

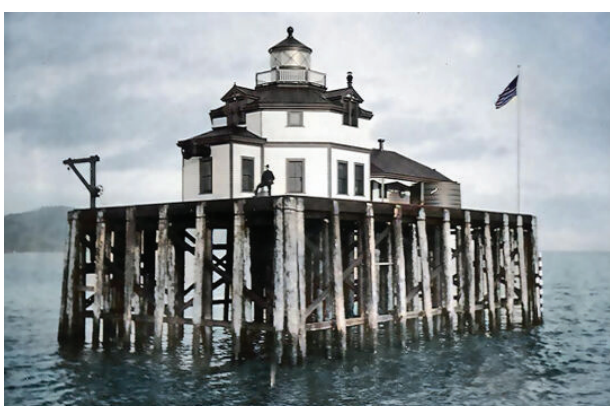
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IN ONE EAR • ELLEDA WILSON

## DESDEMONA SANDS



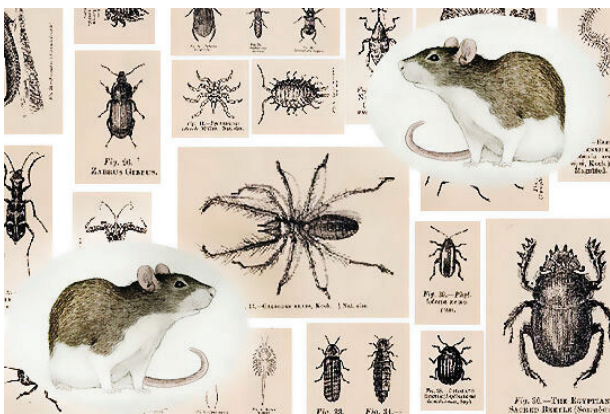
Since **National Lighthouse Day** was on Sunday, it seems like a good time to honor a now long-gone lighthouse, Desdemona Sands. It was built to join the other lighthouses warning of the Graveyard of the Pacific, Cape Disappointment, North Head and Point Adams. The lighthouse, and the sandy shoal it sat on in the Columbia River, were named after the Desdemona, a ship that ran aground there on Jan. 1, 1857.

Completed in 1902, and built on pilings, the lighthouse was a one and half story octagonal building; atop it was a lantern room with a fixed white light. Attached was a small building for the fog signal and an annex. The only other amenities were a water cistern and a boat to get back to Astoria. The lightkeeper was not allowed to bring his family along; they remained ashore.

Once the lighthouse had electricity in 1935, the light and foghorn could be operated from land, so there was no more need for a lightkeeper. In 1942, the structure was taken down, and replaced by a navigational aid. In the mid-1960s, the foundation was removed. The lighthouse lens is now at the Mukilteo Lighthouse; the original fog bell is at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

All that's left on the original site are the stubbles of some pilings, clearly visible from the Astoria Bridge at low tide. (Photo: U.S. Lighthouse Society Archives)

## NATURAL OPTIONS



Since it's that time of year, FarmersAlmanac.com offers **natural options to repel insects and critters**.

For ants, try a line of cream of tartar powder across the doorway; they won't cross it. Vinegar repels crawling bugs; use equal parts of vinegar and water in a spray bottle and wipe down surfaces. To send fleas, spiders, moths and cockroaches packing, put sachets filled with cedar chips all over the house.

If you're on a kill spree, food grade diatomaceous earth (nontoxic to humans and pets) kills fleas, earwigs, stinkbugs and cockroaches. Cinnamon powder sprinkled around windows and doorways deters mosquitoes, ants and spiders, and it smells good.

And, the pièce de résistance: Cotton balls soaked in peppermint or eucalyptus essential oil scoots mice and rats on their way. The Ear knows for a fact that it works like a charm.

