

OUT OF THE BLUE



In March, **Cindy Munga** and her husband **Karima** (pictured inset, bottom) were cleaning out a nook in the basement and found a photo album belonging to the family of **Jack V. Burns** (pictured inset, top), a Clatsop County sheriff. Unable to find any of his relatives to give the album to, the couple donated it to the **Clatsop County Historical Society**.

Out of the blue, the Ear recently received an email from **Mary Carroll** of Brockville, Ontario, Canada. During an Internet search to learn more about her grandmother's brother, the very same Jack V. Burns, she came across Cindy's blog (OurShabbyNest.com) post about finding the photo album, and contacted the historical society so they could exchange information.

Mary grew up hearing about "Uncle Jack," but unfortunately, by the time she became interested in her family's history, all of the relatives who could have helped with her research were gone. "Thank heavens for the Internet, and such kind people who value the past," she wrote. "I now have a better picture of who Uncle Jack Burns was and how he lived his life."

"I am so happy that Cindy and her husband donated the photo album to the Historical Society rather than destroy it. Because of them, the museum now has another bit of Astoria's history to share with the next generation. This young couple has made me, Jack's grand-niece, a happy researcher, and they have allowed me to complete some puzzle pieces that were missing from my grandmother's family history."

"The Burns family members spread across Canada and the U.S., but I like to think that they would be happy that some of Jack's history found its way back home to his relatives in Ontario, Canada. I know that the museum will take wonderful care of Uncle Jack's information."

"Oh my, that made me tear up," Cindy said when she read Mary's email. "This really made my day!"

A BIG JOY



Astoria Riverfront Trolley Motorman **Ted Langdon** was nonplussed but tickled when he got quite a surprise recently, in the form of a fan letter and photo (shown) from the Heinrichs, who were visiting Astoria last summer:

"Dear Ted: Can you remember us? We will never forget you, because it was a big joy and a big experience with you, even if only one half an hour to be together. You are a very likable man! We, **Stefanie** (pictured with Ted) and **Jörg**, send you best regards from Germany, and wish you a long and healthy life!"
How's that for making a grand impression?

WHAT A DEAL



Before you put your deck shoes away for the winter, there is one more mega-yacht to ponder, Popular Mechanics reports (<http://tinyurl.com/SyachtA>). **Sailing Yacht A**, aka White Pearl, was launched recently for a series of sea trials in Germany. One of world's largest (and possibly ugliest) sailing yachts, the boat belongs to Russian billionaire and mega-yacht collector, **Andrey Melnichenko**. It is pictured, courtesy of Popular Mechanics.

White Pearl is 438 feet long, 300 feet tall, weighs in at 14, 224 tons, is operated by means of a black glass panel touchscreen on the bridge, and is capable of up to 24 mph with its combination diesel-electric engine. Apparently no one's seen it under sail yet.

By the way, the yacht has eight decks, a heli-pad, and a glass underwater observation room. And hey, it only cost a paltry \$400 million.

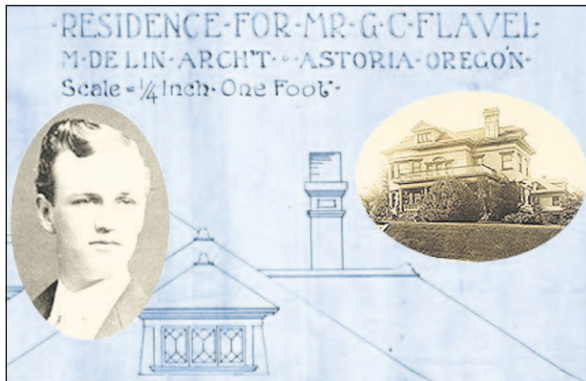
In One Ear



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A SIGH OF RELIEF



For years, Astorians and tourists alike have been dismayed about the deterioration of the house that once belonged to **Capt. George Conrad Flavel** on the corner 15th Street and Franklin Avenue. Both are pictured, inset. Built in 1901 at a reputed cost of \$4,000 (about \$114,000 now) by Erick Gustafson, it is about 4,500 square feet (without the attic).

Abandoned in the 1990s by the last Flavels to live there, **Florence** and her adult children, **Harry and Mary Louise**, the house had been left to moulder ever since. This year it was finally rescued from the family's clutches, and is undergoing a complete restoration, thanks to new owner **Greg Newenhof**, co-owner of **City Lumber Company**, who bought the property in May.

Anyone driving by the house recently can see there are already workmen bustling around most days, and already changes and improvements are visible to the exterior, most notably a new roof and chimney repairs. One can almost hear the house (and everyone else) sighing with relief.

One thorny problem was the garage — it had been completely overgrown, then rotted and collapsed. Greg wanted to restore it, but wasn't sure what it looked like. Astoria's architectural historian **John Goodenberger** came to the rescue, finding some old photos he took of the garage in the mid to late 1990s. Now Greg hopes to rebuild it next year.

