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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## WORTH A THOUSAND



**T**he Mount St. Helens volcano erupted 39 years ago, on May 18, 1980, blanketing Astoria in a snow storm of ash.

In 2014, *The Columbian* of Vancouver, Washington, ran a story about the discovery of a roll of film of aerial shots taken of the smoldering crater about five weeks before the eruption by one of the paper's photographers, **Reid Blackburn** (tinyurl.com/volcanofilm). He is shown, inset, along with the contact sheet from the roll, courtesy of *The Columbian*.

Sadly, the photographer was killed while sitting in his car, in the blast zone, when the volcano erupted. His camera was later found, but his film of the event had been destroyed.

The roll of unprocessed film taken in April had been set aside in a storage box, but there was no way to know until it was developed if the film was usable. "I was astonished to see how well the film showed up," the paper's film editor at the time, **Troy Wayrynen**, said.

The film likely would not have been found at all if a photo editor working on a geology book hadn't contacted the paper wanting a photo of a logjam taken the day of the eruption. While searching for the requested image, a photo assistant found a paper bag containing some of Blackburn's negatives and the roll of film.

When she saw the cannister, the assistant thought: "Wouldn't it be cool if we found what was on it?" Yes, indeed.

## CALL IT A DAY



**W**ell, since it's a holiday weekend, it seemed like a good idea to see what else we ought to be celebrate, according to NationalDayCalendar.com

The Friday before **Memorial Day** offers several options to consider. First there's **National Road Trip Day**, which is self-explanatory, but puzzling, since it's hardly a good time to be out in traffic. And, it's **National Cooler Day** (seems obvious), and **National Don't Fry Day** (no, not burgers and ribs; don't fry yourself in the sun).

For those with a more esoteric take on celebrating, Friday is also **National Scavenger Hunt Day**, and **National Escargot Day** (not for the squeamish, but pass the garlic butter, and don't forget the snail tongs). Enjoy!

## TO THE RESCUE



**L**ast week, troopers out of the St. Helens worksite stopped a vehicle for speeding on Highway 30," the Oregon State Police posted Monday on their Facebook page. "The driver had found an **injured owl** on the side of the road and was trying to get it to a rescue center for care, but wasn't going to make it before they closed." The owl is pictured, courtesy of OSP.

"The troopers, after explaining that in the future the driver should have called OSP was able to make arrangements with the **Wildlife Center of the North Coast** (coastwildlife.org) to drop of the little guy for treatment."

By the way, **Josh Saranpaa**, executive director of the WCNC, says the young barred owl is "doing great!"

So remember: If you come across injured wildlife in your travels, aside from calling the WCNC at 503-338-0331, another option is to dial \*OSP on your cell phone to ask for assistance.

## CHARACTER TIMES TWO



**T**he Friday, May 23, 1890 edition of *The Daily Morning Astorian* included mention of two interesting historical characters of the time:

- **Miss Flora Batson** (1864-1906), the leading black prima donna in the world, will sing at Ross' opera house June 13 and 14.

- **Note:** An international star, in her heyday she performed for **Queen Victoria** of England, **Pope Leo XIII** and **Queen Liliuokalani** of Hawaii. Known as the "Double-Voiced Queen of Song," she had a three-octave range — from baritone to high soprano — and sang everything from operatic arias to ballads. (bit.ly/FloraBBook, bit.ly/MissFloraB)

- **George Francis Train** (1829-1924) ... expects to reach Tacoma, Washington, at 7:30 tomorrow evening, making the fastest trip on record **around the world** in 65 days.

- **Note:** Train, an eccentric businessman and one-time presidential candidate, was the epitome of newsworthy.

In 1871, he went around the world in a reputed 80 days, with some bizarre and lengthy side-trips. The **Phileas Fogg** character in **Jules Verne's** novel, "**Around the World in 80 Days**," written that same year, was based on Train's escapades. The adventurer was not amused, saying Verne's character, "stole my thunder."

In 1890, reporter **Nelly Bly** decided to beat his record, and made the trip in 72 days (her book: bit.ly/NBWorld), and Train was furious.

Not to be outdone, also in 1890, he made a second trip around the world, the one mentioned in the *Astorian* clipping. This time he dashed around the globe in 67 days.

He gave it one more shot two years later, when the city of Whatcom, Washington, sponsored the trip to publicize the city. He beat his own record again, and made the trip in 60 days.

Quirky to the end, he donated his skull and brain to the American Institute of Phrenology (a discredited pseudoscience linking bumps on the noggin to character and personality).(bit.ly/GeoFTrain, bit.ly/GFTbrain)

## HOMESTEADER MYSTERY



**I**'m a German from the city of Berlin who is searching for traces of an ancestor, **Carl Nebe** (pictured), who left his home country more than 125 years ago," **Raimo Riedel** wrote. "He arrived in the New World (Ellis Island) in the year of 1893. He was of German descent, and born in 1864. He was the great-uncle of my grandmother, and a ship-carpenter by profession."

