

Drafting Cascadia: Mapping the Geography of the Pacific Northwest

By Adam Rothstein

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When trying to identify the geographical ley¹ lines that demarcate geo-political boundaries, everything becomes a bit pseudo-scientific. Boundaries shift depending on where you are standing, when, and whether you are the person holding the weapon, or the person having the weapon held at you. You might be better off trying to use a crystal than a GPS receiver, because at least no one could dispute your subjective impressions of psycho-geography, and you would lack the false impressions of being shielded by political borders and citizenships that ought to save you from being on the wrong end of techno-politics, before you are vaporized by a drone-fired missile.



"The Doug", flag designed by Alexander Baretich

My current terrain is the geographic exploration known as "Cascadia", that is slowly warming in the (relatively cool, by temperature record standards) Northwestern United States. This area of the country was always primed for festering secession movements. From the perspective of its history, the area

was known successively as New Spain, New Caledonia, New Archangel, New Georgia, and the Columbia District, as control of the land was swapped between various powers and corporations with little if any input by the people who lived there. After Ernest Callenbach's novel *Ecotopia*⁴ was published in 1975, the counter-cultural elements collecting in the declining economy of the waning shipbuilding and lumber industries had a design-fiction script on which to place their environmental aspirations. And just in the past year, the local Occupy protests have brought out the language and flag of "Cascadia" in new numbers. The name was invented by David McCloskey and his Cascadia Institute³ in 1970. Today, it is a way of supporting locally-oriented organizing strategies, defending the ecological heritage of the region, and proclaiming ideological and physical separation from any overbearing government. While it could be argued that the local population's approval rating of the national government has nowhere to go but up, it seems equally likely that in this political climate, whatever the geography of Cascadia is, it will only become more deeply ingrained in the psychological landscape.

While the vociferous voices of Cascadia articulate its identity as a regionalism spanning every ethic from political, to athletic (the Cascadian flag designed by Alexander Baretich has become the unofficial banner of Portland's Timbers soccer team), to the merely beer-drinking (see Hopworks Brewery's relatively decent "Secession Black IPA"), I find four main lines along which the border of this non-state could be mapped:

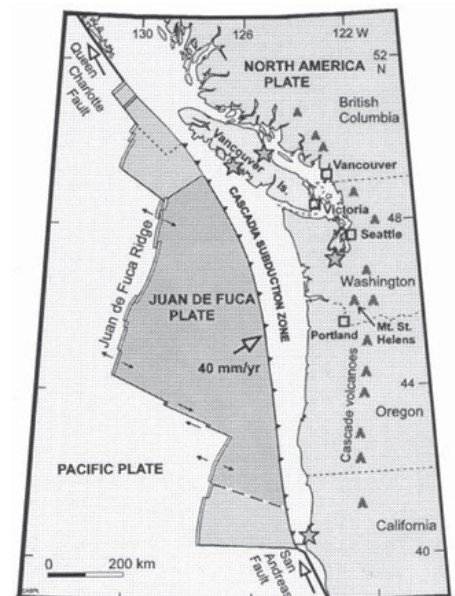
1) Bio-regionalism - One of the most often cited rationales for the general definition of Cascadia as lower British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and perhaps parts of Idaho and Northern California, is that there are similarities in the ecosystem that make these disparate political entities indispensable from each other as a whole. This ties in well with the environmentalism lingering from the *Ecotopia*-themed inspirations for Cascadia.

2) The Columbia Watershed - Similar to the bio-regional argument, this definition incorporates all land that drains into the Columbia River. Other definitions add other river watersheds to the Columbia. Water may be cliché as a "life force" in one of the most rain-soaked areas of the continent, but local farming initiatives, natural sewage treatment options, and reliance upon natural cycles such as salmon



migration mean that water is no less important for its quantities.

3) Cascadian Subduction Zone - this tectonic area of the region is further away from the ecosystemic arguments for Cascadia, but is still closely linked to a symbolic relationship with



Courtesy of earthquakescanada.nrcan.gc.ca/zones/cascadia

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What is Cascadia?

Cascadia is the name for bioregion formed primarily by British Columbia, Washington and Oregon.

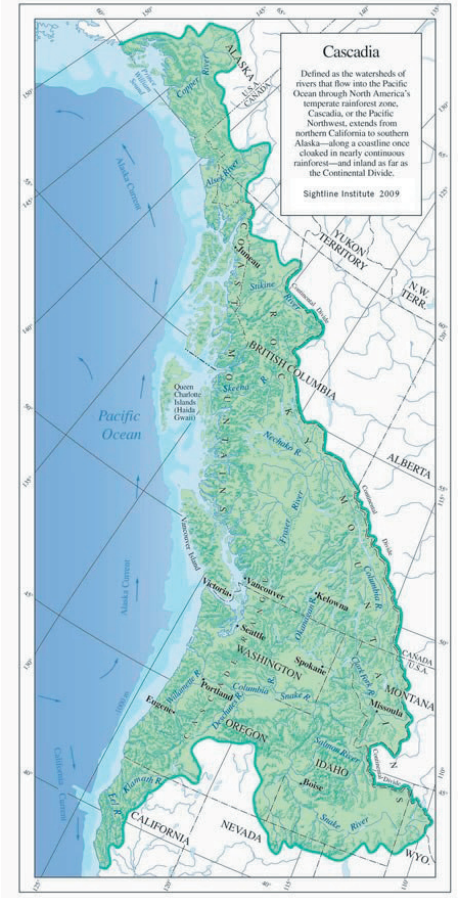
Definitions of the region's boundaries vary, but usually include the area between the Cascade Range and the Pacific Ocean, and some part of the Coast Mountains. Other definitions follow the boundaries of existing subnational entities, and usually include the territory of British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon, while others also include parts of California, Idaho, Alaska and Yukon.

In general, the area in and around the Cascadia region is more commonly referred to as the Pacific Northwest. The area's biomes and ecoregions are distinct from surrounding areas. The resource-rich Salish Sea (or Georgia Basin) is shared between British Columbia and Washington, and the Pacific temperate rain forests, comprising the world's largest temperate rain forest zone, stretch along the coast from Alaska to California. As this vast area has common economic concerns in the primary sector of industry, it is a matter of debate whether the arid rain shadowed areas further

east (such as Eastern Washington) should be included. Long united by similar indigenous cultures, Cascadia was once briefly a single political unit: the Oregon Territory - shared by several nations.

The region has since been divided into different political jurisdictions, but Cascadia still retains a sense of self identity. In his book, *Nine Nations of North America*, author Joel Garreau claimed that the Pacific Rim region he called Ecotopia had a different culture from that of what he called The Empty Quarter to the east, and was necessarily different economically as well as ecologically. It must be noted that the concept of "Ecotopia," which is specific in its boundaries, does not identically match that of "Cascadia," which varies in its definition.

The Northwest is home to more than 15 million people, along with diminished but still impressive numbers of salmon, eagles, grizzly bears, killer whales, and wolves. It boasts an economy that generates more than \$650 billion worth of goods and services each year, which would place Cascadia in the top 20 economies of the world.



