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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

AN INDEPENDENT EMPIRE?



Thomas Jefferson and **John Jacob Astor** wrote back and forth to each other about Astor's efforts to settle the far West, beginning with Astoria, to expand his business. Here's a snippet from a letter from Jefferson to Astor dated Nov. 9, 1813:

"... I learn with great pleasure the progress you have made towards an establishment on Columbia River. I view it as the germ of a great, free and independent empire on that side of our continent, and that liberty and self government spreading from that, as well as this side, will ensure their compleat establishment over the whole.

"It must be still more gratifying to yourself to foresee that your name will be handed down with that of Columbus and Raleigh, as the father of the establishment and founder of such an empire."

Note: Well, not exactly, according to OregonEncyclopedia.org. Astor's grand plans for Fort Astoria being the base for a lucrative fur trade with China got derailed by mismanagement, the interruption of the War of 1812 and the threat of British attacks, plus conflicts with Native Americans.

Finally, in the summer of 1813, while Wilson Price Hunt, leader of the land expedition to Astoria, was away, the partners of Astor's Pacific Fur Co. at Fort Astoria decided to abandon the post, and agreed to a buyout by the North West Co. of Montreal. News of these happenings had clearly not made it to the East Coast, and Jefferson, by the time he wrote the letter.

ONE WALRUS, TWO WALRUSES



Now that the winter doldrums are on the horizon, you will need to keep yourself entertained. Well, here's a project from SmithsonianMag.com for you that will also help the **World Wildlife Fund** and **British Antarctic Survey: Counting walruses**.

The "Walrus From Space" project needs half a million volunteer "walrus detectives" to count them using satellite images. The goal is to assess how climate change specifically affects the ice the Atlantic walrus and those from the Laptev Sea in Russia depend on.

It's very difficult to assess walrus populations using regular methods, since they live in such remote areas, not to mention they constantly move around on the ice. However, satellite images can survey large tracts of land.

Want to be a walrus detective? You can register at bit.ly/123walrus. You'll be doing a good deed.

GAMBLING GOONIES



Well, now that the possibility of a "The Goonies" sequel is essentially nil after the death of director **Richard Donner**, software developer Blueprint Gaming has something for the disappointed legions of the movie's fans: A new online slot machine game, "The Goonies Return."

"The original slot, inspired by the cult classic film, proved to be an overwhelming success and continues to attract players to this day," **Jo Purvis**, of Blueprint Gaming, said.

"With this new installment, we are providing fans of 'The Goonies' with the sequel they truly deserve, as well as an exciting new gaming experience for players worldwide." Hold onto your wallet.

A LONG ROAD AHEAD



A 50-pound, olive ridley sea turtle was found a mile north of the **Peter Iredale shipwreck** in Hammond," **Tiffany Boothe**, of the **Seaside Aquarium**, wrote. "The turtle was found by **Samuel K. Gardner**."

"Found him buried, about to be eaten by bald eagle," Samuel posted on his Facebook page. "Went back for a bucket to wash him and phone service. Called emergency services, and a rescue was sent." While waiting, Samuel was joined by **Alec and Corinne Reeves**, who were walking on the beach.

"The aquarium quickly geared up to retrieve the turtle, but with the incoming tide and heavy surf, it was going to be challenging to get onto the beach," Tiffany explained.

"As the tide continued to come in, and the surf raged up the beach, Samuel and Alec decided that it would be best to get the turtle to a more secure location. Usually, it is best not to move a sea turtle until responders arrive, but in this case it was necessary if the turtle was going to survive.

"Samuel and Alec carried the turtle over a mile, and were able to meet up with the responding staff from Seaside Aquarium." Samuel is pictured in a photo by Corinne.

"The turtle was quickly loaded up and taken to the Seaside Aquarium for evaluation," Tiffany continued. "It was one of the most active sea turtles staff at the aquarium had dealt with in a long time, which was an uplifting sign."

"Rescuers said most finds have 10% of survival," Samuel noted, "but he looked really healthy, and I did (the) right thing. I named him 'Bobby.'"

"Thirty minutes after the turtle arrived at Seaside Aquarium, staff was informed that not only was the Oregon Coast Aquarium (in Newport) ready and prepared to take in cold-stunned sea turtles," Tiffany said, "but that they had another olive ridley sea turtle en route ..."

Staff members from the Seaside Aquarium quickly drove the turtle down to Newport. "While we are all hopeful for the recovery and release," Tiffany added, "everyone involved knows that this turtle has a long road ahead."

THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE



The lighthouse tender **Manzanita** was responsible for getting supplies to the various offshore lighthouses, like Tillamook Rock. Unfortunately, it abandoned a crew on 30-acre **Destruction Island**, 3.5 miles off the Washington coast, according to a survivor's tale in the **Nov. 4, 1890**, edition of **The Daily Astorian**.

Edward Richardson and 13 other men were dropped off by the **Manzanita** on the desolate island in early September to build the foundation for a lighthouse. They were left with some rations and a promise the **Manzanita** would return in 10 days.

But the tender didn't show up for two weeks, and only with "a small quantity of provisions." She was en route to Puget Sound "to attend on the naval commission." The captain was informed they would need more supplies within a week, but the **Manzanita** never returned. By week's end, the men were on half-rations and digging clams. Soon all they had to eat was clams, and some became sick.

Signal fires eventually caught local Native Americans' attention. They arrived in canoes, but there was only room for two of the stranded men to go ashore. Richardson was one of them; he intended to report the dire straits and neglect on Destruction Island to the authorities in Portland.

"On reaching the mainland," Richardson recalled, "we walked a long distance and finally reached Grays Harbor. This we crossed in a sailboat, and then began a foot journey arriving at North Cove (Washaway Beach, Washington) ... Here we caught the steamer for Sealand (Nahcotta, Washington), and from thence came here by rail and the steamer General Canby."

The newspaper was outraged. "If the **Manzanita** is to be continued in the service of showing brass-buttoned and epauletted officers about Puget Sound, it might be well, for the sake of humanity, for the government to charter a steamer to supply the men with the necessaries of life, who lead isolated lives in the lighthouses."

MOVE OVER, COLUMBUS



Nautical writer Peter Marsh sent in this historical tidbit: Move over **Columbus**, the **Vikings** settled in North America in 1021, centuries before Columbus "sailed the ocean blue" in 1492, according to TheGuardian.com

The date was determined from timber building remains at **L'Anse aux Meadows** in northern Newfoundland, Canada, employing a new dating technique and using a solar storm as a reference. The storm in question, which is known to have happened 993 AD, caused a "pulse of radiation" the trees absorbed, which appears in the tree rings.

When the trees were cut, they had a growth of 28 rings after the solar storm, or 1021. The village, which was discovered 60 years ago, is thought to have been active from between 990 and 1050.

Scientists knew it was Vikings who built L'Anse aux Meadows from the kind of metal tools they found at the site, and the type of cuts they made. Such tools were not produced by the native peoples who lived in the area during that time period.

Icelandic oral histories include the saga of Leif Erikson crossing the ocean and creating a settlement called **Vinland** in North America, and the 1021 date seems to match the stories.

"Thus it begs the question," geoscientist and co-leader of the settlement study **Michael Dee** mused, "how much of the rest of the saga adventures are true?"

JENNY CLEANS UP



This column first mentioned Dutch student **Boyan Slat** and his mission to clean up the **Pacific Gyre**, aka the **Pacific Garbage Patch**, when, at 18, he founded The Ocean Cleanup.

He's now the CEO and 27, and the first major month-long test of a prototype of his cleanup device, **System 002**, hauled in 63,000 pounds of plastic, trash and debris in the gyre, including a refrigerator, most of which will be recycled. He is pictured, wearing sunglasses made from recycled ocean plastic.

System 002, or **Jenny**, is comprised of a half-mile long U-shaped barrier that traps plastic and debris as the barrier is pulled through the water slowly by two ships, one on either end, as shown in the photo, courtesy of The Ocean Cleanup.

The next ocean-going device in development is **System 003**, which will be 1.5 miles wide. And that's not all. With System 003 as a blueprint, the website says "the organization expects to deploy a fleet of 10 systems capable of reducing 50% of the gyre every five years."

NO UFO



Fun rerun: The Ear has to admit to being disappointed that there appears to be an explanation for a local UFO sighting reported April 26 to the Mutual UFO Network.

The observers reported seeing "enormous black squares over the water" from the beach at Fort Stevens that totally blocked out the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, then sank into the water.

But ... maybe what they actually saw was what is depicted in a photo by **Diedre Feinauer**: An interesting **optical illusion**, caused by a fog bank rolling in. Deirdre's photo is shown; it also ran in The Daily Astorian April 1 (please, no snarky remarks about the date).

Heavy sigh. It was a lot more fun when it was a UFO sighting. (*In One Ear*, 5/10/2013)