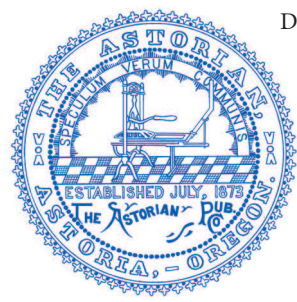


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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

A federal proposal would slash the critical habitat in Oregon, Washington and California set aside under the Endangered Species Act for the marbled murrelet, a threatened sea bird, by about 95 percent, to 221,692 acres.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Tuesday the bird already is protected by other plans such as the Northwest Forest Plan and state and tribal management plans on the 3.37 million acres that would lose the critical habitat designation.

It is studying a proposal to delist the bird altogether.

Early projections of harvest levels in the Clatsop, Tillamook and other state forests contained in the state's 2001 Forest Management Plan are proving overly optimistic as the document begins to be implemented on the ground.

From original estimates of as much as 279 million board feet a year, the Oregon Department of Forestry is now predicting that on average about 40 percent less timber will come out of the forests annually.

That could translate to big cuts in revenue to Clatsop County, which receives about \$4 million a year in timber revenues, as well as other smaller taxing districts in the county and elsewhere.

Clatsop Community College has been named the sole beneficiary of a \$700,000-plus trust through one of its earliest supporters.

College directors agreed to undertake the Towler Trust established by John W. Towler, son of long-time principal and superintendent of Astoria schools Emmett D. Towler, at the monthly meeting Tuesday.

50 years ago — 1966

Fourteen trawlers and two factory ships of the Russian fleet were hovering close about the mouth of the Columbia River, just beyond the lightship, when George Moskovita brought his boat Mitkof in from a cruise after tuna Tuesday afternoon, he reported.

"One of the trawlers was alongside a factory ship and the cutter Yocona was just coming out of the river," Moskovita said. "Both the Russians took off and headed farther out to sea. It looked as though they suspected they were inside the 12-mile limit they had agreed to respect."

Bumble Bee Seafoods corporation, which broke sales records again last fiscal year, is off to a good start this year and "we look for a better year," President Malcolm MacNaughton, Honolulu, of parent company Castle and Cooke, Inc., said at a luncheon here Tuesday.

Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 120th anniversary next week. The church was organized September 19, 1846, at the home of William H. Gray. To commemorate the event, open house will be held Sunday from 2-4 p.m. United Presbyterian Women will greet guests, according to the Rev. John C. Evans Jr., pastor.

Paid vehicular traffic over the Astoria bridge has averaged 1,678 daily since the Labor Day weekend, records of the Oregon Highway department indicated Thursday.

Average for the period since the bridge opened to traffic July 29 stood at 2,560 vehicles daily for 466 days.

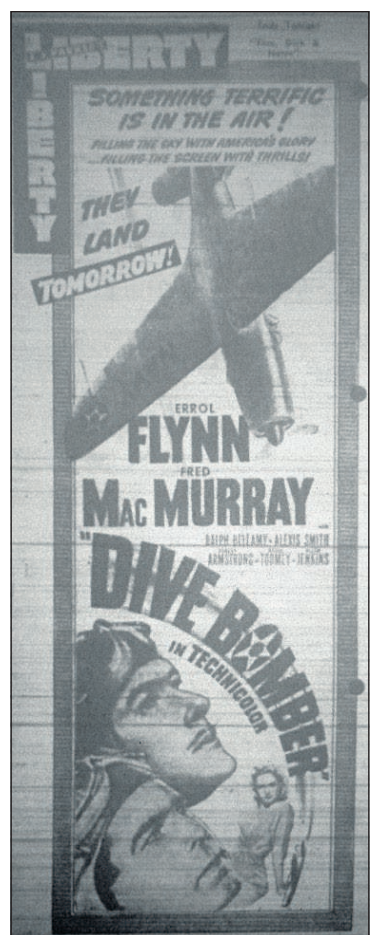
75 years ago — 1941

Enrollment at Astoria public schools this morning totaled 1418 pupils, nine less than opening day last year, the city schools superintendent's office reported, with Capt. Robert Gray Junior High School and Astoria High School each showing a gain and Lewis and Clark and John Jacob Astor each having a decrease.

