

HE GAVE 150 PERCENT



First ran Jan. 15, 2010: The Ear wanted to know more about **Arvid Wuonola**, who had a sign-painting business in Astoria for 56 years. He is pictured top left, in 1985; bottom left, during World War II; and bottom right, painting a window in Astoria.

"It was unusual growing up in a small town with the added feature of one's father being recognized by all, and known and beloved by many," Arvid's son, **Mark Wuonola**, wrote. He is pictured, upper right.

"He was a businessman, but his first love was the people he worked with. He was one of those people with the blessing that he loved his work. He had struggled when he started his business in the depth of the Great Depression." He had already practiced and learned brush lettering at Knappa-Svensen High School.

Jon Westerholm recalled that his mother graduated with the painter, who "could draw like mad, and enjoyed doing it."

"He never took shortcuts," Mark said. "If the piece of wood for a sign would have looked good enough for most sign painters to letter the sign onto, 'good enough' wasn't good enough for him. An extra coat of paint it was. I worked for him Saturdays and summers ... and remember how he scrutinized my work. And, I should add, his own."

"He enjoyed working with the film crews when they were in town ... he liked meeting the people. He was a people guy, and generally ended up being introduced to the stars because he was larger than life himself — his warmth, his smile, his genuineness."

"His business was very successful," Mark added. "He loved to work (and) greatly admired the 'Abraham Lincoln of legend.' Even though some of the stories of 'Honest Abe' were probably more fiction than fact, Arvid Wuonola believed them as if they were gospel. And what is important is that he lived them. He gave his customers 150 percent."

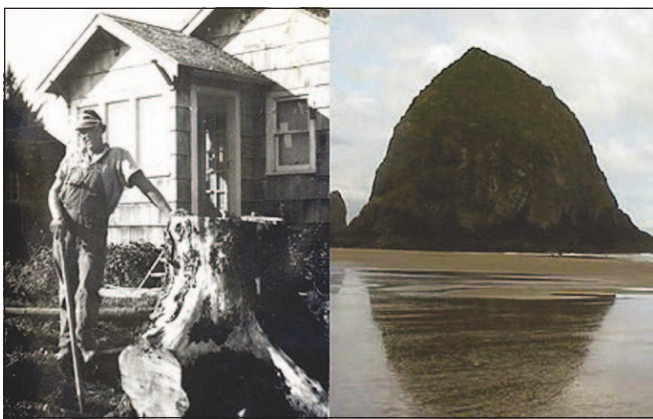
EXCITING TIMES



First ran March 22, 2013: "I bought this **old postcard** (pictured) on eBay," **Kevin Violette** told the Ear. "It shows **Shively Park** shortly after the 1911 centennial."

"The card is great," Kevin added, "but even better is the message. It reads: 'Well, Agnes, if you want excitement, come to Astoria and see the Finns and Swedes — why the town is alive with them. Shall I say I'm having an immense time? Carmel.'"

ASCENT, YES; CONSENT, NO



First ran April 22, 2011: The cover story in last week's Daily Astorian about **Haystack Rock** in Cannon Beach reminded **Mert Norman** about her father's adventure with the famous 235-foot-tall landmark. She dug around until she found the story from the Astoria Budget, dated July 16, 1927:

"Arriving from Europe a few days before, **Arthur Petersen** (pictured left), visited Cannon Beach and ... undertook the ascent of Haystack Rock. Without alpine equipment, he found a favorable ledge leading to the summit, which he attained in 20 minutes, to the surprise and terror of those watching on the beach." Yikes. She told the Ear that according to another article, he was the first one to make the climb.

So why did he do it? Being fresh from Germany, he only spoke a few words of English, and didn't know it wasn't allowed. "He just took his shoes off and climbed right up," Mert chuckled.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
Cannon Beach American Legion Women's Auxiliary Breakfast — 9 to 11:30 a.m., American Legion, 1216 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.

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

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
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 Diners — 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

Knocblers Pinochle Group — 1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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ROUNDBOUT FIX



From Nov. 26, 2010: **Cleve Rolfe** of Seaside asked what was going to be done about the hole, pictured left, in the 26-foot tall **Indian head statue** near the Astoria roundabout. Huh? Research time.

