

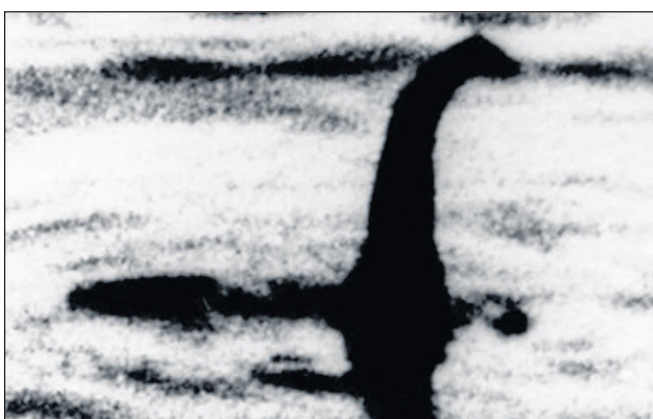
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

ARE YOU THERE, NESSIE?



The murky depths can't hide the **Loch Ness monster** from Professor Neil Gemmel of the University of Otago in New Zealand, who plans to do environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling of the waters of the loch in June (tinyurl.com/nessieDNA). An undated AP photo, possibly of Nessie, is shown.

From the samples collected, Gemmel's team will make a list of every living thing in the loch, and compare it against samples from other lochs. A large extinct reptile would stick out like the proverbial sore thumb.

"Whenever a creature moves through its environment, it leaves behind tiny fragments of DNA from skin, scales, feathers, fur, faeces and urine," Gemmel said. "This DNA can be captured, sequenced and then used to identify that creature."

And, hopefully, Nessie. Stay tuned ...

MYSTERY SOLVED



The Ear couldn't help but wonder if anyone had guessed the "mystery" in **Bill Dodge's** painting "**The Mystery within**," which had its debut at the first Sunday Market on Mother's Day.

"We had five correct answers among a total of 30 written entries presented at the market" Bill wrote. "The winner was **Denise Allen**. Apparently, she had done some research before filling out her entry at the Sunday Market, and she completed her winning entry at 10:01 a.m., just one minute after the official opening of the contest. The two nearest entries were received at 10:10 and 10:11 am.

"The answer was the **maritime code flags**, which decorated the front of the home shown at the top of the painting. The flags actually spelled out the entire address of the home: 3926 Grand Ave. The owners, **Gil and Joan Acosta**, each year at Regatta, decorate their deck with flags. The neighbors know it's 'party time' then.

"The home is a central piece of the original painting. It represents an Astoria architectural contribution, a mid-century modern home that captures the magnificent water views and forested settings so many Astoria residents enjoy. In the decades ahead, it should be recognized as a historic contemporary architectural addition."

"Some of the answers were quite amazing," he added. "One entrant said 'the ghosts in the Liberty Theatre.'"

The Ear, who didn't have the foggiest idea what the mystery was, congratulates the winner for her perspicacity.

SHOW YOUR COLORS



Recently **Pat** and I were on a road trip to visit our son in Colorado," **Bruce Wyrwitzke** wrote. "We stopped for the night at a little motel on Route 66 that offered a free hot breakfast."

"The next morning we were ushered to our seats, where the owner had placed state or country flags where he wanted us to sit," Bruce explained. "There were **flags** from North Carolina, Colorado, California, Arizona, **Oregon** and **Great Britain**. The folks from Great Britain were seated next to us. This is their place setting (pictured, left), and this was ours (pictured, right)."

"I always wondered what the rest of the world thought of us Oregonians," he quipped.

"The owner of the motel didn't want to believe me when I told him this wasn't the correct state flag," Bruce added. "I had to pull it up on my phone to prove it. We laughed ... he was embarrassed ... all was good!"

A TEACHER IN THE GOONDOCKS



Fun rerun from Jan. 24, 2014: Courtesy of **Gina Wilkie**, the Ear has a nifty bit of Goonies history for you: An article appeared online recently, "Meet The Woman Who Taught The Goonies" on the Rediscover the 80s website by Jason Gross (tinyurl.com/goonteach).

