

# 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

Clatsop County woke up with its Port Commission intact after three members who supported the Calpine lease survived a challenge from opponents of the proposed liquefied natural gas plant and the secretive way the lease was handled.

In the end, the trio of incumbents on the Port of Astoria's Board of Commissioners beat their challengers by fairly significant margins. The port race was a highly contested one, with five candidates challenging the three incumbents, Larry Phund, Glenn Taggart and Dan Hess.

**A preliminary study of harvest plans for the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests indicates the proposed level of timber sales cannot be sustained without sacrificing wildlife habitat improvements.**

**The Oregon Department of Forestry study concludes proposed logging levels are about 30 percent more than the forests can sustain if they are to boost populations of salmon, elk, spotted owls and other species.**

**Reducing the logging rate could trim about \$15 million in annual timber revenue split among schools, coastal counties and other programs.**

SEASIDE — "10 ... 9 ... 8 ..." Sabers waved. It was 11:59 p.m., and the long wait was finally over.

There were many sabers on guard at the midnight showing of "Revenge of the Sith" Wednesday night. There were saber fights in the parking lot. There were capes, Star Wars T-shirts, Star Wars hats, Leia hairstyles and a lot of enthusiasm from the mostly teenaged and young adult crowd.

"They'll kill me if I don't let them in," a worker reported before opening the doors at 10 p.m. Some fans had been in line since Monday.

### 50 years ago — 1965

**The city government obtained data on the ages of Astoria population last winter when it had Portland State College officials conduct a census.**

**This census showed the city had 9,672 inhabitants.**

**The most striking fact about this age analysis is the preponderance of the very young and the elderly. Nearly a third of the people are under 20; more than a third are over 50. A full 20 percent are over 60.**

**Astoria has lost population in the past two decades. It seems obvious from the above statistics that the people we have lost are mostly in the age groups from 20 to 40. We have fewer than 2,000 inhabitants and less than 20 percent of our total in these two age brackets, the ones containing the young and vigorous elements of the population.**

**As soon as young people finished school, they evidently have drifted elsewhere. We have educated them for the benefit of other communities which have had jobs to offer them that Astoria could not.**

**This population analysis shows why we need industry here.**

Ben Gropnell, Jewell, brought to The Daily Astorian office several aged receipts for the Astorian, dated in 1873 and 1874, when his grandfather, Capt. Spears, a river boat and sea captain, took the paper at the now-defunct town of Knappton, Wash. The Astorian cost \$5 a year in those days against \$16.50 today, but most commodities have gone up in price a great deal more in 90 years.

**The many phases of progress which are changing Clatskanie from a small town of around 700 population to a city of an expected 5,000 has created problems for the city council and property owners and business alike, since Crown Zellerbach corporation announced the \$90 million mill at Wauna and prospects for a new industry at the Beaver site appeared.**

### 75 years ago — 1940

Folger Johnson, administrator for the Federal Housing authority in Oregon, told the Chamber of Commerce forum luncheon today the FHA is eager to cooperate with Astoria home builders in meeting the expressed emergency need for 200 or 300 more houses.

Johnson declared the Oregon FHA is taking into consideration 11 percent higher construction costs here, climatic requirements for more costly building and is ignoring some neighborhood characteristics ordinarily devaluating property. He denied, however, the agency was in any way discriminating against Astoria and declared sluggish building activity here is not entirely the fault of FHA but probably the poor cooperation among other factors involved.

**Tent caterpillars are unusually abundant in the city this spring, with trees in all sections of the town badly infested, numerous residents report.**

**Many people have been busy burning the insects, but the in-road still persists. In some places they have invaded automobiles and houses and have dropped on the sidewalks in masses.**

**The city government has no funds to fight the caterpillars, so solution of the problem is up to individual residents.**

With 481 youngsters entered in the Pet Parade today, the show was a grand success for the happy exhibitors, the thousands of spectators and the animals themselves. In the dog division alone, 231 entries were reported.

With Havlik's junior band leading the way, the procession of pet escorts started at 10 a.m. From the empty lot in front of Recreation hall and filed west on Commercial Street. Sharp-eyed judges made awards as the procession continued down Commercial Street.

**The first pilchard cannery in the Northwest will be in operation here during the coming season.**

**A two-line plant, with a daily capacity of 1,000 cases of 48 one-pound oval cans is now being installed in the old Behmidt cold storage plant at the foot of First Street.**

# Every parent's nightmare

**'IT'S EVERY PARENT'S Nightmare.'** That phrase has meaning in every decade of every era. It generally connotes dangerous activity in which their child's life might be in jeopardy.

The kidnapping story that ended in Astoria last week gave new meaning to the parent's nightmare. A 15-year-old California girl had a disagreement with her mother. She shared her emotion with a "boy" with whom she had built an online relationship. He suggested a one-day "vacation." The girl packed her overnight bag and went off to the meeting.

The 18-year-old turned out to be 48. And a predator. He forced her to join him on a road trip that ended at the McDonald's restaurant in Astoria. That's where she contacted police. Police found her kidnapper on gated Cannon Beach forest property. The girl's parents drove here to pick her up.

If you follow national news stories, you have read about the tragic outcomes of online bullying. That is one aspect of what the Internet has added to the adventure of childhood and child-rearing. Now we have this most recent example.



THE DIGITAL, ONLINE world has come upon us so seemingly quickly that it has created wreckage that people struggle to understand.

