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COMMUNITY

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from **The Daily Astorian, Friday, Nov. 23, 1883:**

- The party who stole the quarter of beef from Jeff’s Restaurant got 30 days at **Mack Twombly’s** boarding house. He is bound to eat a quarter of beef at somebody’s expense.
Note: A. M. Twombly was the Clatsop County sheriff from 1880-1884. He was the arresting officer in a notorious local case, “The Klaskanine Homicide,” mentioned Nov. 20, 1883, edition of the paper. **John Leahy**, in front of several witnesses, killed **Jack Leonard**, whose shot-up body was put on display in the coroner’s office, and received hundreds of visitors. An unrepentant Leahy told the sheriff “he had shot John Leonard, and would do it again.” No reason for the shooting was given. (bit.ly/Clat-Law, bit.ly/LeahyBros)
- Another Claimant: **C. A. Enberg** of Upper Astoria says he is the man that saved the individual who tumbled into the drink last Tuesday night. He was in Frank Fabre’s getting a cup of coffee when he heard the man fall in, and with the aid of his lantern, guided him safely to the shore.
Note: It’s not mentioned how many others came forward to claim the hero’s role.
- Just right for Thanksgiving: **Shiloh’s Vitalizer** is what you need for constipation, loss of appetite, dizziness and all symptoms of dyspepsia (indigestion). Price 10 and 75 cents per bottle. Sold by **W. E. Dement**.
Note: Schuyler C. Wells’ line of quackeries included “Shiloh’s Family Remedies,” some using the name “Dr. Shiloh.” While it’s unclear exactly what was in the Vitalizer formula, some of his tonics included 68 percent alcohol or heroin.

NO TURKEY FOR YOU



These days, every family seems to have at least one home-grown vegetarian (or a vegetarian guest or two) turn up at the Thanksgiving table. What to do?

Well, **Epicurious.com** has **78 vegetarian dishes** that answer this dilemma, which they promise are “sure to please even the most dedicated meat eaters” (bit.ly/78veggie). The offerings include recipes for Butternut Squash Vegducken, Herb-Crusted Cauliflower Steaks, the somewhat baffling-sounding Parsnip-Wrapped Devils on Horseback, Tomato Bread Pudding, Leek and Potato Galette With Pistachio Crust, and many other offerings to either tempt or confound you. Bon appetit!

FISH POWER



This eye-grabber of a headline at TravelAgentCentral.com sure caught the Ear’s attention: “**Hurtigruten Cruise Ships to Be Partly Powered By Dead Fish**” (bit.ly/fishgas). One of their ships is pictured, courtesy of Hurtigruten.

It turns out the highly green-conscious Norwegian company — the first to ban single-use plastic — is actually referring to liquefied biogas, “fossil-free, renewable gas produced from dead fish and other organic waste.” One can only hope it doesn’t smell as bad as it sounds.

The MS Roald Amundsen, expected to be launched in 2019, will be the first cruise ship to be fueled by biogas combined with liquefied natural gas (aka hybrid power) and battery power, and two more similar ships are in the works. Just so you know how serious Hurtigruten is about the greening of their cruise line, they expect to spend \$850 million on the project.

SISTER CITY RECONNECTION



I have a story which may be of interest to your readers,” **Dr. Tod Tolan** wrote.

“As you know, **Walldorf, Germany** is the **Schwester Stadt** (Sister City) of Astoria. While in college, I visited Walldorf in the winter of 1970.

“I sought out the **burgermeister, William Willinger**, and his family. I carried with me a letter of introduction from Astoria **Mayor Harry Steinbock**. I also brought gifts of smoked salmon, shad roe, and tuna. Over the next several months, I returned to Walldorf and enjoyed the hospitality of the Willinger family.

