

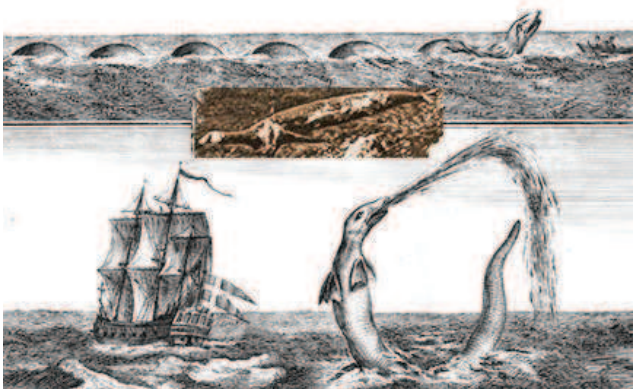
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COMMUNITY

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

CLAUDE’S A REAL SKETCH



Last September, this column ran a story about **Colossal Claude**, using just the right side section of the drawing shown. This week an inquiry came in about the image from **Debra Baldwin**, the historian at **Lighthouse Digest Magazine** (lighthousedigest.com) in East Machias, Maine.

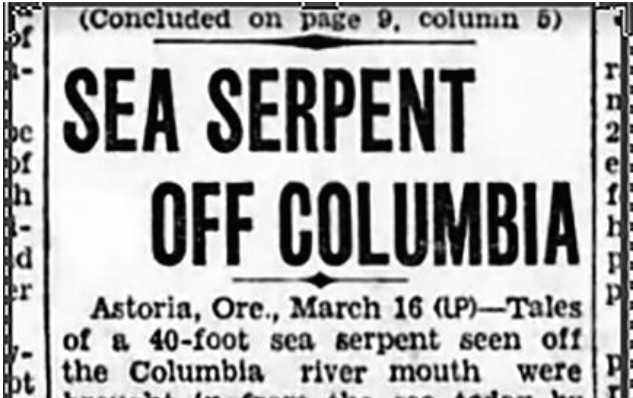
She’s looking for a drawing done by **A.C. Larson**, a mate on the lighthouse tender *Rose*, after encountering a 40-foot sea serpent (**Colossal Claude**, no doubt) off the mouth of the Columbia River in March 1934.

(As an aside, one newspaper story said Larson’s sketch looked like the photo of a sea monster that washed up in Cherbourg, France (pictured, inset), in February 1934, that turned out to be the decomposing remains of a basking shark. bit.ly/notclaudel)

A little sleuthing revealed that alas, the drawing she hoped was Larson’s was misidentified on the website it was taken from; it is actually from Erik Pontoppidan’s book, “The Natural History of Norway,” written in the 1750s (bit.ly/notclaudel).

If anyone knows where a copy of A.C. Larson’s drawing of Colossal Claude can be found, please email ewilson@dailyastorian.com or call 971-704-1718. It’s got to be out there somewhere.

DID YOU SEE THAT?



Since A. C. Larson’s drawing of **Colossal Claude** is missing, how can we know what he looked like? From newspaper clippings, thankfully provided by **Debra Baldwin** at **Lighthouse Digest Magazine**. (See them here: <http://bit.ly/claudeclips>)

The Friday, March 16, 1934 edition of the **Daily Capital Journal** said the sea serpent was 40 feet long, and swam around the lightship tender *Rose* for about 20 minutes. The crew, but not the captain, **J. F. Jensen**, saw it. “It had a neck about eight feet long,” the clipping says, “with a large head. It opened its huge mouth and gaped at the lightship, the sailors told Jensen.”

The Saturday, March 17 edition of **The Bend Bulletin** gave the same description, and declared that “the undulating coils ... were viewed snaking around the Columbia River lightship ... (and) it was seen cavorting along the shores of Sand Island jetty.”

Got a hankering to get better acquainted with our local sea monsters? Head over to the **Columbia River Maritime Museum** on Saturday for **Sea Monster Day**. Guest speaker David George Gordon is at 11 a.m., and talks continue at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Shiver me timbers!

