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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## CHINA SEA BLUES



On April 7, 1885, *The Daily Morning Astorian* reported, with relief, the arrival of the British bark *Allahabad*, which had taken a hair-tearing 140 days to arrive from Hong Kong.

"The bark had been given up for lost, and it was with considerable curiosity that the arrival of **Capt. McCallum** was awaited," the newspaper noted. So what had happened?

He left Hong Kong on Nov. 17, but that same day was hit by a heavy gale that blew him into the China Sea. "I stayed (there) beating about, trying to work my way back against heavy northeast winds, which made it hard to get headway in a light vessel. One day was just like another, but I did make some progress.

"While off Manila I fell in with a steamer that, I understand, reported me. This was the only vessel I sighted until nearly off the Columbia River.

"On Jan. 17, I was within four hours' sail of Hong Kong, on the very spot where the blow struck me 60 days before. That night came on a gale that carried away the foretopsail and cracked the foremast ...

"I have been blown about ever since, and not till within the last week have I experienced anything like decent weather. It was first one way and then another, and to go ahead one day and back the next was enough to wear a man out."

The ship's log reveals that he had, indeed, been stuck going back and forth, "the latitude and longitude differing a little as the varying gales in the China Sea blew the bark here and there like a plaything."

Despite their monthslong getting nowhere ordeal, the captain and crew were "in first rate condition."

## ROLICKING GOONIES



OK, a little frivolity: Croatian YouTube user and huge LEGO and Goonies fan, gsom7, has created "LEGO The Goonies (Full Movie) HD," a 13-plus minute video tribute to the movie "The Goonies."

The details are impressive, and even though the video rollicks along at a good clip, ardent Goonies fans will notice little gems like the octopus (a deleted scene in the movie) making an appearance. In fact, it is such good fun, even non-Goonies fans will enjoy it; actual Goonies fans even moreso.

"Here to make you laugh, amuse you, and taught you something. I hope," is gsom7's aim. Mission accomplished.

## THERE'S THE BEEF



**Dyspeptic rerun:** **Alli Calder**, of Gearhart, had a Sweet 16 birthday party, and celebrated with a **50-pound homemade bacon cheeseburger** she shared with friends and family.

**Mark Kenny**, of Seaside, made the monster burger "very carefully" on his barbecue grill, then added 3 pounds of bacon, 5 pounds of cheese, 3 pounds of onions, 12 tomatoes and Thousand Island dressing.

Yes, he made the bun, too, which weighed in at around 12 pounds. "She really loved it. It was a big hit at the party," Mark added. "It was a birthday she'll never forget." No doubt. (*In One Ear*, 8/14/15)

## MADMAN ON THE ROCK



A distress signal first was seen flying at the **Tillamook Rock Lighthouse** on a Friday afternoon in late March 1890 by the steam schooner *Louis Olsen*.

They weren't able to approach the rock, due to heavy rolling seas, but they brought the news to Astoria, causing "quite an excitement." Unfortunately, at the time, both the lighthouse tender *Manzanita* and another government vessel that could have helped were not in port.

When **Capt. Richardson** and the *Manzanita* returned at sundown, it was too late to leave, so the mission was put off until just before daylight. An intrepid *Daily Morning Astorian* reporter, dubbing himself "the scribe," decided to ride along.

Once they approached the **Columbia River Bar**, "the white surf crested rolling breakers come in from the ocean, and at our left dash over the bar," the scribe wrote, "as the staunch little steamer plunges on ... now high upon the crest of a huge wave, then rolling and bowing as gracefully as a sweet miss of 16, she sinks away down into the hollow and gallantly climbs over another incoming wave."

Not surprisingly, he became quite seasick, calling it "a day of reckoning." They encountered a squall, but chugged steadily along until at 8:30 a.m., when they were "along side that wild, weird, natural fortress, Tillamook Rock."

Six men took the cutter to the rock, with waves "flinging the spray over 40 feet up in the air." It turned out that the assistant lightkeeper, **Louis C. Sauer**, had gone insane after nearly three years of living on Tillamook Rock. (Who wouldn't?)

He would have to be removed, which involved the steamer cruising around the rock steadily while the cutter tried not to get dashed on the rocks while Sauer was fastened into a basket and lowered into the cutter. Mission accomplished, the steamer headed back to Astoria.

Sauer was a Union cavalry veteran of the Civil War, and no softie, but the isolation of Tillamook Rock was too much for him. "He converses freely, but is uncommonly nervous now," the scribe noted, "and is evidently subject to temporary mental aberration." He was put into the sheriff's custody until he could be examined by a medical commission. Hopefully, he lived far, far inland happily ever after.



## POOPED PUPPIES

It's that time of year again, from April to September, when **harbor seals are pupping**, the **Seaside Aquarium** reminds us. The pups are often left alone on the sand while their mothers go off to search for food, and therein lies the problem: Please, please, leave those babies (and any other marine mammal you find on the beach) alone.

"It is important to remember that it is normal for a seal pup to be resting, relaxing and soaking up the sun alone," the aquarium reminds us. "However, the mother may not return if humans or other animals are too close so experts advise 'don't touch seal pups!'"

