

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

These days, members of the “don’t trust anyone over 30 generation” are looking at 60 in the rearview mirror.

Facing that reality, aging baby-boomers are downsizing in droves, selling their houses and moving to smaller places that need less maintenance.

The national trend is evident in Astoria, where numbers of newly minted senior citizens might outstrip housing options designed with their changing lifestyle in mind. So Astoria Gateway Senior Residence, a senior apartment building nearing completion at Mill Pond Village, fills a real need, says Rosemary Johnson, Astoria’s city planner.

“With the volume of people coming into that age bracket, we’re seeing more projects like the senior housing and condominiums — condos for those who can afford more, and the senior housing, which will be lower rent for those who cannot afford to purchase their own place,” Johnson said.

“I think you’re overdoing the atmosphere,” Gov. Ted Kulongoski joked as rain pelted the audience at the kick-off of the “Destination: The Pacific” Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration.

An event 200 years in the making began with “horrible” weather that continued through much of the weekend, but didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of locals and visitors who took part in honoring the explorers’ famous trek to the ocean.

The Wauna mill will soon have yet another owner.

Koch Industries Inc. announced it is buying paper products giant Georgia Pacific Corp. for \$13.2 billion, which will make it the largest private company in the nation. Georgia-Pacific has owned the pulp and paper mill (west) of Clatskanie since 2000, and with more than 1,100 workers and an \$86 million payroll is Clatsop County’s largest employer.

The cash deal announced Sunday would marry the maker of Brawny paper towels, Dixie plastic cutlery and Quilted Northern bath tissue with a diversified commodities conglomerate that has nearly three times the annual revenue.

50 years ago — 1965

American Bridge Division put the last structural steel in place Wednesday afternoon on the 2464-foot-long through truss of the main channel span of the Astoria bridge. This completed construction of the world’s longest through truss, except for riveting work and laying the concrete deck.

The towering derrick barge, used by the contractor to hoist steel 350 feet into the air to reach the two peaks of the half-mile long truss, was towed to Tongue Point, its work at the bridge site completed.

The barge will be employed there to put together the prefabricated panels of Span 167, lone remaining portion of the steel bridge structure not yet in place.

Boris Sirpo, Finnish-born Portland musician, has accepted an invitation to be guest conductor for a concert by Astoria High School’s 59-member symphonic band Tuesday evening, in Astoria High School auditorium, the chamber of commerce announced today.

The concert will be in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous Finnish composer Jan Sibelius.

Oregon got a sound but apparently not very harmful lashing from the winds of an ocean storm late Thursday and early today. Scattered power outages occurred, but no serious damage was reported.

75 years ago — 1940

The national government’s mountainous defense appropriations to build citadels of floating and rolling strength, to establish new military bases, to rehabilitate old ones and to equip and train more than a million men for defense of hemispherical democracy, are seeping into Clatsop County, with direct and indirect economic stimulus to industries and to people of this area.

There are almost 1,000 men employed directly in the construction of defense projects at Tongue Point and at Fort Stevens. Working in emergency double-step at Fort Stevens are about 125 carpenters, laborers and building tradesmen. At Tongue Point the total of similar workmen exceeds 550. In addition to these are 300 men employed on construction of the Bonneville power line into the area, which although is not part of the defense program is contributing directly to the payroll prosperity.

Adoption of the food stamp plan in Clatsop County was approved yesterday afternoon by the Clatsop County welfare commission and will go into effect as soon as the machinery for its operation is set up in the county.

The plan is backed by the federal government and has two primary purposes, first of which is to maintain a proper food diet in the lower wage brackets by providing food at lower prices to the needy and, secondly, to provide a means for the distribution of surplus foods produced in the United States.

From North Coast to Paris, with love

I was planning on delivering a nice little piece in this space on the topic of pot shops in Cannon Beach.

The column is almost done, just need to check a couple of names and numbers.

Then on Friday, I heard the news of the Paris terror attacks. Six coordinated attacks in the name of ISIS in the city center, striking at restaurants, a soccer stadium and on the streets.

“L’ère de la guerre,” the French newspaper called it, “the era of war.”

You don’t forget where you are when you hear such news. How mundane. I was getting out of a dentist’s chair in Beaverton. I read it on my smartphone.

Over the weekend, I thought why is it bothering me? Why, in a local newspaper do we need to write about killings 5,000 miles away? What’s the local connection?

I had absolutely no intention of following up on it. So many other pressing issues to consider: our own emergency preparedness in the face of Mother Nature, a rising heroin problem in the county, economic disparity, homelessness and hunger. And holiday time is around the corner: happy moments to share with family and friends, celebrations, Christmas trees and Hanukkah lights.

But I couldn’t get the killings out of my mind. The threat. The subsequent response. Our worst fears. The mind spins.

