

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 — 2006

The Astoria High School dance team, Pizazz, won first place at the Woodburn High School dance team competition Saturday, its second contest of the season.

Competing in the 1A-2A-3A small division with a total of nine teams, Pizazz dancers took the gold with their performance, "Rock Your Heart Out," for which they donned red satin pants and black shirts adorned with arrow-stabbed hearts reading "Rock."

Astoria's Ginger Davis designed the consumes and Carla Oja the shirts for the ninth- through 12th-graders, said Jeanne Peterson, team coach.

The new master plan for Clatsop County's parks system lays out an ambitious program of facility improvements, funding strategies and other recommendations.

But one of its top priorities is simply to get the public more aware that the county has its own parks.

"I've lived in the county 20 years and regularly use state parks ... really had no idea there were so many county parks!" said one local resident who responded to a survey conducted for the plan.

In some countries, burial plots are rented, and the "tenants" are evicted if their families don't keep up with the rent, Mike Leamy told the Clatsop County commissioners Wednesday.

Americans generally treat the graves of the departed with a greater sense of permanence, he said. But in Clatsop County, neglect is threatening the final resting places of many of the area's former residents.

Leamy and a group of supporters are seeking to form a tax-funded district to provide funding for the care and maintenance of the dozen or more cemeteries in the county.

50 years ago — 1966



Helicopters touch down at their new home at Clatsop airport, site of the Coast Guard's new \$450,000 installation.

Astoria's Coast Guard air station switched operations from Tongue Point to its new \$450,000 hanger at Clatsop airport Friday morning.

The station's two helicopters left their Tongue Point landing pad at 10:15 a.m. And landed at the sprawling new complex at 11. Several newsmen and television cameras were on hand to greet them.

The station has a complement of 10 pilots and 40 crewmen.

Some people thought Gov. Oswald West was a little nutty when he pushed through a law in 1913 declaring a 377-mile ribbon of Oregon beach a "public highway."

There were only 6,428 motor vehicles in Oregon then. And the "public highway" consisted only of the land between the high and low tide marks.

But that was enough to preserve almost all of the 400 miles of spectacularly beautiful Oregon coast for public use. A few stretches had slipped into private ownership, and the state hasn't been able to buy them back.

The predominantly Republican state thought a lot of the Democratic governor's ideas were strange. West served only one term, from 1911 to 1915. In that four-year span, he awakened Oregonians to the abundance of natural beauty and splendor within their state's borders.

The state highway department Tuesday morning reported snow on virtually all of Clatsop County's main highways, but chains were required only at the Sunset summit on Highway 26.

All Knappa-Svensen schools were closed because school buses were not able to negotiate the snow-covered back roads to pick up students.

75 years ago — 1941

The treasury department again has turned thumbs down on Senator Rufus Holman's bill to establish a coast guard air station at Astoria, but Senator Holman will continue to strive for passage of the bill, according to a letter just received by the Astorian-Budget.

The development of the Tongue Point Naval Air Station has been little short of phenomenal to the local Astoria people, who remember it as a picnic ground, the site of some broken down and unused finger piers and the long-time No. 1 sore spot between Clatsop County and the federal government, to whom the land had been given outright for defense development many years ago.

The almost certain discovery of a rare historical object — the Wedgewood platter or plaque which was presented by Captain Robert Gray to the eldest daughter of Chief Comcomally when Gray first entered the Columbia River 149 years ago — was disclosed recently by Lewis R. Williams, Kelso teacher and historian.

Williams declared his search of 35 years has ended with the finding of a fine Wedgewood plaque in the possession of Mrs. Frank Lyniff of Long Beach, Wash.

"I am certain this is the piece of Wedgewood ware that students of Northwest history have sought for so many years," Williams asserted.

Fertile Oregon political era comes alive in McKay's book

IF YOU LIVED IN OREGON 1960-1990, you watched our state go through great change. The history of that social tumult is contained in a few places such as Brent Walth's biography of Gov. Tom McCall.

