

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 — 2008

After nine years of meetings, property purchases, a groundbreaking and construction, the only thing left to do before opening Seaside's new library was to cut a red ribbon.

Mayor Don Larson did just that. With a giant pair of scissors, Larson, who called the library "absolutely beautiful," performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and started a new era.

Before the ribbon cutting, Larson introduced several people involved in the project, as well as State Librarian Jim Scheppke.

"Seaside is now on the official state librarians' list as one of the best communities in Oregon," Scheppke said.

It's too early to call it a "first-place showdown," but the volleyball Clatsop Clash was a vintage Clatsop Smash, featuring the league's most improved team vs. the two-time defending league champions. And both are contenders for the 2008 Cowapa title.

Defending champ Astoria certainly looks the part, as the Fishermen won a marathon match at Seaside, 25-20, 28-30, 25-17, 21-25, 15-10.

"I'm ready to go home, kiss my son goodnight, have a little dinner, talk to my wife and go to bed," Astoria coach Eric Gohr said after the match. "Yea, I'm tired."

For that matter, everybody was a little exhausted.

The Necanicum Watershed Council has received \$49,000 from American Rivers and the national Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to help restore fish passage to Circle Creek, a tributary of the Necanicum River.

50 years ago — 1968

An Englishman who claims America as his home canoeed into Portland on the Columbia River this week.

Another 110 miles and he will be in Astoria and the end of a 5,000-mile route from New York to the Pacific Ocean.

Bob Sanders, 37, took the old northern route of

Modern Vikings Ready for Upriver Cruise



1968 — Costumed Vikings prepared to sail from the West Mooring Basin as their scale replica of an ancient Norwegian sailing vessel was made seaworthy following a night of work by members of the crew. Named Gokstad, the vessel was to go to Portland for a Scandinavian festival.

the Hudson's Bay fur traders through Lake Winnipeg and the North Saskatchewan River. Sanders is a native of Surrey, England.

"I felt the old fur trader route through the Canadian wilderness held a real challenge for a canoeist, and that is why I accepted it," Sanders said in Portland.

His route went up the Hudson River, through Lake Champlain to the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa River and Lake Nipissing to Georgian Bay and Lake Huron.

He went around the southern shore of Lake Supe-

rior to Copper Harbor and boarded a lake boat for the crossing to Grand Portage where the fur traders took off for the Far West.

The most northern point on the route was 50 miles northeast of Edmonton about 340 miles from the U.S.-Canadian boundary.

Nearly 600 sixth graders of Clatsop County schools will make their annual forestry tour at the forestry demonstration tract near Astor experiment station, county extension Agent Jack Wood has announced.

This has been an annual event for several years. Students visit each of eight stations in the tract, at each of which a different phase of forestry management is demonstrated, with a lecture.

75 years ago — 1943

The CRPA shipyard, which is building 2,300-ton wooden barges for the U.S. maritime commission, announced this week it would conduct intensive recruiting for labor to meet a maritime commission deadline of Dec. 31 for completion of three barges now on the ways in varying degrees of completion.

Bill Wootton, manager of the yard, said the maritime commission has urged completion of the big 274-foot barges by the end of this year; and that to complete this job the company's labor force of about 300 men must be augmented by at least 100 more very soon.

The company now has one barge nearly ready for launching; and it is expected that the first of the three huge ships (each of which contain 1,750,000 feet of lumber) will be launched sometime in October. The barges are larger, in many ways, than any wooden ship built here in the last war and represent the heaviest wooden ship building on the Columbia River in this war.

A memento of Astoria's past was recovered from the bottom of the Columbia when dragging operations for a pump, lost by the oil barge Umatilla Sand, resulted in the recovery of an old-fashioned ship's anchor.

The work of dragging, which has been under way for some time under the direction of A.D. Zimmerman, prominent Columbia River diver, was suddenly brought to a halt when the drags hooked onto an object that at first refused to budge. Zimmerman donned his diving suit and went down to look over the situation.

He discovered the hooks entangled in the huge anchor. The anchor was finally hoisted to the surface and onto the barge lying at the foot of Fifteenth Street.

