

## German hamlet, Oregon's Astoria celebrate birthday

By Leo Habicher  
UPI Staff Writer

WALLDORF, Germany (UPI)—This German hamlet and Astoria, Ore., join together this month in celebrating the 200th birthday of a butcher's son who founded an empire in the new world that still stands.

Johann Jakob Astor was born in Walldorf, July 17, 1763, the son of a poor butcher, according to the village chronicle.

But young Astor emigrated to North America and made a fortune. He also founded Astoria.

His grandson, William, furthered the family empire by

founding the famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York in 1893. William henceforth called himself Waldorf-Astoria, but no one knows why he dropped the second "L" in Walldorf.

The highlight of Astor Week in

### FOOD FOR ALGERIA

ALGIERS, Algeria (UPI) — An agreement was signed here Tuesday between the American CARE organization and Algeria under which an estimated \$15 million worth of U.S. food will be distributed to 1.4 million Algerians. The year-long program will begin in September.

Walldorf July 17-23 is the establishment of a sister-town relationship with the Oregon city. The mayor of Astoria is expected to attend the festivities.

### Astor Left at 18

"Nobbele," as butcher's son Johann Astor was known to his friends, left Walldorf at the age of 18 and joined his older brother in London. Then, in 1784, he left for the new world and got a job as apprentice with a New York fur dealer.

Within a year he had started his own firm, buying furs in the Hudson River hunting grounds and Canada, and selling them in London at a good profit. In 1810

he sent an expedition to the West Coast and founded Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River.

One reason for the link with Astoria is an attempt to revive the relationship. Walldorf Mayor Wilhelm Willinger said, "but we do not expect a donation from the rich uncles in America."

### UPS POPULATION

TOKYO (UPI) — The population of Tokyo was officially estimated at 10,393,667 as of June 1, the statistics bureau of the Tokyo metropolitan government announced Tuesday. The figure is an increase of 42,659 over the May 1 estimate.

Twenty families named Astor now live in Walldorf, which sports an Astor Garden, an Astor Monument, the Cafe Astoria, and the Astor House, a home for old people built with a \$50,000 donation from Johann Astor.

### Family Name Remains

Martin Astor runs a leather goods store in Walldorf. Hermann Astor is an upholsterer. Dr. Karl Astor is the village physician, and there is an Astor on the Astoria-Walldorf soccer team.

A picture of Astoria, Ore., decorates the dining room of the tiny Walldorf hotel, and another room contains a replica of a cabin in Johann Astor's flagship Tonquin

that sailed past Cape Horn in 1810.

Enthusiastic Walldorfers also changed the name of their main road from "Nusslocher Strasse" to Johann Jakob Astor Strasse, and put up huge posters at the outskirts of the village advertising the birthday party.

### PLANS SWEDEN VISIT

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (UPI)—Gen. Earle Gilmore Wheeler, U.S. Army chief of staff, will visit Sweden Aug. 12-17 as a guest of the Swedish army, it was announced Tuesday.

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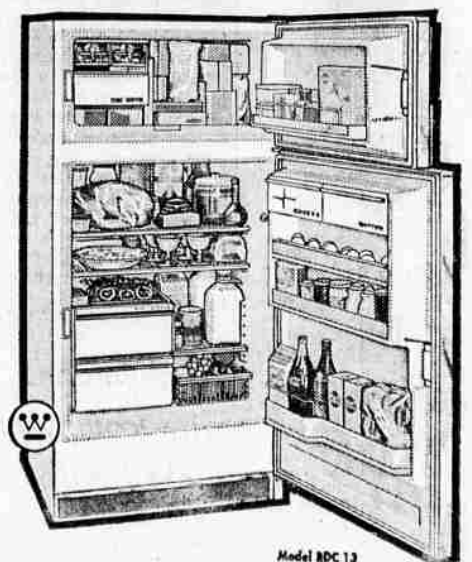
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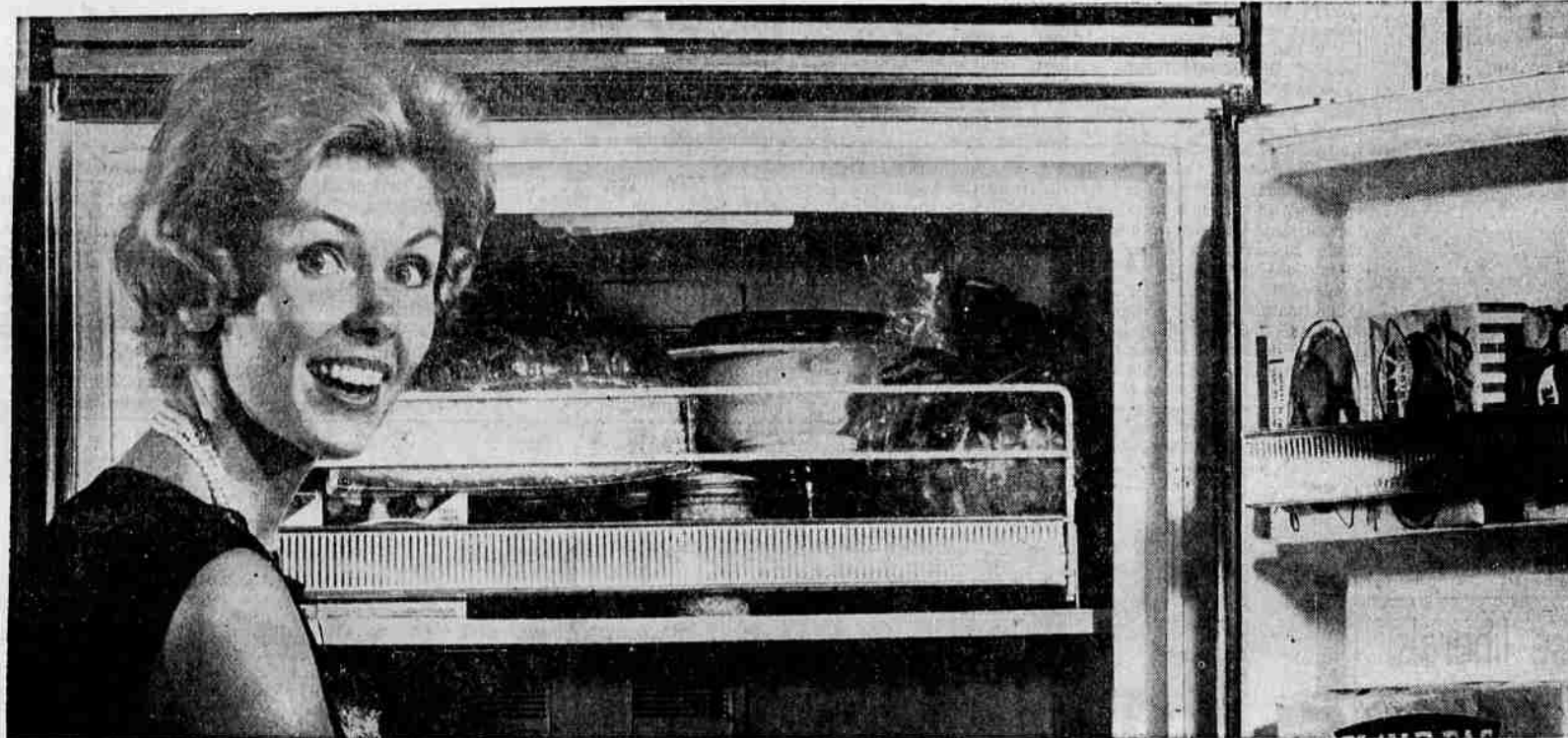
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