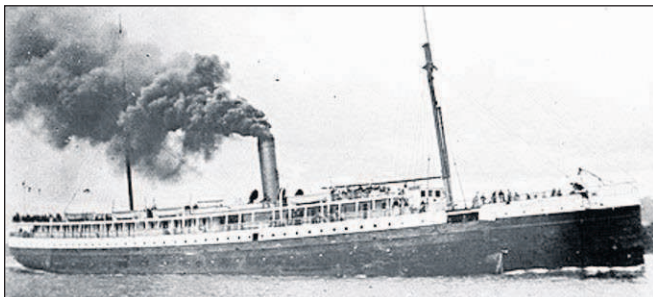


FAKE NEWS, 1886



Fake news isn't new. Case in point, this squib from the **Saturday, Feb. 6, 1886** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**: "On the 29th of January, the East Washingtonian got out the following 'extra' with big black scare heads: 'Friday January 29th. A steamer supposed to be the **Columbia** sunk off Tongue Point yesterday. 160 lives are reported lost.'"

The only steamer named Columbia that seems to fit the time frame is the iron-hulled vessel built in 1880 — an elegant and speed record-breaking vessel used for passenger runs between Portland and San Francisco, according to ShipwreckWorld.com (<http://tinyurl.com/columbulb>). Distinguished by being the first "true electric ship," outfitted with more than 100 light bulbs, the 332-foot long Columbia could carry 850 passengers plus cargo. It is pictured, courtesy of ShipwreckWorld.

And no, the Columbia didn't sink off Tongue Point in 1886. In 1907, recklessly cruising at full throttle in a heavy fog out on the Pacific, the Columbia was hit broadside by a schooner that was also moving at full speed. Eighty-eight of the Columbia's 200 passengers and crew were rescued, and brought to Astoria. The rest went down with the ship, which sank in an astounding 8 1/2 minutes.

The Astorian indignantly huffed that the East Washingtonian's report was the worst "lying dispatch" received since the whopper that arrived in July 1883 declaring, "Anarchy prevails in Astoria, and 1,000 armed men are in Uppertown preparing to march on the city."

CRAB POT SURPRISE



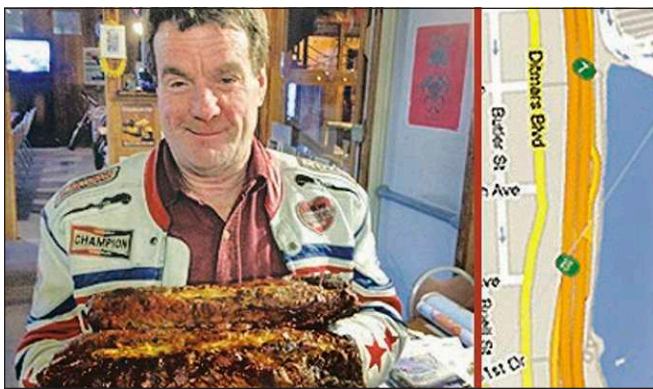
Scrolling through Facebook, the Ear happened on a photo (shown) of **Mark O'Neil** holding an 8-inch "albino" **Dungeness crab** he caught Jan. 28 while working on the fishing vessel **Norska** out of Newport. **Josh Osborn** is pictured with him. "This is a first for me," Mark said.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife proclaims that white Dungeness crabs are not "true albinos," and a "couple" of them "are found each year in the fishery" (<http://tinyurl.com/oddcrab>). Several crab fishermen responded to Mark's post, saying they had caught white crabs over the years, as well. Mark's research showed the odds are 1 in 150,000 of catching one.

Several fishermen thought he ought to have the crab stuffed — not for dinner, but by a taxidermist. Luckily for the crab, the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport was happy to give him a home. After a 30-day quarantine, he'll go on display.

"It's one of the coolest things I've ever caught in a pot," Mark declared.

WRONG WAY RIBS



Super Bowl nostalgia from 2012: **Bruce McBride**, pictured in a photo by **Bob Sharp**, is the owner of **Rollin' Thunder BBQ**. A woman named Caroline called him with a big order of two racks of ribs and a dozen pieces of cornbread for her Super Bowl party. She would pick the goodies up at 4 p.m. Sunday.

On Super Bowl Sunday afternoon, Caroline called him at 1:15 p.m. "Where are you?" she asked. "I'm lost. I can't find you."

He explained that he was at the foot of 11th Street, near the river, and wondered why she was calling so early. She was on Dumas Boulevard, she told him. "In Astoria?" he asked. "Yes, Astoria, Queens," she answered. As in New York. She was near a body of water, all right, but the wrong one.

