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Albina: The Dream And The Reality

In the 1880's William Killingsworth foresaw a great city at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. He felt the development of the existing city of Portland on the west side of the Willamette was restricted by the surrounding West Hills. All factors pointed to development on the peninsula where the rivers joined -- the railroads terminate in St. Johns, bridges over the Willamette would bring business, wharfs would line the east bank of the Willamette, and a bridge across the Columbia River would bring trade from the North and the East.

"As positive evidence that the Greater Portland will be built upon the Peninsula, I call your attention to the fact that the numerous bridges which fret the channel of the Willamette are steadily driving heavy business towards the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Transcontinental and foreign maritime commerce and great manufacturing industries must of necessity center and are now being established upon the lower Peninsula."

William Killingsworth arrived in Portland in 1853 at the age of three. He saw Portland grow from a small town and the East side from a forest of trees into a busy commercial district. His family lived in Eugene when there was only one house there. In 1889, at the age of 30, after making about \$3,000 in business in Eugene he returned to Portland. After surveying the situation he decided the best fortune was to be made in the development of the peninsula between the rivers. He bought rough land in what is now Central Albina, north of Fremont Street. He was fortunate to enlist the aid of Portland capitalists and his operation was to buy land and sell it.

The land was cleared with pick axes, shovels and saws, and powder was too expensive. The land was divided into lots and subdivisions laid out. Mr. Killingsworth became identified with the residential section and one of his plans was to build alleys in the center of the blocks, where sewers and pipes could be laid. He built his residence on Alberta and Vancouver, on a tract of 10 acres, in 1888.

He helped organize the Portland Board of Trade in 1890 to encourage industry. One of the works of the organization was to plan the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905. He was elected to the legislature in 1905, where one of his chief projects was to have the Willamette River channel deepened.

Albina
The town of Albina was laid out and incorporated in 1887. Albina became a town of millworkers, river and railroad men. Edwin Russell, manager of the Bank of British Columbia; W.W. Page, an invest-



The Manhattan of Oregon

William Killingsworth compared his dream of a great city located on the peninsula between the Columbia and the Willamette rivers to New York City.

Above is his illustration superimposed on the map of New York City, with Portland relegated to the secondary position of Brooklyn.

ment; and Judge George Williams, U.S. Senator and later Mayor of Portland, plotted the city. It was named for Page's daughter, Albina.
In 1888, Killingsworth wrote of Albina, "A place for investment of capital, in real estate, or in manufacturing and other enterprises, Albina presents today the most absolute assurance of the largest increase on such investments in Oregon. It is beautifully situated on the river opposite the north end of Portland and down the river from the central portion of Portland. The bridges already built, under construction and contemplated are fast driving the heavy business of the city and nearly all of the shipping further and further downstream. Soon all of it will be carried on below the steel railway and passenger bridge now almost completed. Albina will get the benefit of this move, and even now she has the largest docks and warehouses in Oregon."

The First Addition to Albina was called West Piedmont. The first 160 acres were dedicated in 1889, under the auspices of George H. Williams, W.S. Ladd and E. Quackenbush. The first property was sold to

Mark Jarrett in 1904.
Walnut Park

In 1905, development moved to Walnut Park. "Walnut Park is an equal distance from the two great business sections of the city; with excellent electric car service between the two points. Wide streets and broad boulevards transverse this superb tract and the entire Peninsula. Our religious and educational advantages are unsurpassed. Columbia University, one of the finest and best equipped institutions of learning in the State, is splendidly situated on the heights below Walnut Park overlooking the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, and has the proud distinction of being located on the ground where Lewis and Clark camped one hundred years ago. A half-score of up-to-date graded schools are dispersed

The dream moved closer to reality as development moved north. Killingsworth's sales pitch of 1908 was worded, "Do you realize that the Great Swift Packing Company, the largest concern of its kind in the world, has now underway the building near St. Johns of one of the biggest packing plants in the country, one that will cost \$3,000,000 and that will employ several thousand men and form the nucleus of a city of 20,000 people?"

"Do you realize what this means to the entire Lower Peninsula district? It means a solidly-built up city of 50,000 people within the next few years."

"It means that real estate values will multiply many times over, and that fortunes will be made by those who have the foresight to secure a little real estate in this section. We offer for sale some

THE REALITY

This was Mr. Killingsworth's dream, a dream that he might have realized had he been allowed to dream in peace. However, his dream world was invaded by the as yet unwanted blacks.

Blacks had come to Oregon with the Spanish Explorers, with the Lewis and Clark Expedition and with the first wagon trains. Although their very existence in Oregon was illegal, they came -- both bond and free.

