

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 — 2005

Clatsop County's over-burdened court system is getting some long-awaited relief.

The Oregon Senate voted Friday to approve a third full-time circuit court judge for the county, one of four approved for courts around the state. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives earlier in July and now heads to Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who has indicated he will sign it.

The legislation provides funding for a new judge and three support staff for the county. The bill's passage is a personal victory for Circuit Court judge Paula Brownhill, who's been lobbying for a third judge for the county since she came on the bench 14 years ago.

The U.S. Coast Guard saw an upswing in activity over the weekend as it headed into the busy Buoy 10 fishing season, which started today, said Mark Dobney, civilian search and rescue controller at U.S. Coast Guard Group Astoria.

"I don't know how the fishing was," Dobney said, "But the fishermen themselves were out there quite a bit."

With the horses groomed, pigs plump, and elephant ears fried, the 2005 Clatsop County Fair came to life Tuesday morning.

Fair officials have high expectations for the five-day event, which last year drew more than 7,600 people.

Area schools are failing federal progress reports even as they exceeded academic goals.

Four of the area's 15 schools didn't meet standards under the federal No Child Left Behind education law, according to preliminary results made public by the state Department of Education today.

50 years ago — 1965

Crown-Zellerbach logging operations in Clatsop County closed down Sunday because of extreme fire danger, but work will resume Tuesday, according to Vern Davis, Clatsop division manager.

Humidity dropped to about 20 percent and temperature rose to 96-98 at Crown operations Saturday, and "we decided not to take a chance with this type of dry weather," officials said.

The Mary R, 47-foot otter trawler which hit jetty A near Cape Disappointment Coast Guard station late Thursday night, sank at high tide Friday afternoon.

Owner of the vessel, George Moskovita, 511 Harrison, said the loss was more than \$25,000.

Mary R hit jetty A at 11:30 Thursday night. A two-foot hole was punched in the bow and the fishing boat sat high and dry on the jetty at low tide Friday.

Moskovita told the Coast Guard he "just wasn't looking where he was going" when the boat hit the jetty.

NEHALEM — Robert B. Nash, Everett, Wash., who recently was scuba diving near the Nehalem spit and found what local persons believed might be an ancient Spanish halberd, and Steve Riscoe of Seaside were diving south of the slide on the face of Neahkahnie mountain this week and found the entrance to a cave under water.

They found that the cave, about 10 feet high, extended back under the mountain nearly 100 feet, and sloped upwards sufficiently at the far end to be above the water line.

They noted noticeable coloring in the walls and that there were stalagmites. A quick glance revealed human bones. Nash said they had not been washed in. Skeletons were in a sitting position.

Another inspection will be made in about a week, to learn whether there are any artifacts in the cave.

75 years ago — 1940

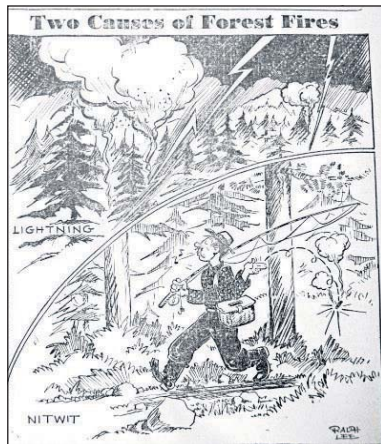
Astoria regattas of the "good old days" were recalled in Regatta headquarters at the Chamber of Commerce this morning, when Ed Gloss of Portland dropped in to visit.

Gloss held rowing championships in the Astoria Regatta, beginning with 1900 and ending with the Astoria Centennial celebration in 1911. He was a representative of the Portland Rowing club.

Competitors were "boys from Victoria, Vancouver, British Columbia, California and all over" said Mr. Gloss. Boats were of the single scull racing type, and are still used actively by rowing clubs. Gloss stated that he is anxious to have his son, Ed Jr., in competitive rowing at the Regatta, if such an event should be scheduled.