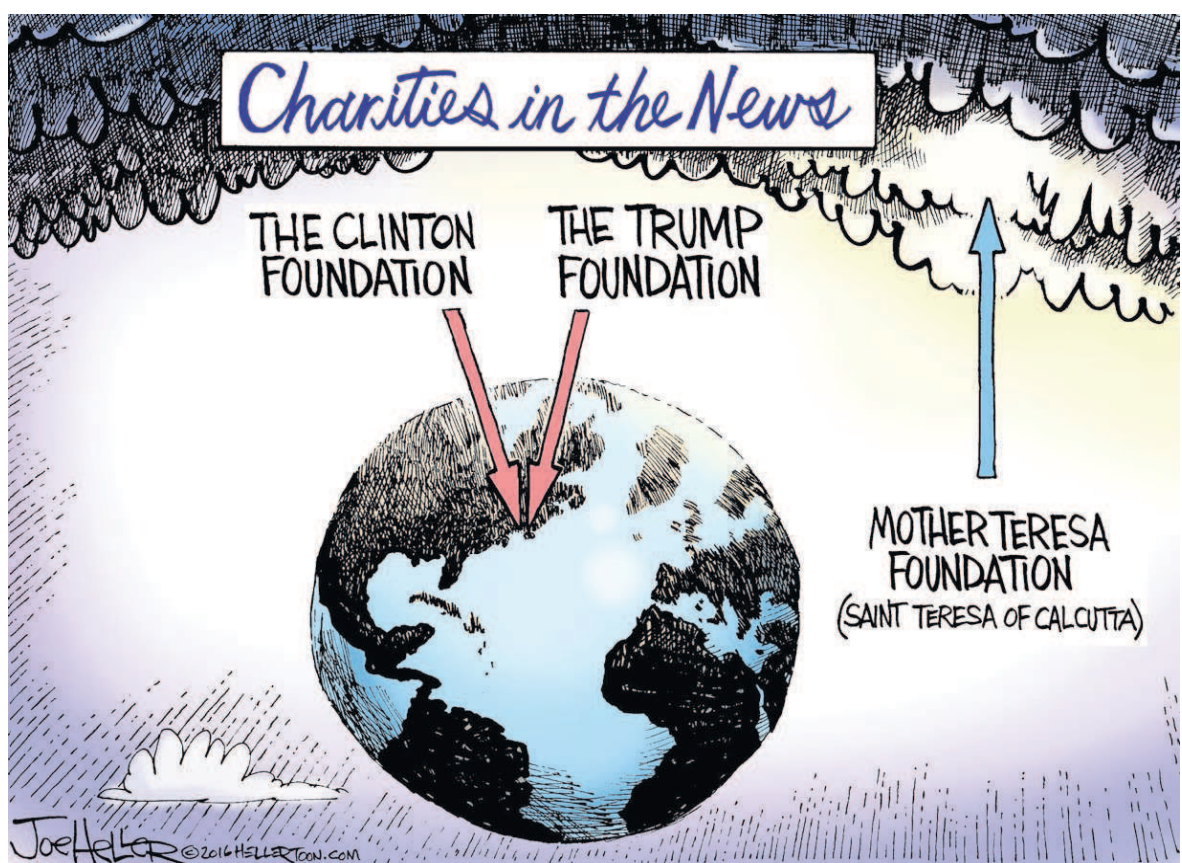
The Navy's new \$500,000 section base on Pier 2 of the Astoria port docks went into commission Monday, with Commander George Grant taking over supervision of the new defense link which will serve as a shore unit in support of coastal patrol vessels operating offshore and in harbors from Moclips, Washington, south to Tillamook.

Fish handling facilities of Columbia River canneries Thursday afternoon were being taxed to the limit by one of the greatest fall runs in a generation — described as "enormous" by Tom Nelson, patriarch of the river's packers and now associated with Point Adams Packing company.

