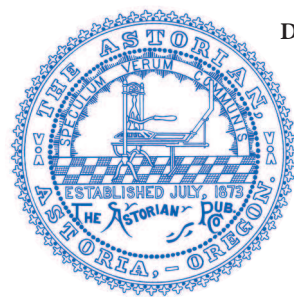


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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 — 2007

WARRENTON — Repairing the Columbia River's South Jetty — and bracing it against the destructive force of ocean waves — is like piecing together a jigsaw puzzle.

With 20-to 30-ton rocks.

Miles out from the jetty's base, Steve Osberg mans the puzzle pieces from the cab of a crane at a repair site Wednesday, grasping a 29-ton metamorphic mass with 40-ton tongs and nestling it into a complementary hole as best he can.

He drops the rock with a splash into a wedge of water, attempting to fill a gap in the jetty structure, but then decides the pieces don't fit. Using the crane's claw, he picks the rock back up to reposition it.

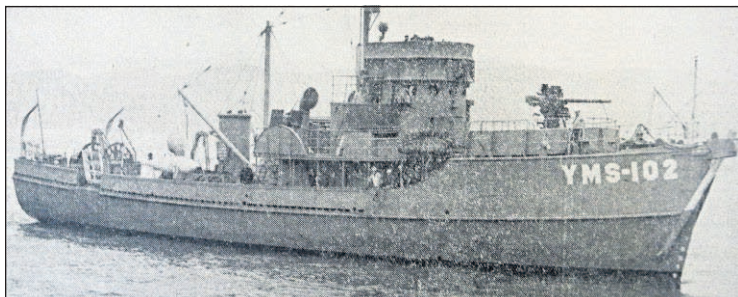
"There's no uniform or perfect rock out here," said project foreman Andy Bushnell. "You have to keep trying and trying."

This fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is wrapping up two years of interim repairs to the South Jetty, placing the last of 171,000 tons of new rock into holes that had weakened about a mile of the 7-mile structure. The work is designed to bolster the protective barrier between the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the river for eight to 10 years, maintaining safe passage for ships and preserving an estimated \$14 billion pillar of the regional economy.

An expert review of NorthernStar Natural Gas Co.'s draft emergency response plan found the company hasn't covered all the bases to ensure public safety if a liquefied natural gas terminal is built at Bradwood Landing.

In fact, consultants hired by Clatsop County to review public safety issues connected with the proposed LNG project found more than two dozen holes in the company's plan's — many of which, they concluded, could directly impact county residents, taxpayers and first responders.

50 years ago — 1967



The Daily Astorian/File

A U.S. Navy minesweeper built at Astoria Marine Construction Co. in Lewis and Clark.

Pierre, the tomcat, is in the dog house. But good.

The feline holds forth at the Clatsop County Courthouse, preferring mainly the basement quarters and the bailiwick of District Judge Harold T. Johnson.

Sheriff Carl Bondietti is also a friend of Pierre. Or was.

Gossip at the courthouse is that Pierre ran true to form — or almost — regarding that old saying about the cat that swallowed the canary.

This time, however, Pierre gulped the evidence, a salmon head that is.

The piece of evidence the other day concerned an "undersized salmon," and it was about 2 inches less when hungry Pierre got through. It was the tastiest meal in along time for this sleek fellow.

The Astoria City Council authorized purchase of a radar unit for use of the police department and indicated they favor raising overtime parking violation fines from 50 cents to \$1 at a meeting Monday evening in council chambers in City Hall.

Police Chief Paul Bettiol had requested that his department be permitted to purchase without bid a Stephenson radar Speedalyzer for \$1,295. In communication, he noted that his unit was most popular from standpoint of service and reliability.

A survey by opinion-sampler Louis Harris finds that Americans, by a slim 46 percent to 43 percent margin, are now opposed to the program to land a man on the moon. More than 60 percent said they would oppose it if the Russians were not in competition with us.

75 years ago — 1942

A keeper of the dazzling Tillamook Rock light, which slashes the darkness that things afloat may see, early this morning became the first injury victim of Astoria's dim-out.

