

## BIG WAVES COMING



Sunday was the 52nd anniversary of the 1964 tsunami that hit Cannon Beach, caused by a 9.2 earthquake in Prince William Sound off Anchorage, Alaska. A 2011 post in the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum's blog has an alarming description by Bill Steidel (<http://tinyurl.com/1964tsu>):

"I was playing poker over at Frank Hammond's house. There were six of us. The phone rang and one of the men got up and answered the phone. 'They said there's a tidal wave coming,' he said. We all ignored it, because we heard that every winter, that there were some big waves coming. It wasn't unusual to hear that.

"Then he got another phone call, and there was a big bet on the table ... about \$15 ... He hung up the phone real fast, put on his coat, and headed for the door. We said, 'Where are you going?' He says, 'The last wave broke over, you know that tree in my driveway ... the last wave broke over the top of that tree.'" Just to give you an idea how big this wave was, the tree was 30 feet tall.

A photo of the incoming tsunami waves seen from inside the Webb Scenic Surf is shown courtesy of the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum.

"There was water all around me, and then a house went by," Steidel said, describing his journey home. "The house went over into the meadow and settled down, looked like someone had built it there. Hardly disturbed anything in the house. Somebody said all it moved was a coffee pot about a foot on the counter."

The tsunami flooded sections of the town, left debris behind and washed out a bridge, but there were no casualties in Cannon Beach that day.

Hopefully, Cannon Beach will be as lucky next time, after a major Cascadia Subduction Zone event occurs. Time will tell.

## JUMP IN



Just in case there's another rainy, gray afternoon before spring officially settles in, the Ear has a little something that should keep history buffs busy for hours (or days): the state of Oregon's online History and Archeology Library (<http://tinyurl.com/ORHisArc>).

There is a lot of information about the history of Clatsop County, information on historic cemeteries, how to apply for Oregon grants — and the list goes on and on. Pictured, the cover of the "Adair-Upper town Historic Inventory, Astoria, Oregon" by Jill A. Chappel.

There is so much to glean from the site the best thing to do is just jump in, click on a link and see where it takes you.

## GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?



About five months ago, I started receiving large group text messages from strangers on my work cell phone," Sarah Waffle wrote. She lives in Canby with her husband and four children.

"The very first one was an attempt to plan a Christmas gift, and while I loved the idea (everyone was to chip in for a weekend getaway), I didn't know a one of them, so I supported their efforts but declined to contribute. No one believed that I wasn't 'Micah,' so I texted a selfie back. Hilarity ensued.

"Every few weeks it would happen again (and again, and again, and again), and every time I'd send back a selfie.

"It turned out I was texting a family with 13 grown children from Astoria, Oregon." In case you're wondering, it's the Schaueremann family, who live in the old Hess house in the Lewis and Clark area.

"I've given my thoughts on gifts, sent prayers for travel, and been witness to vacation photos," Sarah continued. "I started calling myself 'Girl Micah,' and I always got a kick out of the accidental inclusion of me (with Micah's old phone number).

"About a week ago, Shary, the mother, texted me to invite me to Easter dinner. It was a secret to everyone else."

Pictured, everyone at the dinner table, and Sarah (left) and Shary (right).

"When I arrived I could tell that people thought I looked familiar," Sarah added, "but when Shary introduced me as 'Girl Micah,' there were delighted screams and enough laughter to fill my tank for weeks."

## In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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

## THE PRODIGAL HEN



Dave Nelson came into the office on Monday to alert the Ear that he saw a chicken wandering around downtown Astoria, on Duane Street. His photo is shown, inset. While he was still here, Debra Angus came in, too, to report the same errant chicken.

"While going to the dentist on Exchange Street, Dr. Alexandroff, the staff and I noticed a chicken in the street outside," she said. "Not quite trusting her eyes, office manager, Gretchen, said 'Ummmm, there is a chicken in that tree.' Thinking to myself, 'I want whatever she's having,' I went out to snap a picture." Her photo of the perching chicken is shown. She was still laughing as she came in the door.

Dave, who drives for Coast Shuttle, had his encounter with the fugitive fowl at the Labor Temple. There was only one parking space left near the bar/restaurant, so of course, he wanted it. As you may have already guessed, the hen had commandeered the spot, so he had to scoot her off.

After moving along, the chicken wandered back and forth across the street in front of the Labor Temple, always keeping inside the crosswalk. "She seemed a little goofy," Dave noted. "Maybe she's been in there drinking."

