

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

A Lake Oswego man could throw a monkey wrench into two big developments in the works along U.S. Highway 101 at Dolphin Road.

Peter Ettro, a 28-year-old CPA who grew up in Knappa and Astoria, is fighting zoning and other land-use changes needed by Home Depot and Lum's Auto Center.

If and when Home Depot opens for business in Warrenton, it's likely to provide stiff competition for Randy Stemper's locally owned Builders Supply stores in Astoria and Gearhart.

"They're going to impact us. At what level, is the question," Stemper said, adding that he's more worried about the effect the chain store will have on the community. "When's the last time you saw their (Home Depot's) name on the back of a kid's jersey?" Stemper asked.

Northern Star Natural Gas has moved ahead with its paperwork to build a liquefied natural gas terminal on the Columbia River at Bradwood.

At the same time, a group of almost 100 people, including North Coast residents and visitors from as far away as Santa Barbara, Calif., marched in protest through Astoria Saturday and unveiled the beginning of a legal campaign to stop it.

The proposed Warrenton Home Depot store will have a \$4.5 million payroll and employ 155 people — 70 percent of them full-time and 85 percent of them local — and pay wages that exceed the Clatsop County average, company executive Brian Cannard told the Warrenton City Commission Tuesday night. Cannard, Home Depot's real estate manager for Oregon, was one of four company representatives who made the case for rezoning land on U.S. Highway 101 from residential to general commercial to accommodate the store.

50 years ago — 1966

Russia and the United States may begin talks soon on problems arising out of the presence of a Soviet trawl fishing fleet off the Pacific coast.

Possibility of the talks was disclosed at a public rally attended by more than 400 persons at Ocosta school in Westport, Wash., Sunday evening.

Columbia River Fishermen's union has protested to the Oregon Sanitary Authority against Crown-Zellerbach Corporation's proposal to pipe mill effluent and bleach waste into the Columbia River at Wauna, unless the material is completely purified.

Russell Bristowd, union secretary, said piping the unpurified wastes into the river would be an "unnecessary hazard to all marine life in the lower Columbia and to the health and well-being of the citizens of Oregon and Washington."

It took \$325,000 and months of hard work and sweat, but Clatsop County now has one of the most advanced summer sports camps for boys in the country.

Dubbed Sports Acres, the camp is 380 acres nestled in a valley between the Nehalem river and Highway 25 off Elderberry inn.

"Here boys 10 and older can build their proficiency in a chosen sport under auspices of some of the finest college and high school coaches in the northwest," revealed Joseph Peterson, director of the camps activities.

There were 57 vessels in the Russian fishing fleet and they seemed to be avoiding infractions of international law during the 10-day patrol of the cutter Yocona that ended last weekend.

75 years ago - 1941

An estimated 500 new citizens will be honored by recognition services Saturday evening at Gyro field at the joint celebration of "I Am An American Day" and Flag Day.

These 500 citizens have reached the age of 21 within the past year and are residents from all parts of Clatsop County. In addition to them are the naturalized citizens who have received their papers within the last year.

A possibility exists that operation of the Clatsop airport will be suspended, and that the Civil Aeronautics authority's grant of a student fliers' course of training for Astoria will be withdrawn because of dredging work in the renovation and expansion of the Clatsop airport.

News has been received from the regional office of the CAA at Seattle that the school had been withdrawn because of the flying ban to be applied on the airport during the dredge work. The Astoria port commission was told last night that without use of the airport's main runway, flying operations among 90 students in the Clatsop County Aviation association would have to be abandoned along with any plans for a CAA school.

Additional protection for the port of Astoria facilities was authorized by the port commission Tuesday night.

R.R. Bartlett, port manager, was instructed to proceed at once with the erection of high fences across the frontage of the three piers in order to keep out prowlers and all persons, particularly after hours, who have no business on the port premises.

My brother met Ali

Cities with access to financial capital have the capacity to modernize. That makes the difference between being stuck in an old economy and having the wherewithal to build a new economy.

That is one way of understanding the importance of John Berdes' role in Astoria.

Newcomers with new ideas and access to capital are what has changed Astoria over the past 25 years. Berdes typified that phenomenon. He had the capacity to look at Astoria as a highly informed outsider. That allowed him to cut through the inertia that afflicts all small towns. Like other newcomers who have become change agents, Berdes' gift was in opening doors and seeing links to funding sources based elsewhere.

To many of us who knew John over more than a decade, his decline and death on Sunday was a shock and sadness.



WHEN MUHAMMAD ALI died, I remembered my brother's brief encounter with the champ. As an *Associated Press* reporter based in Los Angeles in 1967, Mike was sent to LAX to meet Ali, who was between flights.

Writes Mike: "Ali suggested we talk on the way to the main terminal where he was meeting long-time photographer friend Howard Beingham. Anyway, as the three of us stood in the terminal facing each other, I heard one of them say, 'Man, I really gotta go.' The reply was, 'Don't go here, man, no, no!' And then I felt something dropping on my shoe. The 'drops' turned out to be tiny pebbles which were part of Ali's entertainment arsenal."



WHEN MY WIFE VISITED Pittsburgh about 40 years ago the air was a gray-brown haze. She remembers not being able to see more than five blocks ahead. Such was the city's air quality before the steel industry faded and the Clean Air Act gained traction.

Today the city's air is like Portland's. Like many other cities, Pittsburgh has reconnected with its rivers — the Allegheny, Monongahela and the Ohio.

