

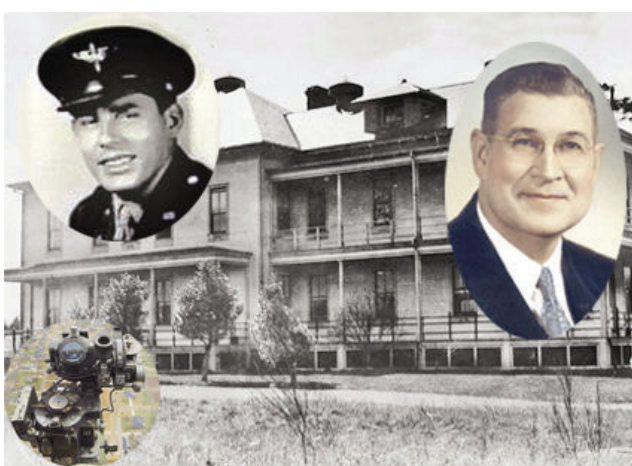
CONTACT US  
ewilson@dailyastorian.com  
(971)-704-1718

# COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US  
facebook.com/  
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## DISASTER AT CAPE LOOKOUT



On Aug. 1, 1943, during World War II, a B-17 Flying Fortress crashed into Cape Lookout, killing nine of the 10 crewman aboard, leaving as sole survivor the bombardier, **Wilbur Perez** (inset, left).

According to Tim King ([tinyurl.com/wperez1](http://tinyurl.com/wperez1)), the pilot of the plane, lost in the fog, was only flying 50 to 100 feet off the water at the time. Once he realized 900-foot high Cape Lookout was dead ahead, he tried to climb. The B-17 was still climbing when it slammed into the top of the cape at 200 mph. Perez speculated they only needed 50 more feet to clear it. A documentary about the crash can be seen at [tinyurl.com/wperezdoc](http://tinyurl.com/wperezdoc)

Perez was blown out of the bombardier bubble and wound up hanging upside down from a tree branch by a shoelace. Although severely injured, he freed himself, rolled toward the sound of the surf — and off the edge of the cliff. Remarkably, he landed on a propeller from the B-17 that had wedged itself in the side of the cape a few feet from the top, and strapped himself to it.

Hanging there, he could still hear his remaining fellow crew members calling out as they gradually died from their injuries. It took 36 hours to find and rescue him, **Geri Humpal** of Seaside says, because there were no trails or roads up to the crash site, and the rescue team had to wait for the tide to change to get rescue equipment up there.

Perez was taken to **Fort Stevens**, the nearest military hospital (pictured), where his surgeon was Geri's father, **Dr. Donald H. Kast** (inset, right). Despite being badly wounded, Geri said, Perez wanted to put off necessary surgery until he could deliver his **Norden Bombsight** (inset, left) personally into the hands of someone from his base at Pendleton. How he managed to get it out of the wreckage, and hold onto it, is a mystery.

Dr. Kast finally convinced the bombardier to give up the bombsight by stowing it in the hospital safe until someone could come and retrieve it. The surgery was successful, and Perez went on to live a long life, dying at 90 in 2009.

## 'SHE'S THE BEST'



The winners of the annual **wife-carrying championships** July 6 in Sonkajarviare, Finland, are the same Lithuanian couple who won last year, **Vytautas Kirkliauskas** and his wife, **Neringa Kirkliauskiene**, Fox News reports ([bit.ly/wiferace](http://bit.ly/wiferace)). They are pictured, courtesy of AP/David Keyton.

The woman must be over age 17, and weigh at least 108 pounds; the prize is the wife's weight in beer, AP reports. If the man is unmarried, no problem, it's perfectly OK to "steal a neighbor's wife."

Kirkliauskas carried his spouse, strapped to his back, over a 278-yard obstacle course in one minute, 6.72 seconds, competing against couples from more than a dozen countries. "After the second obstacle I thought I wouldn't make it, but it's a great result," he said. "My wife," he noted, "she is the best."

## AT LAST ... A PARKING SURVEY



Have an opinion about **public parking in downtown Astoria**? No kidding, someone actually cares how you feel about it. The **Astoria Downtown Historic District Association** is conducting a **survey** on the topic at [bit.ly/parkAstoria](http://bit.ly/parkAstoria). They also want to know "who comes downtown, how often and why."

There are nine questions, and No. 10 provides an opportunity to add your comments. If you've got something to say on the subject, here's your shot.

## LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from **The Daily Morning Astorian**, **Wednesday, Aug. 1, 1888**:

• Job Ross says that up to 1853 he could have shown visitors the **old fort** erected by the **Astor party**, but that year he pushed it over and burned the debris for firewood.

**Note:** Fort Astoria was established in 1811 by **John Jacob Astor's** Pacific Fur Company, then sold to a British company, who renamed it **Fort George** in 1813. It was renamed Fort Astoria in 1818. Used as a fur trade depot by Hudson's Bay Co. until 1825, it was abandoned from 1825 to 1829. Reopened in 1830, the fort stayed open until 1848. ([fortwiki.com/FortAstoria](http://fortwiki.com/FortAstoria), [bit.ly/FrtAst](http://bit.ly/FrtAst))

• The **Manzanita** (lighthouse tender) is off for (Puget) Sound. Geo. Rowe goes along, his destination being **Destruction Island**.

**Note:** **George M. Rowe** was the lighthouse keeper on **Tillamook Rock** from 1881 to 1883. Construction of the lighthouse on desolate **Destruction Island** began in August 1888; perhaps he was heading there as a consultant. The bleak 33-acre island is around 3.5 miles off the Washington Coast. ([bit.ly/DestructIsle](http://bit.ly/DestructIsle))

• If the **Holladay estate** could be got out of litigation ... a step would be advanced toward building a much necessary road to the Seaside from this city.

