

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

Peggy Chessman Lucas — the oldest living Astoria Regatta queen, whose family was at the heart of Oregon newspaper publishing history — died in Portland Sept. 3 at the age of 90.

Lucas made a splash at the 1998 Astoria Regatta by returning for her missing tiara. In the depths of the Great Depression, the 1935 Regatta could not afford a tiara, so it rented one from a Portland jeweler, but only for one day. The decades-long injustice was fully vindicated when Lucas was given a new crown donated by Loop-Jacobsen Jewelers in Astoria. And she was allowed to keep it.

Her family always called her "Princess."

And Sunday, Knappa native Michelle Jackson was crowned the first "American Princess" as the winner of \$50,000 and a royal title on a reality television show on WE: Women's Entertainment network.

"I knew it all along," her father, James Jackson, said to the nearly 30 friends and family members who had packed into a room in the family's home to watch the "American Princess" finale on a 62-inch television screen Sunday evening.

Clatsop Community College will offer free tuition and fees to Katrina survivors relocating to the North Coast and enrolling for the 2005-06 school year.

College President Greg Hamann said the free admissions are essentially a form of "institutional scholarship," which the college already provides to many students.

"If we end up having a student we wouldn't have had otherwise, there's no additional cost to us," Hamann said.

50 years ago — 1965

Seaside has experienced its first peaceful Labor Day weekend in four years, with the aid of several hundred state police officers and National Guardsmen.

This year marked the first Labor Day weekend since 1962 that the coastal resort town was not racked by youth disturbances which resulted in thousands of dollars in damages and dozens of arrests.

Prevention of a fourth successive year of rioting was aided by the state police officers and National Guardsmen under the coordination of Warne Nunn, Gov. Mark O. Hatfield's administrative assistant.

The Oregon Highway department can acquire the 1460-acre segment of former Fort Stevens which includes Battery Russell for \$117,500, it appeared Monday.

Rep. Wendell Wyatt has obtained an appraisal of the property by General Services Administration at \$235,000. He had this done in connection with legislation he introduced into Congress to transfer title to the Oregon Highway department for park purposes.

However, it appeared Monday that congressional action will not be necessary if the Highway department will pay \$117,500, half the amount at which GSA has appraised the full market value of the property.

Under the so-called "Morse formula," the federal government can sell public property only if it obtains at least half the appraised value.

Thousands of tourists visited the Sunset Empire this summer with attendance records falling right and left at sites of interest throughout the county.

The summer tourist season ended last week following a three-month stand.

Fort Stevens State Park was jam-packed during July and August, according to Gerald Leavitt, park manager.

75 years ago — 1940

The summer vacation closed today for Astoria and most of the Clatsop County school children and an infrequent rain storm took the sting out of the youngster's goodbye to loafing.

Enrollment among four Astoria schools dropped slightly from 1471 a year ago to 1427 for the opening day this fall — a figure which will probably show a gain before close of this week.

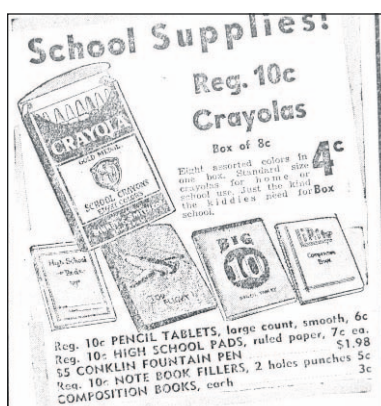
During the three days beginning August 29, the last three days of the Regatta, the largest collection of pennies in the parking meters for so short a time was taken. During these three days \$328.81 was taken in, which tops the previous short period collections by a large amount.

The largest concentration of naval planes since the Tongue Point Naval Air Base was established has been engaged in maneuvers from the station during the past three days. There has been no official information on the mission and number of aircraft.

Airmen have warmed up their motors at dawn, according to residents in the area. As many as 18 "war birds" of two types, apparently bombers and reconnaissance planes, have been sighted.

A destroyer, identified merely as No. 15, but said to be the Williamson, seems to be acting as a tender ship for the three or more squadrons. It appears that the flying personnel is remaining aboard the tender when not in flight. Never before has the navy been as close-mouthed about movement of planes at Tongue Point. Visitors are not allowed at the air base.

The planes have been cruising about in the lower Columbia in flocks up to six aircraft.



From the Daily Astorian, this week 75 years ago

Want federal money? Be a foreign ally

AT THE URGING OF former Astoria City Manager Paul Benoit, I am reading *One Man Against the World: The Tragedy of Richard Nixon*.

For those of us who lived through the Vietnam War and Watergate, those stories are broadly familiar. But the author Tim Weiner's access to formerly top secret documents and the Nixon tapes gives his history much greater depth. And there is no need to speculate on what happened, since so much is now documented.

We forget how many millions of dollars were dropped on the president of South Vietnam — much of which he embezzled. More recently that magnitude of theft has happened in Iraq and Afghanistan, where millions have disappeared.

It is hard to ignore the ease with which our defense and state departments throw America's money to the wind.

During a visit with U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., last week, I mentioned a small need of the Liberty Theater. I am a member of the Liberty's board of directors. Bonamici suggested the National Endowment for the Arts might be a source of funds.

While I appreciated Ms. Bonamici's response, the NEA is a notorious nitpicker, as is its companion agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities.

It says a lot about what has become of America that we routinely allow foreign despots to steal huge sums of the federal Treasury while government agencies relentlessly commit overkill on American non-profit organizations, over relatively small amounts of money.

