

Astoria: You know you're a local if you know 'Stinky Beach'

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You watched "The Goonies" chase scene being filmed on 8th Street in real time.

You heard that someone's mom saw Arnold Schwarzenegger shopping at Fred Meyer.

You were an extra in "Kindergarten Cop" or "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

You remember the old YMCA, The Thunderbird, The Launchpad and Hot Diggety Dogs.

You remember when Custard King was pink and purple.

You've seen the dog catcher's truck roll up the street and sprint away to find your dog.

You've gone "cardboard sledding" at Astoria Middle School in the summer.

You remember when the fabric store was right downtown.

You remember when the Crab Festival was at the Port of Astoria.

A pack of clowns driving in a backwards car down the road didn't even phase you.

You know you're a local if ...

You know "Social Security Beach" and "Stinky Beach."

You measure car trips by hours and old landmarks, not miles or mileposts.

It's your God-given right to collapse in a heap if it's over 65 degrees out.

You've hung out with former Mayor Willis Van Dusen.

You remember when there was a house in the middle of Tapiola Park.

Someone from out of town gave you an umbrella as a gift but you never use it.

You remember Pier 11, Cecil and Home Bakery's maple bars.

Someone you know has worked at a cannery.

You've heard: "smells like money," "buoy 10," "pukers," "June hogs" and "greenhorn," Snus, high waters, Romeos, Pipeline, Shark Rock, sturdy women and lutefisk.

A friend, co-worker or family member hands you a fish or crab they just caught.

You remember when Video Horizons rented out VCRs and you still love going there.



The Clatsop County Fairgrounds in downtown Astoria in 1989.

Photos by Sara Meyer



LEFT: Danish Maid Bakery in Astoria where the Good to Go sandwich and pastry shop is now located. MIDDLE: The old Clatsop County Fairgrounds where the Astoria Aquatic Center and Astoria Gateway Cinema are now located. RIGHT: Hot Diggety Dogs.



We know you're a newcomer when you ...

Pronounce "Oregon" "ore-ah-gone" and not "organ" like the heart or liver.

Peel off your rain gear the moment it stops raining,

thereby challenging the rain gods.

Think that the Columbia River looks like a lovely place to swim.

Get your car stuck in the sand on your first trip to the beach.

Sprint across the docks

after a fresh rain.

Ask what time of the year the deer change into elk.

Ask what time of the year the tide comes in.

Say "Southslope" and "I'm taking The Five" to Portland.

You argue about the Ducks vs. the Beavs (we're all secretly friends).

Stop your car in the middle of highway for an elk, eagle, raccoon or possum photo.

Assume that "The Dirty D" is a wrestling move.

Assume that Astoria owes you something you've heard about in other places called "summer," where the sun shines more than it rains.

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Brother-in-law blind to alcohol issues

Dear Annie: I'm writing because I hope the person this will help most will read it. My brother-in-law is an alcoholic and won't see that he has a problem. His youngest brother died of alcoholic hepatitis, and he is headed down the same path. He is also emotionally abusive to anyone in his family (though not friends or acquaintances) that comes in contact with him when he is drunk, and he's drunk more often than not. He has passed out on his dinner plate, fallen down in our driveway into the bushes, routinely passes out right after dinner and has driven while drunk (much to our chagrin). It is especially disturbing when he drunkenly screams at his own wife and his mother. It is typically a tirade of expletives. My husband has tried to get him to see that he has an issue. I have started attending Al-Anon, and I invited his wife and my mother-in-law, who both refuse to go.

I'm saddened that we have lost this person who once was good to be around. No one stops him when he gets abusive; no one corrects him or otherwise exposes him to any consequences for his actions. So, he continues to drink and to become emotionally abusive. He some-

how maintains his friendships with his neighbors, who also don't discourage him from drinking, which is why he prefers being around them.

When I suggest that someone try to explain to him when he is sober what he does (he blacks out and claims to be unaware that he did these things), they say that it would only make it worse. I know we can't fix an alcoholic until he desires to change himself, but I want my mother-in-law to show him that there are consequences for his actions. When he gets this way, I want her or his wife to leave the dinner table, leave his house or otherwise let him know immediately that this behavior is unacceptable. They do not, and we all just sit there shaking, hearts racing, wondering if he will strike out physically next.

I can't stop going to dinners with my husband. We do limit time spent with my in-laws, but I am stumped as to what to say next time he gets belligerently drunk and starts in with his abusive tirades. Do we walk out leaving dinner on the table? Do we tell him we won't spend any time with him unless he gets help? Any suggestions from you or your readers would be appreciated. — *Frustrated and Frazzled*

Dear Frustrated and Frazzled: I'm so sorry to hear that the disease of alcoholism has your beloved brother-in-law in its grip, and I hope he'll find his way toward recovery eventually. In the meantime, excusing yourselves from social situations in which he begins getting drunk is a fine idea, and you should feel empowered to do that. As for telling him you won't spend any time with him unless he gets help: That, too, is a fine idea, provided the following: 1) You are making the ultimatum for yourselves, not because you hope to influence his behavior; 2) You are 100% sure that you and your husband both mean it; and 3) You and your husband are both willing to see it through.

You're absolutely right that family should stop shielding him from the consequences of his actions, as this only further enables his alcoholism. But you can't force your sister-in-law and mother-in-law to understand this; it's a conclusion they have to reach for themselves. I encourage you to continue to attend Al-Anon (or another program, such as Families Anonymous, and/or therapy) and to work with your husband to set boundaries between his brother and you two.

Lastly, when you know that he's getting behind the wheel of a car after drink-



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Our women's health providers, pictured from left: Jiyeon Jeon, M.D., Family Medicine with Obstetrics; Michael Adler, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology; Dominique Greco, M.D., Family Medicine with Obstetrics