

Kafoury Forms Group To Save, Move Historic Benson House to PSU Campus

Portland city commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury has announced the formation of a new nonprofit group that will raise funds to save and renovate the historic Simon Benson House.

Kafoury said the working group, the Friends of Simon Benson House, is launching a major fundraising campaign to raise up to \$1 million to help renovate the 98 year old home, which will move to the Portland State University campus by this fall and eventually become the new home for the PSU Office of Alumni Relations and PSU Alumni Association.

Twenty-five civic and corporate leaders will serve on the board of the Friends. Board members include Chet Orloff, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society; Bing Sheldon, SERA Architects PC and Jim Kelly, owner of Rejuvenation House Parts Co.

The Simon Benson House, on the corner of SW 11th Avenue and SW Clay Street, was built by one of Portland's most prominent early citizens, pioneer lumberman Simon Benson. Benson built the Queen Anne style house

in 1900, and he and his family lived in it until 1912. Benson amassed a fortune from his timber operations in the region, and later used his wealth to build the Benson Hotel in 1912 and help construct the Columbia Gorge Highway in 1915.

He's also known for his donation of \$10,000 to the City of Portland for 20 bronze drinking fountains, installed on downtown street corners. Benson also donated land for what is now Benson State Park in the Columbia Gorge, and gave \$100,000 to the City of Portland to build Benson High School in northeast Portland.

The house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, served a variety of uses after the Benson family moved out, and was closed in 1991 after falling into disrepair.

Plans call for the house to be moved several blocks to its new location on the southwest corner of SW Park Avenue and SW Montgomery Street, on the PSU campus.

Persons wishing to join Friends of Simon Benson House may call Mary Carroll of Commissioner Kafoury's office, at 503-823-3026.



The Simon Benson House, a downtown Portland historic landmark that was built in 1900, has been closed for several years but will get new life after it's moved to the Portland State University campus by this fall. It is expected to reopen eventually as a new home for the PSU Alumni Association and PSU Office of Alumni Relations. (PSU photo by Brian White)

Student Editorials

Last quarter we've been working and calling programs. We had to make ten questions and we had a list of numbers we had to pick one or two of them. then if we get a response we ask the questions and write down the answers. We can ask the question or ask for programs or booklets about the program. What else we did in class is learned about maps and we looked at north Portland and other parts of Oregon. We learned about lots of other places we didn't know about and we learned that Jantzen Beach was the only mall in North Portland. Then we had a test to see if we understand a map and we did ok. Then we took another test and we worked together on it like a group test. What else we've been doing was journal topics everyday to express our minds. We've did free topics or the topic of our own. We've had our p.a.l.t. testing in class. In class we had to do practice test to get ready for the Palt. The reason were taking palts cause they want to see how were taking palts cause they want to see how were doing academically so we can work on our poor subject.

By Chris Collins-Portsmouth 7th grader

Class Neighborhood Project

Over the past few weeks my class from Portsmouth Middle School has been focusing on personal dream neighborhoods. What I meant to say is we've all been working on maps of what we would add to North Portland to make it a fun and safe place for kids my age to live in. A few things I noticed was students wanting a theme park or an amusement park added more than another swimming pool or fast food restaurant such as Taco Bell. With this said and written I've got to tell you I totally agree with this decision from my classmates. Kids my age need a place to have fun with friends when there is nothing to do around the house. If there is no where to go to have a good time they just might look for a good time in the wrong places such as with teen gang members or a cool group from school who use drugs.

Another big request from my classmates was a Boys and Girls Club. The reason I think a Boys and Girls Club should be added to North Portland is because kids who don't have money or a lot of time to join basketball, soccer, and volleyball teams could come and play at the club with other kids who like themselves want to have fun. If North Portland had these requests fulfilled it would make this community much better by having a few places for kids of all ages to go hang out and stay out of trouble. After two weeks of learning about our environments in North Portland my class has conquered the big picture of sharing ideas, working together and most important of all learning how we can help North Portland stand out in a luminous way.

Written by a 7th grader from Portsmouth Middle in North Portland Named Johanna King

Is Portland's Water Supply In Trouble? II

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Last week I cited a relevant experience as a technician monitoring water quality instruments at an aluminum plant a self-contained city. A term indicating that the plant maintained its own utilities including power and water supply. This operation was at The Dalles, Oregon in the 1960's.

A life long interest in science and sponsorship of a kid's science club had led me to switch jobs from the accounting department to electronics (after training). The monitoring process for quality control emphasized the same standards as overseen by the city of Portland's "Water Quality Advisory Committee" during my tenure in the early 1990's.