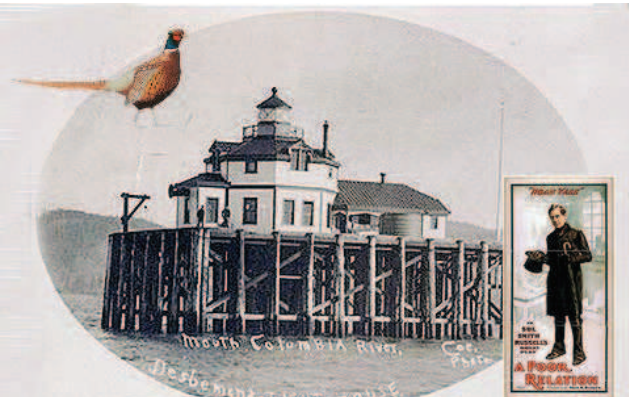
‘WHAT DOESN’T BELONG?’



A little April Fools’ Day fun, “**What Doesn’t Belong**,” from the Flavel House on Eighth Street: “The **Flavel House Museum**’s curator has been up to some foolish behavior — April Fools’ behavior that is,” a note from that august institution said.

“All through the month of April the Flavel House Museum will have items that don’t quite belong ... like the Atari game in the library. Help the staff straighten everything out, and possibly earn a special gift from **Mo’s Seafood and Chowder** restaurant (who made the event possible).” That sounds like a challenge.

TALES OF THE TOWN



April 5, 1900
• **Alasca Fox** yesterday received three more **Mongolian pheasants**, and today they will be taken to Olney and turned loose.

Note: An 1897-1898 report mentions the care of these birds in captivity, and a fish and game department’s 1899-1900 report says Mongolian pheasants were protected from hunting in Clatsop County until 1902.

Even so, Mikal Cline, Upland Game Bird coordinator at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife notes that “as far as we are aware, these birds did not persist.” (bit.ly/mongpheas, bit.ly/mongpheas2)

April 5, 1889
• **Sol Smith Russell** will appear at Ross’ opera house tomorrow night in “Bewitched.”

Note: Russell (pictured, inset) ran away from home and was a drummer boy in the Union Army during the Civil War (his parents wouldn’t let him enlist as a musician). He later became a very popular and famous actor, comedian and impressionist who toured the U.S. One playwright said his “smile was as near to human sunshine as anyone’s smile can be.” (bit.ly/solruss)

• Putting in fish traps on **Desdemona sands** is a difficult piece of business. The little traps stand it, but the waves wash out the piles driven by the pile driver for the large piles, and no foundation can be secured. Harry Woods lost between \$400 (almost \$11,000 now) and \$500 worth of piles that way in the last week.

Note: It couldn’t have been easy, but the **Desdemona Sands Lighthouse** was built in 1902. However, in 1905, 2,105 tons of stone riprap were added to the outer row of pilings of the wharf. Then, in 1935, a new wood pile structure, frame, deck and tower were built.

Sadly, only a few years later, in 1942, during World War II, the lighthouse superstructure was demolished. The foundation and beacon were still standing until 1964, though, when they were finally removed. (bit.ly/desands)

TOWN TALES TWO



April 5, 1888
• **Eggs** are 25 cents a dozen (\$6.65 now, if you can imagine).

• It is contemplated ... to establish a **kindergarten** if sufficient patronage is assured to make the institution self supporting. ... The idea is a good one and deserves encouragement.

Note: It just seems like kindergartens have always been around in America, but it’s not so. The first kindergarten was started in Germany in 1837 by **Friedrich Froebel**, who thought children should start going to school at a younger age.

Emulating Froebel, **Elizabeth Palmer Peabody** opened the first English-only kindergarten in the U.S. in 1860. By 1880, there were more than 400 kindergartens in 30 states. (bit.ly/EPPkinder)

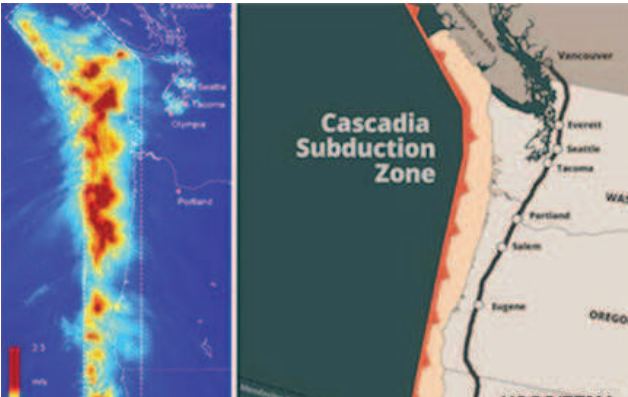
• Mr. **Brenham Van Dusen**’s (inset, right) new residence is fast approaching completion, and will soon be ready for occupancy. It will cost him about \$6,000 (about \$160,000 now) and will be an ornament to that part of the city.