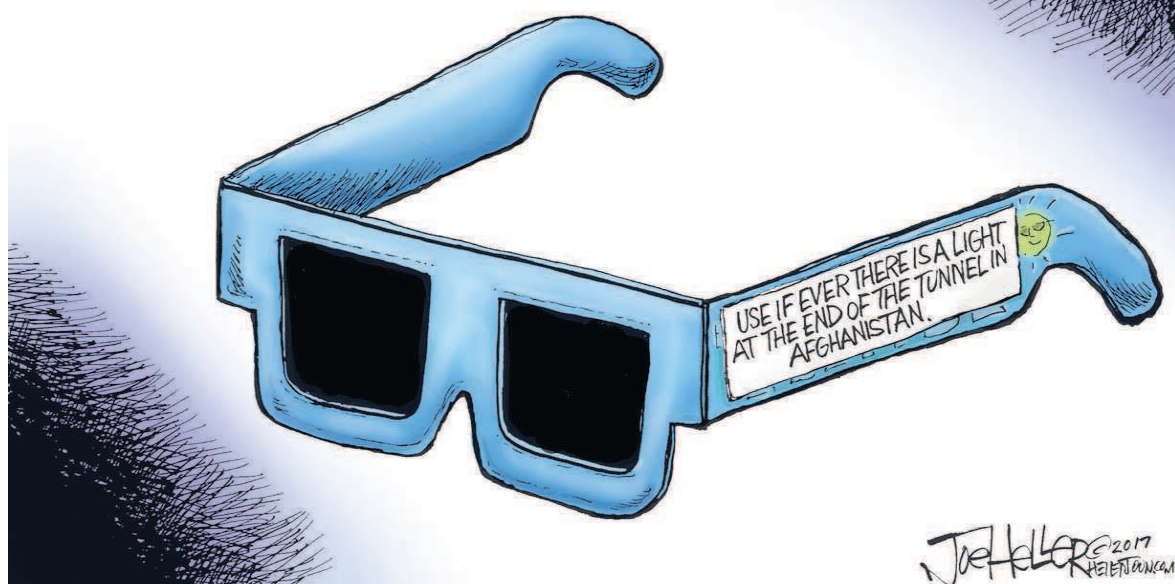
Ed Laschinger, 60-year-old lighthouse keeper, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital after having been struck by Joe Melvin's car on 14th and Duane streets at 11:45 p.m. Monday. He was not critically hurt, although suffering injuries to his shoulder and hip. Details of the accident were not known, except that it appeared to have been the result of the dim-out.

City and civilian defense authorities here decided today that the entire city of Astoria would be indefinitely dimmed out, owing to impossible difficulties which would be plague law enforcement zoning of the city's corporate areas be attempted.

City Manager G.T. McClean said that survey of city streets, completed by Engineer Harold Olavik, proved the area west of 18th and east of Second streets would be in complete dim-out, with some streets among the intervening blocks likewise dimmed to normal vehicular traffic.

This being the case, McClean agreed with Chief of Police John Acton and David J. Lewis, defense administrator, that total dim-out would be required, since the task of posting all intersections then expecting motorists to observe the hundreds of signs would create an untenable situation.

NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THOSE ECLIPSE GLASSES?



Watching the eclipse in Oregon



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

This eight picture combo shows the path of the sun during a total eclipse by the moon Monday near Redmond.

By NICHOLAS KRISTOF
New York Times News Service

SALEM — It was a lovely August morning here in Salem, with a warm sun blazing from a blue sky, when the world began to end. Or that's what it felt like. Imperceptibly the sky darkened, and instead of growing hotter, the air grew cool. It was as if dusk began at 9:30 a.m.

Then, abruptly, in just a few minutes, a bit after 10 a.m., night spread across Salem, where I was watching the eclipse with my family. (I'm originally from Oregon.) Cars were obliged to use their headlights, and I had to pull out my headlamp. The throngs of eclipse-watchers on the state Capitol grounds cheered and roared with approval.

Eclipse-mania has shadowed Oregon for many days. Flights have been jammed full, and some cars are said to be renting for many hundreds of dollars a day. Shops ran out of eclipse sunglasses, and customers began lining up before 4:30 a.m. in front of a coffee shop that gave away eclipse glasses with coffee (later it recalled the glasses as ineffective!).

