

AN UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL



From April 6, 2012: Recently funeral director **Tom Preston** of **Hughes-Ransom Mortuary** in Astoria, pictured left, got caught up in a mystery: Warrenton High School student **Alex Reed** brought him an old and dented metal crematory urn, also pictured. Alex found it on the rocks almost under observation tower at the South Jetty. He said he didn't know what it was at first, and didn't know what to do. A friend's father came up with the idea of taking it to the funeral home.

The urn, which still has its original seal, only says: **William George Kennedy, 1870 — 1925.** He is pictured, right. Not much to go on, so Tom got the TV media involved, including ABC News, Fox News and KATU. That produced genealogists' reports about Mr. Kennedy's life and identity.

Briefly, he was born in Canterbury, England, Dec. 6, 1871 (the urn is wrong). He moved to Nelson and then Calgary, B.C., to Eugene, and finally to Bellingham, Washington, where he died April 9, 1925. He had three sons, all B.C. residents.

Tom tried calling some Kennedys in Nelson, but had no luck. Then he contacted reporter **Greg Nesteroff** of the **Nelson Star**, who said he'd make a few calls. Bingo. Greg soon found **Iris Close**, Mr. Kennedy's granddaughter. She lives in Oliver, B.C. Her father was William G. Kennedy Jr., who drowned. For full details on the Kennedy family, read Greg's story at <http://tinyurl.com/nelson-wgk>

The granddaughter told Greg the last time she saw the urn, her step-grandmother had it on her bedroom bureau in Bellingham. She has no idea how it ended up on the Oregon Coast. One explanation might be what **Larry Sherratt** of Hillsboro told KATU: that Kennedy Sr. was his ex-mother-in-law's uncle, and he buried the urn at sea about 50 miles off Astoria 30 to 35 years ago (<http://tinyurl.com/umguy>).

While Tom is happy the urn has a safe resting spot for the moment — and he thinks everyone needs to come to Astoria, one way or another — but he will be relieved when Mr. Kennedy and his granddaughter are reunited.

NEWSPAPERMAP



From Nov. 30, 2012: North Coasters who love newspapers from all over the world will get a kick out of this website: <http://newspapermap.com>. Just click on one of the bubbles, and it will take you to the newspaper's website. Or, you can filter the papers shown by language.

For a real treat, click on "hist." in the blue box at the top of the page, and the map changes to historical newspaper editions such as **The Daily Morning Astorian** (From May 4, 1876: "Last evening at sunset 51 fishing boats were counted without a glass on the bay in front of Astoria from one standpoint ...").

Shaky translation is available at Newspapermap, too. A rather baffling headline on the Ukrainian Fakty i Kommentarii the other day read, "The newly elected MPs have knock yourself free apartments." Really?

Even so, like the website says, "All news is local news."

YIKES!



From Nov. 16, 2012: Pretty eye-catching photo, isn't it? **Amy Mallory** of Warrenton brought it to the Ear's attention. It was taken Friday, Nov. 9, from **Capt. Mark Charlton's** (www.charltondeepsea.com) charter fishing vessel the **Ruby Sea** by deck hand **Clarence Damase**.

The captain told the Ear the boat was on the river near the Skipanon entrance by Nygaard Logging. The funnel cloud was over the ocean on the other side of the South Jetty (where it possibly created a waterspout) and dissipated after about five minutes.

Several locals who reported seeing the funnel cloud from the Costco parking lot in Warrenton thought it was over land, and that a tornado was imminent. Not this time, Dorothy.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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

WHAT A GAS



From June 1, 2012: As you might already know from Monday's Daily Astorian, **Chris "Captain Crunch" Cameron**, pictured, summited **Mount Everest** on May 25. But the Ear bets you didn't know this little back story. Chris' aunt, **Georgia Marincovich**, called the Ear to say he was featured on the **Peak Freaks** blog, Everest News, which praised him as a teammate who "really stands out this year."

