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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

HOT FISH



Six years ago Saturday, Japan was devastated by the **2011 earthquake and tsunami**. One of the most publicized results of the disaster is the continuing meltdown of the **Fukushima** nuclear reactor. In late February, for the first time in six years, the **port of Ukedo** in Fukushima, 7 miles north of the crippled power plant, welcomed back fishing boats, according to The Ashai Shimbun (<http://tinyurl.com/fukufish>). A photo of the new arrivals is shown, courtesy of Yosuke Fukudome.

Even though the ocean waters around the port were contaminated with radiation during the disaster, 26 fishing boats returned Feb. 25 for the start of the kounago (Japanese sand eel) fishing season in mid-March in waters more than 6 miles from the Fukushima plant.

"This is the first step to return to my life as a fisherman," said Ichiro Takano, 69, a third-generation fisherman. The Ear can't help but wonder if he will take a Geiger counter with him.

HOT SURF



The surfers never really left the Fukushima area, according to an Al Jazeera story (<http://tinyurl.com/fukusurfer>). Their favorite spot, **Tairatoyoma Beach**, is about 30 miles from the nuclear power plant; even now, both the sand and water are contaminated by radiation, it's in a forbidden zone, and hundreds of bags of contaminated soil are piled nearby. Yet they can't stay away. One die-hard surfer is shown in a photo by Eric Lafforgue/Al Jazeera.

Some surfers were actually at the beach on March 11, 2011. "The earth shook, we came back on the Tairatoyoma beach, and a few minutes later, the tsunami wave arrived," one said. "None of the surfers who were on the beach died, as we had time to escape. Those who were in their homes were taken by the waves by surprise, and they died."

As far as the radiation exposure threat goes, another surfer noted, "I put on sunscreen against the sun, but I haven't found anything against radiation. We will only know the true consequences of our time in the water 20 years from now."

IT'S NOT A LOBSTER



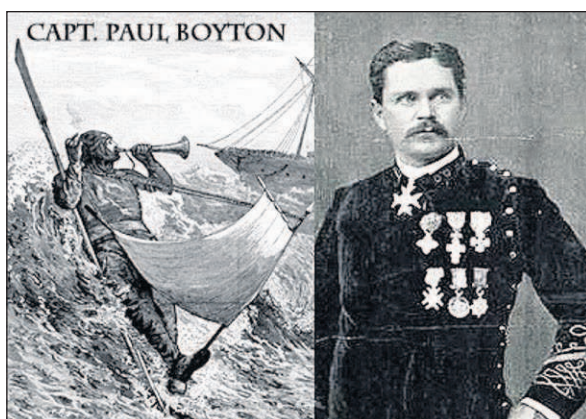
Pelagic crabs washed up in Newport, Oregon, yesterday and they are a long ways from home. "**ODFW Conservation** posted on its Facebook page Thursday, March 2. Hundreds of the little critters landed on Agate Beach, where that huge chunk of dock debris rolled in, courtesy of the Japanese tsunami, in 2012. A photo from the Facebook page is shown, courtesy of ODFW Conservation.

Although they look a bit like crawdads, and are referred to as a type of squat lobster, ODFW says they are actually more closely related to the hermit crab than crayfish, regular crabs or lobsters, and have a larger relative that is caught off the coast of Chile, and marketed as langostino.

Unfortunately, most of the crabs were dead, probably due to the cold water. People inquired if they were edible, and ODFW assured them they were not — and not just because they were dead, either. These little guys (about 5 inches long) eat algae blooms that have biotoxins in them, and are unsafe to eat.

"In fact, Newport is likely the furthest north (the crabs) have ever been seen," the post continued. "These guys are normally found offshore of Southern California and Mexico, and are rarely seen north of San Francisco ... Biologists believe that last year's El Niño disrupted warm currents enough to push these farther north than they're usually found, and storms likely pushed them ashore."

