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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

OVERLOOKING FORD



Last week this column ran a story about presidents visiting Oregon, based on an **Oregon Historical Society** accounting of such visits, and **Roger Dorband** sent in a fun correction based on personal experience.

“The Ear overlooked President **Gerald Ford** who visited Portland four times from 1974 to 1976,” Roger wrote. “In 1976, at around 10 p.m., I was walking home on Broadway Avenue in Portland from a local bar, when all traffic was stopped and Ford’s limo, darkened windows and all, and an open, black convertible with half a dozen secret service went roaring by.”

“I’ll never forget the feeling of having the nucleus of power flash past. It was chilling, energetically dark and frightening. Those were not the feelings I would have predicted in that situation, but that’s how I felt.”

“There were a lot of Gerald Ford jokes around at that time,” Roger noted. “One I remember was the statement that Ford was so inept, that in a TV special on the White House during his short time there, he was shown buttering his English muffin on the wrong side.”

CLOWN AROUND TOWN



Astoria’s favorite clown around town, **Jeff Daly**, who grew up here, is prominently featured in a story by **Joni Kabana** in the most recent issue of 1859 Oregon’s Magazine. Her photos and a bit of the article are shown.

Did you know that Jeff has won two Peabody Awards and an Emmy for his TV sports filming? It’s a skill he’s still using around town for his own (and our) amusement.

He also produced a documentary, “**Where’s Molly**,” about his long-lost sister, and another short documentary about Astoria icon **John Wedell**, “**Helmet John — Astoria is Home**.”

And of course, Kabana mentions those car creations ... **The Glam Tram** (now gone), and **The Joy Train**, which brings a smile to faces all over town as he rolls by. And who can forget the original **Astoria Clown Car**? Found in Shaniko, he eventually finagled its release and return to Astoria, only to reappear on our streets restored, but seemingly driving backwards.

And, let’s not forget he’s created the Astoria Underground Tour and the Wunderground Experience Airbnb. As Kabana notes: “To consider Daly an original is an understatement. But, to him, he’s just clowning around.” And that’s a very good thing.

OH, BABY



The Center for Whale Research is dedicated to the study and conservation of the endangered **southern resident killer whales** (aka orcas) of the Pacific Northwest.

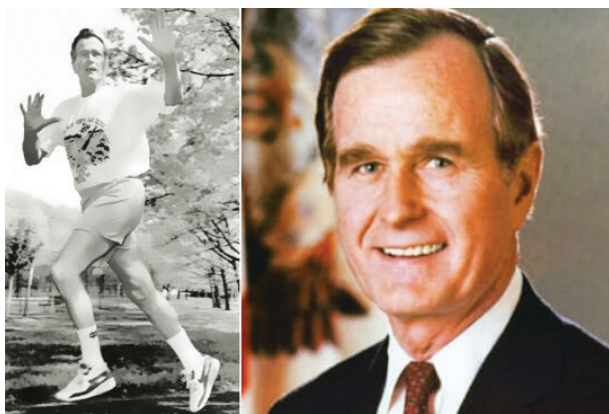
With only 75 orcas left in that group, according to **Deborah Giles**, science and research director for the nonprofit Wild Orca, the birth of a **new calf** is a cause for celebration. And, recently, one was spotted off the Oregon Coast, the first born into **K pod** in more than a decade.

“The CWR is aware of a video posted by the YouTube channel, The Guide’s Forecast, taken off **Pacific City** on April 28, of members of K pod,” the Center for Whale Research posted on its Facebook page on May 2, “including what appears to be a very young calf associating with K20.” A screenshot from the video is shown.

“This calf would be the first viable baby born into K pod since K44 in 2011. CWR plans to document the calf during our photographic surveys so that we can assess its health, confirm the identity of its mother, and assign it an alphanumeric designation.”

“The mortality rate for young calves is very high,” the post added, “but we are pulling for this little whale, and hope to see it soon.”

JOGGING WITH BUSH



Well, here’s another tidbit about presidents visiting Oregon, this one about **George H. W. Bush** who, as president from 1989 to 1993, visited Oregon four times, in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993.

“You missed one of the future presidents to visit Oregon,” **Scott Ames** chastised the Ear. “George H. W. Bush was in Eugene on May 14, 1980.”

“I was a student at the University of Oregon at the time. Bush was running for the Republican presidential nomination against **Ronald Reagan** and others. Bush’s campaign offered U of O students a free **T-shirt** that bore the words ‘I Jogged With George Bush.’ I actually did run close to him and his Secret Service detail for a short distance, but Mr. Bush was a good athlete, and much faster than me.”

“But I got the shirt, and threw it out recently. It was in tatters, but I regret not photographing it. I recall the shirts made a minor stir in the media because the Bush campaign was accused of giving away something of value in exchange for votes.”

“I don’t think his campaign was fined or sanctioned as a result,” Scott recalled, “but the event was mentioned in Time magazine, or Sports Illustrated or some other prominent periodical of the period.”

