

# OPINION

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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

More than 340 million board feet of lumber were knocked down in Clatsop County by the Dec. 2-3 storm. Of that, 100 million board feet is considered unmarketable because of damage.

And estimates have reached 25 to 30 million board feet of lumber down in the Clatsop State Forest alone. The December 2006 storm knocked down 20 million board feet.

The timber revenue is significant to local governments because of the revenue derived from harvesting, as well as the implications for jobs and local economy.

Devastated by the December storm, leaders in Tillamook County are looking at options to dig themselves out of a giant mess caused when the railroad line was ripped up by hurricane-force winds.

Several hundred jobs are tied to the line, which hauls grain to Tillamook and lumber to Portland.

One solution could involve Astoria, although Ron Larsen, executive director at the Port of Astoria, considers it is a long shot.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski met last week with shippers and others interested in the line. Kelly Taylor, administrator of the Oregon Department of Transportation's rail division, said the governor asked for a task force to consider the most reliable, affordable options.

LONG BEACH, Wash. - The Nature Conservancy and the Friends of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge praised Congress for including \$990,000 for spartina eradication in the federal spending bill that Congress passed last week.

"Spartina eradication is an important effort that has involved the federal government, state agencies, local oyster growers, as well as landowners around Willapa Bay, and it's been very successful," said Kelly Rupp, a member of the board of trustees for the Friends of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. "Both the environmental and economic interests of people who depend upon the bay are united in this effort."

### 50 years ago — 1967

A storm front that brought snow and hazardous driving to much of Oregon including Clatsop County was moving into Nevada Monday after snarling traffic on the Wilson River highway and causing numerous autos to skid on the Sunset highway.

Chinook's new post office is a big improvement over the one vacated in November after completion of the new build-



H&H Wood Recyclers works to clear away wood debris piled in Gearhart.

ing. The well-lighted structure is modern in every detail.

Washington Hall was first postmaster in Old Chinookville near Fort Columbia before Washington became a state, then Roger Ducheny and John McClure. The office was terminated in 1860.

At the present site of Chinook, Matt Friedinberg was appointed in 1892. Then Charles Davis operated the post office in his home for six years.

During this time W.R. Williams delivered mail between Ilwaco and Chinook by horse and buggy. Later Tony Gavin added passenger service.

In those days postmasters were much like the old country doctors, performing many services beyond the line of duty.

### 75 years ago — 1942

Astoria stood on the threshold of a major housing crisis this week as plans were prepared to obtain federal attention to a need for some temporary housing facilities in accommodating an immediately expected influx of construction labor.

It is estimated that within three months a minimum of 800 to 1000 workmen will be attracted to the Astoria-Warrenton region from the outside. The demand is arriving from developments at the Clatsop airport, the Columbia River Packers shipyards, the Astoria-Warrenton shipyards and the Astoria Marina.

Launching of the first of a series of eight 136-foot minesweepers now under construction at the Astoria Marine Construction company plant is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, December 26, at 4 o'clock.

A plea for typewriters was forwarded by rationing headquarters here today for industrial firms in this region faced with a shortage of the machines and unable to buy new or used ones during the period that typewriters are frozen.

A particular need has been expressed by shipyards in this territory. Rationing officials asked that persons with a typewriter in reasonably good condition or not too ancient make them available through the rationing office for private companies — on loan, for rent or for sale. They said there is a very great need and calling for immediate action.

It used to be coffee and doughnuts.

Then came the coffee shortage.

Now it's no doughnuts.

Portland wholesalers who supply many sections of Oregon said today they had notified customers they will stop shipments outside the local area in an attempt to supply the bulk of home needs.

The producers said the shortage of cottonseed oil, a vital ingredient of ammunition, had left bakers with insufficient shortening to cook their product.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't shoot songbirds in my yard

Dear Neighbors: I don't feed all those songbirds in my yard so that your three young children can shoot them with a pellet gun. I am hoping you didn't give them more guns for Christmas.

REBA OWEN  
Warrenton

### May the blessedness of Christmas be with you

I got to thinking about Christmas, and how even the greatest minds couldn't comprehend the greatness and the magnitude of our creator. So what did our creator do? Send a great, big massive king?

No, he sent a little child, the Lord Jesus Christ, someone even the simplest mind could grasp. An example of a living, loving, caring lord whom we could make a part of our everyday lives, enabling us to be more than conquerors, even in the toughest of life situations we may be facing, or will be facing.

May the blessedness of Christmas be with you.

JIM BERNARD  
Warrenton

### No benefit to wider roads in Warrenton

The Warrenton City Commission recently passed a new ordinance mandating that roads to be built into new large development projects will need to be 36 feet wide, curb edge to curb edge, which is the maximum width that the Warrenton city code allows.

The state of Oregon fire code requires a minimum street width of 32 feet wide to accommodate parking on both sides of the street at the same time, plus enough extra width to allow fire trucks to operate on these streets. The extra 4 feet of width Warrenton requires is approximately 11 percent more than normally required to meet Oregon code requirements.

The extra 4 feet extended over the full distance of all of the roads in a new development

would be contributing a very large amount of hard road surface to accumulate rainfall runoff, in addition to presenting drivers with a temptation to drive faster than the normal residential street speed limit because of the much larger road width.

Speed bumps would have been a good idea to help manage traffic speeds in residential areas. It's very difficult to provide Warrenton Commission members with ideas before they make final votes. I see no benefit to the extra width now required in Warrenton for future roads.