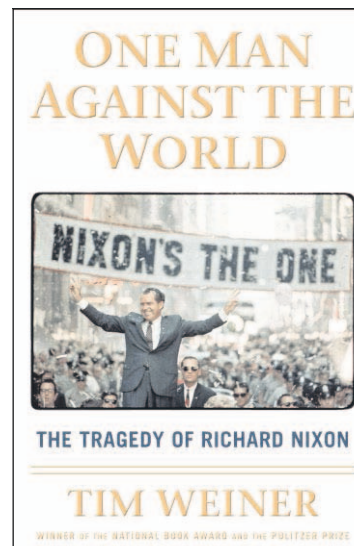
The most candid expression of this disconnect came from then-Congressman Brian Baird of Washington, after he had been shown the Chinook School at the

'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



We forget how many millions of federal dollars were stolen in South Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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beginning of that restoration project. Said Baird, "If you were in Afghanistan, I could get you federal money."

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WRITING ABOUT LNG last week, I remembered a lunch that state Sen. Betsy Johnson and I had with former Gov. John Kitzhaber in October 2014 at Clemente's restaurant. Kitzhaber asked what the Clatsop County public opinion was regarding the LNG projects. I told the governor that LNG had been on the ballot three times and it had lost in all three instances.

That Kitzhaber had to ask me which way the political wind was blowing on a big issue was an indicator of the governor's blindness.



Sen. Wyden on Iran nuclear accord

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., issued this statement (which is excerpted here) regarding his approval to block passage of a disapproval resolution against the Iran nuclear accord.

By Sen. RON WYDEN

The fundamental question for me is what this agreement means for the prospects of Iran getting a nuclear bomb.

This agreement with the duplicitous and untrustworthy Iranian regime falls short of what I had envisioned, however I have decided the alternatives are even more dangerous.

As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I've always pursued international challenges based on two core principles: 1) try hard-nosed diplomacy first, and 2) be guided by the facts. That second principle was especially relevant in 2002 when I stood with just 22 other Senators to oppose the war in Iraq. I continue to believe that if my side had prevailed on the Iraq question, the Senate might not be considering this Iran resolution before us now.

Two years ago, I made the decision to support the President's efforts to negotiate with the Iranians. I did, however, make it clear that I was skeptical about the prospects. Iran's leaders have lied to the international community about their interest in nuclear weapons for decades and they were even caught doing what they said they would not do: constructing secret facilities to build a nuclear bomb. My skepticism was grounded in the history of Iran's deception and my doubt that Iranian leaders would honor any commitments they made about a nuclear weapon.

My bottom line for any agreement has always been that an Iranian nuclear weapon is unthinkable. There is no need to debate the finer implications of an Iranian bomb. In the hands of a theocratic regime with stated genocidal goals it would be an existential threat to modern civilization. It is the fundamental obligation of all civilized nations to prevent any government or group that has declared as its goal the destruction of another nation or people from acquiring and deploying such a weapon by any and all means.

The basic premise of the Iran agreement is straightforward: the Iranians get billions of dollars in sanctions relief in



Susan Walsh/AP Photo

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore, speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in his office on Capitol Hill in Washington in May.

exchange for a decade or more of restrictions on their nuclear activities and infrastructure.

Critics of this agreement have raised a number of important, serious, and reasonable questions. First, with respect to sanctions relief, Iran is the largest supporter of state-sponsored terrorism in the world. It is very disturbing that in all probability, a large portion of the funds derived from sanctions relief will flow to Hezbollah and other groups working to destabilize the region.

Having recognized that, the quandary is that if the United States rejects this agreement, Iran will get more money anyway. That's because our allies have indicated that they will not support continuing the international sanctions that have been so effective. So whether the agreement passes or fails, the Iranians are likely to get some form of sanctions relief.

I and others have been able to secure from the President written commitments that the administration will treat cheating, however small, as a serious problem warranting a strong response and that our allies will stand with us against Iranian violations, regardless of the commercial interests that may develop over time. We have agreements with our allies to take the strongest possible actions against Iran if it does not fully live up to its end of this deal. These agreements ensure that all of the parties on our side have the complete set of economic, political and security incentives to police and prevent violations of this deal. I will use my seat on the Senate Select Committee on Intel-

ligence to push for zero tolerance for violations.

Finally, opponents are right to be concerned by the issue of access agreements between the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran.

But it is important to note that these access agreements are about reviewing past Iranian activities, the essential details of which are already known. In my judgment the international community's central concern should be restricting Iran's current and future nuclear activities.

Having taken part in many negotiations over three decades of public service, I am keenly aware that no agreement satisfies every demand. Rather, the question I have been wrestling with over these past weeks is whether this agreement is more likely than any alternative to stop the Iranian nuclear weapons program in its tracks.

No one can be certain what will happen if this agreement is rejected, but all signs point to even more risk and even less stability in the region.

Nothing about this decision is based on a hope that Iran's leaders will moderate over time. I have watched for more than three decades the nefarious role this regime has played in the region.

Successfully countering Iranian influence will require the U.S. to shore up our relations with allies in the region, and a renewed focus on supporting moderate, non-theocratic, groups and governments. It will also require a renewed focus on the vital importance of the U.S.-Israel alliance. To that end, I will be working with colleagues in the Senate and the House to strengthen security assistance and cooperation with Israel, and to ensure if Iran's leaders ever decide to recklessly charge toward war, Israel and the United States will have a qualitative military edge so significant that success will never be in doubt.

Ron Wyden is Oregon's senior U.S. senator.

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