Fortunately, Bruce sold all of the extras he'd made for his almost-customer. And a good time was had by all — except perhaps, the hungry woman lost in Queens.

In One Ear



by Elleda Wilson

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THE ILL-FATED GENERAL



This week was the 165th anniversary of the wreck of the passenger/cargo steamship **General Warren**, a disaster both financially, and in terms of lives lost (42 out of 52), according to Lewis & Dryden's Maritime History of the Northwest (<http://tinyurl.com/Gen-Warren>). The steamship Pacific is shown.

The ship sailed from Astoria on Jan. 28, 1852, assisted by bar pilot **Capt. George Flavel**. The venture seemed ill-fated from the start. And around midnight the wind blew the foretopmast away, and the overloaded vessel was taking on water — the grain cargo had scattered, blocking the pumps. It was a losing battle.

The captain decided to return to the Columbia for help. The next afternoon Capt. Flavel reboarded the Gen. Warren, but initially refused to take the vessel back across the bar because the conditions were too dangerous. The passengers, terrified of dying on the leaking ship, implored him to take them to Astoria.

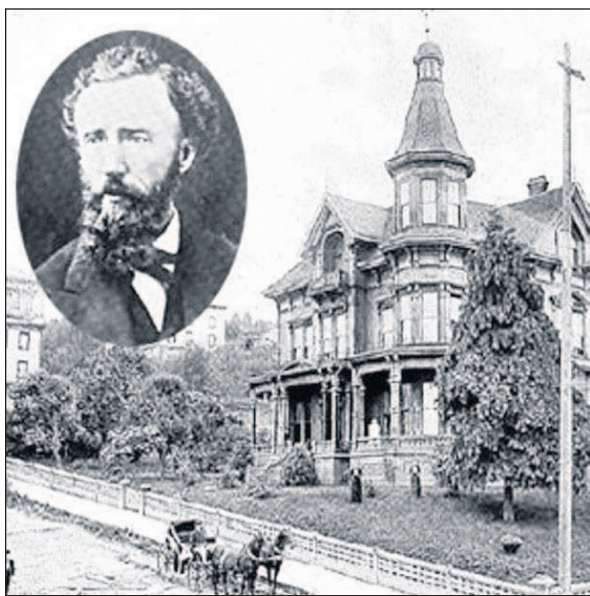
Flavel gave in, and made it across the bar. But between the ebb tide and the hold filling with water, they weren't making any headway, so he ordered the captain to lower the anchor. The captain insisted Flavel beach it, instead. Which he did, on Clatsop Spit. So far, no lives had been lost.

At 3 a.m., the situation was dire on the disintegrating ship, and the captain asked Flavel to pick 10 stalwart volunteers from the crew and passengers to take a boat and get help. Most of the passengers preferred staying on the wreck to taking their chances braving the breakers in a small boat.

The group in the boat, against all odds, made it to Astoria and brought a large whaleboat back to the wreck to save those left aboard. But it was not to be.

"When they reached the spot where the doomed vessel had been the night before, she had disappeared from view," Lewis & Dryden's reports, "and the bloated corpses of the unfortunate passengers and crew, which drifted ashore on Clatsop Beach, were the only evidences of the disaster."

FLAVEL FOOTNOTE

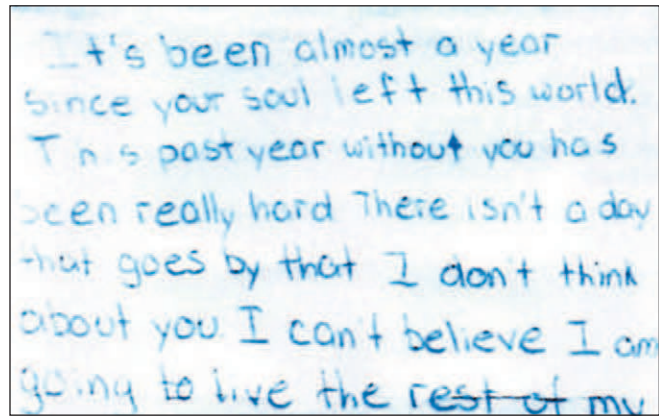


The sinking of the **General Warren** has a "rest of the story" footnote in the Lewis & Dryden account of the event (<http://tinyurl.com/Gen-Warren>), concerning the relationship of one of the survivors, **Gen. J. G. Wall** and bar pilot **Capt. George Flavel** (pictured).