The small black community of Portland was centered in the Northwest, between Burnside and Glisan, Broadway and the river. Blacks were employed as waiters, train porters and street cleaners. All boats to San Francisco had black cooks and stewards; the trains had cooks and waiters. As the area became industrialized in the early 1900's, blacks moved across the Willamette to Albina.

Albina was a workingman's town, occupied by Germans and other whites of European extraction who worked on the docks and railroad terminals.

As blacks moved in, whites moved north.

In the 1920's and 1930's Portland's black community was small and conservative, being built around the churches and fraternities. There were ten lodges including the Masons, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Elks and Knights of Pythias. Other organizations included the NAACP, the Progressive Club, the Negro Bureau of Economics and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The First AME Zion Church was established in 1874, the Peoples AME Church in 1894, Bethel AME in 1893, and Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in 1907. St. Philips Episcopal Church became a black mission in 1912. The black area of Albina in 1930 extended from Oregon to Russell and from Williams to Union Avenue. In 1890 the black population of Portland was 1,186 and by 1930 had grown to 1,559.

In 1941, with the advent of the war, blacks moved into Portland in greater numbers to work in war industry. They were crowded into the 25 block area that had become black Albina, and were not allowed to buy or rent elsewhere in the city. The statement of Portland's Mayor Riley was typical

(Continued on p.6 col. 3)

Black Judges on the move

Judge Aaron Brown, Jr. was recently appointed to the District Court of the State of Oregon. His move from the Municipal Court of Portland was the result of consolidation of the city and county courts. Judge Brown was born in Bell, Louisiana and moved to Texas at the age of four. He worked himself through Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee by working as a porter on the railroad and doing odd jobs.



Judge Brown

He received his law degree from Northwestern College of Law in Portland. He was first employed in Portland as a social worker for the Oregon State Welfare Commission. After nine years of private practice, Judge Brown was appointed to the municipal court in 1968.

The Honorable Mercedes F. Deiz, District Court Judge, announces her candidacy for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court in the Department of Domestic Relations for the Fourth Judicial District. Judge Deiz will seek the new judicial position of

Eliminate PDC says Goldschmidt

On Wednesday, December 22, City Commissioner Neil Goldschmidt circulated to the City Council a proposal for creation of a new City-County Department of Community Development, with responsibility for all planning, building code enforcement, and urban renewal activities of the City and County Governments.

The proposed Department would assume the functions of the Portland Bureau of Buildings, the Portland Development Commission, and the staffs of the Portland City Planning Commission and Multnomah County Planning Commission. Termination of the Development Commission's independent status would require amendment of the Portland City Charter by a popular vote.

Goldschmidt pointed out that "these agencies now spend a combined total of more than \$13 million per year on activities that are closely related, but relationships among them are unsatisfactory and coordination is very poor." He said that the new department would improve the decision-making ability of the governing bodies, and increase their accountability.

Goldschmidt stated that his proposal would be "a valuable step toward City-County consolidation and regional planning." It was made at this time in order to get discussion going, and because of its implications for the process of setting community development goals, particularly if the federal government moves toward some type of revenue sharing.



Judge Deiz

Department No. 18 recently approved by the Oregon Legislature.

