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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

SAD END



On Feb. 13, **Olney Walluski Fire and Rescue** posted the photos shown of a **sea lion** who was stranded on a road in **Olney** on their Facebook page.

So what happened to him? Well, this sea lion wasn't as lucky as the one found roaming around in Castle Rock, Washington, that's for sure. He was herded into a trailer, driven back to the Columbia River, and happily swam away (bit.ly/CRsealion).

The Cannon Beach Gazette reports that the **Oregon State Police** were called over to Olney, but after several hours of having no luck convincing the wayward pinniped to stay out of the road (it kept coming back), the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's** law enforcement was called, who then called the **West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network**.

In the end, because they thought the Olney sea lion seemed to be behaving strangely, and was "likely sick or injured" — and, in the interest of putting public safety first — the decision was made to euthanize him. Results from the ongoing necropsy are inconclusive so far.

AROUND TOWN



From The Daily Astorian, Wednesday, March 5, 1879:

- **Carl Adler** has on the way out from New York a number of velocipedes constructed for the use of ladies, rigged with side-saddles, etc. This will indeed be a new thing in Astoria.
- Note:** The Iron Age (bit.ly/theironage), says velocipedes with pedals came about around 1865, but attire for women while riding one became a propriety issue. A design change was made, just for women, so a proper young lady could modestly sit side-saddle and pedal. Very awkwardly.
- **Chief Moses** (pictured, inset) is out on a furlough, just as the correspondent of The Astorian predicted would be the case. He has also been indicted as an accessory to the murder of Perkins.
- Note:** Renegade Bannocks and Paiutes murdered settlers **Blanche and Lorenzo Perkins**. Initially Chief Moses, a Sinkiuse, was thought to be involved, but he denied having any connection to the crime, and even sent men to join a posse to round up the offenders — and wound up getting arrested, himself.
- He was later released, but went to a grand jury hearing in October 1879 in Yakima City, Washington. There was not enough evidence to try him for any involvement in the Perkins murders, and all charges were dropped. (historylink.org/File/8870)
- Among the luxuries opened by **J. Strauss** on the arrival of the Elder was a fine lot of champagne and the celebrated **Dr. Von Berger's Bismarch Stomach Bitters**.
- Note:** While no mention of Dr. Von Berger's bitters, specifically, could be found, the concoction was probably a knock-off of the well-known nostrum, **Dr. J. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters**.

Since the Temperance Movement was full steam ahead in the mid to late 1800s, some states passed prohibition laws. Stomach bitters fulfilled an intemperate need with its high alcohol count — a whopping 94 proof in the case of Dr. Hostetter's, which was known as "The Soldier's Safeguard" during the Civil War for being "a positive protective against the fatal maladies of the Southern swamps." (bit.ly/stobitt)

A KINDLY REMEMBRANCE



From The Daily Astorian, Sunday, March 5, 1882:

- **Captain and Mrs. Veysey**, of the foundered bark **Corsica**, will return to England overland from San Francisco, leaving here on the next steamer. Their visit to Astoria will doubtless be remembered by them for years to come.
- That it will be a kindly remembrance we are led to hope from the fact that their little babe, born on the ill-fated ship while lying in this harbor, is to be baptized in the Presbyterian Church this morning by the **Rev. J. V. Milligan**, and the name bestowed is **Astoria Veysey**.
- Note:** The 13-year-old British barkentine Corsica, under the command of Capt. W. H. Vessey (alternate spelling), left Astoria Feb. 21, 1882, and ran hard aground while crossing the Columbia River Bar under tow by the tug Astoria during heavy seas. The damage caused the bark to founder about 12 miles southwest of Cape Hancock (now Cape Disappointment).
- Capt. Vessey's wife and infant were returned to Astoria on the Astoria. The Fearless stayed with the bark until midnight, at which time the order was given to abandon ship. By then the Corsica was still floating, but had 10 feet of water in the hold. She sank the next morning at 5 a.m. (bit.ly/LewDry)
- While Capt. Vessey and his family escaped unscathed, another report in The Daily Astorian mentioned one of the crew members, who was not as fortunate:
- "**Hogg**, one of the crew of the bark Corsica, has been locked up in the Portland jail for being crazy. It is supposed that he was drugged by shanghiers, yet his diary, which is full of notes concerning the wreck of the bark, shows that his mind has been greatly troubled over the misfortune of his vessel." One can't help but wonder what happened to that diary — it would have made some pretty interesting reading.

