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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

KEATON'S PRIDE



A tidbit for movie buffs: “Long before ‘The Goonies,’ there was ‘The General,’ one of the first major motion pictures filmed in Oregon.” The Astorian sports reporter **Gary Henley** wrote, “The 1926 silent film starred **Buster Keaton** (pictured), and was shot on location in and around **Cottage Grove**.”

“When it comes to famous movies, Cottage Grove is the Astoria of the Willamette Valley ... One link between the movies filmed in Cottage Grove and Astoria is **Corey Feldman** — then a child actor, who appears in both ‘The Goonies’ (1985) and ‘Stand By Me’ (1986).”

“I made the trek to Cottage Grove recently, and bicycled into the city to photograph some of the locations where ‘The General’ was filmed, and also where Keaton and the crew were housed during their stay, at the Bartell (now Cottage Grove) Hotel ... A giant mural of Keaton is on one side of the building, depicting a scene from ‘The General.’”

“Keaton spent nearly a month in Cottage Grove, where he and his crew helped fight a brush fire outside the city during their stay. And he and his team also played baseball — one of Keaton’s favorite activities — at Kelly Field, at the corner of 12th and Quincy avenues ...”

“In 1963, Keaton was quoted as saying, ‘I was more proud of that picture than any I ever made.’” You can watch it here: bit.ly/GeneralBK

SEA SERPENT SURPLUS



Fishy rerun: Columbia River’s **Colossal Claude’s** sea serpent cousins have been popping up in California. An 18-foot deep-sea **giant oarfish** carcass was found off Catalina Island recently, but then a second 14-foot oarfish carcass washed up in Oceanside, California, Oct. 18.

The oarfish is the world’s longest bony fish. They don’t have scales or teeth, and you don’t want one for dinner, as they taste like “gelatinous goo.”

A traditional Japanese belief says if oarfish start washing up on the beach, it may signal an impending earthquake. **Kiyoshi Wadatsumi**, an earthquake scientist, thinks that’s because they live at great depths, and are “sensitive to the movements of active faults.” Time will tell. (Photo: Mark Bussey/AP) (*In One Ear*, 11/1/2013)

HOME AGAIN



“After over 60 years this **mirror** found its way back home!” **Emma Dalrymple Anderson** posted on Facebook. She and her husband, **Lorin**, own and run the Benjamin Young Inn bed-and-breakfast on Duane Street.

“I bought it a couple of months ago,” she explained, “at an estate sale that our neighbor told us about. (All thanks to you, Judy!) When I was about to hang it on the wall, I found an inscription on the back: ‘Young Estate 1961 Paid \$190.’”

“Turns out this mirror is from our house, the Benjamin Young House! I get goosebumps every time I tell guests the story. It’s incredible how it came home after all those years.”

ASTOPIA



In the summer of 1889, **Elizabeth Leslie Ashton** speculated, in *The Daily Morning Astorian*, about what **1914 Astoria** would look like.

She would arrive in a “fireless locomotive,” powered by generating its own electricity, which could hit 90 mph, flying over copper rails. The “surplus electricity” would supply energy for several miles on each side of the track, and a new cereal grain would be grown in the “diffused rays of the electric light.”

She would stay at the Bellevue hotel, on a promontory near **Tongue Point**, built of glass and iron, accommodating over 3,000 guests, and overlooking the Astoria Industrial School. A grand library with 75,000 books would also have been built.

Astoria would be “well supplied with cable railways,” and an elevated railway, and it would only take an hour to get to **Clatsopus**, a collection of resorts down the coast. There would be a suspension bridge to Tillamook Rock, as the lighthouse would have been blown down in 1898; two lightships would take its place.

Smith Point would be the most populous area of Astoria, and there would be several iron and steel multiple-story business buildings. The former shipping channel would be covered with businesses and railroad tracks, and surrounded by a massive sea wall with turrets and defensive gun batteries; the new shipping channel would be out by the sands.

The newest **balloon service** would take only three days from Astoria to Manhattan, and there would be 13 railroads in the area.

The 1910 census would list **764,828 residents** on the Astoria peninsula (San Francisco had about 415,000). There would be immense coal mines southeast of Astoria, smelting works in **Walluski**, a factory at **Fort Clatsop** and an endless supply of oyster shells in **Warrenton**, among other manufacturing wonders.

Even then, she thought salmon quinnat would be extinct from overfishing by 1914. And, she hoped, “women that do what is usually considered ‘men’s work’ are paid men’s wages ...”

Plus, she opined that every student would be expected, “to be able to read intelligently, write a legible hand, add, subtract, multiply and divide figures rapidly and correctly, and talk English so as to be understood. It’s a new idea, and is said to work well.”

SUCH A RECEPTION



The **USS Peacock** was a 10-gun, three-masted sloop. Built in 1813, she met her demise on **July 17, 1841**, on the Columbia River Bar during a Pacific Ocean exploration expedition. A Clatsop County pioneer and missionary, **Rev. W. W. Kone**, who lived in a log cabin on the Columbia River shore, witnessed the wreck, and told his tale in 1889.

While preaching at a village on **Tansy Point** in Hammond that morning, one of the Native Americans called out “Sail ho!” Everyone ran to look, but the ship headed southward, out of view. Later, the ship was spotted to the northwest, running too close to the Washington coast.

Kone and a few others headed for **Baker’s Bay** to warn the Peacock, but when halfway there, the Peacock turned back into the channel and ran aground on a sandbar. The little group headed back to shore to set up smoke signals so survivors would know where to get assistance.

