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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

LUCKY SURVIVOR



“I just knew the last time we went to this old park there had to be other old items there to be found,” Don Kelly posted on the Northwest Artifact Recovery Team Facebook page (<https://bit.ly/NWDiggers>) on April 26.

“When I was told that an old Chinese coin was found there, it sparked my interest. Tons of iron at this site is probably why no one wants to dig there. After a few hours of garbage, out pops a 1918 Standing Liberty quarter, which are always hard to find.

“I was ecstatic when I yelled out to my brother I had found silver. As he approached me, I had a signal inches away from the quarter when out popped a beautiful 1890 Morgan silver dollar. I was to the moon by then!

“Later I noticed a green color on back of the Morgan dollar which tells me probably an Indian Head penny is in that hole as well. Also found old spoons, a pen quill and what I think was an ink bottle.

“Two interesting compacts were found, one being ornate, and the other was like a pill or snuff box with powder inside. Also a metal ball object probably a knob ... All in all a great day for artifacts and great coinage.”

Later, Don found the Indian Head penny that had been stuck to the Morgan dollar, which turns out to be a rare Carson City mintage, Derrick T. Glover of the American Numismatic Association told Don.

“Your ... Morgan Dollar is a lucky survivor,” Glover explained, “as approximately 90% of all 1890 (Carson City) dollars were melted.”

Don’s response? “Happy dance!”

ALMOST ARTWORK



On the subject of coins and history ... the copper prototype of the first silver dollar, the “No Stars Flowing Hair Dollar” pattern, struck by the U.S. Mint in 1794, was sold by Heritage Auctions for businessman and Texas Rangers co-chairman Bob Simpson recently for \$840,000, the Associated Press reports. Quite a coup, since the estimated value was \$350,000 to \$500,000.

Starless coins are revered as “one-of-a-kind prototypes for the silver examples that would follow,” Jacob Lipson, of Heritage Auctions, explained. “Coin collecting lore states the unique rarity was excavated from the site of the first Philadelphia Mint before 1876.”

The coin is shown, courtesy of Heritage Auctions, which says this is the only example known of this pattern.

“I think coins should be appreciated almost as artwork,” Simpson said. “I have gotten more than enough joy from them.”

HOPPY ENDING



“On Thursday, April 22, at about 10 a.m., a domestic rabbit was located in the yard of a homeowner near Third Street and Niagara Avenue in Astoria,” the Astoria Police Department posted on its Facebook page (<fb.me/AstoriaPolice>). “If this is your bunny, please hop to it and contact Officer Kevin Berry at the APD ... The rabbit will be in a foster home in the meantime.”

Happily, the very next day, Police Chief Geoff Spalding posted an update: “The found bunny that we reported on yesterday ... has been reunited with her owner. Clearly, a very heartfelt reunion for this little girl.

“A big shout out to Officer Kevin Berry for going to great lengths to locate the owner, and being willing to temporarily house the bunny until the owner could be found ...”

“Another Astoria hoppy ending,” the chief noted.

A PROPOSITION

Bill Nix of Underwood, Washington, wrote in about the fate of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), which has been docked at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, since 2009.

The ship, which is 1,069 feet long, 282 feet wide, and draws 38 feet, is now dry docked. She will be dismantled if she doesn’t find a new home. Nix has a proposition, after reading a story in The Astorian: He’s thinking about the urban renewal money that might have to be returned if not used. One use the Astoria City Council discussed was for the area around the Port of Astoria’s West Mooring Basin, to complete the Uniontown Reborn project.

“Use the monies to initiate a prime tourist attraction to the city of Astoria,” Nix suggested, urging Astoria to bring the Kitty Hawk here. “I have been advised by a staff member of Washington Sen. Patty Murray any funding from the federal government will need to be matched by funds from local sources,” Nix said. “Use the urban renewal monies on this project, and a match from the federal government can take place.

“The ship can be a highly attractive and popular tourist attraction, an economic building block ... We must consider the economic impact by the prospective 325,000 visitors annually, or 890 daily to Astoria.”

He used as an example what an enormous, and lucrative, attraction the USS Midway is in San Diego.

“I believe creation of the USS Kitty Hawk museum and cultural event center in the city of Astoria will be a successful tourist attraction that will employ many Astorians,” he explained, “and provide considerable revenue to Astoria, the county of Clatsop and state of Oregon.”

Not to mention, there’s no wooden hull to worry about.

“This project,” Nix added, “will have tremendous benefits to thousands of people.” (<bit.ly/kittydry>, <bit.ly/kittystats>)

Note: Nix’s full letter is here: <bit.ly/kittyltr>



NEW VENTURE



The Daily Morning Astorian, in late April 1885, provided another glimpse of Capt. George Flavel’s life, not just as a Columbia River bar pilot par excellence, but as a man of varied interests, including being a gentleman farmer.