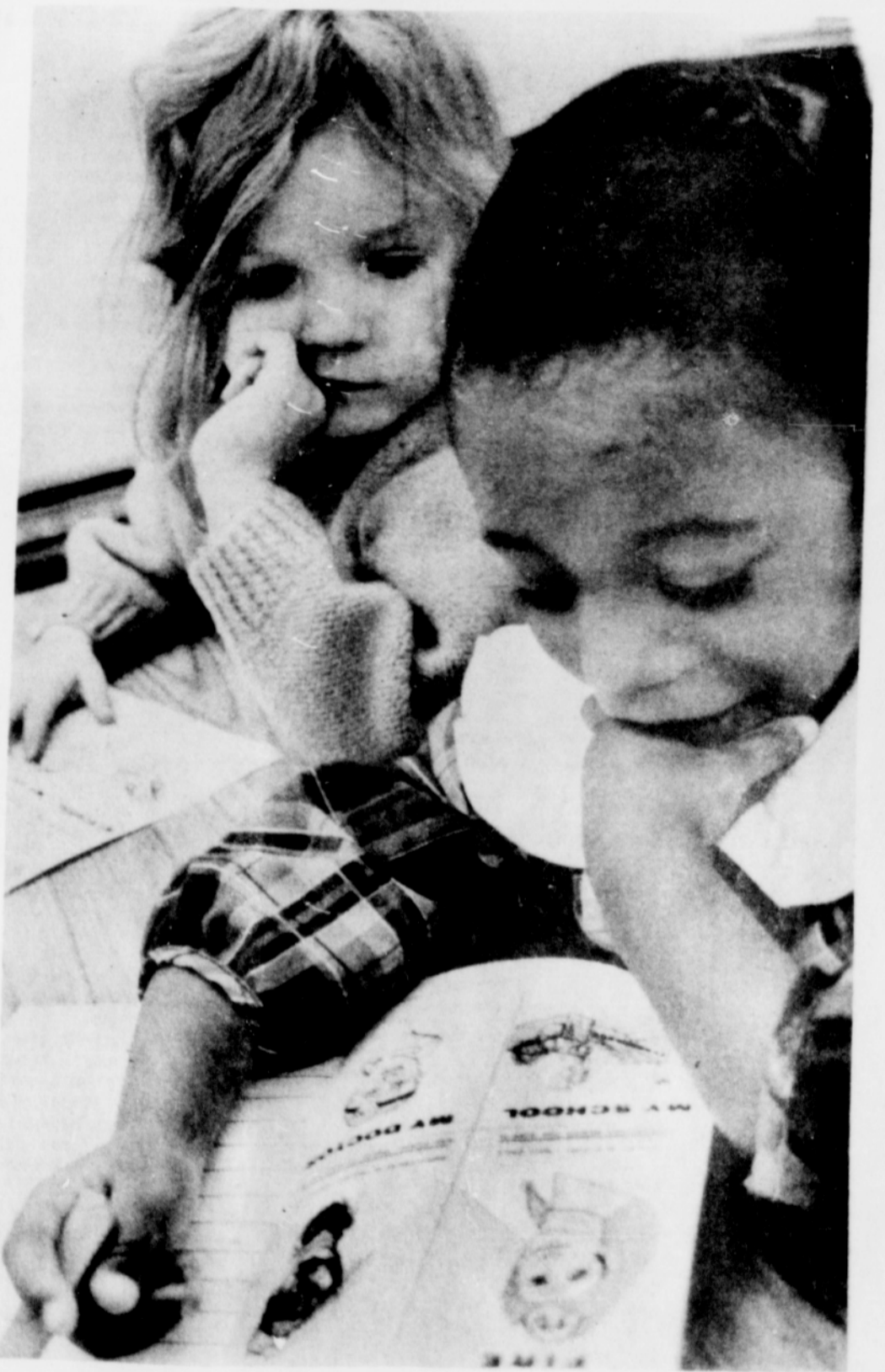
In addition to several years experience as a lawyer specializing in family and juvenile matters, Judge Deiz served as Pro Tem Circuit Court Judge in Marion County's court of Domestic Relations during the summer of 1971.

Mrs. Deiz went to public schools and Hunter College in her native New York City. While employed as a legal secretary, she earned her law degree at Northwestern College of Law in Portland. She has been active in innumerable community affairs. In the state bar, she has been secretary and then chairman of the Minor Courts Committee; a lecturer for Family Law Seminar; and in legal service to the 1967 Legislature.

In Portland, she was secretary-treasurer of the Multnomah Bar Association and

(continued p. 3 col. 2)

Fun Phone Book



Headstart pupils make phone book

FUN PHONE BOOK - Deborah Haley, left, and Daelyn Levi, preschoolers at Head Start Unit No. 7, Portland, recently helped complete a classroom telephone directory which even included pictures to color. The directories were provided by Pacific Northwest Bell under a company-wide program which helps student bodies of all levels prepare their own school telephone directories. Kathleen Gjovik, PNB special assistant in charge of the program, says the directories are to help stem the increasing use of Directory Assistance which is costing PNB \$2 million a year. As many as 80 percent of the calls serviced by Directory Assistance, she says, are already listed in the phone book.



Killingsworth published his cartoon in the Peninsula News Herald in 1882 showing "North Albina" taking precedence over Portland.

throughout the district, also choice lots in East St. Johns right in the heart of this section at \$350 and upwards."

Next week
Who owns Albina?

Myers holds seminars

Clay Myers, Secretary of State, announced that he will



CLAY MYERS

hold three seminars at various locations throughout the State during the first half of January. The purpose of these seminars is to acquaint candidates for public and party offices, political committees political parties, the news me-

dia and the general public with the changes in Oregon's Election Laws as they relate to an individual's candidacy or political activity generated in this election year.

Of particular interest are the provisions of Senate Bill 20, which revised ORS Chapter 260, dealing with campaign finance regulations and election offenses.

Myers stressed the need for those involved in any campaign activity to understand the new laws on contribution and expenditure reporting.

The seminars will be held at the following locations:
January 7th - Bend, Oregon 1:30 p.m. County Courthouse
January 10th - Portland, Oregon 2:00 p.m. Commissioners Room County Courthouse
These meetings will all be open to the general public.

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