

OPINION

editor@dailyastorian.com



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KARI BORGEN
Publisher

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Editor

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CARL EARL
Systems Manager

Water under the bridge



Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

10 years ago this week — 2008

At 800 feet below the earth's surface, things can easily go wrong.

For the scientists and drilling crew installing geophysical monitoring equipment in Naselle in the past couple of weeks, that's the depth that had to be achieved.

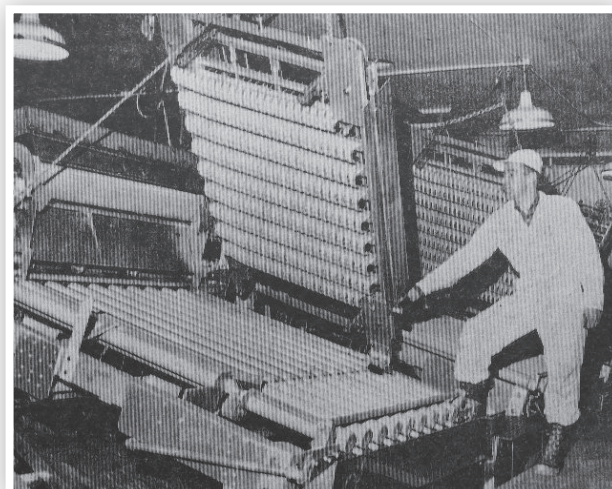
Overseen by UNAVCO, this installation is part of the Plate Boundary Observatory project, an operation designed to increase the understanding of earthquakes and other seismic activity. UNAVCO is a nonprofit consortium funded by the National Science Foundation and the NASA.

Replacing the staircase at the Astoria Column will cost the city \$200,000 if the City Council agrees to a proposal presented at Monday's meeting by Jordan Schnitzer, president of the nonprofit Friends of the Astoria Column. That's almost half the projected \$418,000 budget for fixing the steps, which have been out of commission for months. Schnitzer is aiming for the staircase, which spirals up the interior of the famous landmark, to be reopened to the public by the first two weeks in July.

Astoria High School coach Dave Gasser returned from Tillamook Thursday as the winningest baseball coach in Oregon history. Led by a fire engine, the team bus pulled onto the school parking lot around 10 p.m. to a crowd awaiting its arrival.

Given the fact that the Astoria Fishermen outscored Tillamook in three games last year by a combined 50-3 — and 35-6 the year before that — a baseball game between the Fish and the Cheesemakers normally wouldn't draw much attention.

But there they were Thursday afternoon at Tillamook, playing in front of radio, newspaper and television reporters, including Astoria student Micah Dugan, filming for KGW News Channel 8 in Portland.



The Daily Astorian
Bumble Bee Seafood's new shrimp shell removing machine is demonstrated by John Farrell, foreman in charge of Astoria's first shrimp cannery, which began operation in 1968 at the Elmore cannery.

50 years ago — 1968

These are busy days at the Port of Astoria, as indicated by the announcement that tonnage volume for the first quarter of 1968 was double the volume of the first quarter of 1967.

The Port is so busy that port commissioners are looking at the East End Basin breakwater as a temporary loading spot for log ships.

It is pleasant to have the Port booming like this, for its prosperity spreads through the community, but one wonders if the evident rapid acceleration of the log export trade won't bring reprisals soon.

Conversations have taken place in Japan involving officials of our government and log buyers, with a view to persuading the Japanese to ease off voluntarily on their log buying, but it doesn't appear that these talks have produced much result.

Now the lumber industry, seeing more logs go overseas each month, will become more demanding that there be remedial legislation.

Astoria's first shrimp canning plant began operations Wednesday when Bumble Bee Seafoods started its newly installed shrimp peeling and canning line at the Elmore plant. Announcement of the new industry was made by John S. McGowan, Bumble Bee president.

Bumble Bee started marketing north Pacific canned shrimp

last year, packed to the firm's specifications by Pacific Shrimp, Inc., of Warrenton, and the same marketing arrangement will continue this season. McGowan said.

The young, the poor and the crippled of Atlanta trudged through a foggy rain today to pay their last respects to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

75 years ago — 1943

The office of price administration today set out to control the cost of "eating out" by authorizing ceiling prices on restaurant meals.

But officials admitted that although they can set maximum prices for the cost of a restaurant dinner, they have virtually no control over the size of portions or the quality of the food.

A far more abundant supply of fresh, deep-sea fish will be available immediately it appeared today as relaxation of commercial fishing regulations along the Pacific coasts of Oregon and Washington were announced by Capt. W.H. Munter, district coast guard officer at Seattle.

The rulings permit fishing fleets new liberties in entering and leaving certain harbors and the Strait of Juan de Fuca at night and in early morning.

