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# ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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Devoted to the interests of the Peninsula, the Manufacturing Center of the Northwest

VOL. 5

ST. JOHNS, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1909.

NO. 18

## QUICK SERVICE TO PORTLAND

Motor Cars to Run From  
East St. Johns

SHOULD BE EXTENDED

The electrification of the North Bank railroad from Vancouver to Portland, which will be completed by April 1st, will be a quick medium for the inhabitants of East St. Johns to travel to and from the latter city. Motor cars will be used and about a 20 minute service between East St. Johns and Portland established. A strong effort will be made by the St. Johns Commercial club to induce this company or some other company to construct a line from the Swift packing plant to somewhere near the city hall to connect with the North Bank road. This would give all our people a chance to reach Portland in about 25 minutes, and would be a great convenience in reaching the packing plant district. In order to get full benefit from the location of the Swift company on the Peninsula it is imperative that some sort of railway connection be made between the two points. It is believed that the right of way can be secured with little difficulty and at little cost. The plan is a feasible one, and should look good to any company as a profitable institution. If enough force and energy can be applied behind the proposition on the part of the people of St. Johns there is every reason to believe that the matter will be taken up and pushed through by some party. It is immaterial what party or company constructs the line, just so the service is good. Our citizens should back up the Commercial club in landing the project.

## Why Not Construct It

In the matter of constructing a suitable float to represent the city of St. Johns at the coming Rose Carnival, it seems to us that this could be constructed by St. Johns people. There are enough people here with good, original and tasty ideas of how to get up something as good if not better than one who has exhausted his ideas on more expensive floats. If a float costs \$500 would it not be better to put the full amount into the project than give a high priced decorator \$400 for his services as supervisor and \$100 for the work? All the flowers necessary could no doubt be secured here without cost, the mechanical work could be done by some of our best mechanics, and the ladies of St. Johns would be more than willing to lend a helping hand. In this way a float could be worked out along original lines, what money required for its construction would be left here, and we doubt not that the float would compare favorably with many of the far more expensive ones in the procession.

## Will Build More Houses

W. P. Plummer, the contractor, closed a deal on Monday with Harry E. Wagoner, formerly of St. Johns, for 6 new houses to be built in the Holbrook addition in St. Johns, of the bungalow shape. These houses will be 4 and 5 room houses, and will have electric lights, city water, and plastered, and will run in price of about \$600 to \$700 each. It is our understanding that they will be offered for sale on the easy payment plan; even as small a payment as \$50 cash being accepted with balance same as rent. There is nothing that will build up St. Johns faster than new homes. Work will commence at once.

Henry Snyder of Portland, who recently purchased the 25-foot frontage on Jersey street adjoining the First National Bank building from S. C. Norton, will begin the erection of a handsome brick structure thereon within the next month. We understand the lower floor has already been leased as a store room.

Preach the gospel of St. Johns.

## THINGS LIVELY AT SWIFT'S

The Skeptical One Now  
Fully Convinced

WILL HELP ST. JOHNS

H. S. Hewitt, well known as one of the most skeptical men in St. Johns regarding the operations of the Swift company on the Peninsula, has visited, witnessed and now believes that operations on a scale greater than even imagined by the optimistic have been inaugurated by this company. He spent several hours there one day last week and told the Review man a few of the facts that come under his observation. A roadway built on trestle work for a stretch of 9000 feet, leading from Swinton to the packing plant, was one of the things that made him believe the company meant business. The foundation of the main structure which is constructed of the best grade of cement, three feet wide, and extends from 20 feet under the surface of the ground to 30 feet in the air struck him as being exceedingly substantial. Within this enclosure piling has been driven as closely together as possible right to the surface of the ground, and upon this floor a thick bed of cement has been spread. A dredger is steadily at work deepening the channel, about 200 men are employed about the plant and a large corps of engineers are engaged in laying out land for the various enterprises. Preliminary work on the immense saw mill adjoining the plant is well under way. A temporary mill is being constructed for sawing lumber for the big mill, and the air is fairly teeming with activity in that neighborhood. Mr. Hewitt advises any one who is doubtful concerning the immensity of developments along the slough to make a visit there and conviction will ensue. While he believes St. Johns will be largely benefited by the close proximity of these operations, like many others, he believes the benefit would be far greater if a street car ran direct from St. Johns to that point, and would be a profitable investment for the company that constructs such a line. He thinks the people of St. Johns should awaken to desirability of a trolley line to the plant and that steps should be taken at once to help the matter along.