On Tuesday, it turned out the chicken is a runaway who belongs to Chase Pettit's mother in Rosburg, Washington. "She hitched a ride in my mom's truck when she went to work," Chase told the Ear, which is how the hen (one of a bunch of free-range chickens his mother owns) wound up in Astoria.

"I'm sure our hen is happy to be in the news," he noted. However, it's time for Chicken Little to go home. Unfortunately, catching her is a whole other matter. She's cagey and evasive. If you do manage to catch her, or happen know where she is, please call her worried family at 360-465-2734.

The bird's predicament has added a new wrinkle to the "why the chicken crossed the road" puzzle: Why did the chicken cross the river? The hen was unavailable for comment.

## NOTORIOUS



Astoria's sea lions, and the sometimes bizarre attempts to get them off the East Mooring Basin docks, were the fodder for a lot of news and entertainment outlets last week, including NBC's *Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. He is pictured inset, in a screen shot.

Just about 5 minutes into Fallon's opening monologue, the Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight's face fills the screen, explaining the sea lion/dock problem, followed by footage of the four swooping air dancers on empty docks being laconically observed by sea lions on an adjacent dock (<http://tinyurl.com/sealions2nite>). The scene is pictured, also in a screen shot from the show.

"Good move," Fallon quipped with more than an ounce of sarcasm. "Good thing they did that, 'cause having too many sea lions on the docks would look ridiculous. Now you've got this, going like this ... (imitating the movement of an air dancer)," as the audience clapped in delight. The sea lions are probably applauding themselves, too. They're back on the docks.

## GOONIES ADVENTURE IN THE CARDS



Goonie fans are in for a treat: Matt Riddle and Ben Pinchback have designed a "cooperative card game for 1-4 Goonies" by Albino Dragon that is sure to please. The officially licensed *Goonies Adventure Card Game* project is posted on a Kickstarter site, where there is also a rulebook, an 11-minute tutorial by one of the designers about how the game is played, and videos of people actually playing the game.

Here's a short description of how it works: "... You must join together on a quest to find the treasure of legendary pirate One-Eyed Willy so that you can save your homes from demolition! You will need to keep your wits about you and use your unique skills to avoid One-Eyed Willy's booby traps and also stay one step ahead of the Fratellis, a family of criminals intent on claiming the treasure for themselves."

Want to get in on the fun? It's not too late, but you'd better hurry. You can pledge and order a copy of the game at <http://tinyurl.com/GoonCards>. Delivery is estimated to be in January — think of it as a late Goonie Christmas present from you to you.

## VOTE FOR ASTORIA!



Bet you didn't know that USA Today is holding its 10 Best Historic Small Town contest right now, and Astoria is in the running (<http://tinyurl.com/vote4astoria>). "The USA has a rich and exciting history, and visiting the places which most affected it is so much more fun than reading about it," the website says. "These 20 nominees ... have big histories and small populations — fewer than 25,000 people — making them fun and affordable ways to dive into our nation's past."

Astoria has some interesting company in the other nominees, which include: Deadwood, South Dakota; Sitka, Alaska; Mackinac Island, Michigan; Newport, Rhode Island; Solvang, California; and Telluride, Colorado.

Astoria was No. 2 as of Thursday morning, and could use a boost to hit No. 1 before the contest ends on April 25. So go vote, already — early and often, as the saying goes. You can vote once a day.

## TEMPEST IN A LOBSTER POT



Sweden has an unusual problem: It wants the European Union to ban the import of live North American (Maine/Canadian) lobsters, citing an "invasion." The Ear suspects there are far worse things in this world than having to deal with an invasive species as tasty as these crustaceans — nevertheless, the Swedes are up in arms, according to a report on Canada's CBC News (<http://tinyurl.com/outlobs>).

Swedish lobsters, aka Black Gold (pictured courtesy of [www.visitsweden.com](http://www.visitsweden.com)) look a great deal like North American lobsters, are around the same size, have the same large front claws, and, like their across-the-ocean brothers, sell for a premium price. The alleged threat to Swedish lobsters seems to be that North American lobsters, which reproduce faster, have been spotted in the Scandinavian country's coastal waters.

So how big is this threat, really? "They've found 32 lobsters in seven years," said Geoff Irvine of the Lobster Council of Canada. "We're skeptical that that could be called an invasion." He has a point.

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