

GNOME MISSING



Our neighbor, Columbia County, has an odd problem. The Daily News of Longview, Washington, reports that almost 50 garden gnomes, snatched out of people's yards, were unceremoniously dumped on private property in rural Scappoose a month ago (<http://tinyurl.com/gonegnome>).

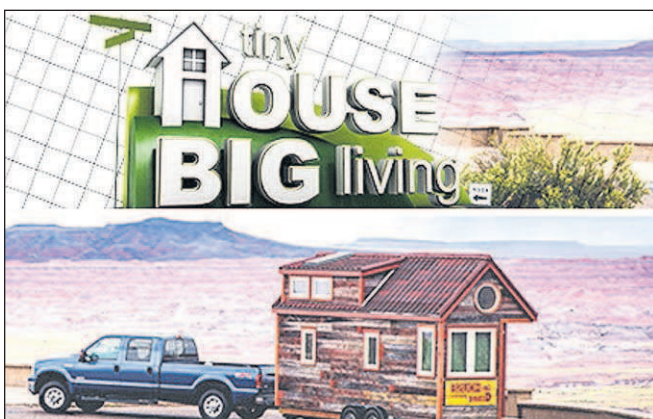
The land owner turned over the gnomes to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, who posted the photo shown of the little fellows on their Facebook page, in the hopes their owners could identify and retrieve them. The sheriff's office will hold on to the gnomes for a couple of months. If you recognize one, and want it back, contact the sheriff's office at 503-366-4611 before 5 p.m., or call dispatch in the evenings at 503-397-1521.

Nope, nobody knows who the gnome-napper(s) are. "It's pretty common for people to dump stuff on people's rural property, or they're scared they're going to get caught," Lt. Dustin Hald told TDN. "It could be a situation that they're high school students, or maybe they're cleaning out their car."

Kendra Rawling of Salem recognized one of the gnomes, because she had repainted it for her sister in St. Helens. She plans to contact the sheriff's office about getting it back, because the gnome originally belonged to their grandmother, and has sentimental value.

"It's sad that people have to take other people's things," she noted. "I just can't believe that someone would steal all those gnomes." But then, who could?

CASTING CALL FOR MINIMALISTS



Here we go with another, rather exuberant (!), casting call. "Tiny House, Big Living" on HGTV is looking for "couples, families and singles (w/sidekicks) who are leaving behind their conventional lives to build and live in a tiny house!" the press release says. "We are seeking people who are just beginning or have recently begun building their tiny house project! The series is looking for enthusiastic, fun-loving folks who are open to sharing their downsizing adventure with HGTV and their audience!"

Interested? For information, go to <http://thbl.onionentertainment.com>. The show has been picked up for two more seasons. Downsizers, go for it: They want you to "tell us your story!"

HAVE BARGE, WILL TRAVEL



Katie Rathmell, owner of Pacific Window Restoration, is restoring windows and building sashes for the oldest house in Astoria, the Hiram Brown," Mindy Stokes wrote. "Katie has also restored windows in other treasures found around Astoria: The Astoria Column, the Norblad, and the Astor." Mindy's photo of Katie is shown, inset.

Of course, the Ear was intrigued, and wanted to know more about the house, which was originally built in Adairville (East Astoria) — which is not where it is now. So why did it get moved? According to the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Shively-McClure Historic District (<http://tinyurl.com/brownmove>):

"Adam and Caroline Van Dusen, who settled in Astoria's eastern district in 1847, were among the first prominent families to realize Col. Adair's dream was simply that: a dream. In 1864, they moved to Shively's Astoria since it was apparent Adairville was not progressing, and they desired to be near a thriving business district ... Capt. Hiram Brown (a bar pilot) is another prominent individual who lost faith in Col. Adair. Not only did he move to central Astoria, but in 1862, Brown moved his entire 1852 Gothic-style house — barging it from Adairville (to 12th Street, then rolling it to) its current location at 1337 Franklin Avenue."

Amazingly, it came through the ordeal "without even cracking the wallpaper or breaking a window," the plaque on the side of the house says. And, as Paul Harvey said so often, "Now you know the rest of the story."

