

ASTORIA'S STAR



Monday, Feb. 1, would have been actor **William Clark "Billy" Gable's** (pictured) **115th birthday**? In case you haven't seen the plaque on the corner of Exchange and 12th streets, the famous thespian actually spent some time in Astoria, at that particular spot, the former location of the **Astoria Theater** before it burnt down in the December, 1922 fire.

The plaque proclaims that Gable "began his acting career in the summer of 1922" there, which isn't exactly accurate, according to SouthernOregonPastAndPresent.com (<http://tinyurl.com/billygab1>), among others:

"As a teenager, he decided to become an actor after seeing the play 'The Bird of Paradise.' Leaving his Ohio home, Gable eventually joined a traveling theater company, which disbanded in Montana. He rode the rails on a freight train to Bend, Oregon, in 1922 ... The 21-year-old Gable next moved to Portland where he sold neckties for the Meier and Frank department store, and in the classified advertising department for The Oregonian.

"While there, he joined a Portland-based company, the Astoria Players Stock Company; this troupe traveled the lower Columbia River aboard a paddle steamer and stopped to play in towns such as Astoria and Ilwaco. It also ran into financial problems and disbanded, the players needing to perform their way back to Portland, as they were broke. Gable studied under Josephine Dillon at the Little Theater in Portland from 1923-1924, and when she moved to Hollywood, he followed soon thereafter."

The Ear couldn't find any record of his ever returning to Astoria.

'LUMBERJACK STAR'



Did you know that Clark Gable, pictured, was known in Hollywood as the "**Lumberjack Star**" in addition to being the "King of Hollywood"? It's true, even though he only spent a couple of months a **lumber camp in Bend**, according to a story in the Oct. 17, 1932 issue of The Milwaukee Journal (<http://tinyurl.com/billygab2>).

Gable and his pal, Fritz Doerfler, were hired by an outfit that was surveying timber tracts. "My experiences with my father stood me in good stead" for the job, the actor is quoted as saying, referring to the grueling labor involved when working with his father in Oklahoma oil fields.

"For nine weeks I tramped through the Oregon woods. It rained every day. My part of the work wasn't the easy half. A bunch of fellows from an eastern university did the actual surveying. I carried the chain most of the time. This meant going on ahead and cutting a way through a jungle of thickets and brambles.

"They've got a vine up there called 'devil's walking cane.' Its little thorns dig into your hands and stay there. Once they had to send for a doctor to take care of me and I spent the whole nine weeks with my hands bandaged. It was all pretty tough but it meant three squares and a bed, such as it was, at night."

WHAT IS IT?



Astorian **Bob Bohnke** found the strange-looking 6-foot by 6-foot **Amystery flotsam**, pictured, on the beach Friday, Jan. 29. It's made of concrete, and has large PVC pipes sticking out of it. A very worn-out rope is attached.

"I discovered this strange object while walking with my dog on the Columbia River near the bar," Bob told the Ear. It was not there two days earlier. "Does anyone out there have any idea what it is?"

If you want to hazard a guess, please call the Ear at 503-325-3211, ext. 257, or email ewilson@dailyastorian.com

"Hope this gets solved," Bob said.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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DO YOU KNOW THE MALONES?



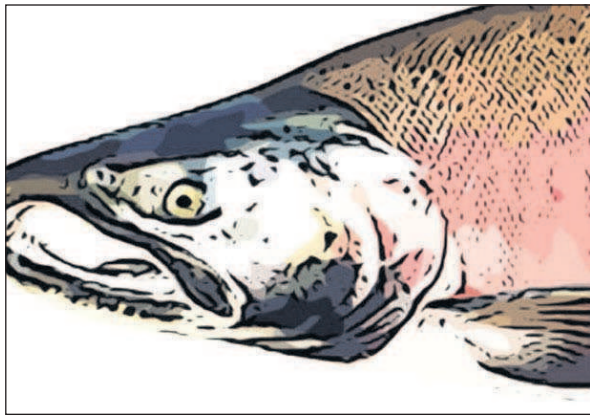
Iam seeking information on my family, **the Malones**, who lived in and around Astoria around 1870-1950," **Bridgette Malone** wrote. "I believe Malone Creek (in Rosburg, Washington) was named after them, and they had a logging operation — I believe it was called **McGregor and Malone**."

