

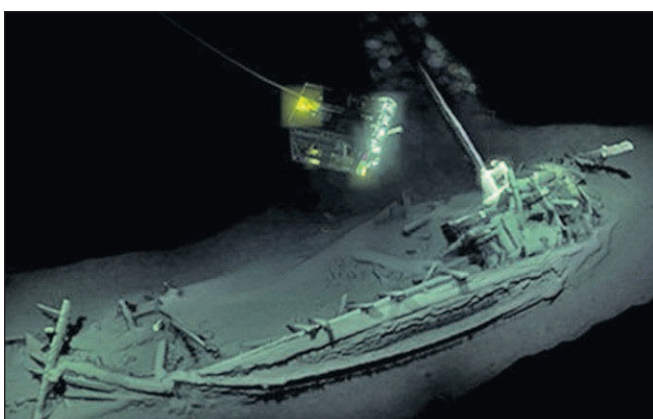
CONTACT US
ewilson@dailyastorian.com
(503) 325-3211 ext. 257

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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

BELIEVE: IT'S POSSIBLE



On the North Coast, the oldest known shipwreck would be the Beeswax Ship, lost sometime in the late 1600s, around 300-plus years ago. LonelyPlanet.com reports that a **2,400-year-old shipwreck** has been found, lying in more than 6,500 feet of water, during a mapping project of the Black Sea (bit.ly/2400wreck). The 75-foot Greek trading vessel is believed to be the world's oldest shipwreck, and is pictured, courtesy of Black Sea MAP/EEF Expeditions (blackseamap.com).

"A ship, surviving intact, from the Classical world, lying in over 2 kilometers of water, is something I would never have believed possible," Professor Jon Adams of Black Sea MAP said. "This will change our understanding of shipbuilding and seafaring in the ancient world."

BLUBBERY BLAST



Let's we forget this sterling moment in Oregon's history, Monday was the 48th anniversary of the **exploding whale** fiasco. Everything you didn't want to know about the infamous event can be found at theexplodingwhale.com

In a nutshell: On Nov. 12, 1970, **Paul Linnman** of KATU was on the beach near Florence to film the disposition of an extremely odiferous 48-foot 8-ton decomposing gray whale. Unfortunately, nobody could remember how such things were dealt with before.

After much thought, the decision was made to blow up the offending object with half a ton of dynamite placed on the leeward side of Mr. Whale, in the hopes that everything would be blown out to sea. At least that was the hope of **George Thornton** of the Oregon Department of Transportation Highway Division, who was in charge of the project.

For safety, the spectators were moved back a quarter of a mile from the carcass. The explosion was spectacular, as was the fall-out, which did not head toward the ocean at all. The explosion is shown, courtesy of a KATU video (bit.ly/boobclub). You can actually hear pieces of blubber pelting the ground.

No one was hurt, but the roof of **Walter Umenhofer's** brand new Oldsmobile was crushed by a catapulting whale slab. What was left of the whale was quietly buried.

"The blast blasted blubber beyond all believable bounds," Linnman said, and that about says it all.

HE CHOSE KINDNESS



A little feel-good gem, brought to the Ear's attention by **Judith Aniland**:

"This is what being human is," **Angelsea Keim** posted on Facebook Nov. 7, describing her photo, which is shown. "This gentleman is picking an older woman up who missed the last bus in Astoria on this chilly November evening. I overheard him tell her he had called ahead, and had the bus waiting for her in Warrenton, and planned to drive her to meet them in his personal car."

"They didn't know each other, there was no one around, no one to notice. He didn't need to help her. He could have easily turned his back, ignoring her, as she stood alone out on the curb waiting for a bus that would never come. He could have just gone home ... but he chose kindness."

A few minutes of your life in service to another, choosing compassion and kindness, when it may be easier not to — to me, this is what being human is. #bekind ... #actsofservice ... #truelhumanityisaliveandwell"

LOCAL BREVITIES



From the Saturday, Nov. 16, 1889 edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**:

The Oregonian is the authority for the statement that **Jim Turk**, having seen the error of his ways, is going to not only turn over a new leaf, but throw the old book away altogether, and keep "a mechanic's and workingman's hotel," in Portland.

Note: James Turk was a famous crimp (shanghaier) in both Portland and Astoria. He had a seaman's boarding house in both cities, the easier to drug and snatch unsuspecting sailors to work at sea for almost nothing. In Astoria, the boarding house was on the south side of Commercial, between 15th and 16th streets. Theoretically, he retired in 1889-ish, and his sons took over the shanghai business. (bit.ly/JTurk01, bit.ly/JTurk02)

"Gimme an Astorian," said a man, rushing hastily in yesterday morning. "There's a friend of mine back in the settlements that's always sending me little slips cut from newspapers back there, telling about what they think are big vegetables ... I want to send him a copy of this morning's paper with an account of that **36-pound beet** ..."

Note: At first the Ear thought this was some bizarre Victorian joke. Nope. A little research revealed the world's heaviest beetroot to date came in at 51 pounds, 9.4 ounces in 2001. (bit.ly/maxbeet)

Well, the regular fall crop is showing up in great shape. The man with the big potatoes, the man with the Nehalem coal, the man with the boss beet, the man that shot a white deer over in Ilwaco, ... the first lobster caught at Gray's Harbor, and several other ictas are on time.

