

OPINION

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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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

Mayor Willis Van Dusen staged a celebration at Astoria City Hall Monday night — recognizing the dozens of people whose efforts helped Astoria weather the devastating storm that walloped the North Coast exactly two weeks earlier.

The crowd packed the small Council Chambers. Invited to share in celebration and address the city Council were Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin and representatives from the U.S. Army National Guard, Oregon Air National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, Tongue Point Job Corps Center, Pacific Power, amateur radio organizations, the Red Cross and radio stations KMUN and KAST.

City employees also received kudos. "All of us have just experienced history in this community," Van Dusen told the overflow audience, which required two extra rows of chairs to be hastily brought in. "Words are not going to be adequate to thank some of the heroes and hard-working team members who helped us get through these past unforgettable days."

The howling storms that knocked out power along the Washington and northern Oregon coasts also brought a windfall, you might say, Grays Harbor Paper LP.

Cleanup since the storms hit at the start of the month has yielded a bumper crop of blown down trees and tree limbs to burn as "hog fuel" to produce steam for generating electricity at the mill in Hoquiam, company president Bill Quigg says.

The holiday season seems to have sneaked up on us. That's understandable, when considering that people's minds have been on very serious matters following the Dec. 2-3 storms.

But it's probably also a combination of warm evenings — it was 50 degrees in Astoria Wednesday evening — radio stations having to act as emergency broadcasters, interrupting



efforts to play holiday music, and a number of people either not being able or choosing not to display Christmas lights this year.

It wasn't that long ago that anticipation of the holidays would begin to build when Christmas products began appearing in stores.

Maybe it's age, but now that holiday products are marketed long before even Halloween, the marketing doesn't have the same effect.

50 years ago - 1967

The Union Oil Tanker Santa Maria was pulled free from a Columbia River sandbar Monday after a collision with a lumber laden barge Sunday night west of Longview.

Earlier, the American freighter Wellesley Victory and the Indian vessel Gotomu Jayanti collided near Tongue Point. Both were at Swan Island for repairs.

Snow began sticking on the ground in Astoria and other low-lying areas of Clatsop County at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, while

in the Coast Range traffic was hampered by packed snow and ice.

State police in Astoria were advising callers to use chains but to stay home "unless they must" cross the mountains.

Major petroleum companies have all but given up a multi-million dollar exploration effort for oil off the Oregon coast, it was learned today.

State Land Board Director Dale Mallicoate said the companies have dropped all exploratory leases for state-owned off-shore tracts and have kept only eight of the 101 federally-owned submerged lands leased in 1964. Ten companies paid \$35 million for oil and gas exploration rights on nearly 600,000 acres of federal land off the coasts of Oregon and Washington.

Perhaps the last freighter to load lumber in Westport for some time to come will be the vessel Yorkmar, due tonight at the Port of Astoria terminals to begin loading cargo that will be completed in Westport. The lumber is destined for east coast ports.

75 years ago — 1942

The University of Oregon faces off against the powerful and threatening Portland Boilermaker team, former all Americans and collegiate stars in the USO pavilion tonight at 8 o'clock, in the first game of a double header hoop attraction opening Astoria's 1942-43 basketball season. Oregon will meet the Astoria All-Stars in the pavilion Saturday night.

Tonight's game will introduce an expected capacity crowd to one of Oregon's finest basketball courts.

There will be seating for more than 2000 persons and a top capacity of about 2500, which is greater than any other pavilion in the state excluding Eugene's McArthur Court.

Like the battleship Oregon, the old Smiley-Lampert mill at Warrenton is playing its part in another war. In 1916 the Warrenton mill was turning out the spruce for army airplanes. Now the machinery that turned out the spruce is on its way to the fighting front in the shape of ammunition in another war.

The wreckers are busy today getting out the scrap metal, 250 tons of it, while incidentally putting the finishing touches to a community building idea of several Warrenton pioneer residents.