Map drawn by Cynthia Thomas on the basis of forest data in Conservation International, Ecotrust, and Pacific GIS, "Coastal Temperate Rain Forests of North America," Portland, 1995. See also David D McCloskey "Cascadia," Cascadia Institute, Seattle, 1988

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Cascadia Monthly is a publication put out by the Seattle Cascadia Project. Everyone is encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editors, photography, cartoons, and pretty much anything of and relating to Cascadia. Please send submission to CascadianEpoch@gmail.com

Editorial Policy:

Cascadia Monthly reserves the right to edit any text submitted. Stories, articles, graphics, comics and such published by this newspaper may not reflect the opinions of the editorial staff.

Our Mission Statement:

The goal of the Seattle Chapter of the Cascadian Independence Project is to raise awareness of the idea of Cascadia, to increase bioregional independence within our communities socially, politically, economically and environmentally, to further democratic governing principles, civil liberties, digital privacy, human rights and regional sustainability in a respectful and peaceful manner, as well as to network and coordinate with groups with similar goals within the framework of the Cascadian Independence Project.



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Interview with David McCloskey at the Oregon County Fair regarding Cascadia and the Cascadia Institute, July 13, 2012

Transcribed by Paul E Nelson

David McCloskey, a former sociology professor at Seattle University, is credited for defining the term 'Cascadia' in the early 1970's, examining the distinct geographic, cultural and ecological boundaries that make the Pacific Northwest unique. He now lives in Eugene, Oregon and runs the Cascadia Institute (<http://cascadia-institute.org/>). We also thank Paul Nelson for transcribing this interview. He operates SPLABS (<http://splab.org/>) in Seattle, which held a bioregional Cascadia Poetry Festival earlier this year. The initial interview was originally done by KLCC.

KLCC - David McCloskey is the Founder of the Cascadia Institute, among other things, known as the "Father of Cascadia" in this bioregion. A region he's brought attention to through maps and all sorts of other ways of presenting this ecoregion to us and he is with us at KLCC. Thank you, David, for being here.

DM - Thank you.

KLCC - Well, how do you define Cascadia as a bioregion? What are its boundaries in a physical sense?

DM - From the Coast to the Crest, from the Pacific Coast to the Continental Divide, and from Northern California and the Great Basin, to Southeast Alaska. So the three corners, which are extraordinary places, are Cape Mendocino on the coast, Yellowstone on the Continental Divide, and Icy Bay and Mt. St. Elias and the glaciers hitting the sea up in Alaska.

KLCC - And if you had to define the region in terms of character, what kind of characteristics do you see coming through this region?

DM - Well, everyone would know it as a common landscape. It was once known as the Oregon Territory, or the Oregon Country. But clearly the forests. (It's) the first thing people see. I just saw the salmon parade go by my talk and it was swimming upstream.

KLCC - How appropriate!

DM - And we were just talking on the way in about the removal of the Elwha Dam. And the Condit Dam and how fast those salmon are coming back. In a couple of months they're back. So they've been doing that for millions of years. So, the two icons, the forests and the salmon are the most identifiable, but there are a lot of other dimensions.

KLCC - Any particular dimensions you'd care to highlight?

DM - Well, sure. I mentioned Cape Mendocino in California. That's where the San Andreas Fault runs out to sea. That's where our own earth plates begin. That's where the Cascadia Subduction Zone begins. We're one of the few bioregions in the world that has our own earthquakes. That geology continues to ripple and create, through the whole region, all the way to the Continental Divide.

KLCC - I see you mention "respectful acknowledgement" of that area. What does that mean exactly?

DM - For many years we've still been in an imperial mindset. The colonialist mindset. And we've had all these different names for the region: New Caledonia; New Spain; New Georgia; all the rest of these things. But the first name that's true to the spirit of the place is Cascadia. And it's named not after the mountains, but the waters. And it's what the waters do, or what the mountains do, is cascade. That image of cascading waters is what the place itself literally does. So it's the first name true to the spirit of the place, because it says what it does and does what is says.

KLCC - Is there acknowledgement of this region outside of this region at all?

DM - In terms of the bioregional movement (that's) been going on for quite a while, Cascadia by far is the most mature consciousness and self-designation in all of North America. The map's right in front of you. I'll show you an example of that. Also, I want to say, by its own strange alchemy, Cascadia has passed into regional consciousness here, far more than any other place. There are literally hundreds of groups, & companies who call themselves Cascadia. That's an extraordinary process.

KLCC - One of the things you talk about is "sparking the imagination" and "helping people get their feet on the ground." What's the relationship between imagination and groundedness?

DM - Well, you can have an imagination that is not grounded. And we've often had that when we bring in identities from elsewhere. But when you begin to sing the place, for instance, and the spirit of the place infuses that and you get that spirit, then you begin to get grounded and you begin to - what I'm trying to do is call forth a new culture here.

KLCC - Well, how is that manifesting in a new culture in terms of the institute itself? What are you active in with the institute at this point?

DM - The purpose of the institute is education about the character and consciousness and context - you have to use the old phrases like Greater Northwest as a distinctive geographic, ecological and cultural region. So that's what we've been doing for a long time. The maps are a good example. This talk is like that. And I help, I don't know how many people week in and week out try to clarify, get their feet on the ground, (as to) what the region is. Actually, most people don't know the region very well. They know the I-5 and I want to say Cascadia is not an I-5 conceit. That's a mistake.

KLCC - How would you correct that mistake?

DM - Well, you just think of the Cascades. We love all these mountains, but they have a west side. That's where the I-5 is, but there's

an east side. And if you're in Bend you have this INCREDIBLE panorama, of those peaks. You see six, eight peaks. On the top of Middle Sister you can see Shasta, you can see Adams and Hood. So there's two sides to that. About seventy percent of the regional population lives within sight of a Cascade volcano. Most people think it's the I-5 side, the wet (side). No, it's the other side as well.

KLCC - The east side and the west side are so completely different in terms of environment, but you're saying that they're the same.

DM - No, well the Cascades and the BC Coast Range, they create the rain shadow. So the dry east side is a creation of the same mountain. What people don't understand is that they go over there and they see the lava, they see the basalt and they see all that dry thing and they think "ooh, this is a different world and I don't like it." That world is created by the same geological forces that created the whole region. They're not different. They're part of the same formative process.

KLCC - And so how is your participation and your work being presented here at the Fair? What are you bringing to the Fair this weekend?

DM - Well, I gave a talk; just finished a little while ago, called Coming Home to Cascadia. And besides Cascadia, it's that image of home and what it means to be welcomed home. The place is a gift. The question is how we receive that gift. We need to learn how to receive that gift in a much deeper way than we've been doing.

KLCC - Is there any particular key to receiving that gift, in terms of our spiritual openness or, what helps us to receive better?

