

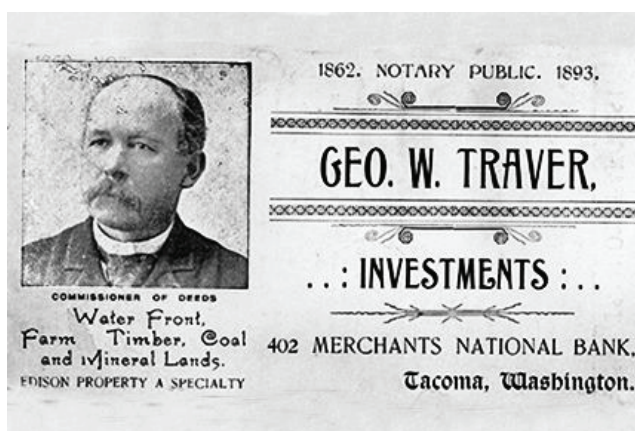
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

LOCAL BREVITIES



From The Daily Morning Astorian, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 1888:

• **First Officer Chambers**, of the wrecked **Derby Park**, was among the passengers on the Geo. W. Elder yesterday, on his way to Portland. ... He says that the island of **Penrhyn**, where the vessel was wrecked, is an atoll, a circular coral reef. There are 500 natives and one white man ...

Note: The Sydney Morning Herald, on Monday, Sept. 10, 1888 (bit.ly/derbypark), reported that while off Penrhyn Island on July 23, natives approached the ship **Silverdale** in boats to convey that a ship had wrecked on the lee side of the island July 19 or July 20. From the description, it sounded like the Derby Park.

Everyone made it to shore, except the captain's wife, who drowned on the way, and the survivors were picked up by a French schooner bound for Tahiti. Of note: The Derby Park, built in 1887, was owned by **Peter Iredale & Son** of Liverpool. It was only in service for one year.

From Friday, Sept. 26, 1890:

• **Geo. W. Traver**, a prominent Tacoma (Washington) capitalist, has been in the city for a few days past, and has made arrangements to invest largely in **Frankfort** property.

Note: Settlement in Frankfort, across the river from Astoria, began in 1876, but it wasn't until 1890 — when Frank Bourm and Frank Scott platted the place with 1,226 lots — that a big fish like Traver showed up to invest.

Even though Frankfort was only accessible by water, the selling hook was that a railroad was supposed to go through the town. The two Franks sold lots, built a hotel, store, saloon, post office and sawmill ... and sold more lots. The duo then started a newspaper, the Frankfort Chronicle, and sold even more lots.

The financial panic of 1893 stopped the boom, the railroad never showed up and the slide to oblivion began. The post office closed in 1918, and Frankfort was a logging town until the 1940s. By the time it was sold to a logging company in 1953, there was hardly anyone left. Traver probably lost his shirt on this one. (bit.ly/frankf1, bit.ly/frankf2). (In One Ear, 9/26/2019)

BREAD BANDITS



Jenny Serwylo, of Toronto, had an unsettling encounter with three brazen raccoons, according to The Toronto Star (bit.ly/breadbandit). She woke up to noises coming from her kitchen, and when she went to investigate, she found the masked bandits devouring her bread. They got in by ripping a window screen.

Serwylo grabbed a broom and started making noise, which scared off two of them, but the third ensconced himself behind the toaster oven. He stared at her audaciously, and in between bouts of terrifying her by attacking her broom, he wiped out her entire English muffin stash. Her photo of the miscreant is shown.

When he'd had his fill, he sauntered back out the way he came in.

