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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## MIMI AND TILLY



One of the most beloved landmarks on the North Coast is the legendary **Tillamook Rock Lighthouse**, aka Terrible Tilly, whose light first shone in 1881, and was shut down in 1957.

**Mimi Morissette** bought the lighthouse in 1980, cleaned up the mess, did repairs, and reopened it as **Eternity at Sea**, a columbarium to house urns of ashes. Unfortunately, the venture did not fare well.

The columbarium has since lost its license, and the weather, wind and sea have wreaked havoc on the lighthouse, which is quite difficult to access, but Morissette remains optimistic that the lighthouse, and the columbarium, can be revived.

"This is a great picture showing the work that must be done," she wrote on Facebook about the photo shown. "Replace tower metal with titanium panels, and the front and back doors with titanium. Then a good paint job, and Tilly will be back to square one."

"Of course, we have to evict the sea lions, and they are not very tidy, so will need a major swabbing out of the interior debris that they will leave behind ..."

"We will be looking for new owners in the cemetery industry at a convention starting March 21. Tilly will have her own booth at the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas." Tilly was featured at a similar convention in 2019.

"Tilly is a dedicated cemetery, where she has room for 300,000 urns," Morissette noted. "A small piece of each purchase will go in her perpetual care fund, where she should have enough money to look beautiful for years, and maybe even centuries." Fingers crossed for both Mimi and Tilly.

## VERY BERRY



Oregon is a very strawberry-oriented state, and yes, they are yummy, and fairly large, but ...

Guinness World Records recently announced that it has confirmed that the **world's heaviest strawberry**, of the Ilan variety, grown in Israel by **Chahi Ariel**, weighs 10.19 ounces and has a circumference of 13.3 inches.

"During this strawberry season in late January and early February it was particularly cold," explained Ilan breed creator **Nir Dai**, who witnessed the weigh-in. "The strawberry developed slowly for more than 45 days from flowering, which caused its large size at full ripening stage." What he's really saying is that multiple berries fused into one giant berry.

There was no word about how it tasted, however. (Image courtesy of Guinness World Records)

## SITTING PRETTY



The **Decorah (Iowa) North eagles**, Mr. North and Decorah North Female, are in parenting mode again, and one egg has already been laid. A second, and possibly a third, are anticipated.

Thanks to the **Raptor Resource Project** a web cam is focused on the nest, and you are literally eye to eye with the eagles while they go about their egg-sitting and parenting duties.

Hatching usually happens in late March to early April, and fledging is from mid-to-late June. The fledglings leave the nest and become independent, but the parents stay in the area year-round, returning to the nest annually to produce the next batch of eaglets, and you are in on the whole process. Once you start watching, it's hard to stop.

## WISHFUL THINKING



From **The Daily Morning Astorian**, Feb. 25, 1879: "A subscriber asks: 'where will you find a coal mine to develop, near Astoria?'... We reply at **Oak Point**, **Columbia City**, and in the vicinity of **Knappa**, and on the **Nehalem**, 25 miles from here. We have not see either one of the mines, but ... others have."

**Note:** In 1892, the **Northwest Mining Review** contains a piece by the editor titled, "Knappa, Oregon," which proclaims that although the area is "almost an unexplored wilderness," its access to the Columbia River would be advantageous to development.

"... Within a short quarter of a mile" of Knappa are "fine indications of coal, which is supposed to be the continuation of the Nehalem coal beds, which are directly south about 30 miles distant."

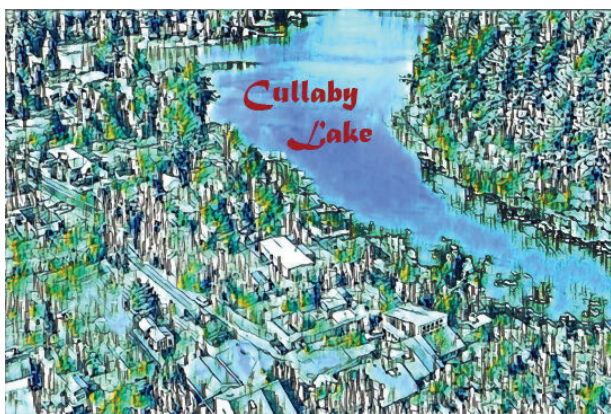
Samples from another coal bed nearby were sent to Portland and San Francisco for testing, and found to be a "superior quality of lignite," a type of coal used by blacksmiths and popular for "parlor use" because it doesn't leave residue on the hands.

Better yet, the coal beds were near deep water, not far from the proposed railroad's path, and were ultimately "the best and most convenient outlook for coal on any railroad in the Northwest."

Coal and iron had also been found along **Big Creek** in Knappa, which "is the shortest and easiest route into the great forests along its banks and into the Nehalem country."

And yet, reports of actual coal mining in the area are, so far, not found. Perhaps that is because a 1981 study for the U.S. Geological Survey concluded: "Coal occurs in many places in Oregon, but the only large reserves of high quality are in the Coos Bay and Eden Ridge coal fields in southwestern Oregon."

The Northwest Mining writer may have indulged in wishful thinking about coal mining in Knappa, but he was spot on about development: "... The almost impenetrable forests will disappear, and in their stead, well-tilled farms and gardens and orchards will greet the eye."