## HELLO, GOONIES



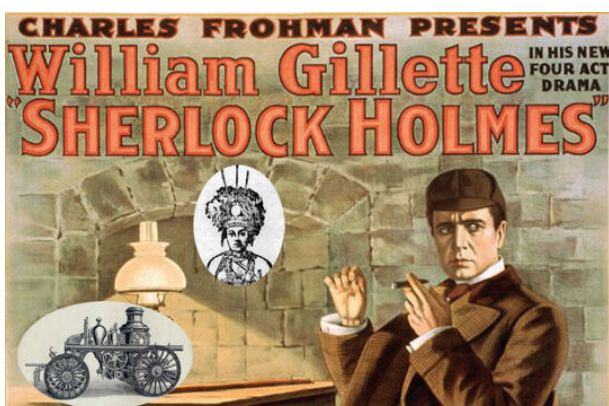
A recent headline in Willamette Week probably sent **"The Goonies"** fans into a five-alarm tizzy: "Astoria's Famous **Goonies House Has Reopened to Foot Traffic**."

The house, owned by **Sandi Preston**, has been closed to foot traffic since 2015, when rude and destructive fans during the film's 30th anniversary were overwhelming. Now it's official, but travel sites have apparently been mentioning the foot traffic reopening since last year.

The **Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce** and **Oregon Film Museum**, though, in a recent Facebook post, "continue to encourage fans to refrain from driving into the neighborhood to seek out the house," and ask that the house be photographed from afar, to give the little street's residents some peace and quiet.

"There were so many comments and everything about it ..." Preston told Willamette Week about the reopening. "It was just something that I felt I needed to do. I'll just leave it at that."

## LOCAL BREVITIES



Morsels from **The Daily Morning Astorian, Aug. 11, 1885:**

• The bursting of a privy vault at the Court Street schoolhouse Sunday morning made odorous the circumambient air. Strong men wept, and the fire engine of Rescue No. 2 was brought out, but got sick at the stomach and wouldn't work. Finally Rescue One's Amoskeag was started up, and after an hour or so it was comparatively safe to walk on Court Street ...

**Note:** An Amoskeag was a horse-drawn, steam-powered fire engine; they were built by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co. until 1876. As Amoskeag Locomotive Works, they were equally well known for building steam locomotives.

• A cable dispatch says: "It is reported that natives of the Hermit islands, in the Pacific Ocean, have eaten the crews of two merchant vessels ..."

**Note:** According to "An Island of Amazons," a 1903 article about the Hermit Islands in the Lake County Press of New Zealand: "It was whispered that (**Queen Piea Waar**) had made a ragout out of one or two of her husbands, who had not lived up to her expectations," but sailors were not on the menu because they have "such a salty flavor that (they are) unpalatable."

• **William H. Gillette**, who appears in "The Private Secretary," is himself a noted dramatist ... (he) will be at Boss' opera house next Monday night.

**Note:** In 1885, Gillette — who became one of the most famous actors in the country in the 1890s — was already a popular stage actor. People liked that he spoke his lines conversationally, not in the overly melodramatic style that was the norm at the time. He became particularly well known for his portrayal of **Sherlock Holmes**, a collaboration with the author, **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** — a very successful and lucrative partnership. Gillette's elaborate stone castle is a Connecticut landmark.

• People always get, and have, just as good officials as they want. The fact that a public officer is a scoundrel, a thief or a go-between is evidence sufficient to show that the community that endures him doesn't want a better man.

## HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE



In late July, Prineville resident **Don "Dundee" Martin** completed an arduous 2,400 mile trek on foot across the **Oregon Trail** from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon City to honor the **pioneers** who used the trail in the 1800s, he told BakerCityHerald.com. He had a wagon and an ox (a push wagon and a stuffed toy ox), dressed as the pioneers did and ate mostly dried goods.

One modern addition to his crossing the Oregon Trail was a Garmin GPS that tracked him along the trail, which meanders over both public and private land now. You can read his journal at [bit.ly/TrailJournal](http://bit.ly/TrailJournal).

