

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

In November 2004, plans were proceeding smoothly toward a traffic light for the "Safeway intersection" at 33rd Street and Lief Erikson Drive. The light would cost just over \$200,000, with the city paying \$53,000, Safeway \$50,000 and the Oregon Department of Transportation \$90,000.

The light was to be in operation within six months.

Twelve months later, there's still no light.

And the Astoria City Council learned Monday night that the contractor, Civil-Works NW, is asking for a \$79,000 change order that would balloon the cost of the problem-plagued project to \$306,000. That was too much for the three council members who attended Monday's meeting, who declined to approve the change order and asked staff to go back to ODOT to increase its share.

Work on the light, which was to have resumed on Dec. 5 and been completed by Jan. 20, is now on hold.

The "Curse of Fort Clatsop" lives on.

The latest archaeological dig in search of signs of Lewis and Clark's winter encampment once again revealed some tantalizing signs in the soil that on further investigation turned out to be false leads.

The Fort Clatsop dig wraps up this week with researchers having uncovered a handful of artifacts but no definitive signs of the explorer's famous winter home.

The Dungeness crab fishing seasons in Oregon, Washington and Northern California have been delayed by at least two weeks after tests indicated the crustaceans will not be ready to harvest.

"We just don't want to bring crabs to market that are not ready," said Mitch Vance, shellfish project leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "It's best just to wait."

50 years ago — 1965

City Council Monday night voted formally to send an invitation to Burgermeister and Mrs. Wilhelm Willinger of Walldorf, W. Germany, to attend the Regatta next summer.

Two years ago Walldorf, Astoria's sister city, invited Mayor and Mrs. Harry Steinbock, Councilman and Mrs. Frank Thorsness to attend the 200th anniversary celebration of the birth of John Jacob Astor, where the mayor said hospitality was magnificent.



The U.S. Coast Guard Thursday canceled plans to turn off the light in the 109-year-old Cape Disappointment light house.

The Columbia River Bar Pilots had protested the plan because they use the light as a range marker and depend heavily upon it when moving ships in and out of the river.

Asked if the bar pilots had other reasons for protesting discontinuance of the light, Quinn said "Let's put it this way. The Cape Disappointment light is a very useful and important navigational aid and we definitely need it."

A second radiotelephone channel is now available for ship-to-shore radio telephone users in the Astoria area, R.E. Jensen, local manager for Pacific Northwest Bell, announced.

Channel 2 has been added to provide relief for KFX Channel 1, previously Astoria's only coastal harbor radiotelephone channel.

75 years ago — 1940

Further expansion and rehabilitation of the harbor defenses of the Columbia has just been authorized by the army, according to word just received by military authorities at Fort Stevens.

Increase in personnel, construction of new barracks, and rehabilitation of abandoned Forts Canby and Columbia across the Columbia River are on the program to be undertaken in the immediate future, according to Col. H.C. Davis, commanding officer of the harbor defenses of the Columbia.

Collecting bogus money has become a hobby with Mrs. E.C. Judd who works in the city treasurer's office and has the responsibility of counting each day's take from the parking meters. Almost every day, Mrs. Judd finds three or four bits of metal ranging from washers, tax tokens, slugs, defaced coins, foreign money and skill tokens to chips good for one ride on such and such a bus in some town.

These attempts to cheat the meters are not the only contacts Mrs. Judd has had with the public. Not long ago, an irate man came in and asked if she had noticed any Indian head pennies in the day's take. Mrs. Judd replied that she counts the pennies and nickels so fast that it is impossible to pick out certain types.

The distraught man informed Mrs. Judd that his wife had unwittingly taken his collection of Indian head pennies and fed it to the meters. Asking Mrs. Judd to withhold action for a few minutes, the man left only to return in a short time and trade rolls of pennies amounting to \$10 with those that the city had taken in during the previous day in which the man hoped to find his treasures. No word has since been heard of the outcome.

My aunt's tenacity amazed me



Amy Bedford

MY FIRST ENCOUNTER with a visionary was probably my aunt, Amy Bedford. As a kid, I watched many times as Amy showed newcomers plans for a Pendleton river parkway. Her blueprints, drawn by an architect named Richard Gabriel, were kept on a high shelf in her living room. They would come down at the end of a dinner. Every incoming Pendleton city manager would get a visit from Amy, with blueprints under her arm.

Pendleton recently celebrated the River Walk's 30th anniversary. Like Astoria's Riverwalk, Pendleton's now spans an extensive stretch of the Umatilla River.

Any sales person must endure rejection. Amy got her share of that. Pendleton Mayor Joe McLaughlin rejected the river parkway concept as too expensive.

Like other western towns such as San Antonio, Pendleton decided to turn its face, instead of its back, to the river. Portland made a similar decision. Astoria's Riverwalk has been a transformational element in the town's rebirth.

The gestation of Pendleton's River Walk took so long that — within that time frame — the Umatilla Indian Tribe became instrumental in restoring fish habitat. Now salmon swim by the town.

Marking the 30th anniversary, the *East Oregonian* wrote: "Remember, a river running through town is not a luxury most places have. Name another city where Main Street literally crosses a stream full of salmon, and which is walkable almost every day of the year. It's a dream for anglers,

'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

Beneath a charming exterior, my aunt was tough as nails

birdwatchers and joggers alike."