If you're interested in following the progress of the restoration, you're in luck. There is now a blog about the work on the house at <http://citylumber.com/blog>, along with loads of photos, including the ones shown.

Everyone is achingly curious about what's going on inside the place, but the blog notes that tours are not yet available because of "construction and insurance issues." Just be patient, and don't fret — Greg plans to work with the **Clatsop County Historical Society** to offer tours as a fundraiser for the historical society, but there's no specific date set just yet.

Watch the blog for news, so you can be first in line — a line the Ear bets will go all the way to the other Flavel House.

BEACHCOMBING NOTES



The recent storms which were packed with strong south-southwest winds left a lot of debris on the beaches, including 11 juvenile **ocean sunfish**, **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** told the Ear. "Two were found in Seaside, and nine others were scattered along the beach from Gearhart to Fort Stevens." Her photo of one is shown.

Did you know that an adult ocean sunfish (mola mola) is the world's largest bony fish? Yup, that's what National Geographic says (<http://tinyurl.com/molason>), and they can reach 14 feet vertically and 10 feet horizontally, and can weigh nearly 5,000 pounds. Sunfish like to bask in the sun near the surface, and are often mistaken for sharks while doing so because of their large dorsal fins.

"They can become so infested with skin parasites, they will often invite small fish or even birds to feast on the pesky critters," NatGeo says. "They will even breach the surface up to 10 feet in the air and land with a splash in an attempt to shake the parasites." OK, lesson over.

Meanwhile, when you're at the beach looking for interesting tidbits in the sand (like sunfish), be careful. "Sneaker wave season is now here," Tiffany warns, "and it is always a good idea to remind people to be safe, and never turn your back to the ocean."

NEVER SAY DIE IN ASTORIA



Astoria is once again in the news, but not the way you'd expect — it is the title of a new album, and one of the songs on it, released worldwide Oct. 23 by Vancouver, British Columbia, rock band **Marianas Trench** (www.marianastrench.net). The album cover is pictured, and you can listen to all of the songs on their website.

Why is our fair city the title? The band's website explains as follows: "When Marianas Trench's lead singer **Josh Ramsay** (pictured upper left) came up with the title 'Astoria,' he saw the album as a concept record based on 1980's fantasy adventure films; specifically 'The Goonies,' which is set in the seemingly doomed town of Astoria, Oregon. The idea was to let a classic coming of age movie inspire the music and overall feel of the record."

The Ear listened to the song "Astoria" (not recommended for those with tender sensibilities!), which seems to have nothing whatsoever to do with Astoria, or the 1980s, or even the Goonies, except perhaps for three words in the line, "Cause I'll find out in all due time what happens to never say die." Yikes.

SAVING EMMA



Recently, while walking along the Skipanon River in Warrenton, we suddenly looked up and said, "Where's Emma?" **Roger Rocka** and **Jan Mitchell** wrote to the Ear. **Emma**, by the way, is their Newfoundland dog, and is pictured, inset.

"Emma, who doesn't want to swim and generally avoids water, apparently decided to go down a near vertical riverbank to get a drink," the couple explained. "She couldn't get back up and we didn't have any means at hand to haul her up."

"Warrenton Fire Department to the rescue! After sizing up the situation, the good-natured group of firemen mustered ropes and canvas and helped Emma scramble up the bank."

Pictured, from left, rescuers **James Gillum**, **John Shepherd Jr.** (walking away), **Richard Barber** and **Geanna Harrison**.

"The firemen said they have rescued cows and horses, so a 150-pound dog was not a big deal," Roger and Jan recalled. "But Emma was grateful. And so, brave rescuers, are we."

THOSE GREAT BIG GOOGLE-Y EYES



Google is everywhere - even in Seaside. Recently the Ear spotted a **Google Street View Car**, like the one pictured, pulling out of a side street in Seaside, heading north on U.S. Highway 101, then turning off in Gearhart. It turns out Google was, indeed, redoing street view in both Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

According to Google, Street View was launched in 2007 (<http://tinyurl.com/googview>). "When we first started Street View as an experimental project, we packed several computers into the back of an SUV, stuck cameras, lasers, and a GPS device on top, and drove around collecting our first imagery."

However, it's a whole new ball game now. Street Views now include locations on all seven continents — notable exceptions being Russia, China, and most of Africa. The car's mounted cameras take slightly overlapping photos, which they later put together to create a single seamless 360-degree panoramic photo.

Want to see street views of just about anywhere? Go to www.instantstreetview.com, type in an address and see what happens.

And it's not just cars that are being used to get the photos, either. The Google team also employs the Street View Trike, Snowmobile, and Trekker (used to collect views inside museums, and even in the White House).

What's next? The Street View Kayak?



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