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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

DOGODNICS RULE



A huge thank you to the **DoGoodnics**, who hubby, Dad and I had the distinct pleasure of meeting as we attended their free ‘Red and Ruby’ (Vince Brown and Lavon Hardison) swing concert on Feb. 18, celebrating music of the 1930s and 1940s,” **Donna Barnett** of Hammond wrote.

“(DoGoodnics is) a Long Beach (Washington) Peninsula nonprofit service, led by **Robert and Gwen Brake**,” Donna explained, “who pour their hearts into sharing music and the healing power music has to combat memory loss — restoring brain activity and activating connections to self and others. We are talking about folks, like my 92-year-old Dad, **Spurgeon Keeth Sr.**, who’s been afflicted with Alzheimer’s/dementia disease.” You can reach the DoGoodnics at 360-665-2784 or oobear@centurytel.net

Of historical note: Spurgeon Keeth is the area’s oldest survivor of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. “Keeth narrowly escaped death on numerous occasions during World War II,” Robert told the Ear. “A shell exploded near him on Guadalcanal, blowing off his clothes. He suffered from malaria. And a Japanese soldier, from just 3 yards away, fired at him and missed. Keeth received numerous ribbons and stars for his service.” Pictured, from left, Vince Brown, Spurgeon Keeth and Robert Brake.

“Before the concert, Robert and Gwen presented Dad with a brand new iPod, earphones and headphones containing 185 country music selections that they programmed especially for him,” Donna added. “He does not remember attending the concert, he does not recall what a DoGoodnic is, and he does not remember Ruby and Red, but he does have a special place in his heart for the nice couple who provided him with his new little contraption full of music that connects him to the past.” DoGoodnics, indeed.

GUNNING FOR CLAMS



At a recent memorial service for **Allan Doney**, what is believed to be the forerunner of today’s **clam gun** was shared,” **Marian Soderberg** of Astoria wrote. “The late **John Newton** made this prized weapon in his woodshop. John donated it to Allan at one of the clambakes held for 25 years by **Ken Doney** (pictured), Allan’s brother, at Roxy’s Motel in Seaside.”

“Allan greatly enjoyed the outdoors and was a great provider of fish and clams,” Marian recalled. “Legend has it that Allan was a champion clam digger because of this doomsday weapon.

“According to bona fide witnesses, clams actually came up to the surface to check it out,” Ken explained, “even though the Chief Mama Clam kept warning them to flee if they ever saw that old Mr. Doney in the surf.”

“We are assured that this is not ‘fake news,’” quipped Marian.

BIG BOX



The **largest container ship** on record has finally been completed by shipbuilding giant **Samsung Heavy Industries** (SHI) of South Korea, and the naming ceremony for the **MOL Triumph** took place recently, according to WorldMaritimeNews.com (<http://tinyurl.com/SamTri>). The ship is shown courtesy of SHI.

At 1,312 feet long, and 192 feet wide, the mega-boxship can carry 20,150 containers, more than any ship on the seas so far, and is the first of four being built by Samsung for Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) in Japan.

It may be huge, but believe it or not, the ship is eco-friendly, and “boasts an array of energy-saving equipment.” And, this type of ship can reduce carbon dioxide emissions per container moved by around 50 percent, as compared to far smaller boxships.

Triumph, which will serve in the Asia-Europe area, will be delivered to MOL on March 27.

NOTHING BRATTISH ABOUT HER



More celebrities visiting Astoria: **Shirley Temple**, a famous child film actress in the 1930s, visited Astoria in June 24 to 26, 1945, the year World War II ended. A spokesman for the Navy, which brought her here to visit the wounded at the Astoria Naval Hospital, noted “there was nothing temperamental or brattish” about her.

The actress also attended the presentation ceremony of 12 Purple Hearts, given by **Capt. H.E. Ragle**, commanding officer of the hospital, and posed for photos with the recipients. At a dance given in her honor, the Astorian reported that “during intermission, she took time out from dancing to autograph casts for wounded men, and scraps of paper for the many admirers who rushed up to ask for such a favor.”

An anonymous reader kindly sent in three U.S. Navy photos of the visit; one of Shirley Temple and Capt. Ragle is shown. All three are here: <http://tinyurl.com/EarST>

Karen Radich of Warrenton, who was a Navy WAVE stationed at the hospital at the time, was chosen to help Temple get ready for the dance. “What a delightful hour that was!” she recalled.

“When I told her my favorite of all her movies was ‘The Good Ship Lollipop,’ we sang together ‘Animal Crackers in my soup, monkeys and rabbits loop the loop.’ What a lovely lady she was ... she was sitting all alone (at the dance). I decided to sit by her to make her comfortable. She was a small woman, and very nice, and a little shy.”

“It was a thrill, you know,” Karen recalled, “and she was so sweet.”

MISSING HISTORY



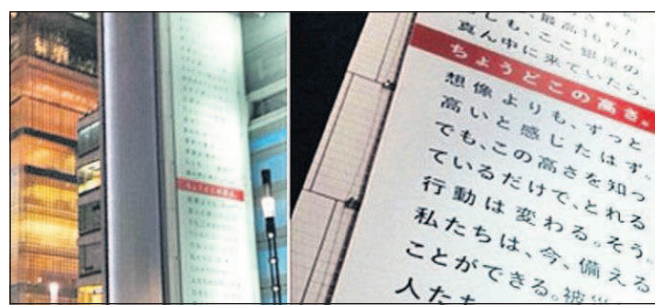
The Ear happened to see a Facebook post by World War II buff, **Aaron Buda**, that two historic cast iron original **telephone boxes**, used to protect telephones from the elements, were **stolen from Battery Russell** gun pits in Fort Stevens State Park sometime between Thursday, Feb. 23, and Friday, Feb. 24. One is pictured, courtesy of Aaron Buda.