Edward Malone (1844—1916), married **Mary Ann Tierney** (1855—1921), and the couple had several children: Patrick Lawrence, John William, Peter Francis, Edward A., Joseph, James M., Nora, and possibly Hannah, William and Rose. Pictured, **Nora Malone** and **Leonard Chetwood**, taken on their wedding day.

Bridgette knows that several family members were "in the Astoria, Mist and Birkenfeld areas for some time before they moved to the Wahkiakum or Grays Harbor, Washington, area. Or, that may be backwards because a good lot of them were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Astoria."

Do you have any information about the Malone family? If so, please contact Bridgett at 541-430-1624 or bridgettermalone@yahoo.com. "Any photos, newspaper articles, birth, marriage, death certificates or literally any other information that can be dug up on these people," she added, "would be very much cherished and appreciated."

SAVING THE SALMON



First ran Sept. 28, 2012: **Herb Goblirsch** of Otter Rock, a sport fishermen and retired tuna and salmon troller, called the Ear about the **gillnet ban** issue, and pointed out that, "nobody really knows the story of why there are still salmon in the Columbia River for everybody to fight over."

Back in 1933, he said, the Bonneville Dam was originally proposed without a **fish ladder** by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "who figured the salmon could go up through the ship locks with an elevator hoist — which never would have worked," according to the Columbia River Gillnetter. The "head of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, when asked about fish ladders, said 'I haven't time to play nursemaid to a bunch of fish.'" (<http://tinyurl.com/charlesknapp>).

"If you want to see what would have happened to the fish runs without the fish ladder, just look at Grand Coulee," Herb asserted, and he's backed up by a Gillnetter editorial, which claimed that the lack of fish ladders "wiped out 40 percent of the entire Columbia River fish spawning grounds. In that massacre, we forever lost the big June 'Hogs' (50-pound salmon) and sockeye runs."

But Kiwanian and gillnetter **Charles Knapp**, head of the Columbia River Fishermans Protective Union, rescued the salmon that were otherwise doomed to die with the construction of the Bonneville Dam. He, along with some fellow commercial fishermen, petitioned the Corps of Engineers to knock out an end of the dam to make temporary adjustments for the expected August salmon run. Even so, many fish didn't make it upriver.

However, the need for permanent fish ladders was established, thanks to Charles Knapp's efforts, and the Bonneville Dam has them because of him.

"The sports guys forget about that," Herb observed. He wants everyone to remember this: "Gillnetters are the salmon's best protectors."

OLD TJIKKO

There's not much doubt that Scandinavians are hardy folks, but apparently that characteristic goes all the way down to the botanical level: Did you know the **oldest tree** in the world is Sweden's **Old Tjikko**? The 9,500-year-old tree is a Norwegian spruce growing at an altitude of 2,985 feet on Fulufjället Mountain in the Dalarna province, and is shown in a photo by Rachel Sussman.



According to an article on DigitalJournal.com, the ancient tree, which was discovered by geologist **Leif Kullman** in 2004 and named after his dead dog, is only 16 feet high (<http://tinyurl.com/tjikko9500>). Kullman says that Tjikko took root and sprouted at the end of the last Ice Age, when an ice bridge still connected England and Europe.

Actually, the part of the tree that is above ground is only a few hundred years old — it's the root system that makes Old Tjikko the "oldest known individual vegetatively cloned tree," which has been verified by carbon dating.

"What is amazing is that the trunk of the tree may die and regrow many times," the article says, "but the root system remains alive and intact, sprouting a new tree when the old one dies. Another really neat survival tactic occurs in the winter when heavy snows push the tree's lower branches to the ground where they take root, helping them to survive to live again the following year." Old Tjikko would make Darwin proud.

