

A PIECE OF FAMILY HISTORY



“Recently, Mister and I have been redoing our bathroom,” Cindy Munga of Warrenton wrote on her blog, OurShabbyNest.com. She is pictured, inset bottom, with her husband, Karima. While cleaning out a little nook across from the bathroom, she discovered what she thought was a bag of junk, which she put aside.

A week later, she went through the bag. “And there it was,” she wrote. “A beautiful and intricately designed photo album. As Mister and I looked through the pages, I really couldn’t tell who any of the people were. We showed it to our family ... hoping maybe we had found a piece family history. Well, we did ... except it wasn’t our family.”

The album, which belonged to the family of J. V. Burns, dated back to the 1920s or 1930s, and also included several letters. A few pages from the album are shown. Cindy did some sleuthing, and found the name was really Jack V. Burns (pictured inset, top) of Astoria, who was a Clatsop County sheriff from 1911 to 1919 and 1933 to 1937, and who also owned/operated a cigar shop.

“It is the coolest album I’ve ever seen,” Cindy declared, “but it’s not doing any good sitting on my mantel collecting dust!”

“(We) were originally hoping to find a descendant to give it to,” she told the Ear, “but when that failed, I sent an email to Mac Burns of the Clatsop County Historical Society. He ... said that they would love to add it to their collection — so we donated it to the museum.”

“We’re not sure how this photo album ended up in our home,” she said in her blog, “but I feel very honored to have been the ones to find it. I am hoping that this will be displayed for all of our community to see and enjoy. This little town of ours is full of rich history, and it sure is special when a lost piece is once again added back to the puzzle.”

DON'T TOUCH!



“Monday we responded to our first seal pup of the year!” Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium exclaimed. “Harbor seal babies (called pups) are born in spring and summer and can be found resting on the beach while their mothers search for food.” Her photo of the pup is shown.

“Well-meaning people sometimes think that a baby seal alone on the beach has been abandoned,” she explained, “but this is not the case. The mother is often nearby, watching, but will not approach with people around. If the baby seal is moved, it has no chance of reuniting with its mother.”

If you see a baby seal alone on the beach, leave it alone and call the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network Hotline at 541-270-6830. And please, keep your dogs away from it, too.

MOON OVER PORTLAND



“My neighbor, Bruce Ballweber, sent this photo of the most recent lunar eclipse,” Astorian Joy Brewer wrote to the Ear about the photo shown. It sure is an eye-grabber, and the artist is Portland photographer Dawn K. Baker, the wife of one of Bruce’s co-workers. Check out her Facebook page, “By My Own Eye Photography.”

Dawn said she was inspired and assisted by friend and fellow photographer, Frank George III of Points North Photography, and Pat Dickerson and Rebecca Evans, “whose willingness to travel with me to bizarre places in the middle of the night make shots like this one possible.”

“I think it is simply amazing,” Joy wrote, “and wanted to share it.”

In One Ear



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SLOTH NEEDS A FOREVER HOME



More Goonies memorabilia: “Some of you Goonies know that I’ve been considering selling my Sloth Stunt Mask, and that I went so far as to place it on eBay,” Randell Widner posted April 7 on the Goonies 30th Anniversary Facebook page. His photo of the mask is shown.

“Even though I had some serious offers, I took it offline so he could join us for the 30th Anniversary Reunion. The other reason is that I don’t want him to go to someone who is going to keep it away from his fans. ... After our reunion, we will again start consider all options to find him a new forever home.”

Only two Sloth masks were made for the movie and one got destroyed while he was wearing it filming a scene in the lagoon. So here’s Randell’s question: “Where do you think (Sloth) should live in the future?”

The Oregon Film Museum in Astoria, perhaps? Want to chime in on the Sloth Mask’s fate? Join the Goonies 30th Anniversary group at www.facebook.com/groups/Goonies30th and get your 10 cents in.

GOING GAFFE-Y

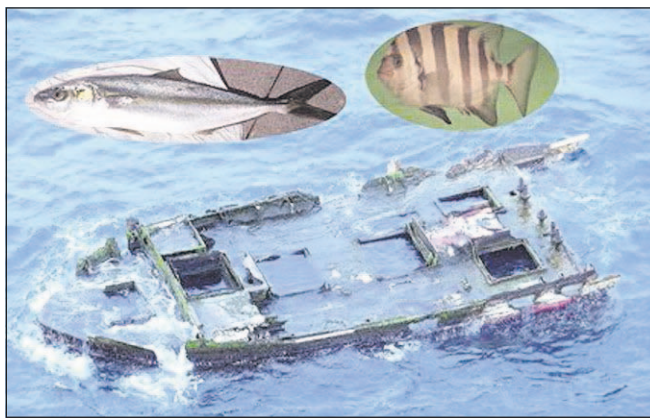
The Ear stands, and sits, corrected. Eagle-eyed April L. Salsburg noted, “I think there’s a mistake with the Titanic article (from the April 10 In One Ear column). From what I understand, John Jacob Astor IV’s son was actually John Jacob Astor VI as there was already a John Jacob Astor V in their family.” Astor IV went down with the Titanic, and his son was born several months later.