Kid actors who perform in movies still have to go to school, they just do it at work. They are taught by studio teachers, who are qualified to teach at all grade levels, and travel with the production company. "School" often consists of a trailer somewhere near the film set — which the Ear knows from personal experience, having been a studio "stage mom" for 10 years.

So, while the Goonies were having fun in Astoria filming, they still went to school, and were taught by **Rhoda C. Fine**, a studio teacher for more than 30 years. "I quickly discovered that from late 1984 to early 1985," Jason wrote, "Rhoda taught several different subjects to seniors **Josh Brolin** and **Kerri Green**, freshman **Martha Plimpton**, and eighth-graders **Sean Astin**, **Corey Feldman**, and **Ke Huy Kwan** (**Jeff Cohen** aka "Chunk" had another studio teacher, but appears to have joined them on several occasions.)"

Jason found Rhoda and her Goonies photo page at StudioTeacher.com (tinyurl.com/rhodapix), which is loaded with candid photos of the cast and crew (you'll need to have Adobe Flash enabled to see most of them). Rhoda is pictured, inset and with some of the Goonies, on a field trip to a logging ship when they were on location in Astoria.

Studio teachers get some interesting perks. "Rhoda received a thank-you note from **Richard Donner** and his assistant directors," Jason wrote, "along with a gold doubloon from One-Eyed Willie's treasure. She was also invited to a special screening of the film." The Ear bets she's still got that doubloon, not to mention a trunk full of memories.

AROUND THE TOWN



Tidbits from The Daily Morning Astorian, Sunday, May 25, 1884:

- A complete dictionary of the **Chinook jargon** is received from J. K. Gill & Co., publishers at Portland.

Note: A 1909 version of **John Kaye Gill's** dictionary is here: tinyurl.com/JKJgargon. Gill says the first attempt at a dictionary of Pacific Northwest Indian jargon was written by **John Jewett**, the sole survivor of an attack on a British ship who was captured by the Nootka Indians. Before he escaped in 1806, he memorized about 100 words. His book, "The Captive in Nootka" is here: tinyurl.com/JJnootka

- The **Clara Parker** carries excursionists to Young's river falls and back today for 50 cents (about \$12 now). Will leave Main street wharf at nine this morning.

Note: Owned by merchant **H. P. Parker** and used for towing, freight or charter, the steamer Clara Parker was snagged on the Columbia river near Knappa and sank Jan. 5, 1889. It's reported that she was raised afterward, but unknown if she was still usable. (tinyurl.com/claraparker)

- Since April 1, 1884, to date, 6,001 cases of salmon have been shipped overland via N.P.R.R. from Astoria. The shipments to San Francisco are not up to last year's figures, thus far.

Note: It wasn't until 1898, when industrialist **A. B. Hammond** built the **Astoria & Columbia River Railroad**, that 50 miles of tracks were laid along the Columbia River to connect Astoria to **Goble**, the closest junction of the **Northern Pacific Railroad**. Astoria probably shipped the cans to Goble by boat in the interim. (tinyurl.com/AandCRR)

- According to an article on fashion, the "perfect size for a woman" is 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighing 120 pounds, with a 22-inch waist and 32-inch bust.

- The **Sumner R. Meade** went to sea yesterday. The second mate backed out at the last minute and concluded he'd stay here; so made a plunge from the side of the vessel and is reported to have got ashore.

'NORTHERN HOSPITALITY'



Astoria native **Briana (Bononcini) Volk** and her husband, **Andrew**, pictured, own the **Portland Hunt & Alpine Club**, a bar with craft cocktails and Scandinavian (especially Finnish) inspired food, in Portland, Maine. Clearly they're doing something right, as the place has been named a James Beard Foundation semifinalist for "Outstanding Bar Program" twice, and Bon Appetit rated it as one of the "5 Best New Cocktail Bars in America."

And now the couple have written a book, "**Northern Hospitality**," a "celebration of cocktails, cooking and coming together," which includes some of Andrew's specialty/innovative drinks, recipes (bring on the smoked trout deviled eggs) and "how to" features, including oyster shucking and ice fishing.

