

Mysteries of the North Coast

By **JEFF SMITH**
Special to *The Daily Astorian*

This carving was recently donated to the Columbia River Maritime Museum by a person who said it had come off the beach at Manzanita back before 1968.

It appears to be a carving of a religious figure — guesses range from St. Christopher to St. George — from an altar piece or a furniture leg.

The wood looks to be oak and although flush on three sides, there is no evidence of tool marks.

The museum plans to have it tested to determine a date of origin for the wood and a species identification which may help to explain how it arrived on our shores.

Could it be a telltale fragment of a wrecked Manila galleon? Or is it just a discarded bit of old furniture? One thing is certain — the person who carved it was a talented craftsman.

Jeff Smith is curator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.



Photo courtesy of Columbia River Maritime Museum
A wood carving washed up on the beach at Manzanita.

Photo courtesy of Columbia River Maritime Museum
A fragment from a wrecked galleon? Or a bit of old furniture.



9-1-WHAT?

THE BEST OF THE WORST CALLS TO ASTORIA 911 DISPATCH

Who needs pants at Burger King, anyway?

This past week was apparently clothing-optional in Astoria. Pants off at Burger King. Shirt off near the Astoria Riverfront Trolley. Teenagers, meanwhile, are still being teenagers.

Follow reporter Kyle Spurr on his 9-1-What? Twitter watch, where a few of the sometimes head-scratching calls to area dispatch take centerstage. The full feed is at www.twitter.com/9_1_WHAT.

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT Following

{6/24 @ 1:11 p.m.} Multiple calls reported a man with no pants walking toward Burger King. #Astoria

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT Following

{6/24 @ 5:58 p.m.} Man laying in the middle of the #Astoria Riverfront Trolley tracks, described as wearing no shirt and bad sunburn.

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT Following

{6/28 @ 7:41 p.m.} Report of someone tipping over a porta-potty on the #Seaside beach.

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT Following

{6/27 @ 12:37 p.m.} Teenagers jumping off a bridge near #SunsetBeach and causing a traffic hazard.

9-1-WHAT? @9_1_WHAT Following

{6/27 @ 1:02 p.m.} Caller reported hearing a woman screaming. It turned out to be teenagers having a good time. #Seaside

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For more information call 503-325-3211

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