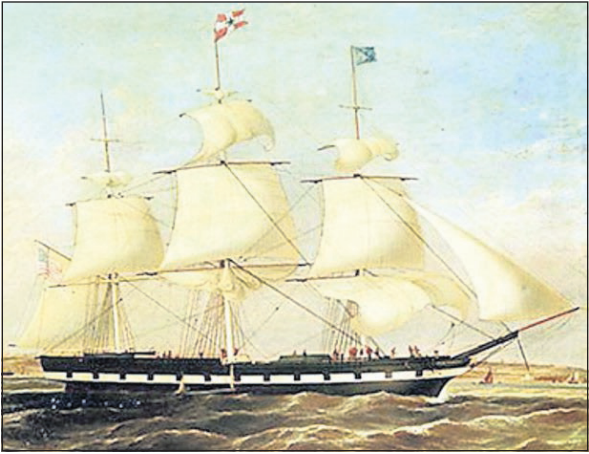
“Recently I have made contact with the Willinger daughter, **Inge Willinger-Gross**, via Facebook. Burgermeister Willinger was the mayor for a term of 20 years, and has since passed. Inge became a teacher and, with her husband, has moved back to Walldorf. Their daughter is in law school in Koln (Cologne), Germany.

“This September I traveled back to Germany with several Astoria High School classmates: **Sam Yockey, Wayne Hatley and Dr. Allard (Bud) Conger**. We all graduated from AHS in 1967. We arranged to connect with Inge Willinger-Gross and her spouse in Koln, and we had a lovely chat and meal during our single day in Koln.”

Pictured, from left, Dr. Conger, Inge Willinger-Gross, and Dr. Tolan.

“It was fun to re-establish the sister-city bond again after 48 years,” Dr. Tolan added. “Inge was excited to think our reconnection would be published in The Daily Astorian newspaper.”

THE TALE OF SYLVIE DE GRASSE



According to “Square-Riggers on Schedule,” the **Sylvie** (or Sylvia or Silvie) **de Grasse**, a 140-foot packet ship, was built in 1833 in Hartford, Connecticut for the Old (later called Union) Line of sailing packets that traveled between New York and Le Havre, France, and sold in 1848.

Pictured, a similar ship, the Caleb Grimshaw, painted by Samuel Walters.

In November 1849, with owner Capt. William Gray at the helm, she sailed down the Columbia River with a cargo of lumber bound for San Francisco, and anchored off Astoria to await a pilot. Once the pilot came aboard, the ship weighed anchor, but a bit prematurely, as the crew had not yet dropped the canvas.

In no time, the ship drifted right into a ledge off Tongue Point and got stuck. Normally, a change of tide would make re-floating possible, but Gray had so overloaded his ship — with half a million feet of lumber — that when she shifted, she wedged herself in even tighter.

Which was bad luck for Capt. Gray, as time was of the essence to take advantage of the inflated Gold Rush prices for his cargo in San Francisco. He may have managed to offload some of the lumber, but it appears most it stayed with the ship, irretrievably stuck on the rocks.

As of 1869, according to The Overland Monthly, the Sylvie de Grasse was still visible, and still hung up on that ledge, sporting a headless figurehead.

The “forecastle ... is now overgrown with moss and waving grass,” and “the starboard side of the quarter-deck ... is marked by a luxuriant bunch of alders just peering above the taffrail.”

By 1895, her timbers could only be seen at low tide. Remnants of the ship are still there.

The Maritime Archaeological Society says there was a medicine chest aboard that was still around in the 1880s, but has since disappeared. So where is it?

(bit.ly/Grasse01, bit.ly/Grasse02, bit.ly/Grasse03, bit.ly/Grasse04)

HOME IS WHERE THE HEARTH IS



Something warm-ish: Longview, Washington, resident **George Ford** created a hit movie in 2010, “**Fireplace For Your Home**,” an hourlong video of a fire burning in a fireplace. Actually, there are several of them (fireplaceforyourhome.com), three of them available on **Netflix**.