DM - The tree laws of Moral Ecology would help. Number one: The Gift has a spirit of its own and so what we need to do is honor that spirit. The second one is The Gift must move. And the third is that you have to give as you are given. Now, if THAT became the basis of an ethic, a regional ethic, that would then put us back in, actually the only true spirit of the region, and that's the potlatch spirit which is a giveaway and the giveaway starts with the land itself and that's signified by the Cascades. Because that's what they do, they give themselves away. The water flows through us.

KLCC - And we are very much made through water more than anything else. It is the water of Cascadia.

DM - We are, yeah. (Laughter.)

KLCC - We're talking to David McCloskey of the Cascadia Institute. You can find more on the Cascadia Institute website:

Cascadia-Institute.org And thank you so much for your presence here at the Fair on KLCC, David.

DM - Thanks very much.

Northern Lights Visible throughout the Northwest

Most of Mother Nature's shows in the month of July were focused around incredible lightning and thunder displays, but, beginning in the early morning of Sunday July 15, the skies lit up with the Northern Lights. Sightings were reported in Lyman, Friday Harbor, Sahale Glacier and even further south, with a display caught over Sparks Lake in central Oregon. The best time for viewing took place during midnight and 1:30am, and according to Spaceweather.com, at first the solar storm appeared weaker than forecast, but a second wave later in the night added some power to the solar storm and the aurora energized, with sightings as far south as Oregon and California.



1st Comprehensive Earthquake Study on the Cascadia Subduction Zone

The most comprehensive study of earthquake history off the Pacific Northwest coast has found that the Cascadian Subduction Zone has been trying to break off from the United States both geologically and politically, much longer and with greater force than earlier anticipated. The 13 year study, done by scientists at Oregon State University analyzed clues beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean, such as the movement of mud, sand, sediment, and fine particles, trying to go back 10,000 years. That history shows 19 huge earthquakes along the Cascadia Subduction Zone, typically 8.7 to 9.2 on the Richter scale.

Chris Goldfinger, a professor in OSU's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, believes there is a 40 percent chance of a major earthquake of a size comparable to the recent Japan event in the next 50 years, but that it is more likely to occur in the southern end of the subduction zone, meaning Oregon. "Major earthquakes tend to strike more frequently along the southern end - every 240 years or so - and it has been longer than that since it last happened," writes Goldfinger. "The clock is ticking on when a major earthquake will strike the zone," wrote a co-author of the study. If there is no big quake by 2060, we'll have exceeded 85 percent of all known intervals of earthquake recurrence in the last 10,000 years, he concluded.

Cascadia: Where even the Oceans are Caffeinated

Lattes are washing out to sea. A new study has found elevated levels of caffeine at several sites in Pacific Ocean waters off the coast of Oregon. The study was conducted by Portland State University graduate student Zoe Rodriguez del Rey and her faculty adviser Elise Graneek, assistant professor of Environmental Science and Management, in collaboration with Steve Sylvester of Washington State University, Vancouver. Researchers aren't quite sure the when or why of it, and early thinking that the caffeinated areas were related to waste water treatment plants has actually turned out not to be the case. So pour yourself a double latte and stay tuned for further updates!

New Memetic Cascadia Class

Held every Tuesday, "Memetic Cascadia: The Color of Revolution" class began on July 17. Taught by Alexander Baretich, designer of the Cascadian flag, the class examines ways to transform the abstract idea of Cascadia, the bioregion, into a contagious idea associated with our regional identity. The course also explores nonviolent struggles and revolutions, as well as using materials that lay out a step by step process on creating populous nonviolent socioeconomic change.

The class meets every Tuesday 5:30-7pm at St. Francis Parish in the Che Room on SE 12th & Pine in Portland, OR. For further information contact a_cascadian@yahoo.com.



MEMETIC CASCADIA: THE COLOR OF REVOLUTION

Course description:

We will examine ways to transform the abstract idea of Cascadia, the bioregion, into a contagious idea associated with our regional identity. The goal is to create a bioregional awakening (Cascadia) that will become widespread and very contagious meme.

Second phase of this course will explore nonviolent struggles and nonviolent revolutions. We will use materials that will lay out a step by step process on creating populous nonviolent socioeconomic change. While using the materials for this class it will be important to be mindful of the source of the material while understanding the value these tools and concepts offer. This course will be approached as a continuous working group where the responsibility of assigned material is crucial for the group as a whole to move forward. Participants playing games or subverting the collective learning of the whole maybe asked by the whole to take a less active role in the course or even be asked to leave. Ideally the materials (methods and concepts) will be examined each week with the goal of applying them to current struggles against authoritarian systems or systems of structural violence.

Time:

Tuesdays 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Location:

St Francis Parish in the Che Room
SE 12th & Pine, Portland Oregon, Cascadia

STARTS:

July 17, 2012

For further information contact
a_cascadian@yahoo.com



AROUND CASCADIA

The Cascadia Bowl: A Proposal

By Nate Jensen

My focus on soccer has really made me take a look at other regional rivalries in sports. In our current state of affairs the only major professional sports rivalry we get in Cascadia is in Major League Soccer. However, there are some pretty big college sports rivalries around the area, and I got to thinking about how I could enhance those sports as a viewer and as a fan.

The biggest sport outside of professional

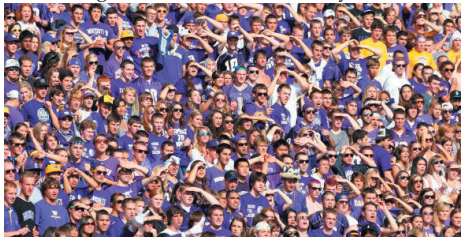
my attention. It might have a little bit to do with all the re-alignment that goes on, but I've lost a little bit of passion for watching college football. It might be that I don't have a team to cheer for. I didn't go to any of the schools that are usually televised, so my attachment is minimal. If my attitude towards college football were a worldly item, it'd be a rust-encrusted slab of metal in someone's backyard.



sports in our region happens to be college football. It just so happens that in the Pac-12 there are 4 schools from Washington and Oregon that play against each other. There are two schools that play each other in the Big Sky conference. This sort of thing goes on down the ladder of college football. It makes sense: regional play means less travel time, which means less money spent and more time for study, if you believe the student athlete hype.

Some of these rivalries are already pretty huge. There is the Apple Cup, between University of Washington and Washington State. There is also the "Civil War" between Oregon and Oregon State. These are all fine and dandy. I enjoy turning on football if there is going to be a massive rivalry. In my world, rivalries are the only reason to watch college football.

There is something missing though. Something that would make me buy in with all



I have a plan for this season to scrape off the rust and apply some oil to shine the metal back up and make it exciting again. I've decided to follow sports regionally and keep track of head to head competitions between some of the teams. I'm making the decision that Washington State vs Oregon State is not going to be about Pac-12 pecking order this year. Nope, for me it is going to be part of the Cascadia Bowl.

