

# Washington Is Home of Three of World's Floating Bridges



FLOATING BRIDGE—People who live in Washington live in a state of floating bridges. Of five permanent spans in the world that float on top of salt and fresh water, three are

in Washington and a fourth is in the works. This is an air view of the second Lake Washington floating bridge on its opening day earlier this year. (UPI)

By GORDON W. SCHULTZ  
United Press International  
OLYMPIA, Wash. (UPI) — They laughed when the engineers wanted to build a concrete bridge that would float on the lake.

But that was 23 years ago. And now the state of Washington has three floating bridges. There are only two others in the world.

The floating bridge planners prevailed but not without ridicule. When the first bridge—a concrete span 6,561 feet long—was opened to traffic in 1940 some of the first persons to cross the bridge over Lake Washington put on life jackets.

They found that wearing a lifejacket to cross the bridge was just as necessary as wearing a lifejacket to cross a wheat field.

People don't laugh at the bridges any more, but sometimes they get wet when a good wind comes up and slops a lit-

le water over the railings.

All of Washington's three floating bridges have drawspans designed to accommodate passage of large vessels.

Each is held in place by a series of huge anchors. The roadways cross over large concrete pontoons that weigh as much as 6,700 tons. And, of course, each floats.

**Motorists Like Them**  
The first bridge became popular quickly, and in nine years bridge users paid off the bonds that financed the \$7.5 million project. That kind of success led to the two other floating spans and a fourth now on the drawing board.

The second bridge was built across the Salt Hood Canal which stretches for miles along the Olympic Peninsula. It is just over a mile from shore to shore. Tides raise and lower the 120,680-ton structure 18 feet every day.

At a cost of \$17.6 million, the

second bridge was opened to traffic two years ago.

Popularity and just plain population growth accounted for the third floating bridge.

When it was opened last August just three miles north of the original span, engineers hoped it would help relieve the load of 56,000 cars a day using the first bridge. It is beginning to do just that.

**Toll Bridge**  
The new span cost \$25 million and is one and one-half miles long. It is a toll bridge but the state figures the toll can be removed eventually.

Sometime between now and 1975 another floating bridge—parallel to the original structure—will be built to handle the burgeoning traffic load from one side of the lake to the other.

But even now the state's fleet of three floating bridges commands a unique distinction. Not only are they the three heaviest

spans, they are the three longest, too. Each spans a body of water more than a mile wide. The world's two other permanent floating bridges are at widespread locations. One is 2,885 feet long and crosses Lake Okanagan in Canada's British Columbia. The second is at Hobart, Tasmania.

## Oregonians Picked For NAM Positions

NEW YORK (UPI)—Two Oregonians were chosen ad directors-at-large of the National Association of Manufacturers at the NAM's 68th annual Congress of American Industry here Thursday.

They are Jack Murdock, chairman of the board of Tektronix, Inc., Beaverton; and Robert C. Warren, president, Cascade Manufacturing Co., Portland.

Oregon directors are Thomas W. Delzell, chairman of the board of Portland General Electric Co., and Sam Johnson, president, Jefferson Plywood Co., Madras.

Coleman H. Wheeler, president of Santiam Lumber Co.,

Portland, was listed among retiring directors.

Bernard L. Orell, vice president, Weyerhaeuser Co., Tacoma, continues as NAM's regional vice president for the Pacific Northwest.

## Paar Adamant on Quitting TV Show

NEW YORK (UPI) — NBC officials said Thursday they hoped to dissuade television personality Jack Paar from quitting his weekly Friday night show.

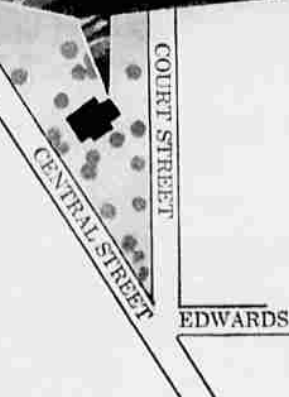
Paar announced his resignation Thursday, apparently over his dissatisfaction with the network's decision not to expand his show.

## Contract Approved For Public Resort

PORTLAND (UPI) —The Bureau of Indian Affairs Friday approved a \$615,700 contract for construction of public resort facilities at Kah-Nee-Ta Hot Springs on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Central Oregon.

The contract is between the Warm Springs Tribal Council and Salem contractors Stevenson and Wickman.

The entire amount will be paid by the tribe.



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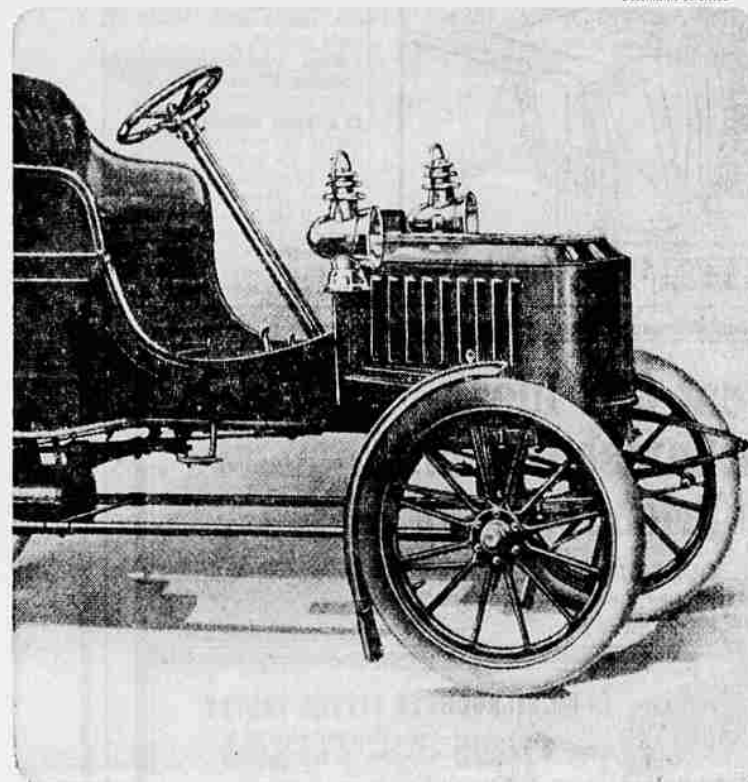
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