

CONTACT US
ewilson@dailyastorian.com
(971) 704-1718

COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

'SO MUCH LIKE HOME'



On May 24, 1968, U.S. Sen. **Robert F. Kennedy** visited Astoria while campaigning for the presidential nomination. Accompanying him were his wife, **Ethel**, their dog, "**Freckles**," and Oregon state Treasurer **Bob Straub**.

After Kennedy arrived, he briefly addressed an enthusiastic crowd at the airport, then headed out to **Fort Stevens State Park** for a walk on the beach near the **Peter Iredale shipwreck**, which can be seen in a film clip at bit.ly/RFKbeach. One of the passel of photographers tagging along was **Clyde Keller**, who took the photo shown of the group.

"I can't believe this is so much like home," Kennedy said, gazing at the ocean. Not much later, he rolled up his pants, kicked off his shoes and socks, ran toward the water and went for a jog along the waterline with his dog.

A photographer saw him lope off and grabbed an iconic shot of the pair enjoying a moment of pure unadulterated beach freedom that became a **Life** magazine cover (inset).

"You could tell he was like, 'Oh my God. I needed this,'" recalled **Rita Hankel Lerwick**, a teenager at the time. He even managed to get in a swim before they got back to business and headed for Astoria.

Those few moments of freedom at the beach were made all the more poignant because a little more than a week later, on June 5, he was assassinated, shortly after a campaign speech in Los Angeles. (bit.ly/DA-RFK)

FUN FIND



"Today was a day for the books!" **Connor Kelly**, of Seaside, wrote on May 20. "Around 2 p.m., my wife, **Denise**, and I took our two dog children, 'Brandon' and 'Bruce,' for our daily walk during low tide at **Del Rey Beach**.

"To our surprise, we stumbled upon what we first thought was a sturgeon being inspected by seagulls, but instead was a **longnose lancetfish**, close to 5 feet in length."

Connor's photo is shown, left; a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration image is at right.

Just last month, one of these unusual deep sea denizens was found dead on the Long Beach Peninsula. The Ear asked the Seaside Aquarium if it was strange to find another so soon.

"It is not that unusual," the aquarium replied, "when they are in the area, and close to shore, we will often see a few in a short period of time."

"Very fun find," Connor noted.

FOWL TRESPASSERS



Fun rerun: The Oregon town of **Pilot Rock** has a problem: It's being overrun by wild turkeys, the East Oregonian reports (tinyurl.com/turkeyville).

They stroll into town in a flock of about 50 to 70 birds, then split up to divide and conquer by pooping and snacking their way through local gardens. A few are pictured, in a photo by **E.J. Harris**.

"Nothing is left," resident **Mary Ann Low** complained. "They dust bathe in the soil. They eat whatever is there."

The Pilot Rock City Council — after contemplating a spay and neuter program or just grabbing shotguns — called in the **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** to tackle the turkey issue.

"No matter what we do, we're never going to get rid of all of them," state Fish and Wildlife biologist **Greg Rimbach** observed. "We'll always have a few turkeys." (*In One Ear*, 9/15/2017)

DECORATION DAY



According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, after the Civil War ended in 1868, it was decided that **Decoration Day**, a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers, would be observed on **May 30**.

Out of curiosity, the Ear decided to take a peek at the Wednesday, **May 30, 1888**, edition of **The Daily Morning Astorian**.

• The Cushing Post Grand Army of the Republic (aka the Union Army) and the Woman's Relief Corps took charge of Decoration Day.

A **grand procession** would wend its way to the cemetery for a ceremony, led by the Western Amateur Band, followed by the police force, school children and citizens.

• In the business cards section, a local notable, **Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair** (pictured, right) advertised her medical practice: "Diseases of women and children, and of the eye and ear, specialties."

A tough-minded pioneer woman, she was a social reformer, and one of the first Oregon women physicians who actually held a medical degree.

She was involved in the temperance movement because of the effects of alcohol on her family, argued for women's suffrage and strongly believed in, and wrote about, eugenics and the involuntary sterilization of the "unfit."

Part of her autobiography is at bit.ly/DrOwensAdairBio

• In other news of the day, "Corporal Tanner" (**James Tanner**, pictured left) was set to appear at the Ross Opera House to stump for **Benjamin Harrison's** presidential candidacy.

After losing both legs in the Civil War in 1862, Tanner received wooden prosthetic legs and became a **stenographer** for the War Department in Washington, D.C.

It is said that his questioning of witnesses and shorthand notes were the most comprehensive record of events the night **President Abraham Lincoln** was assassinated at Ford's Theater, during a performance of the comedy "Our American Cousin" on April 14, 1865.

