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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

IS THAT YOU, BIGFOOT



Just in time for Halloween: A **Bigfoot** sighting. It was near **Avocado Lake** in Fresno County, California. **Jeffrey Gonzalez of Paranormal Central** (www.paranormalcentral.net) told KMPH that a farmer near the lake reported seeing a family of bigfoots (bigfeet?) running on his property.

“One of them, which was extremely tall, had a pig over its shoulder,” Gonzalez said. “And the five scattered, and the one with the pig was running so fast it didn’t see an irrigation pipe and it tripped, with the pig flying over” (<http://tinyurl.com/avocadoBF>). The Bigfoot photo shown is courtesy of Paranormal Central.

There have been three sightings in the last five years around this same area. “What are the odds,” Gonzalez asks, “of three people, three different families, who don’t know each other, within a radius of 2 to 3 miles, come and tell me what they witness, and it matches up?”

By the way, email Gonzalez at SangerParanormal@aol.com if you happen to see a Bigfoot in this neck of the woods, or anywhere else. Inquiring minds want to know.

HORROR SHOWS



Halloween often equals settling in with a huge bowl of popcorn and watching really bad B-movies of the horror/creepy/science fiction genre. With that in mind, the Ear went online to find some freebies to watch.

For a collection of horror movies you’ve never heard of, like “**Tomb of Torture**,” check out <http://tinyurl.com/hallohorror1>.

Then there’s Archive.org, which has a plethora of pithy titles, like “**Bloody Pit Of Horror**” and “**The Screaming Skull**” (a blood-curdling gem the Ear recalls from when she was but an Earlet). Bonus bonbon: The Archive movies can either be watched online (not great quality), or downloaded.

Want to see Astoria’s **Vampira’s (Maila Nurmi)** very worst movie — and, arguably, the worst horror movie ever made — 1959s “**Plan 9 From Outer Space**,” also starring **Bela Lugosi** of Dracula fame? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/ughplan9> to punish yourself. A screen shot of Vampira from the film is shown.

Speaking of Bela Lugosi, how about watching 1940s “**The Devil Bat**” (<http://tinyurl.com/battybela>)? He plays a doctor who creates giant bats to murder those who have done him wrong. Have a flapping good time.

ONE LAST TWEET



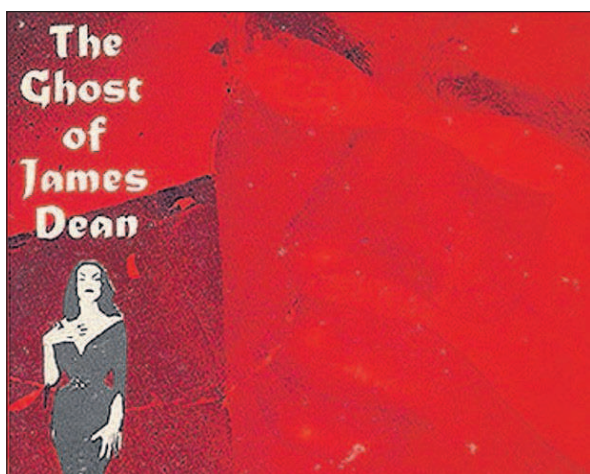
Twitter posts have taken a macabre twist with the **Tweet Hereafter** website (<http://thetweethereafter.com>), a compilation of the last Twitter tweets by “notable, newsworthy, famous or infamous people.”

Some posts can be downright creepy, such as that of software engineer **Kate Von Roeder**, who said, “Adios folks. Good luck y’all.” in 2014, and even tweeted a link to a suicide note on her Facebook page (Note: It’s still there).

Others are poignant, such as surfing filmmaker **Sonny Miller’s** tweet, “I get by with a little help from my friends! Live to Love! Love to Live! Love You Live!” He died of a heart attack at noon the next day.

What will your last words be?

COME BACK JIMMY DEAN



Fun rerun (Oct. 25, 2013): Halloween would not be complete without mention of Astoria’s very own glamorous ghoul, **Vampira**, aka **Maila Nurmi**, who wrote “**The Ghost Of James Dean**” in 1964 for *Borderline Magazine*, “which dares the unknown” (<http://tinyurl.com/mailadean>). A section of the magazine’s cover is shown.

“I have always been interested in psychic phenomena,” she revealed, so it wasn’t a big surprise when Dean, who was a close friend, made his presence known to her several times after his death in 1955.

The events mainly involve his communicating with Vampira via a cut-up photograph of himself which he had pinned to her wall with a small dagger five weeks before his death.

In one incident, the photo fluttered off the wall and landed on actor Tony Perkins’ midsection. Vampira immediately pinned it back up. Twenty-five minutes later, she received the phone call informing her that James Dean had died at 6:10 p.m., the exact time his photo fell.

Shortly after his death, mediums contacted her to tell her that James Dean was in great pain because he was earthbound. So, she asked the photo on her wall if it was true. “The top part of the ear wiggled,” she reported, “... and at the same time from my radio came the song, ‘Dig Me A Hole and Bury Me Deep and I Will Lie in Peace.’”

And the story gets stranger from there, moving on to a consultation with famed astrologer **Sydney Omarr**, a chilling seance and incendiary ashtlays. “The word spread — fast — word of the ‘haunted’ house on Larrabee Street in Hollywood,” she wrote.

No doubt about it, Vampira spins a good spooky yarn.

