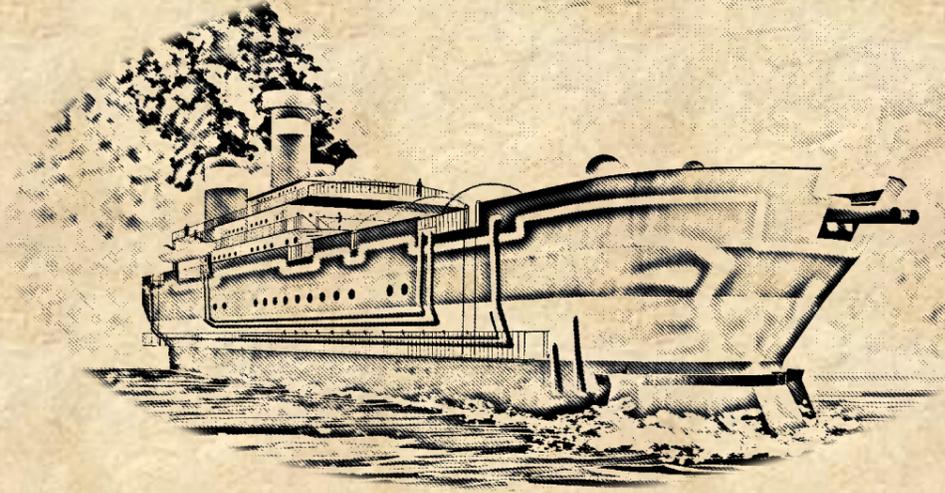


IRONCLAD INAUGURATION

Queen Aurala arrives in Passage

to inaugurate the newest addition to the Royal Navy's fleet. Barely three years since the end of Last War, Passage, the industrial heart of Aundair, has produced an ironclad warship powered solely by an elemental assisted steam engine, not sail, not needing a Lyrandar heir to captain. Your monarch, Queen Aurala, will come to Passage to inaugurate the ship, and witness the official launch of this mighty vessel on the 12th of Therendor this year. The Brelish chief designer and reconciliationist, Geoff Massarde, claims the vessel to be the equal of any ship in the arsenal of any of the other nations. While its exact specifications are a closely guarded state secret, the soon to be inaugurated R.N.S. Coaltongue, is wooden-hulled but with a heart and skin of iron. The Royal Naval Ship Coaltongue will act as a deterrent against future aggression from Aundair's enemies across the seas and lakes of Khorvaire. It's design is a fusion of Brelish-inspired industry and Aundairian arcanotech. Fitzcairn Luckshore, an engine room technician, claims the steam engines and double screws will drive the ship at a sustained speed of 18 knots, but its top speed has not been revealed. {see FULL POWER AHEAD, pg. 4}



ROYAL SHIPYARD LOCKDOWN

Bosum Strand Mayor Griffin Stowe ordered district guards to increase the presence of uniformed and plain clothes officers around the Royal Shipyard and Royal Square while the R.N.S. Coaltongue is docked and in preparation for the arrival of Queen Aurala and other V.I.P. guests next week. While Royal Eyes of Aundair Director Thucl Racannoch remains in Fairhaven, the head of the Passage branch, Lady Inspectress Margaret ir'Saxby, has promised the support of her agents to the security effort. Assistant Chief Inspector Stover Delft is overseeing the REA-teams in the run up to the launch party. The city guards and the Royal Eyes of Aundair will be providing security for the event itself, at which thousands of visitors are expected. Security is said to be tight, especially considering the queen's own attendance. REA Assistant Chief Inspector Stover Delft has been quoted as saying, "We do not anticipate trouble, but current dissatisfaction in the Docker community means that we will be on our guard." Sightseers and well-wishers will gather in Royal Square, although only 700 will be permitted to cross the bridge to Fleet Square.

