



## Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

### How hair helped us stay in touch

Recently, I got to thinking about how long Good Housekeeping magazine has been in my life.

The first issue was published by Hearst Magazines on May 2, 1885, almost 150 years ago. It has mostly featured articles of interest to women and a key component has been product testing.

An article in the June 24 issue by Becca Miller was brought to my attention. It is about how families and others can stay close, even during times of separation.

Upon reading it, I realized separation anxiety can affect *all of us*, no matter our age or gender, but communication is especially important for the elderly. And especially during our limited visitation orders due to the pandemic.

The story provided information about an interactive application that can help families have a fun virtual game night that also will help them stay connected.

The article can be found online by searching for “I threw a houseparty with my parents.”

In one of my nostalgic moods, I thought of how one of my friends and I used to give each other Toni permanents. In doing research, I found that home permanent kits still are available and for reasonable prices, to boot. We women used to solve a lot of the world’s problems as we spent the day perming each other’s hair.

Many fun things such as Toni paper dolls grew out of that industry. In fact, I learned recently that the 1953 Toni dolls are selling online

for \$75 to \$150 each. Yes, the Toni perms were quite a necessary product back in those days.

And talk about hair, I remember how special a widow’s peak was, and probably still is these days.

Doing research, I learned it’s described as the hairline in the center of the forehead with varying degrees of the peak.

It has not only been described as a mark of beauty, but also as a “dominant inherited trait,” not so common, but found in both genders.

While we are having fun with our hairlines, it would be remiss of me not to mention the pesky “cowlick” common to many. Early on, I learned that my stylist had to deal with my cowlick.

Usually, our hair grows from one central point and grows straight out from the growth point.

However, as in my situation (and common to many), there is a portion on one part of my scalp that, if the hair is cut wrong by the stylist, it will grow straight up in the air. It’s called a cowlick, as some of you know the way a mother cow likes to lick her young in sort of a swirl motion!

“Housekeeping ain’t no joke,” attributed to Louisa May Alcott, is a Good Housekeeping quote from years ago.

But here is another from Eleanor Roosevelt that I think is good, too: “There are practical little things in housekeeping which no man really understands.”

## Business and development tidbits

### AVIATION REPAIR BUSINESS

Port of Astoria commissioners approved a new lease on the executive hangar at Astoria Regional Airport that previously had been rented by Life Flight, which recently completed its new headquarters elsewhere at the airport.

Varlay Aviation, owned by Warrenton resident Steve Varlay, is the new tenant. Varlay is an airframe and powerplant mechanic licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

“I believe the use is a very good one for the airport,” Airport Director Gary Kobes said.

Varlay will pay the port \$699 per month to lease the hangar.

### FUTURE PORT ASSET?

The state has asked port authorities if they might be interested in buying a building

at East Mooring Basin in Astoria that once was used as a seafood laboratory by Oregon State University.

The building, last used as a veterinary clinic, has been empty for a while.

The port has arranged for a walk-through of the building, Executive Director Will Isom told port commissioners on Tuesday.

### GEARHART FIRE

Residents of Gearhart have spoken and they’d like to see their new fire station built on North Marion Avenue.

The new Highpoint Station would be more than 60 feet high.

Property negotiations are under way, Mayor Matty Brown said, and building estimate are being finalized.

The high building at the chosen location – one of three recommendations –

would survive 95 percent of tsunami flooding scenarios, Brown said.

### GEARHART PARKS

The city recently received a \$15,000 grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to develop a parks and recreation master plan. The gift requires a \$4,000 match from the city.

A citizens advisory committee appointed by the mayor met for the first time Tuesday night.

They’ll be tasked with assessing park facilities and their maintenance; ensuring the needs of underserved populations, such as the elderly and disabled, are met; coordinating bike and walking trails; and identifying future funding sources.

The process is expected to take a year to a year and a half.

## Skipanon: Flood-control agency to disband

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With only Bruce Francis and Robert Stricklin left, there aren’t enough board members to call for a vote.

County commissioners are tasked with deciding whether the dissolution is in the best interest of the county and its residents and whether it would be possible to find people willing to serve on the board.

The district has two major assets: a flood-control structure at Cullaby Lake and the Eighth Street Dam. The district also has \$40,000 to \$50,000 in the bank, which would go to the county for asset maintenance and dissolution costs.

The money also could fund placing the question on the November ballot.

“You definitely could make the case that they have failed to regularly elect board members,” said Joanna Lyons-Antley, a lawyer working on behalf

of the county. “If you choose to forego an election, you’d immediately go to (the next) step.”

County Commissioner Liane Thompson said the predicament is unusual.

“It’s all new territory to me. I’m puzzling about precedent,” Thompson said. “I know there was a lot of consternation in Warrenton about that dam and I don’t know if there are any implications. I don’t want anybody to get tripped up on this.”

The county will schedule another meeting on the issue and invite Warrenton officials to join.

Last September, members of the district’s governing board told county commissioners they were ready to disband, saying the current board had served multiple terms and no one else would step up to the plate.

The county would become owner of the Cullaby Lake

flood-control structure, which was remodeled in 2007. The city of Warrenton would become owner of the Eighth Street Dam, an earthen structure beneath a dirt bridge that has been the subject of political and legal battles in the last decade.

The district has insisted the 1960s-era dam is obsolete. It has no overflow spillway, does nothing to prevent flooding, and the removal of its tide gates in 2002 improved fish passage.

Some city leaders and residents have worried removing the tide gates created a flood risk. But when the city asked the Army Corps of Engineers for direction, it learned new environmental rules would bar the city from returning the removed gates to the dam or replacing them with the same type. And installing approved gates that facilitate fish passage would be expensive.