

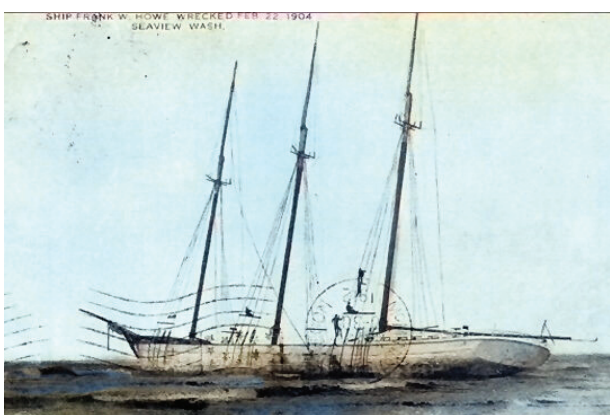
CONTACT US
ewilson@dailyastorian.com
(971) 704-1718

COMMUNITY

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorian

IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

WATERLOGGED



The American schooner **Frank W. Howe**, home ported in Port Townsend, Washington, was on her way to San Pedro, California, with a heavy load of railroad ties, when she got caught in a gale and became waterlogged. **Capt. Austin Keegan** couldn't cross the Columbia River Bar in that state, so he headed north, looking for a beach.

From North Head she was spotted flying distress signals at 10 a.m. that morning, and about an hour later spun in the breakers then grounded stern first at **Seaview, Washington**, on Feb. 23, 1904.

Even though lifesaving crews got to the area as speedily as possible, the roiling seas had already started pounding the vessel to pieces. Life lines failed to reach the foundering schooner at first, but eventually the captain and the six crew members were able to make it to shore with great difficulty via breeches buoys.

Built in Boston in 1891, the schooner apparently did not generate much profit for her owners. One misadventure happened on a trip to the Pacific Northwest via Honolulu, when the ship arrived with crew members on board afflicted with scurvy, a debilitating condition caused by a lack of vitamin C. Consequently, the captain and several of the sailors sued the owners, and won \$5,000 (around \$132,000 now).

The schooner's final journey was plagued with bad luck. Two fatalities occurred even before running aground: A Norwegian sailor fell from the rigging and was killed, and the cook, William Van Sant, died instantly when he was hurled across the deck by a heavy sea.

The schooner refloated at high tide, but grounded again, and was declared a total loss. (bit.ly/fwhowe01, bit.ly/fwhowe02, bit.ly/fwhowe03)

FISHY BUSINESS



In March, it will be 11 years since the devastating **Earthquake and tsunami** hit Japan, but the effects of the meltdown at the **Fukushima Daiichi** nuclear power plant are still being felt.

Black rockfish caught off Fukushima in January were found to contain "excessive levels of radioactivity," according to Maritime-Executive.com, and shipments have been halted. It's not surprising, since in February 2021, fish caught 4 nautical miles off Fukushima contained five times the acceptable radiation level.

Even so, **Tepeco**, the company that runs the plant, wants to dump more **contaminated water** into the ocean, claiming it's perfectly safe to do that.

"If you insist on the safety of treated water, why don't you spray it in your garden," one fisherman pointed out, "or dump it in a river flowing into Tokyo Bay?" Good question.

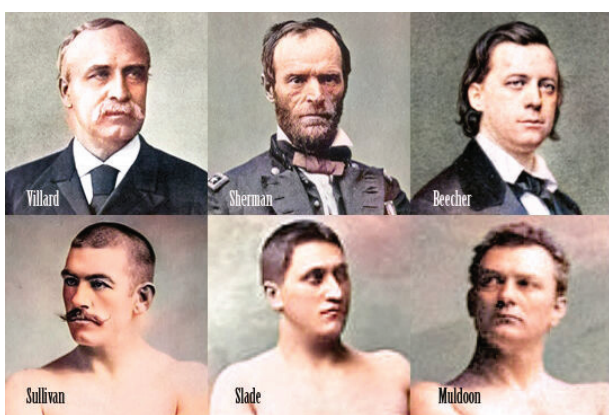
GONE RAFTING



Fun rerun: "We have been getting calls from locals who are noticing **sea lions** engaging in an interesting behavior, and are wondering what is going on," **Tiffany Boothe** of the **Seaside Aquarium** wrote. "Sea lions have been seen congregating together, en masse, on the surface of the ocean, just outside of the surf zone." Her photo of sea lions "**rafting**" is shown.

"When sea lions do not want to haul out of the water, they use this tactic to sleep and rest," she explained. "The protection of the group provides safety ... The ocean temperature is much warmer than the outside temperature at the moment, so the sea lions are probably just trying to stay warm like the rest of us!" (*In One Ear*, 1/20/2017)

COMINGS AND GOINGS



A story in the **Feb. 27, 1884** edition of *The Daily Morning Astorian* offers a glimpse of several celebrities who passed through Astoria:

"How many people have you in Astoria?" asked an outward bound passenger of an Astorian reporter yesterday afternoon. "Something less than 6,000," was the reply. "Indeed!" said he, "it looks as if you had 60,000 from the crowd on the dock" ...

"**Henry Villard**, in his comings and goings, never attracted much attention in Astoria. **Gen. William Sherman** and **Henry Ward Beecher** drew pretty well, but it is seldom that a steamer ... attracted such a gathering as that yesterday afternoon ...

"On board was the champion fighter of the world **John L. Sullivan**, who goes back to aesthetic Boston with fresh scalps hanging at his girdle. **Slade the Maori**, Taylor, McCoy and all the rest of the crowd were along.