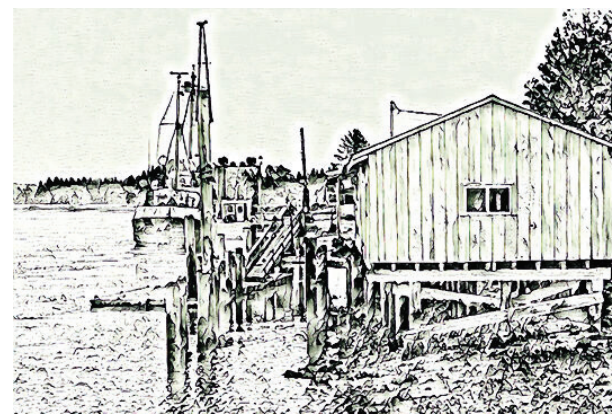
"... Time spent on land is critical for the young seal to regulate body temperature and rest while the mother seal is close by hunting ... Any interference from humans that could cause early separation between newborn pup and mother could be detrimental to the pup's ability to survive.

"Harbor seals live on land for nearly half their lives breeding, molting (shedding their fur coat), resting and raising their offspring. As such, human and domestic dog interactions are obstacles for the health and well-being of both young and mature seals."

If you come across a seal pup, or any stranded marine mammal on the beach, don't approach them, but do call the Marine Mammal Stranding Network at the aquarium at 503-738-6211, and local wildlife officials will respond and assess the situation.

Just so you know, last year the Seaside Aquarium responded to, and placed stay-away signs, near 24 seal pups, all of which successfully left the beach. (Original photo: **Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium**)

## SCHOOL DAYS



A glimpse of pioneer life: **George W. Wilson** was born in 1866 in a log house in **Bay Center** in what was then Washington Territory. He was still living on 320 acres of the original claim when he was interviewed for "Told by the Pioneers" (1938). Part of his tale was reminiscing about his school days.

"A small school house was built on the claim, a one-room affair, very crudely constructed," he recalled. "When I was 9 years old, I attended this school, together with my sister and two brothers. I remember the building had a window in one end, and we could see daylight through the cracks in the walls.

"We had a two-months' term, and father paid the teacher \$14 a month (about \$410 today) ... Our school was quite different from the schools of today. We had to cut our own wood, and help keep things going, but still found time to make bows and arrows and have sport, shooting at marks.

"The Native Americans showed us how to make these things ... I used to watch them cut big cedar logs, and dig out their canoes in which they traveled over the bay, and across the river, to gather oysters off the mud flats.

"... When I was born," he added, "there were only a handful of people in the county, or territory, but I have lived to see wonderful developments, with numerous towns, and thousands of people in this once almost-barren region."

## BLIMP ON A STICK



The iconic "plane on a stick," a real A-4 Skyhawk, owned by the U.S. Navy, is ending its 25-year reign over the entrance to the **Tillamook Air Museum**.

"The cost associated with keeping it maintained while it's still on the stick is just too high," **Rita Welch**, the air museum's director said, "whereas if it was inside the museum, we can display it properly, appease the Navy, and meet our mission of preservation and education."

Welch's idea was to replace the Skyhawk with a **3-D metal rendering of a K-class blimp** as a reminder of **Naval Air Station Tillamook**, which also served as a dirigible hangar during World War II.

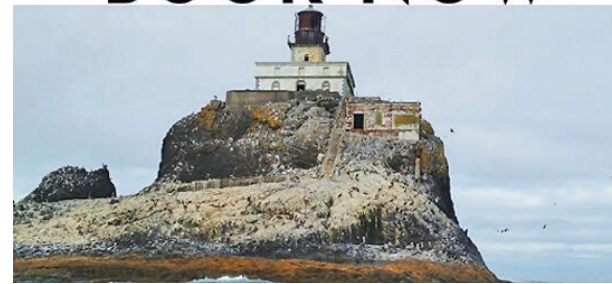
Welding instructor **Ron Carlborn** at the **Tillamook Bay Community College** was enthusiastic to get started on the 25-foot long, 6-foot diameter project.

"It's a wonderful town, and it's been very good to me," Carlborn said, "so this feels like a way that I can give back. And, at the same time ... we are showing the whole community that this is what our welding students are capable of." (Photos: Jared Schmidt)

## TILLYBNB

THE TILLAMOOK LIGHTHOUSE | CANNON BEACH OREGON

## BOOK NOW



Well here's a good **April Fools' Day** leg-puller, courtesy of **Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals** on Facebook:

"Book now! Brand new on the market! Be the first to book your vacation on the **Tillamook (Rock) Lighthouse** and see Cannon Beach from a whole new perspective!"

"Newly redecorated and under new ownership, Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals is proud to be the exclusive host for this one-of-a-kind vacation rental!"

"Daily helicopter service included. Five bedrooms, four baths, chef's kitchen, *not* walkable to town, sea lion tending not required.

"... Amazing ocean views like no other in town; stunning wildlife viewing in this sea lion sanctuary and bird nursery ... Sleeps six. Seasonal availability only."

Good luck dodging the guano and sea lions!