

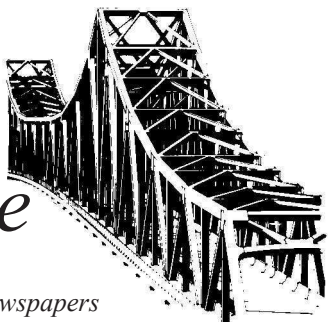
THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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

Like the canary in the coal mine, birds know when danger is near. And birds in the Northwest are signaling that the world is changing. People who count birds are seeing a difference in species appearing in the Northwest, a clear indicator of climate change. The annual Audubon Christmas bird count Dec. 16 proved that.

"There were birds that had shown up that have never been seen before," said Keith Mohay, who took part with his wife, Carlyn. The count at Leadbetter Point on the tip of the Long Beach Peninsula was a joint effort between the Discovery Coast and Willapa Hills Audubon Society chapters. Although the final numbers are not in yet, he estimates about 97 different species were spotted. "We learned a lot," he said. "It was a wonderful experience."

"Respectful of the industrial background of the waterfront, but with a modern twist — and our signature rooftop garden."

That's how Astoria developer Chester Trabucco describes River Park Suites, the four-story condominium project his corporation, No. 10 Sixth Street Ltd, is set to build at No. 1 Sixth Street, just west of the Cannery Cafe. Prices for the 32 condo units will start at \$450,000 and range upwards to more than \$1 million.

On Tuesday, the Astoria Planning Commission unanimously approved a variance request, with conditions, that eliminates the required 25-foot setback from the Fifth Street right-of-way for the building, which will be built on an existing pile field in the Columbia River. The building will extend 215 feet over the water.

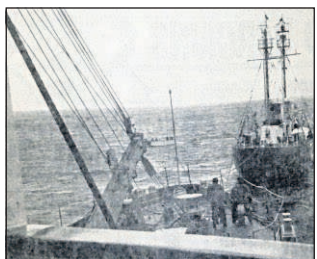
Calpine Corp. did not agree Wednesday to give the Port of Astoria more time to consider the transfer of the land lease on Warrenton's Skipanon Peninsula to Leucadia National Corp., a nonaffiliated company.

So, the Port today is asking the New York bankruptcy court overseeing the transfer for more time to evaluate the new company and consider its legal right as landlord to protest.

50 years ago — 1966

Shortly after the Russian fishing fleet made its initial appearance off the Oregon-Washington coast, the Congress of American Fishermen, in Seattle, released a statement that they were "...convinced that the Soviet trawl fleet ... is militarily oriented and constitutes a serious threat to the security of the nation."

Dick O'Keef, spokesman for the CAF, reaffirmed that statement Wednesday, telling the Daily Astorian "the Russian fleet certainly is militarily oriented. We know," O'Keef said, "that officers on large ships are military officers." He said even though the CAF feels there is a threat, "it is another thing to prove it."



The Astoria-based buoy tender Magnolia spent 2 1/2 hours Tuesday pumping water, transferring supplies and personnel to the lightship.

It is gratifying that potential large-scale home builders are showing some interest in Astoria property. We need new homes badly, and it is to be hoped that someone will provide them in substantial numbers.

Astoria is perhaps as badly underbuilt as any city in the Northwest. Little new building went on here for several decades when population was static or dwindling. Meanwhile existing homes grew older and older, many of them outliving their usefulness.

Today we are largely housed in over-age dwellings, with a minimum of new and modern homes.

75 years ago — 1941

General plans for evacuating Astoria and other points in the lower Columbia, not based on any immediate danger but merely anticipating whatever may come, were discussed here Friday to executive committee men of the defense council with Ross McIntyre, Portland civilian defense authority, and F.D. Eason, division engineer for the state highway department.

McIntyre and Eason are representing the governor and state defense council in designing evacuation maps for localities particularly along Oregon's coastal areas.

No short wave radio sets nor cameras were surrendered to police authorities in Clatsop County by 11 a.m., Monday, 12 hours before the deadline for enemy aliens to give up such items went into effect.

City police received a telephone call in which two aliens said they were bringing in their short wave sets. A local radio service man said he had complied with the request of a Japanese cannery worker to destroy the short wave mechanism of a radio several days ago, but refused to carry out similar requests made by other Japanese Monday. The radio service man said that he believed destruction of short wave apparatus in radios after the surrender order went into effect was not permissible.

Students in the Astoria public schools will be prepared in the event that Astoria is ever subjected to air bombing by an enemy through air raid drills which are to be held in the schools as quickly as working plans can be drawn by a committee of principals.