From Celilo falls to the sea, every gillnetter came in loaded today. No cannery in the lower river reported a per-boat average of less than 2000 pounds, while major operators gave the average at 3000 pounds. At Altoona two great fishermen, Nick Marincovich and William Weatten had caught 11,000 pounds each by morning, obviously making more than a single delivery apiece.



Daily Astorian
 A movie poster for "Dive Bomber."



SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Protecting the North Coast, wildlife an acre at a time

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

There's something magical about the huge swaths of land stretching for miles, mountain and sea. That's what the North Coast is all about: a stunning and unique visual scenery.

This summer, a 360-acre parcel on Tillamook Head was transferred from timber property to conservation corridor. The North Coast Land Conservancy and Greenwood Resources closed on the Boneyard Ridge property for \$1.3 million. The purchase creates 3,500 connected acres from the summit of Tillamook Head to the Necanicum River Valley.

Boneyard Ridge — named because of elk bones found on the property — serves as a link between Ecola State Park, stretches along the Tillamook Head shoreline and land conservancy's Circle Creek Habitat Reserve in the Necanicum River floodplain west of U.S. Highway 101 at the south end of Seaside.

Katie Voelke, the conservancy's executive director, calls the Boneyard Ridge acquisition "the last piece of the puzzle," connecting Ecola State Park to Circle Creek and the corridor of protected lands along the Neawanna and the Necanicum.

Such a transaction might have been unthinkable half a century ago, when timber companies and environmental groups were sworn enemies in city offices, courtrooms and in the field.

The public estate

North Coast Land Conservancy founder Neal Maine described the frustration environmentalists felt in the early 1980s, when conservation came as a result of a gavel from the courts, with two hostile sides pitted against each other — maybe that's where we get the word loggerheads.

Private landowners, loggers and ranchers argued that efforts to protect wildlife that result in restrictions on land usage constitute a "taking" of private property requiring compensation.

Environmentalists posited that wildlife, water and air are held in trust by the government for the public benefit.

Oregon passed the Forest Practices Act in 1971 to ensure the continued growing and harvesting of trees while protecting soil, air, water and wildlife habitat.

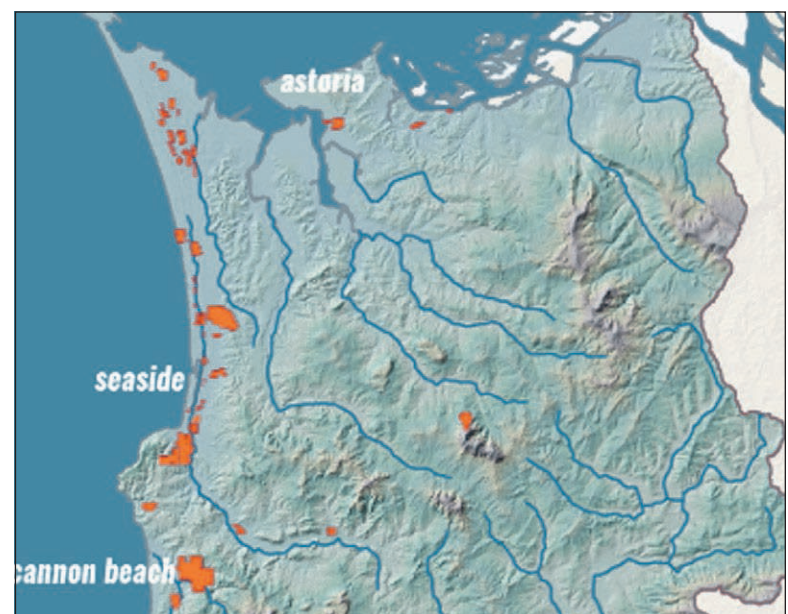
The federal Endangered Species Act in 1973 — signed by President Richard Nixon — and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 were enacted to oppose wanton private use of natural resources that destroy the "public estate."