## CULLOUGHBY, CULLABY

From **The Daily Morning Astorian**, dated Feb. 24, 1889:

"Mr. Tallant, of Astoria, came up yesterday morning in response to a telegram to meet the U.S. Fish Commission car and procure some **white fish** to plant in **Culloughby Lake** on Clatsop Plains ... (He) secured **100,000 young white fish** and returned home happy."

**Note:** An article on MyODFW.com says the lake, now called Cullaby Lake, "supports a variety of fish."

According to NPS.gov, the lake is named after a Native American named Cullaby, who is believed to be the son of Jack Ramsay (or Ramsey) whom the Lewis and Clark Expedition met Dec. 31, 1805 when they were wintering at Fort Clatsop.

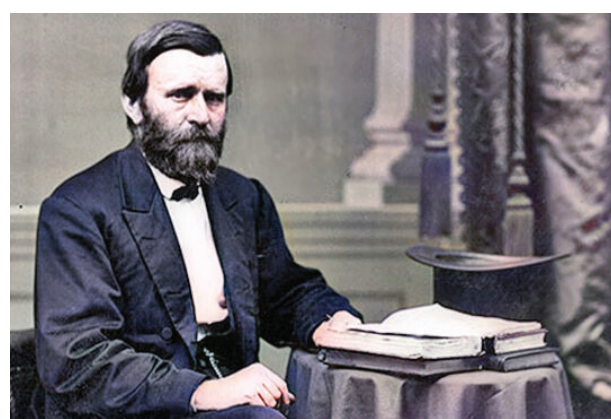
William Clark described Ramsay as "... freckled with long dusky red hair, about 25 years of age, and must Certainly be half white at least," and who understood some English, but did not speak it. It's believed that Ramsay's father was probably a shipwreck survivor, or had deserted from a British trading ship. Ramsay's name was known because it was tattooed on his arm.

In 1832, author Ross Cox wrote that "poor Jack was fond of his father's countrymen, and had the decency to wear trousers whenever he came to the fort (Astoria). We therefore made a collection of old clothes for his use, sufficient to last him for many years."

The Ocean View Cemetery Burial Site Guide mentions the "Red-Headed Man, aka Jack Ramsey." In 1955, construction workers near Fort Stevens uncovered his grave, but then covered it up again, and the lost grave is "consigned to future archeology."

Sadly, little is written about Jack's son, Cullaby, even though he was clearly once well-known enough to have a lake named after him.

## GREETING GRANT



"As I read your recent In One Ear," **Tim Dixon** wrote, "I was reminded of a note in a journal I have that belonged to my great-grandpa, **Thaddeus Steven Trullinger** (TST), son of **John Corse Trullinger** (Astoria businessman, entrepreneur and mayor), and thought you might find it of interest ..."

"**General U.S. Grant** sailed from San Francisco on the steamer St. Paul called at Astoria," Thaddeus wrote. "Made a speech at the 9th Dock. He greets the people, and shook hands with all the school kids and kissed many of the girls. TST shook hands with Gen. Grant. He arrived in Portland Oct. 14th 1879."

The encounter in Astoria was on Oct. 13; young Thaddeus (1867 — 1944), was around 12 years old when he wrote the journal entry.

But Gen. Grant was no stranger to Astoria. He visited merchant Adam Van Dusen's (1823 — 1884) Uppertown store in the early 1850s. In fact, the Oregon Encyclopedia says Grant, when stationed at Fort Vancouver, which was then in Oregon Territory, not only visited Astoria, he wanted to settle in Oregon.

"The fact is, my dear wife," he wrote in a letter, "that if you and our little boys were here I should not want to leave here for some years to come." However, he was reassigned to California in 1853. And then there was The Late Unpleasantness (aka the Civil War) and becoming president.

Aside from his 1879 visit, Grant did not return to Oregon again, and died in 1885.

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER



Just think: Now it will be possible to be doing something useful when buying a cell phone ... if it's the newest **Samsung Galaxy** series, the S22, and Tab S8, that is.

The new devices will contain "**repurposed** ocean-bound discarded fishing net plastic," PCMag.com reports. More commonly known as **ghost nets**, they entangle and kill marine life, including endangered species, damage coral reefs and can even eventually wind up in sources of food and water.

"Collecting and repurposing these nets are vital first steps in keeping our oceans clean," Samsung said in a press release, "as well as preserving the planet and our collective future."

This notable advancement is filed under "better late than never," since Samsung recently stopped a toxic spill that lasted 106 days in Austin, Texas, that wiped out almost all of the aquatic life in a local tributary.

## DOING WHAT'S RIGHT



**Feel good rerun:** "There's no substitute for doing what's right," **Thomas Colvin** wrote, after **finding a wallet and a cellphone** in the middle of Wireless Road.

"Was I tempted? Kids need braces, a chance to get ahead on bills. Maybe for a second, but I know what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck. And I also know what it's like to be the recipient of generosity and goodness. That's why I'm at where I'm at right now."

He found the owner, Brian, and refused a reward. Instead, he asked Brian to help someone else when he had the chance.

"... As a community we're not without our shortcomings," he mused, "but this is the best place in the world to grow up, best place to raise a family, and best place to live." Especially with people like Thomas Colvin living here. (*In One Ear*, 4/22/2016)