

# 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

A year ago today, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, sent a devastating tsunami around the Indian Ocean, killing more than 200,000 people and leveling coastal towns.

While the event was half a world away, destructive tsunamis aren't foreign to the Pacific Northwest — they've happened here in the past and are sure to happen again. But even though the Sumatra disaster highlighted the vulnerability of the Northwest, coastal residents are still not prepared for a massive wave, some scientists and educators say.

The family of Shelly Loring lit three Menorahs, or candelabra, for Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights.

"I really love the idea of doing these things as a family," Loring said after they had sung the Hebrew blessings. "That's the part of Judaism I love; the tradition, the heritage and the connection to family."

Hanukkah is a Hebrew word for rededication. The holiday started on Dec. 25 this year and will continue until Jan. 2.

Federal judges. There's no guessing which way they will lean.

A New Hampshire micro roastery that sells a dark coffee blend called Charbucks" hasn't harmed coffee giant Starbucks, a federal judge has ruled.

### 50 years ago — 1965

Santa called his reindeer to an abrupt halt and gave that long-legged bird the right-of-way Christmas day so the stork could deliver special Christmas presents to two Clatsop County families.

Husky William Jeffrey, weighing in at 9 pounds 3 ounces, was the bundle delivered to Mr. and Mrs. William Richards, 4938 Cedar Street, December 25 soon after 10 a.m. at St. Mary hospital.

U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a Manpower Development and Training Act project at Clatsop Community college to train 20 unemployed workers as dairy herdsmen, Rep. Wendell Wyatt's Washington office reported Tuesday.

Winter was late arriving this year, but it seems to have now come in earnest, first with ice and snow and then with wind and rain.

As far as we are concerned here, the wind and rain are preferable to the snow and ice. Wind and rain are normal winter weather, while ice and snow are uncommon ordeals that we would just as soon not have.

Monday's gale was a strong one, halting shipping, blowing trees across highways and knocking down power lines.

But it chased away the snows of Christmas week and few were sorry to see them go.

Road conditions in Clatsop County worsened Friday morning to the point where state police and highway department spokesmen reported only one highway leading out of the county was passable without tire chains.

### 75 years ago — 1940

Thanks to individuals and service clubs, to local firemen and kids and to the county court, the families of Astoria, who faced today without hopes for a merry Christmas, had a decent meal and toys for the children.

Early this morning trucks from the county shops started rolling throughout the local area bearing baskets of food, clothing and toys that meant a real Christmas treat for a lot of folks.

Waterlogged and losing her shattered deckload with every heavy swell, the 200-foot wooden schooner Davenport is being towed to the Columbia River today by the Coast Guard cutter Onondaga.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's census of retail trade in Oregon for 1939 showed gains in volume of sales for Astoria of 47 percent from 1935 compared with 1939 and of 10 percent during the 10-year period 1929 to 1939.

Littering the stormy Pacific from Cape Meares to the Columbia River with her shattered deck load of lumber, the wooden steam schooner Davenport wallowed to a safe moorage at pier N. 2 Monday night.

The third wooden steam schooner in a week to get coast guard assistance, the 28-year-old vessel reached Astoria at the end of cutter Onondaga's tow line.

An immediate survey of the boat yards and machine shops of the lower Columbia will be undertaken at once by the Chamber of Commerce and the Clatsop County Industrial commission as a preliminary toward an aggressive effort to secure defense contracts for this area.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes today described as "enormous" the social and economic significance for the Northwest of the development of 2,400,000 kilowatts of cheap electric energy — potential combined output of Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams.

## On the night before Christmas, two Iranian cigar merchants ...

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE Christmas, I was in a Vancouver, British Columbia, cigar store with its two Iranian-Canadian proprietors. As I smoked a Havana petit robusto, I heard about how their father opened the store some 20 years ago. It was 35 degrees outside, and the city was beginning to grow quiet. It was a wonderful time to share cigar stories while the ash lengthened on our Cubans.

Riding the Amtrak Cascades from Kelso, Washington, to Vancouver is one of our region's best travel opportunities. It's a seven-hour trip that starts around 4 p.m. and ends at 11 p.m.. Our Urban Cafe salads made a great dinner.

Vancouver has a cultural dimension beyond Portland or Seattle. Robson Street is lined with about every cuisine you might imagine.

On the day after Christmas, my wife and I took an excursion bus to Whistler. We road a gondola to the top of Whistler and thence to Blackcomb. We heard several languages spoken. Enjoying a hot chocolate before our descent, we noticed a hockey match on the television. "Who's playing?" I asked.

"You must not be Canadian," said the server. It was an international match in which the U.S. team had defeated the Canadians. In other words, a national tragedy.