Zimmerman estimates the weight of the anchor at about three tons. Harry Cherry, local waterfront pundit and historian, reports that the anchor was probably lost by some sailing ship prior to 1910 or 1912, for it was after this period that sailing ships ceased to operate out of the Columbia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Move Hood to Coast to different weekend

Hood to Coast drives down revenue for many businesses. Ask business owners for comparative revenue for the preceding and following weekends. Seaside's sunny Friday afternoon revealed few tourists. The same for Sunday, when hotel parking lots were less than half full.

Yes, most of the hotel rooms are booked through Sunday, but only occupied Saturday night. Loss of revenue, traffic and holding the town hostage for three days on a prime summer weekend are valid complaints, not ingrained habits. Participants were extremely nice and appreciative of everything the town did for them.

Roosevelt Drive may have been normal in your eyes, but Wahanna Road and North Holiday Drive were virtual parking lots, as most of the 2,100 vans crammed into town. The \$750,000 for cancer research comes from a limited number of teams wishing to bypass a lottery system for entry. Hood to Coast generates over \$1.8 million and donates \$25,000. Hood to Coast brings in their own vendors to keep the participants on the beach vs. frequenting our local establishments.

The attitude won't change until the facts change. Moving the event from a prime summer weekend to after Labor Day will change the facts, and allow real tourists to enjoy the last days of summer.

PATRICK DUHACHEK
Warrenton

Vote Jones for mayor of Astoria

I am responding to a recent letter to the editor that offered a "A practical approach to Astoria mayoral race" (The Daily Astorian, Sept. 20). This opinion misses critical understanding of how Astoria works. The mayor has many more responsibilities than any other councilor. Astoria's mayor is accountable to all city wards, sets policy with the guidance of all Astorians, prioritizes the city's needs and resources, creates an action plan, and works directly with city staff. Astoria needs a mayor who has guided a multidimensional agency with numerous facets and competing needs. Bruce Jones is that person. His 30 years of leadership experience in the Coast Guard provides extensive preparation for the demands of our great city. Bruce's City Council experience makes Bruce intimately familiar with constituents, processes, challenges and opportunities.

In addition, for over the last 30 years, Astoria's mayors have been city councilors before

ascending to the mayoral post. The mayor position is too important to learn on the job. Astoria needs stable experienced leadership. Vote Bruce Jones for mayor.

SCOTT DOCHERTY
Hammond

The end of a decade of service

We would like to thank the local communities for their support of our efforts at the PennyWise Thrift Store during the previous 10 years in raising money for the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of North Oregon and South Washington Coast.

Your donations of clean, reusable items, and your purchasing of those items, has been a major factor in helping to raise awareness of the mental health crisis in Clatsop County. It has been an honor for us to have served this county as we have been allowed to do.

We have decided that it is time for us to hang up the spurs and take a little "us" time. That does not mean that the DBSA meetings will discontinue; meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month as previously scheduled. Only the facilitators will be changed during the coming months. With the addition of new facilitators, hopefully, we will be able to expand our reach to other areas of the community.

For all those who have stopped by the shop to express their thanks for the services that have been rendered, we are extremely thankful. We are especially thankful for the wonderful food basket delivered by Jean, Joe and Stephan Herman, for the bouquet of roses given by Frank and Baret Becker, and for the many cards and letters sent to Pat by patrons of the store. We are also extremely thankful for all those who have volunteered their time in working in the shop to help us out.

