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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## TO THE RESCUE



The U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment was off to the rescue on March 11, as posted on their Facebook page. The fishing vessel **Ocean Beaut**, a familiar sight around Astoria, was 18 miles west of the Columbia River Bar when the 65-foot trawler's engine failed.

"With approximately 60,000 pounds of assorted catch on board, it was a very heavy tow for the 47-foot motor lifeboat, requiring a second motor lifeboat to respond and remain on scene as a safety escort," the Facebook post noted.

How they determine the length of the towline? The answer: "Usually the more towline that's let out, the better the ride quality for the towed vessel. Taking it further, there are math formulas available that can be used to calculate safe towing speed." Now you know.

"Great job by the coxswain Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer **Sillasen**, executing sound judgment and expertise maneuvering the vessel. The crew ... did a stellar job rotating duties on deck and handling the **750 feet of towline** efficiently.

"Our commanding officer, Chief Warrant Officer **McCommons** and surf trainer Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Petty Officer **Senne** provided safety insight from the second motor lifeboat, leading to the vessel's safe moorage in Astoria close to midnight. Great job, team!" Indeed.

## SAVING HISTORY



Back in 1964, we moved to a dead end street on top of Grand Avenue on the east end of Astoria," **Don Kelly** posted on his new Facebook group page, Stories from the old dirt fisherman!

"The city was bringing up dirt at the end of the road, and dumping it in piles down the steep bank. We would always take that short cut down the bank to the neighborhood below our street.

"One day, while sliding down that bank of dirt spoils the city deposited there, my brother, **Tom**, yells out, 'check this out!' He pulls out of the dirt a weird-looking chunk of metal that was all iron, and had no wood attached to it.

"Research showed it to be a 1850s .31 caliber **pepperbox pistol**. This six-barrel pistol was used for self-defense, and had to have powder and wadding and lead packed down each barrel. Tom had a family friend sand blast it, and he had wooden grips put on to make it a beautiful wall piece."

"Living in Astoria in the 1850s wasn't as peaceful as today," he added, "so I'm sure many people back then were carrying weapons of this sort. Gotta love fishing in the dirt, and saving history!"

## THAT'S SUPER



A tidbit for North Coast car lovers, from Guinness-WorldRecords.com: The new record for the **world's longest car** is a Cadillac "super limo," a restoration of a 1986 world record winner, coming in at 100 feet and 1.50 inches.

"The American Dream" is hinged in the middle to accommodate "tight corners," can be driven from both ends, and can carry 75 people. It contains a waterbed, swimming pool and diving board, jacuzzi, bathtub, TVs, a refrigerator, mini-golf course and a helipad. No, it can't go out on the road.

"Everybody thought that I was out of my mind for wanting to restore it," owner **Michael Manning** explained, "but I had a vision." (Photos courtesy of Guinness World Records)

## FINDING ENDURANCE



A haunting maritime mystery, the location of the 144-foot three-masted wooden ship **Endurance**, has finally been solved.

She sank during the problem-plagued **British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914 to 1916**, led by explorer **Ernest Shackleton**. His original plan was to be the first to cross **Antarctica** via the South Pole. Daily-Mail.com covered both the expedition and the discovery.

Unfortunately, the **Endurance** got trapped in the ice in the Weddell Sea, off the northwest coast of Antarctica, which left them drifting for 10 months. There was no hoped-for warmer weather, and the ice began to crush the ship.

The crew took off as many supplies as they could, including the lifeboats, and set up camp on an ice floe. Three weeks later, on Nov. 21, 1915, the **Endurance** sank out of sight.

Finally, in April 1916, their ice floe drifted near uninhabited **Elephant Island**, about 150 miles northeast of Antarctica, so they loaded up their boats and headed there — which took six freezing, grueling days. When they finally arrived, it was the first time they had set foot on land in 16 months.

Shackleton and five others left in a boat to bring help and rescue the rest of the crew, which they did, after many trials and tribulations. The stranded men all wound up in Chile by September 1916. Incredibly, no one was lost, but the **Endurance** was gone.

The **Endurance22 Expedition** (which provided the ship photos), organized by the **Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust**, found her using remotely operated submersibles, concentrating on a 150 square mile area around the location of where **Capt. Frank Worsley**, using celestial navigation, placed the **Endurance** when she sank in 1915.

She was only 4 miles from Worsley's estimated position, at 10,000 feet deep. She's still upright, her name clearly visible on her stern, "in a brilliant state of preservation," **Mensun Bound**, the expedition's director of exploration, told the Daily Mail.

As an ironic little touch, the day the **Endurance** was found was 100 years to the day since Shackleton's burial at an abandoned whaling station on South Georgia Island. In 1922, at 47, he died of a heart attack — never having achieved his original goal — at the start of another Antarctic expedition.

## SUFFICIENT REASONS



**Interesting character: Clara Cynthia Munson** (1861 — 1938) was the **first woman mayor of Warrenton**, and in Oregon, for that matter.

