

COLD OFF THE PRESS



For your amusement and edification, some tidbits from the Aug. 14, 1888, edition of *The Daily Morning Astorian* (one of the ads of the day is pictured):

- If you remark that hot weather always makes you transpire profusely, the chances are that some one will take you up for an incorrect use of the word “transpire.” But as a matter of fact, you will be using the word in strict accordance with Webster’s definition of it. Men who knew this are winning wagers on their knowledge every day.
- Good order and security to person and property characterize Astoria. While other places suffer nightly depredations from thieves, Astoria enjoys immunity. The reason of this is that we have a vigilant police service. In this case it is good to let well enough alone.
- **Dr. J.B. Pilkington**, the veteran surgeon, oculist and medical specialist of Portland, will be at the Occidental Hotel, Astoria, all day Friday, Aug. 17, 1888, and will give special examinations free ... Over 300 cases of piles, fissures, fistulas and rectal ulcers treated successfully, without use of knife or ligature within the past three years.
- Personal Mention: **Capt. Geo. Flavel** was reported much better last evening ... People who come down from Portland naturally forget to bring their blankets.
- Hurrah for the **Clatsop railroad!** Half the stock was taken yesterday. What’s the matter with taking the other half today!
- The great black and white sign that informed all and sundry that the roadway was unsafe and dangerous to travel by order of the city council, is now a part of a fence on the upper Astoria roadway.
- **John Fistenmacher** lived in East Portland till quite recently. He had economy down fine and last week pulled the strap one hole tighter and went dead. By strict self-denial, he was able to leave \$10,336.49; didn’t take a cent along. He has no heirs, and the state of Oregon gets the swag. John had a great head and a correct value of himself.

MIRACLES CONTINUE



Happily, **Marcus Bolles’** (pictured) latest scans for desmoplastic small round cell tumor (www.DSRCT.com), a particularly aggressive childhood cancer of the abdomen, have come back clean.

He needs the scans every 90 days to be sure the cancer does not return, but his insurance initially refused to pay, so his mother, **Melanie Bolles**, set up a fundraiser page at <http://tinyurl.com/marcusbo>. Recently **Sen. Betsy Johnson’s** office informed Melanie that the payment denial had been overturned, and the insurance company will be paying for his scans, after all.

“I want to take this time to thank everyone who made donations, prayed or were working behind the scenes to push this through,” Melanie posted on the “Get Well Marcus Bolles” Facebook page. “We did collect \$525 in donations, and that will be kept in reserve for any future medical needs for Marcus. Miracles continue for Marcus, thank you all for being on our team.”

THEY’RE BAAACK



“Salps have been washing ashore staining the drift line purple,” **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** wrote. Her photo of the beach is shown, right, alongside two individual salps.

“According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,” she explained, “they are a huge bloom of juvenile salps — a gelatinous vertebrate, more closely related to fish than to jellies. This may be an unusual sight for us because of two or more possible (hypothetical) reasons: 1) they may be blooming significantly this year due to unusual ocean conditions, or 2) they are usually out there but this year they are onshore due to the suppressed upwelling (the ‘blob’ pressed up alongshore).”

In One Ear



by **Elleda Wilson**

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THERE BE DRAGONS



A rather large chunk of Scandinavian history literally appeared of the blue in August, *The Local* (Sweden’s news in English) reports, when a **Danish ship’s figurehead** in the shape of a grinning dragon was pulled up from a seabed off the southern Sweden town of Ronneby (<http://tinyurl.com/dragonsup>).

Believed to be one of the oldest preserved wooden carvings of its kind, the figurehead weighs in at more than 650 pounds. It is thought to be from a ship that sank after a fire in the 1480s, the **Gribhunden**, which was commissioned by **King Hans**, who ruled Denmark from 1481 to 1513.

The creepy critter is pictured, courtesy of the **Blekinge Museum**, which plans to put the dragon on display soon. The museum also aims to preserve it, starting with a 3-month bath in sugar water to remove by osmosis the salt it has absorbed from the sea.

“This figurehead is probably the only one left from a 15th century ship in the world,” **Marcus Sandekejer** from the museum speculated, and said it was a “fantastic feeling” watching expert archaeologists lift it out of the water. “520 years under water ... and in such a great condition!”

SNIPPETS



Mystery man: An anonymous local dropped off the following note: “Do you remember the man who called himself **Swiss Baron Norman De Winter?** He visited the Astoria and Corvallis areas from July to November 1971. If you remember him, we would love to hear your stories and see any photos. Please call Avrielle at 503-420-5823.”

Avoid Minnesota: According to the Washington Post, Ventura County, Calif., is No. 1 of 3,111 U.S. counties, and the “most desirable place to live in America” according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “natural amenities index,” which measures from the standpoint of scenery and climate.