That's right: I'll be watching the Washington and Oregon Schools from the Pac-12, and I'll be keeping track of which team does the best only between those four. A team in this competition could lose all the rest of their games, but if they beat the other 3 they can come out as Cascadia Bowl champions.

I realize that not everyone is going to be excited about something like this; it's okay, I'm not asking you to be excited. I'm really not even asking anyone to call it the Cascadia Bowl. This is just part of my transformation as a Cascadian. One day I'd like to see all our college sports played regionally in a Cascadia Division. Not for TV deals. Not for sponsorships. Just for competition. The way college sports were meant to be played. Regional bragging rights.

7th Regional Cascadia Geography Mini-Conference Announced

The seventh annual Critical Geographies Mini-Conference, temporarily renamed "Decolonizing Cascadia? Rethinking Critical Geographies," will be held at the University of British Columbia on November 16th and 17th, 2012. The focus will be on envisioning and critically challenging known geographies of the Pacific Northwest, and that of Cascadia.

Consistent with the previous mini-conferences' goals, the emphasis is on creating a fun, engaging, and friendly atmosphere that embraces an unsettling of the 'traditional' conference structure. The conference's organizers welcome a wide range of spatially-oriented critical scholarship and encourage creative media on various themes from geography and other disciplines. There is no fee to attend the conference and graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply.

Responding to discussions at previous meetings, the plenary theme will be decolonization in which participants critically engage with (neo)colonial practices in knowledge production, pedagogies, academic institutions, and regionalisms. Decolonization involves a reimagining of relationships among land, people, and the state. This process requires study, conversation, and continual unlearning. As two of multiple decolonization strategies at this year's conference, the organizers recognize meeting in unceded Coast Salish territory and work towards the inclusion of non-academic knowledges.

More information can be found at:
<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/cascadia2012/>

AROUND CASCADIA

Chapter Updates:

CascadiaNow! is excited to announce new regional and student coordinators in Okanagan County, WA; Washington State University in Pullman, WA; Castle Rock, WA; and the University of Oregon in Eugene, OR. We also have new volunteers who have offered to help research, write and help us fill in a few graphic blanks on our website.

If you're in these areas, feel free to contact our new coordinators:

Okanagan County

Chandra Ashlin - chandra.ashlin@yahoo.ca

Washington State University

Doug Woods - woodsrow@gmail.com

University of Oregon

Alex Jones - ajones8@uoregon.edu

More information about current CascadiaNow! coordinators and chapters can be found on our website at

<http://cascadianow.org/chapters-and-groups>

If you do not see your area represented, please visit

<http://cascadianow.org/get-involved>

We'd love to talk with you more about your ideas and envisioning for Cascadia and ways to get active.

CascadiaNow! Facebook, Twitter and Reddit Milestones

Interest in the idea of Cascadia has continued to grow rapidly, reflected in our various different social platforms. Our twitter account (@CASCADIANOW) has more than doubled in the past 2 months, surpassing 500 followers earlier this month (only 15,583,500 left to go!), while our facebook group climbed past 1800 members, and the <http://reddit.com/r/cascadia> subreddit is on pace to blow past 3000 by the time of publication. We've also started a new CascadiaNow! Facebook page (<http://facebook.com/cascadianow>) which already has more than 200 likes, as we're slowly figuring how this thing called the 'internet' works, and what all the buttons do.

The Bioregion of Cascadia – New interview Available

For part of the Republic of PDX PropCast, Portland CascadiaNow! Coordinator Elona Trogub and Abram Goldman-Armstrong, founder of the Cascadian Dark Ale style, sat down to discuss the culture, politics and geography of what exactly the Cascadian Bioregion is. This interview is available in full at: <http://thepeoplespdx.com/the-bioregion-of-cascadia/>

Cascadia Kits Released

Designed and organized by Kelly Dews on the Cascadia Trifecta Facebook group, the first batch of Cascadia kits were shipped out earlier this month. As per agreement, for the first run, Vancouver BC, Seattle WA, and Portland OR, each got 30, with each city getting their own unique patch sewed into the bottom. If you missed out on this first one, not to worry: since the popularity was so high, a second run is likely in the works. Stay tuned.



Cascadia Banner Drop

As the clock struck noon-o'clock on July 24th, several CascadiaNow! supporters dropped a giant banner depicting a sasquatch foot booting out an Uncle Sam monopoly figure. The banner drop was in protest of a visit by US president Barack Obama, as he attended a \$25k per plate fundraiser lunch. In a press release, those involved declared that "those in the Cascadia Now! Movement are interested in strengthening local community economies through sustainable and equitable means, not through the continued practices of war for oil and continued climate-catastrophic coal mining. Bioregionalism is a new phenomenon rising from the people's need to withdraw support from their war-obsessed governments, protect watersheds and unify and strengthen communities against attacks from multinational corporations." The letter finished with "Cascadians are uniting to create a different way forward, one that does not support endless overseas wars. We support Bioregional independence for Cascadia."



Drafting Cascadia

continued from page 1

the land under one's feet. It is worth noting that the volcanoes of the Cascades are not silent—in fact, "Cascadia Day" is celebrated on May 18th, the anniversary of Mt. St. Helens eruption in 1980. Furthermore, the entire region lives under the shadow of "the big one": a large earthquake expected in the next hundred years.

4) **Transportation** – One of the more curious and anthropocentric definitions, this boundary draws on the ecosystem of human technology, identifying Cascadia as one of many new "megaregions" in North America. Interstate 5 runs straight through the major population centers of Cascadia, from Eugene, Oregon to Vancouver, BC. This boundary line is more of an axis than a limit, and is often used in arguments for economic cooperation and transportation development between the cities and existing governmental boundaries. Amtrak also currently has a line running from Eugene to Vancouver called "The Cascades", that provides quick service along the I-5 Corridor as an

