

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 bright sunshine is usually a no-show at the annual Daily Astorian Invitational — the annual track and field event usually marked by a combination of hail, wind, rain and cold.

But the sun was more than a little symbolic in this year's meet, held under (mostly) clear skies Monday afternoon at Astoria High School.

That's because there are some bright athletes on the horizon on the North Oregon Coast. And those athletes made it a record-setting day on the Astoria track.

Five meet records went down in this year's Invitational, which showcases some of the best athletes in the Lower Columbia region.

Topping the list was freshman Charlene Harber, who won two events and shared the field athlete of the meet honor with fellow Astoria freshman Laura Bobek.

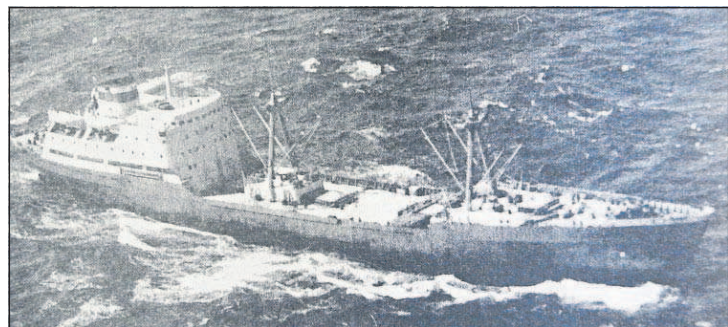
The jury in the Uppertown landslide court case got a first-hand look Friday at the damage suffered by properties in the east Astoria neighborhood from land movement three years ago.

The 12 jury members and six alternates toured the structures, whose owners are suing contractor Jim Wilkins for more than \$3 million for damage they claim he caused by improperly excavating the hillside below their properties at 32nd and Marine Drive.

The trial, in Clatsop County Circuit Court in front of visiting Judge Paul Crowley of Hood River, began Wednesday and is expected to last four to five weeks.

Wilkins excavated the base of the hillside for a commercial development planned by Skip Hauke beginning in April 2003. Around the time of the digging, nearby property owners discovered cracks in walls and foundations and broken water and sewer lines.

50 years ago — 1966



This photo of one of the Russian fishery vessels off Newport was made by Henry Kalfholm, Astoria, from an airplane piloted by James Campbell, also of Astoria.

A large Russian fishing fleet, estimated to be in excess of 200 boats, swept across bottom fishing grounds off the central Oregon coast over the weekend, driving American fishermen into their home ports.

Lower Columbia River area fishermen expressed "great alarm" that the Russians would clear the grounds of spawning and immature fish and leave them barren for years to come.

Fishermen charged they could not even fish in previously productive areas because of the Russian boats. "They've run us right off the grounds," one fisherman angrily stated.

A new and less costly route for a proposed canal linking the Columbia River with Puget Sound has won support from the State Canal Commission.

Based on preliminary reports by Army Engineers, the new route could cut more than \$160 million from the project's original cost estimate of \$500 million.

The commission endorsed the general route location at a meeting late Monday.

One of the chief departures from earlier suggested routes is the canal's connection with Puget Sound. Instead of terminating at Budd Inlet in Olympia, the canal would join the sound at Eld Inlet to the west.

The main link from Grays Harbor at Aberdeen would parallel the Chehalis and Black River channels.

By following the river valley the canal would encounter elevations of not more than 50 feet above sea level.

75 years ago — 1941

Before the summer of 1941 fades into the fall, whether the United States government takes the road to war or continues to groom its vehicles for that course, a cataract of new payrolls, like a flash flood foaming from barren hills, will sweep Astoria and lower Columbia towns at the rate of nearly \$500,000 a month.

The heavy jolt of new money will spring almost entirely from the defense effort in this area, where the most diversified Military preparedness program in Oregon is gaining a full head of steam.

At present there is under way, immediately pending and in all cases "approved" by one official source or another a total of \$11,310,659 directly or indirectly associated to defense.

An estimated more than 1000 persons filed through the gates of Fort Stevens today to join army forces there in celebration of Army Day, which provided the lay public with inside glances of men training, living routine and drill technique among soldiers of the 18th and 249th coast artillery regiments at the fort.

After much feverish activity beach combers on Cape Disappointment were idle today when Sheriff Peter Maloney and two special deputies of Pacific County, Washington, stopped collecting of all lard drifting ashore from the Russian steamer Vatslav Vorovsky.

Frank Sweet, Lloyd's agent, today announced that he had requested the sheriff to hold all cargo coming ashore following the disposal of considerable quantities of lard. Ilwaco fishermen and others who were picking up the lard, were disappointed with the order to ban salvage of the lard.

Astoria's J.C. Penney store evokes childhood memories

MOST OF US OF A CERTAIN age remember going to a J.C. Penney store in August to buy school clothes with our mother. The feel of the Penney's in Pendleton was much like that of Astoria's store, which turns 100 this month. My wife says the Independence, Missouri, store she grew up with had the same footprint as Astoria's.

The thing I remember about such stores in the 1960s was the system of wires connecting sales positions on the floor with the business office on the mezzanine. Payments would move back and forth in tubes that were set in motion by a lever pulled by the sales clerk.

The late Si Wentworth of Astoria was a former Penney executive. Si told my father that the revenue per square foot of Astoria's store was one of highest in the Penneys' group.

This store is a very special element in Astoria's downtown. It is a reliable outlet for a broad array of goods, from underwear to socks to towels and sheets. The store even draws cruise ship passengers who need basic things.