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IF YOU ADMIRE BARACK Obama, and even if you do not, there is a set of events that explains the man and his presidency as well as anything else. The PBS series, "In Performance at the White House," is not a speech, an interview or the latest insight on Politico. But these concerts are very much about Obama's core experience and what he values.

It is stating the obvious to

'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



Wikimedia Commons

One of the 28 cabins on the Peak 2 Peak Gondola at Whistler.

**The train to Vancouver is one of our region's best travel opportunities.**

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AT A TIME WHEN ONE presidential contender, Donald Trump, is summoning America's worst instincts on race, it is healthy to drink deeply of this fountain of black culture.

In every generation of Americans, there has been a despised group. The Irish and the Italians had their turn. Catholics had theirs. Jews had decades of it. Blacks had more than a century. Now we are on to Hispanics and Muslims.

— S.A.F.



## A handful of Christmas miracles

By TIMOTHY EGAN

New York Times News Service

Christmas, a time of hope in the murk of early winter, is the best occasion to bring some good news onstage. Here are some snippets of qualified joy:

**Jimmy Carter holds off cancer:** He's 91. A few months ago, he was given a diagnosis of melanoma that had spread from his liver to his brain. But recently, the former president announced that his latest brain scan showed no sign of the disease. Carter is being treated with a drug that uses the immune system to battle cancer cells — another bright light, if the cost can be made affordable.

No matter what you think of his presidency, Carter has been a force for global good since he left the White House, with energy that Jeb Bush should bottle.

**Alexander Hamilton lives, for now:** This founding father is the rage on Broadway, with a smash musical. The man behind our financial system, the immigrant son of a single mother, Hamilton was killed in a duel. His handsome visage covers the \$10 bill.

When Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced that a woman would replace Hamilton, a wave of sensible outrage followed. Keep Hamilton on the 10, and bounce the slavery-defending, Indian-hating brute Andrew Jackson from the 20, putting a woman in his place. Earlier this month, Lew announced he would delay the \$10 redesign, giving time for the right thing to happen — for women, for Hamilton, for paper currency.

**Free Willies:** SeaWorld said it would begin phasing out orca shows at its San Diego park. This is a good start for our fellow warm-blooded

mammals. Orcas, any one of which is smarter than most of the Republican presidential candidates, should never be in circus-style shows, preening for food. Over the last six months, three of these whales have died at Sea-World San Antonio. But with the California Coastal Commission banning the breeding of orcas in captivity, the days of enslavement for one of the world's most magnificent free-swimming creatures may be reaching an end.

**Literary fiction lives:** You see a lot of Fox News-generated trash and formula fiction on the best-seller lists. American reading tastes have gone the way of the American diet. Yes, but. This year, *All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr's magical, World War II-era story of a blind French girl and a Hitler youth nerd continues to sell like tickets to "Hamilton." The prose is luminous, the characters unforgettable, the themes universal.

This follows the great success of Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, 771 pages of delight. Both books won the Pulitzer Prize. A related Christmas miracle: Independent bookstores are resurgent, as e-book sales have leveled off. The obituary for the bound, printed word was written too early.

**Campus free-speech censors are on the run:** Across the political spectrum, people have had enough of pampered college students who are afraid of words and ideas that offend them. Of late, a small but growing number of schools have eliminated the despicable speech limitation codes. And despite all the news generated by closed-minded kids



Timothy Egan

with megaphones, the number of colleges with restrictions on freedom of speech has fallen below 50 percent for the first time in years.

"Education should not be intended to make people feel comfortable," President Barack Obama said the other day. "It is meant to make them think." Which leads to ...

**Obama finds his voice:** Well, and then he lost it after the Paris attacks. Overall, the prez had a very strong year. His leadership was crucial in what could be breakthrough pacts to lessen climate change and keep Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. But I say "could be" because both agreements might still unravel. If they work, the world will be safer, and more livable.

And it's a minor Christmas miracle that the U.S. economy continues to purr along, while those of Europe and China stumble. Over a 69-month streak of growth, the economy has added 13.7 million new jobs, while the unemployment rate has fallen to 5 percent. Bravo.

**Trump and Putin find each other:** The bromance between two of the most odious, bullying, narcissistic tyrants has been building for some time. Now, they have professed their mutual affection for each other. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, invades countries, stifles dissidents and has been accused of killing those who oppose him. For that, Donald Trump says he is worthy of admiration. Trump sneers at women, the disabled, blacks, Mexicans, Muslims, veterans and anyone who is unattractive. "He is a really brilliant and talented person," said Putin. The vulgarian and the war criminal, together at last.

**The American people:** Had my doubts. Still do. I mean, climate change a hoax? Obama a Muslim? Rooting for the New England Patriots? But a Quinnipiac poll this week found that 50 percent of the nation's voters would be "embarrassed" to have Trump as their president. In this age of the rude and crude, a glimmer of decency. Good night to all. Sweet winter dreams. See you next year.