The cedar statue, made from a giant log, was created by **Peter Wolf Toth** (www.dschumaker.com) as part of the Trail of the Whispering Giants, which were created in all 50 states, and some Canadian provinces, to honor Native Americans. The Astoria statue, "**Ikala Nawan**," or "Man Who Fishes," honors the tribes of the North Coast. It is number 57 in the series, and was dedicated in 1987.

After carving his way across the country, the artist retreated to his studio in Edgewater, Fla., although he's been known to visit his statues and do repairs. Was that an option here? **Regina Willkie** at the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce directed me to the city of Astoria, which sent me to **JP Moss** of the Astoria Parks & Recreation Department.

He was most helpful, and so was **Dick Magathan**, who did repairs to the statue six years ago — in that same spot, by the way — by making a cedar plug. They were not aware the statue needed a new patch.

Iliana Arroyo of the Parks Department called the artist to see if he was available. Nope, not for at least a year, but no matter, the hole in the statue had already been fixed by **Mark Montgomery**.

He went out with a bucket truck, carved a 2-inch by 8-inch cedar board to fit the hole, then shaped it and stained it and used a sonic vibrating tool for the finishing touches. He glued the plug in, and the patch looks pretty nifty (pictured right). The job took four or five hours, Mark said, and was "sort of fun."

If Ikala Nawan could crack a smile, the Ear is sure he would.

SHIP SHAPE



First ran April 23, 2010: Last week the Ear was wondering about the origin of the **Bowpicker topiary hedge** (pictured) in Astoria, and several people wrote in or called with the story. Thank you all!

"**Denny Thompson** owned and operated Thompson's Astoria Granite Works," Denny's niece, **Cindy Thompson Daly** wrote. "He grew up around fisherman in Finnish Uniontown and loved to visit the Columbia Boat Yards in Astoria, and specifically liked boats designed by **Matt Tolonen**."

Denny's wife, **Frankye**, a nurse at Columbia Memorial Hospital, "was relaxing in the sun one day and looked at the hedge and asked Denny if it was about the length of a gillnet boat," Cindy wrote. "Denny thought that was a crazy thing to ask. Guess it wasn't, as soon thereafter he was busy trimming it into that shape." The couple are pictured, inset, in 2009.

"The laurel hedge was planted approximately 40 years ago, and within 10 years was tall enough to be trimmed to look like a bowpicker gillnet boat," Cindy explained. "Denny then began trimming the hedge himself to match Matt Tolonen's design."

Diane Beeston wrote that Denny "used to trim the hedge with the use of his hoist used for lifting large blocks of granite. His wife stood and manipulated the direction controls at his command. I had the privilege of seeing this one time. It was very entertaining."

"Denny's grandson carried on duties of trimming the hedge, and when he moved away, Denny hired local landscaper **Tal Gohl** to continue to keep the hedge looking pristine," Cindy added. "Now you have the rest of the story."

TUESDAY

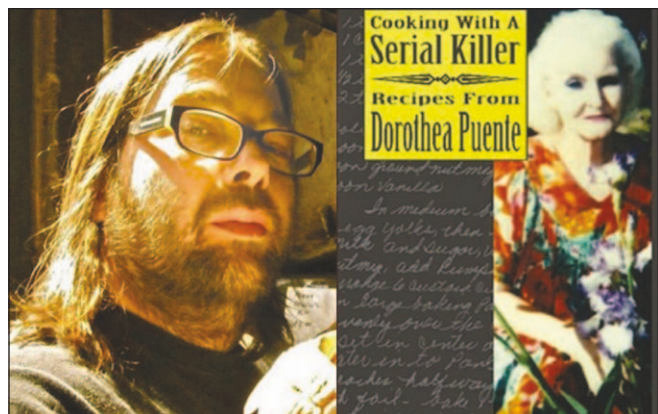
Do Nothing Club — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men's group. For information, call Jack McBride at 360-665-2721.

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 Diners — 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 Kiwanis Club — noon, El Tapatio, 229 W. Marine Drive. For information, call Robert McClelland at 503-894-0187 or Susan Brooks at 503-741-0186 or 503-338-4994.