**Note:** When **Ben Holladay** (pictured, right), a transportation magnate who built the **Seaside House Hotel**, died in 1887, he was in debt — and being sued by his brother, Joseph, for \$315,000 (about \$8.5 million now). In 1889, Ben's wife sued Joseph for \$100,366. The convoluted family lawsuits went on for years. ([tinyurl.com/bholla](http://tinyurl.com/bholla), [tinyurl.com/bholla1](http://tinyurl.com/bholla1))

• Three **Chinese pheasants**, which are protected by law, set upon **Sammy Ross**, a 14-year-old boy ... and fought him so hard that he dropped a two-bushel sack of wheat and fled for his life. When the neighbors came to the spot, the wheat was all gone, and the birds were nowhere to be seen.

**Note:** In 1881, 60 ring-necked pheasants were shipped to Port Townsend, Washington, from Shanghai, by **Owen N. Denny**. A friend of his released some on Sauvie Island, where they flourished. By 1888, the U.S. Agriculture Department reported the birds were "now common." And, apparently, ill-tempered. ([bit.ly/1881ringneck](http://bit.ly/1881ringneck))

## THE ECHO-MAKER



Another interesting tidbit from the same edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**:

• **The Popular Science Monthly** describes a curious and ingenious device called "**The Echo-Maker**," to be used on ships at sea. ... The naval board tried the echo-maker, and found that a return sound could be heard from the side of a fort half a mile away ...

**Note:** Mariners pretty much depended on their ears to discern sound location at sea (like foghorns and whistling buoys) until 1880, when **Prof. A. M. Mayer** invented the topophone, consisting of resonators and rubber tubing, which discerned sound direction fairly accurately. A wearable version is pictured.

**Mr. De La Torre's** echo-maker was one of several contraptions invented in the 1880s, and was actually a primitive form of sonar. It consisted of "a flaring funnel screwed on the muzzle of a rifle. It is operated by firing the rifle in the direction of the supposed obstacle," then waiting for the echo to determine the object's distance and size.

The naval board was impressed, but De La Torre's echo-maker wound up getting lost in the shuffle, along with several other similar inventions. Sonar devices that could both send and receive sound signals didn't actually appear until 1918. ([bit.ly/echomaker1](http://bit.ly/echomaker1), [bit.ly/echomaker2](http://bit.ly/echomaker2), [bit.ly/echomaker3](http://bit.ly/echomaker3))

## AND NOW WE WAIT



*Family Campbell*

The TV show "**Family Feud**" auditions were held July 27 and July 28 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Portland. Families had to apply online first, and submit a video; if the show was interested, then you were summoned to attend the audition.

The Campbell family was summoned. Pictured, from left, four siblings, **Cheryl (Campbell) Hitchman**, **Robert Campbell**, **Jean (Campbell) Sleutel** and **Linda Campbell**, and their cousin, **Anna Butler**.

Jean, who lives in Warrenton, said there must have been more than 300 families trying out July 28, when the Campbells gave it a go. While waiting in line, she observed that lots of teams were "dressed to the nines" with matching suits, etc. The Campbells simply had matching shirts, but "God knows, we had enough energy," she said, chuckling. Which is probably why the casting director singled them out for a photo.

The family played two rounds of a mock game while being checked for their ability to answer questions, how the family interacted with each other and the other team, how they behaved in a huddle, and most importantly, their level of enthusiasm.

And the waiting begins. If the Campbells are chosen for the show, they will receive a postcard in three to four weeks inviting them to Los Angeles. Selected or not, Linda proclaimed, "we had fun with it, regardless."

## WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME



"My son-in-law snapped this photo (shown) while watching a segment of 'Live PD' from **Greene County, Missouri**," **Dan Sealy** wrote. "The suspect is wearing a **Seaside, Oregon, hoodie**."

At first, the Ear wasn't so sure about the hoodie, as it isn't too legible, but a short internet search allayed all doubt. It is, indeed, a Seaside hoodie. You can see the actual clip, "Hot Box," from Season 3, at [bit.ly/PDhotbox](http://bit.ly/PDhotbox)

The couple in question were stopped for sitting in a car for two hours; the neighbors got concerned and reported it to the police. When the driver rolled down the window, a gust of marijuana smoke blew out — hence the "hot box" title.

Mr. Driver was cited and released for having a pot stash he had apparently forgotten about; Ms. Seaside Hoodie was not charged.

## GOOD COMPANY



Every now and then a goat or two can be spotted blithely mowing someone's lawn in Astoria. Well, the **Chelan County Fire District 1** kicked it up a notch or three when it hired around 320 goats from **Billy's Goats Targeted Grazing Services** of Ephrata, Washington, to clear out dry grass, etc., that has become a wildfire hazard near Wenatchee, Washington, the Seattle Times reports ([bit.ly/goatslope](http://bit.ly/goatslope)).

The critters are chowing down on everything in sight, creating a defensible fire zone in an area that is too steep (35 to 50 degrees) to be accessible to mowing machinery. And besides, goats — who work in two shifts, grazing 15 to 16 hours a day — are a lot cheaper than human labor, at about \$1,600 per acre. Better yet, the bill is being footed by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. Some of **Billy Porter's** goats are pictured, courtesy of the company's Facebook page.

In case you're wondering, the goats are protected by a moveable electric fence, a very large guard dog named **Nanny** and a herder named **Todd Waits**, who really enjoys his job. "The best thing," told the Seattle Times, "is being alone in good company."