With many hotels full, farmers rented their fields to campers. As we drove to Salem on back roads, we saw people setting up lawn chairs hours early to get prime eclipse-watching sites on farmers' fields.

The "totality" of the eclipse lasted almost two minutes. Venus and Jupiter appeared in the "night" sky, and confused birds reportedly began to sing their evening songs. I understood why the ancient Chinese thought that an eclipse reflected dragons eating the sun. Or why the Arapaho Indians thought that darkness came because the sun and the moon were having sex in the sky.

"It was incredible!" said Zoey Castillo, a 9-year-old who was part

of a group of Girl Scouts invited to watch the eclipse from the balcony of Gov. Kate Brown's office. "I'm so glad I got to watch it one time in my life!"

Miranda Trentzsch, also 9, said the Girl Scouts had been told that the next total solar eclipse in Salem would come in 2108 and added: "If I live to be 100, then my kids can watch the next solar eclipse with me!"

The greatest drama only lasted about five minutes — the sudden darkening, the disappearance of the sun behind the moon, and then its reappearance and what seemed the breaking of a new day — but the crowds of watchers oohed and aahed and roared their approval.

After viewing my first total solar eclipse, a couple of reflections:

First, the appeal of the solar eclipse is not just its rarity, but the way it puts us in our place. It disrupts the routines we rely on and reminds us of the vastness, beauty and rigor of the solar system.

One moment we are the masters of the universe. The next, the moon occludes the sun and we have to wait for light to reappear. Yet there's also a majesty in the way scientists predict eclipses with such precision. We may not be masters of the universe, but our astronomers are masterful at taking apart the celestial clocks.

Scientists know to the minute when eclipses will happen many years from now. This scientific precision diminishes the sense of superstitious fear and awe that accompanied such past events. In Shakespeare's "Macbeth," the murder of King Duncan seems to lead to a solar eclipse that turns the day dark and reflects the horror and evil of human misconduct; today, the punctual arrival of an eclipse seems a tribute less to superstition than to mathematical exactitude.

Second, there was no controversy about the arrival of this eclipse; we all accepted the scientific consensus about its timing and swarmed to the best viewpoints. So why is there such resistance to the similar scientific

consensus about other foretold events — such as climate change?

My Times colleague Justin Gillis made this point in a notable article: We as a society clearly trust scientists in their predictions about eclipses but ignore the scientific warnings about the far more dire consequences of our cooking the planet. As Gillis notes, it's not as if such cautions are new, for scientists have been discussing global warming since 1897. Nor is the problem that the climate warnings have not been verified, for global average temperatures have indeed risen almost 2 degrees Fahrenheit since then.

"The scientists told us that the Arctic would warm especially fast," Gillis noted. "They told us to expect heavier rainstorms. They told us heat waves would soar. They told us that the oceans would rise. All of those things have come to pass."

I chatted with Brown during the eclipse, and she dryly made the point: "In Oregon, we actually make public policy based on science and data." It would be nice if Congress did the same.

Obviously, there remains a range of climate possibilities ahead, partly because feedback loops are difficult to predict and uncertainty is inevitable. There's also a legitimate debate about the best policy responses to climate change — but our national response so far has been little more than a shrug, and that's difficult to reconcile with the scientific consensus about the risks ahead.

It's a new day in Salem again. We now understand that a solar eclipse isn't an apocalypse, and our confidence that the world isn't ending is a reminder of our increasing understanding of the vast universe around us.

As the light returns and the sky warms, I'll be celebrating not just the majesty of the heavens but also the wisdom of the scientists. I wish I had similar confidence in the rest of us to recognize other atmospheric risks that will be far more consequential for our planet.

LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian. We do not publish open letters or third-party letters.

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 and verbal verification of authorship. 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 respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

The Daily Astorian welcomes short "in gratitude" notes from readers for publication. They should keep to a 200-word maximum and writers are asked to avoid simply listing event sponsors. They

must be signed, include the writer's address, phone number and are subject to condensation and editing for style, grammar, etc.

Submissions may be sent in any of these ways:

E-mail to editor@dailyastorian.com;

Online form at www.dailyastorian.com;

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103