

# 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

SEASIDE — The funds rejected by voters Tuesday are about to be given away to other Oregon communities.

The four chairmen of the Oregon Area Commission on Transportation are meeting today in Salem to discuss the distribution of the \$38 million originally allocated to the Seaside highway project, said ODOT spokesman Dan Knoll.

The Tapiola Playground project is getting a little bit fishy. And a bit sandy. A bit feathery, too.

Don't worry, parents, a petting zoo hasn't been added to the plans. Just a fun piece of art.

Astoria Middle School students are creating a Columbia River mosaic wall for the northeast corner of the playground, between the Liberty Theater stage and the rest of the park. It will be one of the first things people see when they enter the area.

It's 92 years old, weighs 40,000 pounds and is fun for the whole family. It's the Astoria Riverfront Trolley, a favorite of locals and visitors alike.

Old 300, burnished and gleaming, is back on the tracks for its seventh season, running along the Columbia River from the Astoria Red Lion Inn on the west side of town, through Uniontown, downtown and Uppertown, to Comfort Suites and the East Mooring Basin and Back again.

"Everybody who gets on that trolley, or even sees it, has a big smile on their face," said Jim Wilkins, an Astoria contractor who has been involved with the trolley since he helped Mayor Willis Van Dusen rescue it from a trolley park near Forest Grove in 1998.

### 50 years ago — 1965

"We're on a downhill pull now," was the comment of Robert Ellison, project engineer for the Astoria bridge, Friday as he discussed progress on the four-mile trans-Columbia span.

Ellison spoke as Raymond International brought two big precast concrete shells from the Tongue Point concrete plant to the site of Pier 11 on the north channel crossing and put them in place.

All Contracts on the bridge were progressing well this spring, Highway Department engineers reported. Chances look bright that the bridge will be finished by the target date in late summer of 1966.

Police in Astoria are hearing a complaint a day or more about the hazards created by children playing on skate boards. There is no specific city ordinance forbidding their use, so all the police can do is tell reckless skate boarders to go ride their boards somewhere out of the way of traffic.

A current insurance industry magazine carries an interview with Thomas N. Boate of the American Insurance Association, a safety expert. He says skate boarding down driveways and into streets is particularly dangerous and recommends safety rules to be observed if the little monsters insist on riding these perilous rigs.

Company's coming, and coming soon. It is high time to prepare. The tourist season is well-nigh upon us and we must get our house in order.

The city government and the chamber of commerce, heeding Gov. Mark Hatfield's appeal for a state-wide program to clean up and polish Oregon for this summer's visitors, have designated Company's Coming Week and have extended it until June 5. This gives us time to trim our lawns, cart away junk piles, paint our houses if we can, repair broken structures, and convert general disorder to order on our premises.

### 75 years ago — 1940

Big Guns of the Columbia harbor defenses, fired a few days ago in the first non-National Guard practice in years, will go into action again next week according to the command at Fort Stevens, which has just issued the following announcement:

"There will be heavy artillery firing off Forts Canby and Stevens from Monday, June 3, to Saturday, June 8, inclusive. Sea-craft, aircraft and personnel are warned to remain away from the danger area, extending from Fort Stevens, west to a distance of seven miles north to the South Jetty and south as far as ten miles from the South Jetty from Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, west seven miles; north four miles off Seaview, Washington; south three miles off south jettys."

Car-driving Astorians should supply themselves with nickles and not slugs when they start to town Monday.

The 350 parking meters are expected to be ready to function Monday morning. According to the new parking ordinance, the meters will start collecting at 10 a.m. and will keep it up until 6 p.m.

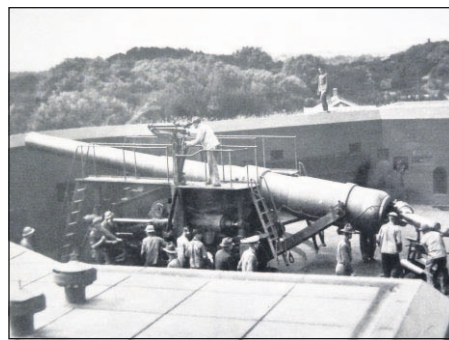


Photo courtesy of Clatsop County Historical Society  
One of the Big Guns of the Columbia harbor defenses at Fort Stevens.

# Family owners benefit from outside advice

ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST things a family-owned company might do is find a nonfamily member for its board of directors. Our family talked about doing that some 20 years ago. My aunt, Amy Bedford, was cautious and resistant. "I just can't see someone else sitting here with us," she said.

As a trial run, we added an outside director to our agricultural weekly, the *Capital Press*. Rob Miller was a Willamette Valley grower, and he provided excellent insight.

After a few years of that, my aunt relented and I was authorized to search for the first outside director of the East Oregonian Publishing Co. (now EO Media Group). I cannot remember where I started, but my trail of phone conversations took me to George Wilson, then-president of his family company that owned the *Concord* (N.H.) *Monitor*. After politely declining, Wilson suggested I approach his publisher, who had grown up in Oregon and was an OSU graduate. That was Tom Brown.

Over 15 years, Brown has given us a good perspective, and he even served as interim publisher of the *East Oregonian*. At our board meeting on Friday in John Day, we will mark the end of Tom's final year of service. In August our stockholders will elect his replacement.

ALL OF US ARE LIMITED BY our experiences. That especially can be so with a family that also owns a business. Enlarging the organization's circle of knowledge, experience and insight is what a nonfamily member can bring to a closely held company board of directors.

