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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## EBA'S NOSE KNOWS



You've no doubt heard of rescue dogs being saved by being trained to have some useful skill. One example would be the **University of Washington's** Active Conservation Canines, who lead useful lives after being taught to sniff out wildlife scat that's collected for research.

**Eba**, the personal pet of University of Washington researcher **Deborah Giles**, underwent the training and has found fame with her very specific talent: She has a nose for orca poop, according to Q13fox.com (bit.ly/EbaNose). Eba is pictured, courtesy of visitsanjuan.com

"Imagine, you're out on the ocean and you're looking for a poop floating in the water in this huge area, well how do you find it?" researcher **Sam Wasser** told Q13Fox. "All of a sudden, Eba jumped up and runs to the bow of the boat and what that told us was she had the scent. We never would have known there was a scat there."

Why, you may ask, is that so important? Well, an orca's poop reveals a lot about the mammal's overall health, and can also reveal pregnancy or miscarriage. All of which is vital information for those who are studying the endangered southern resident orcas who visit Puget Sound.

The added advantage of examining scat is that the mammals' health can be monitored from a distance, without disturbing them.

The problem has always been trying to find the prodigal poop so it can be collected. Humans can't usually smell it, and that's where Eba comes in. Giles and Wasser made use of Eba's unusual talent last summer.

"If you don't collect data, then you don't know what's going on," Wasser noted. No problem, now: Eba's on the job.

## HIDE AND SEEK



And, the latest **Bigfoot** news is: Recently, two men made a 10-minute video showing a Sasquatch-ish critter roaming around in **Salt Fork State Park in Ohio**; they also recorded some blood-curdling screams (bit.ly/Ograssman). A screenshot of the "**Ohio Grassman**" (Ohio's version of Bigfoot) is shown.

The video has over 644,000 views on YouTube, 500 comments and was picked up by news media all over the country, and even as far away as New Zealand.

Incidentally, Ohio is a veritable hotbed of Bigfoot sightings (bfro.net/gdb/#usa), but what you see on the video, mostly, are tree trunks, while the critter plays peek-a-boo. Hoax or real? You decide.

## BEST DRESSED

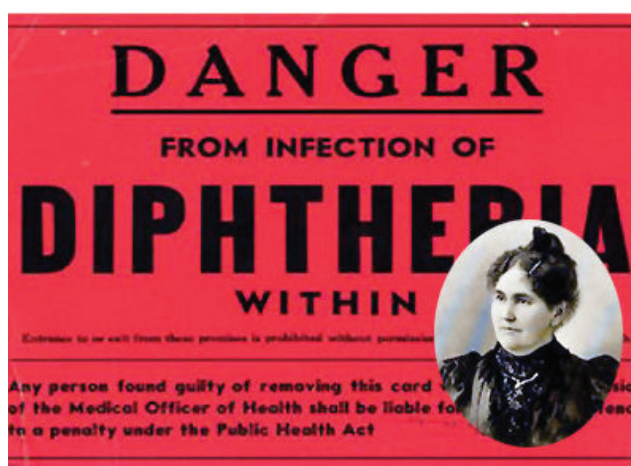


The **Buffalo Bills** were unable to win in the playoffs," The Astorian sports reporter **Gary Henley** wrote, "but Astoria High School graduate **Jordan Poyer** managed to score an individual honor last week, following his third season as a starting safety with the Bills.

"The Bills had their 2019 post-season fan awards, and Poyer was voted as Buffalo's '**Best Dressed**' player. Poyer was also a finalist for '**Best Media**,' but lost out to **Dion Dawkins**. 'Funniest Player' was **Tre'Davious White**."

"Poyer finished the 2019 season as Buffalo's second-leading tackler," Henley noted, "with a team-high three fumble recoveries."

## A TERRIBLE SCOURGE



An alarming tidbit from *The Daily Astorian* on Thursday, Feb. 20, 1879:

"Resolved, that the chief of police be required to notify all persons living in the vicinity of the family in which a death has recently occurred by **diphtheria** to fumigate their premises and take all necessary and proper means to prevent the spread of that terrible scourge of children from spreading among us.

"... And that the authorities and sextons of all the churches be informed that it would be unsafe ... to permit their churches to be used for purpose of holding burial services over any person who dies of diphtheria, and warning all persons from ... attending any funeral service held over the body of a person dying from that disease."

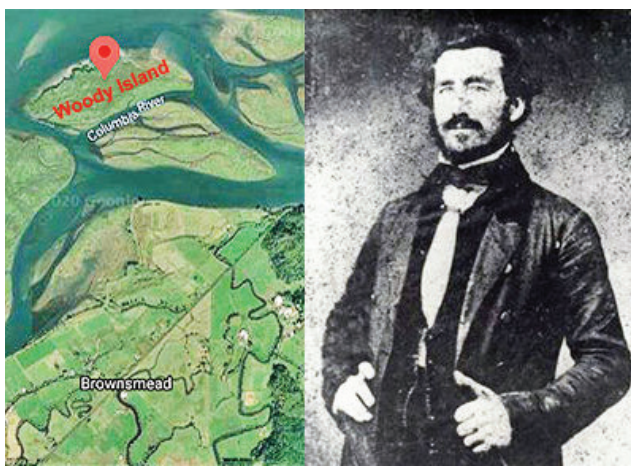
In the 1880s there was no vaccine for diphtheria, a scary disease whose symptoms included a sore throat, fever and swollen neck glands. A membrane of dead tissue would build up covering the back of the throat and tonsils, making it hard to swallow or breathe, and could (and sometimes did) lead to suffocation. Diphtheria could also cause heart failure, and children were especially susceptible.