Well, that was news to the Ear, but by jiminey, April produced a New York Times article about the birth, which you can check out here: <http://tinyurl.com/jakeVI>. John Jacob Astor VI it is.

Then, a reader took exception to the phrase, “650 tons of oil were shoveled into the (Titanic’s) boilers per day” in the same story, observing, “You can’t shovel oil.” Of course not. Well, you could, I suppose, but it would be quite arduous. Clearly, a gremlin was at work and caused “oil” to be typed instead of “coal.” The Ear disavows all knowledge of the gremlin’s actions. Heavy sigh.



HITCHHIKERS FIND A HOME



On April 9, a 25-to-30-foot-long chunk of a fiberglass boat (pictured) was spotted a few miles offshore from Seal Rock in Lincoln County, Chris Havel of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reported. More than likely, it’s debris from the 2011 Japanese tsunami. Like another boat that came in last year, it had several hitchhikers: about 20 yellowtail jack (pictured inset left) and a banded knifejaw (pictured inset right), both fish known to be common to Japanese coastal waters. All photos are courtesy of the ODFW.

The boat was towed into Newport, and when the boat was checked for radiation (think Fukushima), there were no signs of it being above the normal, background level. On Monday, after the plants and sea life were scraped off and samples were taken, the 8,550-pound hull was sent to a landfill.

In case you are wondering, the fish are just fine, thank you. They were removed from the boat’s holding tanks and are frolicking happily at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

TAKING THE PLUNGE



It’s been a while since the Ear has mentioned tsunami survival pods, so it’s time for an update. One of the first out of the gate was Julian Sharpe’s Mukilteo, Wash. based 400-pound Survival Capsule (<http://survival-capsule.com>).

The Union-Bulletin of Walla Walla, Wash., reports that the latest endurance test involved dropping the pod 200 feet over Palouse Falls (<http://tinyurl.com/tsupod1>). Again. During the first test in January, the pod’s door opened and it sank at the bottom of the falls. It’s still there.

In February, the capsule made it over in one piece, but there are still issues that need to be resolved before Sharpe himself will take the Palouse Falls plunge in the pod, tentatively scheduled for April 26. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, IDS Global Inc. (www.idsglobal.org) of Gig Harbor, Wash., made a splash (sorry, couldn’t resist) at the Ocean Shores, Wash., Razor Clam Festival in March with their prototype inflatable escape and survival pod, The North Coast News reports (<http://tinyurl.com/tsupod2>). It is pictured, in a photo from the IDS website.

The pod holds three people, inflates in about 25 seconds, and weighs around 100 pounds. Better yet, it folds up to about the size of a large suitcase, and can even fit in your bedroom closet. It should retail for \$6,000 to \$7,000. Thankfully, there has been no mention of plans to test it on the Palouse Falls.

RETURN OF THE KING



Do you get misty-eyed thinking about Custard King’s yummy burgers? Cheer up, it appears there is a reprieve in sight. The Ear happened upon a new Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CustardKing, that offers hope for the custardless (and also provided the photo shown):

“Dear Custard King friends and fans: Here it is ... the official story. Greg Glover, owner of Commercial Astoria and of 94.7 KNRK fame, Franz Spielvogel, owner of Laughing Planet Cafe, and David Demers, principal commercial real estate broker at HSM Pacific, have purchased the building and the business.

“We three are huge Custard King fans and we want to bring it back to its original glory. We want to provide great and consistent service while using the best possible ingredients. Do not fear — we will be doing burgers, fries, custard and awesome shakes. We will be adding some much needed greens (in the form of salads). Stay tuned so you can see our progress! Love, The Custard Kings”

Long live the kings!

SHE’S STILL SMILING



“While at Freddie’s this evening, an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair stopped me and asked me to smile,” Cyndi Mudge (pictured right) wrote. “I was focused on my to-do list and getting home, but I took a moment and smiled. He complimented me — said my whole face smiled (it didn’t — I was too tired I’m sure).”

“Maybe it was because I looked tired and he took pity on me. But he said I earned a Smile Award — which he doesn’t give out very often. And so here it is. My Smile Award (pictured left) from a complete stranger. What a sweet thing for him to do.”

A closer look reveals her award also happens to promote Sabra J’s Attic in Cannon Beach, but what a clever, and nice, way to get the word out.

“Yes, I know it’s an ad — but still — it was a great little moment.”



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