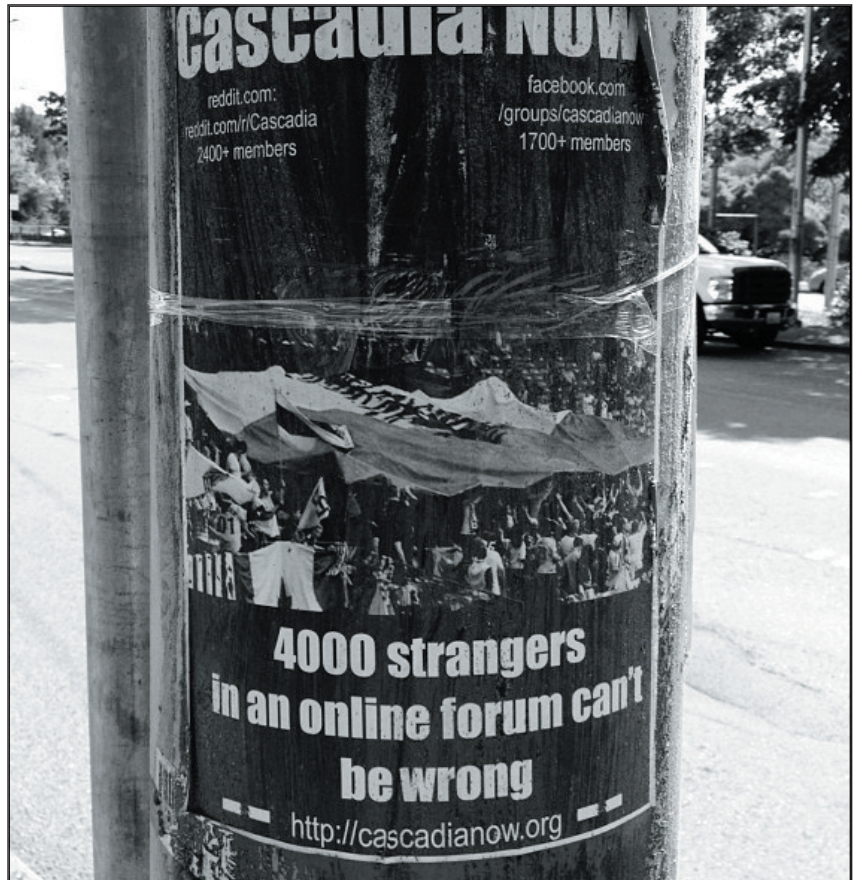
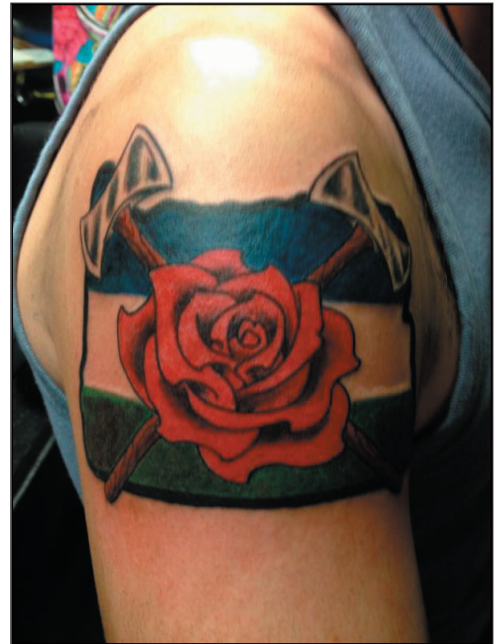
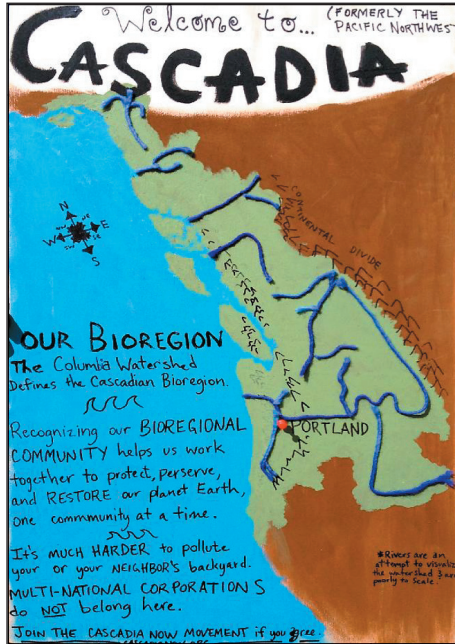
alternative to notorious traffic jams. State lines are little hindrance to the realities of social and economic migration.

What is more curious than the fact that these different ways of establishing a geographic area differ, is that they actually seem to cohere, at least to the extent that the can share a common name. It is hard to overlook the enforced sovereignty of the United States' and Canadian governments, which Cascadian identity must bow before. However, the establishment of a non-sovereign territory is well underway in Cascadia. The future is a fractalized potential of demarcation methods. The days of Lewis and Clark are over. The people who live on the terrain are picking up the drafting pencils to draw the new maps.

Additional links:

- 1) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ley_line
- 2) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_\(independence_movement\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_(independence_movement))
- 3) <http://cascadia-institute.org/index.html>
- 4) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecotopia>

July in Pictures



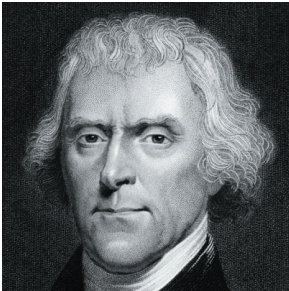
ONWARD TO CASCADIA

From the Annals of Cascadian History: A Brief Timeline of Independence

1813: A Letter from Thomas Jefferson

An 1813 letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Jacob Astor congratulated Astor on the establishment of Fort Astoria (the coastal fur trade post of Astor's Pacific Fur Company) and described Fort Astoria as "the germ of a great, free, and independent empire on that side of our continent," and said that "liberty and self-government spreading from that as well as from this side, will ensure their complete establishment over the whole."

He went on to dub this the "Republic of the Pacific." In his mind, this nation was to be home to a "great, free and independent empire," populated by American settlers, but separate from the United States politically and economically, eventually becoming a great trading partner exploring its own democratic experiment.



1825: The Cascades are Given Name

Throughout the 1820's, Scottish naturalist David Douglas, after whom the Doug Fir was named, spent much time exploring the Pacific Northwest. While he was searching for plants near the mouth of the Columbia gorge in 1825 he was struck by the area's 'cascading waterfalls'. As he writes in his journals he talks in depth about the mountains by these 'great cascades' or later, just simply the Cascades, the

first written reference to the mountain range that would later bear this name. It would be from this delineation that the term Cascadia would later be created.



1839: The Argument for an Independent Pacific Coast Republic

In the February edition of the Oregonian and Indian Advocate, a case was laid out by an article's author, known only as 'W,' for the

logical creation of a country along the Pacific Coast, stretching from California through the entirety of the Oregon Territory, then comprising Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. At this time, the Oregon country was a neutrally aligned area in which the British, American, Russian governments all had a stake, with Spain still controlling large swaths of California.

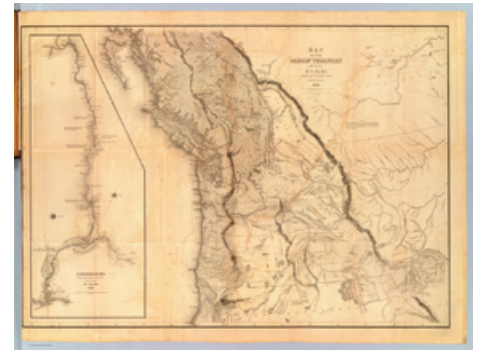
In the article, the author argues that the general prevailing sentiment of the US populace was the country was large enough, noting that "The feeling is now very prevalent that we have territory enough. It is in every one's mouth, 'We have territory enough, why do we want more?'" and it would be hard indeed to persuade the people to relish a war for a tract of land most of them do not want, and many of them would be unwilling to have attached to the United States. With the merchants, and the people against it, shall we have war for Oregon? Will the Executive, will the Congress plunge the nation in carnage and blood against the people's will, for a tract of country the nation cares but little for?

