

DEEDS MOVE ON

Approval of East Couch Plan Sought by Committee.

"Y" TO BRIDGE IS IDEA

Association Will Be Formed to Get Behind Project—South East Side Starts Petition to Widen Powell Street to 60 Feet.

Among the several important movements started on the East Side last week is that to make East Couch 80 feet wide from East First to East Fourteenth streets, connect East Couch with Sandy boulevard, cut down the present grade at East Eleventh and connect the street with the Burnside bridge with a "Y" angle on an elevated roadway.

In order to give the property owners who have started this movement opportunity to show what they can do, the improvement of East Couch has been held up. The contract for paving that street is all ready for final sanction.

A committee of property owners, J. R. Widger, W. R. Stokes, R. L. Zeller, F. M. Stokes and some others, are now interviewing owners of property on East Couch in the hope of getting their consent to the widening. It is urged that to widen East Couch and develop a moderate grade at the present steep point at East Eleventh street and connect it with Sandy boulevard would make an ideal street for this growing section. The committee having the matter in charge is receiving encouragement. Many of the property owners, however, are hard to reach.

"We believe that this widening can be done," said the committee in an address to the property owners. "The property owners are willing and will put their shoulders to the wheel. Of course it will cost some money, as all good things do, but compared to the amount of benefits the expense will be very small. The few buildings on the street that amount to anything can be erected, which will lessen the expense. The time to do this is now if ever, before more buildings are erected and before hard surface is put down. The City Commissioners have been asked to delay letting the contract for hard surfacing for a short time, in order to give time to get an expression from all owners affected."

Property Owners to Study Situation.

"Nine-tenths of the traffic over Burnside bridge comes from and goes to points north of East Burnside street. This plan would give Burnside bridge a double approach and East Couch street, being on the north, would naturally get far the greater portion of the travel. When the Burnside bridge is rebuilt, which must be done before many years, it may be placed in a straight line with West Burnside street. That will bring the east end of it in the center of the block between East Burnside and East Couch and both streets can then meet it in a 'Y' connection."

An East Couch-street property owners' association will be formed to take up the widening as soon as enough of the property owners have responded. It is believed that a wide street is needed to connect the Burnside bridge with Sandy boulevard, which is 80 feet wide and which is paved to the city limits. It is planned to make Sandy boulevard 80 feet wide from East Sixteenth to East Twenty-eighth streets and the connection with Sandy boulevard will be made by extending East Couch through part of the block between East Couch and East Eleventh streets. It will have an easy grade, shorter route and give a double approach to Burnside bridge.

Move to Widen Powell Street.

In the South East Side a movement has been started to widen Powell between Milwaukie and East Eleventh street from 50 to 60 feet. A petition signed by 50 per cent of the property owners has been submitted to Commissioner Dieck and the South East Portland Boosters' Club passed resolutions endorsing the proposed movement.

Some of the property owners favored paying the street on the present width of 50 feet, but the greater number want it made 60 feet wide to correspond with the width of the rest of the street. Powell street is occupied with double tracks of the Brooklyn carline, which takes the main portion of the street. Powell is the city end of Powell Valley road, which carries a heavy traffic. It is considered highly important that Powell should be widened to take care of this traffic.

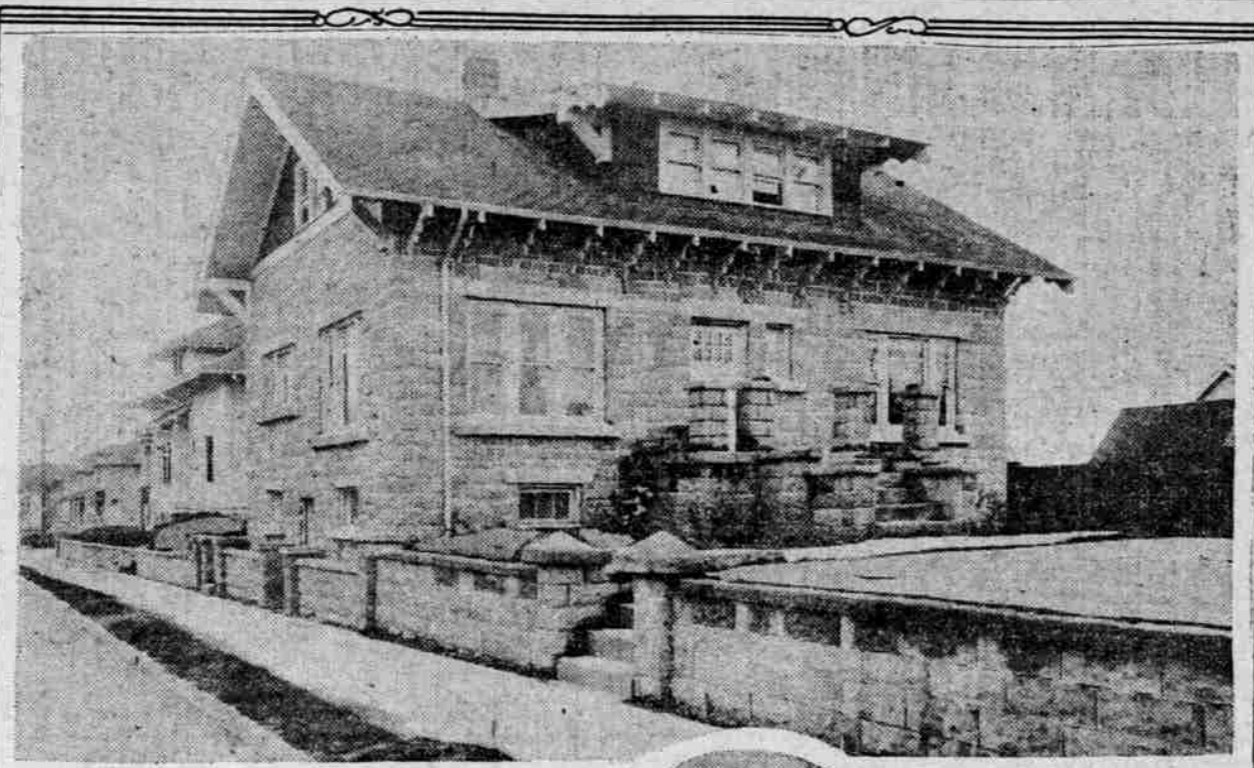
REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Real estate transfers involving negotiations of \$5000 and over have been filed since the first of the month as follows:

