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COMMUNITY

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

‘STARTLING TO READ’



The story about **President John F. Kennedy** that ran in this column last week got two interesting responses.

The first referred to the photo that ran with the story (shown). “Your article erroneously identifying **Harry Swanson** as a Congressional candidate from Eugene was startling to read,” **Vernon Fowler**, of Gearhart, wrote.

“It was wonderful to see Harry’s picture, but sad to deny him his almost lifelong residency in Astoria. Harry was married to **Josephine Swanson**, the great-granddaughter of **Benjamin Young**, the builder of the Benjamin Young Bed and Breakfast of today.

“Harry was a lifelong Democrat, and a strong supporter of President Kennedy, and was thrilled to be able to greet him during his visit in 1963.

“He was the owner of the **Harry Swanson Real Estate Co.**, which was located where Jonathan’s is now located. He was married to my father’s cousin. I am the only relative left in the area, and felt that he should be properly identified.”

Apologies were tendered to Mr. Fowler, along with thanks for the interesting local history nugget. The photo in question, by Oregonian photographer **Frank Stennett**, was found in an old Oregon Historical Society publication. Unfortunately, there’s no way to tell which one of them tossed in the incorrect “Eugene connection” for Harry Swanson in the caption.

But now you, and the Ear, know better.

‘IT FOLLOWS ME’



The second response to the **JFK** article was from Astorian **Kathy Laughman**.

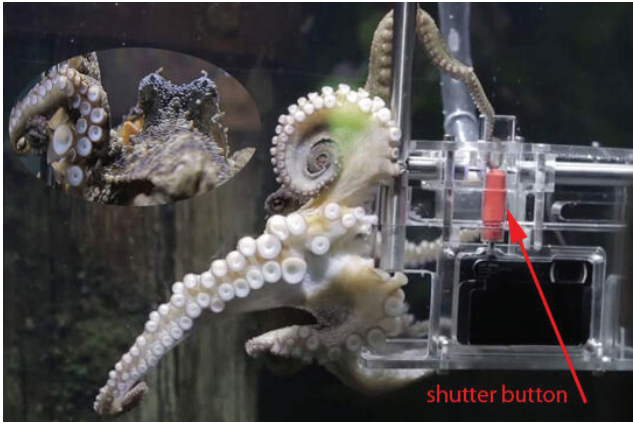
“Your article of JFK’s 1963 visit to Tongue Point bought back memories for me, she wrote. “I was a freshman at Clatsop Community College, and my brother, **Dan**, was a student at Star of the Sea High School. His class went to see the president, and he was assigned to take photographs for the school. I found the one attached (shown) several years later, and had it framed.

“It follows me to whatever place I am living. A memory of a president who captivated the hearts of young people, and inspired them to join the Peace Corps and help make the promise of America a reality.

“I also had a much younger brother, **Jon**, in the first grade at the time. Jon’s class also went to see the president, but my brother decided not to go. He thought he would get out of school early and go home, but the sisters made him stay there and practice his letters.”

“My brother, Dan ... passed away in 2016,” she added. “His widow and children will be thrilled to see (the photo) in the ‘Budget,’ which he and I used to deliver, by the way, when we were kids.”

SAY ‘CHEESE!’



Fun rerun: DIY Photography reports that an **octopus** at an aquarium in New Zealand named “**Rambo**” is the world’s first **octographer** (tinyurl.com/octoshot), and it only took her (yes, Rambo is a female) three tries to learn how to use the camera. She is pictured in a screenshot, courtesy of Sony New Zealand, who designed the camera.

Rambo charges \$2 a pop for a visitor to her tank to have their portrait taken, and the fees are used to offset aquarium expenses. Hopefully they at least toss her a fat, tasty crab or two now and then for her efforts. (*In One Ear*, 4/12/2016).

SOMEBODY KNOWS



Warrenton High School student, 17-year-old **Joan “Joanie” Leigh Hall**, has been missing since **Sept. 30, 1983**.

The teen was supposed to assist tutoring children at 2 p.m. that day at Warrenton Grade School, but never showed up — which was puzzling, since Joanie was a reliable girl.

Local law enforcement interviewed family, friends and Joanie’s fellow students to find out if anyone had seen her. One young man, Mike, said he’d dropped Joanie off at the Mini-Mart around 2 p.m., and she was going to walk to the grade school. Yet a girl at the Mini-Mart said she saw Joanie get into a car with a young man and leave. The girl later changed her story, saying it wasn’t Joanie, after all.

Three of Mike’s friends claimed they saw Joanie with him and his car around 4 p.m. the afternoon she vanished. All three of them later changed their stories, saying it was not Joanie they’d seen. Scratching your head? No wonder.

You can read some police reports, and find other links about the case and its many twists and turns, at bit.ly/JoanHall. Photos of Joanie as a teen, and age progressed to 52, are courtesy of **The Charley Project** (bit.ly/CharleyJoanie).

