

# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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## The High Bridge Project

The following was presented to the County Commissioners last week:

Portland, Oregon, Sept. 25, '22. Commissioners of Multnomah County—Sirs: As per request of your honorable body, we are citing a few reasons which will convince you beyond any reasonable doubt as to the necessity of placing the St. Johns Bridge project on the ballot.

Our first reason is the fact that a bridge at St. Johns will eliminate to a very great extent the traffic problems that now exist. It will be the direct line of traffic from the entire east side of Portland to the coast. It will be a direct connection of roads leading from all points east of Portland, and a direct connection of the Upper and Lower Columbia River Highways, the greatest and most beautiful drive in the United States. This wonderful scenic drive is the greatest advertisement that Multnomah county has, thereby drawing tourists and people from other states and countries to Multnomah county. At the present time the thousands of tourists that are coming to Portland over the Upper Columbia Highway and on the entire east side of Portland must either cross through the congested district or cross on an inadequate ferry.

Statistics show that the traffic on the Linton Road or Lower Columbia Highway, as it is also known, is surpassed in number by only one other road west of the Mississippi River. The St. Johns bridge will undoubtedly care for at least one-half of the traffic, as it is more on a direct line of travel to the coast than any route established at the present time. It will relieve the congestion a great deal for another reason that every manufacturing industry on the west side in the northern part of Portland will be able to send their trucks across the St. Johns bridge instead of sending them over a bridge that leads to the congested district. The elimination of time lost by these manufacturing concerns in making deliveries to the east side is an item which should not be overlooked. The bridge will connect the manufacturing districts of

both sides of the river. It will connect the retail center on a more direct line with our Municipal Terminals, Nos. 3 and 4, where a great many foreign ships dock to load and unload freight. It will connect on a direct line all travel from Vancouver and the state of Washington with the industries of the west side thereby eliminating a considerable portion of the downtown congestion.

The high bridge at St. Johns will eradicate all the dangers that now exist on the inadequate ferry system, which was in vogue years ago, and which is an obsolete method of crossing the Willamette or any other river. Just a few of the accidents and near accidents that have occurred in the past few months are as follows:

The drowning of three young children in the latter part of last July, the death of A. M. Garrett on July 3rd, 1922, on the approach to the ferry, also the death of Mr. Campbell on the approach to the ferry. The loss of horses and wagons due to the conditions that exist at the present time. These people, who were killed and drowned were the sons of some loving father and mother. Let us hope that you will not take upon yourselves the blame for any accidents which may happen in the future at this place. You cannot be blamed if you place this bridge project on the ballot. You are responsible for the public safety and you alone have the means whereby you can place the responsibility upon the public.

It is your duty to protect the life and property of the people of Multnomah county, and the people at large. A few days ago a touring car was on the approach to the ferry on the west side of the river, and the mechanism of the auto refused to function. The alarm bell was ringing designating the approach of a train. The driver was dazed; he did not know what to do, and another fatality was averted by the fraction of a second, due to the presence of mind of some pedestrians who pushed the car out of harm's way by a very few inches.

The approach to the ferry on the West side is so dangerous in the winter time when covered

with frost or ice that traffic by ferry is reduced to a minimum, as no one will cross the river by ferry unless absolutely compelled to do so. In order to make a delivery of a load of oil, lumber or briquets from west side industrial plants to St. Johns or to any part of North Portland or Vancouver, it is necessary to travel from 10 to 15 miles further because these companies are unwilling to take the risk of the dangerous approach to the ferry. A bridge at the proposed point will eliminate this traffic from the congestion that now exists in the downtown district.

A bridge at St. Johns will eliminate all the dangers that now exist on the west side approach to the ferry. It will give 24 hours' service or one-third more service than the inadequate, dangerous and obsolete ferry system is giving. The cost of maintenance of the ferry would pay the interest on the amount of money used in the construction of a bridge. It will relieve the congestion of the downtown district of at least a sixth of the traffic. It will bring the industrial portions of Portland closer to each other. It is the means of connecting the retail district with the lower harbor which the people have already shown by ballot as the proper terminal for loading and unloading ships.