Now former journalist Floyd McKay has delivered *Reporting the Oregon Story: How Activists and Visionaries Transformed a State*. McKay describes himself as a major pack rat, keeping notes from interviews done decades ago. In conversational tone, this book is a trip through McKay's notebooks. He is a marvel of reinvention — from print journalist to television commentator to Ph.D. to biographer and memoirist.

For a new Oregonian especially, McKay's book is a useful resource.

While McKay occasionally offers some self-deprecating humor, he is not given to deep reflection. He watched Bob Packwood's career from its state legislative beginning, but there is no retrospection on the man who was forced to resign a U.S. Senate seat because he was a sexual predator. The same is true for the fall of former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, for whom McKay was press secretary.

There is, however, a good summation of the rivals Mark Hatfield and Tom McCall. "Hatfield always dressed impeccably and looked ready for a public appearance, even as he worked in his office; McCall rambled around his office in loose sweaters, often without a tie, appearing like a man who had lost his glasses."

McKay's book is published by OSU Press.

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IF YOU OBSERVE POLITICS, you realize all politicians maintain a mythology. Watching Sen. Mark Hatfield at close range, I imagined that he was imitating Cary Grant playing the movie role of a rich banker.

Tricia Gates Brown tells us the larger truth is that all of us nurture myths about ourselves. The Nehalem-based writer spoke about myths and the importance of sacred stories in a presentation to a Columbia Forum audience last week. Brown is author of *Jesus Loves Women: A Memoir of Body and Spirit*.

The secular world abounds with myths. Sports are a big generator of mythology. One of my favorite evo-

'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

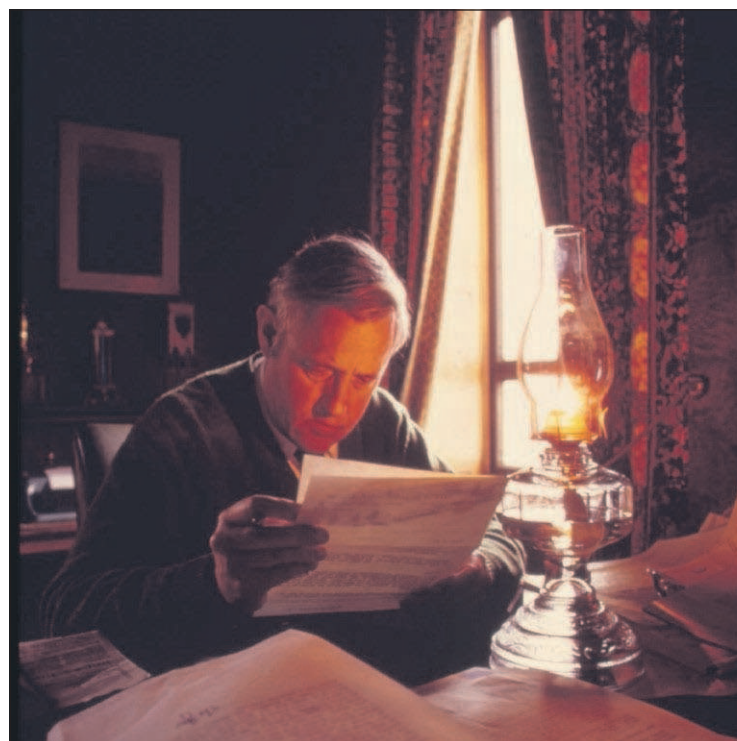


Photo courtesy of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Gov. Tom McCall in 1973 used a kerosene lamp to read mail in his office as a method to bring public attention to the energy crisis in the Pacific Northwest.

cations of baseball's legend is the movie "Bull Durham." It opens with Susan Sarandon's long paean to what she calls "the church of baseball."

One reason why a 17th century art form we know as opera is so durable is that it is largely about myths that resonate in our souls. More than any other composer, Richard Wagner understood this. His refashioning of Norse and Teutonic legends into the Ring Cycle — a four-night epic of myth and celestial music — touches listeners in a visceral way.

Tricia Brown emphasized that nurturing myths can be a positive thing. And she suggested that in the political season it is especially important to use our good myths to drown out the negative myths that are peddled by certain candidates.

