

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

You don't have to be Scandinavian to enjoy Astoria's Scandinavian Mid-summer Festival. After 39 years of operation, the festival itself is as important to Astoria's heritage as the five nations it celebrates.

This past weekend, hundreds of people of different ethnicities gathered to celebrate the food, fun and traditions of Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden.

A comprehensive traffic plan designed to accommodate future development on Port of Astoria property in the Uniontown area got a thumbs-up Tuesday from the Port Commission.

Valerie Grigg Devis, northwest senior planner for the Oregon Department of Transportation, called the Astoria/Port/Uniontown Transportation Refinement Plan a model of cooperation between a port and a city.

Grigg Devis said she looked closely at the port's goal of having working industrial area as well as other uses including a marina and accommodations for visitors when developing the plan. In the short term it features an improved entry to the port, new linkages to West Marine Drive and better access to new waterfront businesses.

Seals used to authenticate documents have been around since biblical times.

The practice continues, even in today's high-tech, wired world. Nations, states and cities still have seals, including Astoria.

The Astoria City Council got a good look at the details of the Astoria's seal Monday when City Manager Paul Benoit showed off a replica, hand-painted on a 2-foot circle of plywood by local artist Roger McKay. It will be on display at City Hall.

50 years ago — 1966

The MR Chessman and Tourist II ferries ran aground Tuesday morning in the Columbia river main channel during a minus 1.5 foot low tide.

The Chessman went aground at 9 a.m. On its return trip to Astoria, while the Tourist II became stuck en route to Megler about 90 minutes later. The two vessels were about 200 yards part in a shallow spot in the dredged river channel and were approximately 2,000 yards from the Astoria shore.



National Guardsmen were in the field this week, winding up summer training session at Camp Rilea which ends Saturday. Machine gun and M-42 air defense weapons carrier are shown in position for maneuvers. (Astorian Photo by Gordon Clark)

Concrete decking may be completed Friday on the Astoria bridge's 2464-foot truss across the Columbia River main ship channel.

Robert Ellison, resident bridge engineer, said Wednesday, "If we adhere to our present work schedule, we should be finished by then." Pouring of concrete began June 13 on the last undecked segment of the bridge.

To ensure proper balance, the concrete has been poured from the middle toward both ends of the truss. If the final batch of concrete is poured Friday on the undecked section, the bridge still will not be ready for use as curbs and parapets must be added to make the roadway safe.

75 years ago — 1941

The keel of the first of several minesweepers to be built by the Astoria Marine Construction company will be laid next Wednesday.

This is the first keel for a war vessel ever laid in the lower Columbia and the first craft of considerable size to be constructed here since the first World War.

Forty men on the day shift and a small crew at night have been engaged at the Lewis and Clark plant of the boat building concern for more than a week in preparing for the laying of the first keel. Piling for the first ways has been driven by the Gilpin Construction company.

Gearhart, Ore., is rapidly assuming a position high among the convention cities of this state. Realtors, druggists, trap shooters, publishers, bankers, pottery makers, savings and loan men, circulation managers, sociologists, golfers. They are swarming into the big, gray Hotel Gearhart, talking, convening, listening and funning, then fanning out over the 18-hole golf course, the beach and into Astoria and Seaside. The suitcase crowd is from every western state and Canada and now and then, some with stickers from heck and gone.

Twenty-four boys 16 to 19 years of age inclusive will leave from the court house at 10 o'clock Sunday morning in a six-car caravan for Corvallis where they will register for the one-week Beaver Boys State, June 22 to 29.

Beaver Boys State, sponsored by the American Legion, is a plan for training in the functional aspects of citizenship. Its purpose is to teach the youth of today constructive attitudes toward the American form of government.

OLYMPIA, Wash., The proposed \$30,000,000 ship canal connecting Puget Sound with the Columbia River, shelved six years ago, was dusted off today and discussed at a public hearing held by the U.S. Army Engineer.

Col. B.C. Dunn, district engineer, was in charge of the hearing. It was ordered by the house of representative in Washington, D.C., to determine whether the plan should be revived as a defense measure.

For as long as we have had them, guns have given 'credence to delusional rants'

Ever since Leonard Bernstein touched a young generation through the televised Young People's Concerts, orchestra conductors have felt compelled to imitate Lenny by facing the audience and providing a preamble to the next number. Keith Clark did that Saturday night, previewing the performance of Phillip Glass' Symphony No. 4, Heroes.

The essence of Clark's monologue was that Glass' music grew out of a period when the very nature of music was being hotly debated by twelve-tone composers and their detractors and challenged by the ascendance of rock 'n' roll.

Performance of the Glass work was meant to evoke David Bowie, whose death sent ripples through the music world. A young colleague who has heard more Glass than I was unsatisfied, feeling it was a watered-down version of Glass and Bowie. My colleague termed Maestro Clark's performance "a well-executed mediocre symphony." But the festival audience loved it, giving a standing ovation.

Glass has done compelling movie soundtracks, most notably for *The Hours*.

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When the Bundys and their followers occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon Public Broadcasting sent their new reporter, John Sepulvado, to the battle site. Sepulvado's story was a magnificent piece of reporting. Because he came to OPB from Nevada, where he had covered the prior Bundy showdown, he knew those guys. Thus he gained access to the inner circle.

In a subsequent *Willamette Week* story, Sepulvado included this observation about guns and what they do for middle-aged guys who are losing their relevance. "Guns, for as long as we have had them," wrote Sepulvado, "have given undue impetus to arguments that lack merit or reason, given credence to delusional rants."