Note: He’s **Willis Van Dusen**’s great-grandfather, and a son of **Adam Van Dusen** (inset left), who arrived on the North Coast in 1847 when his wife, **Caroline**, wrote, “Astoria was barely a village of two frame houses, two log cabins and shacks.” (bit.ly/adamvand)

Incidentally, 1847 is the same year the post office was established in Astoria — the first one west of the Rockies. The significance of placing a federal post office here makes one wonder if her description of Astoria was accurate. But then again, the postal building in question is shown ... in all its unsplendor.

April 5, 1884
• It has been definitely decided by Ohio Second Adventists that the world comes to an end on the 17th of next month. A good Sunday dinner at **Jeff’s Restaurant** will form an excellent preparation for the event.

WHOLE LOT OF SHAKIN’



Want to scare yourself silly, and it’s not even Halloween? Go to opb.org/aftershock, type in your address, and a customized report turns up on what to expect, and how to prepare for a **9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake**, courtesy of **Oregon Public Broadcasting**.

For example, when typing in The Daily Astorian’s address, the predictions are that water and sewer services will not be restored for three years; health care facilities will take about two years. Your emergency kit needs to have four weeks of supplies, including 28 gallons of water and 84 meals per person.

Go ahead, type in your own address. You might not be as prepared as you think you are.

WHAT’S FOR LUNCH?



On April Fools’ Day, Kelly’s Brighton Marina in Rockaway Beach posted **Scott Barstad**’s photo of an orca cruising around Tillamook Bay on their Facebook page. Surely it was a joke, right?

Nope, it wasn’t. “It was for real!!!” someone at the Marina replied when asked in a Facebook message. “One lone male in Tillamook Bay for about an hour.”

Among the comments under the photo were a few by **Josh McInnes** (pictured, inset), who identified the killer whale as T049C. And he certainly would know, since it turns out he’s the research coordinator at Monterey Bay Marine Life Studies, and lead scientist at the Transient Killer Whale Research Project in Victoria, British Columbia, and has been watching transient killer whales for years.

So how does he know which whale is which? “Well, killer whales can be identified based on distinguishing markings on the saddle patch and dorsal fin,” he explained. “Often scars, nicks, gouges are permanent features. The three different types of killer whale are residents, transients and offshores. They all look different and also differ in acoustics, genetics, diet and behavior.”

Why was the orca roaming around Tillamook Bay? “Well, T049C is a transient killer whale,” he noted. “They specialize in foraging for marine mammals. Transients often enter small bays and inlets looking for marine mammal prey like harbor seals, often using stealth in the form of passive listening. This behavior allows them to hear a splashing seal.” A simple case of dine and dash.

NISHIKAZE VISITS TARAWA



One of our **mini-boats** landed on the atoll of **Tarawa** in the **Republic of Kiribati** last week,” **Nate Sandel**, education director at the Columbia River Maritime Museum wrote.

In case you don’t recall, students in the Pacific Northwest built unmanned sailboats equipped with GPS transmitters; one gets launched from the West Coast, another is sent to a partner class in Japan to be launched. Then the students track the boats’ travels.

The remote Republic of Kiribati is in Micronesia in the central Pacific Ocean, with a population of just over 110,000. More than half of the residents live on Tarawa, including **Monika Eeru** (pictured, inset), who found the mini-boat on March 21.

So what happens to the Nishikaze? “I will be traveling to Tarawa in June,” Nate added, “to check in on the boat and hopefully get her back to sea!”

COMMUNITY NOTES

SATURDAY
Seaside Duplicate Bridge — 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mary Blake Playhouse, 1215 Broadway, Seaside. Come with a partner or call ahead for one at 503-791-9745.
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.

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 Studio, 1296 Duane St. Bring a spinning wheel. For information, call 503-325-5598 or go to astoriafiberarts.org

Whale Spirit Drum Circle — 7 to 8 p.m. in Seaside; check WhaleSpirit.com to confirm location each month and

for information. Open drum circle. All are welcome, no drumming experience necessary. Drum indoors at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A in Seaside when weather is bad; outdoors when the weather is good. A \$10 donation is asked to cover renting the venue. Extra drums may be available for those who don’t have one.

Drug and alcohol-free event.

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.

Angora Hiking Club — 2 p.m., 7415 Fifth Ave., Hammond. Spring potluck. For information, call Kathleen or Jim Hudson at 503-861-2802 or go to angorahikingclub.org
Line Dancing — 5:30 to 8 p.m., Seaside American Legion, 1315 Broadway. For information, call