

## WHAT ARE YOU?



Tired of going as yourself for Halloween? Want to get dressed up for a change, but put minimal effort and expense into the project? The Ear has just the answer for you with “97 cheap and easy Halloween costumes,” including instructions from Livingonthecheap.com (<http://tinyurl.com/hallowup>).

Among the easiest are the ghost and a skeleton face. More intricate costumes include being a bag of trash or jellybeans, a Freudian slip, or a cereal killer. Dressing as a toilet-paper covered mummy comes with the caveat: “Avoid using the bathroom or getting wet.”

Still not convinced to go the costume route? The website also offers the perfect un-costume: Go as a werewolf in your regular clothes, and tell everyone Halloween did not fall on a full moon.

## GHOST SHIP



What could be more apropos for an Astoria Halloween than a real Pacific Northwest ghost ship story? According to an article in the *Unesco Courier* in 1991 by David Gunston (<http://tinyurl.com/baychimo1>), the *SS Baychimo* (pictured), abandoned in 1931, is possibly still floating around in the arctic with a hold full of fur pelts.

During her last voyage north to deliver supplies and pick up pelts in 1931, the ice suddenly closed in on the return trip, and the *Baychimo* was trapped. Two days later, the ice pack loosened, and the ship continued her journey, only to get stuck yet again.

*Baychimo*'s owners, the Hudson Bay Company, sent aircraft from Nome, Alaska, and rescued 22 from the ship. The captain and 14 remaining crew members built a shelter to wait it out, but a blizzard trapped them inside. When they emerged, the *Baychimo* had broken loose and completely vanished.

An Eskimo hunter told them he'd spotted the ship about 43 miles southwest. The 15 men followed him, and sure enough, it was right where he said it was. But it couldn't be salvaged, so the crew grabbed what few furs they could from the hold, and abandoned the ship.

The *Baychimo* was boarded occasionally over the years as she kept drifting around. In 1933, a group of Eskimos managed to get aboard, but a horrific storm came up, and they were stranded on the ship without food for 10 days. The last recorded boarding was in 1939. No one was ever able to salvage the valuable cargo.

After 1939, the *Baychimo* was spotted “scores of times,” floating, but impossible to pursue. In March 1962, a small party of Eskimos saw her drifting in the Beaufort Sea — rusting, but still intact. The last recorded sighting, by Eskimos, was in 1969, when she was stuck in the ice yet again.

Mr. Wikipedia says that in 2006, the Alaskan government started a project to find the *Baychimo*, afloat or not (<http://tinyurl.com/bachimo2>) — but not a trace of the ghost ship has ever been found.

## RATS IN THE WALLS

The Ear was out shopping for Halloween goodies to add to the front window display, and came upon some lovely plastic rats. Rather authentic looking, to boot. Anyway, the little critters reminded the Ear of a truly scary story, and readers who want their timbers shivered should delve into H.P. Lovecraft's “Rats In The Walls.” You can read it here: <http://tinyurl.com/ratswalls>. Pictured, Gustave Doré's “The League of the Rats.”



It was Halloween every night in the Ear's childhood home — a four-story old hotel on Long Island Sound, empty of human inhabitants except for the Ear's family of three, but the walls were full of water rats tunneling and scampering all day and all night, and occasionally making random appearances in hallways and bedrooms. Shall we say Lovecraft's story “resonated” with the young Earlet?

However, even if you don't have rats in your walls, it's an excellently creepy tale for any season, but especially this one. When you read it, have a blanket handy for comfort. Or to pull over your head.

## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

ewilson@dailyastorian.com (503) 325-3211, ext. 257

## BURY ME DEEP



Halloween would not be complete without mention of Astoria's very own glamour ghoul, *Vampira*, aka Astoria High School grad *Maila Nurmi*. Using her real name, she wrote “The Ghost Of James Dean” in 1964 for *Borderline Magazine*, “which dares the unknown” (<http://tinyurl.com/mailadean>). Both *Maila* and the actor are pictured.

“I have always been interested in psychic phenomena,” she revealed. “I have displayed ‘powers’ along those lines.” So she wasn't surprised when a cut-up glossy print (“one eye, one nostril and one ear”) of actor James Dean, a close friend, “acted up” at the time of his death — the partial photo, pinned to the wall with a small dagger, started swinging “pendulum fashion” minutes before she received the phone call with the bad news.

After that, there were several other unnerving episodes with the photo. In one incident, mediums told *Maila* that Dean was in great pain because he was earthbound. So, she asked the photo on her wall if it was true. “The top part of the ear wiggled,” she reported, “... and at the same time from my radio came the song, ‘Dig Me A Hole and Bury Me Deep and I Will Lie in Peace.’”

And it gets stranger from there, with her continued conversations with Dean's photo “ear” (still pinned to the wall) and the ear's wiggling responses, a consultation with famed astrologer *Sydney Omarr*, and flaming ashtrays. “The word spread — fast — word of the ‘haunted’ house on Larrabee Street in Hollywood,” she wrote.

The topper was a chilling séance to contact Dean. Just as it got started, a spooky incident with *Maila*'s telephone caused one woman to faint, and the rest of the group scampered off in fright. End of séance.

Eventually, Dean's ongoing “unearthly manifestations” unnerved her to the point that she had to move. So what happened to Dean's partial photo? A friend removed it from the wall and kept it. But where is it now?

Like a spooky yarn? *Maila/Vampira* spins a good one.

