

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2005

Concerns about the impacts that a liquefied natural gas receiving terminal at Tansy Point would have on the livability of Warrenton mixed with calls to let the permitting process proceed at a special Warrenton City Commission meeting Wednesday night.

A packed house at the Warrenton Community Center heard from consultants involved in the proposed project and from Warrenton citizens opposed to an LNG facility on the lower Columbia River. For the most part the crowd complied with Warrenton Mayor Gil Gramson's request to hold their applause or comments. More than 145 people were in the room, and the fire marshal had to turn people away at the door to comply with fire codes.

The project itself involves constructing an LNG import terminal that would receive about one shipload of the supercooled fossil fuel every 10 days, Robert Wyatt of WRC International told the audience.

There will be hundreds of meetings between the project sponsor and members of the public, he said, adding that in Puerto Rico, where he was involved in developing an LNG terminal, "by the time we got to the permitting hearings, nobody came" because they were behind the project or satisfied with the proposal.

Many Warrenton residents are far from that point.

Public uproar over Charter Communications' decision to cut off cable access to Oregon Public Broadcasting and KOPB-FM is an excellent indication that local people value National Public Radio and other OPB programming.

It wasn't all smooth sailing for Lewis and Clark, either.

The organizers of the Bicentennial festival commemorating the explores' arrival at the Pacific say despite some bumps in the road, including the recent resignation of a member of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Association, the event is on track.

50 years ago — 1965

Gov. Mark Hatfield, in presenting the governor's beautification trophy for 1964 to Seaside at a public banquet attended by approximately 320 people Wednesday night at the Seaside, said it was achieved "through much effort and creative spirit by all the people of Seaside."

The Port of Astoria commission should expand and remodel the boat basin at Fishermen's Dock to accommodate up to 500 boats and lease or sell the East End mooring basin, a firm of consulting engineers has recommended.

The firm Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield had been engaged to study the mooring basin problem which has plagued the port commission for more than a decade.

The report listed the following advantages of Fishermen's Dock: Two and a half miles closer to the ocean; quiet water in the basin; more supporting facilities nearby; it is preferred by most commercial fishermen; it is preferred by most Portland sport boat owners who visit here; more conveniently located to the port office; the entire water area is owned by the port; there are adjacent areas capable of development for shore facilities; the water area is free of abandoned structures; it is more conveniently located to the airport and beach resorts.

Adm. E.J. Roland, commandant of the Coast Guard, has told congressmen that the need for moving helicopter operations at Astoria, Ore., has presented a "possibly awkward situation."

The commandant, in House appropriations committee testimony released today, said funds were appropriated only last year to establish a helicopter station at the former Tongue Point Naval Station.

Now, Roland noted, the Job Corps apparently plans to take over the entire Tongue Point facility and it might be necessary "to increase the scope of the 1964 project by acquisition of a site and construction of a hanger at the local Clatsop County airport.

75 years ago — 1940

Improved highways and better cars have greatly increased long distance tourist travel, Harold B. Say, director of the travel and information bureau of the Oregon State Highway Commission, today told the "town meeting" audience of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce at the Astoria hotel.

To attract travelers to Oregon, the state has 4500 points throughout the country whence tourist publicity printed by various organizations including the highway commission, Chambers of Commerce, and railway companies, is distributed. Numerous advertisements in newspapers and national magazines bring the charms of Oregon scenery and climate to the American people.

Clatsop County has a great advantage because of its historic background and ocean scenery in drawing travelers, the director observed.

The acute space shortage among a decreasing number of ships calling at the Columbia River continued to crystallize among lower Columbia lumber mills this week as Pacific coast shippers prepared to meet in San Francisco to seek a solution to the freight problem.

The Astoria library contains a small but valuable collection of rare old works on Oregon and Northwest history — a fact not generally known to Astoria residents.

So rare are some of the books, in fact, that Stanley Young, former Astorian now holding high position with the U.S. biological survey, found on a recent visit here reference works he had been unable to find elsewhere.

These books are not of course in general circulation, or even available in the reference room, but are kept by Miss Katherine Barker, librarian, in a room not available to the public except by special permission.

Among the most valuable is "The Columbia River," by Ross Cox, a member of the Astor party and a resident in the Northwest for six years after the Astor enterprise folded up.

When do we know too much?

READING CAN BE AN adventure. I spend time every day looking at regional and national media.

After a couple years' of occasionally reading *The Wall Street Journal*, I've bought a six-month subscription. Its Friday and Saturday editions are loaded with provocative criticism. While its opinion pages have become a predictable Republican Party clubhouse, they also contain some very interesting arguments. And the news product contains eye-opening reporting.

Reading adventurously is a lesson that my best high school teacher emphasized. Philip Farley urged us to read magazines that carried critical thinking.

Specialty publishing has created fascinating nooks and crannies. My most recent discovery is the *Hedgehog Review*, which carries "critical reflections on contemporary culture." A product of the University of Virginia, the quarterly's motto is taken from a Greek poet, Archilochus: "The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing."



EACH ISSUE OF HEDGEHOG has a themed section. The cover topic of the spring issue is "Too Much Information." Another way of describing the theme would be: When we lost our privacy. Or, when we cooperate in the loss of our privacy."

This didn't just happen, says Sarah E. Igo. She writes: "Commentators of all stripes present threats to personal privacy as novel, even unprecedented. Yet the conditions they bewail, including the brave new world of Big Data and self-publicity, have been long in the making."

That may be. But many of us of a certain age can reflect on how different things were in our youth.

