

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 — 2006

One final ceremony later this month and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial will be history, leaving behind a new appreciation for the past and a spotlight on Astoria and the surrounding area — not to mention a new national park.

Now, many of those involved in the event hope to build on the bistrate cooperation the Bicentennial fostered and bring more national recognition to the area.

It's done, sort of.

The crew assembling the new Fort Clatsop put the last log in place Friday, and over the weekend cut out some of the doorways and installed a picket gate at one end of the fort.

The replica fort is still roofless and floorless and missing doors, chimneys and pretty much every other amenity but it's standing, just five months after fire destroyed the 1955 fort and in time for the March 23 celebration of the end of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and the anniversary of the explorers' start on their journey home.

Carl Abraham has it right. The Astoria Riverfront Trolley is one of the best things to happen to Astoria since the Astoria Column was built.

As Sandra Swain reported last Friday, the Astoria Riverfront Trolley Association (ARTA) has purchased the trolley, which was on loan from the San Antonio Art Museum. With contributions, ARTA paid off its loan with the Bank of Astoria.

The trolley is a hit with visitors as well as locals. It carried close to 60,000 passengers in 2005. Like the Astoria Riverwalk, the trolley has brought new life to the waterfront. The trolley's bell is a cheerful sound, causing heads to turn.

Like the rebuilding of Fort Clatsop, the refurbishing of Old 300, as the trolley is known, has been done by volunteers. Swain's article noted the meticulous carpentry and metal work that was essential to the trolley's restoration.

There is an essential truth about a city's rebirth in the story of the trolley. Like other nonprofit ventures — including the Astoria Column restoration, the Liberty Theater restoration and construction of the Tapiola Park playground — the trolley's acquisition and refurbishing is the product of voluntarism and philanthropy.

Here's to Old 300 and to the people who refurbish, operate and pay for it.

50 years ago — 1966



Coast Guardsmen from Astoria Air Station at Clatsop airport removed a small two-place Bell helicopter from cargo hold of huge C-130 four-engine turbo prop aircraft Friday afternoon. The 110,000-pound cargo plane airlifted the small copter from Seattle and spent about two hours unloading. The copter is one of two small craft destined for the new Astoria Air Station to be used in conjunction with the station's two larger copters.

The Astoria High School basketball team is now undisputed champion of the Metropolitan League and has won the No. 1 league berth in the state A-1 tournament.

The records indicate that Astoria now has gone to more state tournaments than any other high school team in the state.

This is a remarkable record for one of the smaller A-1 schools in Oregon, competing in a league where every other school has at least half as many more students than Astoria and some have twice the enrollment.

Besides this record, the Fishermen have six state championships, a number exceeded by only one other team — old Salem High School which since has been split into two schools.

Hearty congratulations are due Coach Pete Bryant and his squad members, who have added new polish to an already bright record.

The Highway Commission was scheduled today to put the remaining three Astoria-Megler ferry boats up for sale.

The ferries, which ply daily across the mouth of the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon, will become surplus this summer when the \$24 million Astoria bridge is opened to traffic.

75 years ago — 1941

WARRENTON — It was Sunday morning and Fire Chief Art Knight rallied his volunteer fire laddies at the fire house for a practice spin and a test drill.

The firemen were about to start out when someone noticed two small boys playing with a hose against the nearby Episcopal church. Firemen found flames starting out of the roof, so they really went to work instead of just practicing — sending streams of water into the burning room.

Pretty soon someone came out of the church and looked up, then out came a whole group of people. A congregation at worship had been startled when water started dripping on peoples' heads.

Astoria's Fighting Fishermen advanced into the semi-finals of the state high school basketball tournament last night by defeating the Eugene Axmen, 37 to 35, in the most hectic, wild and rough game of the 1941 tournament which is being played on the Willamette Floor in Salem.

A sergeant major set the boundary

ON MY FIRST NIGHT IN the Marine Corps, the sergeant major of the recruit training regiment drew a certain line. With our recently shaved heads, we stood at attention in the second floor of a wood frame World War II barracks.

The room was absolutely silent. Walking into the quiet was a short, stout non-commissioned officer, wearing more stripes than any of us had ever seen. He jumped up on to a table to give us the pep talk. He said that some of us wouldn't make it through basic training. He was right.

About halfway through, he stopped, for emphasis, and then laid it out — racial bigotry would not be tolerated. Perhaps this had been part of all indoctrination talks since President Truman's desegregation of the Armed Forces. Perhaps it became a new element following the Civil Rights Act that became law just two years before my platoon hit Parris Island.

Whatever the case, the words rang out in a platoon that was largely drawn from southern states and somewhat from New England.

I remembered that moment last week after reading about Donald Trump's flirtation with David Duke, the Ku Klux Klan and the white supremacy movement.

The most disconcerting thing about Trump is that he gives license to some of the most virulent strains of racism and bigotry.

As commander in chief, a President Trump would be over Armed Forces that include Muslims and Hispanics — groups whom he has disparaged.

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MY FAVORITE BUILDING at Portland State University was Lincoln Hall. It was the fun place. I took a film course there. And music of all forms drifted out of its practice studios.

