

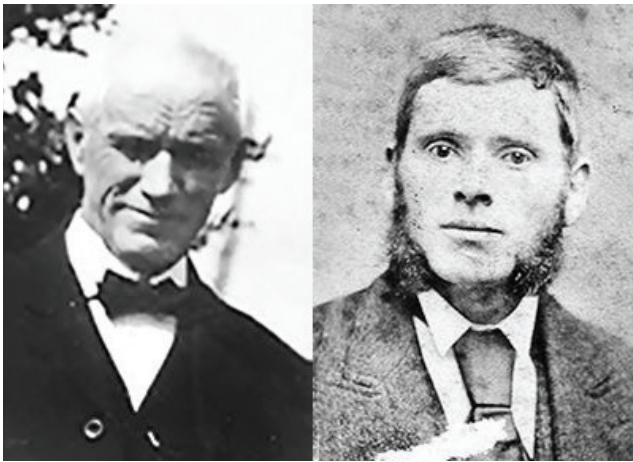
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

CLARIFICATION AND VINDICATION



On Nov. 21, this column ran a story about “**The Klas-kanine Homicide**” from the **Nov. 20, 1883** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**.

It happened when **Jack Leonard** happened upon **John Leahy** and his two brothers, **James and Michael**. After cursory greetings, John shot Leonard dead at point blank range, and then his brothers opened fire. A witness was wounded.

An unrepentant Leahy told the sheriff he “had shot John Leonard, and would do it again.” But why? Astorian **Kevin Leahy**, John Leahy’s great-grandson, explained, and also provided photos of John (left) and Michael Leahy. No photo of James Leahy is available.

“... The reason (for the shooting) is Jack Leonard was a squatter, and was building a house on my great-grandfather’s property, after multiple warnings to stop.”

The **Daily Morning Astorian**, on Nov. 18, 1883, ran a story about the squabble, stating that “in company with Lem Johnson, Smith and another man, (Leonard) went down to Leahy’s claim to take away a barn which stood on the disputed ground, and put it up as a dwelling house on the ground that he claimed.”

“All three (Leahys) were declared innocent by a jury trial ...,” Kevin noted. “My cousin, **Eileen Hankel Burton**, has the full chronology of the process (which can be read at at bit.ly/JJMLEahy).”

The **Morning Oregonian** dated Friday, Jan. 18, 1884 has the details: “The Leahy Brothers Acquitted ... The case of the three Leahy brothers charged with the killing of Jack Leonard was sent to the jury last night. After six hours deliberation they returned a verdict of not guilty.

“Evidence was produced by the defense to show, without a shadow of a doubt, that Leonard had threatened to kill the Leahys. McBride ably prosecuted and Fulton and Winton made able speeches for the defense. Judge Bennett thought the verdict a just one.”

“Thank you for allowing me to clarify the story,” Kevin added, “as it is important to all the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-generation Leahy relatives who still live in the area, as well as all the Leahy relatives throughout the country.”

BUY A BIT OF HISTORY



Did you know that the Navy’s first operational **hydrofoil**, the **USS High Point**, is docked at **Tongue Point** in Astoria? And, it’s for sale.

A little history, courtesy of the U.S. Naval Institute News (bit.ly/HPhydro), is in order. High Point was launched in 1962 as part of the Navy’s efforts to keep up with the newer, faster Soviet submarines.

At 115 feet, with a 450 horsepower engine, the High Point could breeze along at 50 knots on its three hydrofoils, which are tucked into the hull. Or, it could just ride on its hull. A photo of High Point in her prime is shown, courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

“There was a bit of groping about as to what it could be used for, and what niche it would fit in,” **John Nachtsheim**, one of the Naval architects in the hydrofoil program, said in a 1984 interview. “... What you had here was a high-speed sub chaser, too noisy to listen when on foils, but which could stop, drop its sonar and listen, get a fix, and continue to chase the submarine.”

