

# 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

It was Mother's Day, so cut flowers were a hot commodity as the 2005 season of the Astoria Sunday Market got underway. Many happy moms were carrying bouquets wrapped in white paper as they strolled along 12th Street.

**Fish counters at Bonneville Dam have posted the highest numbers of the season for spring chinook salmon, with 6,065 swimming through the first Columbia River fish ladders they encounter as they head inland from the Pacific to spawn.**

**The Thursday tally, released Friday, was more than double Wednesday's total of 2,542.**

Determined and skilled terrorists would likely be able to get around security measures meant to prevent an attack on tankers carrying liquefied natural gas up Narragansett Bay, R.I., according to a report released Monday.

The report, prepared by counterterrorism expert Richard Clarke at the request of Attorney General Patrick Lynch, an opponent of expanding LNG on the bay, paints a picture of potentially harrowing consequences from an attack — from mass casualties to devastating the local economy.

**After months of rumors, Home Depot actually is coming to Warrenton. The new store, to be built on the west side of U.S. Highway 101 near Dolphin Avenue, could open its doors as soon as fall of 2006, said Warrenton Planning Director Patrick Wingard.**

Clatsop County wants the city of Warrenton to give a more thorough review to any effort to build a liquefied natural gas facility in the community.

A divided board of commissioners voted Wednesday to appeal the Warrenton planning department's recent ruling that an LNG plant could be allowed outright in the city's 1-2 Water Dependent Industrial Shorelands zone.

### 50 years ago — 1965

**Arthur Anderson, skipper of the drag boat Washington, telephoned the Daily Astorian Sunday afternoon and again Monday morning to report a Russian trawler was fishing near him, 20 to 25 miles west of Cape Disappointment.**

**Anderson said the Russian vessel had the name "Adlar" painted on its side. He said it is a white boat, 140 to 150 feet long, and a beautiful craft.**

The Oregon Historical Landmarks committee, after two days of visits to old homes in Astoria and Warrenton, recommended further investigation of 11 in Astoria and 3 in Warrenton as possibly "meriting recognition for purpose of marking."

The committee, designated by Gov. Mark Hatfield, will also consider a suitable form of marker to be used to mark old homes of historic interest.

**The Puget Sound fishing boat Zapora brought in 18,000 pounds of halibut caught just west of the Columbia River, indicating that fine halibut fishing banks existed in that area.**

U.S. Maritime Administrator Nicholas Johnson admitted Tuesday in a letter to Rep. Wendell Wyatt that the administration plans to "phase out" Astoria reserve fleet base over five years.

Wyatt notified the Daily Astorian by telephone from Washington, D.C., that he had received Johnson's letter, dated May 10, in response to his demand for explanation of plans he had discovered to close the base.

Wyatt said he immediately wrote back to Johnson expressing complete dissatisfaction with the arguments for closing the base and with Johnson's explanation of why he had not been notified.

**President Johnson said today the Viet Nam conflict was part of a Chinese Communist drive to take over all of Asia and he pledged: "They shall never succeed."**

### 75 years ago — 1940

The Tongue Point Naval Air Base at Astoria, Ore., will be designated for expansion, probably to double its present authorized strength, under legislation which is scheduled to come before the naval affairs committee of the house for consideration in the immediate future.

This proposal was disclosed to Congressman James W. Mott, Republican, Ore., today by Chairman Vinson of the house naval affairs committee, who within the next few days will submit to the committee a new naval shore station bill designed to strengthen the aerial defenses of the Pacific and other coast lines of continental United States.

**Continued presence of the huge U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga and other units of the United States fleet in Hawaiian waters has caused Japanese in Tokyo and Honolulu to express unfavorable reaction. "Some Japanese might look upon the move suspiciously," said the Japanese consul general in Honolulu.**

Sharpsighting Toivo Puustinen of Svensen is the greatest enemy of the Columbia River hair seal which destroys thousands of salmon every year.

