

Jokes aside, lawyers are part of our communities' fabric

For an Astoria law firm to produce a governor and two congressmen is astonishing

When my wife and I lived in Washington, D.C., we knew lots of lawyers. There is nothing special about that.

It's like a Capitol Hill resident knowing someone who works for the CIA. If you live in D.C., the odds are that you will know someone at the CIA.

The striking thing about the lawyers we knew in Washington was their unhappiness. So many of these lawyers were looking for something else to do.

That memory surfaced as Matt Winters and I interviewed lawyers for the April *Coast River Business Journal* article on legal services. I was struck by the enthusiasm of the lawyers we met: Steve Campbell, Larry Popkin, Ben and Megan Lawrence.

The Lawrences described the lifestyle advantage a lawyer in our region has over a city-based lawyer. Popkin mentioned the differential between the number of hours he must bill per month, as opposed to someone in a large city firm.

More than that, there is a relationship factor that brings more satisfaction. Hal Snow spoke of this during a conversation we had on Monday. I told Hal my wife's observation that a lot of what he does could be called social work.

Describing what he does, Snow said "We (a client and he) sit across the desk and have a personal relationship."

Matt Winters also recognizes this aspect of small town lawyering. Matt, like his father, was a lawyer in Wyoming. He remembers his dad often said that at times he felt like he was doing marriage counseling.

The extraordinary thing about the Snow law firm is its extensive lineage. Its predecessor law firms were home to two congressmen and one governor. They were Walter Norblad, Wendell Wyatt and A.W. Norblad.

Gathering research on a feature called "A day in the life of the Astoria Post Office," some 20 years ago, I saw graphic evidence of the Snow law firm's legacy. On the other side of the post office boxes, where mail is sorted, one may see how names are written beside boxes. On the box the Snow law firm uses are names from decades ago, such as Wyatt and Norblad.

At one point the firm was known as Nor-



Steve Forrester



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A plaque reading Norblad and Norblad Attorneys is seen in the offices of Snow and Snow.



A.W. Norblad



Walter Norblad



Wendell Wyatt

blad & Norblad. Born in Sweden, A.W. Norblad came to Astoria in 1909 and started a law practice. He was briefly Oregon's governor (1929-1931). After attending Harvard Law School, Walter Norblad joined his father's practice in 1932. He represented our district in Congress, 1946-1964.

Following World War II, Wendell Wyatt joined the Norblad firm. He succeeded Walter Norblad in Congress and served 1964-1975.

It is remarkable that a law firm in a town of 10,000 was such an incubator for state and federal political leadership.

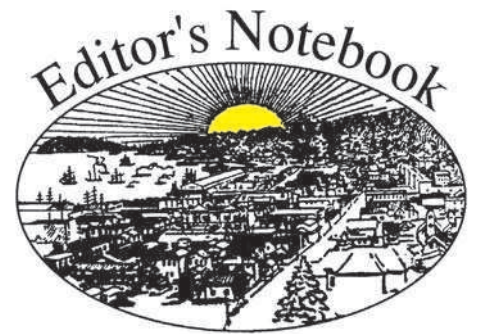
When you grow up in a small town — as I did in Pendleton — you are conscious of the town's lawyers. One of my best school chums' fathers was a prosecutor when we

were young. I have a vivid memory of going to his office, upstairs in an office building, and seeing him wearing a pistol in a shoulder holster. That made an impression on a sixth-grade boy.

The remnants of Pendleton's early law practices were evident in the 1950s. John Kilkenny would leave the firm he established in 1925 when President Dwight Eisenhower made him a federal judge in 1959.

When I returned to Pendleton on a visit in about 1972, I was startled to learn that a Native American lawyer, Doug Nash, had set up a law practice. That signaled a dramatic shift in the native culture around Pendleton.

Like every other profession, lawyering is in the midst of technological change.



Lawyers we knew in Washington, D.C., were an unhappy lot. But not here.

At the same time, lawyers often see social change coming before the rest of us do. Hal Snow sounded the alarm that led to one of Clatsop County's early successful prosecutions of an elder abuse case. Since then, Hal has been appalled to see incidents of elder abuse increase.

