

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

Georgia Forrester may not be an ornithologist, but she's certainly becoming an expert on bald eagles.

Every year, a pair of the majestic, white headed birds return to their nest in a tree a few yards from the Skyline water tower, which is across the street from her house.

Forrester is sure the couple is starting another family.

"I'm very thrilled. They've been coming and going for the last three months," she says. "And just this last week, the female's been staying on the nest 24/7, so there must be an egg!"

Astoria public works staff members are also keeping an eye on the nest and working with the national and state fish and wildlife departments to avoid disturbing the eagles, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. A project to dismantle the elevated water tank and replace it with a ground-level tank will be on hold until Aug. 31 if there is an egg in the nest, and it hatches.

With its large tracts of flat land along U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton has become a magnet for businesses looking for highway access and room to spread out.

The latest is Home Depot. The national home improvement chain, whose closest outpost is 50 miles away in Longview, Wash., has plans in the works for a 26-acre site on the west side of Highway 101 at Dolphin Lane.

If climate change causes ocean levels to rise 3 feet or more, Pacific County is in deep trouble.

"What you would see here would be a hell of a mess," said County Commissioner Jon Kaino.

The longtime Washington resident doesn't doubt global changes are occurring — for whatever reason. But he is cautious of overreacting to incomplete data or inaccurate predictions. He would like more and better information before making land-policy decisions that could decrease the values of people's property.

Septic tank failures and saltwater contamination in wells are just two of the problems the Long Beach Peninsula could expect if ocean levels rise.

50 years ago — 1966



Mrs. Merrill Ginn, left, and Mrs. Lucy Drucker were back this week from Vero Beach, Fla., with the new Piper Cherokee airplane shown here. Owned by Fred Ludwich of Astoria Flight Service, right, the two women will fly the aircraft in the annual Powderpuff Derby next July. They display a card with the name they will use, "Spirit of '66 Clatsop County, Ore., Where the Mighty Columbia Meets the Vast Pacific."

The Lions Home and Auto Show last weekend drew 6,000 people into the Armory, weary Lions officials estimated Monday as they prepared for cleanup work Monday and Tuesday nights.

This total exceeds previous Home and Auto show crowds. Last year an estimated 5,000 people saw the event.

"This show was an answer to people who complain that it's hard to find goods in Astoria stores," C.J. McElhaney, show chairman, noted. "I challenge any critic to find any standard home or auto item that couldn't be found in the fine displays of our local merchants."

Shoreline Development company, Portland, has bought 35 acres of land on the west side of Cullaby Lake from the heirs of the Carnahan estate and plans a residential development there, President W.H. Bucher told the Daily Astorian Tuesday.

75 years ago — 1941

More than 200 WPA workmen, buzzing around in the seclusion and camouflage of Clatsop Plains Scotch broom, are banging together from prefabricated parts the largest WPA defense camp in the west, to house men for work on potentially eight projects in coastal Clatsop County, amounting to \$2,332,245.

The camp is ultimately supposed to house between 1,000 and 1,500 men. Dan K. Plowman, superintendent, said Wednesday it will be ready for 500 men within about 10 days.

At present there are five specific projects that will be operated out of the Clatsop Plains concentration of men; construction of a black-top high-speed military highway known as the Ridge road between Camp Clatsop and Fort Stevens, \$539,580; extension and modernization of the Astoria airport, \$400,000; rebuilding the Warrenton water system, with a new pipeline, new concrete dams and a settling basin, \$430,600; and construction of \$44,000 drill hall within the Stevens garrison.

A game to remember

NO GOOD DEED GOES N unpunished.

Especially if you are an elected leader.

On last Friday's "PBS NewsHour," columnist Mark Shields criticized "the optics" of President Barack Obama's presence at a Havana baseball game, which occurred on the heels of the Brussels airport terrorist incident. Shields said it would have been better if Obama had not been wearing sunglasses.

The game pitted the Tampa Rays against the Cuban national team. It was the final act of Obama's three-day groundbreaking visit to Havana. He had also met privately with Cuban President Raul Castro, held a joint press conference with Castro, met privately with dissidents and spoken to the Cuban people.

Unlike Shields, David Brooks said there's no good reason for not going to a baseball game. He added that presidents can do more than one thing at a time, and that telephones are always available.



WHILE THE TAMPA-CUBA game was not close (Tampa 4-Cuba 1), it was freighted with emotion. This was baseball diplomacy. American baseball royalty came for the occasion. Derek Jeter was in the audience. So was Jackie Robinson's widow, Rachel (as a minor leaguer, Robinson played on the same ballfield). The legendary Cuban-American pitcher Luis Tiant threw out one of the two pitches that preceded the game.

When the Rays scored the first run, Obama reached over to shake Castro's hand. Late in the game, Tiant approached the presidential box and shook Castro's hand. That was an exceptionally meaningful gesture from a man who defected from Cuba years ago.

No player had a more emotional experience than Rays outfielder Dayron Varona, who fled Cuba in 2013 and was reunited with his family upon the team's arrival. Varona received a cool reception from the Cuban audience during pregame team introductions. So when he headed to home plate for his lead-off batting assignment, his teammates piled out of the dugout to clap for him.