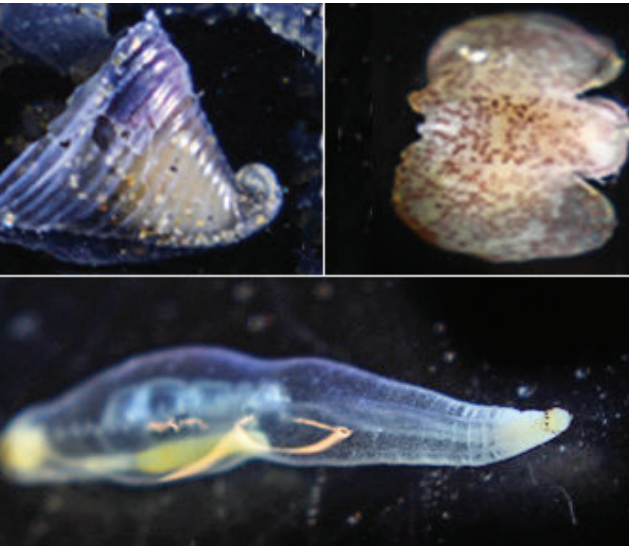
Despite almost a decade of testing, no real use was found for the vessel. In 1975, High Point was transferred to the Coast Guard, but they found it too expensive to maintain. The vessel was decommissioned in 1985, and has been through a series of private owners ever since.

The original sale price was \$200,000 (not bad for a \$2 million vessel), according to PopYachts.com (bit.ly/HPt-Sell), where you can see almost 100 photos of the High Point in its current unhappy state, both inside and out.

“Own this piece of naval history!” the website says. “... Buy this 155-foot aluminum hull for \$200,000; spend up to \$200,000 on new jet engines and electronics; then spend about \$200,000 on interior finishes.” If you need a little incentive, the price has been reduced to \$69,900.

The pitch also comes with a warning: “This boat is not for the faint of heart or pocketbook.” Merry Christmas, somebody.

WINTER BEACH FINDS



‘Here are a few unique creatures we have been finding on the beach lately,” **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** (seasideaquarium.com) wrote in an email that included her photos of the critters, which are shown.

“Heteropods: *Carinaria japonica* (pictured, upper left) — These strange-looking creatures are a type of pelagic (open ocean) **sea snail**. They have a greatly reduced shell and a small swimming fin which the animal uses to propel itself forward. A pair of well-developed eyes aid them in capturing salps and copepods.

“Gastroteridae: *Gastropteron pacificum* Pacific wing-foot snail (pictured upper right) — Also known as a **sea butterfly**, the Pacific stomach wing snail spends most of its adult life buried in soft sediment on the sea-floor. When young, or disturbed by a predator, this sea snail can flap its ‘wings’ (foot lobes) and enter into the water column.

“And, *Leptosynapta clarki*: **Skin breathing sea cucumbers** (pictured, bottom) — These strange-looking sea cucumbers bury themselves in the sand, and when the surf gets really big, they get dredged up and wind up on the beach. They are referred to as skin-breathing sea cucumbers because unlike other sea cucumbers, they they lack respiratory structures and absorb oxygen through their skin.”

What are you finding on the beach these days?

ABOVE THE FRAY?



Recently KEZI.com posted an update on the new \$61 million, 72,000-square foot **Marine Studies Building** at the **Hatfield Marine Science Center** in Newport (bit.ly/tsubldg). An illustration of the completed project is shown, courtesy of Oregon State University.

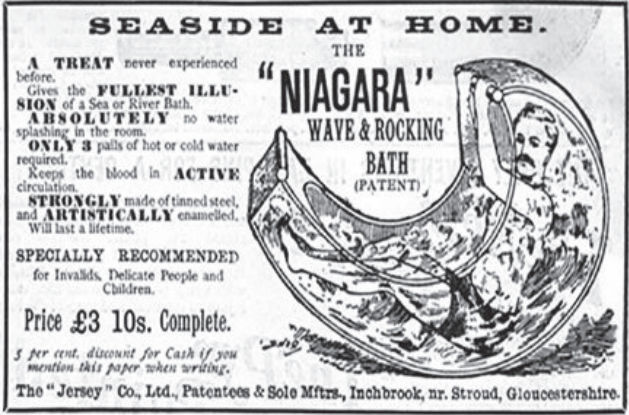
If you will recall, the construction site is right smack in a tsunami inundation zone. Good thing it has a 47-foot high rooftop evacuation site, equipped to hold over 900 people when a tsunami hits.