Upriver, Portland's Tonkon Torp law firm has formed a marijuana group, to serve a business group that did not exist just five years ago. Another sign of the times.

—S.A.F.

The Republicans' coming train wreck in November

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Yes, the big Wisconsin story is Ted Cruz's crushing 13-point victory.

And yes, it greatly improves his chances of denying Donald Trump a first-ballot convention victory, which may turn out to be Trump's only path to the nomination.

Nonetheless, the most stunning result of Wisconsin is the solidity of Trump's core constituency. Fundamentalist Trumpism remains resistant to every cosmic disturbance. He managed to get a full 35 percent in a state in which:

- He was opposed by a very popular GOP governor (80 percent approval among Republicans) with a powerful state organization honed by winning three campaigns within four years (two gubernatorial, one recall).

- He was opposed by popular, local, well-informed radio talk show hosts whose tough interviews left him in shambles.

- Tons of money was dumped into negative ads not just from the Cruz campaign and the pro-Cruz super PACs but from two anti-Trump super PACs as well.

And if that doesn't leave a candidate flattened, consider that Trump was coming off two weeks of grievous self-inflicted wounds — and still got more than a third of the vote. Which definitively vindicated Trump's boast that if he ever went out in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shot someone (most likely because his Twitter went down — he'd be apprehended in his pajamas), he wouldn't lose any voters.

The question for Trump has always been how far he could reach beyond his solid core. His problem is that those who reject him are equally immovable. In Wisconsin, 58 percent of Republican voters said that the prospect of a Trump presidency left them concerned or even scared.

Cruz scares a lot of people, too. But his fear number was 21 points lower. Moreover, 36 percent of Wisconsin Republi-



Charles Krauthammer

cans, facing a general-election choice between Hillary Clinton and Trump, would either vote Clinton, go third party or stay home.

Trump did not exactly advance his needed outreach with his reaction to the Wisconsin result: a nuclear strike on "Lyn' Ted," as "a puppet" and "a Trojan horse" illegally coordinating with his super PACs (evidence?) "who totally control him." Not quite the kind of thing that gets you from 35 percent to 50 percent.

Not needed, say the Trumpites. If we come to Cleveland with a mere plurality of delegates, fairness demands that our man be nominated.

This is nonsense. If you cannot command or cobble together a majority, you haven't earned the party leadership.

John Kasich makes the opposite case. He's hanging on in case a deadlocked convention eventually turns to him, possessor of the best polling numbers against Clinton. After all, didn't Lincoln come to the 1860 convention trailing?

Yes, and so what? The post-



Marisa Wojcik/The Eau Claire Leader-Telegram via AP
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump greets supporters during a rally at Memorial High School in Eau Claire, Wis., Saturday.

Fundamentalist Trumpism remains resistant to every cosmic disturbance.

1968 reforms abolished the system whereby governors, bosses and other party poo-bahs decided things. In the modern era, to reach down to the No. 3 candidate — a distant third who loses 55 of 56 contests — or to parachute in a party unicorn who never entered the race in the first place would be a radical affront to the democratic spirit

of the contemporary nominating process.

A parachute maneuver might be legal, but it would be perceived as illegitimate and, coming amid the most intense anti-establishment sentiment in memory, imprudent to the point of suicide.

Yet even without this eventuality, party suicide is a very real

possibility. The nominee will be either Trump or Cruz. How do they reconcile in the end?

It's no longer business; it's personal. Cruz has essentially declared that he couldn't support someone who did what Trump did to Heidi Cruz. He might try to patch relations with some Trump supporters — is Chris Christie's soul still for sale? — but how many could he peel away? Remember: Wisconsin has just demonstrated Trump's unbreakable core.

And if Trump loses out, a split is guaranteed. In Trump's mind, he is a winner. Always. If he loses, it can only be because he was cheated. He constantly contends that he's being treated unfairly. He is certain to declare any convention process that leaves him without the nomination irredeemably unfair. No need to go third party. A simple walkout with perhaps a thousand followers behind will doom the party in November.

In a country where only 25 percent feel we're on the right track and where the leading Democrat cannot shake the challenge of a once-obscure dairy-state socialist, you'd think the Republicans cannot lose.

You'd be underestimating how hard they are trying.



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