

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

# COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US  
facebook.com/  
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## 'WATERSHED MOMENTS'



"I'm a photographer, artist, and writer," Claire Dibble (clairedibble.com) wrote. "Prior to embracing these labels, I often defined myself as a kayaker."

Starting on July 1, she rolled all those labels together to make a solo paddling journey from the Columbia River's source, near her home in Golden, British Columbia, to the ocean. "2,000 kilometers. 112 days. 14 dams. 1 kayak."

That's about 1,242 miles, and that kayak — skin-on-frame, made from watershed-sourced wood — is one she made herself. Referring to this adventure as a "social-engagement art project," she named it "Watershed Moments."

"I am using this time to engage and connect with communities and landscapes as I travel," she wrote, "allowing my artistic works to form an inclusive portrait of the river and its people in 2019 (watershedmoments.art)."

"She survived 1,200 miles!" Dibble posted — referring to the kayak — Oct. 15 on her Facebook page. "And so did I. We pulled out of the water on the east edge of Clatsop Spit this morning after a few extra long days of paddling ... pretty glad to be on shore at the moment, and for the foreseeable future."

"Feeling so good!" she added. "Well, mentally at least." (Photos courtesy of Claire Dibble)

## PROJECT INDEX

ASTOR, JOHN JACOB,

Gives \$10,000 for Astoria Centennial.

Oregonian, Sunday 19 Mar '11 p.6, col.3.

How Astor saved Oregon is told. Oreg. sec.5, p.1, c.1.

History buffs, rejoice: The Oregon Index of the Oregon State Library is now online at bit.ly/OsLibIndex after more than 700,000 index cards were scanned. The index card shown points to an article about one of the many John Jacob Astors contributing \$10,000 (about \$270,000 now) to Astoria's 1911 Centennial.

Unfortunately the cards don't link to anything — they just point the way, and cite an article or book, should you want to go hunting — but are fascinating all by themselves.

A press release says: "The oldest entry is from 1877 but most are from 1915 to 1986. The index of one-sided 3x5 cards is housed in 657 drawers. Each drawer contains 1,000 to 1,250 cards."

Not surprisingly, the project took five years.

## WEIGHTY WHALES



How much does a living, swimming whale weigh? Until recently, no one knew. However, researchers from the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies in Denmark and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in the U.S. tackled the question by using drones.

Pictured, a mother and calf, with a drone at work, courtesy of Fredrik Christiansen of the Aarhus Institute, taken under research permits.

"By measuring the body length, width and height of free-living southern right whales photographed by drones," a WHOI report (bit.ly/whalelbs) says, "researchers were able to develop a model that accurately calculated the body volume and mass of the whales." Problem solved.

## AROUND TOWN



From The Daily Morning Astorian, Saturday, Oct. 24, 1885:

The boat shop and stable of Charles Shagren, in Oyster-ville, was burned on Sunday last. Loss, \$1,500 (about \$39,000 now).

Note: In 1871, Carl Sjogren (later Charles Shagren), came to Nahcotta, Washington Territory, where his uncle owned land and farmed. Eventually, he leased the Seal and Land Hotel there, and built his own windmill to supply the place with water.

Unfortunately, the hotel later burned down, and it was quite a setback, but not enough to keep him from becoming Seal-and's postmaster in 1898. The Shagren family was also known for its clam canneries, and had a boat building business, as well. (bit.ly/CShagren)

A neat thing in the way of ornament and use is a gas stove at the residence of C. S. Wright; it is believed to be the first of the kind in the city.

Note: Gas stoves originated in the early 1800s, but didn't catch on until Englishman James Sharp patented one in 1826, then opened a gas stove factory in 1836. A gas stove wasn't considered a "must have" in England until the 1880s, and didn't catch on in the U.S. until the early 1900s. Mr. Wright was way ahead of his time. (bit.ly/gastoria)

The Nehalem coal discoveries excite considerable interest.

Note: The item is probably referring to the Upper Nehalem coal field in Columbia County, near Vernonia, which was mined in the late 1800s and early 1900s. A coal bed was also found in the lower Nehalem River area, but was only 22 inches deep at its thickest. (bit.ly/nehcoal)

Men of considerable experience say that when completed, the new residence of Capt. Geo. Flavel will be second to none in the state in point of elegance and finish.

Note: There was a living room, parlor, music room, dining room, the kitchen and pantries, and, originally, a bathroom, on the first floor; five bedrooms, a linen room and bathroom on the second floor; and two bedrooms and a bathroom in the attic for the servants. Capt. Flavel only enjoyed the house for eight years; he died in 1893. (bit.ly/Capt8th)

## 'A MAN OF THE OLD TYPE'



Friday is the 113th anniversary of the commercial sailing vessel Peter Iredale (pictured in its prime) running aground on Clatsop Spit. It's a well-known landmark, but how much do you know about the man it was named for? The Iredale family website, iredale.de, provided some insight, and his photo.

Business magnate Peter Iredale (1823-1899), of ship-owners P. Iredale & Porter of Liverpool, England, started his career at age 17 working on ships. One obituary said that while he was super cargo and coast master on the West African coast ... "he was a man of great vigour and possessed an iron constitution."

"He fought down fearlessly, almost scornfully, attacks of all kinds, recovering from Yellow Jack, coast fevers, and other troubles, until he became almost immured from disease."

