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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

DID YOU SEE THAT?



On Saturday, a dilapidated **duck shack** meandered down the Columbia River, past bemused Astorians and baffled tourists, and out under the Astoria Bridge, apparently managing to disrupt a sailboat race in the process.

Soon Facebook was abuzz with wisecracks about the potential value of drifting waterfront real estate and affordable housing.

"It was from around the area on the river east of Astoria near where the John Day River comes in," someone in the know told the Ear. His photo is shown.

It was seen up by Skamokawa, Washington, a few days before it slid by Astoria. "With the amount of current," he speculated, "it would go many miles each way." He was out on the river, and even "did a turn around it" out of curiosity.

So, wouldn't a floating house be a problem navigation-wise, and need to be retrieved? Nope, apparently not. "Usually, the Coast Guard will just send out a notice to mariners," the source said. "It's really not an environmental hazard."

"It's on a par with a submerged log or any other floating object. It seems odd not to go after it, but once they take it, then they would be responsible for it. There's actually a great deal of stuff floating around out there."

So where did it go? "We lost sight of it past Pier 2 (at the Port of Astoria)," **Jason Lycette** recalled. "We're up above Pig 'N Pancake. It was close to the tide changing, so who knows where things end up?"

'GOOD SENSE, JUST GO'



The Ear fondly remembers a high school Latin teacher who taught for years with a traveling circus, but she didn't play rock 'n' roll.

However, the AC/DC tribute band **Back Into Black's** lead guitar player, **James "Bucky" Potts Schmidt** (right), teaches music at Warrenton High School, and bass player **Michael Simpson** teaches choir and music at Neah-Kah-Nie High School.

They, along with lead vocalist **Roger Jaime** (left) of Warrenton (who, with his wife, runs an adult foster care home for people with disabilities), **Mat "Hurricane" Banke** on drums, **John Elkins** on rhythm guitar and singer **Marcie Attig-Long** (who lives in Olney) will perform the entire "**Back In Black**" album, from front to back, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The show opens with a **Pat Benatar** and **Joan Jett** tribute featuring Marcie.

Where? The **Liberty Theatre**. Tickets cost \$20 at bit.ly/BackIntoBlack. And don't forget: Rock 'N' Roll Ain't Noise Pollution.

FROLICKING ABOUT



The **Morning Astorian**, on **April 28, 1900**, contained a small squib on page 3 that sounds very much like a **pod of orcas** came up the Columbia River for a visit:

"Those along the waterfront yesterday saw an interesting sight in the nature of a school of black fish, a species of the whale family, numbering about 20, frolicking about in the bay opposite the city.

"They ran up to a point off the Astoria Iron Works where they reversed their course and proceeded back to sea, plunging and spouting until lost in the distance.

The visitors created much consternation among the fishermen on the river, rushing dangerously near many of the boats and damaging several of the nets.

"Just why the school did not proceed to Portland after such a start cannot be imagined ..."

A HEART OF GOLD



The Astorian's publisher, **Kari Borgen**, received an email recently from **Steve Bagwell**, editorial page editor at the McMinnville News-Register.

He worked for The Daily Astorian from 1973 to 1976. "During that period," he told Kari, "I wrote a feature on **Oney Camberg**, legendary proprietor of Oney's tavern and restaurant in **Elsie**. It was published in the edition of Thursday, Oct. 16, 1975." The story started on one page and continued on another; the second page is called the jump.

"... The opening page of the story was framed and posted on the wall, where it remained for many years. But it's deteriorated to the point it's only partially readable, and the jump is long gone.

"... A grandson recently contacted me, seeking more information about the story, which apparently meant a lot to Oney." Steve hoped to find a copy of both pages of the story, and asked Kari for help.

The search began, and about 10 days later, he wrote back. "I managed to track it down. The **Clatsop County Historical Society** referred me on to the **Astoria Public Library**. Library Director **Jimmy Pearson** located it, down in bound volumes in the basement, and library staffer **Eric Williams** copied it for me.

"I forwarded a copy to Oney's grandson, **Kyle Camberg**, executive director of the Sunshine Division in Portland, because I don't think he ever had the jump, and it was mostly about his dad." His dad was Oney's only child, **Joe Camberg**.

"It's pretty amazing to get contacted about a story 47 years after you wrote it," Steve said, "particularly when you've moved all about the Pacific Northwest in the meantime, and shifted into something of a retirement gig in recent years."

"If Oney you could see me now," is essentially the biography of "a rough-hewn country woman with a will of iron and a heart of gold." You can read it at bit.ly/OneyStory. His photo of Oney is shown.