GHOSTLY HANGOUTS



If the home-grown local Astoria ghosts have become too familiar, and only evoke a ho-hum instead of chills, the Ear has just the solution for you: A list of ghostly hangouts that are all within around 100 miles of Astoria, found at www.hauntedplaces.org.

Did you know about Fort Stevens’ spook? The website says: “... **Battery Russell** has a bike path said to be haunted by a man in his twenties who holds a flashlight and searches for enemy soldiers. Unexplained sounds also have been reported, as well as cold spots and the apparition of a man in fatigues carrying a long knife.”

And then there’s the **Old Wheeler Hotel**, in Wheeler, where ghostly apparitions appear “in reflections or from the corner of their eyes, and spirit orbs have appeared in photographs.”

The **Tokeland (Washington) Hotel** sounds positively creepy: “A ghost called Charley haunts this hotel, said to be an illegal immigrant from China who died in the hotel in the 1930s. He has been seen in the hallways and has been known to cause dinner plates at the restaurant to fly up or spin around. A ghost cat also wanders around the place. The most haunted room in the hotel is Room 7, rumored to have been the site of a long-ago murder.”

And then there’s **Billy’s Bar and Grill Restaurant** in Aberdeen, Washington: “Formerly the union building for sailors arriving from the nearby port, this restaurant was the scene of many murders by a bartender, who befriended weary sailors before shooting them and pushing their bodies into the river running adjacent to where the building now stands.”

Many have seen the homicidal bartender with the icy glare, standing behind the bar, who disappears when approached. Shot glasses do tricks, ghostly voices have been heard, cold spots abound, and apparitions of a sailor and ladies of the night have been spotted, as well. It’s likely not an ideal spot for a nice, relaxing drink.

However, if you’re a ghost hunter or enthusiast, this list should be right up your long, dark alley.

TUNNELING FOR GHOSTS



Fun rerun (May 11, 2012): Many Astoria houses and buildings are believed to be rife with the restless spirits of the dead, so Portlander **Roger Clooten** (formerly of Seaside) of **NW Ghost Recon** (www.facebook.com/nwghostrecon) went searching for **Astoria’s Ghosts** in the tunnels under the city.

The paranormal investigators use electronic voice phenomena, using video, sound and full spectrum photography equipment to document their findings. A psychic is on staff, and they consult with a paranormal scientist and an electronic engineer, as well.

“I do this because I want people to know the paranormal is real,” Roger asserted. “It’s not a joke.” He would like people to look at the paranormal scientifically.

Roger’s first reaction to Astoria’s underground, not surprisingly, was “it’s disgusting down there.” He took a camera, and went in from the basement at **Godfather’s Books** and headed south, to 11th and Exchange streets.

And yes, he believes it’s haunted. He looked up and down each tunnel, and something caught his eye. It looked like a woman standing there, “a shadow person,” he said. He saw other apparitions, too. One of his photos is shown.

Are there really ghosts in the tunnels? Since it’s commonly believed that several houses and buildings around town are haunted, why not?

THE MEDIUM HAS THE MESSAGE



From the **Sunday, Oct. 31, 1897**, edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**: **Dr. Loyd Cooke**, the celebrated “psychological enigma” ... will give an entertainment at the opera house this evening ... (<http://tinyurl.com/DrLCooke>).

Dr. Cooke’s program is not carried out in the shadow of a dimly lighted stage, but with the lights on full throughout the whole theater, and the things which he does are thereby open to the closest observation.

In fact, the doctor is so sure of his position when he undertakes to make a table float in the air, some spirit hand to pass around bouquets, or calls upon an ancient grandmother of someone in the audience to write a few lines on the slate for the benefit of her posterity, that he invites a committee from the audience to occupy seats upon the platform, and gives them all reasonable leeway in their efforts to find out how ’tis done.

During the seance announced for the evening, Dr. Cooke will fully demonstrate the methods employed by renowned spirit mediums ... whose manifestations have at one time or another electrified the believers in spiritualism. The prices for this evening will be popular.

LISTENING ON THE WIND



Itaru Sasaki’s cousin died in 2010, and to deal with his loss, he built a glass-sided phone booth in his hilltop garden, pictured in a story on AtlasObscura.com. Inside he put a rotary phone — not connected to anything, mind you — so he could just pick up the phone and speak to his cousin whenever he wanted to.

In 2011, when the devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Japan, his town was hit with a 30-foot wave, the National Post reports (<http://tinyurl.com/windfone>), and 10 percent of Sasaki’s fellow townspeople died or vanished in the disaster. He offered the use of his “**wind phone**” to the community to help them heal, and soon the word spread. Now it has been visited by 25,000 people.

There is a notebook beside the phone, where people can leave written messages for their dearly departed, such as “Please watch over us from heaven.” So far, four notebooks have been filled.

“... People feel like their lost loved ones are there listening on the other end of the line,” Sasaki told the Post. “I want people to resume their lives as soon as possible by expressing their feelings.”

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
Sit & Stitch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Homespun Quilts & Yarn, 108 10th St. Bring knitting, crochet or other needlework projects to this community stitching time. All skill levels welcome.

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>.

Karaoke — 7 to 8 p.m., Seaside Lodge and International Hostel, 930 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside. Free session, all ages, for those who love to sing karaoke. Refreshments served. For information, call 503-738-7911.

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.

Seekers Group — 6 to 7:30 p.m., Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 33324 Patriot Way, Warrenton. Group discusses issues facing religious faith in the modern secular world. All are welcome. For information, call 503-861-2421.

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 Pro-

gram — 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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