He goes on to argue that "during this time, while the United States and England are with the greatest ceremony disputing and negotiating, thousands will be pressing into the territory. It will be settled, and Oregon and California will be united in a common cause and destiny. Then will come the realization of the event which Mr. Jefferson predicted, and "the whole extent of that coast will be covered with free and independent Americans, unconnected with us, but by the ties of blood and friendship."

He even argued the important role that bioregionalism would play "Nature herself has marked out Western America for the home of an independent nation. The Rocky Mountains will be to Oregon, what the Alps have been to Italy, or the Pyrenees to Spain. The Nation which extends itself across them, must be broken in the centre by the weight of the extremities. When we merely glance at a map, it seems absurd to suppose that Oregon is to belong to a nation whose capital is on the Atlantic Seaboard. What! Must the people of that land be six months journey from the seat of Government? Must they send their delegates four thousand miles to represent them in the legislature of a nation with whom they can have but few common interests or sympathies?"

1841: Charles Wilkes Expedition first maps what will later become the Cascadia Bioregion

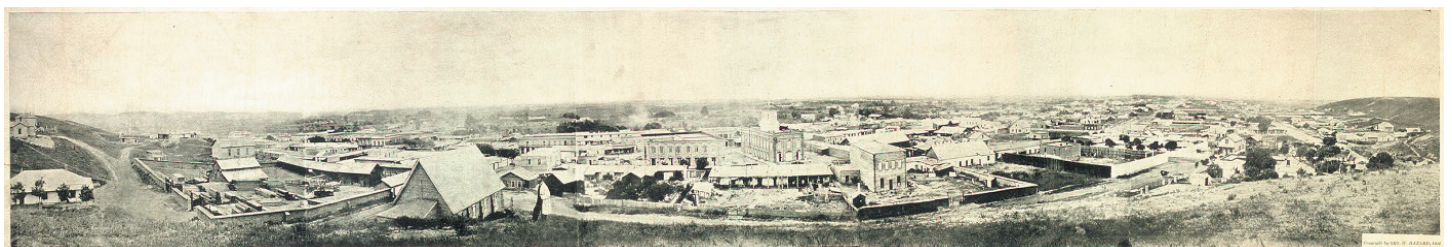
Military Commander Charles Wilkes, leader of a 1841 expedition to map the Pacific Northwest was the first to fully document what later became known as the Cascadia bioregion. His map, published in 1845 fully documents the interconnectedness of the then Oregon Territories. The illustration cuts off in the north due to Imperial Russian control, and in the south due to Imperial Spanish control.



1855-1861: The Movement in Oregon for the Establishment of a Pacific Coast Republic

On June 15th, 1846, the treaty with Great Britain was signed that secured to the United States the territory of Oregon lying south of the 49th parallel. It was assumed that the American government would then organize a government for the newly acquired territory. However, the bill providing this organization didn't occur until August 14, 1848 due to pro-slavery leaders in Congress who opposed a clause in the Oregon Provisional Government declaring that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime, would ever be permitted in the territory.

The citizens of Oregon, many who felt it was through their efforts that the territory had been acquired, were outraged at what they felt was then a refusal by the US government to grant them necessary assistance and protection. In addition, the inability for citizens to elect their own representatives, those instead being appointed by the Eastern federal government, led to a dramatic increase of dissatisfaction throughout the 1850's, culminating in a growing movement to demand Independence.



Los Angeles in 1869. Main portion of Los Angeles, taken from the site where the Court House now stands.

This is summed up well in by an article in 1855 from a periodical the Standard (run by the Democratic Party) entitled "Our Future", published in Portland:

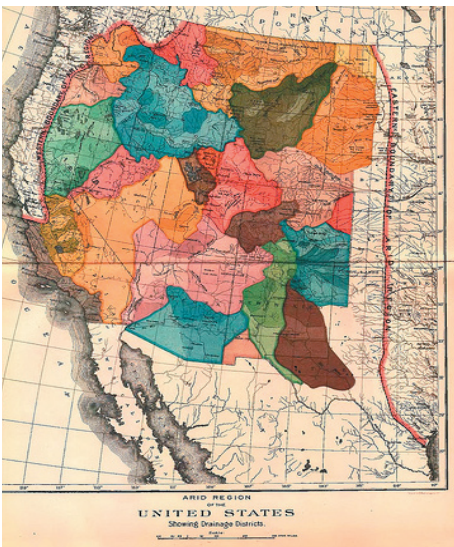
"In a new country there are no old associations, no stereo typed habits which filter in an accustomed routine our actions and our thoughts. Yes, it is indeed too true that we must look for new and energetic governments in recently settled countries. . . . Can it be possible that within a few years the Pacific coast will ask, and can secure, an independent government? . . .

"If Nature ever marked out the division of countries, it has done so in North America. The vast chain of the Rocky Mountains present an unmistakable boundary, and we have reason to believe that these boundaries, laid down by an over ruling providence, ought to be more strictly regarded.... Should we secure anything to our advantage by coming into the Union which we could, not have by ourselves? Let us think before we act. The growing disparity of habits between us and the Atlantic states, and the pecuniary advantages or disadvantages of a separation from the states, are not the only questions which ought to be considered. Is it policy for us to join a government, the different sections of which are even now antipodal on a most exciting question, and which are cultivating a spirit of disunion by their altercations? "

These sentiments continued to grow, spawning into the Klamath, Trinity and Jackson movements, largely dying with the beginning of the US civil war in 1861.

1890: Proposal to Draw Western State Borders along Bioregional Lines

These earlier arguments fit into a growing movement towards the creation of Western US States based on bioregional principles, primarily that of watersheds. In a series of maps published in 1890, soldier, explore and geologist



John Wesley Powell laid out his proposal for the "essential units of government, either as states or as watershed commonwealths."

Using the arid regions of the United States as a basis, he argued that only a small fraction of the American West was suitable for agriculture and that the bulk of arid regions should be

reserved for conservation and low-intensity grazing, reframing the national Jeffersonian grid already in place. These calls however, were soon trumped over in favor of the continuing expansion of powerful timber, coal and railroad interests, which strongly affected late 19th and early 20th century US development patterns.

1916: Documenting the Movement for Independence:

These earlier attempts towards independence in the Pacific Northwest continued to be well documented. In a 1916 article in the Oregon Historical Quarterly, author Dorothy Hull helps capture these earlier sentiments: "To fully understand the political tendencies of the West it is necessary to understand the Western spirit, for political platforms are but a more or less clear reflection of the spirit which animates those who frame them."

She continues, "The West has always been the home of democracy. The Western movement in the United States from its first inception was a democratic movement. The fur traders who blazed the trail to the West, and the ranchers and farmers who followed in their wake forging the broader path for civilization were not aristocrats, but the common people - rugged, self-reliant and ambitious... seeking cheap lands, and a chance to work out their political and social ideas free from the aristocratic organization of the East. Hence in the West democracy, social and political, became the dominant force."