It seems like the North Coast of Oregon is about the safest place you could be in terms of terror risk. Nature is potentially far more devastating, but even a tsunami cannot inspire the dread of ISIS and their ilk.

From 9/11 to Charlie Hebdo

I have been friends with French journalist Fabienne Bizet and members of her family since 2003. We became acquainted shortly after 9/11. Both of us were distraught by the World Trade Center attacks. We were also shamed by the sudden divide between our two countries. (Remember “freedom fries?”)

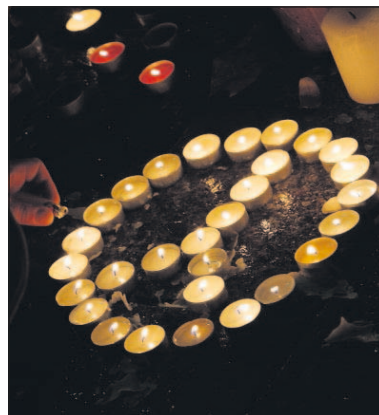
When I visited France that year, I went to the Brittany region, where gratitude for Americans’ commitment in World War II remains strong. But at the time, I was besieged by questions: What was going on in our nation? Why were we heading to war in Iraq? What was happening to our civil liberties?

The French were not just angry with George W. Bush, they were angry with me.

What had gone from France’s unconditional support for the nation became a scathing indictment of American foreign policy in the Middle East.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

By R.J. MARX



Christophe Ena/AP Photo

A woman lights candles Tuesday outside the Bataclan concert hall, which was a site of last Friday’s attacks, in Paris.

How can we separate the innocents and the terrorists?

Yet in the years to follow, the bonds between France and the United States have become closer. We share mutual shock at the assassination of Daniel Pearl and beheadings in the name of religion. Our nations share goals of peace. Our military partnerships have teamed to fight terrorist cells in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and we both seek a denuclearized Iran. Over the past decade and a change in administrations, we have witnessed a less hawkish U.S. foreign policy and a more hawkish French one.

January seems like a million years ago in CNN time, but it was less than a year ago that the offices of Charlie Hebdo were attacked and France’s leading political cartoonists were slaughtered.

“We are Charlie” had special meaning, especially for those of us who are committed to an unfettered First Amendment.

Already we are seeing repercussions in the United States. A suspicion of foreigners is growing. Security is heightened at every level.

“I am fine, but we are all traumatized,” Fabienne messaged me Tues-

It’s open season to beat the press

By TIMOTHY EGAN
New York Times News Service

Before it slips away, let’s try to pull some larger meaning from perhaps the most absurd moment of 2015: that professor at one of the nation’s top journalism colleges who threatened to use force against a student journalist for doing the things taught in that school.

The viral video, of Melissa Click, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri, shows her screaming “get this reporter out of here” — the “here” being a public space, at a public event, a protest circle during Mizzou’s days of rage. “I need some muscle over here,” she cries, in faculty-thug mode.

One lesson — in dignity, in the raw rights of a free press, in how hard it is to do the work that an informed democracy needs done on a daily basis — was embodied by a student photographer, Tim Tai, harassed just moments earlier and captured in the video. He kept his poise while being mocked by the professor for asserting a First Amendment duty to his job.

Click has since apologized and resigned from her courtesy appointment at the Missouri School of Journalism. She should take a long timeout for some remedial reading of I.F. Stone, Frederick Douglass and Gloria Steinem, all journalists who faced harassment in their day.

I’d like to believe that this video snippet was just another absurdity of campus life, where the politics are so vicious, as they say, because the stakes are so small. But it goes to a more troubling trend — the diminishment of a healthy, professionally trained free press.

For some time now, it’s been open season on this beaten-down trade.

For some time now, it’s been open season on this beaten-down trade, from the left and the right. Into that vacuum have emerged powerful partisan voices, injecting rumors and outright lies into the public arena, with no consequence. At the same time, it’s become extremely difficult for reporters who adhere to higher standards to make a living. Poverty-level wages have become the norm at many a town’s lone nonpartisan media outlet.

More than 20,000 newsroom jobs have been lost in this country since 2001 — a workforce drop of about 42 percent. The mean salary of reporters in 2013 was \$44,360; journalists now earn less than the national average for all U.S. workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is not because people are getting less of their information from those trained in fact-gathering and storytelling. Just the opposite. The digital age has expanded the audience of most media outlets. In that sense, journalism has never been more successful. But the crash of traditional business models has impoverished the practitioners of daily journalism.

None of the above is news, nor even a sympathy plea for a beleaguered trade whose alumni include Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway and Joan Didion. But take this perspective into account the next time you hear somebody attack the “media elites.”

