

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

COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

STUFF OF NIGHTMARES



Jay Beiler was taking a walk just before sunset on Black's Beach in Torrey Pines in the San Diego area, when he was startled by coming across a **monstrous-looking fish** about the size of a soccer ball that washed up in the sand, TimesNowNews.com reports. He took three photos; one of them is shown.

NBC 7 in San Diego sent Beiler's photos to the **Scripps Institution of Oceanography**, who identified the fish as a rare **Pacific footballfish** (himantolophidae), who live in tropical and subtropical waters 3,000 to 4,000 feet deep in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.

History note: The footballfish was first discovered by zoology professor Johan Reinhardt in 1837.

"This is one of the larger species of **anglerfish**," **Ben Frable**, of Scripps, said, "and it's only been seen a few times here in California, but it's found throughout the Pacific Ocean." Unfortunately, the fish was not recovered, and probably washed back out with the tide.

"I have never seen anything quite like this before," Beiler told NBC 7. "At first, I thought it was a — like a jellyfish or something, and then I went and looked at it a little more carefully, and some other people were gathered around it too, and then I saw that it was this very unusual fish.

"It's the stuff of nightmares," he added, "(the) mouth almost looked bloody."

ALMOST INSUFFERABLE ENNUI



Rainy ruminations: "Narrative of a Voyage to the Northwest Coast of America in the Years 1811, 1812, 1813, and 1814 or, The first American settlement of the Pacific" is the journal of **Gabriel Franchère** (1786-1863) about the early settlement of Astoria, among other musings.

The diarist joined the **Astor Expedition** as a merchant's apprentice, arriving at the desolate outpost of **Fort Astoria** in 1811 on the ship **Tonquin**. His writings were one of the main sources for **Washington Irving's** "Astoria."

A little excerpt: "Mr. Clapp and I were left with the entire charge of the post at Astoria, and were each other's only resource for society ... We amused ourselves with music and reading, having some instruments and a choice library.

"Otherwise we should have passed our time in a state of insufferable ennui, at this rainy season, in the midst of the deep mud which surrounded us, and which interdicted the pleasure of a promenade outside the buildings." Heavy sigh.

ASTORIA GETS NOSY



Fun rerun: The **Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing** unveiled the new **Astoria nose art** (pictured) on an F-15 fighter jet during a Cities of Honor Ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base on Feb. 21.

Apparently nose art originated with Italian and German pilots on fighting aircraft during World War I. During World War II, the nose art was particularly flamboyant.

"While begun for practical reasons of identifying friendly units," Mr. Wikipedia says, "the practice evolved to express the individuality often constrained by the uniformity of the military, to evoke memories of home and peacetime life, and as a form of psychological protection against the stresses of war and the probability of death."

So congratulations, Astoria. You're now among the elite 21 fighter jets sporting nose art honoring cities in Oregon and Washington. (*In One Ear*, 3/1/13)

ABOVE OR BELOW, CERTAIN DEATH



From **The Morning Astorian**, Dec. 2, 1899, and the **Lighthouse Board** Annual Report of Fiscal Year 1901, comes the harrowing story of what happened when the **Columbia River Light-vessel No. 50** (LV50), stationed at sea outside the Columbia River Bar, tore loose from her mooring in a heavy gale on Nov. 28, 1899.

The news of the lightship's predicament spread fast, and tugs came out to assist, but after four attempts they gave up trying in the rolling breakers and 74 mph winds.

The situation was dire for the lightship, and LV50 had no engine, only sails. She would have to be beached. **Capt. Harriman** sailed her through the heavy seas, skillfully navigating to the only safe place nearby, **Waikiki Beach**, just west of **Cape Disappointment**.

"... At no time did I think we were lost," he told the newspaper. "My experience as a bar pilot made me familiar with the coast, and I knew that there was just one place to go. Above that place, or below it, meant certain death ..."

Once safely beached, the Cape Disappointment life-saving crew established a breeches buoy to haul the men to land. Eventually, only the captain remained aboard.

"I was alone, and in truth that was the most lonesome moment I have ever known," the captain said. "All the lights on board were extinguished except a lantern, which I held, and the night was dark as ink.

"I mounted the rigging with difficulty, for I was sore, and my back bothered me. Besides, the wind was blowing hard, and I had to hold the lantern in one hand, for that was the only means of signalling to the life-crew.

"I had considerable trouble getting into the breeches buoy, but finally succeeded, then I signaled with the lantern that I was ready, and threw the lantern away. I was hauled quickly to land, although I was under the water for 20 or 30 feet.

"You cannot say too much in praise of the life-saving crew. I cannot express what I feel. We shall never forget them — never ..."

But what about the lightship? That's another story for another day. (U.S. Coast Guard/National Archives photo)

TUESDAY'S TURTLE



"It all started on Nov. 16," **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** wrote. "A report came through to the Seaside Aquarium about a stranded olive ridley sea turtle near Ocean Park, Washington. The aquarium crew quickly responded, but by the time they arrived the turtle had vanished."

Perhaps someone picked it up — which is highly illegal — assuming it was dead?