A premeditated delusional rant is one way of describing the recent massacre at an Orlando gay night club. It is a wonder that the National Rifle Association and its congressional supporters continue to tell us that

'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



Dwight Caswell/File Photo
 Astoria Music Festival co-founder and artistic director Keith Clark conducts during the 2014 Astoria Music Festival.

Conductors following Leonard Bernstein feel compelled to imitate Lenny.

the kind of firepower which Omar Mateen used in that club to kill 49 people should be available to common citizens.

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Garrison Keillor has given us an apt characterization of Donald Trump. Writing in *The Washington Post*, Keillor took us back to high school.

"The class hood, the bully and braggart, the guy revving his pink Chevy to make the pipes rumble, presiding over the student council. This is the C-minus guy who sat behind you in history and poked you with his pencil and smirked when you asked him to stop. That smirk is now on every front page in America. It is not what anybody — left, right or center — looks for in a president. There's no philosophy here, just an attitude."

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Our presidents have been notorious for ignoring their children. Franklin Roosevelt did that. So did

Lyndon Johnson.

Among the praiseworthy elements of Barack Obama's presidency is his parenting. On Father's Day, *The Washington Post* paid attention to the president as father (Obama's most unusual legacy? Being a good dad?)

Joshua Kendall, who wrote the *Post's* piece, has authored a book about "first dads."

Wrote Kendall: "The other members of this small fraternity (of good presidential fathers) include James Monroe, Rutherford B. Hayes, Harry Truman and Gerald Ford. Truman doted on his only child, Margaret, who described herself as "a total Daddy's girl."

—S.A.F.



A week to remember for all time

By TIMOTHY EGAN
New York Times News Service

They will remember, a century from now, who stood up to the tyrant Donald Trump and who found it expedient to throw out the most basic American values — the "Vichy Republicans," as historian Ken Burns called them in his Stanford commencement speech.

The shrug from Mitch McConnell, the twisted explanation of Paul Ryan, who said Trump is a racist and a xenophobe, but he's ours — party before country.

As well, the duck-and-hide Republicans, so quick to whip out their pocket copy of the Constitution, now nowhere to be seen when the foundation of that same document is under assault by the man carrying their banner.

They will remember, in classrooms and seminars, those who wrote Trump off as entertainment, a freak show and ratings spike, before he tried to muzzle a free press, and came for you — using a page from another tyrant, Vladimir Putin, admired by the home-grown monster.

As well, they will call out the enablers. In the run-up to the presidential primary season, few candidates received more favorable press coverage than Trump, the Shorenstein Center at Harvard's Kennedy School found. The watchdogs were in on the ride. Sure, he's a know-nothing and fraud, incapable of providing information or getting through a day without a half-dozen lies — but it's just a role. Get a load of Ted Cruz's wife! Heidi Klum is no longer a 10! And when he talks like a fascist, when he uses the America First slogan adopted by Nazi sympathizers in this country in the 1930s, it's all for

play, you see. He is historically illiterate, so the rest of us must be as well.

They will remember, in a week that gave us a scary peek into the heart of American darkness, how the civilities that bind a nation of people from all nations could be shredded. The blood from the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, no less a battlefield than Shiloh or Bull Run, was not yet dry when Trump was congratulating himself — a sleep-deprived narcissist on a morning me high. The worst mass shooting in U.S. history was not about the murder of everyday people; it was about him: "Appreciate the congrats for being right."

They will hang their heads in sorrow at the time when the man leading the party of Lincoln suggested that a sitting president was a traitor, somehow sympathetic to Islamic nihilists who slaughter innocent Americans. Trump implied it. Then he banned a newspaper for its headline about it.

He wasn't finished, this 70-year-old with the temperament of a 7-year-old. He made no rousing call for unity and courage, no plea for a partisan pause. He said the president must resign, as if it wasn't an assault rifle easily obtained by a New York-born fanatic that killed 49 people, but the U.S. commander-in-chief. He compared the nation to a terminally ill patient. All is lost. For good measure, he suggested that our soldiers were thieves.

It comes in such waves, the preposterous lies, the breaches in honor, from this man who wants to use high office to attack his enemies in civil court, who would apply a religious test to fellow citizens, whose mass deportation



Timothy Egan

plan would likely round up the parents of some of the Latinos killed in Orlando. And because it comes in such waves, there is no time to process it all. Was it just a few weeks ago that he attacked a federal judge, hearing a case in which Trump is accused of fraud on a mass scale, because of the judge's ethnic heritage?

They will also remember the Republicans who did not look the other way. Mitt Romney and Meg Whitman and the Bush family showed more decency in a day than Trump has in a lifetime.

"Man up," wrote Republican strategist Rick Wilson. "Show courage. Say what's in your hearts; he's insane. He's poison. He's doomed. He's killing the party."

The American public, for once, seems to get him. While Republican Party leaders cower or remain silent, voters by a 2-1 margin in polls conducted this week disapprove of the way Trump acted in a crisis. He's disliked by nearly 70 percent of the people, which only makes you wonder about the other 30 percent.

"There comes a time when I — and you — can no longer remain neutral, silent," said Burns at Stanford on Sunday, the morning we all awoke to news of the slaughter in Florida. "For 216 years, our elections, though bitterly contested, have featured the philosophies and characters of candidates who were clearly qualified. That's not the case this year. One is glaringly not qualified."

In this week of trial and tragedy, Trump showed us how he would govern — by fear, by intimidation, by lies, by turning American against American, by exhibiting all the empathy of a sociopath. Seal last week. Put it in a time capsule. Teach it. History will remember. But come November, will we?

History will remember. But come November, will we?