"The early isolation of the West, and the completeness of its geographic separation from the political center of the nation fostered an intense feeling of local independence. It was not surprising then that in times of great public danger when vital sectional interests were believed to be at stake, this spirit of local independence should find expression in the doctrines of popular sovereignty, states-rights, nullification and even secession."

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"

Dorothy Hull,
Oregon Historical Quarterly, 1916

1970: David McCloskey defines the 'Cascadia Bioregion'

In 1970 the term "Cascadia" was adopted by David McCloskey, a Seattle University sociology professor, to describe the region. McCloskey describes Cascadia as "a land of falling waters." He notes the blending of natural integrity and sociocultural unity that gives Cascadia its definition.



"
... a land of falling waters.
"

David McCloskey, 1970

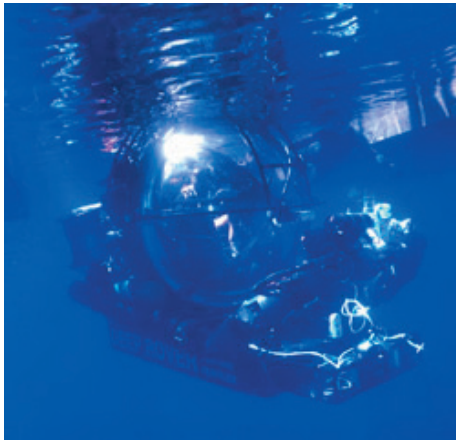
McCloskey is the source of the proposed Cascadian bioregional boundaries that include the complete watershed of the Columbia River, including the territories of what are now Idaho, western Montana, and smaller parts of Wyoming, Utah, and northern Nevada. According to McCloskey, this "initial" Cascadia included parts of seven jurisdictions (Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Western Montana, British Columbia, and Southeast Alaska), running from the northernmost reaches of Southeast Alaska in the north to Cape Mendocino, California in the south—and covering all the land and "falling waters" from the continental divide at the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. McCloskey, founder of the Cascadia Institute and co-chair of Seattle University's New Ecological Studies Program, saw Cascadian identity as something which transcends political or geographic definitions; it is more a cultural, ideological identity.

David McCloskey returns to the original bioregional model of the Pacific Northwest which he dubs 'Cascadia'

This Month In Cascadian History

By Alex DeVeiteo

August 1, 1988 - Deep Rover, a single occupant research submarine designed by marine engineer Graham Hawkes and built by Deep Ocean Engineering, is unveiled at Crater Lake, Oregon



August 2, 1970 - BC ferry Queen of Victoria and Soviet freighter Sergey Yesinen collide in the Active Pass.

August 3, 1885 - The first Chautauqua on Puget Sound is held at Dilworth Point on Vashon Island. Named after Chautauqua, New York, where it was founded in 1874, the movement is a summertime presentation of lectures, discussions, and cultural activities lasting several days to a week in a resort atmosphere.

August 4, 1889 - "The Great Fire" breaks out shortly after 6:00 p.m. in the city of Spokane Falls, destroying the city's downtown commercial district. Due to technical problems with a pump station, there is no water pressure in the city when the fire starts. In an effort to starve the fire, firefighters begin demolishing buildings with dynamite. Eventually winds die down and the fire exhausts of its own accord. 32 blocks of the city's downtown are destroyed, but only one person is killed. While the damage caused by the fire is a devastating blow, it sets the stage for a dramatic building boom, and the city is reincorporated under its modern name of "Spokane."



August 5, 1990 - The Seattle Goodwill Games conclude. Two world records are broken during the Games: the 200-meter breaststroke mark is topped by all three medalists in the race, with Mike Barrowman improving the record to two minutes and 11.53 seconds. Nadezhda Ryashkina completes a world record of 41:56.21 in the women's 10 km race walk.

August 6, 1969 - A member of America's Blue Angels aerobatic team practicing a routine for the Regatta festival inadvertently causes chaos in nearby city of Kelowna, British Columbia. The pilot unintentionally goes through the sound barrier while flying too low, creating a sonic boom which shatters glass, injuring six people and generating a broken glass bill of a quarter million dollars.

August 7, 1971 - The Gastown Riot, also known as "The Battle of Maple Tree Square," occurs in Vancouver, British Columbia. Following weeks of arrests by undercover drug squad members in Vancouver as part of a special police operation directed by Mayor Tom Campbell known as "Operation Dustpan," designed to sweep up the "hippie problem" in Vancouver's trendy Gastown district, police attack a peaceful protest Smoke-In in the Gastown neighborhood organized by the Youth International Party and local merchants against the use of undercover agents and in favor of the legalization of marijuana. The Vancouver police are quickly accused of heavy-handed tactics including indiscriminate beatings with their newly issued riot batons and using horseback charges on crowds of onlookers and tourists. Of the 1200 protesters, 79 are arrested and 38 are charged with various infractions, while more than a dozen are sent to the hospital.

August 8, 1971 - The Enchanted Forest's Storybook Trail first opens to the public at 2pm on Sunday. Roger Tofte, a draftsman and artist for the Oregon State Highway Department, builds the park on 20 acres of land off Interstate 5 south of Salem he had purchased for \$4000. Despite no formal art training and little cement work experience, he gets to work and builds the fanciful theme park. Rides and features have been added frequently the past four decades; the Enchanted Forest is still run by the Tofte family.



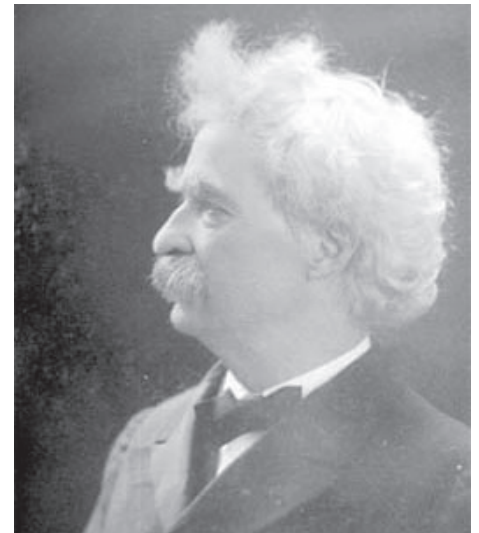
August 9, 1878 - Due to delays and broken promises of a railway to British Columbia, the legislature in Victoria votes nineteen to nine in favor of succession from Canada. This gives impetus to financing of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Imperial loan guarantees.

August 10, 1979 - Screenwriter, film producer, and novelist Ted J. Geoghegan is born in Beaverton, Oregon. He is best known for his work in the horror, science fiction, and fantasy genres.

August 11, 1774 - Spanish Explorer Juan Perez and his crew on the ship Santiago sight The Olympic Mountains (originally called "Sun-a-do" by the Duwamish) on the Olympic Peninsula, naming them "Cerro Nevada de Santa Rosalia." Juan Perez's Spanish expedition represents the first European discovery and exploration of "Nueva Galicia," the Pacific Northwest.