Adequate and effective monitoring includes tests for "the percentage of dissolved solids in the stream-dissolved materials in rain water-bacterial count-low turbidity (the water looks clean and clear)-chlorination and/or other chemical treatment." This is a partial listing.

When it comes to Portland's vaunted "pure water" supply, we find that the principal concerns

of the public and governmental agencies alike fall into several well defined areas. Certainly, maintaining the integrity of the Bull Run Watershed is at the top of everyone's list. Last week I cited my extended relationship with the U.S. Forest Service since this powerful federal agency controls the forest location of Bull Run Reservoir.

The critical nature of this 'stewardship' is readily understood when we consider that the Forest Service controls all activity in this Mt. Hood National Forest. Management standards and guidelines cover logging, recreation, wildlife, hunting and fishing, scenic rivers and, of course, watersheds like Portland's. No fishing, hiking or boating allowed in the reservoir itself.

It is not surprising, therefore, that there should be frequent disagreements between the U.S. Forest Service with its far ranging authority and the City of Portland's Water Bureau with its clear mandate to ensure the high quality of the metropolitan water supply. Many of these disputes were heard (not resolved) by our Water Quality Advisory Commit-

tee. Our charge was to listen, question, evaluate the adversary positions-then, pass on our opinions and findings to the Water Bureau, proper.

A second major concern is the region wide fear that the Willamette river is no longer anything like the "clean water miracle" that won former Governor Tom McCall critical national acclaim for his environmental leadership. Today, the suggestions that the Willamette be used as a primary source of drinking water raises fear and apprehension in many minds.

They feel that the pressures of an escalating population should not push the city (or the region) into the hasty adoption of very expensive and possibly unsafe ventures into sophisticated water treatment plants for this heavily polluted river, especially without a consensus among interested parties.

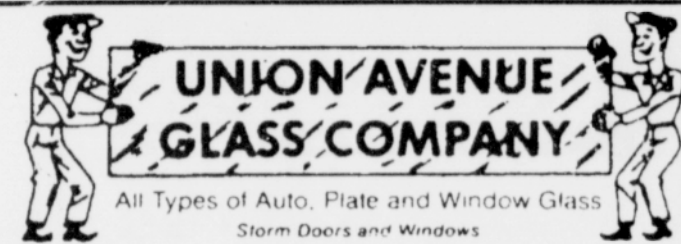
Most of us are periodically disturbed by graphic media accounts of the ugly things that happen to this stream when there are heavy rains. Unlike the sewer system, storm drains don't feed into water treatment plants, but into the nearest bodies of water. "People put just about everything in the water," says the Department of

Environmental Quality's Public Water Division.

Urban runoff from people's yards, such as pesticides and fertilizers (and pet wastes) gets into the drinking water system by entering storm drains or going directly into streams. People routinely dump oil and antifreeze into storm drains, believing that it goes into the sewer system, which it doesn't. The 'Regional Coalition for Clean Rivers and Streams' advises citizens to contact 'Metro' for information on disposal of paints and solvents.

These facts, of course, bring us to the perennial question; "Just when is the City of Portland going to provide the metropolitan area with that long promised comprehensive project to completely separate the sewer treatment system from the storm drain system?" We are certain that the longer the project is put off, the more expensive it will become. With the rapid change in the area's demographics, should this vast capital expenditure have come ahead of light rail?

Next week we will talk about the city's water supply from wells and about some of the lead organizations involved in the "clean water" controversy.



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Dating in the Hood: Domestic Violence-1997 Silver Medal-Summit Creative Award

1997 Bronze Apple-National Educational Media Network Film and Video Competition. Clients: Portland's House of Umoja, City of Portland Operation Refocus, Multnomah County Violence Prevention Program, Department of Community and Family Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Clocking Dollars: How to Keep a Job 1997 Best of the Northwest

Client: Albina Youth Opportunity School, and Gift Family Services
We're a Winner!

Antar Brame To Participate In The Les Schwab Oregon Bowl



Antar Brame of Madison high school has been selected to participate in the Les Schwab Oregon Bowl that has replaced the Shrine Game. The game will be played at Civic Stadium on June 27th, and features the top 4A high school football players selected by the Oregon High School Coaches Association. The event is sponsored by Promax Event Management Team. Antar will be playing for the North squad coached by Beaverton high school head coach Fausten Riley and his staff of Portland/Metro area coaches. During the 1997 football season Antar was a first team Portland Interscholastic League selection on offense as an all-purpose performer, and he was also a first team selection as a defensive back. He has also been selected to

participate in the Adidas Double Pump, Inc. West Coast All-Star Basketball Camp for high school seniors and junior college men at Cal State

Dominguez Hills this summer. The camp is one of the top All-star events in the West for high school and junior college prospects.

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