'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 Mike Forrester
 Muhammad Ali and Mike Forrester chat in Los Angeles International Airport in 1967.

Pittsburgh's PNC Park is an intimate setting for baseball

We came to Pittsburgh last weekend to see baseball — one of its two venerable franchises, the Pirates and the Steelers.

Located on the Allegheny and in the middle of downtown, PNC Park gives the spectator good sight lines in all sections. The Pirates had a hot early season, but there was little evidence of that in the Friday, Saturday and Sunday games we saw with our friends from New Hampshire and St. Louis.

The city abounds with great eating. The aptly named Meat and Potatoes was a good dinner spot. The lunch spot Primanti has a history going back to steel town days — with sandwiches that are layered with meat, cole slaw and french fries.

The Heinz name is on a spectrum of the city's cultural attrac-

tions. The Heinz History Center contains the stage sets of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," which was produced by the Pittsburgh public station.

Two floors of the Heinz Center are devoted to sports. The city's industrial league's football team photos evoke the steel town it once was. The NFL section of the museum depicts how many pro quarterbacks emerged from the coal fields of western Pennsylvania — such as Joe Namath, Joe Montana and Johnny Unitas.

— S.A.F.



A time to stand with gay Americans

By FRANK BRUNI
New York Times News Service

Some of June's gay pride celebrations happened last weekend, but many are still ahead. The one in Louisville, Kentucky, is among them. There's a parade scheduled for Friday.

That's your state, Mitch McConnell. You should go.

If you're not comfortable marching, stand on the sidelines. If parades aren't your thing, make an appearance at one of the other pride events in Kentucky in coming days.

Just show up. And by doing so, show that the absence of "gay" or "LGBT" in your statements immediately following the Orlando massacre — and in the statements of so many other prominent Republicans — isn't because you place us and our concerns behind some thick pane of glass with a Do Not Touch sign on it, and the sign stays up even when blood and tears pool beneath it.

For more than 48 hours, Paul Ryan also seemed to avoid any mention of the kind of nightclub that the Orlando gunman chose and one of the reasons its revelers were marked for death.

On Tuesday morning that silence finally ended, as Ryan told journalists at a news conference in Washington that he wanted to "be clear."

"Members of the LGBT community were the targets," he said. "They were simply attacked for who they are."

He thus joined his 2012 running mate, Mitt Romney, who sent out a tweet midday Monday saying that he and his wife, Ann, were offering "a special prayer for the LGBT community that was the focus of this attack."

Ryan also joined Donald Trump, who mentioned LGBT Americans repeatedly in his formal remarks on Monday afternoon, expressing "solidarity with the members of Orlando's LGBT community" and asserting that the gunman wanted "to execute gay and lesbian citizens because of their sexual orientation."

But more conspicuous than what

Romney and Trump said was what so many other Republicans didn't.

Bemoaning the carnage, they justly condemned the Islamic State and violent extremists. They rightly paid tribute to "first responders."

But this specificity didn't extend to the lives and loves of the people killed. Even Rick Scott, the Republican governor of Florida, sidestepped the subject, failing to emphasize that many of them spent their final terrified moments in a place where they had sought precisely the comfort and belonging that they didn't always feel on the other side of its walls.

We still have much to learn about the range and exact mix of the gunman's motives. There are reports that he cased other locations. His unhinged diatribes apparently extended to women, blacks and Jews as well as gays.

His past behavior and his call to 911 demonstrated an overarching hatred of America, with its celebration of diversity and individual liberty. The revelers in Pulse epitomized that liberty, and what happened to them is part of a bigger story and bigger struggle that affect everyone in this country.

But that doesn't preclude an acknowledgment of their sexual orientations, and it doesn't explain — or excuse — any reluctance to discuss that.

Roman Catholic leaders, too, shied away. Statements by the bishop of Orlando and by the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said nothing about a gay nightclub or gays.

This so troubled the Rev. James Martin, a best-selling Jesuit author, that he posted a video commentary about it on Facebook on Monday afternoon. Twenty-four hours later, it had been

viewed about 700,000 times.

"If the murders had happened, God forbid, in a church of a particular Christian denomination, Catholic leaders would decry the murders and then naturally express their solidarity with members of that denomination," he said in the video, adding that for the most part, "this was not done for the grieving LGBT community."

He told me on Tuesday that there were some exceptions, including Bishop Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg, Florida, who wrote an extraordinary blog post in which he conceded that religion, including Catholicism, "often breeds contempt for gays, lesbians and transgender people," and that such contempt can lead to violence. Lynch stressed that the Orlando victims "were all made in the image and likeness of God."

"We teach that," Lynch wrote. "We should believe that. We must stand for that."

"We" includes political leaders of both parties. If Ted Cruz can mourn Orlando as an attack on gay people — which, in fact, he did — then every other Republican can, too.

This is one of those moments, in the wake of terror, when we find the most apt and evocative ways to underscore our oneness and renounce our fear. When we make grand gestures. When we make pointed ones.

So Majority Leader McConnell, pick your rally. Speaker Ryan, accompany him. Gov. Scott, attend the funerals of gay victims. Other Republicans and Democrats, recognize LGBT Americans with both your words and your presence.

You want to show our enemies what America stands for? Then stand with us.



Frank Bruni

You want to show our enemies what America stands for? Then stand with us.