CALL OF THE WILD



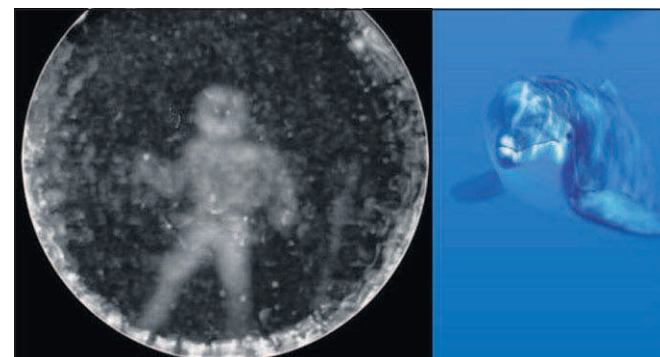
Tom Grimm received a **casting notice** from Nora Jobling, which might be of interest to North Coast survivalist types: "Think your family has what it takes to survive in the most remote places on earth? Ready to heroically battle the elements as you find water, forage for food, and build shelter? From the creators of the Emmy nominated **Discovery** (channel) series 'Naked and Afraid' comes a brand new **survival show for families**.

"Families can be compact and nuclear, blended and extended, and may include grandparents, parents, children, partners, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends."

Don't worry, everyone is clothed for this one. Participants must be 18 or older, and the adventure takes place at an "international destination."

Ms. Jobling is especially interested in alumni of Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts, but it appears to be an open call. To apply, email nora@metalfloresmedia.com with "DISCOVERY FAMILY SURVIVAL SHOW" in the subject line. Include the names and ages of your family members, phone number, city and state, why you are nominating your family for this opportunity, and how you heard about the show. Be sure to attach a few family photos.

SPEAKDOLPHIN



SpeakDolphin (www.speakdolphin.com) caused quite a stir in the Marine biology universe recently when its researchers sent out a press release proclaiming that "for the first time in the history of dolphin and animal communication, scientists have **imaged what a dolphin saw** when echolocating on a human." The image in question of a diver, and some dolphins, are shown, courtesy of SpeakDolphin.

"When a dolphin scans an object with its high frequency sound beam, each short click captures a still image, similar to a camera taking photographs. Each dolphin click is a pulse of pure sound that becomes modulated by the shape of the object," John Stuart Reid said. He's the inventor of the CymaScope, who used the echolocation recordings to create identifiable 2D images, including a flowerpot, a cube, a plastic plus symbol and the diver.

"We've been working on dolphin communication for more than a decade," Jack Kassewitz, research team leader and founder of SpeakDolphin.com, said. The next step is to see if and how dolphins might be sharing these echolocation images with each other. The ultimate goal, of course, is to "create a language interface" between humans and cetaceans. Maybe we'll be talking to dolphins sooner than we thought.

Free Social Security Seminar

Thursday, February 25, 2016

TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal Credit Union

2315 N. Roosevelt Dr. Seaside: 12:00pm

85 W. Marine Dr. Astoria: 5:30pm

Due to the recent legislative changes to Social Security rules and filing options, determining a filing strategy is now even more complicated. To answer your questions regarding your Social Security or upcoming elections, we are hosting a no-cost, no-obligation presentation and question and answer period.

This presentation will break down and explain the changes and the implications on Social Security planning, and how you can make better informed decisions for your retirement.

Learn about:

- The elimination of file-and-suspend and restricted filing strategies
- How there are now three sets of rules for filing strategies
- The resources you need to simplify Social Security planning
- How to manage your payouts based on your personal options

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MEMBERS
Financial Services

FEATURED SPEAKERS



John Shepherd
MEMBERS Financial Services Representative
Located at TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal Credit Union
With more than 35 years of financial industry experience, John is responsible for helping members stay abreast of retirement income planning trends and developing custom strategies to fit their needs.



Anne Sinno, CRPC® ACS
Regional Director, MEMBERS Insurance & Investments, CUNA Mutual Group
For the past 16 years Anne has traveled thousands of miles and presented hundreds of workshops and seminars for credit union members and staff on various topics. She is also a retirement planning resource for advisors; in total, she has been with The CUNA Mutual Group for 30 years.