"At Astoria, **William Muldoon**, the champion wrestler of the world, got aboard, and if the passengers can only get up some kind of a match between the two, they ought to have fun enough for the trip."

Henry Villard (1835 — 1900) brought the transcontinental railroad to the Pacific Northwest in 1883.

Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman (1820 — 1891), a Union Army general during the Civil War, scorched the earth during his March to the Sea from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia, which helped the North win the Civil War.

Henry Ward Beecher (1813 — 1887) was a nationally known Congregational minister, abolitionist and orator. His sister, **Harriet Beecher Stowe**, wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Boxer John L. Sullivan (1858 — 1918) was the first gloved boxing heavyweight champion, aka the "Boston Strong Boy," and also the last heavyweight champion of bare-knuckled boxing. During many exhibition tours, he paid anyone who would fight him, and won more than 450 fights. He was boxing's first superstar.

New Zealander Slade the Maori (1854 — 1913), aka Herbert Augustus "Maori" Slade fought Sullivan, and also toured with him.

William Muldoon (1845 — 1933) a wrestler who learned his skills in the Union Army, became the world champion in the Greco-Roman style of the sport. He was also a trainer; Sullivan was one of his clients.

LOST AND FOUND



A few weeks ago, this column ran a story about how the packet ship **Silvie** (or Sylvie or Sylvia) **de Grasse** sailed down the Columbia River with a cargo of lumber, bound for San Francisco, and ran aground on a rock ledge off Tongue Point.

She was so overloaded, she could not be refloated, so there she sat. Everything was removed from the ship, but it has been a mystery ever since as to what happened to the **medicine chest**.

Until an item was spotted in *The Daily Morning Astorian*, dated Feb. 3, 1900, that is. The story mentioned that the chest first became the property of **James A. Welch** (1816 — 1876), a pioneer. His son, **John W. Welch** (1846 — 1925), inherited it, and he gave it to **Dr. O. B. Estes**, who gave it to the **Oregon Historical Society**.

The story was confirmed by **Kim Buerger**, registrar for museum collections at the Oregon Historical Society, and yes, indeed, they do have the long-missing medicine chest; the provenance was also confirmed. The item is listed as "loaned by O. B. Estes, M.D."

There is a long inventory list of what the chest's exotic bottles contained, including: balsam captiva (actually balsam kopiva, used for bladder and kidney ailments), laudanum (tincture of opium for pain), basilicon (an ointment for wounds and infections), spirits of camphor (for aches and pains) and sweet spirits of nitre (to reduce fever, muscle spasms and treat cold sores).

There was also spirits of hart horn (aka harts-horn, inhalant to wake someone after fainting), mercurial ointment (for skin irritation and to kill body lice), tartar emetic (an emetic, and used to treat parasitic infections) and sambucus canadensis (to treat colds).

Long story short: Mystery solved, the medicine chest has been found.

THE OREGON CONNECTION



From **Gary Henley**, The Astorian's sports reporter: "In 'East to the Dawn,' a book on **Amelia Earhart** by **Susan Butler**, when Amelia Earhart was young, she 'started to look for and clip newspaper and magazine articles about women who had careers, and she quickly had enough to paste into a scrapbook that she called 'Activities of Women.'

"Among the women she singled out included **Miss R.E. Barrett**, who was city manager of Warrenton, Oregon, the only woman in the country to hold the office of city manager.

"Earhart, whose first flight lesson was just over 100 years ago on Jan. 3, 1921, eventually married **George Palmer Putnam**, who was the owner/editor of the **Bend Bulletin** from 1910 to 1917, and mayor of Bend in 1912." The Bulletin is now owned by EO Media, The Astorian's parent company.

Earhart was still married to Putnam when she and her navigator, **Pete Noonan**, disappeared in 1937 during an around-the-world flight attempt.

Both The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery and The Road to Amelia Earhart have been searching for Earhart's plane on or near remote Gardner Island, now Nikumaroro, in the Republic of Kiribati. Nothing definitive has been found so far.

WHERE'D IT GO?



Goonies fans can rejoice, thanks to **Joe Ramoni**, a Philadelphia writer and filmmaker, who has compiled "The Lost Version of the Goonies," a 14-minute video about "The Goonies" deleted scenes.

The red octopus attack was one such scene. Apparently the 32-foot puppet, with all of its cables, was too hard to manage, and the scene was deleted because in the end, it just didn't play well.

There was also a car-stealing gorilla scene that director **Steven Spielberg** was fond of, but it just didn't make sense in the story, and was cut. And, of course, there was an alternate ending, and other missing goodies.

Not Goonied-out yet? Check out "The Making of a Cult Classic: The Unauthorized Story of 'The Goonies' (2010)," by **Tad Crutcher**, a retrospective documentary made for the 25th anniversary of the iconic film. Of special local note: The video also includes a short interview with Astoria filmmaker **Mick Alderman**. (Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.)

MILLENNIUM WAVE



The most extreme **rogue wave** ever recorded, detected by MarineLabs' sensor buoys, occurred off Canada's **Vancouver Island** in November 2020, **NewAtlas.com** reports.

Rogue waves are evaluated by their height in comparison to the waves around them. In this case, the accompanying waves were 19.7 feet high; the rogue wave was 57.7 feet, almost three times higher.

Terrifyingly unpredictable, rogue waves are caused by currents, wind and storms. The largest one recorded was 84 feet high, off the coast of Norway; the surrounding waves were 39 feet high.

"Only a few rogue waves in high sea states have been observed directly, and nothing of this magnitude," researcher **Johannes Gemmrich** said of the Vancouver Island wave. Because of the proportions, "the probability of such an event occurring is once in 1,300 years." (Image by Lynn Greyling)