For a new Oregonian especially, McKay's book is a useful resource.

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MY FAVORITE quote about the link between celebrity (including politicians) and mythology is by Barbara Grizzuti Harrison. Writing about Oprah Winfrey's latest book, Harrison said: "Celebrities need one another — they ratify one another's myths. They are one another's truest fans."

—S.A.F.



Three different views of marriage

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

Two years ago the Northwestern University psychologist Eli Finkel had an article in *The New York Times* describing how marriage is polarizing: The best marriages today are better than the best marriages of generations ago; the worst marriages now are worse; overall, the average marriage is weaker than the average marriage in days of yore.

Expectations about marriage have risen, Finkel wrote. People now want marriage to satisfy their financial, emotional and spiritual needs.

But while some people spend a lot of one-on-one time working on their marriage, and reap the benefits, most people spend less time, and things slowly decay.

The way we talk about marriage is polarizing, too. If you read the popular literature, there are three different but not mutually exclusive lenses through which to think about marriage decisions.

Most of the popular advice books adopt a psychological lens. These books start with the premise that getting married is a daunting prospect. Forty-five percent of marriages end in divorce; 10 percent of couples separate but do not divorce.

The psychologists want you to think analytically as well as romantically about whom to marry. Pay attention to traits. As Ty Tashiro wrote in *The Science of Happily Ever After*, you want to marry someone who scores high in "agreeableness," someone who has a high concern for social harmony, who is good at empathy, who is nice. You want to avoid people who score

high in neuroticism — who are emotionally unstable or prone to anger.

Don't think negative traits will change over time, Tashiro wrote, because they are constant across a lifetime. Don't focus on irrelevant factors, like looks. Don't filter out or rationalize away negative information about a partner or relationship.

The second lens is the romantic lens. This is the dominant lens in movie and song. More than people in many other countries, Americans want to marry the person they are passionately in love with.

Their logic is that you need a few years of passionate love to fuse you together so you'll stay together when times get hard. It's a process beautifully described by a character in Louis de Bernières' novel *Corelli's Mandolin*.

"Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it. We had roots that grew toward each other underground, and when all the pretty blossoms had fallen from our branches we found that we were one tree and not two."

In *The Good Marriage*, Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee concluded that 15 percent of couples maintain lifelong romantic marriages.

The third lens is the moral lens. In this lens a marriage doesn't exist just to exist or even just for procreation. It exists to serve some higher purpose, whether it is seeking God's kingdom for the religious or in service to some joint cause or humanity-enhancing project for the secular.

In *The Meaning of Marriage*, Tim Keller argued that marriage introduces you to yourself; you realize you're not



David Brooks

as noble and easy to live with as you thought when alone. In many marriages there's an unspoken agreement not to talk about what you don't admire in the other, because the truth from a loved one can be so painful. But in a good marriage you identify your own selfishness and see it as the fundamental problem. You treat it more seriously than your

spouse's selfishness. The everyday tasks of marriage are opportunities to cultivate a more selfless love. Everyday there's a chance to inspire and encourage your partner to become his or her best self. In this lens, marriage isn't about two individuals trying to satisfy their own needs; it's a partnership of mutual self-giving for the purpose of moral growth and to make their corner of the world a little better.

It's probably best to use all three lenses when entering into or living in a marriage. But there are differences among them. The psychological lens emphasizes that people don't change much over a lifetime. Especially after age 30, people may get a little more conscientious and agreeable, but improvements are modest.

In the romantic view, the heart is transformed by love, at any age. In the moral view, spiritual transformation — over a lifetime, not just over two passionate years — is the whole point. People have great power to go against their own natures and uplift their spouses, by showing a willingness to change, by supporting their journey from an old crippled self to a new more beautiful self.

The three lenses are operating at different levels: personality, emotions, the level of the virtues and the vices. The first two lenses are very common in our culture — in bookstores, songs and in movies. But the moral lens, with its view of marriage as a binding moral project, is less common. Maybe that's one of the reasons the quality of the average marriage is in decline.