WRONG TURN



From the Saturday, March 5, 1881 edition of The Daily Astorian:

- We are informed that portions of the wreck of the steamer **Clatsop Chief** and the barge which was in tow at the time of the disastrous collision lie stranded above St. Helens. The name of the fourth unfortunate man has not yet been ascertained. None of the bodies, so far as known, have yet been recovered.
- Notes:** A little research in the March 2, 1881 edition offered an explanation of what happened. The accident occurred around 8:15 p.m. the night before, on the Columbia River about 10 miles north of St. Helens.
- The Clatsop Chief's master, **Capt. William E. Mitchell** said his vessel, with signal lights on, was heading downriver, and the steamship Oregon was steaming upriver when the collision occurred. Mitchell decided to go on the port side of the Oregon, but said the Oregon signaled that he should go on the starboard side, instead.
- Mitchell turned the wheel hard to comply, but before he could get past the Oregon's bow, the Oregon hit the scow midship, cutting it in half "like a knife," then plowed into the Clatsop Chief, cutting it almost in half.
- The Oregon had, indeed, sounded her alarm when a collision was imminent (which was probably the "signal" Mitchell thought he heard) and tried to avoid hitting the Clatsop Chief by reversing her propeller, but the forward momentum was far too great to stop in time.
- Both the Clatsop Chief and the scow filled quickly with water and sank. Thirteen men wound up in the river; lifeboats sent out from the Oregon could only save nine.
- On March 3, 1881, The Daily Astorian placed the blame for the collision on the Clatsop Chief's captain for "a lack of judgment" for cutting across the Oregon's bow. An investigation by the board of pilot commissioners was anticipated.

POSTCARD FROM AFAR



If you will recall, the **March 11, 2011 Japanese tidal wave** brought a lot of tsunami debris to our shores. Hence this timely, but poignant **rerun**:

It made the national news when **The Daily World** reported that Aberdeen, Washington, **Mayor Bill Simpson** got a **postcard** from 77-year-old **Mr. Saito**, postmarked **Sapporo, Japan**. It was mailed Aug. 6, 2012, "Hiroshima Bombing Day," the gentleman noted.

Mr. Saito lost his "collected surveyed amounts' library cards," which were washed out to sea during the tsunami, and he would dearly love to get them back. He had heard that lots of "lost packaged tools/house woods are arriving to the USA's Pacific Ocean seashores."

"To your seashore areas, have you been observing the floated materials?" he asks. "If you find some, please let me know any news. I don't use any electric tools now here, so please, to me by air letter!" (*In One Ear*, 9/14/12)

AWESOME FIND



Astorian "dirt fisher" **Don Kelly** of the Northwest Artifact Recovery Team recently posted on Facebook that a good friend of his ordered her own metal detector, "and decided to see what's been hiding in her back yard, after all the dogs kept digging up shards of pottery and plates."

"Well no sooner than she got it put together," he explained, "and after a few pieces of metal and her first penny, she pulled this odd item (pictured, left) out of the ground. It's 1.5 inches tall and had a double pin on the back. She said it felt heavy for its size, and looked like it had been painted ..."

"Took a bit of guessing on Google, but it was a 1940s silver and enamel **Trifari Queen Crown chess piece brooch pin**. One sold on eBay (in 2018) for \$199.95 (bit.ly/TrifariPin)."

"Awesome find, **Cheryl Poe**," Don added, "you almost paid for your machine in one dig!"

MILLIONS AND MILLIONS



Since there's still some rainy downtime until spring has sprung, here's something to keep you entertained for hours, if not months: The **Smithsonian** has released **2.8 million** high-resolution **images** of everything from art to zoology and more into the **public domain**. Now anyone can download and use them to create anything they want (bit.ly/SmithImages).

The Smithsonian will also be rolling out another "200,000 or so" images throughout this year as it continues digitizing its 155 million-plus items. Pictured, a "Creeping Baby Doll Patent Model."

"The Smithsonian is our national collection, the people's collection," Decemberists guitarist **Chris Funk** noted. "There's something to that. To me, this (launch) is the Smithsonian saying: 'This is your collection, to take and create with.' That's really empowering."

Interested? Settle in and start here: bit.ly/SmithSearch.

MAYOR PARKER



In honor of election season and dog lovers everywhere: On Feb. 11, **Parker the Snow Dog**, a Bernese mountain dog, was voted in as the honorary **mayor** of Georgetown, Colorado, by the town board of selectmen.

According to his Facebook page (which provided the photo shown), busy Mayor Parker's other civic duties include being the official Loveland Ski Area mascot, a therapy dog at Easter Seals Rocky Mountain Village Camp and Beer Dog for Guanella Pass Brewery.

The mayor's website, officialsnowdog.com, declares that "Parker's Pawlitics" consist of his being "committed to bringing hugs, love and cookies to the people of Georgetown." A winning platform, if ever there was one.