“Yesterday D. C. Stewart, of Forest Grove, arrived here from Rochester, New York, with 12 head of pure Holstein cattle. They came over the Northern Pacific and arrived in remarkably fine condition,” the story says.

“There are nine heifers and three bulls, the oldest being 2 years old and running down to yearlings ... Mr. Stewart looked at the best herds of Holstein cattle in the east and selected ... the finest from the finest herds.

“... Mr. Stewart will take five of the cattle ... The remainder will be taken by Capt. George Flavel to his farm on Clatsop Plains ... (who) has great hopes for the future of his new venture.”

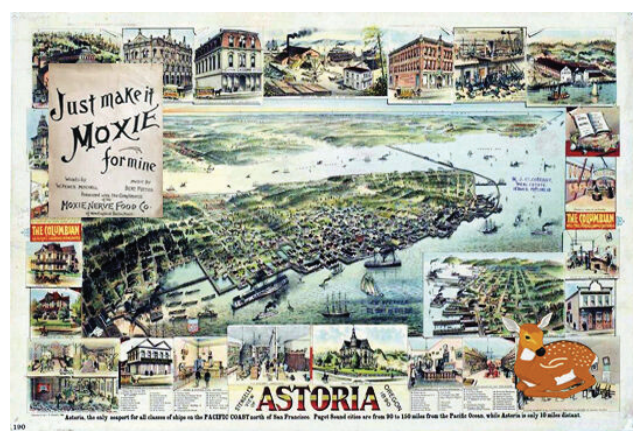
A week later, in early May, the newspaper reported: “Capt. Flavel’s blooded cattle, which are at present on the old Williamson place, attract considerable attention. They will doubtless thrive on his tide land farm, as they are from Holland, which is in some respects similar to their new home.”

Note: Flavel was a clever entrepreneur, and aside from creating a monopoly in the bar pilot business, he had many other interests, including selling coal from Australia and operating a dock in Astoria.

However this is the first mention the Ear has seen of his owning a farm, or of raising cattle. No further mention was found about whether or not the venture was a success.

Even so, when the captain died in 1893, at his Eighth Street mansion in Astoria, he was worth \$1.9 million, or about \$56 million today.

AROUND TOWN



Some tidbits from the May 6, 1885, and 1887 editions of The Daily Morning Astorian:

• The Manzanita crew spied a deer swimming across the river. A boat was lowered and the deer gathered in out of the wet. He was made a pet of at once, and a collar and other adornments were rigged up and placed upon the frightened fawn of the forest. When off Tongue Point he was released, and gaining the shore in safety, he bounded lightly away ...

Note: The 152-foot U.S.S. Manzanita, built in 1880, was only the second lighthouse tender to serve on the Pacific Coast. It was scrapped in 1944. (<tinyurl.com/manzan2>)

• Moxie Nerve Food: Contains not a drop of medicine, poison, stimulant or alcohol ... the only harmless and effective nerve food known that can recover brain and nervous exhaustion; loss of manhood; imbecility and helplessness. It has recovered paralysis, softening of the brain, locomotor ataxia, and insanity when caused by nervous exhaustion ... Dose, one small wineglassful every four hours.

Note: Invented in 1884, this nostrum was not exactly “harmless,” as it contained cocaine, which was considered beneficial at the time. This “nerve food” was also made of a “decoction of oats flavored with sassafras and wintergreen.” This revolting-tasting recipe has been revised often over the years, and later became Moxie soda, which still exists today. (<bit.ly/MoxieNerve>)

• Trifles: Portland is trying to stop people from getting on and off trains while they are in motion.

BY A NOSE



When a dog gets lost, in many cases he or she can be reunited with their owner if the dog was micro-chipped or tagged with the owner’s information. But what about dogs that haven’t been chipped, don’t have, or lose, their tags? An extra form of identification would certainly help.

Well, the IAMS pet food company has come up with a new technology, NOSEiD, a biometric ID app that identifies the dog by their nose, NewAtlas.com reports. It works because each dog’s nose is unique.

You can download the free iOS or Android app, then use your phone to take a close-up photo of your dog’s nose and add a description. Both are uploaded to a cloud server that is available to all of the app’s users.

If a dog goes missing, the owner sends an alert to the cloud. Then, if someone sees a dog that resembles that pet’s posted description, they can scan the dog’s nose, find out who the owner is, and contact them with the dog’s location.

So far, this technology is only available in Nashville, Tennessee, where it is being tested. Once you install the app, though, it will let you know when the service is available in your area.

BRIDGING THE GAP



Fun rerun: DaNita Maunu and her husband, Aaron, of the Vancouver, Washington, area, came to the beach for a visit on Sunday. As they were coming off the New Youngs Bay Bridge and heading into Astoria to get lunch, Aaron noticed the optical illusion (pictured) of the Astoria Bridge and the Northwest POINT bus design.

“Quick, snap photos!” he said, and she did. “Kind of cool, don’t you think?” DaNita asked. Definitely. (*In One Ear*, 7/22/2016)