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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## REMEMBER THE 'BEATLES'?



My name is **Victoria Woods** and live in Yorkshire, U.K." Victoria wrote to **Stephanie Miller** of the **Clatsop County Genealogical Society**. "I was wondering if you have any archives of your local paper of the day circa approximately 1964?"

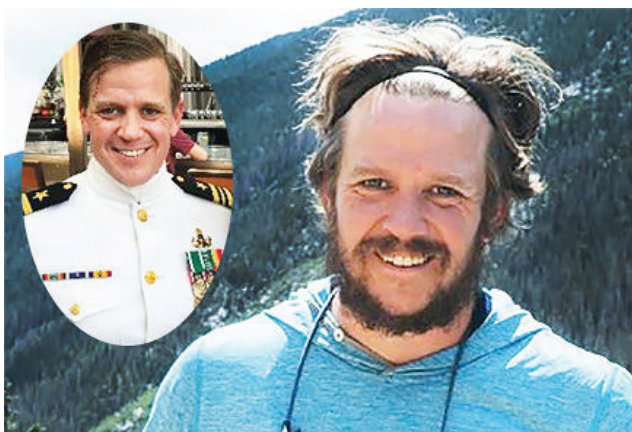
"My father, **Ronnie Woods**, was in the Merchant Navy at the time, aged around 16, when his ship named the **Apsley Hall** docked in Astoria. Your local Astoria paper ran an article on the sailors titled 'British ship brings Beatles to town,' due to the attention the sailors got from all having long hair."

"My father is 71 now, and not in good health; he often talks about this, and I would love to be able to trace the issue of the paper to cheer him up. I have already tried some research with (**Clatsop County Historical Society** archivist) **Liisa Penner** ... I would really appreciate any help you could give me with this ... I'm not 100% sure it was 1964, but it's around that era."

"I searched the newspaper card index at the Astoria Library for everything I could think of, with no luck," Stephanie wrote. "If I could just find a close date, I can look it up on the newspaper microfilm at the library. I am hoping someone who lived here in the 1960s might remember this, and be able to pin down a date."

Anyone remember anything about the Apsley Hall or the "Beatles" visitors? If so, please contact the Ear at 971-704-1718 or ewilson@dailyastorian.com

## ONE MAN'S MISSION



While being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Navy combat veteran **Mark Gutierrez** found out about **Project Hero**, which helps veterans and first responders struggling with those same issues.

"Moved by their mission, I wanted to help them any way I could," he wrote on his Project Hero page ([bit.ly/MGprojhero](http://bit.ly/MGprojhero)).

In mid-May, he set off from Washington, D.C., on his bike for an "adventure down, across and around this beautiful country" to support wounded veterans and meet local first responders, as well as raise funds for Project Hero.

On Tuesday, he stopped in Astoria and visited the Astoria Police and Fire departments. Now he's heading to San Diego, his journey's end. You can follow his travels at [vagrantgoot.blogspot.com](http://vagrantgoot.blogspot.com)

"I may keep pedaling after a break in San Diego," he posted on his blog recently, "or I may find a spot to settle down in, but what I do know is I feel good about what is on the way."

## A VERY LIMITED EDITION



It's not just the U.S. government that has finally recognized the existence of UFOs. ... The **Royal Canadian Mint** had already jumped on the bandwagon with the release of its first **UFO coin** in 2018.

But recently the mint topped itself, and released a 1-ounce pure silver **glow-in-the-dark** rectangular "coin" commemorating a famous Canadian UFO incident that took place off the coast of Nova Scotia on Oct. 4, 1967. The coin is pictured, courtesy of the Royal Canadian Mint ([bit.ly/glowUFO](http://bit.ly/glowUFO)).

"This coin brings attention to a story that many people don't know about," Laurie Wickens, Eyewitness and President of the **Shag Harbour UFO Incident Society** ([bit.ly/UFOShag](http://bit.ly/UFOShag)), wrote on the mint's website. "The Shag Harbour Incident is one of the best government-documented UFO crashes; even today, the case remains open and unsolved."

Want to order one? Too late. Only 4,000 were minted, and they sold out almost immediately.

## 'IT'S HISTORY'



**Fun rerun from Oct. 2, 2015:** Did you know that the **Tourist II** ferry was recorded in the **National Register of Historic Places** in 1997? Yup, it was added to the list by Kirkland Ferry LLC when the vessel was known as the **MV Kirkland** ([tinyurl.com/T2NRHP](http://tinyurl.com/T2NRHP)). A photo of the Tourist II is shown, courtesy of the Clatsop County Historical Society.

Here are some tidbits from the NRHP application:

**Fritz Elfving**, a Swede, arrived in Astoria in 1907 and worked as a carpenter and ship builder. He began operating boats on the Columbia River in 1910. In 1921, he built a ferry landing at the foot of 14th Street. His first Astoria auto ferry, **Tourist I**, started in service the same year.

In 1924, Elfving commissioned **Tourist II**, which was constructed by the Wilson Shipbuilding Co. in Astoria, under the general supervision of **Alfred Niemi**, master carpenter. **Joseph M. Dyer**, who designed Tourist III (1931), may also have designed Tourist II. All three vessels had wooden hulls.

