 415-827-5190.

Columbia Northwestern Model Railroad Club — 1 p.m., in Hammond. Group runs trains on HO-scale layout. For information,

call Don Carter at 503-325-0757.

SUNDAY

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to Family Support Group, for anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to www.nami.org

Military Officers Association of America, Lower Columbia River Chapter — 5 p.m. meeting and dinner, Bridgewater Bistro, 20 Basin St. Willis Van Dusen is the guest speaker. All active duty, retired, reserve and former officers and warrant officers of the U.S. armed forces are invited. For information, call Capt. R. Stevens (U.S. Coast Guard, ret.) at 503-861-9832.

Line Dancing — 5:30 to 8 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway. For information, call 503-738-5111. No cost; suggested

\$5 tip to the instructor.

MONDAY

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

Columbia Senior Dinners — 11:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. Cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

Warrenton Senior Lunch Program — noon, Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. Suggested donation of \$5 for seniors and \$7 for those younger than 60. For information, or to volunteer, call 503-861-3502 Monday or Thursday.

Astoria Rotary Club — noon, second floor of the Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Guests always welcome. For information, go to www.AstoriaRotary.org

Warrenton Kiwanis Club — noon to 1 p.m., Doogers Seafood and Grill, 103 U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton. For information, call Darlene Warren at 503-861-2672.

Parkinson's Support Group — 1 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church library, 565 12th St. For information, call 503-338-8469 or 503-440-1970.

Peninsula Quilt Guild — 1 p.m., Peninsula Church Center, 5000 N Place, Seaview, Wash. Newcomers welcome. Bring nonperishable food donation. For information, call Janet King at 360-665-3005.

Knochlers Pinochle Group — 1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Cost is \$1 per regular session per person. Players with highest and second highest scores split the prize. Game is designed for players 55 and older, but all ages are welcome.

Seaside Lions Club — 5 p.m., West Lake Restaurant & Lounge, 1480 S. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside.

For information, call 503-738-7693.

Finnish Brotherhood, UFK-B&S Lodge No. 2 — 6 p.m. pea soup supper and Ole and Lena jokes, 7 p.m. lodge meeting, Suomi Hall, 244 W. Marine Drive.

Line Dancing for Seniors — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, temporarily located at 1555 W. Marine Drive in the old Astoria Yacht Club. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Pacific County (Wash.) Democrats — 7 p.m., North County Annex, 1216 Robert Bush Drive, South Bend, Wash. For information, email Diane Knutson at dlknutson69@yahoo.com

TUESDAY

Tobacco Free Coalition of Clatsop County — 9 to 10:30 a.m., Clatsop County Health and Human Services, 820 Exchange St. Anyone interested in tobacco use prevention and education welcome. For information, call Steven Blakesley

at 503-325-8500 or Alissa Dorman at 503-325-4321, ext. 5758.

Do Nothing Club — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men's group. For information, call Jack McBride at 360-665-2721.

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation of \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Michelle Lewis at 503-861-4200.

Columbia Senior Dinners — 11:30 a.m., Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. The cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

Astoria Lions Club — noon, Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Prospective members welcome. For information, contact Charlene Larsen at 503-325-0590.