

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

National Wildlife Refuge Week, which began Sunday, is a good time to acknowledge how fortunate we are to live in close proximity to some of America's outstanding refuges. We may also note with continuing dismay how much the refuge systems remains something of a neglected stepchild in the federal system.

The islands of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge east of Astoria and the wondrous Willapa National Wildlife Refuge that sweeps around much of the southern half of Willapa Bay are prime examples of why Congress and presidents, beginning with Theodore Roosevelt, were wise to set these lands and waters aside.

The Astoria Trolley has a new owner.

And members of the Astoria Riverfront Trolley Association couldn't be happier.

They plan to raise \$50,000 from the community to pay back the Bank of Astoria, which loaned the money to the association to purchase Old 300 outright.

"This is a great day for the Riverfront Trolley Association and the city of Astoria," said Mayor Willis Van Dusen, who is president of the trolley association.

The first 9-1-1 call reporting the fire that destroyed Fort Clatsop was dismissed by the emergency dispatcher who handled it.

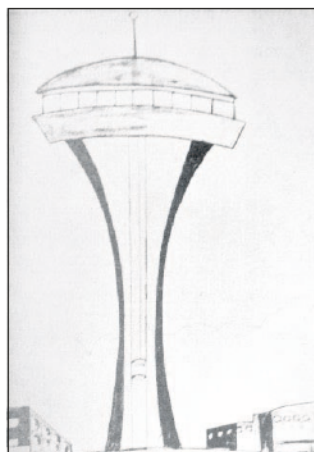
Not until a second call came several minutes later to a different dispatcher at the Astoria Police emergency communications center were local firefighters alerted to the blaze, which gutted the historic replica fort the night of Oct. 3.

An Astoria resident who called 9-1-1 about 10 minutes after 10 p.m. to report what appeared to be a fire on the south side of Youngs Bay was told that what she was seeing was likely the play of light in the rain and fog.

50 years ago — 1965

SEASIDE — A proposal for construction of a space needle at the Turnaround was outlined by Greg Burkhardt, Signal reporter, for chamber of commerce members at their Tuesday luncheon at the Seaside. The proposed building, similar to that in Seattle, would be at the Turnaround's center and would not interfere with the present circulatory traffic pattern there, nor would it interfere with the Prom's structure in any way.

According to Burkhardt's tentative plan, the building would rise 150-200 feet into the air on four slender wind-resistant pillars of structural steel or prestressed reinforced concrete. A freight and a passenger elevator would rise to the top of the building where 200 people could be served in a revolving dining room walled, for the most part, with view windows. The structure's top of aluminum would also contain a powerful searchlight.



Sketch of the proposed Seaside Turnaround Space Needle, as it appeared in The Daily Astorian.

It is well that the port, city, county governments and chamber of commerce have set themselves seriously to the task of financing and building a downtown dock to accommodate the cutter Yocona and the former Columbia Lightship No. 88.

This job is a necessity. The Yocona must have an adequate moorage or, as Rep. Wendell Wyatt warned, we might lose it to Ilwaco, Coos Bay, Grays Harbor or some other nearby port. Any of them would be eager to acquire the substantial Yocona payroll. A downtown dock is most desirable to keep the Yocona here.

75 years ago — 1940

The first school for the mink industry of Northwest Oregon, held under sponsorship of the Oregon Fox and Mink association, closed here Sunday after two days of sessions which attracted more than 100 enrollees and persons prominent in the industry of Oregon and Washington.

Mike Dederer of the Seattle fur exchange told the Northwest industry he expected a strong market when the industry swings into its 1940-41 routine at Seattle's auction this December. Dederer said that last year, much of the industry's jitters were reflected in a low market. As a result the trade heavily promoted mink for apparel and accessories, effectively absorbing much of the surplus and setting the stage for a firm market this year.

Clatsop County's young men, from 21 to 35 years of age, joined an estimated 16,000,000 others throughout the nation today in making peacetime military history for the United States in registering for selective service in the army of the United States.