Elfving's success inspired rivals. "... The North Beach Transportation Company in 1931 erected pilings in the water in front of Elfving's 14th Street dock," the application says. Elfving responded with a legendary action ... now known as the defining moment in the "Astoria ferry wars."

"As he motored toward the dock, Elfving spotted the pilings from afar. He responded by backing up the fully loaded ferry, and then powering forward to splinter the barrier with the bow of the boat. It was reported that the shattered pilings floated towards the competitor's ferry landing and temporarily disabled a vessel."

Sadly, there was no mention of which Tourist ferry did the honors that day.

## DISTANT COUSINS?



I found an old letter sent from America to my mother, **Helvi Karppinen** (nee **Karjalainen**), in Finland, to the town of **Oulu**, in December 1958." **Aila Lavin** of Bolton, England, wrote. "The letter was written in Finnish by **John K. Jackson**, whose address was shown on the letter as **369 W. Niagara Ave., Astoria, Oregon**."

"In the letter that I referred to, John mentions my mother's beautiful, ornate hand-writing. So my mother must have written to him sometimes."

"My mother's family lived in a small Finnish village called **Kuusamo**, which is not far from the Russian border," she explained. "John K. Jackson will have been born there, or in a village in that area."

"I believe John Jackson was my mother's uncle, who had changed his name after emigrating to the U.S. In the letter, John asks for information about relatives, and he mentions that his second wife is called **Olga**." If Jackson is, indeed, her great-uncle, his last name would have been **Karjalainen** before he changed it.

"My grandfather was **Matti Roopert Karjalainen** (born in 1884, and died 1936 or 1937)," Aila noted. "Matti, as far as I can remember things I heard as a child, is the brother of John K. Jackson." On the back of the photo of Matti, shown, it says "sister and brother in America."

"I wonder if you could publish this information in your paper," she added, "and call for potential distant relatives to contact me. I am just curious to know if I have relations out there."

If you think you're related to Aila, you can email her at [aialavin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aialavin@yahoo.co.uk)

## WHODUNNIT REDUX



Alas, despite the generous top-of-the-fold coverage given to the dastardly theft of our beloved **skeleton**, it has not yet turned back up," **Tony Kischner**, owner of Astoria's **Bridgewater Bistro**, wrote.

He's referring to a story that ran in this column on Sept. 19, about the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Skeleton, who had dangled from a rope below the glass floor inset by the Bistro's fireplace for about four years.

"Whodunnit?" he asked at the time. "Was it actually shanghaied? Could it just be a prank? A disgruntled employee? I have no idea, but I would love to find out, and I'm even willing to offer a free meal for any credible information that leads me to a) my beloved skeleton, or b) the culprit." No answer ensued.

"I could not envision *not* having a skeleton hanging below the glass floor for Halloween, so I recently purchased another one," he reported. "Since I could also not envision risking my life again to climb a tall ladder under the building at low tide, I reached out to fearless **Jonathan Swann**, a former employee who now works at Brim's Farm and Garden."

"Jonathan cheerfully tied a hangman's noose around Mr. Skeleton's neck, quickly climbed up the ladder and attached him very securely to the beam below the floor." The new Mr. Skeleton is pictured.

"We feel *almost* whole again," he added, "but still wonder ... whodunnit?"

## NO, NO, NO



In the wake of "The Goonies" cast members appearing recently at various comic-cons, the speculation arose once again about the possibility of a **sequel** to the iconic film.

One of TMZ's reporters decided to find out once and for all what's going on, so he caught **Corey Feldman** on the street in New York, and asked him straight out if there was going to be a Goonies reunion ([bit.ly/coreysez](http://bit.ly/coreysez)).

"What reunion?" Feldman replied, laughing. "There ain't no damn Goonies reunion! No, it's a rumor, man, it's a rumor."

"But we did these — you know — a few comic-cons, just appearances together, but that was it," he explained. "There's no campaign. There's no Goonies 2 happening."

Feldman, who's shown in a screen shot courtesy of TMZ, is too busy to even think about it right now, anyway. He says he's working on a documentary, and a boxed set is coming out, and there are a few movies "in the pipeline." Nope, not anything Goonie.

It sounds like a sequel is off the table — for now, anyway. After all, anything's possible in Hollywood.

## 'QUEEN OF CORPULENCE'



The bears of **Brooks River Falls** in **Katmai National Park and Preserve** in **Alaska**, noted for their weight gain after gorging on salmon in preparation for hibernation, inspire an annual **Fattest Bear** contest.

One of the largest contenders was a bear named **747**. "Katmai's geographic information system team made 3-D scans of bear 747, estimating the jiggly giant tips the scales at an eye-popping 1,408 pounds. His volume is 23.4 cubic feet, the size of a side by side refrigerator."

Although 747 is a truly impressive butterball, he did not win.

"She is fat. She is fabulous. She is **435 Holly**," the park announced on its Facebook page on **Fat Bear Tuesday**, Oct. 8 ([fb.me/KatmaiNPP](http://fb.me/KatmaiNPP)). She is pictured, courtesy of Katmai National Park and Preserve.

"And, you voted her the 2019 Fat Bear Week Champion. All hail Holly, whose healthy left will help her hibernate until the spring. Long live the Queen of Corpulence!"