The Oregon fish commission paid the Svensen seal hunter \$1610 Monday for 161 seals he bagged from February 13, 1940 to May 1. During the past year he has collected \$2,266 on 226 seals whose scalps he has turned over to Victor Jackson, fish warden, as claims for the \$10 bounty paid through the fish commission.

**This spring's migration of sheep into Clatsop County stumpled pastures continued this week when Fred A. Stinchfield, Mayville stock raiser, unloaded 400 head of sheep from a train at Terra, near Vernonia, and trailed them 15 miles into the Stinchfield holdings on the south slope of the Nehalem valley.**

Bad news for the city's census clean-up campaign come today in the shape of a letter from F.A. McCall, district census supervisor at Rainier, reporting that indications are now for a decrease in Astoria's population.

# What would Washington Irving do?

By R.J. MARX  
 EO Media Group: By R.J. Marx

As the new editor of two South County bi-weeklies, the *Cannon Beach Gazette* and *Seaside Signal*, I've been invited to provide my observations about the "big city," Astoria, for *The Daily Astorian*.

As a miserable ink-stained wretch for the past two decades or so, I couldn't resist the opportunity.

However, I do think it is a bit presumptuous to write authoritatively about a community that I have inhabited for less than a month, and it's fair to say that the territory has been covered in some depth by such distinguished authors as Washington Irving, Peter Stark and Matt Love. So, *Jeopardy*-style, I've decided to approach this using the Socratic method.

1. What was Washington Irving doing writing about Astoria? My wife Eve and I recently moved to Gearhart from Westchester County, N.Y. In fact she even won the Westchester Library Association's Washington Irving Award in 2001 for her book of short stories, *View From the Porch*.

Westchester is where Washington Irving lived most of his life, creating beloved characters like the Headless Horseman, Ichabod Crane and Rip Van Winkle. Apparently John Jacob Astor offered him a boatload of money in 1834 to promote what has been critically dismissed as a "fawn-



R.J. Marx

ing biographical account" of Astor's new settlement. Maybe the critics were right. Of his patron John Jacob Astor, Irving wrote lubriciously: "He was already wealthy beyond the ordinary desires of man, but he now aspired to that honorable fame which is awarded to men of similar scope of mind, who by their commercial enterprises have enriched nations, peopled wildernesses and extended the bounds of empire." Is Irving's *Astoria* legitimate history or historical hack-work?

2. Rain: sheets and panes? In the short period of time we've been here the weather has been rather magnificent. Yes, some rain, but not the kind of "sheets and panes" that author Matt Love soliloquizes in *A Nice Piece of Astoria*.

Mostly sun, really. But the numbers — 240 rain days per year — are foreboding. We asked a co-worker about the rain. "Let me ask you about the winter rain," I said. "Does it ever rain so hard, in such torrents that you have to pull over to the side of the road?" She wrinkled up her nose, confused. "What do you mean?" "I mean, in the East, sometimes it pours so hard you can't see in front of you and you have to stop driving and wait it out. Does that happen here?" "Oh, no, that doesn't happen here," she said. I want to believe her. Should I?

3. Is Astoria the new Portland? Or something like that? We don't have any skin in this game, although our son Sam is a card-carrying Portland hipster, down to the personalized growler and devotion to pad thai. Everywhere we go we hear that



Frederick Simpson Image from "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Originally published/produced in New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1899.

"Astoria is the new Portland," or the "new San Francisco," or the "new Seattle." Jordan, who gave me a perfect haircut at Astoria's 12th Street Barbers, winced and snapped, "We hope not!" Anonymous in the *Portland Mercury* wrote: "Is Portland swallowing up Astoria? No! Astoria is not an extended suburb, satellite or neighborhood." What do you think?

My final comment is not in the form of a question, rather a thank-you for welcoming this Washington Irving-manqué into the neighborhood, where I know I will never have difficulty finding a perfect cup of coffee, craft beer or bowl of chowder. Cheers!

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# At Rutgers, it's books vs. ballgames

By JOE NOCERA  
 New York Times News Service

It's not exactly a secret that big-time college sports often distort priorities on university campuses.