At about 7 last Friday night, jazz was coming from the ground-floor studio on the building's northeast corner. At the piano was Darrell Grant, leading his students.

'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

Lady Shizuka from a classic Japanese kabuki play "Yoshitsune Senbon Zakura."

We were on our way upstairs, to see a unique theater offering — Kabuki.

If you have the chance to see this Japanese theater genre, jump at it. PSU has been home to the first mounting of the most epic Japanese Kabuki play — *The Revenge of the 47 Loyal Samurai*. My wife and I saw it last Friday night. Spoken in English, the play is accessible to the non-Japanese speaker.

To an American in 2016, the slow, measured pace of Kabuki can be unsettling. There are long silences to which we are unaccustomed. But on the other end of the emotional scale, vivid feelings of lust, ridicule and vengeance are on display. There is a detailed and painfully slow depiction of seppuku, ritualized Japanese suicide involving disembowelment.

If you have a chance to see Kabuki, jump at it

Based on true series of events in Japanese 18th century history, this work has fascinated Larry Kominz of PSU's Center for Japanese Studies. He directed the production.

The musical backdrop was shamisen (Japanese guitar), flute and wooden blocks.

— S.A.F.



It's not too late for Republican Party

By DAVID BROOKS

New York Times News Service

It's 2 a.m. The bar is closing. Republicans have had a series of strong and nasty Donald Trump cocktails.

Suddenly Ted Cruz is beginning to look kind of attractive.

At least he's sort of predictable, and he doesn't talk about his sexual organs in presidential debates!

Well, Republicans, have your standards really fallen so low so fast? Are you really that desperate? Can you remember your 8 p.m. selves, and all the hope you had about entering a campaign with such a deep bench of talented candidates?

Back in the early evening, before the current panic set in, Republicans understood that Cruz would be a terrible general election candidate, at least as unelectable as Trump and maybe more so. He is the single most conservative Republican in Congress, far adrift from the American mainstream. He's been doing well in primaries because of the support of "extremely conservative" voters in very conservative states, and he really hasn't broken out of that lane. His political profile is a slightly enlarged Rick Santorum but without the heart.

On policy grounds, he would be unacceptable to a large majority in this country. But his policy disadvantages are overshadowed by his public image ones. His rhetorical style will come across to young and independent voters as smarmy and oleaginous. In Congress, he had two accomplishments: the disastrous government shutdown and persuading all his colleagues to dislike him.

There is another path, one that doesn't leave you self-loathing in the morning. It's a long shot, but

given the alternatives, it's worth trying. First, hit the pause button on the rush to Cruz. Second, continue the Romneysque assault on Trump. The results on Saturday, when late voters swung sharply against the Donald, suggest it may be working.

Third, work for a Marco Rubio miracle in Florida on March 15. Fourth, clear the field for John Kasich in Ohio. If Rubio and Kasich win their home states, Trump will need to take nearly 70 percent of the remaining delegates to secure a majority. That would be unlikely; he's only winning 44 percent of the delegates now.

The party would go to the convention without a clear nominee. It would be bedlam for a few days, but a broadly acceptable new option might emerge. It would be better than going into the fall with Trump, which would be a moral error, or Cruz, who in November would manage to win several important counties in Mississippi.

This isn't about winning the presidency in 2016 anymore. This is about something much bigger. Every 50 or 60 years, parties undergo a transformation. The GOP is undergoing one right now. What happens this year will set the party's trajectory for decades.

Since Goldwater/Reagan, the GOP has been governed by a free-market, anti-government philosophy. But over the ensuing decades new problems have emerged. First, the economy has gotten crueler. Technology is displacing workers and globalization is dampening wages. Second, the social structure has atomized and frayed, especially among the less educated. Third, demography is shifting.

Orthodox Republicans, seeing no positive role for government, have had no affirmative agenda to help people



David Brooks

deal with these new problems. Occasionally some conservative policy mavens have proposed such an agenda — anti-poverty programs, human capital policies, wage subsidies and the like — but the proposals were killed, usually in the House, by the anti-government crowd.

The 1980s anti-government orthodoxy still has many followers; Cruz is the extreme embodiment of this tendency. But it has grown increasingly rigid, unresponsive and obsolete.

Along comes Trump offering to replace it and change the nature of the GOP. He tramples all over the anti-government ideology of modern Republicanism. He would replace the free-market orthodoxy with authoritarian nationalism.

He offers to use government on behalf of the American working class, but in negative and defensive ways: to build walls, to close trade, to ban outside groups, to smash enemies. According to him, America's problems aren't caused by deep structural shifts. They're caused by morons and parasites. The Great Leader will take them down.

If the GOP is going to survive as a decent and viable national party, it can't cling to the fading orthodoxy Cruz represents. But it can't shift to ugly Trumpian nationalism, either. It has to find a third alternative: limited but energetic use of government to expand mobility and widen openness and opportunity. That is what Kasich, Rubio, Paul Ryan and others are stumbling toward.

Amid all the fragility and pettiness, that is what is being fought over this month: Going back to the past, veering into an ugly future, or finding a third way. This is something worth fighting for, worth burning the boats behind you for.

The hour is late and the odds may be long. But there is still hope. It's a moment for audacity, not settling for Cruz simply because he's the Titanic you know.