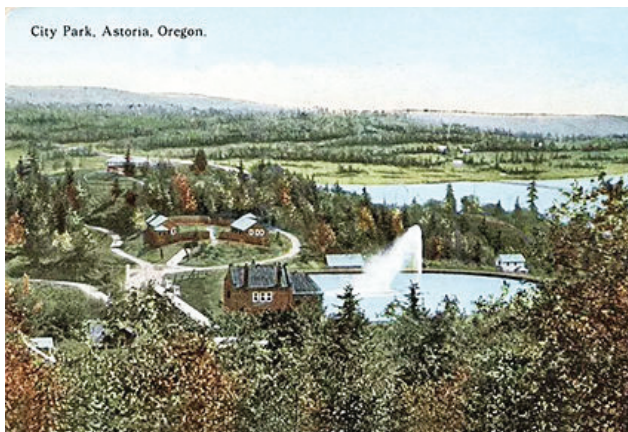
"I'm going to go bleach my apartment now," she told The Toronto Star. (In One Ear, 9/21/2018)

TRASH PATROL



You had to know this was coming: a trash drone. According to a story on NewAtlas.com (tinyurl.com/trashdrone), South African entrepreneur **Richard Hardiman** is attacking ocean litter from the shoreline with his **WasteShark** invention. The autonomous aquatic electric drone comes in two models, **FatBoy** and **Slim**, to gobble up floating waste before it can drift out to sea. One of them is shown, courtesy of **RanMarine** (www.rantech.nl)

WaterShark prototypes, which look like catamarans with a scoop, are being tested at the Port of Rotterdam. Future plans include enabling the drone to transmit water and weather data, adding software so it can learn about its environment and developing a solar-powered Great Waste Shark that can collect half a ton of trash at a time. (In One Ear, 9/23/2016)



NO ZOO FOR YOU

A little while ago, a gentleman left a message asking about the **zoo** in **Shively Park**. Yes, there really was a zoo. But how did it get there? And where did it go? The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's Comprehensive Master Plan (bit.ly/APRDplan) seemed a good place to start the quest.

First of all, the land for the main portion of Shively Park was deeded to the city by **Charles W. and Annie M. Shively** in 1905, and then developed for the grand **Astoria centennial** in 1911. Shively Park is pictured, courtesy of the Clatsop County Historical Society.

The master plan says the celebration included "a reconstruction of Fort Astoria, amphitheater on the park's south slope, exhibition halls, Native American camp, botanical garden, trails and zoo."

But, "within 20 years, many of the centennial features were dilapidated or missing." Not the zoo, apparently, according to a 1999 Cumtux story about Shively Park by former Astoria Police Chief **Charles A. "Chuck" Paetow** (bit.ly/paetow).

He wrote that in the 1920s, there were still a coop full of exotic birds and fenced-in deer. One buck, he recalled, who lived 12 to 14 years, had antlers that never forked.

In 1938 or 1939, the deer became sick because of the stickers on the barley beards in the hay they were being fed. The stickers got caught in their mouths, causing infections.

Paetow was working for the local veterinarian at the time, and he had to catch the deer and hold onto them so the vet could remove the stickers. The task was completed "with torn clothes and bruises." After that, along with a change of diet, the deer "recovered and thrived."

Around 1940, a local poacher "shot the deer and cut the fence to get them out," all on a bet, apparently. That, and other vandalism incidents, made the city decide to close the zoo. Sadly, no photos of it could be found.

"I was sad to see it go," Paetow wrote. "I don't recall exactly when it closed, either just before or during World War II. When I returned from the war in 1946, the zoo was gone." (In One Ear, 9/26/2019)

'PERFECT THROUGHOUT'



The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's Comprehensive Master Plan (bit.ly/APRDplan) also mentioned that **Astoria's centennial** celebration planned to feature the **world's tallest flag pole** in **Shively Park**.

There was only one problem: At well over 200 feet tall, it was too long and heavy to be lifted, even with the help of a steam donkey (red arrow in photo, courtesy of the Clatsop County Historical Society). Some local accounts say the pole snapped, which is why it was never raised. But that's not what happened.

According to the April 2012 edition of "The Pacific Coast Architect" the dimensions were mighty, indeed: "The flag pole is of Douglas fir, perfect throughout, with a butt diameter of 5.5 feet and one of 2 feet at the apex. Its length overall is 246 feet, and it is estimated to weigh 93,061 pounds."

Since they couldn't use it for the Astoria centennial, what to do with it? Conveniently, it just so happened that the **Panama-Pacific International Exposition** in San Francisco was coming up in 1915.

