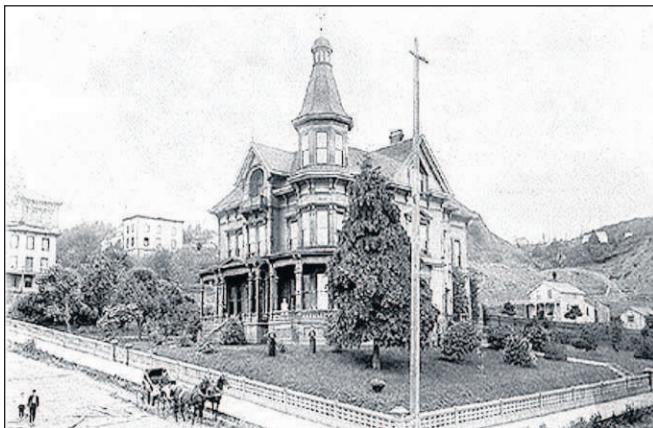


CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?



The Ear came across a 2009 blog post, with lots of photos, by **Joanne Kennedy**, after a trip to Astoria. She ponders the question: “Are there ghosts in the Flavel house?” (<http://tinyurl.com/haunt-flavel>). The mansion is pictured in an old photo.

Capt. George Flavel's daughter, **Katie**, who never married, slept in his bedroom after he died, and then died there herself. Volunteers at the house told Ms. Kennedy that when they close the curtains in that room, and leave, then come back in, the curtains are open again. No one's around, but Katie did like those curtains open during the day.

The music room has its own quirks. A volunteer explained to Ms. Kennedy that the music box in the room, which had a heavy lid that had to be lifted to start it, would suddenly start playing when no one else was in the house. When that volunteer let it slip to other volunteers, it turned out they'd had the same experience.

In the main bathroom, Ms. Kennedy herself had a run-in. She was taking a few photos, when she felt someone tap on her shoulder and say, “Look again.” When she turned around, no one was there.

Yet another volunteer related a story about some of her family members coming to visit the house, and taking numerous photos. When they got home, two different cameras had the same shot of shadow figures in “old fashioned clothes” showing in one of the windows.

The tower stairs, now closed, are another hot spot for ghosties, apparently, and one volunteer was warned by a ghostly voice, “not to go any further.”

Ms. Kennedy also heard the story of a man who came running out of the house and wouldn't go back in. It seems he saw Capt. Flavel in his bedroom, and when he called for his wife, who was nearby, the captain disappeared “as if sinking into the floor.”

Volunteer tales aside, glowing orbs showed up on some of Ms. Kennedy's photos, which are not easily explained. The orbs appear randomly, and were not caused by a camera flash, as she wasn't using one.

So is the place haunted? While you think about it, hum the “Twilight Zone” theme song ...

LET ME GO!

The stuff of nightmares for most folks: Being embraced by a **14-pound giant spiny lobster**. But **Capt. Tristan “Lobsterman” Loescher**, the **Sanctuary Marine Bermuda's** (www.sanctuary.bm) very own lobster tamer, doesn't seem to mind a bit. He is pictured in a photo from the sanctuary's Facebook page, where there's a also video of catching the critter.



Not to worry, lobster lovers, the large male crustacean was hooked in the leg by accident, and was released almost immediately — after the hook was removed, and he was weighed and photographed — to go about his business. No butter was drawn.

OPTICAL ILLUSION?



Was it a **ghost ship**? After shooting a music video on the shore of Michigan's Lake Superior, videographer **Jason Asselin** decided to photograph the sunset, when he saw what appeared to be the sails of a huge “ghost ship” floating out on the water. Later, he told CNN that it remained visible for half an hour before disappearing (<http://tinyurl.com/mich-ghost>). A still shot, courtesy of Jason Asselin, is shown.

Ghost ships aren't exactly a novel concept in that neck of the woods, as the Great Lakes are reputed to have at least 6,000 shipwrecks, and more than 200 within 80 miles of where the video was shot, according to the executive director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum.

So what was it that Jason saw? A rather pragmatic local psychologist (a bit of a killjoy) thinks the image is actually the Granite Island Lighthouse, eight miles out.