DEATH BY SALSA



First ran April 8, 2011: If you ever decide to go "Borgia" and start poisoning people, you could take a lesson from creative chef/murderer **Dorothea Puente**, pictured, right.

She recently died in prison after being convicted of murdering her Sacramento, Calif., boarders by poisoning their food with the sleeping drug Dalmane and burying them in her backyard so she could cash their Social Security checks. She maintained her innocence to the end, claiming they died of "natural causes."

Shane Bugbee, pictured left, contacted "Thea" because he was interested in doing an article about female serial murderers, and wound up co-authoring a cookbook with her instead, "**Cooking With A Serial Killer, Recipes from Dorothea Puente**" (2004). One reviewer noted, "The lady may be a serial killer, but her recipes are first rate."

And, the results are quite tasty. One of her (lucky to still be alive) boarders told an investigator that mealtime at her house was "like having Christmas, Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July and Labor Day every single day of the month."

"I recall she was very interested in talking," Shane told the Ear, "... (and she) jumped at the idea of a cookbook because it wasn't a book detailing her crimes." You can find it on Amazon.com and Lulu.com. "Try her favorite salsa," Shane advised wryly. "It's killer!"

'TO GO' GONE WRONG



First ran Feb. 10, 2012: **Bruce McBride**, pictured in a photo by **Bob Sharp**, is the owner of **Rollin' Thunder BBQ** at 77 11th St. A woman named Caroline called Bruce with a nice, big order of two racks of ribs and a dozen pieces of cornbread for her Super Bowl party. She would pick the goodies up at 4 p.m. Sunday.

On Super Bowl Sunday afternoon, Caroline called him at 1:15 p.m. "Where are you?" she asked. "I'm lost. I can't find you."

He explained that he was at the foot of 11th Street, near the river. And wondered why she was calling so early. She was on Dittmars Boulevard, she told him. "In Astoria?" he asked. "Yes, Astoria, Queens," she answered. As in New York. She was near a body of water, all right, but the wrong one.

Fortunately, Bruce wound up having a very heavy demand for ribs on Sunday, so he sold all of the extras he'd made for his almost-customer.

And a good time was had by all — except perhaps, the hungry woman lost in Queens.

THERE'S THE BEEF



First ran Feb. 25, 2011: Break out the Pepto-Bismol. **Alli Calder** of Gearhart (pictured inset) had a **Sweet 16 Birthday Party**, and celebrated with a **50-pound homemade bacon cheeseburger** she shared with friends and family.

Mark Kenny of Seaside made the monster burger "very carefully" on his Weber barbecue grill, then added 3 pounds of bacon, 5 pounds of cheese, 3 pounds of onions, 12 tomatoes and Thousand Islands dressing.

Yes, he made the bun, too, which weighed in at around 12 pounds. He said the biggest homemade burger in the Guinness Book of World Records is only 36 pounds, so this beefy beast unofficially broke the record.

"She really loved it: It was a big hit at the party," Mark added. "It was a birthday she'll never forget." No doubt.

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

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

Warrenton Caregiver Support Group — 1:30 to 3 p.m., 2002 S.E. Chokeberry Ave., Warrenton. Support, information and resources for caregivers. For information, call Grace Bruseth at 503-738-6412.

Line Dancing for Seniors — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, temporarily located at 1555 W. Marine Drive in the old Astoria Yacht Club. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Spinning Circle — 3 to 5 p.m., Astoria Fiber Arts Academy, 1296

Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to <http://astoriafiberarts.com>

Lower Columbia Hospice Bereavement Support Group — 4:30 to 6 p.m., Columbia Memorial Hospital Community Center, Chinook Conference Room, 2021 Marine Drive. Open to age 18 or older. For information, call 503-338-6230.

North Coast Chapter, ABATE of Oregon — 5:30 p.m., Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th Street. All are welcome. For information, call 503-791-7253.

Peninsula Arts Association — 6 p.m., PAA Office, Long Beach Depot Building, Third Street N. and Pacific Highway, Long Beach, Wash. All are welcome. For information, call 360-665-6041 or go to <http://beachartist.org>