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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

RULE NO. 1



The Trans Am Bike Race starts this Sunday, June 2, from Astoria,” Mike Davies of North Coast Old Spokes wrote. “The Trans Am is the premiere self-supported road race across America. Riders from all over the globe converge on Astoria to begin the 4,200-mile bicycle race toward Yorktown, Virginia.”

If you are an early riser, you can watch the massive group of die-hard bikers take off from the Columbia River Maritime Museum at 6 a.m. Sunday. Pictured, last year’s start, courtesy of the Trans Am Bike Race.

“Rule No. 1: No complaining about the rules.” Riders are on completely on their own. There is no support van; riders can only resupply along the route. Sure, friends and family can visit, but can’t in any way provide “material support or shelter.” If you want to follow the race, go to: transambikerace.com

To top off this 10-state exercise in masochism, there’s not even any prize money for the winner. In the video “Inspired to Ride,” by Mike Dion, one rider noted, “This is just for the crazies.”

‘IS THIS AWESOME?’



The KPTV Fox 12 Surprise Squad paid a visit to the Jewell School Band recently, as the band was getting ready to compete in the Oregon School Activities Association Band/Orchestra Competition in Wilsonville May 8 to 11.

Band director Corey Pederson had taken on the task of being sure the band had proper footwear for the occasion, and had been buying shoes at the Goodwill and on Ebay so they would look spot on.

And that’s where the “surprise” in the Surprise Squad came in. The reporters descended on the school to visit a band rehearsal and, in partnership with Les Schwab Tire Centers, brought shoes for the entire band. Fox 12 also recorded the reactions, which were shown on TV several times. You can see the segment here: bit.ly/bandshoes

“Is this awesome?” a delighted Pederson asked the band. “Can you remember this kind of stuff? And, I will say, hard work really does pay off for you.” And so it does: The band came in second in the 2A/1A category.

JELLY WATCHIN’



Having a tough day? Just want to chill out? Go jelly-fish watching, courtesy of the Monterey Bay (California) Aquarium jelly cams at bit.ly/MBjelly. A screen shot from the sea nettles cam, which is live from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, is shown.

The aquarium explains that you shouldn’t let those blithely trailing tentacles and arms fool you; they’re full of stingers that paralyze and stick to prey that’s drifting by, which is then gradually moved up via the mouth-arms to an unhappy fate.

For a little change of scene, you can switch over to the Moon Jelly Cam, which is live from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A screen shot is inset. They change colors, depending on what they’ve consumed; pink or lavender for crustaceans, orange for brine shrimp.

Sit back and enjoy. It sure beats hunting down an aquarium to stare at.

THERE’S A GRAIN OF TRUTH



‘My husband Pete and I are the current owners of the Forsstrom House in Astoria (theforsstrom-house.com) and are restoring the home in an ambitious five-year plan,” Lauri Kråmer Serafin, home restoration aficionado and genealogist, wrote. The house, which is on Seventh Street, was built in 1914.

“I have spent about 40 hours researching the first owners of the house, Dr. Toivo and Alli Forsstrom,” she explained. “Dr. Forsstrom came to Astoria in early 1906, and died in the house in August 1945. He was a local physician and surgeon from Finland.

“He attended medical school in Helsinki, and did postgraduate studies in Berlin and Vienna. He had many lovely cars, according to Oregon Automobile Licensing information!

“Alli, his first wife, is a bit more of a mystery. I have a large number of clues to pursue. She appears to be related to the Johann Heitanen family, and came to live with them after her arrival in the U.S. in October 1906. I believe she met the doctor in May 1907, during a weekend house call for diphtheria illness in a child of the Heitanen household.”

The couple married in 1909; when they divorced in August 1926, they were childless. During the marriage, Alli was an Astoria Regatta Queen in 1914 after her husband conducted a “rigorous campaign.” One of her Regatta photos still hangs in the house. After the divorce, she disappeared from Clatsop County records.

“Dr. Forsstrom’s second wife was Nelma Mattson Northe. They married in 1933. She sold the home in the early 1950s. She married Arvid Anderson in the 1950s. I am in contact with her family in the Portland area. However, they could not provide many details about the first wife, Alli.

“I’m looking for anyone with information or artifacts from the home. Pauli Palumbo owned the home from about 1981 to 2002, and told some stories about the Forsstroms. I have heard many of them, but want to hear them all!” You can reach Lauri at 206-778-6880 or lauriks@hotmail.com

After all, she noted, “There is usually a grain of truth somewhere, and I can compare (the stories) to the known records.”

TALES OF THE TOWN



From the Friday, May 30, 1884 edition of The Daily Morning Astorian:

• **C. W. Leick** is fast assuming prominence as a skillful architect and draughtsman. He is now busy on plans for various residences throughout the city.

Note: Architect Carl Leick (1854–1939) moved to Astoria in the 1880s. Among his designs are the Capt. George Flavel House (1885), still reigning over Eighth Street, and Grace Episcopal Church (also 1885).

He also designed lighthouses, one of which is the Grays Harbor Lighthouse at Westport, Washington, built in 1898, which he considered his “masterpiece.” Once 400 feet from the tideline, the structure still stands tall over 3,000 feet from the shore.

Leick’s work lived up to his motto: “Build ’em stout, and make ’em last.” (bit.ly/CWLeick, bit.ly/GHLight)

• **Judge Deady** was engaged yesterday in hearing testimony in the case of the Queen of the Pacific, George Flavel (inset) libellant.

