

BUSINESS LOTS SELL FOR FIRST TIME AT \$5000 PER FOOT

Unprecedented Upward Tendency Shown in Value of Downtown Tracts by Important Sales Made During Past Three Weeks—New Buildings Assured.

Rapid Transformation of Business Section—Two Large Buildings to Replace Old Structures Standing on Valuable Sites Purchased by T. B. Wilcox.

The local realty market for the week just closed bears a close resemblance to the exciting weeks of the early days of 1907, when sales in the business district were of daily occurrence and the weekly totals frequently reached the million dollar mark.

Last week's sales, however, are of more importance to Portland than the heavy transactions of two years ago, which were largely speculative, while every large transaction made last week means the erection of one more first-class building in the downtown district.

For the first time in the history of Portland business property was sold at a rate equal to \$5,000 per front foot, while in numerous instances property in the business district is being sold at \$10,000 per front foot.

Portland's horizon has been greatly widened in the past year. People now see the future in a clearer light and discerning men are confident that Portland will have a population of 500,000 by 1920.

Portland property was never so cheap as it is now. In regard to the corner at Seventh and Stark streets recently purchased by me for \$160,000 as a better bargain than the same property would have been three years ago at \$60,000 less.

Another announcement of no less importance to Portland was the positive statement that M. W. Wilcox would at once improve his recently purchased property at Seventh and Stark streets in a way that will keep the value of the site and will reflect no discredit on the splendid class of improvements on the surrounding property.

It came to light during the past week that the board of education had purchased the block bounded by Congress, Third and Fourth streets and Washington street, a block of 100,000 feet of frontage.

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NEAREST BEACH IS NEARNEY CITY

The Nehalem Bay Land company has an important announcement in today's Journal concerning the nearest ocean beach to Portland. Nearney City is the new beach and is a beautiful tract of 164 acres about 1/2 miles nearly due west of Portland and about a mile and a half north of Nehalem Bay park.

When the Lytle road from Hillsboro to Nehalem Bay and Tillamook is completed, Nearney City and Nehalem Bay park will be 20 miles nearer Portland than the Tillamook bay beaches.

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HANDSOME NEW HOME IN HOLLADAY PARK

Mrs. J. P. Colburn is erecting one of the handsomest of the new homes going up in the Holladay Park addition, at the southwest corner of East Sixth and Halsey streets.

The plans were designed by Architect A. H. Fisher, the style of architecture being modern English.

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CORNELIUS SELLS BLOCK ON OAK

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SMASHING RECORD MADE IN WEEK'S REALTY DEALS

Downtown Section Marked by Vast Improvement on Numerous Prominent Business Corners—Old Shacks Replaced by Modern Structures.

- Corners in business section to be immediately improved:
- Southeast corner Washington and Sixth—10-story office structure.
- Southeast corner Stark and Seventh—8-story hotel annex.
- Southeast corner Sixth and Alder—10-story for Meier & Frank.
- Northwest corner Fifth and Stark—4-story for Gay Lombard.
- Southwest corner Second and Yamhill—4-story for Chinese syndicate.
- Northwest corner Fourth and Alder—6-story for Hotel Improvement company.
- Southwest corner Fourth and Oak—4-story office for Charles K. Henry.

Portland has too much frame work, not alone in its business section, but in the residence districts as well. Three and four-story frame apartment houses, at the mercy of any conflagration which starts, are common sights. They continue to go up in all sections of the city.

Never before in the history of the downtown business section of Portland has there been in evidence such impetus in new construction work as is existent at the present time.

Not alone are these new offices, hotels and store annexes to improve the retail and business region of the city, but paramount from a civic point of view is the refreshing knowledge that old shabby frame structures which have weathered the storms and unkindly remarks of visitors to Portland for a score and more of years are at last to be torn down and replaced by types of modern architecture.

Within a few months these buildings and remnant of buildings will be razed to the ground. Portland will witness with a relish the passing away of numerous eye-sores.

There still remains numerous other corners and portions which should be given the same treatment. The price paid by T. B. Wilcox for the corner at

Perhaps objection to that course would be too strong for Portland to overcome, but the fire district could at least be extended over a large portion of the residence district and made to apply in the construction of all future buildings. Civic elegance would not only be given a mighty impetus, but safely assured as well.