Pages from a biography of Astoria doctor **Bethenia Owens-Adair** (1840-1926), written circa 1905, provided by **Liisa Penner** of the **Clatsop County Historical Society**, give one a glimpse of the suffering the disease caused.

During a 60-hour period in 1903, Dr. Owens-Adair (pictured), who was in her mid-60s at the time, was out and about on her horse in the dead of winter making house calls to tend to children stricken with diphtheria (one of whom died), and performing fumigations. She traveled over 100 miles, and only had two hours of sleep during this ordeal. You can read the excerpt at bit.ly/adairnotes

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an antitoxin for treatment was first used in the 1890s. The current vaccination, mixing the diphtheria toxoid with the tetanus toxoid and the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine, became widespread during the 1940s. Thanks to vaccination, the disease is now considered rare in the U.S. (bit.ly/CDCdip)

## 'A WASTED FORTUNE'



An oversight last month from the **Jan. 30, 1881, edition of *The Daily Astorian***:

"**A.J. McEwan**, an Oregon pioneer, died on Friday last at east Portland. He was a lawyer by profession and came to Oregon from California in 1847. He established the **first salmon fishery** on the Columbia River at **Woody Island** (off Brownsmead). He leaves two brothers and one sister in this city, and one brother at Skipanon."

It's doubtful Alexander John McEwan (1824-1881) was a lawyer, but no matter, he had lots of other professions.

According to his wife, Clementine, he was born in New Brunswick, Canada, then moved to Boston, New York City, Madagascar, New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco and the California gold mines on the Yuba and Feather rivers, before winding up in Astoria with \$20,000 (about \$504,000 now) in gold.

According to the *Morning Oregonian*: "He built a salmon fishery on Woody Island, it being the first ever properly established on the Columbia. He made a mile of nets which were used in catching the salmon, and he put up 250 barrels the first season, which he shipped to San Francisco at enormous expense.

"The salmon was kept several months without finding sale, and in order to stop the heavy expense of storage he instructed his agents to roll the salmon into the bay, which was done. He piled up his nets, cooper tools, etc., in the fishery house and left, never returning to it again, and to-day the old house still stands on the island, a mark of wasted fortune."

From there, he went on to a disastrous attempt to herd stock across the plains (they died or ran off), sheep farming (no sheep survived), then squandered money on various other losing ventures before making his home in east Portland, working as a bookkeeper.

He never fully recovered from a thigh bone break in 1874, and the evening of Jan. 27, 1881, he was found inexplicably lying in a gutter. A doctor was summoned, but he died the next day, "chilled to death," a *Morning Oregonian* headline noted. "From the time he was found until death, McEwan never spoke a word." (bit.ly/JAMcEwan1)

## THIS 'N THAT



From the Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1882 edition of *The Daily Astorian*:

• **Brenham Vandusen** is said to be an expert at turning summersaults.

**Note:** Brenham (1856-1926, pictured inset) was in his mid-twenties at the time his acrobatic prowess was noted. He's former Astoria Mayor **Willis Van Dusen's** great-grandfather, and a son of **Adam Van Dusen**, who arrived on the North Coast in 1847; at the time, his wife, Caroline, wrote, "Astoria was barely a village of two frame houses, two log cabins and shacks." (bit.ly/adamvand)

• The *Seattle Chronicle* says the **Garfield** is the name of the largest steel sailing vessel afloat.

**Note:** Built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast, Ireland, and owned by North Western Shipping Co., the ship was 292 feet long and 41 feet wide. She was reputed to be the largest full-rigger in the world at the time of her launch in January 1882. (bit.ly/garfsail)

• Thirteen starving men, shipwrecked on the China Sea, lived 10 days on **boiled rope** made of the fuzz of the coconut.

**Note:** The "fuzz" is actually the husk of the coconut, which is used to make **coir** rope — ideal for a marine environment because it's fairly waterproof and resistant to damage by salt water. However, it's *not* what's for dinner.

• Correspondences with friends are like trousers without suspenders — hard to keep up.

## 'WOW US, WILL YA?'



Well, OK, folks here's a bit of a contest for you from TMZ.com. The question of the day is: "Ever wanted to put your seemingly useless talents to good use?"

There's a **\$5,000** bonanza for the talent video of "unique skills" they like the best in their "**Show Us Your Talent**" contest. The winner will also appear on the show "**TMZ on TV**." Two staffers are shown, courtesy of TMZ, displaying their skills.

You can only submit one video, and the deadline is 11:59 p.m. Tuesday. The entry form and rules are here: [tmz.com/pages/talent](http://tmz.com/pages/talent)

"... We're looking for a video no longer than 90 seconds," the website says, "and also ... something we can broadcast without getting fined by the FCC. So keep it clean, people. Anything nifty, neat, clever or awe-inspiring will do just fine ... Wow us, will ya?"

## 'ONLY IN OREGON ...'



**Fun rerun:** "Only in Oregon," **Tita Montero** observed. "On Friday, April 30, I was going south on the **New Youngs Bay Bridge** about 8 p.m. Traffic was stopped as if to let a boat through, except the bridge light remained green. Curious.

"After waiting a couple of minutes, I saw a car coming up slowly in the northbound lane with another following, also slowly, about seven car lengths behind. Amazingly, there was a **deer** between them — they were escorting a deer across the bridge!

"The deer was obviously scared, as it was quite nervously prancing and high stepping. But everyone was stopped for this deer. Of course, I had to wonder how the deer got itself into the situation. I hope someone got video, because it was so unbelievable!" (*In One Ear*; 5/6/11)