Note: As far as the Ear can tell, the word icta is probably from the Chinook language, meaning "what" or "what is it?" (bit.ly/ChinookDict). The lobster item proved interesting, as in the late 1800s, there was an attempt to transplant East Coast lobsters to the Washington Coast waters. Some were seen in Port Townsend and Shoalwater Bay, and two were spotted in Gray's Harbor in 1890, so the transplantation was deemed "successful." It just depends on your definition of successful. (bit.ly/WAlobsta)

IT'S LIDBERG, NOT LINDBERGH



"Our son **Aaron Delano-Johnson**, who is studying in Boston, came across this painting of **Charles Lidberg's** who was born in Astoria, Oregon in 1902." **Ed Johnson** wrote. The painting, which is unnamed, is shown, and is selling for \$850.

Google Search keeps mistaking the artist for the famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh, but even so, there were still a few nuggets to glean.

Although **Charles Clarence Lidberg** was, indeed, born in Astoria, at 9 years old he was sent to live in an orphanage in Portland. A high school teacher helped pay for him to go to the University of Oregon, where Lidberg earned a scholarship to the Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts, not far from Paris. He boarded a ship and headed to France in the late 1920s.

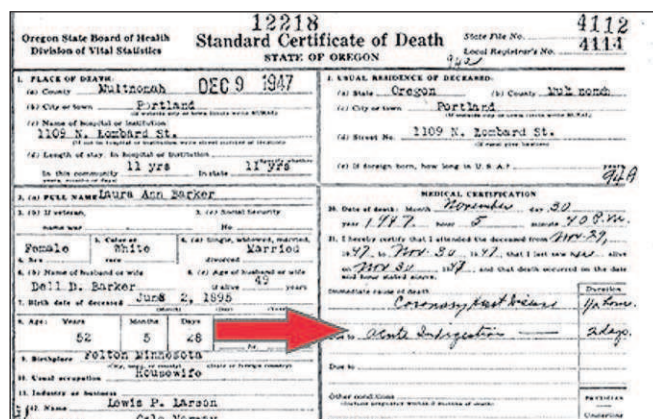
Living in Paris while attending school, he became a freelance artist and met and married **Dorothy Harkins**, a piano student. They stayed in Paris for two years, then moved to New York City. She taught piano, and he tinted photos for a photographer and went door-to-door selling pastel portraits for \$5 each (about \$73 now), which kept them going during the Depression. He had his first art exhibit in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1934, and the couple moved to Boston in 1935.

His work caught on, and he received commissions to paint portraits of politicians and celebrities, including two Boston Red Sox baseball players. A 76-inch high portrait of left-fielder **Ted Williams**, and one that's 79 inches high of first baseman **Harry Agganis**, still hang in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Lidberg was also known for his paintings of historical sites, landscapes and seascapes around Massachusetts. He died in 1972. (bit.ly/CLidberg)

"I don't know if anyone knows who this was," Ed noted, "or has a connection to him, or would possibly want to purchase it." But you never know.

THE TURKEY'S REVENGE



Worth a rerun for turkey day: A cautionary tale for all and sundry who tend to overeat at the Thanksgiving dinner table (the Ear pleads guilty as charged): According to a story on the Oregon State Archives Facebook page, 52-year old housewife **Laura Ann Barker** of Portland met an untimely end the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 30, 1947.

It was rumored that family members were told at the time that the cause of her demise was "**too much Thanksgiving**." Her death certificate, part of which is shown, backs up the story. It seems it was no coincidence that Thanksgiving Day was three days earlier, although her husband, Dell D. Barker, lived to tell the tale.

Mrs. Barker's physician, who attended her at her home during her final 48 hours, listed the immediate cause of death as "coronary heart disease," which lasted only half an hour. What's notable is the contributory cause, "acute indigestion," which lasted two long, miserable days. (bit.ly/tooturkey)

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS



Interested in UFOs? **Michelle Gabrielli** of St. Helens took six videos of strange light(s) in the nighttime sky, between 2:56 and 4:15 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 12, and posted them on Facebook at bit.ly/MG Gabrielli.

She mentions there are several lights, but the one that shows predominantly is white ... sometimes. At other times it explodes in pulsing colors. (An enlarged screen shot is shown.) One minute the light moves slowly, the next it zips erratically around in the sky. Either way, it's fascinating to watch. KOIN News 6 was even interested enough to do a story (bit.ly/koinMG).

On one video, after a particularly colorful display, Michelle asked "My God, what is that?" Good question, and one with no answer. Yet.

A WHALE OF A CATCH



"Most won't ever see this in a lifetime," fisherman **Jesse Anderson** posted about the photo shown, and he's probably right. The bones were found while he was on the F/V **Ocean Beauf** off the coast of Washington, about six hours north of the Columbia River. He speculated they were part of a whale's skull.

It was Ask the Expert time, so the Ear emailed **G. Renee Albertson** at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Cetacean Conservation and Genomics Laboratory at Oregon State University's **Marine Mammal Institute** in Newport.

"I think it is the caudal region of a baleen whale spine (vertebrae), but may be the caudal region of the skull," she initially replied, but wanted to confer with a colleague to be certain.

"Yes indeed, the back/top of the skull," she confirmed after speaking with **Jim Sumich** at the **Hatfield Marine Science Center**. "There is also part of the brain space — the beginning of one side, so we can tell it is indeed this part of the skull. It looks bigger than a gray whale, which would be our local. Probably a fin or humpback whale."

"And no, didn't keep it," Jesse reported. "800 pounds!"

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY

Sit & Stitch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Homespun Quilts & Yarn, 108 10th St. Bring knitting, crochets or other 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 astoriafiberarts.com

SUNDAY 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 younger than 62. Breakfasts are open to the public. Proceeds after expenses help support local and other charities.

Cannon Beach American Legion Women's Auxiliary Breakfast — 9 to 11:30 a.m., American

Legion, 1216 S. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach.

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, 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, Swensen. GEMS group is a time for moms to relax and enjoy each others' company. Free childcare is provided. For information, call Christina Leonard at 503-298-3936.

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