"In 15 minutes I had testimony enough to hang Wilkes Booth, the assassin, higher than ever Haman (a Biblical villain) hung," Tanner noted.

(tinyurl.com/wasmay30, bit.ly/TannerNotes, bit.ly/DrOwensAdair)

COASTAL CONFUSION



The "Where are you, Astoria?" story that was published May 13 prompted Astorian **LaRee Johnson** to write in about another example of coastal confusion.

"Seems a lot of people may have confused the Washington coast with the Oregon Coast some years back," she wrote. "Your astute readers may remember the 2005 launch of the **fourth nickel** in the series, 'Ocean In View! O! The Joy,' commemorating the **Lewis and Clark bicentennial**."

The quote, from **William Clark's** diary, was actually written in **Wahkiakum County, Washington**. He wasn't actually seeing the Pacific Ocean at all, but the **Columbia River**. Be that as it may ...

"The so-called 'designer' of the back side of the nickel, **Joe Fitzgerald**," LaRee explained, "was from Maryland and, according to a KMUN interview, had never set foot in Oregon." So, of course, he would not have recognized that the scene he depicted is actually of the Oregon Coast.

"He submitted the image to the U.S. Mint, supposedly his own creation," LaRee continued. "It was selected, and the minting progress was under way."

"However, upon seeing the coin for the first time at the coin's launch ... there seemed to be some mistake about which coast was depicted. It was certainly not the Washington coast.

"Comparing it to a photograph by a local photographer of the Oregon Coast, it was deemed a copyright infringement (theft) of a photograph from the local photographer's website, who knows the Oregon Coast well, having been in the area since the 1970s.

"Imagine the shock of seeing your photograph on a national coin! The icing on the cake: After only one month, attorney **Leonard Duboff** of Portland won the copyright infringement case against the U.S. Mint and the 'designer,' giving the recognition to the rightful photographer, **Andrew E. Cier**, of Astoria (bit.ly/CierNickel)."

And, Andrew Cier just happens to be LaRee's husband. Now you know the rest of the story.

REVIVING CLARX



There's a move afoot by **Justin Grafton** and **Emily Engdahl** to renovate and remodel the old **Clarx Confectionery** into the couple's live and work studio and more. The 1920s era general store at the top of Eighth Street, just before Niagara Avenue, has been empty for some time.

"A once in a lifetime opportunity allowed us to purchase the beloved old building," the couple wrote on their **Kickstarter** fundraising page, "We'd like to bring the building back to life, restore her back to the community hub jewel she was ..."

"We have the prior renovation and construction experience, the team, the support, the plan and the approval ... We (want) to honor the histories of the building (and) bring the community feeling of Clarx Confectionery back to life, include affordable living, a tea hatch, creative services and offices" and a community room.

If you want to contribute to this campaign (which ends at 11:59 p.m. on June 3), go to bit.ly/GoClarx. Have some history or stories about this building to share with the couple? Email bluecollarastoria@gmail.com

"We're willing, ready and eager to create something for the whole community to enjoy — but we need help getting the project off the ground!"

BUBBLE BALLYHOO



"This actually happened yesterday," KAST 1370 posted on Facebook May 18. "According to the **police dispatch log**, a person called in to complain about **people blowing bubbles** in the street at Ensign and Discovery lanes saying it is distracting, and the bubbles might hit the vehicles, leaving detergent behind.

"A Warrenton officer responded and advised the bubble blowers of the complaint. You know, you have to admire the patience of dispatchers and local police officers around here."

Indeed. As one might imagine, many snarky remarks about nuisance calls ensued.

Also in response to the bubble ballyhoo, **Fred and Jennifer Causer** created "The Great Bubble Blow!" event from 4 to 5 p.m. on May 22.

"I wanted to show support for these children, and children everywhere, showing it's OK to be a kid, even when we are grown ... I ask you to stop wherever you are, stop what you are doing, and blow some bubbles with your loved ones."

Just not in Warrenton.

GOONIES GO FUNKO



Goonies fans rejoice: A new board game, "**The Goonies: Never Say Die**," developed by **Prospero Hall**, and published by Funko Games, is on the horizon. The image shown is courtesy of Funko.

"Embark on a perilous adventure full of dangerous booby traps and treacherous treasure-filled caverns!" the Funko press release states.

"One player is the **Goondocks Master**, controlling fearsome foes ... The other players take on the roles of the Goonies ... overcoming cryptic puzzles and deadly challenges with teamwork, strategy and Data's clever contraptions ..."

You'll have to wait for summer for the game to be available, but never fear, you can pre-order — only from Target — for \$34.99 at bit.ly/GoonFunko. To keep you busy while you wait, download the detailed instructions while you're there.