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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS



“I usually send you a blurb when someone is especially kind, competent or helpful,” Yvonne Edwards wrote. “So this is the story of all that happening in Las Vegas, where Mickey and I are soaking up a few weeks of sun.”

“I made an appointment to get my 2000 black Toyota Sienna van’s oxidized finish restored,” she explained, “but Ramsey at Miracle Touch Auto Restoration asked that I get it washed first.” At the car wash, she met Denise from Florida and Javon from California, who were both in town to help their fathers. Even though their shift was almost over, they stayed to wash Yvonne’s van.

“The next day Ramsey came to the hotel,” Yvonne recalled, “but there was no outside electrical socket to plug into, so I said, ‘Let’s go to the car wash.’ ... We hung out for almost three hours while Ramsey did his magic on the van. Denise cleaned the Oregon mold off the roof!” In the meantime, Javon helped Yvonne find some inexpensive hubcaps for her snow tires.

“Ramsey had finished my van and Kayla, the car wash boss lady, came by, and he buffed out a small scratch on her fancy car, and she offered him a free car wash anytime, and everyone exchanged business cards.” Pictured, in photos by Kayla, from left, Mickey and Yvonne, Denise, and Ramsey; Javon is inset.

“It was a fun day,” Yvonne added, “full of good energy. A great experience of the kindness of strangers.”

GUESS WHO’S COMING FOR DINNER

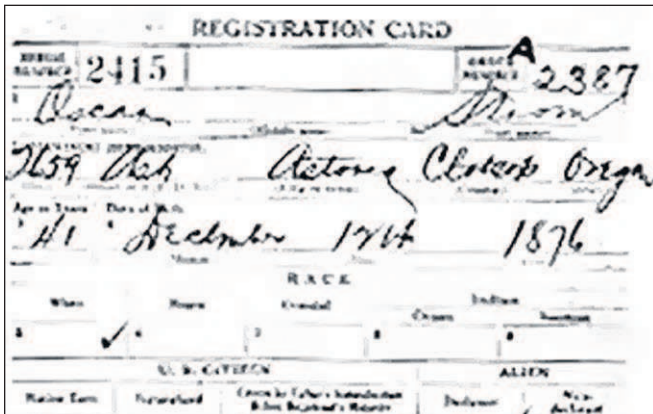


On Sunday, a sea lion went for a stroll to the corner of Seventh and Astor streets. Perhaps to get some pizza, or rent a video? Tiffany Major took the photo shown.

The Astoria Police Department was summoned, and Sgt. Andrew Randall showed up. “This one is the farthest out that he’s dealt with,” a police spokesperson told KATU (<https://tinyurl.com/K2sealion>). “They try to guide them back in the water. Depending on the personality, it takes time, sometimes they charge people!”

The Oregon State Police were called in, too. “The State Police called us,” Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium said, “and I happened to be in Astoria on my way to the East Mooring Basin. The sea lion was very mellow, for a sea lion, and we were easily able to walk the animal down the Riverwalk and down a small embankment.” Walkabout sea lion situation resolved.

LOOKING FOR OSCAR



There has been no news about Kerstin Colliander-Metzler’s great-uncle, Oscar Ström, who was born Dec. 12, 1876, in Eskilstuna, Sweden, and lived at 2659 Ash St. in Astoria while working for Hammond Lumber. Kerstin wondered what had become of him, as his letters stopped in 1908. The document shown was created in Astoria in 1917, when Oscar was 41.

Some Internet digging finally yielded this tidbit, published in the Saturday, Aug. 23, 1930 edition of the Klamath Falls Evening Herald: “API: Oscar Ström, II, Astoria, was killed under the wheels of an Oregon electric train when he fell from a log car.”

Is it the same Oscar Ström, or perhaps his son? Don’t know ... yet.

MEET JACK



“On Aug. 24, 2017, beagle no. 2035192 was released from his five-year captivity,” Astorian Tom Ank wrote. “He was born in a cage in June 2012, raised in a cage, and used for product testing so American companies could sell products in China. Much of his litter died. However, 2035192 persisted.”

On Aug. 24, 2017, the dog was released to Northern California Beagle Rescue, and the word went out. On Aug. 25, Tom and his wife, Carrie, began “the odyssey to save him.” They set off for California, “not to just pull him from a cell, but to really rescue him.”

“On Aug. 26, beagle no. 2035192 was renamed Jack,” Tom noted. “He rode in the back of a car for 12 hours, and found his home. He saw the sun for the first time. He felt grass under his toes. He had his first adventure.”

“Now, six months later, Jack is an Astorian. He takes walks downtown. He knows that people are his friends, and offer pets and scratches without condition. Jack knows the beach, the streets and the woods. Jack loves the rain and is happy to meet new people. He waits impatiently for his walks every day.”

“So, if you see Jack dragging a person behind him,” Tom added, “please take a moment and say hello. He promises to be your friend.”

MR. BOELLING



From the Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1885 edition of *The Daily Morning Astorian*: “It would be a good idea to half-mast the flags today in respect to the memory of Mr. C. Boelling, one of Astoria’s oldest and sturdiest pioneers.” The 1893 book “An Illustrated History of the State of Oregon,” by Harvey Kimball Hines, sheds some light on why he was so important.

