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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

After months of wondering if the next season of "Shanghaied in Astoria" would perhaps be street theater, or a wandering minstrel show, the Astor Street Opry Company's board of directors announced at a wrap party Saturday that it had found a new home for the annual musical melodrama.

Starting next summer, audiences can sigh with the heroine and boo at the villain in the building that formerly housed Roy's Maytag, 129 W. Bond St.

Astoria's Valley Bronze Art Gallery has closed its storefront at the corner of 12th and Commercial streets, where unique sculpture collections have been on display for the past three years.

On Friday, sales manager Malcolm Phinney packed up the artwork from the showroom and loaded it into moving vans to be taken to the Valley Bronze Gallery in Joseph, where the Valley Bronze Foundry makes metal art casting that ranges from small sculptures to multimillion-dollar projects.

The 12 years of efforts by various groups in Seaside are being recognized by the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association.

The Seaside Skate 'N Ride Park is being awarded the 2007 Design of the Year. The park opened for use in June.

"All the things came together and it has really become a focal point in the community," said Mary Blake, director of Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. "This was a big project for a small community."

50 years ago — 1967



The Daily Astorian/File

Gavin and Lady Irene Astor received Sunday an autographed copy of the book "Adventure at Astoria 1810-1814" during Astor Library dedicatory ceremonies.

Astor, who came with his wife, Lady Irene, from London for the dedication ceremonies, shared speaking honors with Gov. Tom McCall, who flew from Salem.

The Astor family is proud of its ancestor John Jacob Astor and considers founding of Astoria his crowning achievement, Gavin Astor, his fifth generation descendant, told 350 people who crowded the new Astor Library for his dedication Sunday afternoon.

"We are delighted to share in this library dedication, and congratulate all concerned," Astor said. "This is really a lovely building."

Astor noted that posting the U.S. flag at Astoria by his ancestor's expedition was a major factor in establishing U.S. claims to the Oregon country and giving the United States a Pacific seaboard.

A self-styled spokesman for a group of county residents seeking answers to questions about the proposed \$152 million Northwest Aluminum plant here accused the Port of Astoria commissioners of a "snow job" that could be removed by them answering the questions.

The commission in turn told Eben Carruthers of Warrenton that many of the questions were "silly and a waste of time" while they would attempt to answer those they felt appropriate after research. Carruthers was invited to attend the Port Commission's meeting Nov. 14, during which answers to the questions will be given.

75 years ago — 1942

An inspection of Lower Columbia towns and highways by Army officers at the request of the Western defense command has exposed glaring weaknesses in local observation of the command's proclamation ordering a dim-out, it was learned today from the state defense council headquarters.

The officers found that in Astoria, "requirements pertaining to cars driving in dim-out zones are not enforced; street lights painted on the seaward side are not blacked out, due to paint peeling off the lights; a large number of lighted windows visible from the sea did not have shades down."

Scientific research is changing the face of the world and of everything we use, Edward F. Flynn, assistant to the vice president and general counsel for the Great Northern Railway Co., told the Astoria Rotary Club Wednesday. Flynn was introduced by Jack Wright, local manager of the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railway.

"It is no doubt safe to say that in a day or two at present, the world is spending as much to carry on its wars as the United States pays out in a year for research.

"If, when the war ends we shall spend in our country for research as much in one year as we now spend in one month for war, such great impetus will be given industry and the discovery of new sources of power and perfection and production of new medicines that will then be living in a really 'new world.' We will then not need to fear that any other nation will defeat us commercially or industrially in any part of the world."

Chief of Police John Acton, acting upon receipt of complaints from motorists who are claiming pedestrians are careless in their travel over city streets in the dim-out, today issued a statement warning both foot and auto travelers that city police are prepared to enforce a dim-out regulation with an iron hand.

"We are getting a good many complaints from motorists regarding this carelessness of pedestrians during dim-outs and wish to caution pedestrians that they must use extra caution in crossing the streets just as well as the drive must be extra cautious," Acton said.