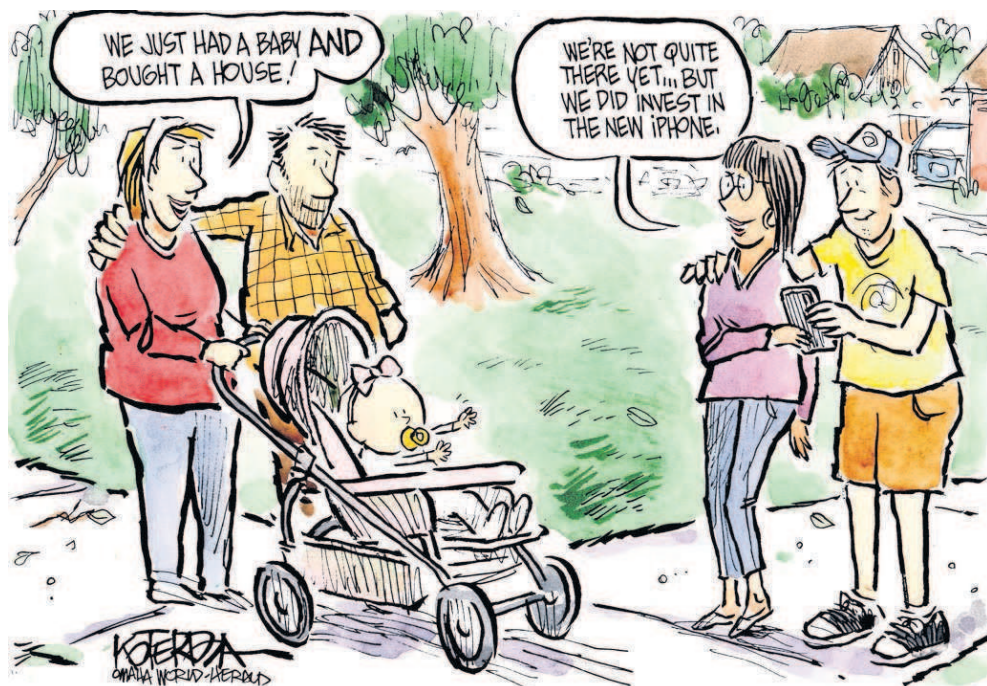
PETER and PATRICIA FESSLER
Astoria

Pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill

I am writing to rebut the editorial "Oregon's carbon plan should be nonstarter" in The Daily Astorian Sept. 13. The editors contend that Oregon is too small an emitter of fossil fuel pollution for it to matter, and that a cap and tax on emissions and investment of those proceeds into clean energy jobs could be harmful to the economy.

Wrong on all counts. No entity is too small to reduce fossil fuel emissions. From individuals making daily life decisions to reduce energy use, to municipalities, to states, to nations, we must all reduce fossil fuel pollution.

The planet is warming. The burning of fossil fuels traps pollution in the atmosphere; it



acts like a greenhouse and traps heat, hence the name greenhouse gas. The science that proves this is overwhelmingly accepted by the scientific community. Those that choose not to believe this are equivalent to those that insist the earth is flat.

The time is now for action. Tax greenhouse gas polluters, and invest the proceeds into clean energy jobs and alternative energy sources.

This is a strategy designed to help rural areas. This is the economy of the future, and Oregon must once again take the lead. Tell your legislators to pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill.

ERIC HALPERIN
Gearhart

Thank you for supporting Class of 1968

The Class of 1968 from Astoria High School recently held its 50th class reunion. While we could have had sunnier weather for the occasion, a wonderful time was had by all attendees as they reconnected with their classmates.

On behalf of the class, I would like to thank Caitlin Moore and everyone else at Buoy Beer for Friday night, and Tiffany Schraeder and the staff at the Astoria Golf and Country Club for Saturday night. Their help in planning and the great food and service both nights made for two great events.

I would also like to thank the crew from the Astoria Riverfront Trolley for a trip down memory lane, and for turning the microphone over to classmates to share their stories of life in the 1960s. It's good to come home again.

BARB WELLS
Astoria

Jones is best qualified for Astoria mayor

This letter is in support of Bruce Jones for mayor of Astoria. Every once in a while, an opportunity comes along that is genuinely substantial, profound and long-lasting. The voters of Astoria will have that unusual opportunity when they vote for mayor in a few weeks.

While I greatly respect Dulcye Taylor as a person and a businesswoman, there is literally no comparison in terms of who is best qualified to serve as mayor, and that person is without a doubt Bruce Jones. Bruce's platform absolutely nails the key issues facing our city for the foreseeable future, namely growing the economy, increasing affordable housing, dealing with the homeless in our community, preparing for the inevitable natural disaster, and ensuring the city's fiscal viability. These issues are real, immediate, and demand true vision and leadership for their solution.

Bruce Jones has demonstrated in situation after situation, over a distinguished career, that he has what it takes to do the job that must be done. He listens, analyzes, decides and then acts. He is driven to accomplish the greatest good for the institution or community he serves, and he does so without being arrogant or harsh.

That is the kind of person we need in City Hall — someone who is reasonable, thoughtful, intelligent, honorable, sincere and gracious. I strongly urge all Astorians to vote for Bruce Jones. An opportunity like this one does not often come our way. We need to take advantage of it by electing Bruce Jones mayor.

BARRY PLOTKIN
Astoria