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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

SHE'S THERE TO HELP



You may know a familiar face from reading to children at Astor Elementary School, advocating for education at Astoria City Council meetings or knocking on your door to renew your **Astoria Downtown Historic District Association** membership,” **Jessamyn West** posted on the association’s Facebook page.

“I know her as the person who, when I see her take her glasses off and lean forward, I instantly feel better about the task at hand — no matter what it is, **Patsy Oser** is there to help.”

“People like Patsy do things without expectation of recognition — they are generous, driven and care about the place they live in. Well, this week the state took notice of everything Patsy does ... and awarded her” the **Oregon Main Street “Volunteers on Main” award**.

“This is a huge deal, and I was crying as I watched her accept the honor — this woman who worked as a teacher in Chicago for decades, has served as ADHD’s board president ... and continues to devote her time to making Astoria a wonderful place to be,” Jessamyn continued.

“I read to 22 classes a week for eight years, about 1,500 stories a year ...” Patsy commented. “Astoria is a wonderfully welcoming place. My husband, David, and I are happy to be here. We are delighted to be so involved. We have made many wonderful friends.”

“Patsy,” Jessamyn added, “ADHDA loves you, and thanks you for everything you do, and everything you are.”

A PROUD MOMENT



Nautical writer Peter Marsh sent this gem in: Bet you didn’t know that there is a titled **Norwegian** residing at Scotland’s Edinburgh Zoo. His name is **Nils Olav**, and he just happens to be a **king penguin**.

The bird, a **mascot of King of Norway’s Guard**, has worked his way up through many titles since his adoption in 1972. In 2008, he was knighted as **Sir Nils Olav**; this time around, he has been elevated in rank to **Brigadier Sir Nils Olav**, the zoo reports.

In honor of the occasion, in August, more than 50 of **King Harald V’s** uniformed guard members stopped to visit the new brigadier (pictured, courtesy of the zoo), who paraded up the walkway to preside over an inspection.

“It is a very proud moment,” Barbara Smith, of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, said, “and represents the close collaboration between our two countries, Scotland and Norway.”

ISLAND SURPRISE



The University of Copenhagen has made an unusual announcement: A **tiny island**, recently discovered by an arctic expedition, expands the **Kingdom of Denmark** and its territory, **Greenland**.

The unnamed island, which researchers have declared is the most northerly on the earth, “consists primarily of small mounds of silt and gravel,” the announcement says. “It may be the result of a major storm that, with the help of the sea, gradually pushed material from the seabed together.”

Approximately 100 by 200 feet in size, it reaches about 13 feet above sea level. The “short-lived islet” is pictured in a photo by expedition leader **Morten Rasch**.

“No one knows how long it will remain,” Rasch noted. “In principle, it could vanish as soon as a powerful new storm hits.”



BUDD'S DEBACLE

News from Astoria of the demise of the 818-ton iron ship **Fernglen** on **Clatsop Spit** on Oct. 16, 1881, made it all the way to *The Evening Post* in New Zealand. The ship is shown, courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.

Capt. F. Budd’s account of the wreck showed he was woefully uninformed about navigating the North Coast. “I was puzzled with the lights,” he wrote. “I knew nothing of a light being on **Tillamook Rock** (which opened Jan. 21, 1881), or the change of light color at **Point Adams** (also in 1881). I saw a red light where I expected to find a red and white flash.”

Mistakenly thinking he was just outside the Columbia River Bar, he waited for a bar pilot. At 6 a.m., the ship ran hard aground in a strong tide. All of the sails were put up, but she wouldn’t budge. The ship “lay easy” at first, but when they were still stuck the following morning, Budd fired up the steam engine and started tossing ballast overboard.

They kept at it for hours, only to discover the ship was leaking. By 7 p.m., the wind was whipping up, and the **Fernglen** was steadily taking on water.

The next morning, in heavy seas, Capt. Budd launched the starboard lifeboat to abandon ship, but the lifeboat was smashed when it washed back aboard. By 9 a.m. the **Fernglen** started to heel over, the remaining ballast shifted, and the masts rolled over into the water. By noon, the ship was in two pieces, and the anticipated bar pilot boat still hadn’t arrived.

The captain and crew, desperate to save themselves, with great difficulty managed to board the ship’s other lifeboat. “We had but two oars,” Budd recalled, “and it kept four men busy bailing the boat sufficiently to keep her afloat.”

Luckily, they were picked up by the crew of the tug **Columbia**. All hands were saved, but the **Fernglen** was a total loss. Not surprisingly, Budd was blamed for the debacle; his certificate was suspended for four months. (bit.ly/fernglen1, bit.ly/fernglen2)

OLDEST PIONEER?



A tidbit found in an **August 1887** edition of *The Daily Morning Astorian*:

“The question is being discussed by the papers of the state as to who is the oldest pioneer,” **J. J. Winant** wrote to the editor, “and it appears to be settled that the honor belongs to **Jean Baptiste Gargnier**, who is now living at Siuslaw.