The 1940 Astoria Regatta will have the warmest blossing of King Neptune who is hugely pleased with Admiral Thomas C. Luke and the Regatta commission for staging the coronation ceremonies on the Columbia River in front of the marine stadium.

For years it has offended King Neptune to crawl out of the Columbia and attend the coronation at Gyro field as an amphibian, which is not a kingly status. Delighted with the crowning of Queen Jean II in the nautical splendor on the night of August 27, King Neptune is expected to promise the new ruler that the Columbia will behave during the Regatta. It is likely that King Neptune will order the northwesterners to keep out of the river so that motorboats can race on schedule.



Daily Astorian File
 Editorial cartoon from The Daily Astorian Budget, Aug. 5, 1940.

Smell of the fire pervaded Ashland

Americans of a certain age grew up hearing music from Broadway musicals such as "Oklahoma," "Carousel" and "South Pacific." Ambitious high school drama departments even mounted productions of some of these gems.

The wise guy lexicon of "Guys and Dolls" placed it in a special category. My parents had the Broadway cast recording, which I listened to, without knowing the plot.

I finally got my opportunity last Friday night at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. In addition to its staple of the Shakespeare canon, the festival mounts new plays and musicals. With a full house in the Bowmer Theatre, we saw it.

"Guys and Dolls" is a guaranteed great time. It is a period piece from the golden age of musicals. The fabled Broadway journalist Damon Runyon, who haunted Broadway's back rooms, concocted the plot about gamblers and the Salvation Army. Frank Loesser put it to music.

The costumes — 1940s dresses and suits — were worth the price of admission.

My wife and I left humming several tunes. The show is a veritable Top 40 of that era. A sampling of its songs includes "A Bushel and A Peck," "More I Cannot Wish You," "If I Were a Bell," "Take Back Your Mink," "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat."

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IF THE "GUYS AND DOLLS" audience was buoyant as it walked out, the crowd was much quieter after seeing the new play "Sweat." This drama is about what's happened in factory towns across America over the past decade as manufacturing moved offshore, leaving workers stranded. It is also about the chemistry of close-knit communities as immigrants arrive.

Echoing "Death of a Salesman," the play is about how people cope when change sweeps across the work culture, imposing a world they do not

'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



Jenny Graham/Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Jack Willis, back, and Tramell Tillman appear in the new play 'Sweat.'

understand. It is difficult to write dialogue that does not sound artificial. Lynn Nottage did that while also throwing in a couple of lines that will be extracted for their wisdom.

We saw one of a few preview performances of "Sweat," which allow the playwright to tinker with the script, prior to the play's world premiere at the festival.

Like the plot, that play's set is very economical. Action largely occurs inside a tavern, at its exterior or in a police interrogation room.

Nottage's most powerful element

'Sweat' is a 2015 echo of 'Death of a Salesman'

comes at the very end. She does not make the mistake of going on too long. Her last line opens the tear ducts.

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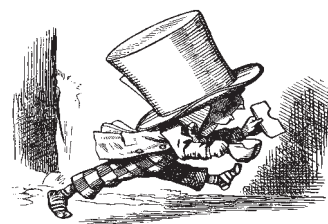
AS WE LEFT THE INDOOR Angus Bowmer Theatre the air was choking with smoke from the Canyonville fire. On the following day, patrons were told the outdoor performance might be canceled because of the air actors would have to breathe.

Over the many decades of the festival, I imagine this has occurred before. For those of us in Ashland it was a vivid demonstration of this year's high fire season.

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ONLY IN SAN FRANCISCO. Watching a Giants game on mlb.com last week, the announcers said that in August there will be a Grateful Dead Tribute Night. Can't wait to see the crowd.

—S.A.F.