A less savory aspect of Mr. Iredale's West African adventures was the accusation by Capt. Frank H. Shaw, in his biography, that Iredale made his fortune in the slave trade; he also referred to Iredale as a "shameless opportunist" and a "flint-hearted miser."

No one knows if the slave trade accusation is true ... but some wondered how Iredale financed his fleet of wind-jammers so speedily during that period.

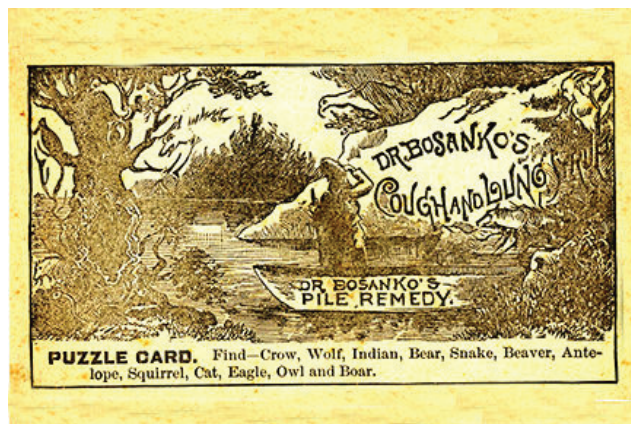
"... He was a great individualist with a wide knowledge of humanity," A. Leon Marsh, an executive at P. Iredale & Porter, wrote in his memoir.

Iredale's memory was "astonishing," Marsh recalled, as he could remember exactly what ships were carrying, even those that had been away from home port for over a year.

Marsh also noted the shipowner's "Spartan nature," evidenced by refusing to cancel an appointment in London, even though he was "crippled with gout, his leg swathed up in bandages," and having to prop his leg up on the train ride into town.

"He was non-conformist ... a man of the old type," Marsh concluded, "straight as an arrow, open hearted, and always had a cheerful word to say."

## HEINOUS CONCOCTION



From the same edition of The Daily Morning Astorian:

"Everybody knows the virtues of Wild Cherry and Tar as a relief and cure for any affections of the throat and lungs ... Dr. Bosanko's Cough and Lung Syrup (is) just the article you should have in the house for coughs, colds, croup and bronchitis. Price 50 cents (\$13.24 now) and \$1. Samples free. Sold by J.W. Conn."

This sounded like a pretty heinous combination, so a little research was in order. A 1910 agricultural bulletin provided some answers (bit.ly/Bozanko).

A 5.6 fluid ounce bottle of the concoction, manufactured by Dr. Bosanko's Medicine Co. of Piqua, Ohio, was analyzed for content.

The appearance was that of a "turbid, brown syrup, with odor of tar and chloroform." Not a good start. Other ingredients included ash, alcohol, morphine and a trace of ammonia.

They were not able to determine the amount of morphine, but did note the presence of a dead fly in the bottle. Its contribution to the mix was not noted. Prof. Putt's conclusion is as follows:

"Thin preparation appears to be made from an inferior grade of honey. ... It is interesting to note that practically all of the alkaloid was found not in the solution but in the sediment which had deposited upon the sides and in the bottom of the bottle."

"No physician or pharmacist would dispense each a product without a "Shake" label. This product, however, bears no such warning. The dead fly found in the preparation would hardly warrant the approval of physicians and pharmacists, which is claimed in the circular accompanying this remedy."

Folks would have been wise to steer clear of Dr. Bosanko's pile cure, as well.

## UNMOVED



A bit of Iredale shipwreck trivia: In June 1960, a reporter for the Oregon City Enterprise-Courier named Cliff Hendricks wrote an article laying claim to the wreck, insisting he inherited it from his father, Robert Hendricks, who allegedly bought it in the early 1900s.

Since his stated plan was to remove and salvage the ship, a furor immediately arose in Clatsop County. He was threatened with: arrest for abandoning a vehicle on a public highway (the beach); 54 years worth of rent for leaving it on Clatsop County property; 54 years of delinquent personal property taxes (if he could prove he owned the Iredale); and imminent bodily harm.

Plus, the Astoria Clowns, Royal Chinooks, Clatsop Historical Society and others were ready to stand guard and defend the Iredale physically, if it came down to it (bit.ly/irehend).

As it turns out, all that sturm und drang was totally unnecessary. "What seemed like a joke to my uncle at the time," Hendrick's niece, Karen McGuffin noted, "turned into much more than anyone had expected!"

The Iredale was utterly unmoved by all the drama at the time, and still is.

## 'IN THE ANTHROPOCENE'

Here's a novel approach to dealing with ocean plastic debris: British singer-songwriter Nick Mulvey released his newest work, a catchy ditty called "In the Anthropocene — Ocean Vinyl," on a record made from recycled ocean plastic that was picked up on the coast of Cornwall, England, Billboard.com reports. The record cover is pictured, courtesy of Mulvey, via Billboard.

In case you're wondering (as the Ear was), the Anthropocene is the geological age we're in right now. You can hear the song here: bit.ly/nickvinyl

Only 105 records were pressed, and they sold out in four hours. The proceeds went to a U.K. marine charity with a name that viscerally evokes swimming horrors, Surfers Against Sewage.