“I had an opportunity of seeing the old gentleman very recently, and engaged in a long talk with him ... I will merely say that the old gentleman’s mind seems to be very clear, and he is very positive about events, but seems to fail in remembering dates ...

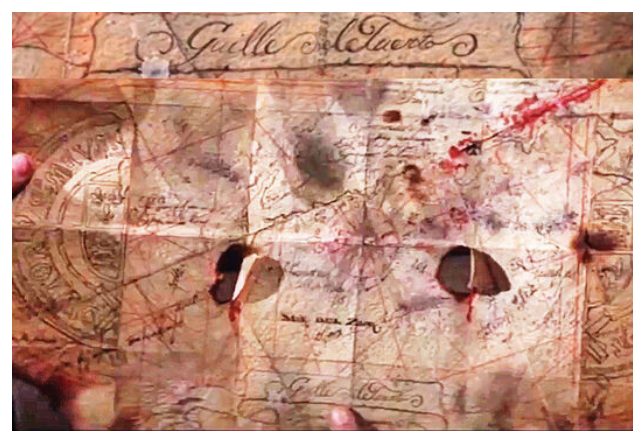
“Some correspondents have fixed the year of his arrival on this coast at 1824. Others say 1819. Now the old gentleman says positively that there was no settlement at Astoria and ... no one but native Americans, and he came here and traded with them. This would fix his arrival at a much earlier period, certainly as early as 1810.”

“And, this would make him an older man than he thinks he is, as he claims to be in his 87th year. I am inclined to think that he is past 90 years of age, and that he came here very young.

“I can hardly think that he can be mistaken about an event so important as the settlement of Astoria ... I asked him repeatedly, and he positively asserted that there was no ‘**Fort George**’ or no settlement here when he came.”

Note: Aside from this notice, there seems to be no written record of this gentleman, but Jean Baptiste was a common French name, and the last name is probably spelled wrong. (Pictured, **Fort George/Fort Astoria**, painted in 1845 by Henry James Warre.)

IMAGINE THAT



Did you know there’s a secret detail about **One Eyed Willy’s treasure map** in “**The Goonies**,” according to *Express.co.uk*? Production designer **Michael Riva** handmade the map, but he wanted it to look old and tattered. But how?

To achieve this effect, the story goes that he holed up in a hotel room for a day pouring coffee on the map and smudging it. Then he got a brainstorm that it should be splattered with blood, but he had no red paint on hand. What to do?

“So we actually had to cut our fingers and edge the sides of it with blood,” he explained. “You do these crazy things. You get so into it.” Director **Richard Donner** was impressed. “Imagine that inspiration and that creative push so early in life,” he marveled.

So what happened to the map? In 2015, **Sean Astin**, who played Mikey in “**The Goonies**,” said he saved the original treasure map, and kept it in his room, *Mysterious-Writings.com* reports.

But when he was off filming another movie, his mother, actress **Patty Duke**, sold the house, and the map went missing during the move ... or, he speculated, perhaps his mother accidentally threw it away.

Astin noted that if the map is out there somewhere, it might be worth \$100,000. *Imagine that.*

IN SAM'S EYE



Ever wondered what it’s like to be inside a hurricane? The autonomous sailboat company **Saildrone**, on behalf of the **National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration**, sent their unmanned 23-foot SD 1045 drone (powered by wind and solar) into the eye of **Hurricane Sam**, where it successfully navigated through 50-foot waves and 120 mph winds.

More importantly, for the first time, the drone filmed the Atlantic Ocean storm’s action at sea in real time, *Maritime-Executive.com* reports. A still shot and a drone are shown, courtesy of **Saildrone**.

“Using data collected by **Saildrones**, we expect to improve forecast models that predict rapid intensification of hurricanes,” Greg Foltz of NOAA explained. “Rapid intensification, when hurricane winds strengthen in a matter of hours, is a serious threat to coastal communities. New data from **Saildrones** and other uncrewed systems that NOAA is using will help us better predict the forces that drive hurricanes, and be able to warn communities earlier.”

WHAT IS THAT THING?



Fun rerun: **Dave Kinney** sent in the photo shown, along with a question: “I was wondering if you knew what that **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration equipment** is on the causeway on **Pier 36**?” It looks like one of those robots from a bad 1950s science fiction movie.

The Ear emailed **Dave’s** photo to **Beverly Drury** at the **Point Adams Research Station** in Hammond to see if she knew its purpose. Nope, she didn’t, but she said she’d pass the email around, and someone was bound to know the answer.

The next day, **Michelle Rub**, a fisheries biologist at the research station, called back. The equipment is actually a radio receiver; it only receives, and does not transmit. It is listening to and recording data from the radio tags on fish and sea lions — each one has its own individual tag — so NOAA can track them. And now you know. (*In One Ear*, 3/18/2016)