SCOTT WIDDICOMBE  
Warrenton

### Old Youngs Bay Bridge is obsolete, hazardous

Hooray! After years of inconvenience and millions of dollars spent, the Old Youngs Bay Bridge is once again open.

It's obsolete. It's inadequate. It's hazardous. But by gosh, it's historic.

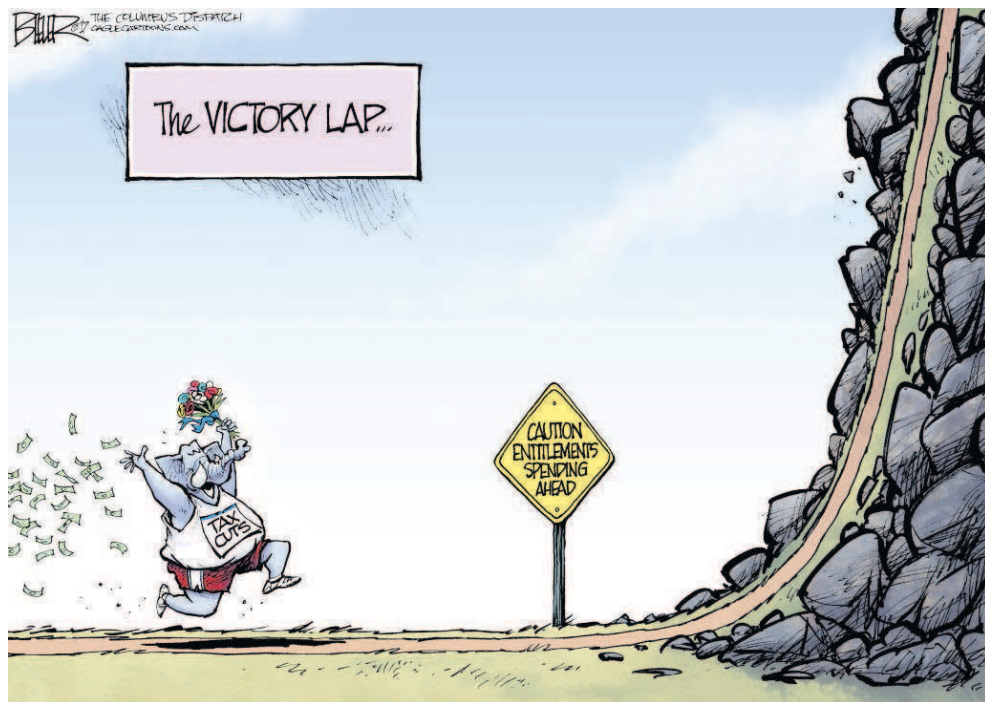
MICHAEL FRECH  
Astoria

### Without Jesus there would be no Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. Stores and streets and many homes are decorated with beautiful lights, ornaments, decorations and messages indicating this to be a very special season. The air and airways are filled with sweet sounds of carols and hymns. Friends, neighbors, co-workers and even strangers greet one another with smiles and "Merry Christmas!"

Children line up to sit in the lap of Santa and present pleas for bikes, dolls and whatever the latest toy might be. And of course, they all confess to having been good the past year.

We send cards and receive cards from friends, family, loved ones, and sometimes nearly forgotten acquaintances. The cards are beautiful, often showing appropriate scenes of snow, sleights, Santa, wise men, shepherds, angels, and baby Jesus in manger, etc., with wishes of peace, joy, and good will to all.



It is also a very enjoyable season for families to gather and share a feast of good food and express and display love of one another.

Christmas is in many ways the most enjoyable season of the year, but let us not forget, it all points back to Jesus, the Son of God. Without Jesus there would be no Christmas.

Enjoy Christmas, but help someone less fortunate, and pray for our military men and women who are serving and protecting our freedoms and way of life. Attend a church service and give thanks for Jesus our Lord. But resolve to let him be your Lord all the time, not just during this brief season.

KEN TIPPS  
Astoria Church of Christ

### Oregon is governed much better than Alabama

The Daily Astorian editorial on Dec. 15 — "Oregon, Alabama suffer from one-party rule" — tried to compare a state that is deeply scarred by poverty, crime and poor education (Alabama), with a state that is one of the most forward-looking, environmental and yet business-friendly in the country (Oregon). The editor erred when trying to make an equal-but-opposite argument, stating that

Oregon's Democratic majority is similar to Alabama's Republican majority, which led to politicians like Roy Moore.

But to compare Oregon and Alabama's legislatures, you have to compare the results, not just make generalizations. It would be naive to think that Oregon isn't without its problems, but the Democratically controlled legislature in Oregon has done a lot over the years to promote the rights, health, jobs and living conditions of Oregonians.

Forward-thinking gun legislation and the "Motor-voter" Act have helped make Oregon a safer and fairer state. Conversely, the one-sided conservatism of Alabama has made it a state that is consistently on the bottom of the heap in terms of poverty, livability and education.

Using state Sen. Betsy Johnson to bolster the argument didn't help, either. She is hardly a Democrat. In her last election, she was listed as both Democrat and Republican in the Voter Pamphlet, she often votes with the Republicans, and her support of gun rights (including machine guns) is legendary.

It is often tempting to make equivalencies where none exist. While both Oregon and Alabama are governed by one party, Oregon is governed much better.

DON ANDERSON  
Astoria