"You know, I think it's held up pretty well," Steve added. "It's still a good read, all these years later." He's right.

HOLD THE PHONE



Tourist season is almost upon us, and let's hope this doesn't happen here: The **Brinnon Fire Department** in Washington state posted on Facebook that they, and **Quilcene Fire Rescue**, recently rescued a 40-ish lady who **fell into a vault toilet** near the top of **Mount Walker**, on the Olympic Peninsula.

In case you're wondering, a vault toilet is one of those waterless, non-flushing toilets, like those you see in national parks, where everything unpleasant lands in a large underground container (hence the term vault).

The madness began when the lady dropped her phone into the vault. She somehow dismantled the toilet seat and housing, and unsuccessfully used her dog's leash to go fishing for it. Next, she used the leash to support herself so she could lean in to grab it, which didn't work either, and how she wound up in the vault ... head first.

She tried on her own, unsuccessfully, for 15-20 minutes to get out, and finally found her phone and called 911. Why the phone was still working is beyond comprehension, as is actually holding it.

"The crews made a makeshift cribbing platform by passing them down to the patient," the Facebook post says. "After making it tall enough for her to stand on, the crew pulled the victim to safety ... The patient was washed down and given a Tyvek suit to wear."

Although she was "strongly encouraged to seek medical attention," instead, "she thanked the responders and continued her journey back to California." Pictured, first responders Antonio Rubal and Zach Torres.

"The patient was extremely fortunate not to be overcome by toxic gases," the post concluded, "or sustain injury." And, you have to wonder how she was going to explain away that Tyvek suit, especially since the story quickly went viral.

LOCK 'EM UP



There's a new attraction for "local lovebirds and twitterpated tourists alike" over at **Pier 39** at the **Menagerie** gift shop: Love locks.

A collaboration between gift shop owner **Stacey Stahl** and Pier 39 owner **Floyd Holcom**, the heart-shaped padlocks can be affixed to the pier to commemorate a visit there, and as a gesture of a couple's love for each other. And, like the old song says, "Everybody loves a lover."

Love locks are already popular in France, Italy and Seoul, South Korea, so why not Pier 39? The locks come in a kit, and there's a special pen to write with on the lock, an instruction card for how and where to affix your lock, and an Astoria Pier 39 decal to symbolize the location of your lock, and better yet, the memory of placing it there. Once its placed, couples are encouraged to take a photo and use the hashtag #AstoriaLoveLocks

What about a key for the lock? There isn't one, for two good reasons: To "symbolize love forever," and, maybe even more importantly, to keep those keys out of the Columbia River.

BUBBLING OVER



Earlier today in Seaside ... there was a traffic complaint in the area of 1313 S. Roosevelt Drive in **Seaside**," **Frederick Causer Jr.** posted on the Clatsop County Scanner Group Uncensored Facebook page last Thursday. "You may ask, 'was a car driving recklessly?'"

"Nope ... Dispatch advised a police unit of a caller who reported a subject was blowing bubbles, **large bubbles**, causing a traffic hazard with vehicles. The bubbles were alleged to be causing people to slam on their brakes.

"Well, a unit checked it out, and he advised that the subject (the bubble blowing bubble blower) was well off the roadway, and they were not committing any criminal activities."

Some people apparently have nothing better to do than complain about bubbles. About a year ago, another bubble-hater reported some children to the police for blowing bubbles in Warrenton.

Fred held a **Great Bubble Blow** about a week later, to show "support for these children, and children everywhere" saying, "bubbles bring joy to so many." Most would agree.

A SMALLER FOOTPRINT



A Portland couple, **Jesse and Megan Milliken**, co-founders of **Woolybubs**, have come up with a product that will please ecologically-minded parents: Disappearing, 100% **biodegradable** "planet friendly" **baby shoes**.

"The Newbie is our first step to empowering more parents with ways to leave a smaller footprint," Megan told BusinessWire.com. "... The idea behind the Newbie was to create a product that will disappear once outgrown, leaving behind less harm to the planet."

The shoes, which come in three sizes, will dissolve in boiling water after about 40 minutes. But never fear, "they won't dissolve in the rain or when hand washed," Megan said.

"This wasn't easy," the Woolybubs website asserts. "We experienced some trial and error and a few unsatisfied babies in the process. But the babies pushed us to go farther, do better, innovate more, fear less.

"And, in the end, we ended up with a shoe that supports the most high-performing, style-conscious babies on the planet."