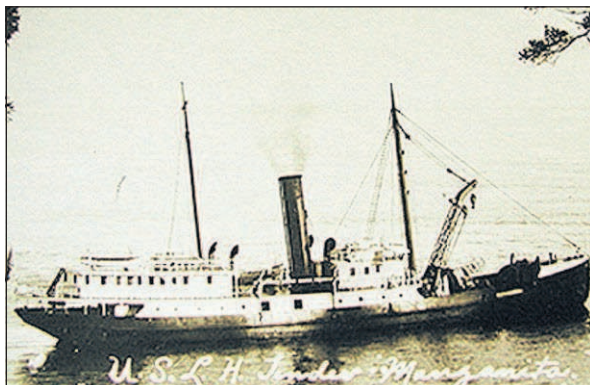
In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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MYSTERIOUS MANZANITA



This item in the Sept. 4, 1897 issue of The Daily Astorian sent the Ear on a history chase: "The U.S. lighthouse tender Manzanita will be launched from the Smith's Point ship yards between 4 and 5 o'clock this afternoon. As this is the first large ship building contract ever taken in Astoria it is anticipated that every body in town will be there."

But the Ear could not find a Manzanita, built in 1897, in Astoria. The only lighthouse tender named Manzanita of that vintage was a wooden-hulled, steam powered ship built in New York in 1880 (<http://tinyurl.com/manzan2>). Sad to say, she was off to an inauspicious start.

In 1881, lighthouse inspector Charles McDougal made an inspection trip up the California coast on the vessel. As they neared Cape Mendocino, he strapped on a money belt holding the lighthouse keeper's pay in gold coins. Heading ashore, the launch capsized in the breakers, and he and two members of the tender's crew drowned.

Some felt the deaths cast a pall over the Manzanita, which was only the second lighthouse tender to serve in the Pacific. She transferred to the 13th District (which includes Astoria) in 1886, and the historical references say that she was rebuilt in 1887, but do not mention specifically where.

On Oct. 6, 1905, a dredge ran into the tender on the Willamette River. She sank, but wasn't done yet. A month later she was raised, and towed to Tongue Point. Decommissioned, she was unceremoniously sold to a tug company, and eventually replaced with a new lighthouse tender, also named Manzanita (pictured), built in 1908 in San Francisco.

Around 1912, the original Manzanita was rebuilt again, this time to be used commercially, and served until the 1940s. In 1944, she met a sad end, and was burned for scrap metal.

Back to the original 1897 Daily Astorian story: The Ear suspects that it is not referring to a new vessel being launched at all, but to the launch of the rebuilt 1880 Manzanita. If so, the historical accounts putting the date of the rebuild at 1887 are wrong by 10 years. And, if it weren't for The Daily Astorian snippet, no one would be the wiser. Mystery unraveled ... hopefully.

HAMLET FIRE TO THE RESCUE



The Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook page had a heartwarming post on Monday: "This evening, Hamlet Fire was called to Saddle Mountain. A slightly unusual situation greeted fire personnel: The injured party was furry and had four legs."

"A family and their two Bernese Mountain dogs had completed the hike to the summit and were on their way back down the mountain. The hike proved to be a little too much for one of the dogs; with a little more than a mile left to go, she simply couldn't go any further. A stokes basket, wheel, and some padding were put to use, and the canine was treated to a downhill ride ... "We carried the 100-plus pound dog ... down the trail back to the parking lot," Fire Chief Matthew Verley told the Ear. Pictured, a grateful Remi, being assisted by, from left, Will Cochran, Shane Mergel, Susan Oxley (paramedic), and Dayton Vetter. Also helping out was John Benson. Remi's four-legged pal, Aspen, looks on in the background.

Grateful family member Stephanie Brockett Smith posted, "You guys and gals are Rock Stars!" Indeed.

CAN YOU HELP?



