

Marker: A sense of history makes the region special

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of the brass screws, Ellsberg thinks it was likely built by a shipbuilder.

He estimates the object is at least a century old, if not much older.

"We find this thing, and, I mean, that is the last thing we expected to find — we didn't expect to find anything," Ellsberg said. "... It was kind of neat to find something that old ... What are the chances? There's no way that hasn't been there 120 years."

Thanks to some old photographs, Ellsberg believes the wooden plank was part of the entrance to one of the county's first cemeteries, constructed in the 1800s. It was referred to as the Clatsop County Cemetery, and later as the Pauper Cemetery.

When Astoria eventually opened Ocean View Cemetery nearby in 1898, many families, if wealthy enough, paid to have the bodies of their relatives moved there, which is when the old space became known as the Pauper Cemetery, Ellsberg said.

Many Native Americans were also believed to have been buried there. The graveyard, which was disrupted by the building of the railroad and the harvest-



An inscription reading 'lesu lesu,' believed to refer to Jesus in Latin, is carved into the right side of the sign.

Lydia Ely/The Astorian

ing of spruce wood during World War I, was later overgrown and forgotten.

There is a record of Adam Van Dusen, a well-known early settler in Astoria, being one of the bodies that was moved to Ocean View, where he has a headstone.

The land along Ninth Street, where the Pauper Cemetery once sat, became of interest to Ellsberg, an Astoria track and field coach and former history instructor

at Clatsop Community College and Astoria city councilor, after doing extensive research on a man named Joab Moffitt.

Moffitt was another early settler in the region and also believed to be buried at Pauper. But unlike Van Dusen, there was no record of his body ever being moved.

Ellsberg discovered that Moffitt was a judge, a legislator and one of the founders of the Masonic Lodge after

his arrival in Astoria. But he wanted to learn more about the man.

So he went searching near his last known burial, thinking he'd maybe find an old gravestone.

"I wanted to get a feeling ... about what that old cemetery was — where it was, that kind of thing," Ellsberg said. "I'm a curious sort anyway, so I thought, 'Let's go find that out.'"

Because his discovery

'THE IDEA IS, YOUR HISTORY IS SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN, AND HISTORY IS WHAT WE SELL HERE — LEWIS AND CLARK GAVE US A PRETTY GOOD SELLING POINT.'

Bob Ellsberg

was found on city land, the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department, which oversees Ocean View Cemetery, is holding on to the cemetery marker while the state determines if it is an artifact.

For an item to be considered an artifact, it must be at least 50 years old.

It is "infrequent to find potential archeological artifacts," Matt Moritz, the city's parks maintenance supervisor, said.

Ellsberg is disappointed that a place with so much important history has been ignored and allowed to become overgrown and filled with trash.

"If you want to find grandpa, it might be a challenge," he said.

He hopes the attention around the sign will encourage the city to get the area cleaned up. He also has plans of his own.

"I'd like to get permission to rebuild the front part (of the entrance), and clear out the acre right where it is now," he said. "We could get some volunteers ... and have them go in and fix it up so we can have a little walkway up to it and a park ... just so we could give it a little dignity."

Ellsberg also hopes to hear from anyone with information about where Moffitt's body might be buried.

He thinks he deserves a little dignity, too.

"One of the things that Astoria has that makes it special is its sense of history — we have a wonderful history," Ellsberg said. "... The idea is, your history is something that people are always interested in, and history is what we sell here — Lewis and Clark gave us a pretty good selling point."

"It's really important that we honor those parts of it."

Manship: Working with musicians on the coast

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As a second lieutenant after Purdue with the ROTC, he spent two years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force before a career as a defense contractor.

He and his family lived in North Bend, Washington, and Scottsdale, Arizona, before moving to Seaside last year.

His wife, Kate, is a special education teacher at Pacific Ridge Elementary; Miles, 12, attends Seaside Middle School and Isla, 9, attends Pacific Ridge. Kate's parents live downstairs in a fully-furnished basement.

His studio business saw a reboot in Seaside.

"Basically, the whole time we were in Arizona, I didn't do anything," Manship said. "I had drums, but never played them, or rarely. I prioritized family and work."

The job here afforded him the opportunity to develop the studio.

"That was another fringe benefit," he said. "It wasn't in the forefront of my mind, but we saw this house and this space. This was perfect to start."

While the COVID-19 pandemic has cut down on live studio recording, people are still coming in, he said, including guitarist Bruce Smith and Astoria-based singer-songwriter Segrid Coleman.

Manship plays drums behind Coleman and his father provides bass and guitar tracks from his studio in



Kyle Manship in his Seaside studio.

R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Colorado using a recording interface.

When musicians record from their own home studios, they may not have the experience or the tools to mix and master their tracks, he said. They send their tracks to a studio like his.

"Essentially, I have an online store," Manship said. "Somebody can send me their work, I can say, 'Hey, here's what it needs from my professional perspective. Here's what it will take if you want it to be industry standard quality. Here's what we need to do.' And you can elect to do that."

He said he is slowly getting the word out in Clatsop County, with his website seasidesoundstudios.com, local social media sites and contacts with local businesses like Music 101 on Avenue S.

"Especially for local artists, my rates are very reasonable because I do this for more than the love of money," he said. "Any money I make goes right back into the business. I think I'm unique in the position that nobody that I know of, unless you go to Portland, has the kind of equipment that I have. I can't fit

an orchestra in here, but any singer-songwriter, artist — I can certainly get you in here and we're going to give you industry-standard quality."

Coleman said "Kyle's got this really amazing natural talent for taking any artist with any project, no matter what the level is, in just raising mediocrity and bringing it into a spectrum where it shines. He is a real gem to be found in Seaside."

"I said, 'Hey, why don't you come in and check it out,'" Manship said. "And here we are, about to release a seven-song CD next month."



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Wahanna Fields in Seaside.

Softball: 'I don't think it closes the door on looking at other options'

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According to Modin, they're also looking at reconstructing the dugouts on the first and third base lines, and adding bullpens and pitching cages, as well as a crow's nest behind home plate. The existing batting cages may see improvements.

They also want to install new lighting, although there are questions concerning the proximity of the field to the hospital's helipad. Additionally, they expect to include parking and landscaping improvements and extra storage.

According to Hardebeck, the project scope is still in the early conceptual stage. Cost estimates will

be prepared for school district review and approval as the design progresses further and more details are determined. The project team plans share estimates for the project in the next few months. The goal is to start construction by late April to early May.

The school board approved the team's recommendation to make Wahanna the primary option and move the project into the next stage of design.

"I don't think it closes the door on looking at other options," Hardebeck said.

However, he added, "This seems to be the most viable option to currently get us to that end date required by the Office of Civil Rights."

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