

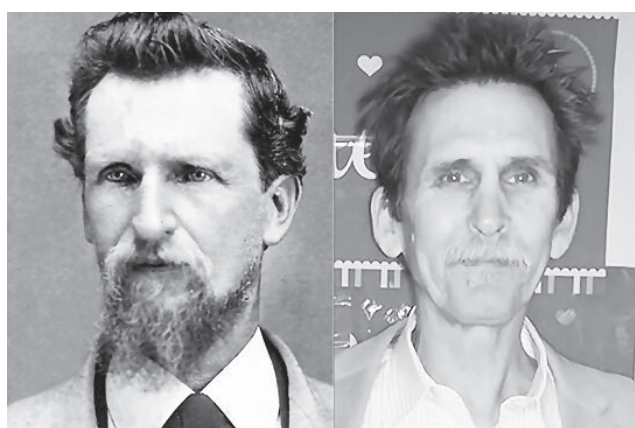
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## 'I CAN STILL DREAM'



Recently the Ear heard from **Tim Dixon**, whose great-great-grandfather was **John Corse Trullinger** (1828-1901), owner of **West Shore Mills** and one of Astoria's most creative inventors, entrepreneurs and businessmen. They are both pictured.

"I have tried in my life to be creative," Tim said, "to innovate and to invent things and have just recently filed (I think) my 58th patent. My work is a little different than JCT's as it revolves around health care, but I hope that the inventive spirit of JCT resides within me.

"His first patent was issued in 1868, No. 74,455, and my first patent issued was No. 9,682,047 — we have come a very long way since 1868." His work is at bit.ly/DixonPatents

"You might find this a curiosity: My company owns some land in northern Idaho on the American River. If I put in the water at our property, and float for 860 miles, I could step out on the wharf in Astoria.

"I thought maybe in 2024, as a fundraiser for cancer research, or some other medical condition I work in, that my writing partner and I would float the river, write a new patent on the trip, and step out on the Astoria wharf and hand the patent to my patent attorney ... At 63, I can still dream."

## A HERCULEAN EFFORT



Around Christmas time there was a story in this column about businessman **J. C. Trullinger** keeping his promise to have an electric light shining in front of **The Daily Morning Astorian's** office on Christmas Eve, 1885.

The Spring 1989 issue of *Cumtux* offers some insights into his first foray into the electricity business. The city originally contracted for 10 street lamps, but four of them wound up being sold to C. H. Cooper, and the rest went to some of the many saloons and dance halls around town — probably because it cost \$16 per lamp per month to run them, the equivalent of a whopping \$470 each now.

It fell on Trullinger's six sons, putting in 16-hour days, to keep the business going and "readjust (dynamo) engine throttles to maintain voltage, maintain the lines strung rooftop to rooftop that were whipped by winter winds, adjust the carbon arcs and clean the soot from the globes." Pictured, courtesy of the **Clatsop County Historical Society**, Trullinger's **West Shore Mill**, box factory, and the first electrical plant; inset, four of his sons and the first dynamos.

Despite their herculean efforts, the dynamos failed in a year, and were sold at a loss. Trullinger, unbowed, built a bigger building, and ordered bigger dynamos. He finally decided to concentrate his considerable energies on more successful enterprises, and sold the **West Shore Electric Light Co.** in 1893.

## LOCAL BREVITIES



Tidbits from **The Daily Morning Astorian, Jan. 13, 1887:**  
 • Gov. Pennoyer in. Ex-Gov. Moody out.

Note: Gov. **Sylvester Pennoyer's** cantankerous claim to fame came with an 1893 debacle. To spite **President Grover Cleveland** — who had declared the fifth Thursday in November as the national day to give thanks — Pennoyer declared the fourth Thursday as a state "day of thanksgiving." It must have been a very bad year for turkeys.

• The "Non-Swearing Knights" is the title of a new organization in Chicago. In Astoria, the non-swearing nights are the nights that the loose (sidewalk) planks don't trip up the folks that are splashing home.

## LULU AND BUTTONS



It is so worrisome when a pet gets lost and you can't find them, and "**Lulu**" (left) and "**Buttons**" (right) are both still missing.

"On Dec. 31, my dad and his girlfriend, and their dog, **Lulu**, were traveling on U.S. Highway 30, heading towards Astoria," **Megan Brown** said, "when my dad, **Cliff McClelland**, hit a patch of ice and lost control of his truck, causing it to roll." The accident happened just below the Bradley Hill viewpoint.

Cliff said Lulu jumped over a guardrail and ran down the hill, heading west. She was last seen Monday night on Clifton Road, but they were unable to catch her.

Lulu is an 8-year-old brown and white doxie mix, chipped and wearing a collar with tags and a bell on it. If you find her, please call Megan at 360-904-2125 or Cliff at 360-798-4167. There is a reward for her return.

**Niki Ratana's** Chihuahua, **Buttons**, went missing on Jan. 3. Niki and her two dogs went down to the parking area at the Columbia River beach in Fort Stevens State Park, where they went for a walk to the wildlife viewing bunker.