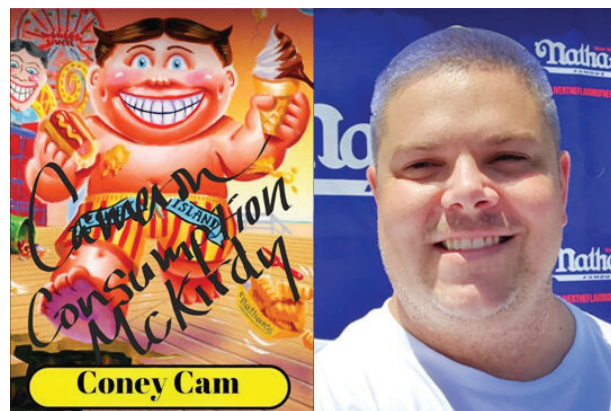
Later, Kone and three Native American friends headed for the wreck in a canoe. But the ship signaled for them not to approach, then a fog descended, so there was nothing to do but head home. Once there, Kone asked the Native Americans to keep an eye out, and left salmon for any survivors who might show up.

The next morning, he asked the **Chinook chief** to take his canoe out to the wreck and ask the crew to come ashore; “120 or 125” safely landed, with no casualties, and Kone cooked for them all night. In the meantime, the Peacock fell apart.

Kone prepared another huge meal when the last man, the Peacock’s commodore, arrived. “Who could have expected such a reception,” the commodore exclaimed, “from a wreck on the northwest coast of America? Such a reception!”

At his own expense, Kone kept assisting the stranded crew, who stayed until they got a new ship. “And now,” he concluded, “when old age has unfitted me for work, and greatly in need, I asked of the secretary of the Navy for aid ...” Whether his plea was answered is unknown.

CONSUMPTION



“Hey friends and fans, **Cameron Consumption McKirdy**, the cuddly professional eater guy from Seaside, here. I’ve escaped New York City, where I competed in a **chugging contest** during the **2022 Nathan’s Famous Hot Dog Eating Championship** ...”

“On July 4, in Coney Island I went up against YouTube legend **Badlands Chugs (Eric Booker)** for the chugging title. The first to pound a gallon of lemonade wins.”

“I had no chance. My buddy, Badlands, was going for a world record, and he got it, drinking a gallon of pink lemonade in 20 seconds! I watched in astonishment, as the crowd clamored.” See it here: bit.ly/ChugginCam

Cam only had three weeks to prepare, so he was at a bit of a disadvantage, but he’s undaunted, and ready for more. Locals will recall this is not Cam’s first bout with competitive eating and drinking.

“Performing with my spectacular sideshow friends was the opportunity of a lifetime,” Cam recalled. “Plus, the 15-time Hot Dog Eating Champ, **Joey ‘Jaws’ Chestnut**, kindly signed my sports cards right before he choked out a trespasser on stage. God bless America!”

“Thanks for the support,” he added, “and positive comments, everyone.”

DISAPPOINTMENT



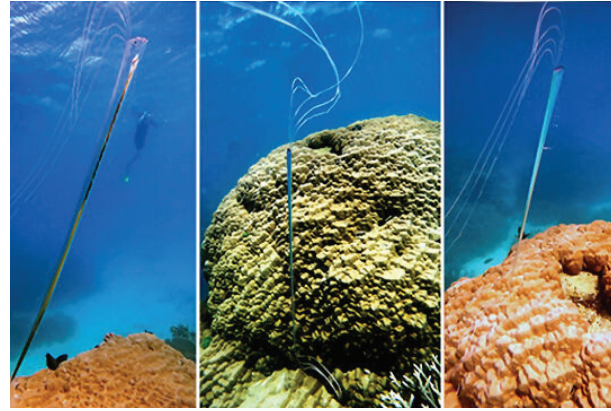
On July 3, when a crab pot was being hauled up from a depth of about 90 feet in Yaquina Bay in **Newport**, the fishermen were stunned to see a **giant Pacific octopus** had attached itself to the crab pot, hoping for a feast, no doubt, *MSN.com* reports.

And, as intelligent as these critters are, it would likely have figured out how to get into that pot for the tasty treats, sooner or later. **Nick Johnson** took a video of the incident as the disappointed octopus had its tentacle detached from the pot, and sank reluctantly back into the deep.

According to *NationalGeographic.com*, the giant Pacific octopus is, on average, about 16 feet across and 110 pounds, although the largest found to date was a whopping 30 feet across and more than 600 pounds.

Although they get bigger and live longer than other octopus species, the lifespan is only about four years. Dietary preferences for these night-feeders include fish, clams, lobsters and shrimp, not to mention the occasional shark or bird. (Photos: Nick Johnson/KPTV, OTLibrary.com)

A SECRET TREASURE



Great Barrier Reef guide **Tahn Miller** was at work in **Queensland, Australia**, guiding snorkelers, when his eye caught an unusually elongated fish gliding by, he told *9News.com.au*

“At first I couldn’t quite place what species of fish it was,” Miller said of the **juvenile oarfish**, “but then I saw the shiny mercury-colored body, two predominant eyes and the ultrafine dorsal fin running head to tail, undulating like mini waves propelling through the water ...” His photos are shown.

Experts confirmed his extremely rare find, the first on the eastern Australian coast. Oarfish are normally found at depths of around 600 feet. This fish’s body was about a foot long; adults can reach up to 26 feet long.

“At that moment I felt like the ocean had delivered a secret treasure to us,” Miller noted. “It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime encounter.”