BUYING ACTIVE IN COUNCIL CREST PARK

The John F. Sharkey company report much activity in Council Crest Park, which they recently put on the market. Bull Run water is assured for the park within 90 days and many who have deferred building until the water service was assured will erect handsome and costly homes throughout the tract which commands a beautiful view of the city.

STOLEN INVENTIONS

From American Industries. Before patents were granted for inventions, the inventor had but one way to secure a return from his invention.

Secret inventions were the most valuable possessions of many families and guilds. It is reported that the Venetian glass was greatly prized and was most jealously guarded.

In 1710 the elector of Saxony learned that a man named Bottger had discovered the secret of making porcelain. He accordingly confined him to the castle of Albrechtsburg until the discovery had been perfected.

The stealing of the secret of making "cast steel" is another example. A watchmaker named Huntsman was dissatisfied with the watch springs the market afforded, and in 1760 conceived the idea of casting steel.

Every effort was made to keep the secret. No one was admitted to the works. The process was divided, and persons working on each part were kept in ignorance of other parts of the work.

One bitter winter night a man, dressed as a farm laborer, came to the door of the factory and asked admittance. The foreman, deceived by his appearance into thinking the man was incapable of understanding what he would see, let him in.

The man dropped down in sight of the furnaces and seemed to sleep. Through furtively opened eyes he saw the workmen cut bars of steel into bits and depositing them into crucibles, put the crucibles on stands and urged the fires to the highest pitch.

Wheat in the Far North. The report on the standing committee of the commerce and navigation department presented to parliament today notes that G. E. Young, superintendent of railroads in the department of the interior, pointed out that wheat is successfully raised at Fort Simpson, in the north of the international boundary and 200 miles north of Edmonton, Dr. Thompson, member for the Yukon, presented to the committee a sample of white oats grown on a farm 62 degrees north latitude.

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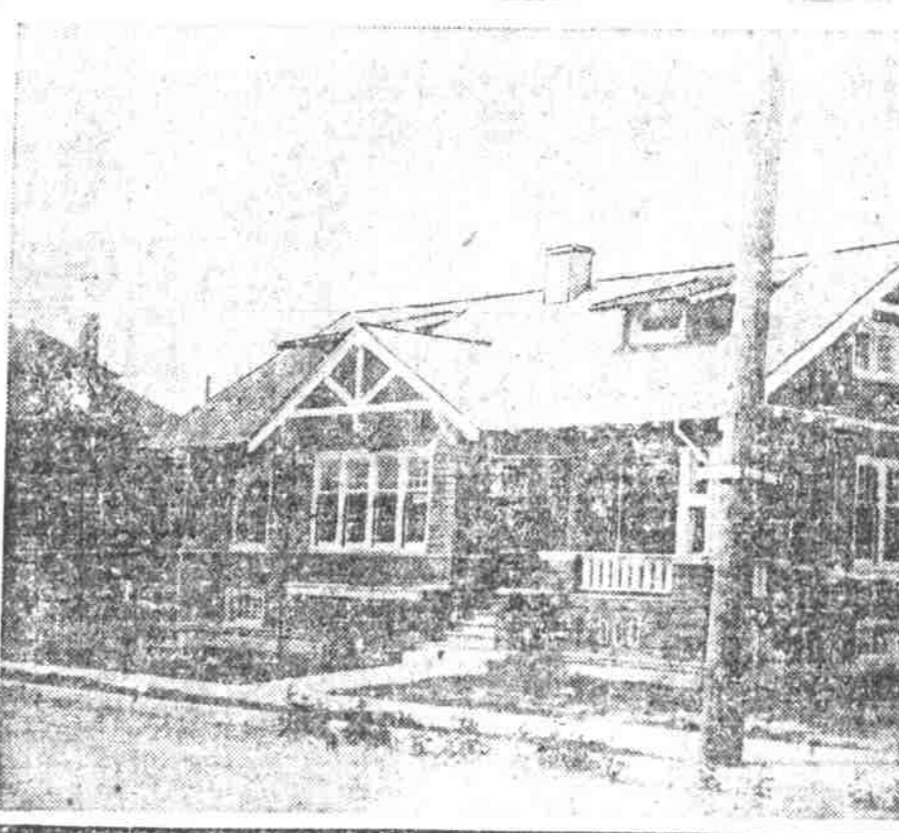
NEW HOMES IN HOLLADAY PARK ADDITION



Group of elegant new residences on East Seventeenth street, between Clackamas and Halsey streets. The building on the right is the nearly completed home of William McMurray, general passenger agent of the Harriman lines in Oregon.