In the business world, one learns to be wary of online companies that make extravagant promises. It is an environment akin to the Wild West, where people talk big, take your money and disappear. This phenomenon revealed itself in former Gov. John Kitzhaber's Cover Oregon software fiasco. It is a wonder that Kitzhaber was not wary enough to protect himself and Oregon in its relationship with the giant Oracle.

When the Wild West of the online world invades a family, it is time to add chapters to the primer on parenting.

When I've talked with parents about the kidnapping story, I learn of strategies some of them already have in place. One mother knows the passwords on her son and daughter's devices.



MANY OF US HAVE SEEN the phenomenon of a couple at lunch or dinner with one or both

'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



AP Photo, File

**B.B. King, left, and an accompanist perform during the opening of the 1980 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. King died Thursday, peacefully in his sleep at his Las Vegas home at age 89, his lawyer said.**

### There was joy in B.B. King's music-making.

of them focused on their mobile devices, not on each other. And, yes, sometimes these are middle-aged couples.

The Modern Love column in last Sunday's *New York Times* Style section was about a young woman who grew tired of a relationship that was more electronic than personal. Being unable to get commitment from her boyfriend, she left him.

Her next companion was 10 years older and this is how she described the new experience. "We engaged in face-to-face, eye-to-eye conversations about books (actual hold-them-in-your-hands books!) and about our ideas and hopes, unencumbered by the need to take selfies or choose filters or stare at our phones."



ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE's obituary of B.B. King last Friday mentioned his two best albums, including *Live at the Regal*. That sent me to the collection of vinyl that my wife and I gathered in the years before we met. I must have bought *Live at the Regal* in 1971 at a small record shop on Portland's S.W.

Park Avenue, which I passed on my way home. The album was marked \$3.50.

During the 1980s, my wife and I saw B.B. King perform at Constitution Hall, near the White House. His collaborator that night was Bobby (Blue) Bland, a Tennessee-born bluesman.

While Bobby was on the downside of his career, B.B. was all there. He never seemed to lose the clarity of his voice or his guitar playing. There was a joy about his music-making. It was a great night.



# Learning from history's mistakes

By DAVID BROOKS

*New York Times News Service*

**I**f you could go back to 1889 and strangle Adolf Hitler in his crib, would you do it?

At one level, the answer is obvious. Of course, you should.

If there had been no Hitler, presumably the Nazi Party would have lacked the charismatic leader it needed to rise to power. Presumably, there would have been no World War II, no Holocaust, no millions dead on the Eastern and Western fronts.

But, on the other hand, if there were no World War II, you wouldn't have had the infusion of women into the workforce. You wouldn't have had the GI Bill and the rapid expansion of higher education. You wouldn't have had the pacification of Europe, Pax-Americana, which led to decades of peace and prosperity, or the end of the British and other empires.

History is an infinitely complex web of causations. To erase mistakes from the past is to obliterate your world now. You can't go back and know then what you know now. You can't step in the same river twice.

So it's really hard to give simple sound-bite answers about past mistakes. The question, would you go back and undo your errors, is unanswerable. It's only useful to ask, what wisdom have you learned from your misjudgments that will help you going forward?

Which brings us to Iraq. From the current vantage point, the decision to go to war was a clear misjudgment, made by President George W. Bush and supported by 72 percent of the American public who were polled at the time. I

supported it, too.

What can be learned?

The first obvious lesson is that we should look at intelligence products with a more skeptical eye. There's a fable going around now that the intelligence about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction was all coaxed by political pressure, that there was a big political conspiracy to lie us into war.

That doesn't gibe with the facts. Anybody conversant with the Robb-Silberman report from 2005 knows that this was a case of human fallibility. This exhaustive, bipartisan commission found "a major intelligence failure": "The failure was not merely that the Intelligence Community's assessments were wrong. There were also serious shortcomings in the way these assessments were made and communicated to policy makers."

The Iraq War error reminds us of the need for epistemological modesty. We don't know much about the world, and much of our information is wrong. A successful president has to make decisions while radiating hesitancy, staying open-minded in the face of new evidence, not falling into the traps that afflict those who possess excessive self-confidence.

The second lesson of Iraq concerns this question: How much can we really change other nations? Every foreign policy dilemma involves a calibration. Should we lean forward to try to influence this or that region? Or should we hang back figuring we'll just end up making everything worse.

After the 1990s, many of us were leaning in the interventionist direction.



David Brooks

We'd seen the fall of the apartheid regime, which made South Africa better. We'd seen the fall of communist regimes, which made the Eastern bloc nations better. Many of us thought that, by taking down Saddam Hussein, we could end another evil empire, and gradually open up human development in Iraq and the Arab world.

Has that happened? In 2004, I would have said yes. In 2006, I would have said no. In 2015, I say yes and no, but mostly no.

The outcome, so far, in Iraq should remind us that we don't really know much about how other cultures will evolve. We can exert only clumsy and indirect influence on how other nations govern themselves. When you take away basic order, people respond with sectarian savagery.

If the victory in the Cold War taught us to lean forward and be interventionist, the legacy of the 2003 Iraq decision should cause us to pull back from the excesses of that mentality, to have less faith in America's ability to understand other places and effect change.

These are all data points in a larger education — along with the surge and the recent withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan. I wind up in a place with less interventionist instincts than where Bush was in 2003 but significantly more interventionist instincts than where President Barack Obama is inclined to be today.

Finally, Iraq teaches us to be suspicious of leaders who try to force revolutionary, transformational change. It teaches us to have respect for trimmers, leaders who pay minute attention to context, who try to lead gradual but constant change. It teaches us to honor those who respect the unfathomable complexity of history and who are humble in the face of consequences to their actions that they cannot fully predict or understand.