

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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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

Despite overcast skies, Stuart Hyde had a big grin on his face as he walked down the gangplank from the Norwegian Spirit.

"Who wouldn't be smiling to be back here after 61 years?" Or, as he calculated later, 61 years and 42 days.

In September 1944, Hyde spent two weeks in Astoria as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, assigned to the new attack transport ship USS Lowndes, in town to be outfitted and take on provisions.

The Californian hadn't been back to the North Coast since then, but when he saw the Spirit's ports of call, he and his wife, Allie, signed right up.

"I saw it was going to Astoria, I said 'Whoa, we gotta be on this cruise,'" Hyde said. He remembered the friendliness and warmth that Astoria showed the visiting sailors in the 1940s, even though the city could have been resentful of the onslaught of young men.

If any Lewis and Clark artifacts still lie buried under the ground where the Fort Clatsop replica stood for so many years, archaeologists hope to unearth them over the next few weeks.

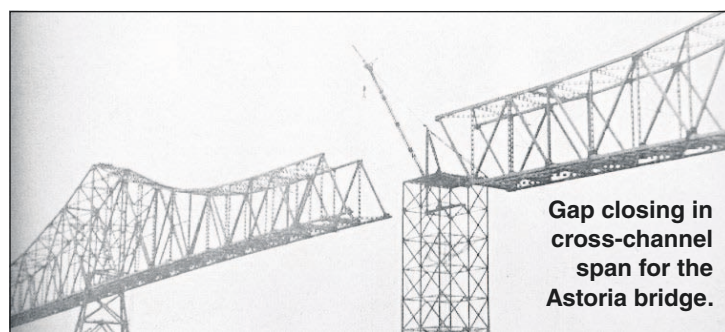
The opportunity is the upside of the loss of the replica, which burned to the ground in an accidental fire earlier this month, just 40 days before the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration's signature event.

The crack of a soda pop can signals the start of Astoria High School's lunch hour. Students rustle open bags of greasy chips and choose from pizza, pastry pockets, corn dogs and other items on the lunch line.

But many of these quick, convenient and often student-preferred items will disappear from selections at all of Astoria's schools next year — thanks to government efforts to improve students health and overall wellness.

50 years ago — 1965

Warne Nunn, executive assistant to Gov. Mark Hatfield, Friday cut the ribbon at grand opening of the Knappa shopping center, hailing the event as reflecting the growth of the entire lower Columbia region which he said has "a tremendous potential ahead."



Gap closing in cross-channel span for the Astoria bridge.

The two wings of the 1,232-foot steel span of the Astoria bridge across the main ship channel crept steadily closer together this week.

American Bridge Division had closed the gap by Thursday to four 44-foot "panels" or a total 176 feet.

Highway Department engineers said Thursday that counterweights will have to be hung outside the two supporting piers of the span, Nos. 169 and 170, before the last gap can be closed. Counterweights will probably be blocks of concrete. They will prevent the bridge dropping inward like two teeter-totters.

Beatles fans stormed the gates of Buckingham Palace today in a hysterical effort to see Queen Elizabeth honor their idols. It was the first time within memory that a mob has tried to invade the home of the royal family.

75 years ago — 1940

Northwest wooden boat builders, marine supply men and engine dealers, including T.B. Cook of Astoria and Joe Dyer of the Astoria Marine Construction company met with U.S. Navy officers of the 13th naval district Monday in Seattle to discuss the small wooden yards' activity in supplying the Navy with the looming need for many small wooden craft in the war preparedness.

Most talked-about boat was a proposed 86-foot purse seine type which could be used for mine sweeping operations in the event of war. Another was a proposed 80-foot, 20-knot patrol boat, strong enough to carry a small gun for defense purposes.

The Navy is known to be considering construction of a number of 90- to 100- and 80- to 90-foot wooden craft — patrol boats, minesweepers and subchasers. The northwest builders, between 50 and 75 of them, formed a permanent organization to work with the Navy in speeding the program before the large yards took away the smaller firms boat-rights.

Two 30-foot whales of the blackfish species were somewhere in the Columbia River Wednesday, causing worry for gillnet fishermen who feared what the monsters might do to their nets.

The whales were first sighted Monday afternoon off the Columbia River Packers Association's Uppertown cold storage plant, where the entire crew saw them moving up-stream. Captain Charles Soderberg of the CRPA launch reportedly got a close view of the whales from his vessel.

B.J. Greer, manager of the western general office in Portland of the Pillsbury Flour Mills company, said in a letter this week that the company is afraid that withdrawal of the government's expert subsidy to China "will materially affect our (Astoria) operation."

Early this month the federal government abandoned its subsidy to producers of wheat and wheat flour being shipped to certain Oriental ports under Japan's control — the move following the scrap iron ban in economic pressure on Japan.

It's 'Our Town' at Clatsop Plains Cemetery

FAMILIES DEFINE communities. That was especially so around here in the 19th century. The ties within and outside extended families and their links to the big names of the Oregon Territory were on display at Talking Tombstones last Sunday at the Clatsop Plains Cemetery.

Like many, I've driven by that cemetery — next to Camp Rilea — hundreds of times and never explored it. Situated between two dunes, this graveyard is a trove of fascinating stories.

For instance: Jacob Kamm is a big name in the history of the Columbia River. Except for bringing his steamships downriver from Portland, I did not realize his connection with this region. At Sunday afternoon's Talking Tombstones, I was enlightened.