In the early 1900s the late Dan K. Warreen, father of George Warren, conceived the deal of organizing a saw mill company and erecting a mill in Warrenton.

GUEST COLUMN

To pass on Oregon's natural resource heritage, pass Clean Energy Jobs

Some of my earliest memories are of my dad and me exploring, foraging and hunting throughout Oregon. From sturgeon fishing on the Columbia River, to razor clamming in Seaside, and steelhead fishing on the Nehalem River, the Oregon Coast was a key location for our adventures.

Now that my dad is gone, I treasure the memories of our experiences even more. Continuing to enjoy Oregon through fishing, crabbing, and hunting — and passing on my dad's legacy by teaching my own daughter these things — helps me hold onto him.

It's because of the deep sense of place I feel for Oregon that I am so troubled by changes I've observed in recent years.

Crabbing season has been delayed again for the third consecutive year, and Oregon salmon and steelhead have hit record low returns. And I can't tell you the number of times I've observed a perfectly full moon on a clear night, with low tides that set the stage for perfect razor clam hunting conditions — yet a marine toxin has closed the beaches.

Just earlier this year, The Daily Astorian wrote that researchers believe these beach closures, due to biotoxins making shellfish unhealthy to eat, will become a more regular occurrence. Domoic acid is a naturally occurring toxin, but its prevalence increases when the ocean is too warm. In recent years, it has increased substantially along the Pacific Coast. Razor clamming throughout the beaches and bays below Lincoln City is still closed as of today.

These particular impacts are fueled by unseasonably warm rivers and oceans, which are caused, at least in part, by climate change. Luckily, the Oregon Legislature is working on a bill that can help to slow the impacts of climate change, and establish Oregon as a national leader in the movement to reduce emissions and transition our state to a clean energy economy.

Clean Energy Jobs is a policy to cap and price climate pollution and reinvest proceeds from that price into Oregon's clean energy economy. It's a flexible, efficient mechanism for reducing climate pollution at a low cost. Oregon has been working on varying forms of legislation to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions with a limit and price on pollution



Bryce Baker

Fishing the Lewis & Clark River in 2007.

for well over a decade. Clean Energy Jobs is the final product and it's ready to be passed in 2018.

Ten states already have successful policies in place that are similar to Clean Energy Jobs. California is part of the North American Carbon Market, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario also have an economy-wide cap and price on climate pollution. In the Northeast, nine states (soon to be 10 since Virginia plans to sign on) are all part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap and trade system for the utility sector. If passed, we'd be enacting a policy that's tried-and-true elsewhere.

Under Clean Energy Jobs, polluters would pay for every ton of climate pollution they emit. Proceeds from the cap would be invested into clean energy projects and jobs, and a minimum of 35 percent of the proceeds from the bill would be invested to reduce pollution and climate impacts as experienced by low-income, communities of color, impacted workers, and rural communities in Oregon — communities like Astoria.

Oregon coastal communities stand to gain a great deal from Clean Energy Jobs, and equally stand to lose a great deal if we fail to act on climate change. The health of our oceans is directly tied to the health of our communities. We're already seeing the impacts of climate change on the Oregon coast. If we are to pass on Oregon's natural resource heritage to our children, as my dad passed it on to me, the Oregon Legislature should pass Clean Energy Jobs into law in 2018.

Bryce Baker is an avid outdoorsman who has spent more than two decades fishing, hunting, and crabbing along the Oregon Coast and Coastal Range. He lives with his wife and daughter in Forest Grove.



LETTERS WELCOME

Letters should be exclusive to The Daily Astorian.

Letters should be fewer than 250 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. 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 allowed 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. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters in poor taste will not be printed.

Send via email to editor@dailyastorian.com, online at dailyastorian.com/submit_letters, in person at 949 Exchange St. in Astoria or 1555 North Roosevelt in Seaside, or mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103.

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- **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D):** 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Web: www.merkley.senate.gov
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