But maybe not. “Whatever you believe in your mind, that's what it was,” Asselin told CNN. “That's what life is about — dreaming.”

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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GLAMOUR GHOUL



Halloween must not pass without mention of Astoria's **Every own home-grown glamour ghoul** with a 17-inch waist, **Vampira** (pictured), aka Astoria High School grad **Maila Nurmi**.

In 1954, in Los Angeles, Vampira was the first late night horror movie mistress on Saturday nights with “The Vampira Show,” introducing painfully bad movies while wearing talon-length fingernails, long black hair, a skin-tight black dress and ghoulish makeup.

She would start the show by walking straight up to the camera and belting out a glass-shattering scream. Then, smiling coyly, she would say, “Screaming relaxes me so.” Hear it here: <http://tinyurl.com/vampscreeam>

While she achieved fame with her TV show, she found infamy starring with **Bela Lugosi** (the Hungarian actor famous for his portrayal of Dracula in 1931) in what many consider to be the worst film ever made, 1959's “**Plan 9 from Outer Space**.”

Ironically, the stinker would have been a perfect fit for her TV show. Don't believe the movie could possibly be that bad? Doubters can make themselves wretched by watching it at <http://tinyurl.com/bad-worst-ever>.

‘THE TELLTALE HEART’



While we're on the subject of Vampira's co-star **Bela Lugosi** (pictured), the Ear found a little treat for you just in time for Halloween: The actor, with his thick accent, reading “**The Telltale Heart**” — a chilling tale murder and madness by **Edgar Allan Poe**. You can hear the 1946 recording at OpenCulture.com/telltale-bela.

Here's a bit of the accompanying text: “The Hungarian actor, who struggled to find work late in his career, and wrestled with a morphine addiction, likely ‘recorded it for his agent,’ writes Ronald L. Smith, ‘who would have been deputized to make copies and send them out to anyone interested in booking Bela's solo stage act (which included an enactment of the Poe tale).”

Like Vampira, Lugosi was forever typecast after he was Dracula. “I am definitely typed,” he fretted, “doomed to be an exponent of evil.”

PULL UP AND TUNE IN



If you haven't checked this out yet, and your Halloween spirit is clamoring for some fun, try this: **Mike and Teale Adelmann**, who own the **DK Warren house**, 107 N.E. Skipanon Drive in Warrenton, are putting on an amazing **Halloween light and music show** every night from 6 to 10 p.m. through Monday. It's 5,000-plus lights, synchronized to music — just pull up and tune the car radio to 95.7 FM to get the full effect. Boo!

MIND YOUR MANNERS



It is widely believed that Astoria is loaded with spirits. If so, the chances of **bumping into a ghost** would seem to be pretty high. So, what is the **proper etiquette** on such an occasion? An article was printed in 1921 to address this thorny issue of good form (<http://tinyurl.com/manners-please>), and below are some of the hints offered for your edification.

“Always speak to a ghost when it calls,” the writer admonishes. “Never permit it to stand willy-nilly on the doorsill for any length of time. This little courtesy is only its due. The oldest traditions of the spirit world demand it.

“Make your salutation perfectly natural. Otherwise your visitor may feel gauche and ill at ease. Act as if you had an appointment and the ghost had kept it to the minute. Say carelessly and sort of offhand: ‘Hello, old man! What can I do for you?’ Or, if the spectre is a lady: ‘So sweet of you, dear, to come.’ This will start things off pleasantly and open the way for confidences. You will soon find out what the call is all about, anyway.

“... If you begin correctly, the ghost will follow your lead, usually, and make its wishes known. Particularly this is true when it is of the tearful or helpful variety. If the message is of importance, you must conduct yourself accordingly and listen with an absorbed expression.

“... Never turn your back on a ghost while it is in the room. If it calls at midnight, after you have retired, never under any circumstances push an electric switch. Your experience will be valueless if you do.”

Hereward Carrington, noted British-born American investigator of psychic phenomena and author, offered this advice: “Some of them (ghosts) prove helpful; others seem to wish to right a wrong; some even seem to have a sense of humour! So there are all sorts of ghosts, just as there are all sorts of people, and the variety is as great in one case as another.”

