

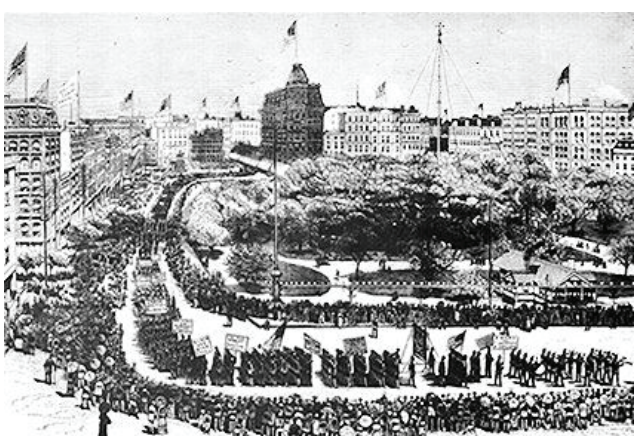
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## LABOR OF LOVE



Since Monday is **Labor Day**, a little history lesson is in order, right from the source, the U.S. Department of Labor ([tinyurl.com/5Sep1882](https://tinyurl.com/5Sep1882)).

Although there had been many parades, picnics, etc. supporting labor in the 1800s, there was no specific day devoted to the working man. However, at a meeting of the Central Labor Union in New York in May 1882, someone — no mention of who, exactly — proposed a “monster labor festival” for September. A committee was duly formed, the date set, a park was chosen and a resolution was passed declaring “that the 5th of September be proclaimed a general holiday for the workmen in this city.”

Unfortunately, employers weren’t exactly on board with the idea, and anyone participating in the event would lose a day’s pay. But that didn’t seem to throw a wet blanket on the festivities, as the various local unions puffed up their coffers by managing to sell 20,000 tickets to the event.

Sept. 5, 1882, started out with grim prospects, as only a few showed up at the beginning of the parade. Gradually groups of union members and labor supporters showed up, however, and an estimated 10,000 people wound up in the parade by the time it arrived at the park for the celebration. An illustration of the crowd is shown.

The event was a decided hit, and gradually other areas started having festivals honoring workers, too. In fact, Oregon was the first state declaring Labor Day a state holiday in 1887, making it the first Saturday in June, strangely enough ([tinyurl.com/OreLD](https://tinyurl.com/OreLD)). Eventually, bowing to public pressure, in 1894, Congress declared an annual Labor Day to be celebrated the first Monday in September, as it has been ever since. And there you have it. Enjoy the day! (*In One Ear*, 9/1/2017)

## HONORABLE MENTION



Since Saturday, **June 4, 1887**, was the first official **Labor Day in Oregon**, the Ear decided to check out what was going on that day in *The Daily Morning Astorian*. The simple answer is: Not much.

On Page 1, the featured story takes place in a Native American village outside Juneau, Alaska; the reporter attended a double cremation ceremony. The only other story, amongst all the ads (e.g. “C.H. Stockton, Pioneer Painter and Paper Hanger”), was a short rant about the price of hay.

On Page 2, the prominent story is whether or not the star of Bethlehem would be visible during the Christmas season. Of lesser importance, “The Joy of Planked Shad.”

Page 4 offers a short column of “Shipping Intelligence,” and the rest is ads, many touting local saloons.

But hey, what about mentioning the first state holiday honoring the working man? It’s on Page 3, where the local tidbits and “Latest Telegraphic News” items are. Look just under the masthead for two words in small type, and there it is: “Labor day.” (*In One Ear*, 9/1/2017)

## IS THAT YOU, ASTORIA?



The Ear audibly hooted in disbelief at Sunset Magazine’s review of *Astoria*, which came in at No. 2 in “**Top 14 Unsung Beach Towns**” ([tinyurl.com/AstoriaOcean](https://tinyurl.com/AstoriaOcean)): “Yellow-slicker fishermen mix with just a sprinkling of iPad-toting tourists in this small riverfront town with San Francisco–steep streets. Particularly fine stretches of sand with towering dunes and uninterrupted ocean views make Astoria a dreamy spot ...”

