

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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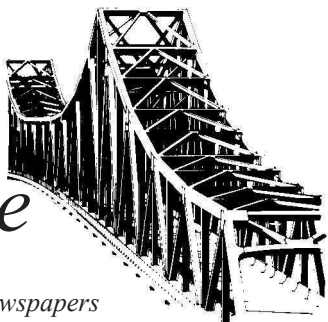
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Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2007

Talk has turned again to a Goonies II movie, although not the feature film director Richard Donner envisioned.

In fact, the director sounded less than thrilled when he confirmed rumors of a straight-to-video sequel by Warner Premiere, a new "direct to DVD" production arm of Warner Bros., which claims "Goonies" rights.

"There's talk that Warner is doing a 'Goonies' film — for 12 days or something — just to go right to DVD for \$11," Donner told www.iesb.net at the annual Saturn awards for science fiction, fantasy and horror movies a while back, "I think it's a mistake."

The issue split the Astoria High School auditorium in two.

Supporters of the Bradwood Landing liquefied natural gas project sat behind the NorthernStar Natural Gas Co. executives at the first hearing before the Clatsop County Planning Commission.

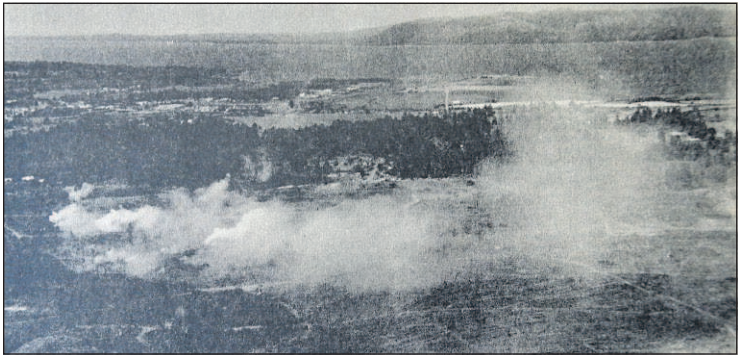
Opponents filled seats on the other side of the room and urged commissioners not to approve any zone changes that would allow the company to build a \$600 million LNG receiving terminal 20 miles east of Astoria on the Columbia River.

At the start of the daylong meeting, the split was nearly even. But the ranks of opponents grew in later hours, and by the end of the night — 12 hours later — the opposition dominated.

As flames leapt into the night air, firefighters were able to save the buildings at Astoria Warehousing on W. Marine Drive Wednesday night.

But 6,000 wooden pallets, valued at \$50,000, that were stored outside went up in smoke.

50 years ago — 1967



The Daily Astorian/File

This air photo by Don Roberts of The Daily Astorian shows smoke rolling across the 200-acre tract being cleared at the Northwest Aluminum company plant site. Photo shows the size of the area from which brush has been cleared. Jetty Street in Warrenton can be seen leading to the edge of the cleared area at center. Warrenton is in the upper left corner and the mouth of the Skipanon River, where a dock is planned. A conveyor belt is planned to carry bauxite ore from the docks to the plant site.

Federal approval has been received for a downtown recreational center for Tongue Point Job Corps Center girls, it was announced at the community relations council meeting Tuesday night.

The center will be located at 14th and Duane in the building formerly occupied by Bjorklund's Furniture on the Duane Street side. Lynn Wykoff, community relations director at the Job Corps, said the center would be operated similar to a USO. It will be staffed by local people.

The federal government stepped into the squabble over Indian fishing rights in the Columbia River by reaffirming Tuesday ancient treaties not recognized by Oregon and Washington state.

The regulations provide for cooperation between the states and Indians in regulating the Indian fishery to insure conservation of salmon runs.

A similar proposal was offered in 1965 but the Northwest states refused to accept it, terming the regulations as an intervention of the right of the states to manage and regulate their own fish and wildlife resources.

The first midsummer closed season for clam diggers in history goes into effect July 16 on the Clatsop beaches, to continue until Sept. 1. Always before clam diggers have been free to delve in the sand throughout the year.

The new closed season does not result from a diminution of the clam supply as one might suspect. On the contrary, Oregon Fish Commission reports 1967 has been a good year for clammers.

Instead, the OFC has ordered the closure simply because so many small, immature clams are being dug.

75 years ago — 1942

Fear that the Army may requisition the motor boat Imperial, which daily carries passengers, freight and mail between Astoria and Cathlamet and other north shore points has led Foster Bros., operators, to appeal to the Astoria Chamber of Commerce for help in maintaining this long-established transportation service.

They have appealed to Congressman Martin F. Smith, who has advised that the war department has no knowledge of such contemplated action although it may be possible that steps have been taken by the Western command to secure the boat.

Port Commissioner William McGregor was telling about a trip to Svensen to hunt the big bullfrogs that inhabit the sloughs of Svensen Island, as the other Port commissioners listened.

