

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

The new Tapiola Playground opened on schedule Sunday evening, the culmination of a whirlwind building effort that involved the whole community. Play structures replicating the Astoria Column, the Liberty Theater, the Flavel house, Fort Clatsop and a gillnet boat are among the fanciful playground's uniquely Astorian components.

"We actually got all of it done. It was amazing," said Julia Mabry, a volunteer who worked on the project every day and also served as public relations coordinator.

Terra Littell, president of the Astoria Children's Museum board, which sponsored Sunday's grand opening, said watching the kids play made it all worthwhile.

The Seaside Rotary and the Clatsop County Secular Humanists probably don't have much in common with each other. But there is one thing that gives them a common bond: litter.

Sandy McDowall of the Seaside Rotary and Claude Clayton of the Clatsop County Secular Humanists have been long-time supporters and volunteers of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program.

The program has taken off since its inception in 1991. Since then, residents in Clatsop and Tillamook counties have collected 470,950 pounds of litter off of the sides of the highways.

The new Tapiola playground is a phenomenal accomplishment. The speed with which the playground took shape was little short of breathtaking, not simply in terms of this community, but in the context of all communities.

Voluntarism is alive and well in Astoria. From dawn to dusk, hundreds of workers showed up at Tapiola Park to make the new playground come to life. Wendy Berezay, president of the organization that installed the play structure, demonstrated a level of leadership that ought to be emulated elsewhere in the city and the county.

Across Oregon for 15 years, adults have been telling school children that they aren't worth as much as their predecessors. This playground sends the opposite message, and that is very healthy.

Creating opportunity for children is one of the measurements of a community. By that index, Astoria is doing very well.

50 years ago — 1965

The last pair of concrete shells for the Astoria bridge piers were cast at Tongue Point and delivered to Pier 12 near the bridge's north end this week.

This was the 16th pair of these concrete bell-shaped shells to be placed for the North Channel crossing just off the Washington shore.

Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., told the Senate today that U.S. bombing of Hanoi and Red China would bring Russia into the war immediately and Soviet fighting would not be confined to Southeast Asia.

"In such a case," Morse said, "a third world war will be on ... a war from which there will come no victor."

Rep. Wendell Wyatt, R-Ore., demanded Wednesday that the State Department protest to the Soviet Union against Russian fishing off the Pacific coast.

The Oregon Republican said in a House speech that Russian fishing vessels were operating "brazenly close" to the Oregon shore.

A trio of Cannon Beach men braved the icy surf here Friday and swam around Haystack rock.

The men, Jon Stachelrodt, Bill Kitterman and Pete Stroufe, made the highly publicized swim at 10 a.m. when the tide was at a low of 1.5 foot level

75 years ago — 1940

LONG BEACH — Blood stained the beach sands and the nearby roads over the weekend as two dead and 11 injured were counted following the three-day northwest motorcycle gypsy tour and beach races, which ended here Sunday.

A four-motored U.S. Army flying fortress bombing plane, the largest bombing ship in the American army today, landed at the Clatsop airport Sunday, where the pilot, Lieutenant T.J. Way, said he was making an aerial survey of available airports in the 10 Western states.

Long embarrassed with the location of some 300 buildings on dedicated streets of the city, the Astoria city commission Monday night announced that no further permits for repair of such buildings or the erection of new ones on city streets would be granted.

CANNON BEACH — Lester Ordway and Ted Nicholson, native residents here, today made a successful cruise to sea and back in a 14-foot power boat, going out and returning through the surf in a stunt which crowds of skeptical spectators thought impossible.

The pair made the trip just for a stunt, breaking through the waves on the south side of Haystack rock and returning to the same point.

The trip is believed the first successful one of its kind ever made from Cannon Beach.

In keeping with time-honored custom, Astorians will take in the Fourth of July celebrations of their seacoast neighbors on the Clatsop Beaches. All the Astoria observance of the national holiday will be confined to mounting flags and dashing off in a rush to the beaches where the weather promises to cooperate in putting over a fine Fourth of July celebration.

The Seaside girls high school band will play in the afternoon at the turnaround. The fireworks sold by sponsors of the Seaside fire department will be set off on the beach in front of the turnaround.

A month to remember

WHEN A HISTORIAN examines this era, June 2015 will be a treasure trove of watershed events. Pope Francis' encyclical on climate change, the Supreme Court's rulings on health care and gay marriage, and President Obama's eulogy to Rev. Clementa Pinckney signal the shifting of the tectonic plates that underly American culture.

The national newspapers have focused on what these events — particularly the health care and gay marriage decisions — mean for the Republican Party as it chooses a nominee for president. But the sweep of these events move well beyond the world of partisan politics. They are part of a redefinition of the American economy and culture.

Implicit in President Obama's speech at Emanuel AME church in Charleston was his blackness. Obama communicated with that congregation and with the African-American experience in a way that a white president could not have achieved. The closest historical parallel one may summon is of President Lyndon Johnson speaking to Congress in 1965, demanding a Voting Rights Act. In that speech, Johnson borrowed the refrain from a civil rights hymn, *We shall overcome*.

Preceded by the bloody Selma march, the period when Johnson made that speech, was also a time of tumultuous change. Coincidentally, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 made the election of a black president possible in 2008.