While working in Washington, D.C., I had my first journalistic experience of talking frequently with people whom I had never met and likely never would. I believe sociologists call that a secondary relationship. Primary relationships are in-person, face-to-face.

Some 25 years later, in the digital world I receive email from people who haven't even taken the trouble to call me and establish a telephone

'The time has come,' the Walrus said,
'To talk of many things;
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax —
Of cabbages — and kings —'

Through the Looking-glass



of Cabbages and Kings

The HEDGEHOG REVIEW Critical Reflections on Contemporary Culture

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relationship. It is especially jarring when it comes from politicians, because politics is, at bottom, about the body politic and developing relationships with constituents.

adults recognize the hazards of too much exposure online — because nothing goes away.

In *Hedgehog*, Wilfred M. McClay writes about the need for things to be erased from the Internet. "Every one of us has done and said things we wish could be forgotten, and in the fullness of time they generally are. Or so it used to be."

McClay reports that, "the top court of the European Union has ruled that its existing data protection law guarantees 'the right to be forgotten.'"

He closes his essay with this aphorism: "We need to retain less if we are to remember more." That's worth pondering.

—SAF

What happens when nothing is forgotten?

ONE PHYSICIAN

whom I interviewed on the topic of child obesity said that he counsels new parents on limiting their child's television time. Now, I gather, that has become a more general admonition about "screen time," which includes computers and mobile devices. Last week the National Park Service reported that its visitor numbers are up, except that visits by young people had fallen. That phenomenon has been called "nature deficit disorder." Richard Louv coined that phrase in a 2005 book.



THE BURGEONING OF THE cyber world coincided with our children's early years. Now, many young



Religious liberty and equality

By DAVID BROOKS

New York Times News Service

Over the past few decades the United States has engaged in a great struggle to balance civil rights and religious liberty.

On the one hand, there is a growing consensus that straight, gay and lesbian people deserve full equality with each other.

We are to be judged by how we love, not by whom we love. If denying gays and lesbians their full civil rights and dignity is not wrong, then nothing is wrong. Gays and lesbians should not only be permitted to marry and live as they want, but be honored for doing so.

On the other hand, this was a nation founded on religious tolerance. The ways of the Lord are mysterious and are understood differently by different traditions. At their best, Americans have always believed that people should have the widest possible latitude to exercise their faith as they see fit or not exercise any

faith. While there are many bigots, there are also many wise and deeply humane people whose most deeply held religious beliefs contain heterosexual definitions of marriage. These people are worthy of tolerance, respect and gentle persuasion.

At its best, the gay rights movement has promoted its cause while carefully respecting religious liberty and the traditional pillars of U.S. society. The cause has focused on marriage and military service. It has not staged a frontal assault on the exercise of faith.

The 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which was supported by Sen. Ted Kennedy and a wide posse of progressives, sidestepped the abstract and polarizing theological argument. It focused on the concrete facts of specific cases. The

act basically holds that government sometimes has to infringe on religious freedom in order to pursue equality and other goods, but, when it does, it should have a compelling reason and should infringe in the least intrusive way possible.

This moderate, grounded, incremental strategy has produced amazing results. Fewer people have to face the horror of bigotry, isolation, marginalization and prejudice.

Yet I wonder if this phenomenal achievement is going off the rails. Indiana has passed a state law like the 1993 federal act, and sparked an incredible firestorm.

If the opponents of that law were arguing that the Indiana statute tightens the federal standards a notch too far, that would be compelling. But that's not the argument the opponents are making.

Instead, the argument seems to be that the federal act's concrete case-by-case approach is wrong. The opponents seem to be saying there is no valid tension between religious pluralism and equality. Claims of religious liberty are covers for anti-gay bigotry.

This deviation seems unwise both as a matter of pragmatics and as a matter of principle. In the first place, if there is no attempt to balance religious liberty and civil rights, the cause of gay rights will be associated with coercion, not liberation. Some people have lost their jobs for expressing opposition to gay marriage. There are too many stories like the Oregon bakery that may have to pay a \$150,000 fine because it preferred not to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex ceremony. A movement that stands for tolerance does not want to be on the side of a government that compels a photogra-



David Brooks

pher who is an evangelical Christian to shoot a same-sex wedding that he would rather avoid.

Furthermore, the evangelical movement is evolving. Many young evangelicals understand that their faith should not be defined by this issue. If orthodox Christians are suddenly written out of polite society as modern-day Bull Connors, this would only halt progress, polarize the debate and lead to a bloody war of all against all.

As a matter of principle, it is simply the case that religious liberty is a value deserving our deepest respect, even in cases where it leads to disagreements as fundamental as the definition of marriage.

Morality is a politeness of the soul. Deep politeness means we make accommodations. Certain basic truths are inalienable. Discrimination is always wrong. In cases of actual bigotry, the hammer comes down. But as neighbors in a pluralistic society we try to turn philosophic clashes (about right and wrong) into neighborly problems in which different people are given space to have different lanes to lead lives. In cases where people with different values disagree, we seek a creative accommodation.

In the Jewish community, conservative Jews are generally polite toward Orthodox Jews who wouldn't use their cutlery. Men are generally polite to Orthodox women who would prefer not to shake their hands. In the larger community, this respectful politeness works best.

The movement to champion gay rights is now in a position where it can afford to offer this respect, at a point where steady pressure works better than compulsion.

It's always easier to take an absolutist position. But, in a clash of values like the one between religious pluralism and equality, that absolutism is neither pragmatic, virtuous nor true.