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HOW ABOUT THIS BASEBALL season? After watching the Chicago Cubs dismantle one of their opponents last week, my wife and I are convinced that all the Cubby World Series buzz is for real. The Kansas City Royals are equally impressive. And we are delighted that the San Francisco Giants have regained the ability to put 12 runs on the board in a game.

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THE LUM SISTERS ARE remarkable for more than one reason. Speaking to a McFavish Room audience last week, Helena Barbey

'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

One way of defining or describing Astoria is its colorful array of families. The Lums and the Barbeyes exemplify that value.

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Decades ago I read a book about the custody trial over the young Gloria Vanderbilt. It was a gilded soap opera that included a number of eccentric personalities.

Anderson Cooper, whom many of us watch on CNN, is Vanderbilt's son. He is named for her late husband Wyatt Cooper. Last weekend HBO aired "Nothing Left Unsaid," a biographical documentary of Vanderbilt's life that Cooper orchestrated.

A friend of mine who is a veteran television anchor does not like Cooper's onscreen persona. I like his straightforward demeanor a lot. In "Nothing Left Unsaid" Cooper deftly displays affection for his mother while also drawing out her story, which is beyond belief.

—S.A.F.



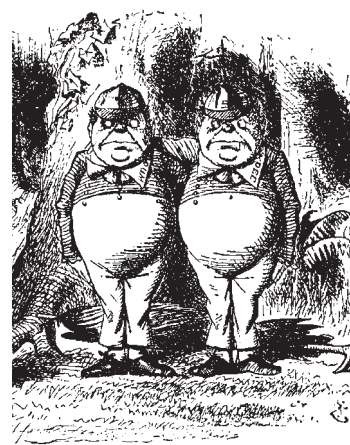
James Cash Penney

Lori, Julie and Pam Lum ARE the party.

Lankton noted how few U.S. auto dealerships are owned by women. It is even more remarkable that three siblings in business together are as convivial as the Lums.

Lori, Julie and Pam are the party.

Lankton offered her audience a deeply insightful talk. Speaking of her family's former business, the Barbey Packing Co., Helena said she wished her father had given her the opportunity to learn it. Helena also spoke of the openly hostile workplace she faced when she was a lone female stockbroker at Kidder Peabody in the 1970s.



GUEST COLUMN

Childhood should be a wonderful time

By JULIA MABRY

For The Daily Astorian

Childhood is a magical place. It's where tooth fairies live and every day brings a revelation.

The joys of finding your toes! Sand is edible! Toilets have a purpose! A string of letters can tell stories! We want this for all children, a time full of laughter, and birthdays, and a warm lap to climb onto before bedtime.

We want our children to grow into healthy, happy people, ushered into adulthood by loving hands and kind words.

Yet for too many children in our community, this is a utopia they may never experience. Their lives include the kind of darkness we don't wish on our worst enemies.

We have read it in these pages over the last few years: stories of child murders and abuse that leave us nauseated and incredulous. Horrifying as they were, they represent only the tip of the iceberg.

In Clatsop County alone, child abuse and neglect has resulted in the state taking legal custody of over 150 children in 2015. And again this is only a fraction of the problem, representing only cases where neither parent was able or willing to provide a safe home.

The true extent of neglect and abuse of children is unknowable. It happens behind closed doors, among neighbors who don't want to "meddle," in families who are ashamed, to children who love their parents no matter what they do and who will not speak out against them. It happens to children who don't know that they deserve better.

The consequences of abuse last a lifetime. Brain development in utero and throughout childhood is affected by neglect, maltreatment and drugs, as well as by exposure to traumatic events, like witnessing domestic violence. These physical changes in the brain are compounded by mental health effects of trauma.



Drawing by Richard Reynolds

In Clatsop County alone, child abuse and neglect has resulted in the state taking legal custody of over 150 children in 2015.

The cost of this to society is as unknowable as the true extent of the problem. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate the cost for one year of confirmed child abuse and neglect at \$124 billion over the course of the lives of the children abused that year. The cost to the children has no dollar value.

In this divisive election time, we can agree on this if nothing else: our children deserve tooth fairies and bedtime stories and good food in their tummies. They deserve happy childhoods. It is up to us adults to create an environment where this is possible, for all children.

We can be the parents who watch our children at the playground. We can be the teachers who notice when a child seems troubled. We can be the neighbors who offer help to a family in need.

While the causes of child abuse and neglect seem so ingrained and pervasive in our society that resignation to "this is just how it is" seems the obvious response, we can do better.

Some suggestions:

- Be an active community member. Many programs for children and families, including schools, are underfunded. The opportunities to volunteer and contribute to a better society are endless.

- Get to know your neighbors and let them know they have your support.

- Be a family-friendly employer, colleague and boss.

- If you think that a child may be experiencing neglect or abuse, report your suspicion at 877-302-0077. You are not getting a family into trouble by calling this hotline, but you are quite possibly getting a child out of trouble.

And learn more about the needs of children in our community, and how best to serve them. Our children deserve nothing less.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can show your support for prevention at an upcoming community event, "Walk a Mile with Us: Prevention is Possible" at 4 p.m. April 28 at the Barbey Center parking lot in Astoria. A blue pinwheel garden, representing the healthy, carefree, happy childhood we want for all children, is traveling around the county during the month of April.

Julia Mabry is the executive director of the Clatsop CASA Program, a nonprofit that trains and supervises volunteers to advocate for the best interest of foster children. Contact her at julia@clatsop-casa.org.