The laws soon showed effects on land-use decisions in Oregon and locally.

In 1986, property then known as "Gearhart Ranch" — later developed into the Highlands — was delayed by environmentalists by the silverspot butterfly, a threatened species at home on the Clatsop Plains.

The Northwest Forest Plan, created in 1994, established a system of reserves across the range of the spotted owl — symbol of the 1980s federal timber wars — to provide long-term nesting habitat.

Sixteen beaches in Oregon, including two in Clatsop County,



Submitted Photo

Map of North Coast Land Conservancy protected properties.



Neal Maine



Katie Voelke

were protected as management areas for the endangered snowy plover.

A change in approach

With encouragement from heightened public awareness and new federal and state rules, the Seattle-based Trust for Public Lands encouraged the development of local land trusts in the Pacific Northwest.

The North Coast Land Conservancy emerged from this call.

"In 1985 a group of people from Cannon Beach, Astoria, and points between — all veterans of the environmental battles of the 1970s and early '80s — assembled to consider a new way to approach conservation on the Oregon Coast," the conservancy states on its website.

In its first year, the conservancy started with a modest 3-acre marsh to mitigate the impacts of a new Little League field in Seaside.

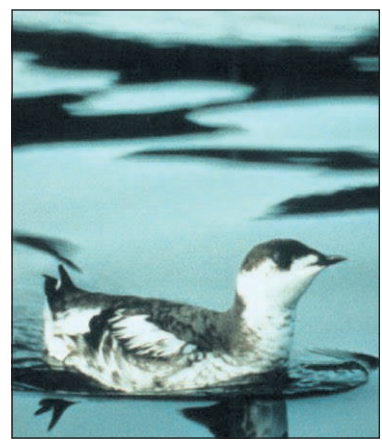
By 1987, Cavenham Forest Industries — which had purchased Crown Zellerbach — was conferring with the Cannon Beach Planning Commission to manage ridgeline development as part of urban growth planning.

Between 1999 and 2003, Washington's Nature Conservancy acquired most of the 8,000 acres that now make up the Ellsworth Creek Preserve in nearby Willapa. Parcels were added as the Nature Conservancy worked primarily with the Campbell Group and John Hancock, each a major lumber consortium.

In 1991, the North Coast Land Conservancy preserved 140 acres on Saddle Mountain, protecting the Copes salamander and marbled murrelet, both endangered species threatened by logging, without a court order.

In 2003, the conservancy acquired Circle Creek, a strategically located 364-acre parcel in Seaside, with Sitka spruce, an historic flood plain, wetlands and waterways.

The purchase delivered "a vision that dealt with connectivity, that dealt with the community and the



Submitted Photo

The endangered marbled murrelet benefited from land protection.

pulse of the region," Maine said.

Beyond Boneyard Ridge

It's fair to say that 30 years ago a school district superintendent would not have been writing a logging company to thank them for a gift of 80 acres for a new campus to move schools out of the tsunami danger zone.

"We applaud your community spirit and corporate philanthropy," Superintendent-emeritus Doug Dougherty wrote to Weyerhaeuser in August.

The land conservancy's Maine and subsequent leadership rely on cooperation, mutual benefit and community engagement to achieve their goals.

Purchasing land is a "much better way to go" than litigating for it, Maine said.

Voelke said she hopes to learn from the Boneyard Ridge purchase as a model for future conservation.

"Right now we see opportunities to do meaningful forest conservation," Voelke said.

The conservancy is seeking to fill the "puzzle pieces" between Tillamook Head and Neahkahnie Mountain.

"We are specifically looking at the areas around the state parks," Voelke said. "Areas we can make a huge contiguous corridor. That's the kind of thing we see as a very good role for us."

It used to be the conservancy battled timber companies in courtrooms; now they sign partnerships in those same buildings.

"I think it's a little bit like the tortoise and the hare," Maine said at the conservancy's 30th anniversary picnic. "Let opportunities come to you, let others do some dreaming — and help them be successful."

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian's* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.