Born in Germany, Boelling came to the U.S. in 1931. Sometime in early 1847, he purchased “an outfit of two wagons, and 10 yoke of oxen, one spring wagon and two horses,” and with his wife and two children, set out from Illinois for Oregon. The trip took seven months.

The family landed safely in Astoria in February 1848, and he headed straight for Youngs River, where he spent the summer starting to build a sawmill. Unfortunately, he got distracted by the 1848 gold rush. He took an ox wagon loaded with “bacon and supplies” and headed for the California mines, but was stopped by the fires burning in Southern Oregon.

Undaunted, he sent his team home, and went on alone on horseback, panning for gold. However, supplies were so expensive, he couldn’t make any money, so in the summer of 1849, he returned to Astoria to finish his mill. That plan didn’t pan out either, as by then the mill had been destroyed by Indians.

So, he moved back into town and built a hotel, which he ran till 1861. His last venture was buying a 640-acre farm on the Lewis and Clark rivers, where he farmed until 1877, when he finally retired and returned to Astoria, where he had always been very active in local politics.

Conrad Boelling lived to be 82 (quite ancient for that era), when he was felled by a stroke on Feb. 1, 1885. What made him of particular interest to Astorians was that he was bar pilot Capt. George Flavel’s father-in-law, and grandfather of George Conrad Flavel, owner of the mansion on the corner of 15th Street. As Paul Harvey used to say, “now you know the rest of the story.”

POWER TO SPARE



Astoria writer Peter Marsh (sea-to-summit.net) came across a maritime history nugget: What is believed to be the last World War II D-Day ship is still in active service as a ferry in New England according to ProfessionalMariner.com (tinyurl.com/DDayferry).

USS LST 510 delivered soldiers, tanks and jeeps to Omaha Beach during the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, and stayed offshore to serve as a hospital ship. Then for three months the vessel made trips back and forth to England, taking wounded soldiers there, and bringing supplies back to the front, risking attack from enemy submarines and aircraft. She received a Battle Star for her efforts.

Decommissioned in 1946, and part of the Reserve Fleet in the 1950s, the renamed USS Buncombe County was sold several times to various ferry companies, finally winding up at her current berth at Cross Sound Ferry Services in New London, Connecticut, as the M/V Cape Helopen (tinyurl.com/lst510). She is pictured, courtesy of ProfessionalMariner.com

The historic vessel was in the news recently because she was repowered with two new engines and state-of-the-art transmission and control systems, making her one of the very few members of the Mothball Fleet that is still in good working order. Long may she rule the waves.

HOW SWEET IT IS

Astoria ex-pat and chef Daymon Garrett Edwards has hit another landmark at his Tartine Bakery & Café in Seoul, Korea. “As we near our 10th year anniversary, April 19, 2018,” he wrote in a recent newsletter, “we are also celebrating our 3 millionth pie, sold this month.”

If you’re trying to imagine how many pies that is, he gave an example. “Driving: If 3 million of our regular pies (5-inch) were put side to side, they would reach from ... Astoria, Oregon, to Coos Bay — that is a lot of pies.”

“Each pie was handmade,” he added, “with love and care in our own kitchens.” Pie, anyone?



HELP SAVE THE FURBABIES



Jessie Weinard of Seaside is going through a tough time, but she prefers to put a positive spin on the situation: “I am starting a new chapter in my life!” she declared.

“I recently became separated,” she wrote, “and am left the responsibilities of the household, which I am perfectly happy with, because I love my life. I have a son who will be 18 months old and two furbabies, Onyx and Bubba, two black Labs, brother and sister, 4 years old. We are a family, and we stick together!”

“My dilemma is I am having to move from our home we rent, as I can’t pay everything here,” she explained. “... I am perfectly fine looking for a new place for a new chapter, but the issue at hand is that until I find a new forever home, I will be staying with family, who cannot take in my dogs. I am unwilling to surrender them before I have tried my hardest to keep them.” Any dog lover can certainly understand her plight.

Jessie has tried in vain to find a foster home for the bonded pair. However, she has found a place to board them for a reduced rate of \$750 a month for both dogs, so she has started a fundraiser, “Help me board my furbabies” (tinyurl.com/savefurbabies). As an alternative, anyone interested in fostering Onyx and Bubba can contact the Ear at 503-325-3211, ext. 257, or ewilson@dailyastorian.com

“If you can help, that would be a blessing,” Jessica wrote on her GoFundMe page. “If not, please send positive thoughts and pass this along. I have faith I can reach my goal, and save my furbabies. Love to all, and thank you.”

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.

Detachment 1228 Marine Corps League — noon, El Compadre, 119 Main Ave., Warrenton. For information, contact Lou Neubecker at 503-717-0153.

Railroading 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 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.

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.

Grace and Encouragement for Moms — 10 to 11:30 a.m., Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old

Highway 30, Svensen. GEMS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others’ company. Free childcare is provided. For information, call Rachael Biddlecome at 503-458-6103.

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.

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