It will connect by the shortest and most reasonable route our water, railway and terminals. The reasons for the St. Johns High Bridge are of greater and wider scope than has been advanced by any other bridge project. The comparison of traffic of the northerly two bridges and the southerly two bridges show that

## Y. W. C. A. Notes

Sewing and millinery classes meet Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 o'clock.

Gymnasium class on Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Miss Gloria Collison is the instructor. New clubs for girls have been organized. The weekly schedule will appear next week.

The local committee with Mrs. C. A. Morden as chairman met on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30.

The Bible class meets Wednesday at 3:15. Any one wanting to join this class may do so without expense. Mr. Dunkleberger, a James John High teacher, is the teacher.

There is more traffic on the northerly bridges.

Calls for police and firemen would be answered more promptly. The dangers of the loss of many millions of dollars by fire would be greatly lessened.

You have told the committee that you would place this project on the ballot providing there were no legal obstacles. We do not think you can find any or your District Attorney would have already pointed them out to you. We believe that the St. Johns High Bridge is an meritorious as any of the other proposed bridge projects in regard to any and all conditions. Therefore we petition your honorable body to place the St. Johns High Bridge project on the ballot, and let the voters of Multnomah County make the decision as to whether there shall be a high bridge at St. Johns or not.—Respectfully, The St. Johns High Bridge Club Committee.

NEKTES—ROGERS.

## Rally Day Sunday

Sunday will be Rally Day at the Community church. A good program has been prepared by the Sunday school. The school will meet at 10 o'clock. After the opening exercises the classes assemble, after which the program will begin. There will be no regular church service. The pastor will give a short talk at the close of the program. Donald Green will lead Endeavor. The pastor's theme for the evening service will be, "Does God Favor War?" This will be dealt with in the light of history and present world conditions. The Young People's Chorus, which sings at every evening service, is receiving much favorable comment. The church roof was repaired last week in an effort to persuade the rain to stay outside. The men of the church are preparing to organize a Brotherhood. The Christian Endeavor Society, under the leadership of Ella Ackerman, is taking on new life. The Oregon Congregational Conference will meet at Corvallis next week. The St. Johns church will be represented. Next Sunday will be Rally Day for the church. Every church member is urged to be present. The pastor will speak in the morning on "The Ideal Church." The evening service will be in charge of laymen who will talk on "Things I Would Like to See Done in Our Church This Winter." Christianity has the solution for the world's ills, but it needs men and women to apply it. Can God depend upon you?—Reported.

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## Boy Scout Meeting

A Boy Scout is a manly, self-reliant chap. His motto is "Be Prepared," and the splendid reputation which he has for rendering assistance to others whenever the opportunity arises proves the value of the training which he receives. A special meeting of Troop 51, Boy Scouts, will be held in the Williams school at 7:30 p. m. on Thursday Oct. 12th, for the purpose of receiving applications of any boys who wish to join the troop. Plans will also be made for indoor and outdoor activities during the coming season. Hiking, swimming, signaling, first aid, knot tying and tracking are some of the most interesting features of scouting. During the past summer the boys of this troop have made hikes to the top of Larch Mountain, Beacon Rock and Rocky Butte. All boys between the ages of 12 and 18 years are invited to this meeting. Bring your parents, too, if you can. Don't forget the time and the place—Thursday, Oct. 12th, Williams school.—Reported.

The Williams Parent Teachers' Association will meet at school Monday, Oct. 9th, at 3:15 p. m. Parents are cordially invited to attend this meeting. The P. T. A. is an organization which enables the parents and teachers to cooperate for the betterment of the school life in the community. The teachers support these meetings. Parents, do your bit.—Rep.

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## MULTNOMAH THEATRE

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 5-6—**Little Jackie Coogan in "TROUBLE"**—First National. A story depicting the joys and trials of a typical boy, as only this popular little star can do it. Also "Timber Queen" No. 2.

Saturday, October 7—**ANITA STEWART in "INVISIBLE FEAR"**—First National.

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Men's Wool Shirts or Drawers.....1.85  
Men's Work Pants.....\$1.95, 2.50

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