But every once in a while, something bursts into public view to put those priorities in glaring relief.

A recent example is a fight that is taking place at Rutgers University. The dispute pits faculty members who want to restrain the athletic department's out-of-control costs against some powerful alumni who want the Rutgers athletic department to spend even more money to better compete in its new conference, the Big Ten.

Guess who's likely to win? Although Rutgers is said to have played the first U.S. college football game — against Princeton, in 1869 — it has never been an athletic powerhouse. In the 1990s, yearning to join the elite, Rutgers became part of the Big East Conference. But, with the exception of women's basketball, its overall athletic performance has generally remained mediocre.

What's more, the Rutgers athletic department has consistently run large deficits; indeed, since the 2005-06 academic year, deficits have exceeded \$20 million a year. In the last academic year, Rutgers athletics generated \$40.3 million in revenue but spent \$76.7 million, leaving a deficit of more than \$36 million. In other words, revenue barely covered half the department's expenses.

And how did the university cover this shortfall? Partly, it used its own funds, to the tune of \$26 million last year, money that might have gone to professors' salaries or other academic needs. It also took it out of the hide

of the students themselves, who have been assessed steadily rising fees to help cover the athletic department's deficit. Last year, fees that went to athletics amounted to \$10 million.

A few years ago, in an effort to relieve the financial pressure, Rutgers accepted an invitation to join the Big Ten, perhaps the wealthiest conference in the country. With football powers like Ohio State and Michigan, the Big Ten not only has lucrative deals with ABC and ESPN but also has its own TV network. Thanks to those TV deals, last year the Big Ten paid out some \$27 million to its 11 qualifying universities.

Yet even with the Big Ten's money (and to be fair, as a new member, Rutgers won't reap the full rewards for six years), the Rutgers athletic department is projecting deficits at least through the 2021-22. Indeed, according to figures compiled by a faculty committee, Rutgers athletics is projecting a total deficit of \$183 million between now and 2022.

You can see, of course, why this would infuriate faculty members — or, for that matter, anyone who cares about a c a d e m i c s. Like most state schools, Rutgers has seen its state financing shrink drastically over the past decade, while tuition and fees have been going up. Academic departments have had multiple rounds of belt-tightening.

"At the school of arts and sciences," said Mark Killingsworth, a Rutgers economics professor who has been a leading voice against the athletic department's costs, "we have been told that we can hire one person for every two who leave."

The library, he noted, recently had its budget cut by more than \$500,000. Meanwhile, Kyle Flood, the foot-



Joe Nocera

ball coach, is getting a \$200,000 raise next year, taking his salary to \$1.25 million.

In late March, the Rutgers faculty senate approved, by a wide margin, a report written by its Budget and Finance Committee that called on the athletic department to eliminate its losses within five years; to end the use of student fees to cover the athletic budget; and to treat the use of discretionary funds as loans.

Almost immediately afterward, a powerful Rutgers alumnus, state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, commissioned a study aimed at showing that Rutgers needed to invest more in athletics, not less. Why? One reason is the supposed economic benefits that come with a successful sports program. Another rationale is that now that Rutgers is in the Big Ten, it will have to step up its game to compete — which, of course, would require lavish facilities, just like those at Ohio State and Michigan.

Lesniak, who just filed a bill that would give Rutgers \$25 million in tax credits for infrastructure projects, clearly relishes the idea of Rutgers becoming, as he puts it, "Big Ten-ready." So do others alums, including Greg Brown, the chairman of the Rutgers Board of Governors.

"We weren't interested in joining the Big Ten," Brown said after one board meeting. "We were interested in competing and winning in the Big Ten."

And if that requires spending money, well, that's what the big boys do.

Responds Killingsworth: "The mantra has always been that if we spend enough money, we'll have good teams, and generate more revenue. It's never happened."

Rutgers is an enormous public institution, with an annual budget of \$3.6 billion. It is responsible for educating 65,000 students. Why isn't that more important than competing in the Big Ten?

Why does the tail always wag the dog?

Note: of Cabbages and Kings column will return next week.

## Where to write

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