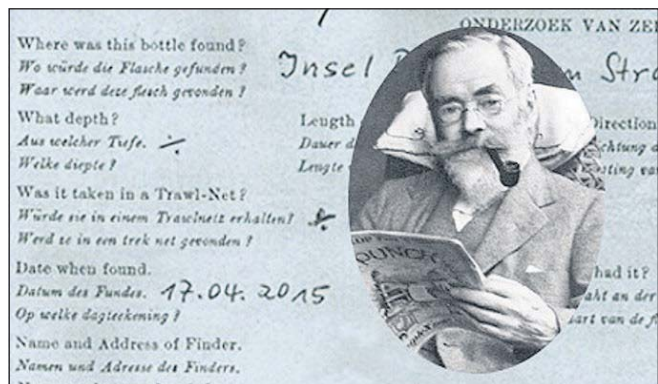
The Ear strongly suspects that Clatsop County residents would beg to differ. If you go to the website, <http://tinyurl.com/countyrank>, you can click on every U.S. county to see its rank. If you’re wondering, Clatsop County has “very high natural amenities,” and is ranked No. 126. Columbia County inched ahead at No. 123, Lincoln County rated No. 58, and Tillamook County came in at No. 81.

If it makes you feel any better, several counties in Minnesota rate very near the bottom of the pile. At last report, Minnesotans are outraged.

Got stamps?: **Aubertin Johann** of Vitry sur Orne, France, sent **Regina Willkie** of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce an unusual request. “I am a philatelist — still amateur — and totally devoted to this consuming passion ... Then my grandfather gave me recently a part of his collection, and I discovered **American stamps**. What happiness! This awakened in me a new passion.”

Yes, he wants any postmarked stamps anyone is willing to part with. Regina will collect them and mail them to him, so please send or drop off stamps to her at the Chamber of Commerce, 111 W. Marine Dr, Astoria, OR 97103. He’ll be très reconnaissant.

A SHILLING FOR YOUR THOUGHTS



Living on the North Coast, people occasionally find a message in a bottle. However, it seems the Guinness World Record for **Oldest Message in a Bottle** may have been broken recently in Europe, CNN reports (<http://tinyurl.com/seanote>).

A British scientist, **George Parker Bidder III** (pictured inset), dropped 1,020 bottles into the sea between 1904 and 1906 in an experiment to see how ocean bottom currents work, and **Marianne Winkler** found one of them in the North Sea on Amrum Island in Germany.

There was a postcard inside (pictured, partially), requesting it be sent back to researchers at the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom with information about where and when it was found (and she did), and promising an English shilling in return — which the MBA sent Marianne, along with a thank-you note.

“The next thing for us,” Guy Baker of the MBA noted, “is to see if we have got a world record.”

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE



“**Stacie Schimke**, knows all too well about the dangers of **melanoma**,” Amy Murphy of the Arizona Skin Cancer Foundation wrote. Stacie is pictured; the No. 57 on her jersey symbolizes someone in the U.S. dying from melanoma every 57 minutes.

“The 53-year-old scientist at Affiliated Laboratories sees nearly 40,000 skin cancer biopsies annually, pass through her laboratory,” Amy explained. “She hears doctors make numerous phone calls, daily, to patients whose lives will be forever changed and likely shortened, with a melanoma diagnosis. This is the same melanoma that we have just learned has spread through former President Jimmy Carter’s body and now to his brain. There is no cure for this type of cancer.”

On Aug. 23, after dunking her bike in the Pacific Ocean, Stacie left Astoria on a 40-day, 3,700 mile trek to Portland, Maine, to raise money for melanoma research and education. Amazingly, she’s already raised \$60,000, and hopes raise even more. You can donate at www.skinexam.org. Her blog is at www.schimkephoto.com

“Thank you in advance for your consideration and support,” Stacie said. “Your generous donation, no matter the amount, will make a difference!”

TOGETHER AGAIN



In its own strange way, the 2011 Japanese tsunami is the gift that keeps giving. Recently CBC News in British Columbia reported that Japanese scallop fisherman **Kou Sasaki** was arriving to be reunited with his beloved fishing boat, *Twin Pines* (<http://tinyurl.com/klemtu1>).

Last seen in the harbor at Ofunato, the boat, and Sasaki’s way to make a living, was swept away by the tsunami and drifted across the Pacific. It was found by a diver on the B.C. coast, then claimed by **Tim McGrady**, general manager of the **Spirit Bear Lodge** in Klemtu. Renamed *Japanese Drifter*, the boat is used by the lodge to take tourists on tours.

Yoshi Karasawa, a Japanese-Canadian, saw the fishing vessel at the lodge. She wondered where it had come from, and her research eventually led her to Sasaki. After the lodge offered to host him, she brought him to Canada for a visit. The fisherman is pictured, happily taking the *Japanese Drifter* for a spin, courtesy of *The Globe and Mail* (<http://tinyurl.com/klemtu2>).

So how did he react when he first laid eyes on his old boat after all this time? “When they approached the location, one of the bear guides pointed to the small vessel, said Ms. Karasawa, and Mr. Sasaki started to shout: ‘There! Oh there!’” *The Globe and Mail* reported.

“She said he jumped into the empty boat, then began to weep. ‘We are together,’ he said.”



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