County Clerk Couch Clinton found it necessary to telephone Salem for 500 more registration blanks when unexpected orders for more of the forms hurried to the clerk's office from several outlying precincts. Heavy registration of eligible men, employed on the Tongue Point naval base project, quickly depleted the supply of blanks at the county courthouse.

The Silverton Silver Foxes went home without their pelt today after taking a 19 to 7 skinning on Gyro field last night at the hands of Astoria's Fighting Fishermen. Poor generalship on the part of the Foxes plus Astoria's ability to capitalize on all the breaks of the game brought the Fishermen romping home.

Politics is our new spectator sport

WHEN WE WATCH A movie, most of us take images on screen at face value — appreciating them as entertainment. The same with listening to musicians make music or actors perform a play.

Politics seems to be different. What used to be called inside-baseball political analysis is now common fare.

Politics has become our new entertainment — a spectator sport with a cadre of analysts. There was a time when I was part of that crowd. It was a large element of a newsletter I published on Northwest politics from Washington, D.C.

These days I am much less interested in what is behind the scenes. I would be happy with a Congress that pays the bills and develops long range strategy. Instead, senators and congressmen play to the analysts whose daily dispatches on sites such as Politico and the national newspapers follow every inch of the road from here to the White House.

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THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATING spectacle is dispiriting, because it does not seem to be about anything positive. Ben Adler of grist.com distilled that aspect of the Republican electorate last week.

"The GOP's increasing preference for callow, reckless candidates represents a culmination of the anti-government, anti-politics, anti-intellectual direction of the conservative movement," wrote Adler. "Although it overlaps with the GOP's rightward shift, it presents a unique threat to American democracy because it espouses not mere preference for smaller government, but a visceral hatred of functioning government and the practice of politics. This mindset abhors concessions to objective reality, expertise or political adversaries domestic and foreign."

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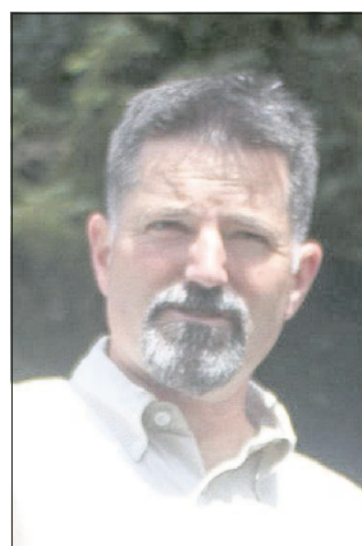
THE WALL STREET Journal's Daniel Heninger wrote this

'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



Lee Cain

last week: "Perhaps the age of the electronic mob has arrived. There's money in the political fight game. Still, one may ask: Is the point of elected office to get credit for fighting or for reviving the country? The GOP has one more election — and only one — to get that answer right."

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INTUESDAY'S WSJ, GERALD Seib noted the dramatic changes in both the Democratic and Republican party's makeup. In terms of demography and values, neither party is what it was in 1990. I know a few Republicans who say their party has left them. A liberal friend in Pendleton has changed his registration from Democrat to Independent.

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LEE CAIN'S STATEWIDE recognition is richly deserved. The Astoria High School science teacher is one of five Oregon teachers selected as the best K-12 science instructors in the state. This is part

Lee Cain is one of those teachers whose example sticks with his students.

of a national recognition process, which Edward Stratton described in last Thursday's edition.

Most of us had an inspirational teacher whose voice, personality, brain and admonitions stick in our memory. Cain is one of those. My wife and I watched as Cain's salmon biology course inspired our son.

Recently I asked Cain to write an article for our Friday Extra feature called "What are they reading?" Cain chuckled and pointed out the irony in what I was asking. I was trying to give a classroom teacher a book report assignment. He appreciated the humor in that.

— S.A.F.



The Republican's incompetence caucus

By DAVID BROOKS

New York Times News Service

The House Republican caucus is close to ungovernable these days.

How did this situation come about?