NAVAL LAUNCH V.I.P. GUEST LIST

The R.N.S. Coaltongue launch party is sure to be the largest gathering of society's upper crust Passage has seen since the opening of the Stanfield Canal. Most importantly, Queen Aurala will be in attendance, along with her brother, First Warlord and Minister of Magic Adal ir'Wynarn, and her cousin and Aundair's ambassador to the Unseen Court, Duchess Ethelyn ir'Brassek of Windshire. Passage's own Governor Roland Stanfield will also accompany the queen.

Attorney General Shreve and District Mayors Stowe (Bosum Strand), Putnam (Central), Idylls (Cloudwood), Dekker (Lower Woods), Choir (North Shore), Gohins (Parity Lake), Pepper (Pine Island), and Robinson (Stray River) will be at the Royal Shipyard to greet the queen's party. Mayor Reed Macbannin (The Nettles) has not returned his invitation yet, and word from his staff is that there has been an unusual increase in activity among the dark spirits of Cauldron Hill that the mayor has been busy quelling.

Geoff Massarde, chief designer of the R.N.S. Coaltongue, and noted industrialists Guy Goodson, and Benedict Pemberton will represent Passage's industrial sector. Colonel Sebastien Serontain (The Battalion) has been sent to represent the Aundairian Army and Rear Admiral Morris Dawkins will be the

naval representative for Passage's naval defenses. Captain Rutger d'Lyrandar (R.N.S. Impossible), will be standing in for Viceroy Leland d'Cannith, who has been afflicted with severe exhaustion, and for Baron Kwanti d'Orien, who can't be present in Passage at the time. The only other dragonmarked house present will be House Ghallanda, as Hanna d'Ghallanda will be responsible for the food and drink during the maiden voyage. Also not in attendance are Fairhaven's Catherine ir'Romana—the noted primalist and close friend of Duchess Ethelyn has been quite public in her anti-tech views {see SKYSEERS DREAM DOOM OF DREADNOUGHT, pg. 7}—along with the liaison to the Unseen Court Asrabey Varal {see UNSEEN COURT UNINVITES SELF, pg. 7}, and Brelish Foreign Minister Lya Jierre^T who's presence in Flint so close to the launch of a new warship has nationalist factions accusing Brelish espionage.

ROYAL REPAST

Fine foods for Passage's finest.

The wine is specially selected from Bluevine and Windshiran vineyards, the food will be prepared under the supervision of Hanna d'Ghallanda, the notorious chef cook of the critically acclaimed Old Oyster restaurant in Central District. The launch party will feature local delicacies as well. Honey and coconut canapés prepared by Lower Woods own Sylkas and Vilina Kendig, and chocolate confections prepared by North Shore's own Silver Swan {see WHO WAS SPOTTED AT THE SILVER SWAN, pg. 13} will be served during the maiden voyage. Tobacco products will be provided by Cippiano's Tobacco Center. Coffee and tea provided by Morgan Cippiano's new Coffee and Tea Corner in Stray River, importing the best quality coffee and tea from Zilargo. The main dish, as we heard from a Ghallanda employee, will be {cont. pg. 14}.

DOCKER DILEMMA

Unionizing Agonizing for Worker-Owner Relations

Retired ferry captain Thames Grimsley, still recovering from wounds received at the hands of over exuberant district guardsmen during the last docker riot, has been seen organizing for workers' right from Bosum Strand to the Nettles. Grimsley is calling for a complete unionization of waterfront workers as the only way to achieve better pay, fair working hours, and compensation for workplace accidents. Many dockers interviewed expressed sympathy for the captain's goals, but also believe they would face reprisals from employers, harbor authorities, and ship owners alike {cont. pg. 4}.

TREMORS TOPPLE TEACUPS

Flint had no history of earthquakes, so the small tremors felt this last year has restaurateurs grousing and researchers baffled. In case you slept through it, the city was shaken by a minor earthquake on 28th of Olarune, and while no real damage was done, many fine plates and cups have been chipped by the seconds-long shakeup. It has been the strongest and longest tremor in the past year.