"Say, how are those frogs getting along up there?" asked Commissioner Frank Sweet. "You know, I planted those bullfrogs there about eight years ago."



Mini-Donald's major fail

By FRANK BRUNI

New York Times News Service

Sometimes the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Sometimes the apple is also considerably



dimmer than the tree. And sometimes the apple must be thrown under the bus so that the tree and a few of its most crucial limbs don't

tumble to the forest floor, where they'll be chopped up and used as firewood by Democrats.

Is that the fruity fate of Donald Trump Jr.?

On Tuesday morning, he released a chain of emails from June of last year that prove that he was eager to get dirt on Hillary Clinton from a representative of Russia, that the information was indeed characterized as "part of Russia and its government's support" for his father's presidential bid and that he held a meeting in the hopes of learning more.

It was, for my money, the most jaw-dropping development yet in an already-surreal presidency, and making sense of it requires some conjecture.

But evaluating the damage doesn't. This erodes whatever credibility President Donald Trump and those in his inner circle had left (which wasn't much). Adamantly and incessantly, they have characterized questions about the Trump campaign's possible cooperation with Russia as ludicrous — a "witch hunt," in their preferred parlance.

And yet here is a document showing that the notion of such a concerted effort was dangled before the eyes of Trump's eldest son, who responded with glee — "I love it," he wrote — and hauled his brother-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Paul Manafort, who was then the campaign's chairman, into a meeting about it.

With the walls now closing in around Donald Jr., I wouldn't be surprised if he says that he didn't really believe the written claim that this was "very high level and sensitive information" from the Russian government itself.

But evaluate any and all spin from him through the lens of his evasions and empty grandstanding to date. When The New York Times first disclosed the meeting in an article on Saturday, he released a statement implying that the meeting's purpose was to discuss Russian adoptions.

A day later, he significantly changed his story, admitting in a new statement that he had been led to expect material "helpful to the campaign" and that he cut the meeting off when the Russian lawyer who came to Trump Tower diverted the discussion toward adoptions. Read the statement: Bizarrely and hilariously, it's so focused on the lawyer's bait-and-switch and Donald Jr.'s disappointment that it boldly confirms how badly he'd



AP Photo/Darron Cummings

Donald Trump Jr. speaks in Indianapolis in May. President Donald Trump's eldest son acknowledged Monday that he met a Russian lawyer during the 2016 presidential campaign to hear information about his father's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

craved dirt and how misleading his initial response to The Times was. Like I said: dim.

The emails released Tuesday make clear how incomplete both of those versions were, and they appeared to contradict his insistence in the second statement that Kushner and Manafort knew nothing about the meeting's intent.

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The release of the emails, at least, is no head scratcher: Donald Jr. apparently believed that The Times was about to publish them anyway and figured that if he beat us to the punch, he'd make it look as if he had nothing to hide. He tweeted that he wanted "to be totally transparent."

Right. "Transparent" has as much to do with his last four days as "modest" does with his father's entire 71 years.

And flash back to July 24 of last summer, which was just a month and a half after the meeting with the Russian lawyer, and Donald Jr.'s response when CNN anchor Jake Tapper asked him about the Clinton campaign's assertion that Russians could be engaged in "a plot to help Donald Trump."

"It just goes to show you their exact moral compass," Donald Jr. said, in what will go down as one of

the most priceless instances ever of the psychological phenomenon of projection.

He railed to Tapper about "lie after lie" from the Clinton camp, said they'd "do anything to win," and — my favorite part — claimed that if a Republican were making the kinds of wild allegations of Russian meddling that they were, there'd be a call "to bring out the electric chair" for that person. The electric chair, no less!

Well, he's on the hot seat now, and the days — by which I mean 48 hours ago — when we were all worked up about Ivanka Trump's presumptuous place at the G-20 table suddenly seem quaint. That actually is a nothingburger in the context of this whopper.

Of course Papa poo-poo'ed it, releasing a statement Tuesday afternoon that vouched, "My son is a high-quality person." I can buy that Donald Jr. is too low-wattage a political operative to have understood that his Russia hugging was extraordinary and possibly treasonous, but not that he considered it virtuous.

I wonder whether Ivanka actually factors into this. Among the Trump children, she always sopped up the most lavish praise from Dad and drew the most media fascination. She was cast as his secret weapon. Such a designation eluded Donald Jr. When he met with the Russian lawyer, was he clumsily trying to maneuver his way to greater utility, favor and relevance?

Instead, in the grand tradition of ne'er-do-well namesakes, he brought his sire grief, and it will be interesting to watch the president's next moves.

Enamored of loyalty and deaf to charges of nepotism and conflict of interest, he has kept his kids in a tight circle around him. But to survive, he may have to push this bad apple away.

LETTERS WELCOME

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Letters should be fewer than 350 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy. Only two

letters per writer are printed each month.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the letter was published. Disclosure should be civil and people should be referred to in a respect-

ful manner.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

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