Cannon Beach got a nod, too, as did Depoe Bay, Newport, Port Orford, Bandon and Westport, Washington, but there’s no mention of Hammond, where the photo of “Astoria” used for the story was taken by Jake Stangel.

The Ear only has only one question: Would someone please point out Astoria’s “towering dunes and uninterrupted ocean views”? (*In One Ear*, 9/1/2017)

## MYSTERIOUS MANZANITA



This item in the Sept. 4, 1897, issue of *The Daily Astorian* sent the Ear on a history chase: “The U.S. lighthouse tender *Manzanita* will be launched from the Smith’s Point ship yards between 4 and 5 o’clock this afternoon. As this is the first large ship building contract ever taken in Astoria it is anticipated that everybody in town will be there.”

But the Ear could not find a *Manzanita*, built in 1897, in Astoria. The only lighthouse tender named *Manzanita* of that vintage was a wooden-hulled, steam powered ship built in New York in 1880 ([tinyurl.com/manzan2](https://tinyurl.com/manzan2)). Sad to say, she was off to an inauspicious start.

In 1881, lighthouse inspector **Charles McDougal** made an inspection trip up the California coast on the vessel. As they neared Cape Mendocino, he strapped on a money belt holding the lighthouse keeper’s pay in gold coins. Heading ashore, the launch capsized in the breakers, and he and two members of the tender’s crew drowned.

Some felt the deaths cast a pall over the *Manzanita*, which was only the second lighthouse tender to serve in the Pacific. She transferred to the 13th District (which includes Astoria) in 1886, and the historical references say that she was rebuilt in 1887, but do not mention specifically where.

On Oct. 6, 1905, a dredge ran into the tender on the Willamette River. She sank, but wasn’t done yet. A month later she was raised and towed to Tongue Point. Decommissioned, she was unceremoniously sold to a tug company, and eventually replaced with a new lighthouse tender, also named *Manzanita* (pictured), built in 1908 in San Francisco.

Around 1912, the original *Manzanita* was rebuilt again, this time to be used commercially, and served until the 1940s. In 1944, she met a sad end, and was burned for scrap metal.

Back to the original 1897 *Daily Astorian* story: The Ear suspects that it is not referring to a new vessel being launched at all, but to the launch of the rebuilt 1880 *Manzanita*. If so, the historical accounts putting the date of the rebuild at 1887 are wrong by 10 years. And, if it weren’t for the newspaper’s snippet, no one would be the wiser. Mystery unraveled ... hopefully. (*In One Ear*, 9/2/2016)

## COLD OFF THE PRESS



For your amusement and edification, some tidbits from the Aug. 14, 1888, edition of *The Daily Morning Astorian* (one of the ads of the day is pictured):

- If you remark that hot weather always makes you transpire profusely, the chances are that someone will take you up for an incorrect use of the word “transpire.” But as a matter of fact, you will be using the word in strict accordance with Webster’s definition of it. Men who knew this are winning wagers on their knowledge every day.

- Good order and security to person and property characterize **Astoria**. While other places suffer nightly depredations from thieves, Astoria enjoys immunity. The reason of this is that we have a vigilant police service. In this case it is good to let well enough alone.

- **Dr. J.B. Pilkington**, the veteran surgeon, oculist and medical specialist of Portland, will be at the Occidental Hotel, Astoria, all day Friday, Aug. 17, 1888, and will give special examinations free ... Over 300 cases of piles, fissures, fistulas and rectal ulcers treated successfully, without use of knife or ligature within the past three years.

- Personal Mention: **Capt. George Flavel** was reported much better last evening ... People who come down from Portland naturally forget to bring their blankets.

- Hurrah for the **Clatsop railroad!** Half the stock was taken yesterday. What’s the matter with taking the other half today!

- The great black and white sign that informed all and sundry that the roadway was unsafe and dangerous to travel by order of the City Council is now a part of a fence on the upper Astoria roadway.