THE FEARLESS FROGMAN



Frequently the Ear sees a cryptic notice in an old issue of **The Daily Morning Astorian**, like this example, from the **March 8, 1889** edition: "**Capt. Boynton** arrives this morning. He is the boss swimmer and has made more miles in the water than any other man living. If he has luck he will take some seals back east with him."

Who was Capt. Boynton, and why was he in Astoria, which was not exactly on the beaten path in 1889? A little research revealed his name was actually **Paul Boynton** (1848-1924), not Boynton — a common misspelling of his name, to his great annoyance.

Nicknamed the "**Fearless Frogman**," he served in the Union Navy during the Civil War, and later helped organize the U.S. Life-Saving Service, a precursor to the U.S. Coast Guard, according to ConeyIsland.com (<http://tinyurl.com/FrogBoynton>).

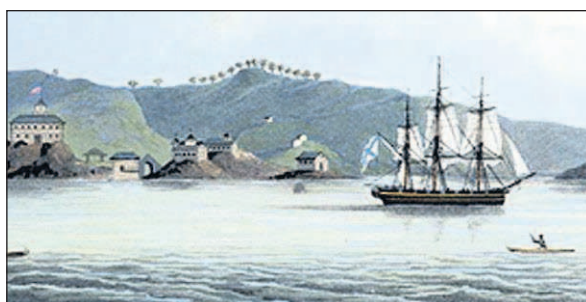
Aside from being a famous showman, world traveler, adventurer and daredevil open water swimmer (and later a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame), he became famous for wearing a rubber dry suit during his swimming escapades. Initially designed as a lifesaving device for ship passengers, it was meant to be used while floating on one's back, and came with a paddle.

Boynton owned an aquatic circus, and toured the country with it, which is probably why he was in Astoria. It is also likely the reason the seals were mentioned in the little Astorian squib.

In 1895, Boynton opened the Sea Lion Park, with rides, on 16 acres of land on Coney Island, New York. He secured his fame for posterity when he and 12 of his sea lions performed in the 1900 silent film, "Feeding Sea Lions." You can read his entertaining memoirs at <http://tinyurl.com/BoyntonBio>

Capt. Paul Boynton was but one of the many celebrities who visited Astoria. Future stories will tell of others.

THE CURSED SHIP, NEVA



Shipwreck and maritime history buffs take note: Archaeologists have finally found the **campsite** used by the **survivors of the wreck** of the "cursed" **Neva**, a Russian warship that wrecked in **January 1813** off what is now Alaska, the Alaska Dispatch News reports (<http://tinyurl.com/Neva-Camp>). The Neva is pictured, in Kodiak, Alaska.

The Neva seemed doomed from the start. In 1804, during the Battle of Sitka, a shaman cursed the ship, and everyone on it, because the Russians attacked the Tlingits. The Neva's captain drowned before the ill-fated last trip began, and 15 crew members and passengers died during the voyage to Alaska.

When the Neva ran aground and broke apart, 32 died. The remaining 28 got to land and set up camp; two of those died, and the rest were rescued when, ironically, a Tlingit boy found them after three harrowing wintry weeks ashore. But it's always been a mystery where the ship wrecked, and where survivors stayed. A recent archaeological expedition to the ocean-facing side of **Kruzof Island**, funded by the National Science Foundation, has confirmed the location of the campsite.

"The Neva's one of those sagas that's almost legendary in Alaska, and folks have been looking for it for 200 years," **Dave McMahan**, an archaeologist and the expedition's chief investigator, said. And it's no wonder it took so long to find. "It's an area that's very rugged and remote and very difficult to get into," he added.

McMahan and others suspected Kruzof Island was the right spot because they found the remains of cooking fires and axes in a 2012 expedition. But they could not find the ship — the metal-detecting equipment was thrown off because all the rocks in the vicinity are loaded with iron — and it's probably in scattered pieces, and unlikely to ever be found. An expedition in 2015 turned up more fire pits and artifacts, and this latest one, last summer, found a treasure trove of items from the camp and the grave of a crew member.

