

WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

COMPILED BY BOB DUKE

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers

*10 years ago
this week — 2010*

The Port of Astoria has tried and failed once again to get Oregon LNG's lawsuit against the agency thrown out of U.S. District Court.

According to court records, Magistrate Judge John Jelderks denied the Port's second motion to dismiss the company's breach of contract suit this week.

The Port has objected to Jelderks' finding, which will be referred to a federal judge for formal ruling.

Oregon LNG is suing the Port for delaying a 30-year renewal of its lease of state land for the company's proposed liquefied natural gas terminal in Warrenton.

For three years, people who live near the four-block area above Bond Street that was turned topsy-turvy by a January 2007 landslide have been dealing with its aftermath.

Debris still covers the south side of Bond Street from Hume to First Street. An above-ground water pipe runs along the north side of Bond Street, next to the curb.

On the hillside above Bond, 15 families that live in a neighborhood that runs from Second Street, east along Duane Street and onto the 100 block of Exchange Street, had a terrible time driving to their homes. The pavement at First and Duane streets cracked and buckled as movement below pushed it upward, so the city opened an emergency access road from Third Street along the formerly unused Exchange Street right-of-way. Despite temporary fixes, driving on Duane Street was like riding a bucking bronco.

But, now, things are looking up for residents in the vicinity of the slide. A more permanent improvement to Duane Street was completed a couple of months ago and grant money has come through to help the city relocate the water pipe from Bond Street down to Marine Drive, where it will be installed underground.

Clatsop County Manager Duane Cole told the Oregon Board of Forestry Thursday that people and local communities should come first when it comes to managing state forests.

He advocated for a policy of "social sustainability" in timber management.

His comments came during a meeting of the 14-member Public Advisory Committee, assembled late last year to help the Forestry Board review how the state manages almost 650,000 acres of forestlands, including the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forest.

Social sustainability, Cole said, recognizes that reliable, sustainable timber harvesting provides not just money, but a strong social fabric for the people and communities that rely most heavily on timber-related jobs.

50 years ago — 1970

Steam baths, and every block business in the early 1920s in Astoria, are still catering to approximately 400 customers a week today.

A steam bath is technically a hot room a person sits in to perspire. Whether the heat is dry or wet, 150 degrees or 200 degrees, the result is basically the same. The terms used for the hot room can be "Banya," Russian for a heat bath; "Sauna," Finnish for a dry rock heat in a wood constructed room up to 200 degrees; and "Steam," the American heat room term with temperatures up to 150 degrees with steam produced by putting water on rocks and on hot steam pipes.

The Koskelo family has been in the steam bath business for over 50 years in the Astoria area. Kaarlo Koskelo came to Astoria from Finland in 1919 and worked in a steam bath located in the back of the Baptist church near the present post office for one year, before buying property and a steam bath on 10th Street between Commercial and Duane. This steam bath was destroyed in the fire of Dec. 8, 1922 that burned a large portion of Astoria.

In 1924, Koskelo started construction of the Neptune Steam Baths on Bond Street.

Annexation of the Blue Ridge area to the city of Astoria would involve much expense to the city, a city staff report to the city council said Monday night.

Information from the fire, police and public works departments in the report indicated that the costs to the city from annexation of the housing area might be considerable, but exact total figures weren't given.

Residents of Blue Ridge, on the east edge of the city, have petitioned the city for annexation. It's now up to the city council to decide whether it wants to vote to annex the area or hold an election in the city to see what Astoria residents think about it.

A deep low center with an associated storm front is about 350 miles off the southern Oregon Coast and moving this way, according to the U.S. Weather Bureau at Clatsop airport.

A 90-foot crab fishing boat, probably the largest now in the Northwest, pulled into Astoria Marine Construction Co. on the Lewis and Clark River Tuesday for repairs after sailing from Mobile, Alabama, through the Panama Canal and up the Pacific coast.