Krista Bingham of Warrenton played a very convincing role as Caroline Kamm, Jacob's wife and one of the wealthiest women in Oregon. Caroline is not buried at Clatsop Plains, but her father, William H. Gray, is. It seems that in about 1926 Caroline gave the adjoining Pioneer Presbyterian Church \$10,000 to erase the memory of a legal dispute between Gray and the church. The present value of Mrs. Kamm's gift would be about \$134,000. That is where the church's Gray Memorial Chapel came from.

The stories one hears at Talking Tombstones are like that — the rivalries between men, their peccadilloes and the vicissitudes of life.

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IF YOU HAVE SEEN Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town*, Talking Tombstones is a bit like that.

On Sunday, Terry Arnall took the role of Diana Owens Hobson. The nugget she offered was that her sister was Dr. Bethenia Owens Adair, one of Oregon's first female physicians.

Dressed in a Navy pea coat, with a bandana around his neck, Matt Hensley played John Thomas, whose moniker was "the Bard of Clatsop." This newspaper pop-

'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



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Krista Bingham, played the role of Caroline Kamm, one of Oregon's wealthiest women.

ularized Thomas' poetry. I must look for it.

Russ Warr, owner of Oregon Granite Works, has sponsored Talking Tombstones from the beginning. Bravo, Russ.

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READING *THE NEW YORK Times* alongside *The Wall Street Journal* is illuminating. Partisans on either side of the political divide would tell you that the *Times* is hopelessly liberal and the *Journal* predictably skews to the right. But a larger distinction is more important.

While I've been reading both for about a year, I had not given much thought to their divergent styles until a Seattle friend offered an observation. Don Porter is a retired Seattle and Portland television news anchor and Washington correspondent. Don said: "My impression is that the *Times* is, in general, consistently better written



A sensible version of Donald Trump

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

The voters, especially on the Republican side, seem to be despising experience this year and are looking for outsiders.

Hence we have the rise of Donald Trump and Ben Carson.

People like me keep predicting that these implausibles will collapse, but so far, as someone tweeted, they keep collapsing upward.

But imagine if we had a sensible Trump in the race. Suppose there was some former general or business leader with impeccable outsider status but also a steady temperament, deep knowledge and good sense.

What would that person sound like? Maybe something like this:

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm no politician. I'm just a boring guy who knows how to run things. But I've been paying close attention and it seems to me that of all the problems that face the nation, two stand out. The first is that we have a polarized, dysfunctional, semi-corrupt political culture that prevents us from getting anything done. To reverse that gridlock we've got to find some policy area where there's a basis for bipartisan action.

The second big problem is that things are going badly for those in the lower half of the income distribution. People with less education are seeing their wages fall, their men drop out of the labor force, their marriage rates plummet and their social networks dissolve.

The first piece of good news is that conservative and progressive writers see this reality similarly, which is a rare thing these days. The second piece of good news is that we have new research that suggests fresh ways to address this problem,

ways that may appeal to both Democrats and Republicans.

The studies I'm talking about were done at Harvard by Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren and Lawrence Katz. They looked at the results of a Clinton-era program called Moving to Opportunity, which took poor families and moved them to middle-class neighborhoods. At first the results were disappointing. The families who moved didn't see their earnings rise. Their kids didn't do much better in school.

But as years went by and newer data accumulated, different and more promising results came in. Children who were raised in better environments had remarkable earnings gains. The girls raised in the better neighborhoods were more likely to marry and raise their own children in two-parent homes.

The first implication of this research is that neighborhood matters a lot. When we think about ways to improve the lot of the working class, it's insufficient to just help individuals and families. We have to improve entire neighborhoods.

Second, the research reminds us that to improve conditions for the working class it's necessary to both create jobs and improve culture. Every time conservatives say culture plays a large role in limiting mobility, progressives accuse them of blaming the victim.

But this research shows the importance of environment. The younger the children were when they moved to these middle-class environments, the more their outcomes improved. It's likely they benefited from being in environments with different norms, with more information about how to thrive, with few traumatic events down the block.



David Brooks

I know the professional politicians are going to want to continue their wars, but I see an opportunity: We launch a series of initiatives to create environments of opportunity in middle-, working- and lower-class neighborhoods.

This will mean doing some things Republicans like. We've got to devolve a lot of power from Washington back to local communities. These neighborhoods can't thrive if they are not responsible for themselves. Then we've got to expand charter schools. The best charter schools radiate diverse but strong cultures of achievement. Locally administered social entrepreneurship funds could help churches and other groups expand their influence.

This will mean doing some things Democrats like. We've got to reform and expand early childhood education programs, complete with wrap-around programs for parents. They would turn into community hubs. Infrastructure programs could increase employment.

Basically we've got to get socialist. No, I don't mean the way Bernie Sanders is a socialist. He's a statist, not a socialist. I mean we have to put the quality of the social fabric at the center of our politics. And we've got to get personalist: to treat people as full human beings, not just economic units you fix by writing checks.

Then we've got to get integrationist, to integrate different races and classes through national service and school and relocation vouchers. And finally, we have to get a little moralistic. There are certain patterns of behavior, like marrying before you have kids and sticking around to parent the kids you conceive, that contribute to better communities.

Look, I don't know if I'm red or blue. If you want a true outsider, don't just pick someone outside the political system. Pick someone outside the rigid partisan mentalities that are the real problem here.