“We have food, water, emergency, medical,” **Bob Cowen**, director of the center, told KEZI. “We’re going to have some tents, sanitation, to hold people here for two to three days.”

And, accessibility won’t be an issue. “There are always going to be some people that are mobility challenged, or injured (who) might not be able to make it up that ramp,” Cowen noted. “We’ve actually built an elevator that is reinforced to the point that it could endure a 9.0 earthquake.”

That’s all fine and good for Newport, but where will North Coasters go?

SEIZE THE ‘DAY’



If you are having a dull day today, here are a few things to celebrate, courtesy of nationaldaycalendar.com:

- It’s **National Sacher Torte Day**. The Sacher Torte is a very fancy, very specific chocolate cake specialty in Vienna. Just buy a decadent chocolate cake. That should work.
- Don’t forget **International Ninja Day**, so you can dress and act like a ninja. Or maybe just relax, watch a ninja movie instead, and let them do all the work.
- After all that excitement, you’ll be glad to know it’s also **Bathtub Party Day**. This seems pretty self-explanatory, and restful, and would probably go well with champagne — except if you use the contraption pictured.

JUST PASSING THROUGH



And more from the **Seaside Aquarium**: “Today is a good reminder to share the shore,” the aquarium posted Friday on its Facebook page.

“There is a young **elephant seal** resting on **Cannon Beach**. Please give him the space he needs to rest, and keep your dogs away. It appears that he is going through his annual molt, so he may be on the beach for some time. They may haul out for a few hours up to a week.” The aquarium’s photo of the youngster is shown.

“While molting, the process where seals and sea lions shed their old coat of fur for a new one, he may have labored breathing and open sores. Hauling out of the water increases the elephant seal’s body heat, allowing for the process to go more quickly. The salt water also irritates any sores the animal may get while molting.”

Of note: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife says the Northern elephant seal is the largest pinniped carnivore on the North Pacific coast, and that they have actually set records for the deepest dives recorded for any mammal. (bit.ly/eleseal)

Just in case you’re wondering how to recognize them, “juvenile elephant seals are about the same size as adult harbor seals,” the aquarium post explained. “The easiest way to tell them apart is by the color of their whiskers. Harbor seal whiskers are white, but elephant seal whiskers are black.”

BLOW BY BLOW



If you will recall, **Dec. 3, 2007** was when the **Great Coastal Gale** began. **Cyndi Mudge** mentioned that the **George Flavel** Facebook page (fb.me/george.flavel) shared a tidbit from **Dec. 3, 1887**, 120 years earlier, that might sound a tad familiar:

“The severest blow of the season occurred shortly before daybreak, the breeze from the sea came piping over the hill and set things shivering.

“It blew down signs, upset fences, carried away skylights, flagstuffs, smashed glass, shook down chimneys, and banged and rattled and howled, rocking houses, screaming and sighing and wailing, clattered at doors, vibrated windows, beat the rain into every conceivable cranny and crevice, and then went roaring over into Washington territory, where, meeting other boisterous breezes, it thrashed through the tall timber.

“It was the severest blow we’ve had for several years.”

DIRTY LAUNDRY



From the **Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1883** edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**, a timeless item about a neighborhood spat:

“**Lay on MacDuff** — A warrant was issued yesterday at the insistence of **Mrs. Davanaugh** for the arrest of **Mr. MacDuff**, charging that man with assault. It seems that ‘twas all on account of a clothesline.

“Mr. MacDuff and Mrs. Davanaugh are neighbors, and a wire clothesline has been the bone of contention, so to speak, which finally resulted the other day in a desperate pull at both ends of the clothesline at once, in which it was alleged Mr. MacDuff was victorious at the expense of the abraded fingers of Mrs. Davanaugh. The case comes up before his honor today.” The question remains: Who won?