According to [OregonEncyclopedia.org](http://OregonEncyclopedia.org), she was a teacher at Fort Stevens. In 1908, she was elected clerk of the Warrenton school board, a position she kept for the rest of her life. She was also Warrenton's postmaster for a short while.

By 1910, Warrenton's population was 339. In the November 1912 election, Oregon gave women the right to vote. Soon after, there were two candidates for mayor: Clara Munson and **J.W. Detrich**, who ran in opposition to having a woman mayor. Munson won, 38 to 22.

Oddly enough, she said she was "not very much in favor of woman suffrage," and only served a one-year term, starting in January 1913, although she did believe that women should "take an active interest in political affairs and show they are able to make good use of a ballot."

And so she did, installing new wooden sidewalks, getting a volunteer fire department going, and adding a dike inspector position. To cut the budget, she took over the duties of both the city attorney and police chief herself.

Why didn't she run again? "I have reached the conclusion that mayorships are no positions for women," she said in a Jan. 6, 1914, UPI story. "I will not state my reasons, not wishing to become involved in controversies with those who believe differently, but they appear good and sufficient reasons to me."

Clara Munson never married, but stayed active in the community after her mayoral stint. She died Oct. 18, 1938, and is buried at Ocean View Cemetery.

## RARELY SEEN



**Israel Knight** was vacationing this weekend in **Rockaway Beach** when he came across something he didn't expect, a **Pacific snake eel** (*Ophichthus triserialis*)," the **Seaside Aquarium** posted on Facebook March 8.

"They are typically found at depths of 25 to 500 feet and feed on small clams, fish and shrimp ... Native to California and Mexico, they are rarely seen this far north, especially alive!"

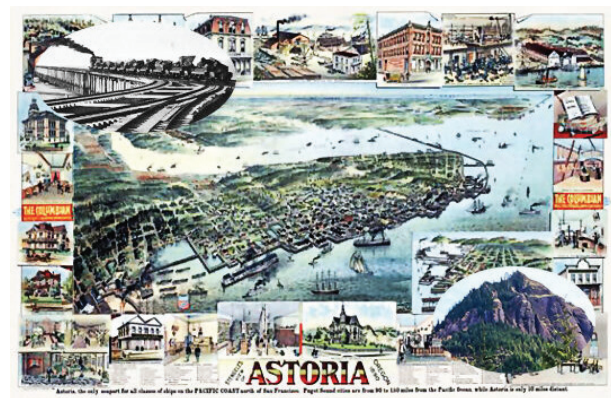
Israel contacted the aquarium, and asked what to do; they suggested he find a container filled with seawater to put it in.

"It was a team effort!" Israel recalled. "My wife, **Maria**, was frantically running around to different houses trying to borrow or find a bucket, and a passerby stopped and helped me collect ocean water to keep pouring on the eel, and helped keep the birds away.

"Then experts from Seaside Aquarium, **Keith Chandler** and **Tiffany Boothe**, showed up to actually rescue the poor animal, and put it in a holding tank to give it a chance of recovery."

"This is the third, live snake eel the aquarium has seen in the last few years," the aquarium post noted. "... Interestingly, all three have been found in March." (Photos courtesy of Seaside Aquarium)

## AROUND TOWN



Tidbits from **The Daily Astorian, March 17, 1888**:  
• Men are wanted to work on the jetty at **Fort Stevens** at 20 cents an hour.

**Note:** The South Jetty, built between 1885 and 1895, paying 20 cents an hour (\$5.97 now)? It's a wonder it got built at all.

• The **post office at Onion Peak**, Tillamook County, will be discontinued next Wednesday.

**Note:** When the Onion Peak post office was established on Feb. 6, 1884, it was called the Nehalem post office. In May 1883, the new postmaster, **John M. Alley**, as was the custom, moved the post office to his home near the county line. He then renamed the post office **Onion Peak**, after a nearby mountain in Clatsop County.

There was a service interruption from March 15 to Oct. 23, 1888, but the Onion Peak post office didn't actually close until April 7, 1893.

• The Salvation Army has lost its cornet player, and what is its loss is our gain.

## SLAINTÉ!



Since it's **St. Patrick's Day**, a few bits of trivia are in order, courtesy of [IrishAroundTheWorld.com](http://IrishAroundTheWorld.com)

The original St. Patrick's Day color was **blue**. It changed to green to honor the color of the uniforms Irish soldiers were wearing during the Irish Rebellion of 1878.

The world's shortest St. Patrick's Day parade is 98 feet long, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, of all places; the first parade was in the U.S. (not Ireland), in Boston, in 1737.

St. Patrick's birth name was **Maewyn Succat**, but his pen name was **Patricius**, which is **Padriac** in Old Irish, and **Patrick** in English. And, just so you know, the diminutive of **Padriac** is **Paddy**, never **Patty**.

On St. Patrick's Day, 13 million pints of **Guinness** are usually consumed worldwide, which is ironic, since it used to be a dry holiday. Slainté!