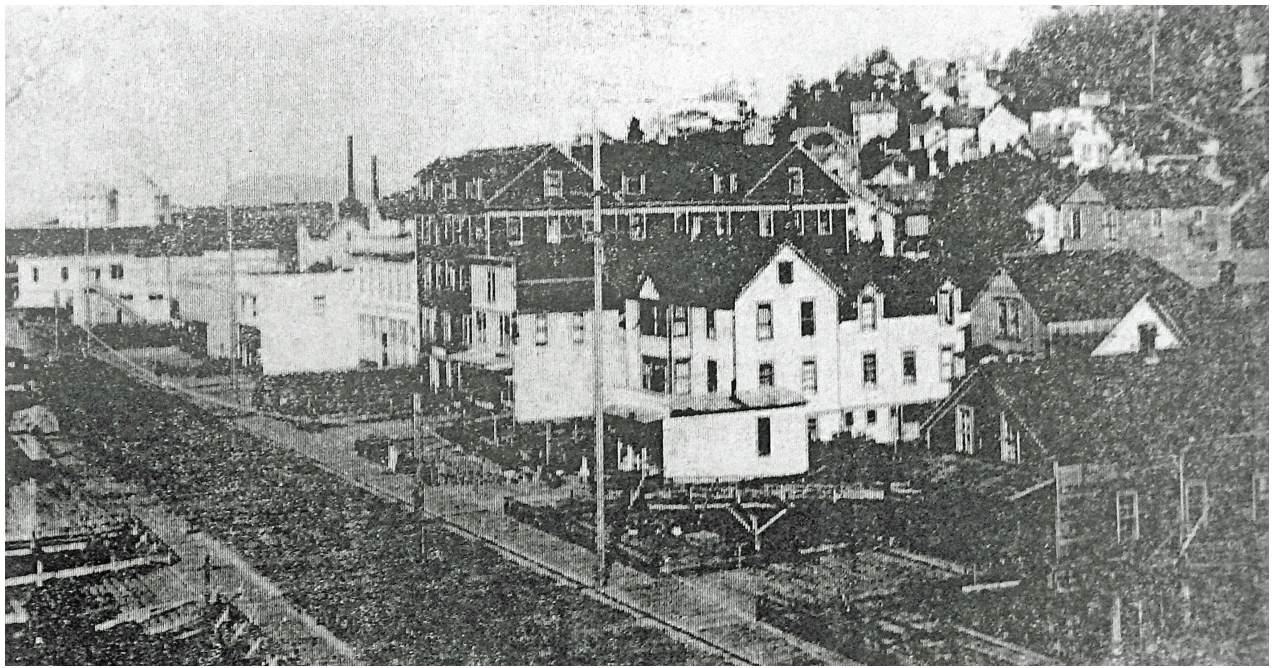
75 years ago — 1945

Establishment of an hourly wage scale of \$1.10 for Astoria salmon cannery workers classified as "liver pickers" has been authorized by the war labor board in Seattle and a WLB directive received here putting the new schedule into effect.

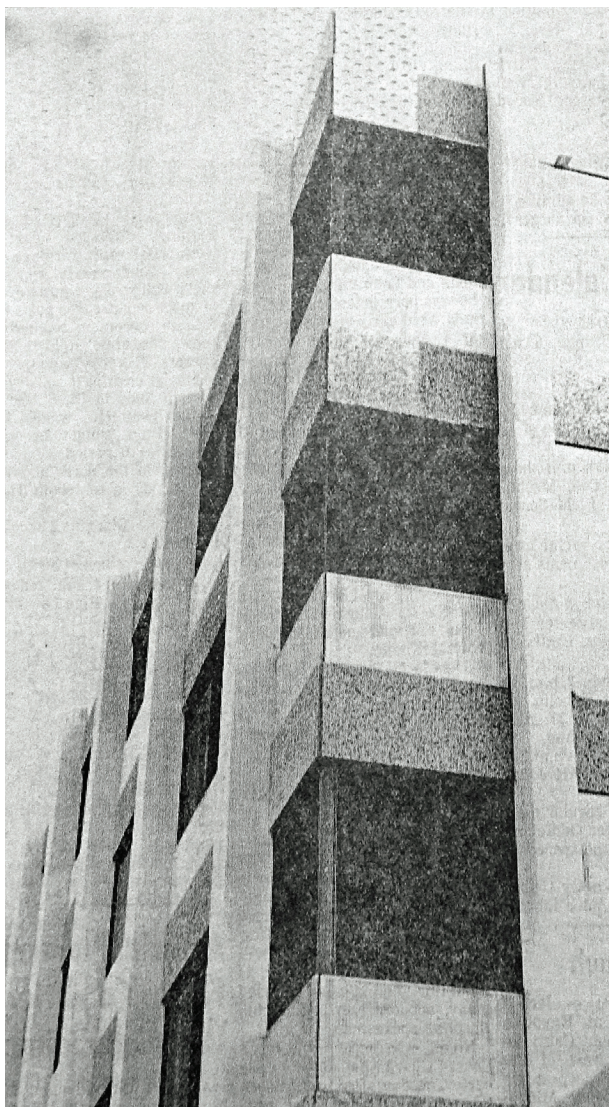
Pfc William Kiminki and Pfc. Reina Baase



A tree grows from cracks in the pavement near the corner of First and Commercial streets in 2010. The Astoria City Council is considering creating a pedestrian trail from Duane Street to Commercial Street.