Gen. Wall had worked at sea from the time he was 14 until 1850. Because of this experience, he was one of the passengers Flavel chose to man the boat they took in search of help for the foundering **General Warren**. The footnote tells the tale:

"Their mutual good fortune in surviving the terrible disaster caused a strong friendship to spring up between the 'pilot king' and General Wall, and nearly every year until the death of Captain Flavel (in 1893) they would meet and rehearse the stirring scenes in which they first met. Wall would sometimes go to Flavel's Oregon home (picture), Flavel repaying the visit the following year to California."

A MESSAGE FOR CARLOTTA



In mid-January 2016, a friend brought a message in a bottle he'd found in the sand in **Rockaway Beach** to **RahNell and Richard Seward's** house. They had to break the bottle to get the message out, which was covered with sand and seaweed. But was still legible, as it appeared to have been written on oilskin.

The undated note expressed deep grief over the loss of a loved one, and anger that they wouldn't be able to watch their dreams come true together. At the bottom were the letters (initials?) **WGGD**. RahNell added her contact information to the back of the note, put it into a new bottle and sealed it. A fisherman dropped it back into the ocean about three miles out off Cape Lookout.

About two weeks later, a woman in Long Beach, Washington, found the bottle, and called RahNell. The woman's brother was a fisherman, and she agreed to have him drop it back in the ocean to continue its journey.

In June, RahNell, received a call from a woman named **Carlotta from Oklahoma**. She had found the bottle in May at Ocean Shores, Washington, on her very first visit to the ocean, while looking for sand dollars.

"I want to believe it was meant for me to find this treasure ... It was a message for me," Carlotta explained to RahNell in December. "I lost my husband in November 2014, not a day goes by that I don't think of him ... Yes, I feel the same (as the note-writer) ... Hopefully, one day, I will get the chance to throw it back in the ocean and see how far it goes. I have never been on a cruise, so that may be my next adventure."

"I felt that she was the one who was meant to find that bottle with the note inside," RahNell observed. "I feel it is a story that needs to be told, and that hopefully the writer of the note will see that it has had an impact."

FROZEN

An interesting phenomena occurred during our last blast of cold weather," **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** wrote. "Did you notice the 'dead' mole crabs along the tide line? Most of these seemingly dead crabs were simply cold-stunned. The outside air temperature had been much, much cooler than the local ocean temperature, with local air temperatures around 28 to 34F and ocean temperatures around 48 to 50F." Her close-up photo is shown.



"These poor little crabs, when uprooted by heavy surf and stranded on the beach, got too cold to burrow down into the sand," she added. "Frozen in time, the mole crabs had to wait until the next wave, hoping it would warm them up enough so that they could try to bury themselves in the sand again."

DELICIOUS?



This season of the **Travel Channel's "Bizarre Foods"** is a journey starts in Oregon, with stops along the **Lewis and Clark Trail** to sample nasty-face-making things like Pacific lampreys. Zimmern is pictured courtesy of the Travel Channel.

You can catch the episode Saturday at noon, Monday at 9 p.m. and midnight, and Tuesday at 6 p.m.

The Oregonian posted a little snippet of the show at <http://tinyurl.com/zimpousse> featuring Zimmern and two chefs at an Oceanside inlet, prying crustaceans chefs call *pousse pieds* off a rock. "(In English) they're called gooseneck barnacles ..." Zimmern noted, "or, as I like to call them, delicious."

"Reading the journals that Merriwether Lewis wrote, you know, they were always starving, right, until they meet native people who show them that there's all kinds of food," he explained, staring adoringly at a barnacle. "I mean, this could keep you alive forever."

"If you weren't terrified to eat it," one chef quipped.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Beach Cleanup — 9:30 a.m., volunteers needed to show up at any one of the seven Long Beach (Washington) Peninsula beach approaches. Supplies provided. A soup feed follows cleanup at the Peninsula Senior Center, 21603 O Lane, Ocean Park, Washington, at about noon. For information, go to <http://ourbeach.org>

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.

Detachment 1228 Marine Corps League — noon, Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. For information, contact Lou Neubecker at 503-717-0153.

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, HO-scale layout. For information, call Don Carter at 503-325-0757.

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 Se-

nior 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.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance — 7 to 9 p.m., Room A, Columbia Memorial Hospital, 2111 Exchange St. Open to all those diagnosed with a mood disorder, or have a family member or friend diagnosed, or who think

they might have depression or bipolar disorder. For information, contact Patricia Fessler at 503-325-8930.

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.

See NOTES, Page 2B