Arcanoscientists from Pardwight University theorize the industrial pollution saturating Parity Lake may be catalyzing alchemical reactions below Passage, causing the ground to settle. Cloudwood primalists instead decry the city's focus on progress and believe the tremors herald the waking of angry fey titans. Even locally famous flutist of the band Mead and Wine, Oxtan Haldaran, claims the tremors are caused by the slow awakening of Granny Allswell.

When reached for comment, a representative of the Orien subrail construction teams claimed innocence—and from what little construction has been done, this author believes them. When reached for comment, the staff of Mayor Macbannin of the Nettles have denied any connection between the quake and the curse of Cauldron Hill. The mayor's office urges residents to trust the experts {see PARDWIGHT PANDERING, PHILANDERING, & FRAUD, pg. 13}.

ICE INCOMING

Climate researchers at Pardwight University warn that extra soot and smoke in the air from the industrial economy will block sunlight, cooling Eberon and causing horrible winters. A spokesman for Eschatologists of Passage United sent a thank you letter to the department, encouraging them to keep spreading evidence of the world's imminent demise. {see ESCHATOLOGIST ECSTATIC, ESCAPADES pg 13}

THE WEEK IN NEWS

MURDER. Ragman claims four in two weeks. Passage guardsmen investigate. Veteran claims same wound pattern seen in the last war {more on pg. 3}.

MAYHEM. String of Parity Lake factory fires continues. Over 40 dead. Arson presumed. Fey terrorist Gale to blame? {more on pg. 4}

MUSIC. Renowned House Phiarlan composer Randall Pell to conduct Navras Opera House. Open auditions lead to run on "respectable" attire for amateur Dockers {more on pg 5}.

MARRIAGE. Guy Goodson to wed Thranish noblewoman Chantalyr ir'Imaradi in private ceremony soon {see WEDDING WARDROBES OF THE WEALTHY, pg 12}.

MISFORTUNE. Noted skyseer, Nevard Sechim, ironically taken with unforeseen illness. Dying man wishes to live out days at sacred henge {more on pg. 5, see also PROPHETIC POWERS PALE, pg. 8}

MONSTERS. Citizens warned to avoid bayous around Pine Island Batallion Military University. Staff using exotic Eldeen Reaches and Droamish imports to train students in beast tracking and monster slaying {more on pg. 10}.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Archeologists unearth High Bayou step pyramid—University of Wynarn Professor Lisa Haldaran claims link to Gatekeepers {pg. 5}.

Passage wins bid for Kaybeau Arms and Technology Expo—Central District prepares to host this year {pg. 8}.

More subrail construction woes—Lanternwood delayed while lavish Kaybeau station nearly complete. Outside influences at play? {pg. 10}.

Three years past the Thronehold Treaty and privateers still lurk and pillage in Lake Galifar—Eldeen Reaches held responsible by Aundair {pg. 6}.

Rock Rackus prepares for new adventure—infamous explorer and musician makes outlandish claims, is accused of blasphemy {pg. 5}.

Nephew of Brelish Speaker Han Jierre, Nathan, publishes planar energy thesis to great acclaim {pg. 10}.

Interview with Olivert Boone, famous Brelish trickshot {pg. 12}.

Vlendarn Heid, founder of the eschatologist movement, to embark on yearlong tour with definite end {pg. 10}.

Aundairian dragonshard smuggling on the rise—missed tariffs add up {pg. 4}.

House Orien diplomacy successful—opportunity to rebuild White Arc Bridge {pg. 11}.

Civil unrest in Starilaskur between royalists and democrats—Brelish civil war possible? {pg. 8}

Adventuring party returns to Prince Oargev from Metrol in the Mourlands—no magic functions in the former Cyran capitol {pg. 9}

Fallen stars above the Icetop Mountains in Karnath more colorful this Therendor {pg 7}