Obama's flexible fix to climate change

By JOE NOCERA

New York Times News Service

For many years, I used to spend at least part of the summer in the gorgeous Laurentides region of Quebec, an hour northwest of Montreal. By the mid-1980s, with each return trip, I could see a growing environmental threat to the area's beauty: More and more trees were dying. When I asked people what was happening, the answer was simple: "pluie acide," or acid rain, a form of pollution caused by sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides that were spewing from coal-fired power plants in America.

A decade or so later, the trees had stopped dying. An environmental disaster had been averted. What had happened?

The answer was that the administration of the first President George Bush, working hand in glove with the Environmental Defense Fund, devised a market-based plan, now known as cap-and-trade, to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Congress passed it in 1990. The brilliance of the scheme is that while it set emissions targets, it did not tell power companies how to meet those targets, allowing them a great deal of flexibility. It also provided a financial incentive: Companies that cut their pollution beyond their caps could trade their leftover emission allowances to companies that were having trouble staying under the limit.

Industry officials and many state officials complained bitterly about the new system, saying it would be costly and tie companies up in regulatory knots. But that's not what happened. "Industry had incentive to innovate," recalls Fred Krupp, the president of the Environmental Defense Fund. As an interim measure, power companies began using low-sulfur coal while they worked to come up with better and more affordable scrubbers. Today, average levels of sulfur dioxide pollution are 76 percent lower than they were in 1990. The cost has been far less than the critics feared.

On Monday afternoon, President Barack Obama unveiled his Clean Power Plan, formalizing some tough new rules from the Environmental Protection Agency that are aimed at reducing the carbon emitted by power companies. There is no big-

ger source of carbon pollution; the goal is that by 2030, carbon emissions will be reduced by 32 percent from their 2005 level. In the fight against climate change, nothing is more important.

Once again, opponents are up in arms, forecasting calamity for the utility industry if the rules are allowed to stand, with at least a dozen states planning to sue the EPA. The attorney general of West Virginia, Patrick Morrisey, has said the regulations would lead to "reduced jobs, higher electricity rates" and increased stress on the power grid. Mississippi's Republican governor, Phil Bryant, described the EPA plan as "burdensome."

The single most important fact about the new regulations is that they don't tell utilities how to get their emissions down. Instead, they allow the states flexibility to figure out how to lower their own emissions.

And then there's Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, whose state, Kentucky, is in the heart of coal country. He has openly called on states to defy the EPA. On Monday, he described the new rules as "a triumph of blind ideology over sound policy and honest compassion."



Joe Nocera

But just as with the acid rain controversy, the opponents of the new emission-reduction rules have it exactly backward. The EPA rules have a far greater chance of creating jobs, being less burdensome and epitomizing sound public policy than the opposite.

The single most important fact about the new regulations is that they don't tell utilities how to get their emissions down.

Instead, they allow the states flexibility to figure out how to lower their own emissions. Some may choose a cap-and-trade system — as California and nine states in the Northeast have already done to great effect. (In California, for instance, carbon intensity — the amount of carbon pollution per million dollars of gross domestic product — is down 23 percent from 2001, while its GDP has grown.) They can stress energy efficiency or renewable energy. They can offer incentives to push innovations that would make carbon capture more affordable, which would allow for the continued use of coal, still America's most plentiful energy source. Or they can do all of the above. Since many of these things are already happening, the new government policy is really just giving industry an extra shove in the right direction.

Jim Rogers, the former chief executive of Duke Energy, told me that he thinks natural gas could serve as the same kind of bridge to emission-lowering technology that low-sulfur coal was in the acid rain days. The point is, there is really no reason the Clean Power Plan won't work — except for political intransigence, which is far worse today than it was during the first Bush administration.

In his 2010 book, "The Climate War," Eric Pooley, the former managing editor of *Fortune* who has since become the Environmental Defense Fund's communication chief, notes that the whole time officials at the fund were working on cap-and-trade to solve the acid rain problem, climate change was never far from their thoughts. They wanted to prove, with sulfur dioxide emissions, that a flexible, market-based system worked — and would work for carbon emissions as well.

It did. And it will.