Netflix even created a melodramatic mock movie trailer, “appropriate for all fireplaces,” containing quotes such as, “I cried when the fire spread to the other log.” There is also a silly mockumentary. You can see both at tinyurl.com/fireplacethemovie

In an interview with the U.K. publication Independent, Ford was asked how many people have seen his fireplace phenomenon (bit.ly/georgefire). “I would guess in excess of 70 million views would be a fair number, as many times people watch it over and over,” he estimated. Which is pretty amazing, since the original cost a little under \$35,000 and two years to produce.

Actually, Ford is not a filmmaker by trade. He’s the founder of **Pet Media Plus** (petmediaplus.com) in Longview, “Home of Feathered Phonics,” CDs that train birds to talk. So why the burning need (sorry) to make a fireplace video? “My children were always asking me to build a fire, especially during the holidays ... I thought it would be much easier to just place a television inside our fireplace hearth than keep making a real fire.”

‘WE HAD A FINE NIGHT’



While you’re recuperating from Thanksgiving dinner today, you might want to contemplate what **Meriwether Lewis** (right) and **William Clark** (left), and the **Corps of Discovery**, were up to on Nov. 23, 1805. From Clark’s journal:

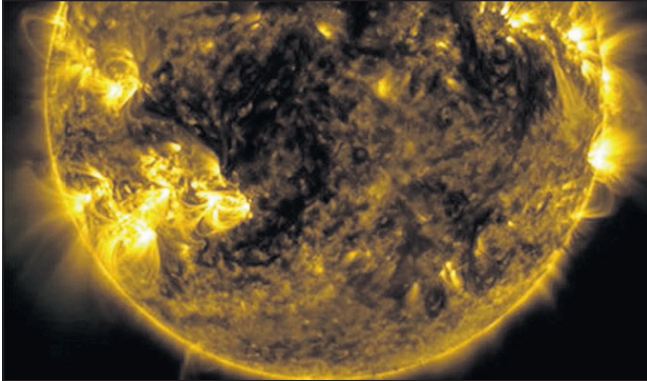
“A calm cloudy morning, a moderate rain the greater part of the last night, Capt. Lewis branded a tree with his name, date, etc. I marked my name, the day and year on a alder tree; the party all cut the first letters of their names on different trees in the bottom ...

“... Seven Indians of the Clatsop Nation came over in a canoe, they brought with them two sea otter skins, for which they asked blue beads, etc., and such high prices that we were unable to purchase them without reducing our small stock of merchandise, on which we depended for subsistence on our return up this river.”

At least no one went hungry: “... Our hunters came in, and had killed three deer, eight brants (small geese), and 12 ducks,” **Sgt. Patrick Gass** wrote in his journal. “In the evening the weather cleared, and we had a fine night.”

Having found the Pacific Ocean, the Corps’ mission was complete. But it was almost winter, so a vote taken the next day determined the Corps’ plan to stay on the Oregon side of the river until spring and, incidentally, was the reason why Fort Clatsop was built.

SUNNY SIDE UP



Do you feel the winter blahs coming on, what with the shortened gray and gloomy days? Starting to need a sun fix already? NASA to the rescue, with a **half hour video of the sun** in Ultra-HD (4K), which you can watch at bit.ly/sunHDart. A screenshot from the video is shown, courtesy of NASA.

The sequence is actually created from images captured by the Solar Dynamics Observatory, which watches the sun 24/7. It took a media team about 10 hours to create each minute of the video, so around 300 hours for the whole thing. So enjoy, since it’s probably the only time you can ever safely look directly at the sun. Bask in the rays, and get some vicarious Vitamin D.

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 astoriafiberarts.com

Lower Columbia Diversity Coalition — 2 to 4 p.m., Room 219, Columbia Hall, Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave. Topic is “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Toward Solutions and Celebrations.” Refreshments provided.

vided. Parking available behind the building.

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

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.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Family to

Family Support Group, for anyone with friend or loved one suffering from a serious brain (mental) illness. For information, contact Myra Kero at 503-738-6165, or k7erowood@q.com, or go to nami.org

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

See **NOTES, Page 4B**