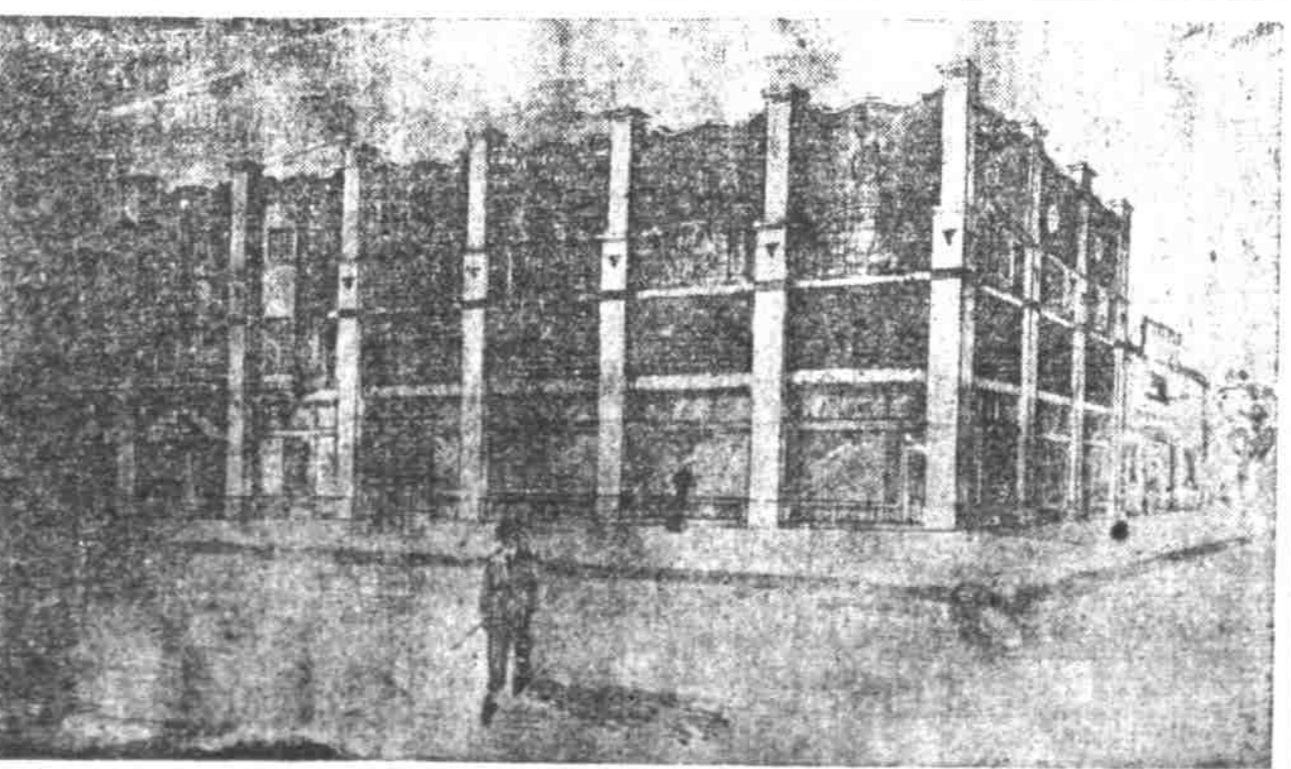


Coublurn Residence, East Sixteenth and Halsey Streets.



U. R. Dishman's Bungalow, East Seventeenth and Halsey Streets.

ODDFELLOWS TO LAY CORNERSTONE



The building is to be a three-story reinforced concrete structure, covering a plot 19 by 100 feet, and will cost to build about \$20,000. The lower floor is to be arranged for use as storerooms, the second floor arranged for the use of the lodge, and the third floor is to be a large banquet hall.

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as showing a very large increase in Washington street values within two blocks but it is in keeping with the fact that the antiquated frame buildings on one of the most valuable corners in the city are soon to give place to a modern fireproof ten-story building.

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