In 1914, somehow, someone managed to get that behemoth hunk of wood settled onto a cigar-shaped log raft which was towed to San Francisco by the **Hammond Lumber Co.**, to be presented as a gift from Astoria's mayor and the city.

But when the tug approached San Francisco Bay, it was hit by a whopping storm, and the flag pole broke free. Fortunately it's hard to misplace something that large; it was found two days later, and brought to the exposition.

The flag pole (shaped and trimmed to 30 tons, and using three derricks) was finally raised, and sunk 10 feet deep into a 200-ton concrete block. Astoria then provided an enormous flag (40 to 50 feet long) to fly proudly at the top.

Sadly, the flag pole was dismantled sometime after the almost yearlong exposition ended. And now, as **Paul Harvey** used to say, "You know the rest of the story." (bit.ly/centpole1, bit.ly/centpole2, bit.ly/centpole3) (In One Ear, 9/26/2019)

'SHE REALLY IS A JEWEL'



"We just returned from a cruise that included Astoria as one of the stops," **Sandra Pistone** of Omaha, Nebraska, wrote. "I want to recognize one of your volunteers, **Irene Baltimore**, who went 'above and beyond' her duties to help me." Sandra and her husband, Frank, are pictured.

Irene, who volunteers for **Clatsop Cruise Hosts** and lives in Warrenton, is shown, inset. Clatsop Cruise Hosts greet the cruise ship passengers and crew, and answer questions the visitors may have about where things are, where to go, how to get there and even about the local area history.

"My husband needed medication for a stomach problem," Sandra explained, "and when I asked Irene for directions to the nearest drugstore, she decided driving me there was the thing to do. She drove me to the drugstore, shopped with me, and returned me to the cruise ship."

And, the two had a chance to get acquainted a bit. "We were just two chatty ladies on our trip to Astoria," Sandra recalled.

"Such hospitality is something I will remember about Astoria," she added. "Irene was my angel that day!"

Marian Soderberg, Clatsop Cruise Hosts coordinator (who was pleased, but not at all surprised to hear about Irene's efforts to help the couple) noted, "She really is a jewel." (In One Ear, 9/24/2014)

THRIFT SHOP TREAT



Nancy Johnson found a real gem at a Vancouver, Washington, Goodwill store: A **chef jacket**, hand-painted in 2008 by well-known Astoria artist **Ronni Harris**. She posted the photos shown on the "You Know You're From Astoria" Facebook page.

"I couldn't walk away," Nancy recalled, when she spotted the jacket. "People find a ton of treasures in these places. A lot of people go there just to save what's been thrown away."

Although she now lives in Battle Ground, Washington, Nancy was brought up in Hammond, so she quickly recognized the Astoria Trolley in the artwork. It wasn't until later that she realized who the artist was.

Ronni herself chimed in on one of the posts, explaining that the jacket was specially designed for "Sammie" who owned Gourmet Gallery and Gifts in the Red Building." How the jacket arrived at the Goodwill is unknown.

"I'll probably hold onto it for a while till I make a decision," Nancy told the Ear. She figures finding the jacket is a bit of a cautionary tale. "It's kind of a warning," she noted. "Watch what you throw away." (In One Ear, 9/22/2017)

THE SWORD IN THE STONES



A **1,100-year-old Viking sword** has popped up in a almost unusual place, according to Norway's The Local (tinyurl.com/mtnsword), found by some reindeer hunters. It was sticking out of some scree (loose stones), blade first, about a mile high in the **Norwegian mountains**. An odd discovery, indeed, since no other Viking artifact has been found so far above sea level. Photos of the location and sword are shown courtesy of **Espen Finstad**, Secrets of the Ice/Oppland County Council.

Finstad, an archaeologist, credits the sword's excellent condition to the Viking metal's quality and being preserved by the snowy and icy conditions. There's no trace of its owner, but any human remains would have vanished long ago.

"We have searched the area in a radius of around 50 metres (164 feet) and have used a metal detector, but found no other objects," he added. "So it's a mystery as to why the sword was in that particular place." (In One Ear, 9/22/2017)