This was not just the work of the Freedom Caucus or Ted Cruz or one month's activity. The Republican Party's capacity for effective self-governance degraded slowly, over the course of a long chain of rhetorical excesses, mental corruptions and philosophical betrayals. Basically, the party abandoned traditional conservatism for right-wing radicalism. Republicans came to see themselves as insurgents and revolutionaries, and every revolution tends toward anarchy and ends up devouring its own.

By traditional definitions, conservatism stands for intellectual humility, a belief in steady, incremental change, a preference for reform rather than revolution, a respect for hierarchy, precedence, balance and order, and a tone of voice that is prudent, measured and responsible. Conservatives of this disposition can be dull, but they know how to nurture and run institutions. They also see the nation as one organic whole. Citizens may fall into different classes and political factions, but they are still joined by chains of affection that command ultimate loyalty and love.

All of this has been overturned in dangerous parts of the Republican Party. Over the past 30 years, or at least since Rush Limbaugh came on the scene, the Republican rhetorical tone has grown ever more bombastic, hyperbolic and imbalanced. Public figures are prisoners of their own prose styles, and Republicans from Newt Gingrich through Ben Carson have become addicted to a crisis mentality. Civilization was always on the brink of collapse. Every setback, like the passage of Obamacare,

became the ruination of the republic. Comparisons to Nazi Germany became a staple.

This produced a radical mind-set. Conservatives started talking about the Reagan "revolution," the Gingrich "revolution." Among people too ill educated to understand the different spheres, political practitioners adopted the mental habits of the entrepreneur. Everything had to be transformational and disruptive. Hierarchy and authority were equated with injustice. Self-expression became more valued than self-restraint and coalition building. A contempt for politics infested the Republican mind.

Politics is the process of making decisions amid diverse opinions. It involves conversation, calm deliberation, self-discipline, the capacity to listen to other points of view and balance valid but competing ideas and interests.

But this new Republican faction regards the messy business of politics as soiled and impure. Compromise is corruption. Inconvenient facts are ignored.

Countrymen with different views are regarded as aliens. Political identity became a sort of ethnic identity, and any compromise was regarded as a blood betrayal.

A weird contradictory mentality replaced traditional conservatism. Republican radicals have contempt for politics, but they still believe that transformational political change can rescue the nation. Republicans developed a contempt for Washington and government, but they elected leaders who made the most lavish promises imaginable. Government would be reduced by a quarter! Shut-downs would happen! The nation would be saved by transformational change! As Steven Bilakovics writes in his book *Democracy Without Politics*, "even as we expect ever less of democracy we apparently expect



David Brooks

ever more from democracy."

This anti-political political ethos produced elected leaders of jaw-dropping incompetence. Running a government is a craft, like carpentry. But the new Republican officials did not believe in government and so did not respect its traditions, its disciplines and its craftsmanship. They do not accept the hierarchical structures of authority inherent in political activity.

In his masterwork, *Politics as a Vocation*, Max Weber argues that the pre-eminent qualities for a politician are passion, a feeling of responsibility and a sense of proportion. A politician needs warm passion to impel action but a cool sense of responsibility and proportion to make careful decisions in a complex landscape.

If a politician lacks the quality of detachment — the ability to let the difficult facts of reality work their way into the mind — then, Weber argues, the politician ends up striving for the "boastful but entirely empty gesture." His work "leads nowhere and is senseless."

Welcome to Ted Cruz, Donald Trump and the Freedom Caucus.

Really, have we ever seen bumbling on this scale, people at once so cynical and so naive, so willfully ignorant in using levers of power to produce some tangible if incremental good? These insurgents can't even acknowledge democracy's legitimacy — if you can't persuade a majority of your colleagues, maybe you should accept their position. You might be wrong!

People who don't accept democracy will be bad at conversation. They won't respect tradition, institutions or precedent. These figures are masters at destruction but incompetent at construction.

These insurgents are incompetent at governing and unwilling to be governed. But they are not a spontaneous growth. It took a thousand small betrayals of conservatism to get to the dysfunction we see all around.

Have we ever seen bumbling on this scale?