'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



Will Vragovic/The Tampa Bay Times

President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro take their seats before a baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban national team in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday. It's the first game featuring an MLB team in Cuba since the Baltimore Orioles played in the country in 1999.

America's baseball royalty came for the ice-breaking game



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL was one of the corporate players who joined Obama's mission. MLB made a significant investment in reconditioning the Havana ballfield. Tons of clay remade the infield. It was applied by hand, because there is no mechanized farm or landscape equipment in Cuba. The field was also resodded.

Among the ideas MLB has floated is a Cuban minor league team, as well as baseball academies, similar to what has produced the wealth of MLB stars from the Dominican Republic.

THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE of Obama and Castro was something to behold. Like the baseball game that would follow, this was an emotional event.

While Castro had agreed to take one question, he eventually took three. And dictators don't do press conferences. One of the three questions was about political prisoners, and it was asked by an American newsmen of Cuban descent.

—S.A.F.



The sexual politics of 2016

By DAVID BROOKS

New York Times News Service

In the middle of the Civil War a colonel named Robert McAllister from the 11th Regiment of New Jersey tried to improve the moral fiber of his men.

A Presbyterian railroad contractor in private life, he lobbied and preached against profanity, drinking, prostitution and gambling.

Some of the line officers in the regiment, from less genteel backgrounds, rebelled.

They formed an organization called the Independent Order of Trumps. In sort of a mischievous, laddie way, the Trumps championed boozing and whoring, cursing and card-playing.

In her book *The Gentlemen and the Roughs*, Lorien Foote notes that this wasn't just a battle over pleasure. It was a contest between two different ideals of masculinity. McAllister's was based on gentlemanly chivalry and self-restraint. Trumpian masculinity was based on physical domination and sexual conquest.

"Perceptions of manliness were deeply intertwined with perceptions of social status," Foote writes.

And so it is today.

These days we're living through another great redefinition of masculinity. Today, both men and women are called upon to live up to the traditional ideals of both genders. So the ideal man, at least in polite society, gracefully achieves a series of balances. He is steady and strong, but also verbal and vulnerable. He is emotionally open and willing to cry, but also restrained and resilient. He is physical and also intellectual.

Today's ideal man honors the women in his life in whatever they want to do. He treats them with

respect in the workplace and romance in the bedroom. He is successful in the competitive world of the marketplace but enthusiastic in the kitchen and gentle during kids' bath time.

This new masculine ideal is an unalloyed improvement on all the earlier masculine ideals. It's a great achievement of our culture. But it is demanding and involves reconciling a difficult series of tensions. And it has sparked a bad-boy protest movement and counter-culture, currently led by a group we might once again call the Independent Order of Trumps.

Donald Trump's presidential campaign is a revolution in manners, a rejection of the civility codes of the educated class. As part of this, he rejects the new and balanced masculine/feminine ideal that has emerged over the past generation. Trump embraces a masculine identity — old in some ways, new in others — built upon unvarnished misogyny.

Trump's misogyny is not the historical moralistic misogyny. Traditional misogyny blames women for the lustful, licentious and powerful urges that men sometimes feel in their presence. In this misogyny, women are the powerful, disgusting corrupters — the vixens, sirens and monsters. This gynophobic misogyny demands that women be surrounded with taboos and purgation rituals, along with severe restrictions on behavior and dress.

Trump's misogyny, on the other hand, has a commercial flavor. The central arena of life is male competition. Women are objects men use to win points in that competition. The purpose of a woman's body is to reflect status on a man. One way to emasculate a rival man is to insult or conquer his woman.

Writing for Slate, Frank Foer has



David Brooks

one of the best (and most disgusting) compilations of Donald Trump's history with women. Most of the episodes are pure dominance display.

For example, A.J. Benza was a writer who confessed that his girlfriend had left him for Trump. Trump called into a radio show he was appearing on to brag.

"I've been successful with your girlfriend, I'll tell you that," Trump said. "While you were getting onto the plane to go to California thinking she was your girlfriend, she was some place that you wouldn't have been very happy with."

When the commentator Tucker Carlson criticized him, Trump left voice mail bragging about how much more sex he gets. He told an interviewer that you have to treat women like dirt.

It's not quite right to say that Trump is a throwback to midcentury sexism. At least in those days negative behavior toward women and family members was restrained by the chivalry code. Political candidates didn't go attacking their rivals' wives based on their looks. Trump's objectification is uncontrolled. It's pure ego competition with a pornified flavor.

In this way, Trump represents the spread of something brutal. He takes economic anxiety and turns it into sexual hostility. He effectively tells men: You may be struggling, but at least you're better than women, Mexicans and Muslims.

I've grappled with understanding how much to blame Trump's supporters for his rise. Many of them are victims of economic dislocation, and it is hard to fault them for seeking a change, of course, even if it is simplistic and ignorant.

But in the realm of cultural politics, Trump voters do need to be held to account. They are participating in a descent into darkness. They are supporting a degrading wrong. This is the world your daughters are going to grow up in.

This is the world your daughters are going to grow up in.