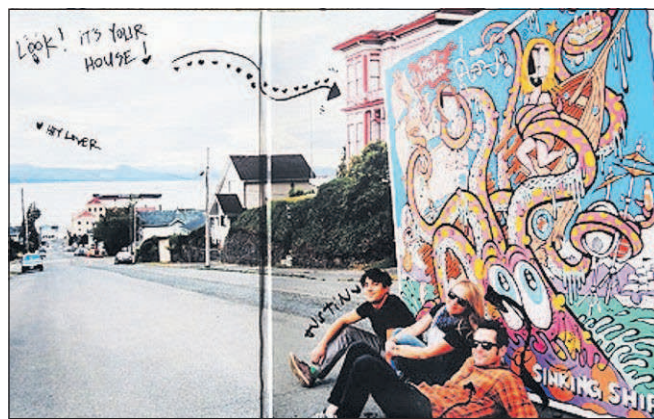
"Do you know these boys? We need your help!" Olivia McClelland of Portland wrote. "We are trying to find the two little boys in the foreground of this picture. My partner, Alan Linhares (the little boy in the back of the photo), and his two brothers, John and Robert, were separated in the Oregon foster care system in the early 1980s. This is the only picture he has of them."

"We have learned that John and Robert were adopted together to a family near Astoria," she explained. The boys were living in Portland at the time of the adoption, when they were 4, 3, and 2 years old. Alan is also pictured, inset, as he looks now. His brothers may resemble him.

Do you recognize the front two boys in the old photo? If you know who they are, and which family adopted them, please contact the Ear at 503-325-3211, ext. 257, or ewilson@dailyastorian.com, and the information will be passed on to Alan.

"Unfortunately, Alan remained in the system until he was 18," Olivia added. "It would be amazing to find his brothers. Please help us reunite these boys."

LOVER THAT COVER

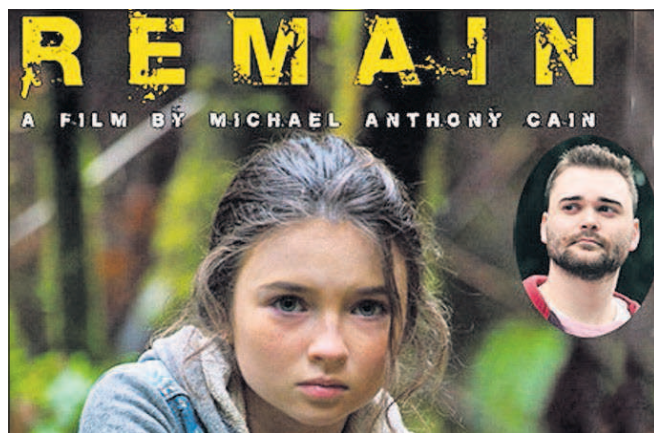


The Jim and Susan Bryant family, owners of the historic Peter Cherry House on 15th street, were puzzled one day last week to find a record album on their front steps. "Who had left it?" they mused. "A friend? A band handing out promo records? But upon opening it, we found a pleasant surprise — a photo of the band, taken on our street with our house in the background! The band is called Hey Lover from Portland, and are actually really good."

If you'd like to hear some of Hey Lover's music, go to www.heylovermusic.com, where they describe themselves as an "enthusiastic garage pop" group, consisting of husband and wife Justin and Terah Beth and Tim Janchar.

The album the band left off for the Bryants is their newest, "Sinking Ships," and the cover is shown in the photo. "Good thing we are a household that owns record players!" the Bryants noted.

FROM DREAMS TO REALITY



Michael Anthony Cain of Hammond (pictured inset), a 2010 Warrenton High School grad, is now a graduating senior at the Art Institute of Portland. His senior project, a short film called "Remain," is being shown today in the 3 to 5 p.m. time slot at the Portland Film Festival, his proud father Ray Cain, told the Ear.

"I think it's really neat," Ray said. "We're really excited about what's going on." And he has reason to be. Michael is both the writer and director of the film, which is described as a "survival drama that takes place after the fall of civilization," on the film's website, www.remainfilm.com, where you can also see the teaser/trailer.

For updates on the movie (like when it will hopefully make its way to Astoria for a viewing), check out www.facebook.com/RemainFilm. Trailers from Michael's other projects can be seen at <http://macainfilms.com>

"For as long as I can remember, I've always had a passion for storytelling," Michael wrote. "My goal in life is to create engaging stories and share them with the world; to provide refuge within the comfort of the imaginary. In my opinion, nothing is more gratifying than watching your dreams become a reality."

"... The last few years have been an exciting journey and I'm proud to say I have grown as both a filmmaker and a person. I look forward to honing my skills and seeing what stories the future holds."



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