Brown knew enough about Oregon and the Northwest to have an intuitive understanding of our terrain. He also brought us a much larger connection with our industry through his

'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



Eastern Oregon native and OSU graduate Tom Brown concludes 15 years on the EO Media Group board of directors this week.

deep involvement with a purchasing cooperative that serves independently owned newspapers.

After a few years of Tom's being our only outside director, we added Lucy Mohl of Seattle,

who brought us experience in what was then the emerging digital world. Mohl was succeeded by Jeff Rogers, the chief financial officer of an Indianapolis-based family-owned newspaper group.

The Great Recession was not fun for anyone in publishing. Rogers and Brown offered us valuable insight during the period of severe adjustment our company went through.

ON JIM WILKINS' KMUN interview show last Friday, I talked about aspects of our company that were new to him. I mentioned my great grandfather from Iowa, who started a short-lived weekly newspaper in Newport in the 1890s. We also talked about how the *Astorian-Budget* became *The Daily Astorian*

in 1960, when our publisher Morgan Coe led us out of the deep trough that was Astoria's postwar depression.

It was especially fun talking to Wilkins about bluegrass. I told him about seeing the legendary group The Seldom Scene at the Birchmere in Alexandria. The young Ricky Skaggs appeared that night with Buck White and his daughters, Sharon and Cheryl. It was the beginning of Skaggs' courtship, which concluded with his marriage to Sharon White in 1981.

SPEAKING OF NEWSPAPER publishing, a young man with local roots has taken an executive position in the Portland market. Nick Bjork (Warrenton High School Class of 2004) is the new publisher of the *Daily Journal of Commerce*. After majoring in rhetorical studies at Lewis and Clark College, Bjork "got into film and fell into journalism." He found himself a niche of writing about real estate policy. He then learned advertising sales and became the *DJC's* ad director.

After being the newspaper's interim publisher, he recently got the job on a permanent basis. The *DJC* is older than *The Oregonian*. After decades of ownership by the Smith family of Portland, the paper was sold to the Dolan Group of Minneapolis.

—S.A.F.



# It's no longer poor, huddled masses

By DAVID BROOKS  
*New York Times News Service*

EIGHT HUNDRED years ago next month, English noblemen forced King John to sign the Magna Carta.

It's still having amazing effects on the world today.

The Magna Carta helped usher in government with a separation of powers. It helped create conditions in which centralized authority could not totally control fiscal, political, religious or intellectual life. It helped usher in the modern Anglo-Saxon state model, with its relative emphasis on the open movement of people, ideas and things.

The Anglo-Saxon model has its pluses and minuses, but it is very attractive to people around the world. Today, as always, immigrants flock to nations with British political heritage. Forty-six million people in the United States are foreign born, almost 1 in 6. That's by far the highest number of immigrants in any country.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand are also immigrant magnets. The British political class was a set abuzz last week by a government report showing a 50 percent increase in net immigration in 2014 compared with 2013. The government has a goal of limiting immigration to 100,000 a year, but, in 2014, net inbound migration was estimated to be 318,000. Britain has the most diverse immigrant community of any nation on earth.

Some of the those people went to Britain from outside of Europe, but a great many flow from the sclerotic economies in the European Union: Italy, Spain and France. Compared with many other European countries, Britain is a job-creating paragon.

Across the English-speaking world, immigrants are drawn by the same things: relatively strong economies, good universities, open cultures and the world's lingua franca.

The nature of global migration is



David Brooks

by poverty and move elsewhere to compete against the lowest-skilled workers.

But immigrants do not come from the poorest countries. Nations like Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger — some of the poorest countries in the world — have some of the lowest outmigration rates. Less than 3 percent of their populations live outside their borders. Their citizens don't have the resources to move.

Instead, immigrants tend to come from middle-class countries, and they migrate to rich, open ones. You might have thought that as the world gets more middle class, global immigration would decline because of more opportunity at home. In fact, the reverse is happening. As the developing world gets more middle class, immigration has increased because educational and income gains have led to ever higher aspirations.

The situation is complex. Less than a decade ago, six Mexicans migrated to the United States for every Indian or Chinese. But as Mexico has prospered, immigration has dropped. Meanwhile, as India and China have gotten richer, the number of Indians and Chinese living abroad has doubled.

Some of the Asian immigrants are quite wealthy. According to the China International Immigration

Report, among Chinese with assets of more than \$16 million, 27 percent had emigrated abroad and an additional 47 percent were considering such a move. The real estate website Soufun.net surveyed 5,000 people and found that 41 percent of such people were drawn to move abroad for better living conditions, 35 percent for better educational opportunities for their children and 15 percent for better retirement conditions.

And this talent pool has barely been tapped. According to a Gallup survey in 2012, 22 million Chinese wanted to move to the United States, as did 10 million Indians, 3 million Vietnamese and a surprising 5 million Japanese.

## It might be time to revise our stereotypes about the immigration issue.

In short, it might be time to revise our stereotypes about the immigration issue. A thousand years ago, a few English noblemen unwittingly heralded in a decentralized political and intellectual model. This model was deepened over the centuries by people ranging from Henry VIII to the American founding fathers. It's a model that is relatively friendly to outsider talent. We didn't earn this model; we're the lucky inheritors.

Meanwhile, globalization, with all its stresses and strains, has created a large international class of middle-class dreamers: university graduates who can't fulfill their aspirations at home and who would enrich whatever nation is lucky enough to have them.

In this context, Hillary Clinton's daring approach to immigration, supporting a "path to citizenship" for undocumented immigrants already in the United States, is clearly the right one. The Republican Party is insane if it conducts a 21st-century immigration policy based on stereotypes from the 1980s.