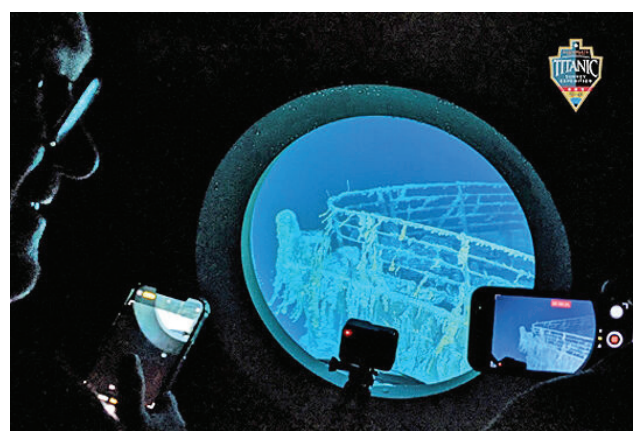
But then ... "at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 21, the aquarium got another report of a stranded turtle, but this time it was a bit further north in Oysterville, Washington." The person reporting was happy to "turtle sit" until the aquarium could get there. Surprise! It was the Tuesday turtle. Tiffany's photo is shown.

But was it alive? "... They can be unresponsive, and their heartbeat can slow to one beat per minute ...," she noted ... "Unfortunately, it was not alive. In fact, only 5% of these cold-stunned turtles survive.

If you find a sea turtle on the beach, call the **Seaside Aquarium** at 503-738-6211, or the **Oregon State Police tipline** at 800-452-7888 or the **West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network** at 866-767-6114. If you can't wait till someone arrives, be sure to tell responders the turtle's coordinates.

"It is still unknown if someone came across the turtle on Nov. 16 and picked it up," Tiffany added, "only to put the turtle back on the beach later in the week, or if the turtle somehow swam back out — something that we have never had happen before."

SURREAL



Don't know what to give that special someone? OceanGate.com has the answer: How about a **Titanic Expedition**? He or she would have a chance to be a passenger in the **Titan submersible** on a dive down to the famous wreck, which lies about 12,600 feet deep in the North Atlantic Ocean. A view from the sub's porthole is shown, courtesy of OceanGate.

The 8-days-at-sea mission departs from Newfoundland, Canada, and the next one is in the spring; 18 dives to the Titanic are planned. The expeditions include professionals who are studying and documenting the deteriorating wreck, as well as six "citizen explorers," aka mission specialists. Everything is explained in the 12-page brochure, as is the cost to ride along: A paltry \$125,000 per person.

"It was something out of Discovery Channel or National Geographic," Aaron Newman, a former mission specialist observed. "It was very surreal and amazing. This is one of the most interesting and unique experiences I have ever had.

"Less than around 200 people have ever been down to the Titanic and seen the wreck in 110 years. Even diving to almost 4,000 meters in a submersible is an experience unto itself. That's what life is about."

TIFFANY'S TOUR



In a Facebook post, the Lincoln City Police Department noted that on Nov. 26, they received reports that a **sea lion** had come up from the river, taken a neighborhood tour and was in the middle of a roadway, heading for U.S. Highway 101.

Officers arriving on the scene set up a perimeter around the pinniped, whom they named "**Tiffany**," so she wouldn't get hit by a car. She is pictured in Lincoln City Police Department photos.

The **Oregon State Police** and **North Lincoln Fire and Rescue** were asked to assist, and the first plan was to lure Tiffany back to the water. An officer went to Kenny's IGA Village Market, which donated several packages of fish, but Tiffany wouldn't follow the bait.

Next, the rescuers decided to corral Tiffany with sheets of plywood, and herd her to the river. Over the three-block distance, moving slowly, they gave her several hose-soaking breaks.

It worked. Even though the tide was out, the post said, Tiffany "settled down happily (at) a small stream section, and seemed content to wait it out until the next tide." Well done!

BUSINESS AS USUAL

GEORGE B. McEWAN,
Boat Builder
ASTORIA, OREGON.

IS PREPARED TO CONSTRUCT BOATS
of every description, of the best materials,
on short notice, and guarantees to give satisfaction.
Before sending to San Francisco or elsewhere, give me a call. o14tf

Some advertisements to ponder from the **Tri-Weekly Astorian**, Dec. 2, 1873:

• **U.S. Mail and Express.** From Astoria to Clatsop Beach! Fast horses! Good carriage! Leaves Astoria every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Mornings. Distance 24 miles, fare \$1.50 (about \$35 now).

• **Dr. S. Kinsey**, druggist and apothecary, Astoria, Oregon. Physicians and family prescriptions filled from the purest drugs, either at day or night. A full stock of wines and liquors for medical use, patent medicines, toilet articles, oils, brushes, etc.

• **Welch's Good Samaritan Compound.** For curing rheumatism, sprains, boils, bruises, burns, etc. A single bottle will cure or prevent days of the most excruciating pain, and not unfrequently save the life of the suffering patient. Price \$1 (about \$23 now) per bottle. Prepared by **J. Welch**, Astoria, Oregon.

• **Baths!** Baths! Hot, cold and shower baths! At Occident Hotel, Hair Dressing Saloon. **Wm. Uhlenhart**, proprietor. Special attention paid to ladies' and children's hair cutting. Private entrance for ladies.