Nebe apparently started in the Pacific Northwest, then lived in Dawson City, Canada, from 1897 to 1920, where he was digging for gold. He moved back to the Pacific Coast to work as a carpenter in the early 1920s, according to letters sent from Tacoma and Aberdeen, Washington. But where was he from 1893 to 1897?

"The reason why I contact you is an article in your newspaper dated from Dec. 18, 1895 (saying he) applied for (Astoria) land under the Homestead Law," he explained. Could it be found? The date fit Nebe's timeline and preferred area, the Pacific Coast.

The story in question was, indeed, in *The Daily Morning Astorian* archives. A Carl Nebe did file for a plot in the "southeast quarter of section 11" in Astoria. Mr. Riedel is certain that it refers to his family member, but that is all we know about his stay in Astoria.

Unfortunately, Mr. Nebe disappeared on March 2, 1923, at the age of 59, while working as a port dredge carpenter at the Port of Grays Harbor, Washington.

His body was found April 6, face down on a sand bar west of Hoquiam. It was thought he fell in the river and drowned crossing boom sticks from a lumber mill on his way to work.

The only survivors mentioned were family members in Germany. He is buried at Fern Hill Cemetery in Aberdeen.

Does anyone know anything about Carl Nebe, or his sojourn in Astoria? If you have any information at all, please contact the Ear at 971-704-1718 or ewilson@dailyastorian.com. It is important to his family.

## THE SOUND OF GOONIE



**G**oonies fans, loosen your wallets: **Varèse Sarabande Records** (bit.ly/goonCD) is putting "**The Goonies**" soundtrack — 71 minutes of **David Grusin's** original score — out for wide release on June 21.

The CD, which has 30 tracks, does not include **Cyndi Lauper's** "The Goonies 'R' Good Enough." But that's OK, you can see the video of it here: bit.ly/CLgoon

Can't wait? Want to preorder on Amazon.com? Go to bit.ly/gooncd. Of note: The last time the soundtrack was put out — in limited release in 2010 — it sold out immediately.

## MEMORIAL DAY TIDBITS



**J**ust because it's **Memorial Day** on Monday, here are a few tidbits to ponder:

The tune "**Taps**" came about when **Union Gen. Dan Butterfield** (inset) took a dislike to the regular "lights out" call, so with the help of a bugler, took it upon himself to change the tune.

The first time it was used at a military funeral was during the Civil War, while near enemy lines, to replace the standard gun volleys — which would surely have attracted the wrong kind of attention. It's use quickly spread for such solemn occasions.

"**In Flanders Fields**" a very grim World War I poem by **John McCrea**, was the inspiration for those cheerful-looking red **Buddy Poppies**, assembled by disabled veterans, that you see so many wearing on Memorial Day. The **Veterans of Foreign Wars** rely on poppy sales to continue their work helping veterans.

As you might recall, Memorial Day was originally started to honor the dead on both sides after the Civil War. Even so, to this day, there is still a **Confederate Memorial Day**, set aside to specifically honor the Confederate dead.

Seven states — Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and North and South Carolina — still celebrate it, but contentious as ever, on different dates. (bit.ly/vfwpop, bit.ly/confedday, bit.ly/memotidbits, bit.ly/buttertaps)

## BOTTLE BABY



**S**o here he is!" **Dawn Carr** of Clatskanie wrote, referring to the little **bull calf** pictured in her Facebook post on Sunday. "He has a neat story."

"I picked up **Gracie** from the school, and on our way home there was this little calf, maybe an hour old," she explained. "Cutest little thing, stumbled while he walked, and then laid down by the fence line at a local farmer's ranch. The mom had walked over to the tree line leaving the calf."

"The next morning the calf was still there, and no momma. So I didn't say a thing to Gracie, thinking to myself the poor thing died. I came home, and as I passed the fence line the calf was gone, and the farmer's truck was there. I was sad, thinking he died."

"Well, a few days later the farmer called me and said, 'Hey, would you want a bottle baby?' I said, 'Is that the one by the fence?' He said, 'Why yes, it is.'

"Super excited, I said, 'Heck yes, I want him,' so the farmer brought us this lucky little bull calf that is now nine days old. Apparently the momma had twins, and didn't bond with this little guy." But Dawn did. "He's absolutely adorable!" she proclaimed.

So what's the calf's name? "Lucky!" Dawn noted. "He was found — lucky; he survived — lucky; and he gets to live his life with his women cows — lucky." It fits.