"I grew up in Astoria, and was a 1999 graduate of Knappa High School," Briana wrote. "The book, while being about my bar in Maine, pulls from my Finnish upbringing. My grandparents are Finnish and lived in Astoria/Knappa since the 1940s; we spoke Finn growing up, and a lot of the stories and recipes in the book are influenced by them, and Astoria's Scandinavian community, including a couple of nods to the Scandinavian MidSummer Festival every June (which I miss so much!)."

The book's official release date is Sept. 4 by Voyager Press, but you can preorder it on Amazon.com. "We'll be in Astoria sometime in the fall to promote the book," Briana added. "We're hoping to host a dinner/drinks somewhere and do a book signing."

'WREATHE THE GRAVES'



Who held the first **Memorial Day** may be in question, but one thing is for sure: a letter from Mrs. **Mary Ann Williams** (pictured), of Columbus, Georgia, to two local newspapers, written in her capacity as secretary of the Ladies Memorial Association, got the ball rolling.

Her group wanted to start having an annual day set aside specifically for Southern ladies to decorate the Confederate soldiers' graves — which is how Memorial Day's original name, Decoration Day, got started. (<https://tinyurl.com/MAWilli>)

Williams' letter, initially published March 21, 1866, and signed "Southern Women," begged "the assistance of the press, and the ladies throughout the South, to set apart a certain day to be observed from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and be handed down through time ... to wreath the graves ... with flowers." (tinyurl.com/wmsltr)

Her letter caught on and was picked up by newspapers all over the south — eventually in the north, as well — as did the idea of having special day to put flowers on the graves of the war dead. And scholars have been quibbling about when and where the first Memorial Day actually happened ever since.

A DAZE OF DAYS



Since it's a holiday weekend, perhaps a few other national days could be recognized, as well. According to the **National Day Calendar** (nationaldaycalendar.com), today is **National Tap Dance Day**, in sync with renowned hooper Bill "Bojangles" Robinson's birthday. It's also **National Wine Day**, although it's probably not wise to celebrate both at once.

Saturday is **National Blueberry Cheesecake Day**, and Sunday is **National Cellophane Tape Day** and **National Grape Popsicle Day**.

Monday, in addition to being **Memorial Day**, is **National Bisket Day** and **National Hamburger Day**. So if you're not too worn out by then, you might want to fire up the barbie.

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Angora Hiking Club — 9 a.m., Sixth Street parking lot, or 9:30 a.m., Fort Clatsop main parking lot. Kwis Kwis Trail hike. Membership is not required to participate. For information, call Linda Dugan at 503-440-3909 or go to angorahikingclub.org. Call to confirm attendance.

Seniors Breakfast — 9 a.m. to noon, Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th St. Cooked to order from menu, includes coffee. Cost is \$5 for seniors

62 and older, \$7.50 for those under 62. Breakfasts are open to the public. Proceeds after expenses help support local and other charities.

Indoor Garage Sale — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Astoria Moose Lodge, 420 17th St. Hosted by Astoria Moose Trekkers Relay for Life team. All proceeds will be donated to Relay For Life/American Cancer Society.

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.

SUNDAY

Indoor Garage Sale — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Astoria Moose Lodge, 420

17th St. Hosted by Astoria Moose Trekkers Relay for Life team. All proceeds will be donated to Relay For Life/American Cancer Society.

MONDAY — MEMORIAL DAY
Astoria Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution — 10 a.m., Ocean View Cemetery, 575 18th St., Warrenton. Dedication of the John Buchanan memorial stone. Buchanan was the author of the words to the Oregon State song, "Oregon, My Oregon."

Senior Lunch — No lunch served today.

Columbia Senior Diners — No lunch served today.

Warrenton Senior Lunch Program — No lunch served today.

TUESDAY

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.

Senior Lunch — 11:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Senior Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. Suggested donation of \$3 for those older than 60; \$6.75 for those younger than 60. For information, call Suzanne Bjaran at 503-861-4202.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m., 1111 Exchange St. The cost is \$6. For information, or to have a meal delivered, call 503-325-9693.