Not surprisingly, foul play is suspected, but no one was ever arrested, and despite extensive searching, she has never been found. If you have any information, or know where her remains are, please contact the **Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office** at 503-325-8635 or email sheriff@co.clatsop.or.us.

“It was one of **Charlotte Hall Packard’s** biggest dreams that her little sister, Joanie, be found and buried next to their parents at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton,” missing persons advocate **Dena Mattox Rush** recalled (fb.me/JoanieHallMissing).

“... Charlotte’s son, **Dan McGrath**, purchased a double plot when Charlotte passed away in 2010, so that someday, when Joanie is found, she can be laid to rest next to her beloved older sister.”

“I never met Joanie in this lifetime, but she is now a part of me,” Dena added ... “Somebody knows where Joanie Hall is. Find your courage.”

A SAD OCCURRENCE



The **pilot schooner J.C. Cousins** went ashore about 10 miles south of the **Point Adams Lighthouse** (pictured), which was in Hammond. She was a total loss, **The Daily Astorian, Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1883**, reported. The four on board — the boat keeper, two sailors and the steward — were missing, and presumed dead.

The schooner left Saturday evening, Oct. 6, and the Point Adams lightkeeper observed that she “struck on Clatsop Spit,” but got away, appearing to head towards Sand Island in the Columbia River. Being dusk, he couldn’t see much more than that, but it seemed as though she had one sail up.

On Sunday morning, the vessel was spotted 2 miles offshore, heading toward land with apparently no one aboard. She ran aground on Clatsop Beach, and once they heard the news, her owners headed there and boarded. The Cousins was, indeed, deserted, and both of her lifeboats were gone. The surf was heavily breaking over the schooner, making any further action impossible, so she was abandoned.

“It is believed that the four unfortunate men either took to the boat and were upset in the breakers,” the story opined, “or else were washed overboard sometime in the night.” Two tugs were sent out to search for them but no one was found.

One of the lifeboats washed ashore on Monday, followed by its oars, leading to speculation that the men boarded the other lifeboat once they realized they were adrift, and were then swept out to sea.

“Had they remained in the schooner, there would have been no loss of life,” the story concluded, “and had it been supposed by those who stood on the beach Sunday morning, and saw the vessel sailing quietly along, that no one was aboard of her, it was in their power to get to, and save her.

“The vessel is considerable of a loss to her owners, and the probable fate of the men makes the occurrence a sad one.”

LEIF ERIKSON DAY



Dust off your Viking hats, tomorrow is national **Leif Erikson Day**. Oct. 9 is observed as the day to honor the Icelandic/Norwegian explorer for being the first European person to visit continental North America, around 1,000 A.D. (take that, Christopher Columbus). He is pictured in a Hans Dahl painting.

But before we go any further, a spelling alert is being issued: Although many variations of the spelling of the explorer’s name appear to be in common usage, for the purposes of this story, we will stick with the local **Sons of Norway Nidaros Lodge No. 60** spelling.

Erikson visited and settled on previously undiscovered land west of Greenland, now known, appropriately, as Newfoundland, Canada. It’s believed — but not proven — that he even managed to travel as far west as Minnesota. At least Minnesotans must think so, as there’s a Leif Erikson statue near the state capitol building in St. Paul.

Strangely enough, the date Oct. 9 has no significance in Leif Erikson’s life. It’s actually the anniversary of the day that the ship **Restauration** landed in New York from Stavanger, Norway, in 1825, marking the first organized immigration from Norway. (bit.ly/LeifEDay)

LOCAL BREVITIES



From **The Daily Morning Astorian, Oct. 7, 1888**:

• **Belva Lockwood** (pictured) the equal rights candidate for president, says she never wore a corset in her life. Well, what of it? Neither did any of the other candidates. She’s got none the best of (Benjamin) Harrison or (Grover) Cleveland on that racket.

Note: Belva Ann Lockwood (1830-1917) ran for the presidency in 1884 and 1888 on the National Equal Rights Party ticket.

A well-known women’s rights champion, among the causes she lobbied and advocated for were the Married Women’s Property Act, equal guardianship for children, equal pay for equal work for female government employees and the women’s suffrage movement.

She was also among the first U.S. women lawyers, and the first woman to be admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court. (bit.ly/BALock)

• The **East Oregonian** says that a cow broke into the printing office of that newspaper the other day, upset two forms of type, chewed the editor’s ear, swallowed all the water in the place and went out through the window.

OTTER ENRICHMENT



Well, did anyone consider that the **otters** at the **Oregon Coast Aquarium** in Newport (aquarium.org), which closed during the pandemic, might be stressed out and/or bored?

Yes. The aquarium partnered with the **Newport Symphony Orchestra** (newportsymphony.org), which also shut down, to provide “a new form of enrichment for our otters.”

Accordingly, cellists **Adrienne Welsh** (left) and **Vicki Strauss** set up in front of the otter pool window, and played (appropriately) **Handel’s “Variations on Water Music Themes.”** A video of the performance can be seen at bit.ly/ottertime. A screenshot from the video is shown.

The otters had no comment, but seemed appreciative, if a bit bemused.