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Introducing RHS's 2016 Rose Festival Princess: Katie Johnston



watching movies, walking in Columbia Park, yoga, and attending every home Timbers game.”

Katie is a big Timbers fan and added that her favorite place to visit is Providence Park before or during a Timbers game with 20,000 excited people. “Just by being there you become best friends with everyone. Strangers hug strangers, everyone cheers and jumps up and down to the same chants, and

you always feel like you belong. You have something in common with every single person in that stadium.”

Katie is an 18-year old Senior at Roosevelt with aspirations of becoming a psychologist. Her activities and honors at Roosevelt include being in the drama club, the Key Club, and as a Student Ambassador through People to People International. She is also a member of the National Society for high school scholars and has studied advanced math at the University of Portland.

Katie has many interests, which she said includes: “Reading, journaling, attending church and youth group, playing flute, going to brunch with my mother,

Governor Brown, Speaker Kotek visit St. Johns

Oregon Governor Kate Brown chose James John Elementary School as the location for her recent signing of an historic piece of legislation. On Friday, March 11, the Governor met with students and signed a bill that made Oregon the first state in the nation to completely eliminate coal power. The Governor selected James John because of the school's use of solar panels to generate electricity and teach students about renewable energy.

After the bill signing, Governor Brown and House Speaker Tina Kotek took a walking tour through St. Johns, stopping at some locally owned small businesses, like the Childrens' Relief Nursery, Zimmers Dog Grooming and Blue Moon Camera and Machine.



Above: Governor Kate Brown and House Speaker Tina Kotek visit with Jim Hair and Zeb Andrews at Blue Moon Camera and Machine.



Right: During a walking tour of St. Johns, Governor Kate Brown and House Speaker Tina Kotek stopped to talk to local Street Roots vendor, John.

The Cut: Part I

From the Review Editor:

I've been receiving phone calls and emails from new residents and business owners the past few years asking various questions about particular areas and/or sites in North Portland. While I answer them as best I can, a phone conversation lessens the romanticism of how interesting it actually is. And so I think it's time to retell some stories about our special community, and who better to do that than Jim Speirs. Enjoy.

- Gayla -

From the Author, Jim Speirs:

A number of years ago, I did a series of articles in The Review on the North Portland "Cut." The reason for the effort was to introduce and identify the odd gash that runs through St. Johns and document some of the strange history behind the ugly eyesore that has become an identifying landmark.

For generations, the Cut has become a reference point for many North Portland residents. Often, a person will give directions by saying "it's about a mile west of the Cut," or "when you get to the Cut, take a left." Many people who

Your St. Johns History By Jim Speirs



live in the area actually believe the neighborhood of St. Johns begins at the Cut. Additionally, the puzzling tunnel that passes beneath Columbia Park has continually got people's attention, yet few individuals can make the connection between the Cut and the tunnel.

Recent inquiries to the Review have made it obvious that many new citizens and businesses to our community are asking questions about such an iconic spot and few of them have gotten satisfactory answers. North Portland has a unique and colorful past; one that stands alone in the history and development of greater Portland. The Cut is but one of the seminal

events that make up our neighborhood. The history behind the Cut is one of deep intrigue, with political power brokers, railroad tycoons, criminals, gunfights and bribery, all part of the rich and unusual tale that the "Cut" blends into a story and helps to define St. Johns.

As the Review has carried the torch of history and development of St. Johns for over a century, it's a privilege to allow this newspaper to once again introduce you to the "Cut," that remarkable piece of historic tapestry that helps to define who we are and where we came from.

- Jim -

Creation of a Railroad Cut also created a division in the community

The "Cut!" What a name! It almost conjures up an evil or damaging image and sounds like a gash that needs to be stitched shut. Yet The Cut is recognized for its geographical significance to North Portland and St. Johns because it has become a definitive landmark.

When The Cut was created, a

psychological separation was also created between residents who lived to the west of it to those who lived to the east; it formed a physical division to our community.

People who were not born when the dig was completed, (and that's nearly all of us,) use the term "Cut" with regularity, and new people moving to the area pick up the name quickly saying things like: *it's about half mile west of the Cut.*

But, as we drive over the Cut and peer down at the trains that rumble along the tracks, how many of us ever stop to wonder where this opening came from, and what series of events brought about a railroad being placed in our backyard? The story is steeped in political intrigue, innuendo, big money, mystery, bribes, division, and eventual evisceration of St. Johns.

All the players in the century-old action have passed from the scene, and we are left to reconstruct bits and pieces of a bygone era. Still, as history is a precursor to the future, and the Cut remains a permanent fixture of our lives, it's a good idea

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