A new campaign to get every man, woman and child with a regular income in Clatsop County so sign a pledge to systematically and continually purchase defense savings bonds will get under way January 21. County Defense Savings Chairman William McGregor reported today on his return from a Portland meeting Monday of county chairmen.



Red state hope for Democrats in Helena



AP Photo/Matt Volz

Steve Bullock poses in the governor's residence in Helena, Mont., in October. Bullock is the newly re-elected democratic governor of Montana.

By TIMOTHY EGAN
New York Times News Service

For the longest nights of the year, there is no better place to be than on snow-cruised ground, staring up at Montana's big empty sky. Democrats across rural America must know the feeling, this Christmas season, of looking into a black void and feeling so very alone.

There is a chance for the pulse to quicken — a flash of the northern lights, perhaps, the distant howl of a wolf — in that utter darkness. And there is hope for a party spurned in the wide-open spaces of the country, as well. Meet Steve Bullock, the newly re-elected Democratic governor of Montana.

Donald Trump took Montana by 20 percentage points — a rare win for celebrity-infatuated megalomaniacs in a state whose voters can usually smell the type from a hundred miles out. But once again, Democrats won the governor's office and did it with votes to spare. Bullock's Mountain State secret sauce is something national party leaders should sample during their solstice.

A week after the election, Bullock went deer-hunting with his 10-year-old son. This doesn't mean Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey should start shooting Bambi near the Meadowlands. But the cultural thing is a wash for Bullock. As a Montana native and a graduate of Columbia Law School, he has a foot in both coastal elitism and prairie pragmatism.

"Every morning my wife and I drop our kids off at the same public schools that we went to," he said.

Public, that's key. As in public land — the great shared turf of the American West. Public health, which the governor expanded in this poor state. Simple stuff, grounded in the nontoxic populism of the past.

So when the Trump administration starts taking away people's health care, trashing public schools with a church-lady billionaire as

education secretary or colluding with a Congress that wants to offload public land, Montana can offer a resistance playbook.

Specific advice

I asked the governor to give some specific advice to fellow Democrats.

"Show up," he said, noting that Barack Obama was at the Fourth of July parade in the hardscrabble Montana mining town of Butte in 2008.

That year, the black community organizer from Chicago came within 2 percentage points of winning a state with one of the smallest black populations in the nation. To Hillary Clinton, on the way to fundraisers with tech millionaires, Montana was flyover country.

Democrats should not forget that they have the majority on their side on almost every major issue.

Had she gone to Great Falls or Glendive, she would have seen that struggling white people desire the same things that struggling people in diverse urban areas want. Bullock brought Obamacare's Medicaid expansion to his state — a literal lifesaver to thousands, forcing Republicans to defend the indefensible. He attacked Republican calls for tax cuts as budget busters and community-killers. And in a state where hate groups still pop up like poisonous mushrooms, he was a champion of Native American sovereignty and gay and lesbian rights.

"It's not about identity politics," he said. "It's about trying to bring everybody up."

That's the theme. Everybody. Not just the "emerging demograph-

ics," charted on many a Democratic PowerPoint. Vice President Joe Biden, that son of Scranton, Pennsylvania, sounded much like Bullock, but his fellow Dems didn't listen. Perhaps they're listening now.

"I mean these are good people, man!" Biden said on CNN this month. "These aren't racists. These aren't sexists."

A former Iowa governor, Tom Vilsack, tried to remind Democrats that rural America is about 15 percent of the population — larger than the Hispanic vote.

Democrats shouldn't need a translator to learn how to speak to these lost constituents. Franklin Roosevelt, a bit of a dandy from Hudson Valley wealth, knew the language. It's about lifting up those left behind. And taking it directly to those who obstruct progress.

Bullock didn't abandon people whose paycheck is dependent on coal. Nor did he make false promises about coal roaring back. Even coal plant owners acknowledge that their days are numbered as the free market turns to cheap natural gas to generate power, and as the world turns away from it for self-preservation.

Truth as a commodity

With the Trump presidency, truth will be a commodity more precious than the gold lining his throne in Manhattan. He no sooner won the Electoral College than he started the Trump era with a big lie, saying he'd achieved "a historic electoral landslide." For the record: His victory ranked near the bottom, 46th out of 58 presidential elections.

But it was historic — no president has ever lost the popular vote by a larger number, almost 3 million votes. And yet half of Republicans believe that he won the popular tally.

As we say goodbye to a dreadful year, one that should be bound up in chains and dropped into the Missouri River, Democrats should not forget that they have the majority on their side on almost every major issue. It's time they got reacquainted with the millions of other people who make up that majority.