It was a "cultural and historical pilgrimage ... an opportunity to get away from your day-to-day life ... get a different sense of perspective and do some self reflection," Martin said.

"After the trail went out of use, people almost immediately forgot about it ... Arguably, the trail should be 2,000 miles of hallowed ground," he noted, referring to the thousands of unmarked pioneer graves all along the way.

"I don't want the net of all this to be for people to experience the trail vicariously through me," he told EastIdahoNews.com. "I want them to be excited and motivated to go out and grab a piece of the trail for themselves." (Photo: Kalama Hines, EastIdahoNews.com)

## RANDY'S PLAQUE



**I** noticed this **plaque** on the last bridge on the Astoria Riverwalk near **Alderbrook**," **Vera Broyles** asked recently on the Astoria Riverwalk fans Facebook page. "Who is Randy, and what's the story behind it?"

His mother, **Susan M. Cronan Lenart**, replied that he is **Randy Lenart**, 37, who died suddenly May 24, when "his heart gave out." He had a food cart across from the Astoria City Hall.

For those who missed his obituary, here's a bit of it, also provided by his mother: "He was a coastal chef who would make you any kind of chowder except clam chowder ... He knew the best ways to spend a lazy afternoon and was the person you wanted at your party. He had excellent taste in science fiction and dirty romances. He'd dress in a silver-spangled leotard or a suit from the 1970s — whatever was true to the mood of the moment. He loved people, even while acknowledging that most of us are idiots. He was always ready help out his friends, or have a conversation."

The trestle was a favorite hangout for Randy, one poster commented, so his friends had the plaque put there in his memory.

## RELIEVED AND GRATEFUL



**"T**hank goodness for small towns!" **Nancy Murray** of Naselle, Washington, wrote on Aug. 2. "I drove up to South Bend, Washington, this afternoon to take **Bella** (pictured) to the veterinarian.

"I had 15 minutes to spare, so I swung around the back of my favorite thrift shop, **Grace Community Thrift Store**, to check out their 'free' pile. I got out of the truck to take a closer look, and closed the truck door behind me, so that Bella wouldn't jump out. I scanned the free pile for 30 seconds or less, grabbed a nice little green purse, and turned to get back in the truck.

"Nope! I had locked myself out, and locked Bella, my keys, my phone and my purse inside. Windows closed tight, sun beating down, 70-plus degree weather, vet appointment in 30 minutes! Yikes!"

Yikes, indeed. If it's 75 degrees outside, it can reach 94 degrees inside a car or truck in 10 minutes, and 109 degrees in 30 minutes. Worse yet, dogs can only cool themselves by panting.

Nancy ran back to the thrift ship and quickly found **Margie Russell Lewis**, who called the police department for help.

"I went back outside and found a big white plastic blanket thing, and threw it over my windshield to keep the cab of the truck from overheating while I waited. Bella was fine, of course, looking at me from inside the truck with her big brown eyes.

"Within 10 minutes **South Bend Police Chief Lucas Stigall** showed up, and got the door open! I was so relieved and grateful, I wanted to hug him. He was less enthusiastic, so no hug ..."

"We made it to our vet appointment," she added, "with five minutes to spare!"

## WHAT'S THAT?



**D**o you ever have a problem answering when a tourist asks you **what kind of ship** is sailing by on the Columbia River? As Judge Judy says, "Umm is not an answer."

**GCaptain** has a handy-dandy guide to what's what, [bit.ly/WhatShip](http://bit.ly/WhatShip), with a description and photo of each type of commercial vessel you're likely to see, from crude carriers, to dry bulk carriers, to container ships (one is shown), to Pure Car and Truck Carriers, aka roll-ons (roll-on, roll-off).

Of course, if you really want to dazzle 'em, send them to [MarineTraffic.com](http://MarineTraffic.com), so they can see exactly who and what is where on the river around Astoria, and around the world, at any given time.