

Oregon native, longtime 'Tonight Show' bandleader is profiled in PBS special

By KRISTI TURNQUIST
The Oregonian



Just Bright Productions

Doc Severinsen, best-known as the bandleader for 'The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson,' has continued to perform into his 90s.

Doc Severinsen may be best known for the 30 years he spent as the trumpet-playing, outlandishly dressed bandleader and joking sidekick to host Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show." But Severinsen is still with us, living in Nashville, and still devoted to music, as a new "American Masters" documentary explains.

"Never Too Late: The Doc Severinsen Story" profiles the now 93-year-old musician, who was born in Arlington in 1927. Though his first name is Carl, Severinsen acquired his enduring "Doc" nickname because his father was a dentist.

From an early age, Severinsen loved playing the trumpet. His musical ability and passion eventually led to work as a studio musician for NBC, a job playing trumpet in the early 1960s under Skitch Henderson, who was

then the "Tonight Show" bandleader, and finally the job as bandleader for "The

Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

During his 30 years on "The Tonight Show," Sev-

erinsen became a staple of late-night TV. In addition

to his musicianship, Severinsen was known for sport-

ing garish outfits, joined comedy bits with Carson and announcer Ed McMahon, belted out made-up tunes during recurring "Stump the Band" segments and filled in when McMahon was off.

When Carson retired from hosting in 1992, Severinsen left "The Tonight Show." But he continued to play music and tour. In a recent interview with The New York Times' Dave Itzkoff, which coincides with the "American Masters" documentary, Severinsen talks about his obsession with the trumpet, past issues with alcoholism, his friendship with Carson ("an extremely bright man") and more.

The documentary includes interviews with Severinsen, and others, including Questlove, the "Tonight Show" bandleader, and trumpet star — and fellow Oregon native — Chris Botti.

The documentary will be broadcast locally on Oregon Public Broadcasting from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

RELIGION BRIEFS

Astoria Christian Church

For service information and updates, go to astoriachristian.org or bit.ly/AstoriaChristian, call 503-325-2591 or email Astoria-Christian@gmail.com

Astoria First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church, 349 Seventh St., holds an in-person worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Social distancing is practiced, face coverings are required and hand sanitizers are available. The service is also broadcast at fb.me/astoriafirstbaptist

Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m. There is no child care, but children are encouraged to join the service. For information, call the church office at 503-325-1761.

Astoria First United Methodist Church

For livestream service information and updates, email the church office at office@unitedmethodistastoria.org or call 503-325-5454.

Grace Episcopal Church

On Friday, Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., offers a Good Friday Liturgy at noon both in person and broadcast via Facebook and YouTube.

The Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Day, at 9 a.m., is only being broadcast via Facebook.

There is a single 10 a.m. service Easter Sunday. Reservations are required to attend, and it is being broadcast via Facebook and YouTube. All are invited to

bring flowers from their gardens to "Flower the Cross" outside the church.

Strict COVID-19 restrictions are followed for in-person services; all attending must wear a mask.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to graceastoria.org; for livestreaming, go to fb.me/GraceAstoria or bit.ly/YTGraceAstoria

Pacific Unitarian Universalist

A Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship service is being held via Zoom at 11 a.m. Sunday. Speaker Rev. Kit Ketcham's topic is "Rise Again, Rise Again: Transformation and Tragedy." For Zoom information, go to pacuuf.org

Peace First Lutheran

For service information, go to astoriafirstlutheran.com under "Worship & Music/Videos & Resources" or bit.ly/FLCAstoria. To receive a DVD of the services and bulletin, call the office and leave a message.

Pioneer Presbyterian Church

WARRENTON — For service information, call the church at 503-861-2421 or go to pioneerchurchpcusa.org

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish

For information about the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry hours, and service and livestreaming information at both the Astoria church and Hammond mission, call 503-325-3671, email office@stmaryastoria.com or bit.ly/stmaryastoria

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Al-Anon (Astoria) — For information, call 503-325-1087.

Al-Anon (Clatskanie) — For information, call 503-728-3351.

Al-Anon (Nehalem) — For information, call 503-368-8255.

Al-Anon (Seaside) — For information, call 503-810-5196 for information.

Al-Anon (Tillamook) — For information, call 503-842-5094 or 503-730-5863.

Al-Anon Family Groups information — Oregon Area Al-Anon website, oregonal-anon.org

Alateen (Tillamook) — For information, call 503-730-5863.

Alcoholics Anonymous — To find a meeting in Clatsop County, call 971-601-9220, in Tillamook County, call 503-739-4856, or go to aa-oregon.org

Celebrate Recovery — Faith-based 12-step recovery from hurts, habits and hang

ups. For information, call 503-738-7453.

Sexual Purity Recovery Group — Part of the Pure Life Alliance (purelifealliance.org) in Portland. For information, call the confidential voicemail at 503-750-0817 and leave a message.

Narcotics Anonymous — For full schedule details, as well as upcoming special events, call the helpline at 503-717-3702, or go to na.org

Overeaters Anonymous (Astoria) — For information, call 425-287-0806.

Overeaters Anonymous (Seaside) — For information, call 503-738-0307.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) (Astoria) — For information, call Trisha Hayrynen at 503-298-9058.

TOPS (Seaside) — For information, call 509-910-0354.

TOPS (Warrenton) — For information, call Cheryl Nitz at 503-338-2132.