The true media elites are in talk radio and right-wing television — multimillionaire gasbags from Rush Limbaugh to Sean Hannity. Every day, nearly every hour, they attack reporters, using verbal assaults more consequential than the muscle play by an amped-up academic. In that world, the “lamestream media,” to use the term of

day. “I know the owner of one of the restaurants that was attacked.

On Friday, I was truly scared she was dead.”

Fabienne’s friend survived. Other acquaintances were present at the Bataclan concert hall during the attacks.

“Tout ça est horrible. It makes me ill,” Fabienne wrote.

Maintaining our values

The French were among the first to arrive in the Pacific Northwest: drawn by the fur trade, Étienne Lucier, Joseph Gervais and Gabriel Franchère were among the first settlers of our state. They came on boats with John Jacob Astor’s crews, and accompanied Lewis and Clark on their overland explorations.

In a new movie, “Les Voyageurs Sans Trace” (“Voyagers Without Trace”), screened at the Astoria Film Festival last month, Northwest filmmaker Ian McCluskey recounted the experience of three French adventurers as they journeyed down the Colorado River in 1938. Newlyweds Genevieve and Bernard de Colmont and their friend, Antoine de Seynes traveled from France to be the first to kayak down both the Green and Colorado rivers. In fact, Genevieve was the first woman to kayak the Colorado.

In Oregon, we share not only their dreams of exploration and adventure, but a steady influx from the outside, thousands of visitors whom we welcome from every planet on the globe. Our sights and destinations draw artists, environmentalists and families. We rely on tourism, hospitality and mutual respect.

How can we keep an open-minded, tolerant attitude in the face of terror? How can we separate the innocents and the terrorists?

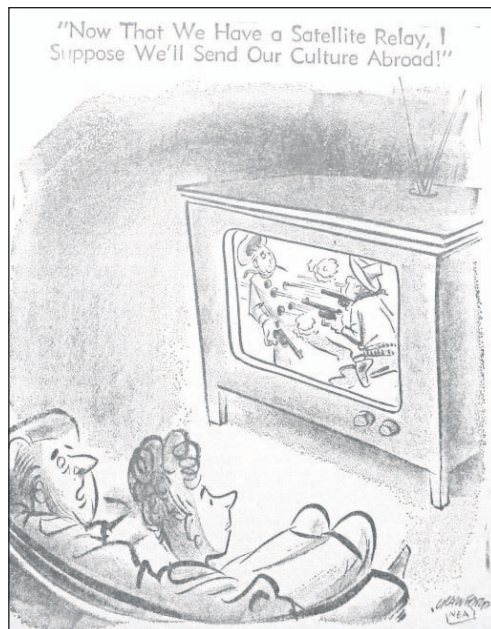
France has closed its borders and retaliated in Syria, even while memorials and vigils continue, and mourners worldwide share their grief. Governors in many states are seeking to close their doors to refugees, but our governor, Kate Brown, says Oregon will still welcome them. For our country to close our borders, abandoning the refugees would be, I think, the worst result. These families have suffered the effects of terrorism far greater than any of us.

Perhaps the hardening of our hearts is the ultimate goal of ISIS, and the foreshadow of a military conflict that can never be extinguished.

“La vie, pas la mort,” my friend Fabienne posted in a memorial to a band member at Friday’s concert at the Bataclan theater, where at least 89 people were killed.

“Life, not death.”

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian’s* South County reporter and editor of *the Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.



Timothy Egan

the University of Idaho journalism graduate Sarah Palin, is evil incarnate.

Real reporters have been replaced with fake reporters. No, not the “Daily Show” staff, which did a better job of fact-checking the Republican debate this week than did Fox News. I’m talking about stunt reporters, who do the dirty work of the partisan outlets.

Real reporters get threatened, or vilified on social media, while trying to cover city hall, the state legislature, a rally of heavily armed militants or a campus protest. Too often, the left sees them as an appendage, and the right as an enemy.

Conservative media deserve credit for going after the un-American censoriousness on college campuses. But elsewhere, in promulgating a create-your-own-facts media world, they’ve made a mess of our democracy.

Even if you don’t give a damn about what’s happened to the once-storied free press, consider the consequences to a once-storied political party. The main reason that Republican politicians sound so crazy of late is because they get their information, and validation, from the twisted world of partisan media outlets.

So, climate change is a hoax, because Limbaugh says so. Raising the minimum wage always causes job losses — as Ben Carson asserted last week — because that’s what you hear on Fox. Both claims are demonstrably false.

What is also not true, in the jab thrown by the unctuous Sen. Ted Cruz, is that things would be different “if a bunch of people with journalism degrees were coming over and driving down the wages in the press.” He said this before a moderator, Gerard Baker, editor of *The Wall Street Journal*, who is a British citizen, making far more money than the average American reporter, with no effect on their wages. In the age of the partisan press, irony is another casualty.

For some time now, it’s been open season on this beaten-down trade.