- **John Fistenmacher** lived in east Portland till quite recently. He had economy down fine and last week pulled the strap one hole tighter and went dead. By strict self-denial, he was able to leave \$10,336.49; didn’t take a cent along. He has no heirs, and the state of Oregon gets the swag. John had a great head and a correct value of himself. (*In One Ear*, 9/4/2015)

## HAVE BARGE, WILL TRAVEL



**Katie Rathmell**, owner of Pacific Window Restoration, is restoring windows and building sashes for the oldest house in Astoria, the **Hiram Brown**, **Mindy Stokes** wrote. “Katie has also restored windows in other treasures found around Astoria: The Astoria Column, the Norblad, and the Astor.” Mindy’s photo of Katie is shown, inset.

Of course, the Ear was intrigued, and wanted to know more about the house, which was originally built in Adairsville (east Astoria) — which is not where it is now. So why did it get moved? According to the National Register of Historic Places registration form for the Shively-McClure Historic District ([tinyurl.com/brownmove](https://tinyurl.com/brownmove)):

“**Adam and Caroline Van Dusen**, who settled in Astoria’s eastern district in 1847, were among the first prominent families to realize Col. Adair’s dream was simply that: a dream. In 1864, they moved to Shively’s Astoria since it was apparent Adairsville was not progressing, and they desired to be near a thriving business district ... Capt. Hiram Brown (a bar pilot) is another prominent individual who lost faith in Col. Adair. Not only did he move to central Astoria, but in 1862, Brown moved his entire 1852 Gothic-style house — barging it from Adairsville (to 12th Street, then rolling it to) its current location at 1337 Franklin Avenue.”

Amazingly, it came through the ordeal “without even cracking the wallpaper or breaking a window,” the plaque on the side of the house says. And, as Paul Harvey said so often, “Now you know the rest of the story.” (*In One Ear*, 9/2/2016)

## THERE BE DRAGONS



A rather large chunk of Scandinavian history literally appeared out of the blue in August, *The Local* (Sweden’s news in English) reports, when a **Danish ship’s figurehead** in the shape of a **grinning dragon** was pulled up from a seabed off the southern Sweden town of Ronneby ([tinyurl.com/dragonsup](https://tinyurl.com/dragonsup)).

Believed to be one of the oldest preserved wooden carvings of its kind, the figurehead weighs in at more than 650 pounds. It is thought to be from a ship that sank after a fire in the 1480s, the **Grihunden**, which was commissioned by **King Hans**, who ruled Denmark from 1481 to 1513.

The creepy critter is pictured, courtesy of the **Blekinge Museum**, which plans to put the dragon on display soon. The museum also aims to preserve it, starting with a 3-month bath in sugar water to remove by osmosis the salt it has absorbed from the sea.

“This figurehead is probably the only one left from a 15th century ship in the world,” **Marcus Sandekjer**, from the museum, speculated, and said it was a “fantastic feeling” watching expert archaeologists lift it out of the water. “520 years under water ... and in such a great condition!” (*In One Ear*, 9/4/2015)

## HAMLET FIRE TO THE RESCUE



The **Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department’s** Facebook page had a heartwarming post on Monday: “This evening, Hamlet Fire was called to Saddle Mountain. A slightly unusual situation greeted fire personnel: The injured party was furry and had four legs.

“A family and their two Bernese mountain dogs had completed the hike to the summit and were on their way back down the mountain. The hike proved to be a little too much for one of the dogs; with a little more than a mile left to go, she simply couldn’t go any further. A stokes basket, wheel and some padding were put to use, and the canine was treated to a downhill ride ...” “We carried the 100-plus pound dog ... down the trail back to the parking lot,” Fire Chief **Matthew Verley** told the Ear. Pictured, a grateful “**Remi**,” being assisted by, from left, **Will Cochran**, **Shane Mergel**, **Susan Oxley** (paramedic), and **Dayton Vetter**. Also helping out was **John Benson**. Remi’s four-legged pal, “**Aspen**,” looks on in the background.

Grateful family member **Stephanie Brockett Smith** posted, “You guys and gals are Rock Stars!” Indeed. (*In One Ear*, 9/2/2016)