SUNSHINE IS GONE



The **Daily Morning Astorian**, May 13, 1884, had this tidbit: “Robert Miller is the new postmaster of the new post office at **Sunshine**.”

Sunshine? That took some digging, but Sunshine was small town located across Willapa Bay from the east side of **Long Island** in Pacific County. It was established in 1883, in what was then Washington Territory.

The Chinook Observer shed some light on the long-gone town in its heyday, which evolved next to a busy sawmill, and consisted of about 20 wood-framed buildings, including the post office, houses, a few shops and a school.

A salmon cannery was built, and operated seasonally until closing in 1903. It was demolished in 1905; only the boat landing was still in use by 1908. The original sawmill closed in 1896, and was torn down in 1902. The post office closed in 1902, and the Nahcotta mail boat no longer stopped there. Note: Even though the town was gradually shutting down, a watchman was hired and looked after the buildings before they were demolished.

As a last gasp, the well-equipped school, with a landmark large flagpole, which was built when hopes of enduring business success were running high, closed in 1916.

Although the town failed, and essentially disappeared, logging operations in the area continued for decades.

TURKEY TANTRUMS



A disgruntled wild **turkey** has buffaloed Washington, D.C., and well, they probably deserve it.

This particular fowl attacks humans with impunity, and has since last November. DeDe Folarin’s video has even made the Twitter rounds; a screenshot is shown.

According to Field & Stream, various agencies are all over this crisis, including the National Park Service, which put up warning signs, and the D.C. Department of Energy and the Environment and the Humane Rescue Alliance.

The turkey crossed the river into Maryland, so the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources got involved.

“So far, neither the FBI nor the National Guard has been called in,” Field & Stream quipped. “But this is D.C., folks. Anything could happen.”

MORE PRESIDENTIAL VISITS



According to a 2015 story in The Oregonian, several other presidents visited Oregon in addition to **Gerald Ford**, **George H. W. Bush** and those mentioned in last week’s column.

President **Theodore Roosevelt** (pictured) visited once as president, in 1903, and at least twice at other times, one of which was to Portland to lay the Multnomah Athletic Club’s cornerstone.

President **William Howard Taft** spoke at Multnomah Stadium, Providence Park, which was then part of the Multnomah Athletic Club in 1909. President **Woodrow Wilson** visited Portland in 1919, and President **Warren G. Harding** spoke at the Multnomah Athletic Club 1923.

In June 1948, President **Harry Truman** hit the campaign trail by train, covering Portland, Salem, Albany, Eugene, Oakridge and Klamath Falls in a single day, probably breaking a record. Apparently, he enjoyed the convenience of speaking from a train’s rear platform, and did so in Oregon in both 1950 and 1952.

President **Dwight D. Eisenhower** was the first commander-in-chief to fly in to Oregon in 1954 to speak at the Pendleton Airport; in 1956, while campaigning, he spoke at the Portland Airport and Civic Auditorium and also rode in a parade. President **Lyndon Johnson** visited Portland in 1964, and President **Richard Nixon** visited Portland in 1971.

President **Ronald Reagan** visited Klamath Falls in 1983, and campaigned in Medford and Portland in 1984.

Phew! And that *should* complete the list of presidents who visited Oregon, but if someone was missed, or if anyone has a personal recollection, please don’t hesitate to let the Ear know at ewilson@dailyastorian.com

By the way, although **Herbert Hoover** was born in Oregon, he didn’t come back to visit until after his presidency was over.



THIS ‘N THAT

From **The Daily Morning Astorian**, May 13, 1884:

- The old adage that the sea shall give up its dead was faintly illustrated last week. As **Linsey Stone** was walking on the ocean beach near Ocean Park, Washington Territory, he came upon the skeleton of a man lashed to a board. Nothing remained but the bones and skull, and so soon as they were untied from the board, they fell to pieces.

- There is some talk of starting a Scandinavian newspaper in Seattle. It is under discussion to establish a similar institution in Upper Astoria.

Note: Well, it didn’t happen in Uppertown, but the Finns of Uniontown started a **Finnish-language socialist newspaper**, Toveri, in 1907. In fact, from 1891 to 1951, there were 10 Finnish language newspapers being published in Astoria.

- Wm. Hume is authority for the statement that there are no bears at Eagle Cliff, but he has a great big \$20 gold piece for anyone, regardless of age, sex, or previous condition of servitude, who will bring or send him a 75-pound salmon.

Note: **William Hume** and his brother, **George**, partnered with canning guru **Andrew Haggood** and, according to the Oregon History Project, opened the first salmon cannery on the Columbia River at Eagle Cliff (about 50 miles east of Astoria) across the river in Washington Territory during the winter of 1866 to 1867.

- **John Bland** and **Horace Mace** met in a Burns saloon, on the fourth, and turned loose on each other with their revolvers. Both fell dead.