August 12, 1963 - Hip Hop artist Anthony Ray, better known as "Sir Mix-a-Lot," is born in Seattle, Washington.

August 13, 1895 - Author Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, gives a 90-minute solo performance to an audience of 1,200 at the Seattle Theater, located downtown at the corner of 3rd Avenue and Cherry Street in Seattle, Washington. "A CONTINUOUS LAUGH" is the headline of a Seattle Post-Intelligencer review article that continues, "To tell the story of such a lecture is like trying to narrate a laugh. Those who heard it enjoyed it, and those who did not cannot conceive of it."



August 14, 1933 - A logging operation located on the slopes above the North Fork of Gales Creek, west of the town of Forest Grove, Oregon sparks a massive forest fire known as the Tillamook Burn in the Coast Range Mountains, located in northern Oregon, 50 miles west of Portland. The fire begins around noon, started by friction produced when loggers drag a large Douglas-fir log across the dry bark of a wind-fallen snag, igniting a large amount of logging debris in the area. Weather conditions help ignite and spread the blaze; within an hour, the fire destroys 60 acres of the surrounding land.

The wildfire that grows out of this will burn 311,000 acres (1259 km²) of forest before it is extinguished by seasonal rains.

August 15, 1929 - Renowned stunt flyer, and military and commercial aviator, Nicholas Bernard "Nick" Mamer, and his mechanic and copilot, Art Walker, take off from Spokane's Felts Field in their latest model Buhl "Sesquiplane" on a history-making feat of endurance flying. The two men stay aloft five days and nights, and despite not breaking the existing record of hours in the air, they succeed in setting a record in nonstop mileage (more than 7,200 miles) and achieve the first transcontinental refueling flight, first night refueling, and first refueling at an altitude above 8,000 feet.



This Month In Cascadian History

August 16, 2003 – Workers building a graving dock for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) near Ediz Hook in Port Angeles, Washington uncover a shell midden. Discovery of the refuse pile, and, shortly thereafter, many human remains and artifacts, reveals the largely intact Klallam First Nation village of Tse-whit-zen under layers of industrial rubble and fill. Tse-whit-zen, which occupies the Port Angeles site for at least 2,700 years until supplanted by industrial development in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, turns out to be one of the largest and most significant archeological sites in Washington, providing important insights into Klallam life before and at the time of first contact with Europeans.



(Read more about Tse-whit-zen: <http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/klallamday1.html>)

August 17, 1907 – Pike Place Market is opened overlooking the Elliott Bay waterfront in Seattle, Washington. It will become one of the oldest continually operating public farmers' markets in North America, and remains one of Seattle's most popular tourist destinations.



August 18, 1775 – While cruising along the Oregon coast south of Arch Cape, Basque explorer Captain Bruno de Heceta discovers and names Cape Falcon, also known as False Tillamook Head.



August 19, 1902 – A Doukhobor sect known as "The Sons of Freedom" responds to conflicts with Canadian policy by staging mass nude protest parades and engaging in arson across British Columbia as a means of protesting against materialism, land seizure by the government, and compulsory education in government schools. This will lead to many confrontations with the Canadian government and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police well into the 1970s.

August 20, 1881 – The Spring Hill Water Company is incorporated in Seattle. This privately owned water system is Seattle's first integrated distribution system, and later will play an integral role in the creation of the municipal water system.

August 21, 1922 – Motorists in British Columbia switch to driving on the right hand side of the road at midnight.

August 22, 1964 – The Beatles hold a concert at Empire Stadium in Vancouver, B.C. before 20,000 fans, playing songs from their newest album, "Something New."

The event is hosted by DJ Red Robinson, with a top ticket price of \$5.25. Vancouver police cut the concert short after 27 minutes, fearing a riot by fans.



August 23, 1970 – A lightning storm starts over 200 fires in the Wenatchee National Forest which merge into five fires named Gold Ridge, Entiat, Mitchell Creek, Shady Pass, and Slide Ridge, though they are collectively called the Entiat Burn. The fires burn for 15 days, consuming 122,000 acres and threatening the town of Ardenvoir, Washington before they are contained and rain begins to put them out.

August 24, 1852 – Fur-trader and colonial governor James Douglas founds the city of Nanaimo, British Columbia, and takes possession of local coal deposits for the Hudson's Bay Company.



August 25, 1917 – The American Theater in Walla Walla opens for business with the Norma Talmadge film "The Law of Compensation". The theater was originally conceived by A. W. Eiler, who chose a very unique design scheme. In an era when Chinese, Egyptian, Arabian, or other exotic motifs tended to dominate theater design, the exterior of the American was based on traditional Dutch architecture. Standing three stories tall on Walla Walla's E Main Street, on the very spot upon which Fort Walla Walla had stood in 1858. The theater boasts a seating capacity of 1,000, with each seat made of mahogany and Spanish leather. Patron amenities include a nursery, smoking room, and checking room for coats and packages.



August 26, 1805 – Captain Meriwether Lewis and the main party of the Lewis and Clark Expedition cross the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass, leaving the newly purchased United States territory into the disputed Oregon Country.



August 27, 1914 – Fire destroys 17 buildings and 20 stores in downtown Shelton, Washington. Shelton's Mayor, Mark Reed, is in Seattle on business when he heard of the fire, and drives the 100 miles of mostly unpaved roads back to Shelton in just under three hours. Reed, who is also head of Simpson Timber, the county's largest employer, tries to put a positive spin on the situation, using the disaster as an opportunity to rebuild the downtown area.

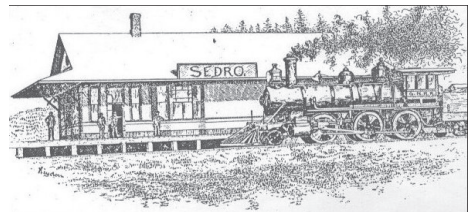
August 28, 1963 – The Evergreen Point Floating Bridge (also known as the "520 bridge") connecting Seattle & Bellevue officially opens. At 7,500 feet (2,300 m) long and running across Lake Washington from Seattle to Medina, it is the longest floating bridge on Earth.



August 29, 1968 – The Canadian government in Ottawa cancels support for the observatory under construction on Mt. Kobau, near Osoyoos, British Columbia.

August 30, 1935 – A dance marathon/walkathon closes in Fife, a community just north of Tacoma, after 1,376 hours (55 days or almost two months). The event is popular with citizens of nearby Seattle and Tacoma, both of which have city ordinances banning dance endurance contests. Attendees pay 15 to 25 cents to watch a mixture of hopeful amateurs and professional dance marathoners compete for prize money. Contestants dance around the clock with 15 minutes off their feet each hour. They were fed, standing at a chest-high table, 12 times per day.

August 31, 1912 – The Bellingham & Skagit Railway's Interurban railroad line opens between Bellingham and Mount Vernon, as well as Burlington and Sedro Woolley, with passenger trips to every two hours during the day and freight operating at night.



Cascadian Contacts



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