Note: When the Queen of the Pacific ran aground in 1883, Capt. J. H. D. Gray and Capt. Flavel and their tugs swooped to her rescue. As a result, no lives were lost, and the ship was undamaged, as was most of her cargo, saving the shipping company almost \$737,000 (more than \$19.2 million now).

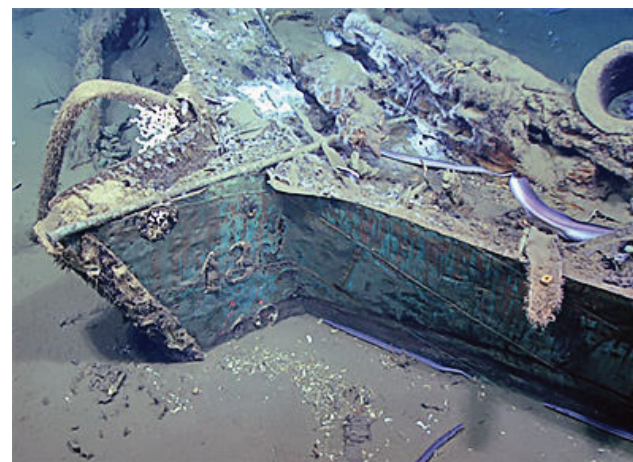
And therein lay the problem: The ship’s owners did not want to pay what they were charged for the salvage efforts. The court sided with the captains, and awarded them around \$65,000 (almost \$1.7 million now). (bit.ly/QueenPacFlavel)

• **Dr. Fulton**’s telephone number is 41.

Note: Nope, it’s not a joke. Believe it or not, a steamboat captain, George Ainsworth, brought the first telephone to Oregon in 1878, and the first phone line connected his office and home in Portland. The new gadget didn’t take long to catch on, and by the fall of that same year, there were almost 100 phones in the City of Roses.

Astoria got on the bandwagon, and opened local exchanges in 1884, which is why Dr. Fulton’s phone number really was 41. But you’ve got to wonder who was the first. Capt. Flavel, perhaps? (bit.ly/AstPhone)

TAKE THE TOUR



Shipwreck fans, rejoice: MaritimeExecutive.com reports that the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has opened its online Virtual Archaeology Museum, which features details from five previously undiscovered wrecks that occurred in the 19th and 20th centuries (bit.ly/BOEMwrecks).

The mystery ships were discovered by the BOEM while exploring the sea floor for oil and gas in 4,000 to 7,000 feet of water. Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) filmed the ships employing the latest technology in underwater videography; the resulting high resolution images were used to create 3D models and mosaic maps of the ships and their contents. One of the images, from Shipwreck 15377, is shown.

Go ahead, take the tour.

WHICH SCRIPT IS IT?



Bryan Wood posted an intriguing item on the Goonies Memorabilia Facebook page on May 23: He has an old 134-page “The Goonies” script postmarked as being mailed from Astoria on Dec. 11, 1984. Production on the movie ended in November 1984.

“(The script) was purchased in London in 1997 with a box of vinyl records and music memorabilia,” Bryan explained. “That buyer wanted the collection because it contained an original Led Zeppelin ‘object’ which he wanted. When he was going through the box, he found the script. He put the script back in the box with most of the other stuff, and it sat there until a year ago,” when Bryan bought it from him.

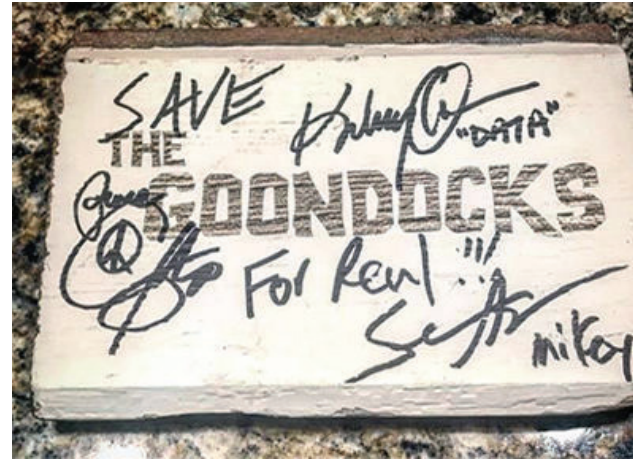
But that’s all he knows about its history. “I have zero interest in trying to sell it,” he noted, “I’m just super curious what it is.”

Randell Widner (Sloth’s stunt double in “The Goonies”) noted that a shooting script would have different colored pages added or replaced that reflect changes. Nope, Bryan said, the pages are aged, once-white paper, and not copies.

What makes the script particularly interesting is that it includes scenes that never made it to the finished movie, like the octopus, gorilla and convenience store scenes. Which means it is possibly a pre-production script.

“So the best I can conclude is that this was printed by Warner Bros.,” Bryan surmised, “and someone in Astoria mailed it around the time of the movie’s production ... the rest, you got me!” Anyone know who mailed it?

SAVING THE GOONDOCKS



Item on eBay: “Autographed Siding Off The Goonies House” (bit.ly/goonsiding). It’s a 4-by-8-inch piece, and the eBay photo is shown. As of this writing, on Tuesday, the bids are up to \$460.

“So, you may know the Goonie house is under construction,” the seller wrote. “Unfortunately, they have uncovered additional damage while doing the updates.

“(The owner) has sent me all the siding that came off the house. I have the first piece signed by Sean Astin, Corey Feldman and Jon Key Quan. All the money is going straight to her to offset the cost of the renovations. So you can truly Save the Goondocks!”

This auction ended Wednesday. Goonie fans: Stay tuned for more Goondocks auctions!