Dogs loaded back up in the truck (did Buttons jump back out?), Niki headed for Washington, where she made one quick stop at Chinook Park, and another one near the entrance to the Astoria Bridge. She got out of the car both times.

When she got home, she realized Buttons was missing. The dog must have hopped out at one of those three locations. "She's never just jumped out of my truck unless we're pulling up to our house," Niki said.

Buttons is black, with brown lower legs and a white spot on her chest, and was wearing a collar with an ID tag. If you find her, please call 907-830-6496 or 907-764-1857. There is a reward for Buttons' safe return.

"She is loved beyond measure," Niki said, "and our family has been beside itself without her."

## THIS LITTLE PIGGY



I was talking with **Joseph Stevenson** about the weird **wood pig** statue thing he has on his floor," Astorian **Hope Harris** wrote. "Hopefully," she added, "someone can fill us in on the birth of these objects."

**Mary Weir** said they were made by **W. Martin Baisley** (1899-1993), who is buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Astoria; he lived in Taylorville (Westport). She suggested contacting **Terry Culbertson**, who had been a neighbor.

"He turned (the pigs) on his old lathe," Terry wrote. "Used marbles for eyes, and cotton braided rope for a tail.

"He built a conveyor to use while digging out a basement, and used an old adding machine motor to power it ... He made his own pulleys, gears, or pretty much anything he needed, out of wood.

"As far as wooden pigs, I think (he made them) at least partially because they were easy and strong. We had one of his pigs, but I'm not sure of its whereabouts now.

"He was retired when I knew him, from sawmill work. He had lost all of his fingers on one hand to an accident with a saw in the mill, I'm guessing in the big mill in Westport ..."

Yes, there was a big mill in Westport. "They cut one timber 6 feet by 6 feet by 120 feet long. It was used for the keel timber in the reconstruction of the USS Constitution. It took three rail cars to haul it.

"... At one time, Westport was a booming place. They had one of the very first salmon canneries on the Columbia River. There was a full-sized ship yard, too."

And now, for the rest of the story, as **Paul Harvey** used to say: "I was told (Mr. Baisley) lost his fingers years before I was born, and I was born in 1960. He made the pigs long after losing his fingers. He figured out how to do many things well into his late life."

## THE REAL DEAL



The **Haarlems Dagblad**, generally accepted as the oldest continuously published newspaper in the world, celebrated its 366th anniversary on Saturday.

First published by **Abraham Casteleyn** and his wife, **Margaretha van Bancken** on **Jan. 8, 1656**, in Haarlem, Netherlands, as the **Weeckelycke Courante van Europa**, it was renamed **De Oprechte Haerlemse Courant** in 1664.

During the World War II German occupation of the Netherlands, the publication went through an involuntary merger with **Haarlems Dagblad**, a regional newspaper first issued in 1883 (younger than **The Astorian**). If you want to get technical about it, **Haarlems Dagblad** only became the oldest paper by absorbing the real deal.

By the way, the oldest continuously published paper in the U.S. is **The Hartford Courant**, formerly known as **The Connecticut Courant**. The first edition was published on Oct. 29, 1764, by **Thomas Green**, from the Heart and Crown Tavern in Hartford. It was just four pages, printed on 8.5 by 14.5 inch paper, and became the most widely circulated newspaper in the colonies. (bit.ly/haarlidag, bit.ly/thcourant)

## HELMET HEADS?



New research indicates that **Vikings** were not the originators of the **metal horned helmets** they are noted for, according to **SmithsonianMag.com**. The ceremonial helmet pictured, courtesy of the **National Museum of Denmark**, was found in **Vikso, Denmark**, in 1942, but new radiocarbon dating makes it much older than originally thought.

"For many years in popular culture, people associated the **Vikso helmets** with the Vikings," said archaeologist **Helle Vandkilde**. "But actually, it's nonsense. The horned theme is from the Bronze Age, and is traceable back to the ancient Near East," i.e. back to 900 B.C.E., about 2,000 years before the Vikings.

Some scientists posit that the Vikings traded for metals with southern Europe, traveling down the Atlantic coast, and could have adapted the headgear from interacting with cultures already exposed to the Near East via trade. Other scientists don't buy the new research, or the Atlantic route theory. Let the erudite squabbling commence.

## CRAB POT SURPRISE



Fun rerun: **Mark O'Neil** caught an 8-inch "**albino**" **Dungeness crab** Jan. 28 while working on the fishing vessel **Norska** out of Newport. **Josh Osborn** is pictured with him.

"This is a first for me," Mark said. Several crab fishermen responded to Mark's Facebook post, saying they had caught white crabs over the years, as well.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife proclaims that white Dungeness crabs are not "true albinos," and a "couple" of them are found in the fishery each year. Even so, the **Oregon Coast Aquarium** puts the odds of finding one at one in a million.

Many thought Mark ought to have the crab stuffed — not for dinner, but by a taxidermist. Nope. Luckified for the crab, the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport was happy to give him a home.

"It's one of the coolest things I've ever caught in a pot," Mark declared. (*In One Ear*, 2/3/2017)