But Chris almost didn't make it to the top. The day before the team was heading up to the summit **Tim Rippel**, the team leader, sent Chris to Everest Emergency Room to get a pain checked out. Chris fell in the U.S. before leaving on the trip, and the doctors wanted to make sure he didn't have a broken rib.

Chris had to go all the way back down back down the trail to Khunde to get an X-ray. Fortunately, the results were negative.

Apparently he had a developed a type of ulcer that is common with the Sherpas during expeditions. He said they gave him a pill, he let out a big belch and was perfectly fine afterwards. "It's the stuff legends are made of. Crunchy's story will be one of those that will be told for many a year," the blog noted.

To everyone's amazement, all Chris needed after trotting back to base camp was a quick nap. Then he caught up with the rest of his team at Camp 2 (no small climb), and he was off to the top of the world.

BUOYED UP



From Dec. 2, 2011: "Nineteen-year-old **Donald T. Nelson**, deckhand on the **Pilot Boat Columbia**, stands upon Buoy No. 2 at the mouth of the Columbia River in this 1948 photo," his son, **Jeffrey Nelson** wrote to the Ear about the photo he sent in, shown, with a closeup shot on the right.

"My dad, who went on to work for the **Columbia River Bar Pilots** for 39 years and operated the **Pilot Boat Peacock** (now an onland exhibit at the Columbia River Maritime Museum) for 21 years — wanted his photo taken back in the day," Jeffrey explained.

"Fellow deckhand **Mike O'Brien** dropped him off from the 'pulling boat' from the Columbia and snapped the shot. Then, as a joke, he and **Capt. Leebeck** left him on the buoy for a full hour. Leebeck and O'Brien found this immensely funny. When my dad was picked up, he told me O'Brien hid in the fo'c'sle aboard the Columbia to avoid bodily harm." The Ear can certainly understand why. "The framed photo now graces my dad's living room wall," he added.

"Don Nelson holds the record (50,000 plus) for most crossings of the Columbia River bar," Jeffrey proudly declared. "He is 83 years old, and has been retired for 20 years. His scrapbook of photos is being used as source material by author **Michael Haglund** for an upcoming book, 'World's Most Dangerous: A History of the Columbia River Bar, Its Pilots and Their Equipment.'"

THE WAVER



From July 22, 2011: Aha! The mystery of who the **waving flagger** is, who spreads cheer on the north end of the Astoria Bridge, has been solved. **Troy Palmrose**, an Oregon Department of Transportation inspector for bridge project, called the Ear Monday morning and said the bridge waver is **Lewis Johnson**, a subcontractor. He even went out of his way to take the photo, shown, of Lewis on the job.

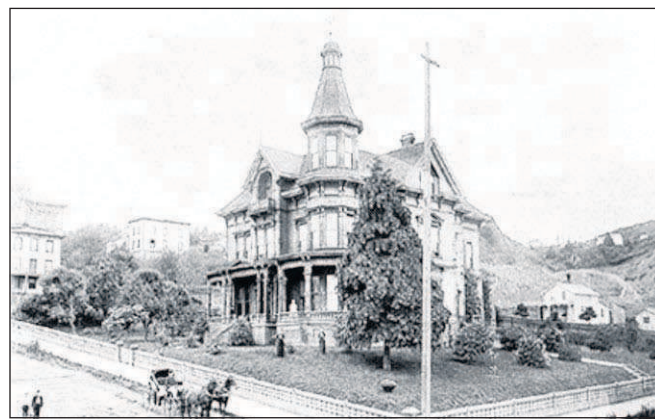
Lewis called the Ear Wednesday morning from the bridge, where he works Monday through Saturday. He is no stranger to the area, though. He lives in Ocean Park, Washington, where he's had property since 1989. People just don't recognize him when he's out and about and not wearing his flagger regalia.