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THE RICHNESS OF REPORTING for a newspaper such as *The Daily Astorian* is the variety of topics a young reporter may explore. Kyle Spurr lived that experience last week. Spurr's meat and potatoes diet is crime, courts and county government. Last week his workplace nutrition was supplemented with an interview with Angela Meade, the world-class operatic soprano who capped the Astoria Music Festival

'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/Carolyn Kaster

President Barack Obama speaks during services honoring the life of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Friday, in Charleston, S.C. Pinckney was one of the nine people killed in the shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Kyle Spurr had an advantage in interviewing Angela Meade

with a Sunday performance.

Spurr took this assignment with an advantage. He had known Meade during his job at the *Chronicle* in Centralia. The phenomenal arc of Meade's career began in Centralia. Meade spoke to Spurr with a candor that one does not see in the national arts press.

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THE SUNDAY MUSIC Festival performance of Donizetti's *Mary Stuarda* featured a cast of principal singers who were all on top of their game.

As the supporting singers came to the stage, you had the feeling they understood that a Metropolitan Opera star was coming. One by one, they raised the game.

Over its 11 years, the festival has produced many memorable afternoons and evenings. This performance was in a category of its own. I didn't look at my watch, but I suspect the curtain calls — in which the singers were called to the stage again and again — went on for almost 10 minutes.



The next culture war: Mend the fabric

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

Christianity is in decline in the United States. The share of Americans who describe themselves as Christians and attend church is dropping.

Evangelical voters make up a smaller share of the electorate.

Members of the millennial generation are detaching themselves from religious institutions in droves.

Christianity's gravest setbacks are in the realm of values. American culture is shifting away from orthodox Christian positions on homosexuality, premarital sex, contraception, out-of-wedlock childbearing, divorce and a range of other social issues. More and more Christians feel estranged from mainstream culture. They fear they will soon be treated as social pariahs, the moral equivalent of segregationists because of their adherence to scriptural teaching on gay marriage. They fear their colleges will be decertified, their religious institutions will lose their tax-exempt status, their religious liberty will come under greater assault.

The Supreme Court's gay marriage decision landed like some sort of culminating body blow onto this beleaguered climate. Rod Dreher, author of the truly outstanding book *How Dante Can Save Your Life*, wrote an essay in *Time* in which he argued that it was time for Christians to strategically retreat into their own communities, where they can keep "the light of faith burning through the surrounding cultural darkness."

He continued: "We have to accept that we really are living in a culturally post-Christian nation. The fundamental norms Christians have long been able to depend on no longer exist."

Most Christian commentary has

opted for another strategy: Fight on. Several contributors to the symposium in the journal *First Things* called the Obergefell decision last week the Roe v. Wade of marriage. It must be resisted and resisted again. Robert P. George, probably the most brilliant social conservative theorist in the country, argued that just as Lincoln persistently rejected the Dred Scott decision, so "we must reject and resist an egregious act of judicial usurpation."

These conservatives are enmeshed in a decades-long culture war that has been fought over issues arising from the sexual revolution. Most of the conservative commentators I've read over the past few days are resolved to keep fighting that war.

I am to the left of the people I have been describing on almost all of these social issues. But I hope they regard me as a friend and admirer. And from that vantage point, I would just ask them to consider a change in course.

Consider putting aside, in the current climate, the culture war oriented around the sexual revolution.

Put aside a culture war that has alienated large parts of three generations from any consideration of religion or belief. Put aside an effort that has been a communications disaster, reducing a rich, complex and beautiful faith into a public obsession with sex. Put aside a culture war that, at least over the near term, you are destined to lose.

Consider a different culture war, one that would be just as central to your faith and far more powerful in its persuasive witness.

We live in a society plagued by formlessness and radical flux, in which bonds, social structures and commit-



David Brooks

ments are strained and frayed. Millions of kids live in stressed and fluid living arrangements. Many communities have suffered a loss of social capital. Many young people grow up in a sexual and social environment rendered barbaric because there are no common norms. Many adults hunger for meaning and goodness, but lack a spiritual vocabulary to think things through.

Social conservatives could be the people who help reweave the sinews of society. They already subscribe to a faith built on selfless love. They can serve as examples of commitment. They are equipped with a vocabulary to distinguish right from wrong, what dignifies and what demeans. They already, but in private, tithe to the poor and nurture the lonely.

The defining face of social conservatism could be this: Those are the people who go into underprivileged areas and form organizations to help nurture stable families. Those are the people who build community institutions in places where they are sparse. Those are the people who can help us think about how economic joblessness and spiritual poverty reinforce each other. Those are the people who converse with us about the transcendent in everyday life.

This culture war is more Albert Schweitzer and Dorothy Day than Jerry Falwell and Franklin Graham; more Salvation Army than Moral Majority. It's doing purposefully in public what social conservatives already do in private.

I don't expect social conservatives to change their positions on sex, and of course fights about the definition of marriage are meant as efforts to reweave society. But the sexual revolution will not be undone anytime soon. The more practical struggle is to repair a society rendered atomized, unforgiving and inhospitable. Social conservatives are well equipped to repair this fabric, and to serve as messengers of love, dignity, commitment, communion and grace.

Where to write

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