Commercial Street in Astoria in 1922. The houses were built on pilings and wood bins in front of each house were filled for heat and also to heat the saunas that were installed in many houses during the early 1920s. The Koskela steam bath house is pictured lower right.



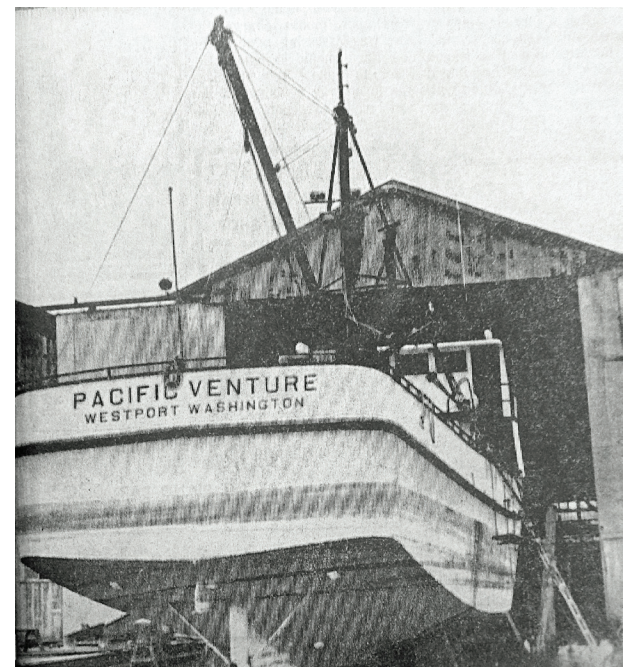
The Clatsop Community College library construction is nearing completion with dedication set for April 10, 1970. The stone-and-glass structure includes three floors and will also house facilities for the audio visual center and the art instruction center. The building cost a total of \$410,000 with \$40,000 of that amount for furnishings.

arrived in Astoria Monday night after 33 months in Australia, New Guinea, the Netherlands, East Indies and Biak, where they served in a signal construction company attached to the Army Air Force much of the time, near the 41st division and Astorians in Company L.

Both men have three campaign stars. They have worked together nearly all the time since they went overseas in the same outfit and during their 33 months in the south Pacific have seen many Astoria men.

Reports from the Astoria Post Office on 1944 business indicate the year broke records in nearly all departments, with one of the most noticeable increases shown in the airmail, according to Mr. Euna Pearl Burke, postmaster.

What the well-bred serviceman should answer when a hostess blithely asks him "What were you in real life," and other hints on party



The Pacific Venture boat in 1970, which was used to fish for crab.

manners for all occasions are cleverly summoned up in "Here's How" one of the booklets available to servicemen at the Astoria United Service Organizations.

The USO here has consistently led or been near the top in the amount of religious and educational pamphlets distributed to men and women in uniform.

The religious material is for all three faiths — Protestant, Catholic and Jewish and includes testaments, prayer books, missals, rosaries, mezuzahs, Jewish calendars, picture cards, prayer cards and 50 other items.

A demonstrated need for high school classes in agriculture and evening classes for adults in farm mechanics together with a generally expanded vocational training program was the gist of a report made by William Cox, city vocational program training coordinator, at a meeting Monday night of the Astoria apprenticeship commission.

It is the first such completed record in the state of Oregon. The investigation indicated that there was little need for any change in the home economic instruction training program in the schools but that there was a need for adult classes in homemaking.

Plans for a proposed party sale are being considered more or less seriously today by Astoria Police Chief John Acton with the arrival of another headquarters of women's under-clothes at police headquarters for temporary storage. According to Acton, members of the force find the pink unmentionables hidden away here and there in the brush in various districts of the city, where they have apparently been cached by some petty thief following a raid on somebody's clothes line.