The Ear thinks Lewis has become a bit of a cult figure. A man who has fruit stand in Chinook, Washington, brought Lewis a basket of berries, one gentleman dropped off an onion, a delivery truck driver brings cookies or crackers, women bring cookies, and people regularly drop off coffee. And let's not forget the "potato chip lady," who stops by with chips. Lewis laughed and said he thinks he's put on 10 pounds.

He's been on the bridge job since January 2010, and the waving he's become famous for came about as a chain reaction. One driver would wave, he'd wave back, and then the next car would wave, etc. Some of the ladies have little babies in the car, he said, chuckling, and they roll down the window and tell the baby to wave. The babies happily wave in all directions, not knowing what they're waving at.

The babies may not know who he is, but now you do.

'I KNOW THERE'S SPIRITS'



From Aug. 5, 2011: The Ear gets a chuckle out of the comments visitors write in the **guest book** at the **Flavel House** (pictured in about 1890), which were posted on **George Flavel's** Facebook page. While many are a hoot, some are wistful, and some, just downright strange. Here's a sampling:

"This place is haunted, look in the mirror."

"This is my dream house, except I'd want regular toilets."

"This place feels almost eerie, in the sense that I feel as if I could turn around and see ... a servant scaling the stairs up to the third floor. The history is amazing and I feel as if the past still walks with us."

"I shall patiently await the day when the parrot speaks again."

"I have a huge down payment!"

"I loved the clocks — if only they worked!"

"The air was tepid so we used our fans. My friends came undone. My visit is bothersome."

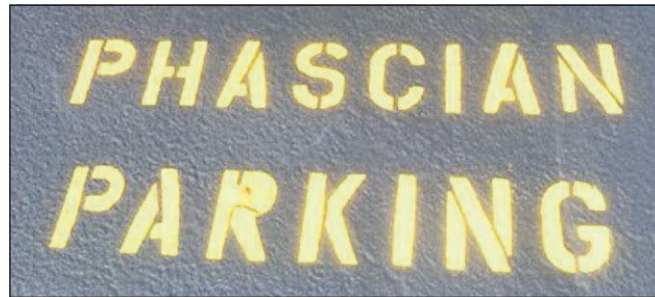
"I'm sure this house has spirits — I know there's spirits! I almost passed out."

"Beautiful house. Bathtub looks cold."

"Wish I had a big, poofy dress and sipped tea with guests ... with scones."

And the Ear's favorite (so far): "It's really nice, just not what we're looking for right now."

WHAT?



From Aug. 5, 2011: Several anonymous little birds told the Ear about a **parking sign gaffe** at Columbia Memorial Hospital, and one of those little birds actually took a photo of it with her cell phone, shown above. One cannot help but wonder what that doctor's specialty is.

The Ear, always in pursuit of oddities to amuse you, gentle readers, hustled on over there to get a look, but alas, the sign had already been repainted. With something much easier to spell: Staff Parking.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Lower Columbia R/C Society — 8:30 a.m., back room at Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

AAUW Monthly Meeting — 10 a.m., at the home of Donna Sunell, Gearhart. Seaside Branch of American Association of University Women. Discussion presented by Pat Lehman on membership outreach tactics being used, based on 2016 strategic planning. The public is welcome. For information, contact

Cindy Gould at 503-830-1979.

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

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to Family Support Group, for anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to www.nami.org

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, handwoven, 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

Parkinson's Support Group

— 1 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church library, 565 12th St. For information, call 503-338-8469 or 503-440-1970.

Peninsula Quilt Guild — 1 p.m., Peninsula Church Center, 5000 N Place, Seaview, Wash. Newcomers welcome. Bring nonperishable food donation. For information, call Janet King at 360-665-3005.

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.

Seaside Lions Club — 5 p.m., West Lake Restaurant & Lounge, 1480 S. Roosevelt Drive, Seaside. For information, call 503-738-7693.

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.

Pacific County (Wash.) Democrats — 7 p.m., South County Building, 7013 Sandridge Road in Long Beach, Wash. For information, email Diane Knutson at dlknutson69@yahoo.com

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