Table listing real estate transfers with names, addresses, and amounts. Includes entries for Frank M. Mulkey, A. Lindsey, William H. Ellis, etc.

HANDSOME HOUSE BUILT BY HEAD OF FAMILY WHO OCCUPY IT AS HOME

William R. Bridges Designs Plan, Makes Own Concrete Blocks and Builds Attractive Domicile in Spare Hours. Actual Cost, Exclusive of Own Work, \$1800.



Residence of W. R. Bridges, 221 E. 46th Street.



A View of the Rear Entrance



Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Bridges and Family

SCARCELY any more pertinent exemplification of the fruits of perseverance and industry could be apparent than in the interesting and praiseworthy achievement of William R. Bridges, who lives at 221 East Forty-sixth street. He has faced many obstacles and handicaps and consistently overcome them, and as a result today Mr. Bridges and his family of five children live in a handsome house that stands on the southwest corner of East Forty-sixth and Salmon streets. From all appearances the house is built of natural stone, but such is not the case. It is made of concrete blocks, nearly all of which were made and all of them placed in position by Mr. Bridges during his hours of recreation.

Lack of Training No Bar.

During this time Mr. Bridges was professor on the Oregonian, and was not familiar with even the rudiments of masonry and concrete construction, but this lack of training did not deter him.

He bought a block-making machine and started in to investigate how others worked and went around among the people whom he saw mixing concrete in quest of the necessary information. Disgusted with his efforts in this direction, he obtained a textbook on concrete construction from the Public Library and went ahead, although he admits that there is no royal road to working in concrete; on the contrary, it is pretty strenuous.

Actual Cost \$1800.

The house complete as now finished actually cost Mr. Bridges \$1800, including the cost of the furnace and all material, as well as all labor contracted for. This of course does not include his own labor.

The home looks like a stone-built structure. In the steel casts made from plaster of paris moulds provided by Mr. Bridges, the concrete was moulded in sizes varying from 20x14 inches to 8x3 inches. The building contains eight well-arranged rooms and is of two stories, with full basement. The house is now free from debt, and although Mr. Bridges smilingly confesses that the annual tax levy has not as yet been paid, he gave adequate assurance that it could and would be accounted for speedily enough.

had read interesting stories of the Indians and of pioneer achievement. At 15 he entered a seven-year apprenticeship as printer with the firm of Hazzell, Watson & Viney, one of the largest printing and publishing houses in the world, which operated a branch of its London plant at Yorkbury.

Ambitious to get ahead, the young apprentice commenced the study of Greek, Latin and French under the able guidance of Rev. C. W. Pearson, vicar of the Church of England in his locality, and the knowledge thus gained has proved of inestimable benefit to Mr. Bridges in his profession.

Deciding to come to the United States, Mr. Bridges, with his wife and two children arrived in Portland during the Lewis and Clark Fair, in 1905.

"We were much impressed with Portland from the very start," said Mr. Bridges, "because it so much resembled London, geographically. The Thames runs through London much the same as the Willamette River divides Portland, one being about the distance from the Atlantic as the other is from the Pacific."

"But things didn't pan out as I figured, and for once in my life I became discouraged. Furthermore it gives one something worth while to work for. There's a whole lot of real satisfaction in actually building your own home, especially when one's wife enters into the spirit of the thing. And then there are the children—doing it for them. Yes, it is quite worth while."

A glance at Mr. Bridges' face, showing healthy color, good nature and enthusiasm, lends full support to his contention that his out of door "recreation" has exerted a beneficial effect on his health and that there is plenty of his effort in building his own home has been altogether worth while and his own reward.