Strangely enough, the Neva's survivors' campsite location was on a spot considered sacred by shamans. Last summer, Russian Orthodox and Tlingit blessing ceremonies were conducted there, providing a peaceful resolution to their forbears' animosity.

CAPTION THIS



The **New Yorker** magazine is no stranger to the North Coast, especially after Calvin Trillin's story, "The Magnificent Flavels," but it's also well-known for its edgy cartoons.

Did you know The New Yorker has a weekly **cartoon caption contest**? Writers can submit their clever captions, which must be 250 characters or less, online, The New Yorker chooses three finalists, and then anyone interested can vote for their favorite online. Anyone age 13 or older can enter or vote. Want to join the fun? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/tncaption>

The deadline for this week's contest is 8:59 p.m. (our time) on Sunday. You never know — the cartoon and your winning caption might even get published.

LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from **The Daily Morning Astorian**, **March 12, 1895**:

- **Clairvoyant: Madam Nelson** reads head and palm, also cards, and tells past, present and future. Consultation on all affairs. Price, 50 cents (almost \$15 now) and upwards. Recommendations from several hundred persons. 455 Exchange St., corner of 10th Street (now the address is on a dead end off Fourth Street).

- **Gertie Dow**, a confirmed opium smoker, yesterday forfeited \$5 (about \$146 now) in **Judge Osburn's** court.

- **Mr. D'Elia** and **Mr. Carlson** have made some much-needed improvements in the way of substantial walks in front of their residences on Scow Bay (where Columbia Memorial Hospital is now).

- **W.F. McGregor** is having telephone connection established between his office and his new residence near Alderbrook.

- I offer for sale my seining grounds near **Pillar Rock** (deeded from state of Oregon) with dock 100 by 40 feet and house 26 by 56, newly built; six horses, two seines and boats, everything complete for seine fishing. Address **Sam Oliver**, care of Astorian.

TUNNELING TO SAFETY



Plans to start building the **world's first full-scale ship tunnel** through a narrow point on the Stad Peninsula sometime after 2018 are under way in **Norway**, and the financing is in place, gCaptain.com reports (<http://tinyurl.com/nortunnel>). An illustration of the project is shown, courtesy of the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

The Stad Ship Tunnel isn't expected to be a time-saver, and in fact, probably won't be. More importantly, it's needed to bypass a very dangerous area along the Norwegian coast where the North and Norwegian seas meet and the weather, currents and waves are known to be treacherous.

Expected to be about a mile long, 121 feet high and 87 feet wide, creating the tunnel will require blasting out almost 4 million cubic yards of rock, and will take three or four years. Or perhaps as long as a decade. Besides the safety factor, officials hope to make the tunnel into a tourist attraction, perhaps even adding an overhead bridge for the public.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Lower Columbia R/C Society — 8:30 a.m., back room at Uptown Cafe, 1639 S.E. Ensign Lane, Warrenton. Local Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered radio control model aircraft club meets for breakfast and business. All model aircraft enthusiasts are welcome. For information, call 503-458-5196 or 503-325-0608.

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot. Nehalem

Bay cleanup. For information, call June Baumler at 503-368-4323 or Tami Christner at 503-805-8458.

Chinook Indian Nation Council — 11 a.m., Scarborough House, Fort Columbia, Scarborough Point, Washington. Annual Story Gathering and Potluck Lunch follows meeting, which is open to all tribal members. Attendees are reminded to bring a potluck item.

Clatsop County Genealog-

ical Society — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 350 Niagara Ave. Park in rear of church. The program is "Using Technology to Find Your Family Heritage." All are welcome. For questions, call Carol Wamsler at 503-298-8917 or Sali Diamond at 503-325-1963.

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

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to Family Support Group, for anyone

with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to www.nami.org

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, handker, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and quilting. All are welcome. For information, call 503-325-1364 or 503-325-7960.

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