The ports and waters to which the new regulations apply are: Strait of Juan de Fuca, Quillayute River, Grays Harbor, Columbia River, Depoe Bay and Coos Bay.

The industrial council of the office of price administration is ready to recommend the first "break through" of meat rationing lines and propose tripling the amount of the weekly meat ration for loggers, it was learned today.

The council, it was understood, will propose that the present ration of about two pounds a week be increased for loggers to between six and seven pounds — the standard Army field ration — to end work stoppages in logging camps. If granted, the concession will place OPA under more pressure for similar concessions to miners and other workers who expend considerable energy daily.

Too many violations of civil defense regulations concerning dimming headlights of cars at night have been reported recently, according to D.J. Lewis, defense coordinator. The state defense council has warned that many lights are not properly equipped, and that drivers must depend on their parking lights, which are unsatisfactory.

Why children in foster care system need you

We all hear and read about the issues of child abuse and neglect and the overburdened child welfare system. It's a serious problem in Oregon as it is in many other states. It is all too easy to think, "how sad," and then turn your mind away from a problem that seems too big to be able to do anything about.

But for more than 100 kids in our community, that is not an option. They are living in this situation every day, without any choice and with hardly any voice.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Just for a moment, remember what being a little kid felt like. Pretend you are 7 years old. Then imagine what it would be like to lose your

parents, your home, maybe your entire family, your friends, neighborhood, and school, and everything familiar, because your parents could not take care of you. You have no choice in the matter.

Then think about being introduced to many people — police, foster parents, therapists, social workers, judges, lawyers and more. You know that these strangers are somehow responsible for deciding if you will ever live with your parents again. They don't know you, and you wonder what you can or should say to them to make happen what you what to have happen.

Hopefully, one of the people you meet is a CASA (court appointed special advocate) volunteer. If you have a CASA volunteer, you will have someone to listen to you, to advocate for you until your case is closed and you are in a safe, forever home. You will have someone who will keep a promise to be part of your life during this difficult time and to respect you as a person of value.

The chronic neglect that many foster youth experience greatly impacts their self-esteem and makes the CASA's promises all the more important. As one young woman said about her CASA, "Thank you for caring and putting time into me. Thank you for helping me feel safer in the midst of what seems to be a civil war. Thanks for putting time into my life so that maybe someday I will be someone." (Someone There for Me., CWLA Press, 2004)

CASAs are everyday citizens who take an oath in front of a judge pledging to diligently work toward what is in a child's best interests. CASAs are given authority to gather information about the child from treatment providers, teachers, foster parents, family and anyone else who might have useful information. Through their recommendations to the court, CASA volunteers can influence the outcome in a child welfare case, a very important role. CASAs also have the ability to help a child regain trust in adults in general.

As a former foster youth recently told a



National CASA Association

Anyone can make a positive difference in the lives of children.

crowd at a CASA event, the CASA might be the only person in the child's present life who knows important things like the child's favorite color, what games the child likes best and the names of the pets they have had. She said, "We don't need anyone to save us; we just need someone to believe in us." By visiting a child regularly, listening to the child, helping make sure that the child's needs are met, and by being a friend, a CASA can help a young person who is sad, broken and hurt. Having a caring adult who has given up time just to listen means a lot to a child who may have experienced a childhood without a consistent, nurturing parent.

The most frequent reservation that people have about being a CASA is that they are afraid of the emotional toll that this work would take.

Maybe it's just the fabulous volunteers that we've been lucky enough to get, but this is almost never an issue once someone commits to being a volunteer.

The abuse and neglect have already happened; the child is moving on in some fashion, somehow, and we adults should figure out how to deal with our own perception of their experiences and do what we need to do to support that burdened child.

For most of us, the worst part of being a CASA comes not from having to read or hear about the sadder aspects of these children's lives, as painful as that may be. It comes from working with a system that is limited in what it can do for these kids and families. The system limitations are the reality for our kids and we as adults need to, and usually do, find a way through

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that frustration to get the best possible outcome for a child. It feels good to know that you've had some part in improving things for a child and our CASA volunteers gladly take up that challenge. As Sen. Betsy Johnson said at our recent CASA event, speaking of our many donors, "Tonight you can go home, put your head on the pillow and say 'I helped a kid.'" That is how our CASA volunteers deserve to feel every day.

Call the office at 503-338-6063 or email casa@clatsopcasa.org to learn more or to join our next training class; you can also get the application and find out a lot more at our website: clatsopcasa.org.

If becoming a CASA is not for you, this month, and every month, there are countless ways to help our children and families thrive. On April 24, eight local nonprofits will offer a buffet of opportunities to give everyone the chance to "Be the difference — in someone's life." Join us to find out how from 4-7 p.m. at 857 Commercial Street in Astoria and make the world a better place.

Julia Mabry is executive director of the Clatsop CASA Program.