In indifferent health at the beginning of his building operations, Mr. Bridges has improved in this respect to a marked degree, which he attributes largely to the healthful, not to say remunerative, exercise obtained in his house-building hobby. Personally he considers his work in no degree extraordinary, admitting that it is square-up to the individual himself whether he makes good in any endeavor he tackles in this great Pacific Coast country of splendid opportunity.

Shortly after his arrival here, Mr. Bridges bought an acre on the Mount Scott carline, on which he built a house. Later he traded this for a dairy ranch at North Beach, Wash., but he found he couldn't run a ranch and read proof at the same time, so he sold the stock on the place and rented the ranch until four years ago, when he sold the entire place. He put this money right back into other property, which has increased considerably in value.

Mr. and Mrs. Bridges have five children: Bernard, aged 11; Clifford, aged 8; Margaret Hope, aged 6; Gracie, aged 4; and Muriel Cornwall, aged 7 weeks. The two boys are now attending the Glencoe School. Gracie's pet name is "Gipsy," in consideration of the fact that she was born in a tent house.

"My wife is deserving of the larger share of the credit due to this house proposition," explained Mr. Bridges. "For she was perfectly willing to live in the tent house and put up with all the inconveniences that that life meant. It was not particularly an ideal life, but it certainly was healthful, not to say interesting, especially when the silver thaw struck us, but we look back upon our experiences now with a good deal of pleasure."

Work Made Recreation. "Many people have remarked at my work on the house and speak of it as a big task, but I do not view it in that light. I associated the idea of recreation with it, and a profitable recreation at that, and got lots of real fun and enjoyment out of my experiences. My duties in the proofroom being necessarily very strenuous and exacting, my work on the house gives me the needed rest and relaxation. It short helps a fellow to keep young and healthy minded."

"I will admit that when I started to lay the blocks I was a little nervous as to whether my efforts would meet with the sanction and approval of the building inspector, and one day after I had got considerable of the work done a man came along who informed me he was the building inspector. I immediately quit a cold shiver run down my back. He remarked, 'Are you doing this by the day or by the contract?' I replied 'By the day or part day.' He said, 'Isn't a man named Bridges building this house?' I replied, 'Yes.' 'He's with The Oregonian, isn't he?' 'Yes,' I said. I then said, 'How does this strike you—everything to your satisfaction?' He replied, 'Everything is O. K., and it's going to look fine.' I felt considerably relieved and invited him to lunch with us, when he remarked, 'I believe you are Bridges himself.' I said, 'You've got it right.' 'But,' said he, 'I thought you were a newspaper man.' I said, 'That's right, too.' At which we had a hearty laugh and are pretty good friends."

LABORS NOT OVERDONE. "I make it a special point not to overdo things, but to work just as I feel disposed. Furthermore it gives one something worth while to work for. There's a whole lot of real satisfaction in actually building your own home, especially when one's wife enters into the spirit of the thing. And then there are the children—doing it for them. Yes, it is quite worth while."

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The Portland Oregonian

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BRISK TRADE EXPECTED

REALTY BROKER PREDICTS ACTIVITY IN LOCAL MARKET.

Improved Conditions Generally and Easier Money Cited as Harbinger of Better Times.

The local real estate market will be featured by a steady gain throughout the present year, culminating in the Spring of 1915 in a movement strikingly like the strong demand observed here and elsewhere on the Coast five years ago, is the belief of H. G. Beckwith, vice-president and general manager of the Fred A. Jacobs Company.

Mr. Beckwith is firmly convinced that the period of rest which has been pronounced during the past year or so is at an end, and that Portland and vicinity may look forward confidently to an immediate and marked improvement in the realty and building world. From a National standpoint, Mr. Beckwith believes that the opening of the Alaska steamship line, the passage by Congress of the Alaska railroad bill, and the settlement of the currency question will prove of tremendous value in bringing about a general revival of business locally, however, he is of the opinion that the announcement of the forthcoming expenditure of \$1,500,000 by the Meier & Frank Company in a big building project was the push necessary to start the ball rolling.

"During the past 60 days Portland real estate has been in better demand than for any period during the pre-

MILL PLANS ARE DRAWN

TWO-STORY BRICK STRUCTURE WILL RISE IN ST. JOHNS.

New Building Will Be Unit of \$750,000 Plant That is to Replace Factory Recently Burned.

Lewis I. Thompson has drawn plans for the erection of a two-story brick building to be used by the Portland Woolen Mills at St. Johns for the housing of its scouring and carbonizing departments. Two weeks ago today, early in the morning, the former scouring plant was burned. By T. A. M. the following day, the wires and motors were installed and the second day following temporary machinery was operating amidst the ruins of the building. Now, a completely new structure will be completed within a month. The new building, which is to be but

Rates Ordered Reduced.

ALBANY, Or., March 14.—(Special.)—Through a provision in the franchise giving the city power to regulate rates, the City Council has ordered the Oregon Power Company to reduce the electric light rate in this city from 11 to 7 cents per kilowatt hour and the minimum meter rate per month from \$1 to 75 cents. This provision had been forwarded for years, but was unparted recently. The queen bee lays 200 eggs a day.