The boxes are 12 inches by 12 inches by 8 inches, and weigh about 60 pounds each. “Evidence shows someone did not use a pry bar,” **Park Ranger John Koch** told the Ear. “They took the time to take them off appropriately.” The Warrenton Police Department has been notified of the theft.

“Gun telephone boxes are rare,” the park ranger added. Apparently only 28 of this type of military installation still exist, as most of them were scrapped after World War II. In fact, Koch said, after Battery Russell fired its last shot — in December 1944, during the decommissioning ceremony — a crew came out that same afternoon and started dismantling the installation. It is surprising the telephone boxes were overlooked.

But not by the thief, obviously, who probably knew they are highly collectible items. Now that you know what they look like, please keep an eye out. Those historic boxes should be returned to Battery Russell. If you know anything about where they might be located, please call Park Ranger John Koch at 503-861-3170.

TAKE A LESSON



In remembrance of the sixth anniversary of the March, 11, 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, Yahoo! Japan installed a gigantic **banner** on the side of a Tokyo skyscraper as a striking visual reminder to be prepared for the next disaster, according to Rocket News: A red stripe at the almost 55 foot high mark illustrated the **height of a tsunami wave** in Iwate Prefecture (<http://tinyurl.com/55stripe>). A split-frame photo of the building, by Masatoshi Yazaki, is shown.

Part of the text on the banner is as follows: “Every year, when March 11 comes, we look back on what happened on that day. ... We tell ourselves that disasters won’t happen again. But someday, another disaster will probably, no, definitely occur. ... If the tsunami had happened here, in the middle of Ginza, it would be exactly this (the red section’s) height.

“It’s higher than one would imagine. But just by knowing how high it is, the actions we take can change. We can make preparations here and now. We can receive the understanding and knowledge through our memories of the victims. We won’t forget what happened that day. Yahoo believes that this is the most important part of disaster preparedness.”

Please note: If you think the tsunami height on the banner looks frightening, just remember that the tallest wave during that event — caused by a subduction zone very similar to the Cascadia off the coast of Oregon — was a terrifying 128 feet high (<http://tinyurl.com/2011tsu>).

Unfortunately, the banner’s lesson was short-lived. It was taken down March 12.

SLOTH SLEEPOVER

Well, Oregon is in the national news again, and this time it ain’t for Goat Yoga. CNN Money is touting a **sloth sleepover** at the **Sloth Center** at Zoological Wildlife Conservation Center, 74320 Larson Road in **Rainier** (www.chasing-tail.com) as “the coolest thing to see” in the Portland area (<http://tinyurl.com/slothsleep>) — which some in hipster city might take exception to.



Anyway, you better save up your pennies, as it’s \$600 a night for double occupancy for a sloth encounter, which takes place in an enclosure. You’ll need a lot of patience — and the tent, cot and satellite TV provided — to keep from dozing off, as sloths are not exactly known for being action-fueled. No talking is allowed, either. Whispers only. Sloths are apparently very delicate critters who don’t like noise.

Can’t afford an all-night sloth immersion? An hour-long visit costs \$100 per person.

But before you cough up the bucks for either one, CNN raves aside, you might want to check out the Sloth Center’s Yelp reviews (<http://tinyurl.com/slothyelp>), which range wildly from “you will reek of urine” to “a dream come true.” Caveat emptor.

LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from 132 years ago today from the **Tuesday, March 17, 1885, Daily Morning Astorian**:

- **E.C. Holden** sold yesterday at sheriff’s sale the **Walkley place** at upper Astoria to **Brenham Van Dusen** for \$1,575 (about \$38,000 now). He also sold at sheriff’s sale the **Spexarth property** to **Theodore Brakke** for \$1,200 (about \$29,000 now).

- A small force of men is now employed in the vicinity of **Fort Stevens** ... men looking for transient work would do well to think twice about coming here unless they have sufficient coin to keep traveling.

- **Smallpox** is reported at various points on this northwest coast: Salem and Nainaimo (B.C.) and other places.

- It is the intention of the board of pilot commissioners ... to call for plans and specifications for the building of the **pilot boat** for which \$10,000 (about \$241,000 now) was appropriated at the last legislature. The boat will be built of the best material, and will probably be an Astoria production ... and in every respect a staunch vessel.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Columbia Northwest 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

Cannon Beach American Legion Women’s Auxiliary Breakfast — 9 to 11:30

a.m., American Legion, 1216 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.

Military Officers Association of America, Lower Columbia River Chapter — 5 p.m., Doogers Seafood & Grill, U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton. Quarterly meeting. Cdr. Kristen Serumgard of Coast Guard Cutter Fir, homeported in Astoria, speaks on her experiences as a commanding officer for the past three years. All officers, former officers of U.S. Armed Forces are invited; active duty, reserve, retired and NOAA or USPHS officers. For information, contact Capt. R. Stevens

(U.S. Coast Guard, retired) at 503-861-9832

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. Needle-

work, 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 Dinners — 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

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