Whatever you do, and whomever you meet, just remember this: Maintaining decorum is of the essence.

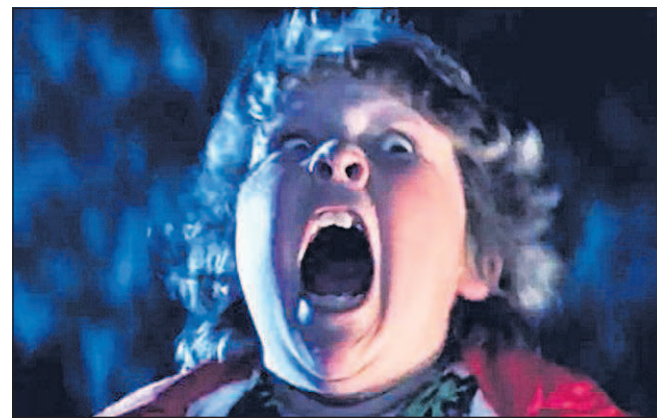
CAN YOU DIG IT?



The photo shown of the **trench on the beach in Manzanita**, if it is what it appears to be, is downright creepy. It was taken by **Linda Cobb**, who said, “This picture was taken just after the **tornado** that hit Manzanita ... It was not there beforehand, and (there was) no running water in this location. This canyon runs from the street down to the ocean. It was approximately 8-10 feet wide and 6 feet deep.”

So did the water spout create furrow in the sand when it came ashore and became a tornado, as it was heading for the town? No one knows for sure, but tornadoes have been known to move in a snake-like fashion, such as this trench does. Additionally, a giant log nearby, that had never moved for years and years, has simply vanished (sucked up into the vortex?), and other large logs in the area have been moved. What do you think?

GRIM GOONIES



Just for Halloween, **Mashable's Trailer Mix** feature, which spoofs famous movie trailers, has included “**The Goonies**,” proclaiming their version of the trailer for the 1985 movie “recut as a thriller, will keep you up at night.” Of course, the Ear was intrigued, and watched. You can, too, at <http://tinyurl.com/goon-mash>. A screen shot of “**Chunk**” is shown.

Loud, ominous music, flashing titles (“How far would you go to save your family?”) and deftly clever editing make the original movie unrecognizable. It's a hoot. And scary.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Sit and Stitch Group — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Custom Threads, 1282 Commercial St. Knitting, crocheting and needle work. For information, call 503-325-7780.

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.

Spinning Circle — 1 to 3 p.m., Astoria Fiber Arts Academy, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to <http://astoriafiberarts.com>

SUNDAY

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

Chair Exercises for Seniors — 9 to

9:45 a.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Scandinavian Workshop — 10 a.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. Needlework, hardanger, 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., 1111 Exchange St. Cost is \$6. 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

Knochlers 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.

Mahjong for Experienced Players — 1 p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Line Dancing for Seniors — 3 to 4:30

p.m., Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St. Not for beginners. For information, call 503-325-3231.

Astoria Toastmasters — 6:30 p.m., Hotel Elliot conference room, 357 12th St. Visitors welcome. For information, go to www.toastmasters.org or call Christa Svensson at 206-790-2869.

TUESDAY

World War II Warbirds — 8 a.m., Labor Temple Diner, 934 Duane St.

Stewardship Quilting Group — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. All are welcome. Donations of material always appreciated. For information, call Janet Kemp at 503-325-4268.

Do Nothing Club — 10 a.m. to noon, 24002 U St., Ocean Park, Wash. Men's group. For information, call Jack McBride at 360-665-2721.

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation of \$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., 1111 Exchange St. The cost is \$6. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.

Astoria Lions Club — noon, Astoria Elks Lodge, 453 11th St. Prospective members welcome. For information, contact Charlene Larsen at 503-325-0590.

Astoria Kiwanis Club — noon, El Tapatio, 229 W. Marine Drive. For information, call Frank Spence at 503-325-2365 or Susan Brooks at 503-791-3026.

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