## EIGHT ANGRY ARMS



What would Halloween be without horror movies? Some of the strangest, most quixotic ones made were filmed in the 1950s, and “It Came from Beneath the Sea” is no exception. It's about a really, really angry octopus, made enormous, and quite irritable — not to mention radioactive — by being exposed to H-bomb testing. A poster from the movie is shown.

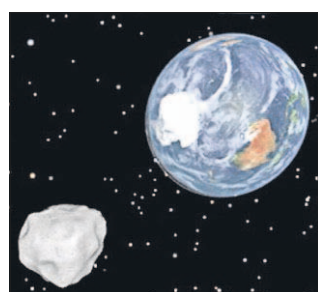
Aside from wrestling with nuclear submarines and overturning freighters in a fit of pique, he unleashes his aggressions on the peaceful coastal town of Harper's Cove, near Astoria, Oregon, killing several locals in the onslaught. Apparently he is practicing for his attack on the Golden Gate Bridge and several annoying buildings in San Francisco. Movie history fans will note that *Ray Harryhausen*, king of the stop-action critters, did the creepy cephalopod special effects.

Several photos and the plot line can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/octup-1>. You can watch it online at <http://tinyurl.com/octup-2>

But the Ear is still wondering — where is Harper's Cove?

## CLOSE ENCOUNTER

If ghoulies and ghosties and things that go bump in the night don't give you a fright, maybe you should look up to the skies for a good scare. Sciencealert.com reports that hefty Asteroid 2015 TB145 (pictured in a NASA illustration), which is roaring along through space at over 78,000 mph, is going to pass close to earth (relatively speaking — 310,000 miles) on Halloween (<http://tinyurl.com/hallowrock>). In fact, it's the closest flyby of this size since July 2006, NASA says.



Why didn't we know about this earlier? This particular chunk of flying rock was just recently discovered.

“Detected on Oct. 10 by the Pan-STARRS I survey in Hawaii, which employs several astronomical cameras and telescopes from around the world to identify potentially threatening near-Earth objects, asteroid 2015 TB145 is estimated to be between 918 to 2,034 feet in diameter,” the article says. “We've had closer encounters recently, but not by something on this scale.”

“All known Potentially Hazardous Asteroids have less than a 0.01 percent chance of impacting Earth in the next 100 years,” NASA reported back in August. They didn't know about TB145 then, or what else might be lurking out there, but hey, aren't you feeling reassured?

## GUNNING FOR MR. GHOSTY



A ghostly encounter, dated March 29, 1894, from the *George Flavel* Facebook page (courtesy of the *Clatsop County Historical Society*):

“The latest excitement in an uppertown neighborhood is a haunted house. In the lonely hours of night clumsy ghosts monkey around in the cat-loft, fall over chairs and mash dishes, when there are not any chairs and dishes there.

“Last night the occupants of the house called in a neighbor to help keep a watch for Mr. Ghosty, who made his presence felt by his usual antics at the hour of 12. The gentlemen on watch were armed to the teeth with guns, hatchets, and clubs and as soon as the racket started in the garret they commenced to run a bluff on ghosty by pounding on the floor with their hatchets and hollering out that they would shoot.

“After this break the noise up stairs ceased and the next mysterious round was at the back door as if trying to enter. That settled it, the occupants proceeded without any ceremony to take their departure out of the front door. The affair is to be kept a

## RACK 'EM UP



Just about everyone knows there are lots of ghosts in residence in Astoria. But if you perhaps want to go a bit further afield for your creative ghost hunting, you might want to check out *Rod's Lamplighter Restaurant* (pictured) in Seaview, Washington, which is listed as one of the “13 Scariest Haunted Places in Washington” (<http://tinyurl.com/scarylamp>).

The article mentions a bar-loving ghost named *Louie Sloan*, the former owner, whose ashes are there, appropriately, at his favorite haunt. “To most people, (the ashes are) the obvious explanation for many of the strange oddities that happen in the bar,” the article says. “There have been rumors of the ashes being removed, but we have since been reassured by the current owner that they most certainly are still there.

“Even in death, Louie appreciates the occasional game of pool, although he can no longer play in the conventional manner. Patrons have reported seeing the pool balls roll unprovoked in every direction. He also enjoys flickering the lights, and rattling the occasional glass.”

Don't forget your pool cue.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

## SATURDAY

**Annual Holiday Bazaar** — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., lunch served at 11:30 a.m., Rosburg Hall, 28 Rosburg Community Hall Road, Rosburg, Washington. Hosted by the Rosburg Community Club.

**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

**Scandinavian Workshop** — 10 a.m., First Lutheran Church, 725

33rd St. Needlework, hardanger, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and quilting. All are welcome. For information, call 503-325-1364 or 503-325-7960.

**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](http://www.AstoriaRotary.org)

**Knockers 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.

**Astoria Toastmasters** — 6:30 p.m., Hotel Elliot conference room, 357 12th St. Visitors welcome. For information, go to [\[www.toastmasters.org\]\(http://www.toastmasters.org\) or call 503-894-0187.](http://www.toastmas-</a></p>
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**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.

**Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance** — 7 to 9 p.m., Room A, Columbia Memorial Hospital, 2111 Exchange St. Open to all those diagnosed with a mood disorder, or have a family member or friend diagnosed, or who think they might have depression or bipolar disorder. For information, contact Patricia Fessler at 503-325-8930.

## TUESDAY

**World War II Warbirds** — 8 a.m., Labor Temple Diner, 934 Duane St.

**Stewardship Quilting Group** — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. All are welcome. Donations of material always appreciated. For information, call Janet Kemp at 503-325-4268.

**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.

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

**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.

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