If I could time travel back to the 1960s and 1970s, I suspect I would find myself incredulous at my aunt's perseverance in the face of so little positive feedback. Beneath her charming exterior, she was tough as nails.

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WATCHING THE MOVIE "Spotlight" amounts to taking a blow to your solar plexus. The movie dramatizes the *Boston Globe's* investigation into sexual predation by priests in the Boston Catholic Archdiocese and Cardinal Bernard Law's complicity. Unlike "All The President's Men," this movie about journalists does not possess the star power of big glamour like Robert Redford, Dustin Hoffman and Jason Robards. Except for Michael Keaton, the cast is more like a BBC roster of good actors who are believable because they lack celebrity luster.

"Spotlight" is an excellent recapitulation of the dogged reporting that developed a story that was espe-

cially explosive in a city where the Catholic Church is such a dominant political element.

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THE BUSINESS PRESS HAS been buzzing with news of Macy's problems. *The Wall Street Journal* recently noted that Macy's has been slow to adopt the discount adjunct store model that Nordstrom's started with its Nordstrom Racks in the late 1980s.

It seems to me that if you want to understand Macy's problems, you only have to walk into its downtown Portland store. As with other cities, Macy's bought an established retailer (Meier & Frank) and proceeded to dismantle or mask that heritage.

Unlike its warm and friendly predecessor, M&F, Macy's virtually shouts that it is understaffed. Walk a block, cross Broadway and enter Nordstrom and you find a well-staffed retailer. It is night and day, and that's also true of the two companies' stocks. In the market, Nordstrom is proving to be a better longterm performer.

—S.A.F.



Obama's phony war

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Washington Post Writers Group

Tell me: What's a suicide bomber doing with a passport? He's not going anywhere. And, though I'm not a religious scholar, I doubt that a passport is required in paradise for a martyr to access his 72 black-eyed virgins.

A Syrian passport was found near the body of one of the terrorists. Why was it there? Undoubtedly, to back up the Islamic State boast that it is infiltrating operatives amid the refugees flooding Europe. The passport may have been fake, but the terrorist's fingerprints were not. They match those of a man who just a month earlier had come through Greece on his way to kill Frenchmen in Paris.

If the other goal of the Paris massacre was to frighten France out of the air campaign in Syria — the way Spain withdrew from the Iraq War after the terror attack on its trains in 2004 — they picked the wrong country. France is a serious post-colonial power, as demonstrated in Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic and Mali, which France saved from an Islamist takeover in 2013.

Indeed, socialist President Francois Hollande has responded furiously to his country's 9/11 with an intensified air campaign, hundreds of raids on suspected domestic terrorists, a state of emergency and proposed changes in the constitution to make France less hospitable to jihad.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama, titular head of the free world, has responded to Paris with weariness and annoyance. His news conference in Turkey was marked by a stunning tone of passivity, detachment and lassitude, compounded by impatience and irritability at the very suggestion that his Syria strategy might be failing.

The only time he showed any passion was in denouncing Republicans for hardheartedness toward Muslim refugees. One hundred and twenty-nine innocents lie dead but it takes the GOP to kindle Obama's ire.

The rest was mere petulance, dismissing criticisms of his Syria policy as popping off. Inconveniently for Obama, one of those popper-offers is Dianne Feinstein, the leading Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. She directly contradicted Obama's blithe assertion, offered the day before the Paris attack, that the Islamic State (aka ISIL) was contained and not gaining strength. "I have never been more concerned," said Feinstein. "ISIL is not contained. ISIL is expanding."

Obama defended his policy by listing its multifaceted elements. Such as, "I hosted at the United Nations an entire discussion of counterterrorism strategies and curbing the flow of foreign fighters." An "entire" discussion, mind you. Not a partial one. They tremble in Raqqa.

And "We have mobilized 65 countries to go after ISIL." Yes, and what would we do without Luxembourg?



Charles Krauthammer

Obama complained of being criticized for not being bellicose enough. But the complaint is not about an absence of bellicosity but about an absence of passion, of urgency and of commitment to the fight. The air campaign over Syria averages seven strikes a day. Seven. In Operation Desert Storm, we flew 1,100 sorties a day. Even in the Kosovo campaign, we averaged 138. Obama is doing just enough in Syria to give the appearance of motion, yet not nearly enough to have any chance of success.

Obama's priorities lie elsewhere. For example, climate change, which he considers the greatest "threat to our future." And, of course, closing Guantánamo. Obama actually released five detainees on the day after the Paris massacre. He is passionate about Guantánamo. It's a great terrorist recruiting tool, he repeatedly explains. Obama still seems to believe that — even as the Islamic State has produced an astonishing wave of terrorist recruitment with a campaign of brutality, butchery and enslavement filmed in living color. Who can still believe that young Muslims are leaving Europe to join the Islamic State because of Guantánamo?

Obama's other passion is protecting Islam from any possible association with "violent extremism." The Islamic State is nothing but "killers with fantasies of glory." Obama can never bring himself to acknowledge why these people kill and willingly die: to advance a radical Islamist millenarianism that is purposeful, indeed eschatological — and appealing enough to have created the largest, most dangerous terrorist movement on earth.

Hollande is trying to gather a real coalition to destroy the Islamic State, even as Obama touts his phony 65. For 11 post-World War II presidencies, coalition leading has been the role of the United States. Where is America today? Awaiting a president. The next president.