Federal judge blocks Nevada grazing as sage grouse dwindle

By SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A federal judge has blocked a Nevada project that would expand livestock grazing across 400 squares miles of some of the highest priority sage-grouse habitat in the West and accused the government of deliberately misleading the public by underestimating damage the cattle could do to the land.

The ruling comes as scientists continue to document dramatic declines in greater sage-grouse populations across 11 western states — down 65% since 1986 and 37% since 2002, according to a new report by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Its numbers have shrunk to less than a quarter of what they were a half century ago, the Geological Survey said Tuesday. If trends continue, there's only a 50% chance most of their remaining breeding grounds known as "leks" will still be productive in 60 years, it said.

Citing concerns about grouse, U.S. administrative judge Harvey Sweitzer sided with conservationists in Nevada and suspended approval of new grazing permits for a swath of rangeland larger than Rhode Island. It stretches to Utah and includes a ranch once owned by Bing Crosby.

The senior judge at the Interior Department's Office of Hearings and Appeals in Salt Lake City ruled March 19 the Bureau of Land Management failed to adequately examine potential harm to the grouse as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

An administrative judge since 1970, when President Nixon signed the act into law, Sweitzer's decision could have ramifications for several permits

approved across the West in the final months of the Trump administration under a 2017 initiative dubbed "Outcome-Based Grazing."

Then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said it loosened restrictions on ranchers to provide more flexibility to meet long-term rangeland health goals. Critics called it a "public land grab."

"Instead of living up to its promise to conserve, enhance and restore sage-grouse habitat, BLM embraced habitat-destroying livestock grazing actions guaranteed to drive down bird numbers," said Katie Fite, public lands director for WildLands Defense, which won the stay of the permits pending administrative appeal.

She said Sweitzer's decision is a "well-justified rebuke to BLM's industry-biased grazing program that goes to great lengths to circle the wagons around livestock interests at the expense of wildlife, biodiversity, watersheds and myriad public uses."

The Interior Department said Tuesday the decline of sage grouse documented by the Geological Survey reflects the overall loss of sagebrush habitat over decades from a variety of forces ranging from wildfires to energy development.

"The Interior Department is reviewing actions the Trump administration took to undermine carefully constructed land management plans to help conserve sagebrush habitat," spokeswoman Melissa Schwartz said in a statement.

Nevada's Winecup-Gamble ranch was among 11 designated as demonstration projects in 2018 under the "Outcome-Based" initiative along with ranches in Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

SENIOR NOTES

Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter — Information, referral and counseling services for families and caregivers of people with Alzheimer's, dementia and other related disorders. For information, call 800-272-3900 (24 hours a day).

Clatsop Behavioral Health After Hours Crisis Line — 503-325-5724.

Clatsop Community Action — 503-325-1400. Respite care services, low-income energy assistance, emergency food assistance, housing information, emergency personal care items.

Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education (ENCORE) — 503-338-2408. Provides a wide assortment of educational experiences for individuals older than 50.

Elder Friendship Line — 800-971-0016. Available from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; crisis calls taken 24/7.

Food Pantries — 503-325-1400. Clatsop Community Action serves six food pantries in Clatsop County through the Oregon Food Bank Network. Call for area locations and hours.

Grief Support Group, Seaside — For information, call Lower Columbia Hospice at 503-338-6230.

The Harbor offers survey for sexual violence survivors

The Astorian

The Harbor has been awarded two competitive grants to improve its sexual violence prevention and response services, which will primarily focus on youth, LGBTQ and Latinx survivors.

As a result, Clatsop County survivors of sexual violence are being asked to take a survey about their experiences following an

assault. The anonymous online survey can be found at bit.ly/39cOGLi

At the end of the survey, there is an opportunity to be entered in a raffle for one of six \$50 Visa gift cards; the entry is not tied to survey answers and is optional.

Those needing support can call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-4673 or The Harbor at 503-325-5735 at any time.

Parks are free on Saturday in Washington state

The Astorian

ILWACO, Wash. — The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to celebrate the spring season and Earth Day with two free days at state parks on Saturday and April 22. On free days, vis-

itors do not need a Discover Pass for day-use parking.

The Discover Pass is required to access lands managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. For information, go to parks.state.wa.us

AARP offers drivers virtual workshops

The Astorian

AARP Driver Safety is offering five free live virtual workshops.

"Smart Driver TEK" covers new safety technology and "Using App-based Ridesharing Services" explores popular ridesharing apps like Uber and Lyft.

"CarFit," a 90-minute session, provides an in-depth look at key aspects involved in getting a proper vehicle fit. Participating in this workshop is requested before registering for a

CarFit Focus session.

The "CarFit Focus Session" is a 30-minute small group discussion with CarFit volunteers designed to explore common challenges to making adjustments and finding a safe and comfortable fit in a car.

"We Need to Talk" is a seminar that helps assess an older loved one's driving skills and provides tools to help navigate the conversation about limiting or stopping their driving.

For information, and to register, go to bit.ly/3lZ059K

Heart Month contest winners announced

The Astorian

Columbia Memorial Hospital is presenting a check for \$1,300 each to two Clatsop County organizations, Bergerson Construction and the Cannon Beach Conference Center, which both won the Heart Month AED contest held in February by describing how having an automated

external defibrillator would help their organizations.

This is the second year the hospital has held the contest. More than 10 entries were received. The two winners were chosen by the leadership of the WomenHeart group, which meets every month to support women who have or are at-risk for heart disease.