Corker told the truth about Trump

By MICHELLE GOLDBERG

New York Times News Service

Over the past few months, the country has been in a foul sort of trance. Among



people who work in politics, Republicans as well as Democrats, it is conventional wisdom that President Donald Trump is staggeringly ill-informed, erratic, reckless and dishonest. (He also might be compromised by a hostile foreign power.) But it's also conventional wisdom that with few exceptions, Republicans in Congress are not going to stand up to him. America's nuclear arsenal is in the hands of a senescent Twitter troll, but those with political power have refused to treat this fact as a national emergency. Thus, even though a majority of Americans consider the president unfit for office, a fatalistic sense of stasis has set in.

Credit U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., for momentarily snapping us out of it. On Sunday evening, after a Twitter feud with Trump, Corker gave an interview to The New York Times in which he said publicly what Republican officeholders usually say only privately. Trump, Corker told the reporters Jonathan Martin and Mark Landler, is treating the presidency like "a reality show" and could be setting the nation "on the path to World War III." Corker has previously said that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Secretary of Defense James Mattis and chief of staff John Kelly "help separate our country from chaos." On Sunday, he identified the agent of that chaos. "I know for a fact that every single day at the White House, it's a situation of trying to contain him," Corker said of Trump.

Now that Corker has done the country the immense favor of acknowledging the obvious, the key question is: What's next? Corker, despite his culpability in helping to legitimate Trump during the presidential campaign and despite waiting until he'd announced his retirement to speak out, has behaved more patriotically than most of his quietly complicit colleagues. But as Trump continues to tweet threats at a war-ready North Korea, it is not enough to simply hope that the president's minders can stop him from blowing up the world.

Corker, after all, is not a passive spectator; he's the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "The Congress holds the ultimate power for war," Jerry Taylor, president of the Niskanen Center, a libertarian think tank, told me. "Though they have more or less delegated that power away to the executive branch, they can take it back."



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chats with reporters in September at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

They could start with a pair of bills introduced by Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Rep. Ted Lieu of California, both Democrats, prohibiting the president from launching a nuclear first strike without a congressional declaration of war. So far, the only Republican to sign on in either chamber is Rep. Walter Jones of North Carolina. But given how little faith Senate Republicans have in Trump's judgment, they have a duty to take up this legislation or develop an alternative. "Increasingly, senators and members of Congress are going to come to the conclusion that there has to be a firewall that is erected so that a single human being cannot impulsively launch nuclear weapons," Markey told me.

Corker's expression of alarm is a reminder that we are teetering on the cusp of horror.

Despite its overall record of weakness, Congress has acted on one occasion to curb Trump's worst foreign policy impulses. In July, Republicans voted overwhelmingly for a bipartisan bill that, among other things, limited Trump's ability to unilaterally lift sanctions on Russia. Tying Trump's hands on nuclear weapons would be a far more aggressive step, but it's one

that members of Congress who are mindful of this moment's profound peril should take.

Of course, "should" is the key word here. There are plenty of things that Republicans should do about Trump, including impeaching him for violating the emoluments clause of the Constitution. We've grown so inured to Republican politicians' persistent refusal to put the welfare of the country above their re-election prospects and lust for tax cuts that complaining about it feels banal and naive.

But Corker's expression of alarm is a reminder that we are teetering on the cusp of horror. He made it clear that Trump's tweeted provocations of North Korea are impulsive rather than strategic. "A lot of people think that there is some kind of 'good cop, bad cop' act underway, but that's just not true," he said. We need to take seriously the possibility that Trump might cavalierly start a war that could kill millions of people. It would be a human calamity of inconceivable, history-bending scale, and it would leave America as a hated global pariah. Now that Corker has admitted that Trump cannot be trusted with the power he holds, he and other Republicans have no excuse not to try to take that power away.

Taylor, of the Niskanen Center, is in frequent contact with anti-Trump Republicans, and he senses a growing sense of urgency among them. "Having an unstable narcissist who is ignorant of politics, policy and foreign affairs with the nuclear codes has probably turned them white as a sheet," he said. "There is some degree of serious responsibility that they fully realize that they hold." If so, now would be a good time to show it.

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