## Take in More Territory

A movement is on foot to embrace Linton, Whitwood Court and the territory lying between within the limits of St. Johns. With free ferry service and the rapid rate in which that part of the country is building up, it looks like a good move. We should have a West St. Johns as well as an East St. Johns. How the people on the west side feel about the proposition is still an unknown quantity, and as it is up to them to decide, no definite steps will be taken until their feelings in the matter can be ascertained.

## Improving Plant

The St. Johns Ice company is getting in fine shape to handle the ice business here the coming season. A steam engine has been installed, new steam cutters to harvest the ice and other modern and ingenious machinery has been placed in order to handle their increased business with quickness and dispatch. H. E. Harris, the proprietor, has more confidence in the future greatness of St. Johns than ever, and is sparing no expense to give our people the very best service possible.

Scales & Curty, the progressive Cedar Park grocers, will soon begin the construction of a large and commodious store room at East St. Johns.

Foss Brothers have purchased a lot with a 77-foot frontage on Columbia boulevard and are now busily engaged in getting it in shape to erect a modern and substantial dwelling thereon.

## ERA OF STREET IMPROVEMENT

In the Neighborhood of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars to Be Expended on the Improvement of Thoroughfares in St. Johns the Coming Year

## VIM AND ACTIVITY ALL ALONG THE LINE

An era of street improvement such as never before experienced by this city, and seldom witnessed in any other city of twice its population, will enshroud St. Johns with its stirring scenes this year if the greater part of work now projected along this line materializes. The amount of labor necessary to carry this work to completion will make St. Johns a very lively city this summer and a scene of activity such as has never yet been witnessed here will be inaugurated. East, west, north and south, any direction, in fact, street work will be the order of the day.

The city council has been deluged with petitions for the grading of streets and laying of sidewalks. A spirit of progressiveness and enterprise in a manner never before experienced has taken hold of our citizens. It is certainly a good omen and augurs well for the future of St. Johns when its inhabitants with such equanimity organize a crusade for street improvement of the magnitude now being launched. And it is not the cheapest kind of improvement that the people are praying for, but of a good, substantial and enduring nature. In many cases concrete sidewalks and macadamized streets are asked for. When so many citizens who have their little homes only partially paid for, who have only their daily labor to depend upon for maintenance and to keep up their payments on their homes, come forward with a willingness and anxiety to have the streets fronting their properties improved, even though the assessed cost against them for the improvement reaches as high, in some instances, as 40 per cent of the value of their holdings, what better

guide to a city's public spiritedness could be desired? In no locality in the world can be found a class of citizens so proud of their city, so willing to sacrifice their time, their money and their talents for the good of their beloved municipality.

There are, we believe, in the neighborhood of twenty streets or parts of streets proposed to be improved this year, and the vast sum of \$200,000 will likely be required to effect this improvement. What benefit the city will derive from the expenditure of this sum outside of improvement alone is hard to estimate. The greater portion of it will circulate here and as a consequence the merchants will feel a decided impetus in their business.

Of the streets to be improved Fessenden stands out as the most costly, the longest, the widest for its length and the most substantial of any of the street propositions proposed. It will extend from the city line at East St. Johns to the water's edge not far from the new city dock. It will be seventy feet wide, macadamized, we believe, its entire length, and concrete sidewalks. It will be the greatest boon to the territory it traverses that could be imagined, and the cost of improvement will run well up to \$100,000. An immense amount of legal work will be necessary, however, in order to get it approved as proposed. There are over 200 property owners on this thoroughfare who will be affected by its proposed widening and grading. The street railway company has dedicated its right of way, but their remains a strip of fifteen feet deep in front of nearly every lot, in addition to a strip five feet deep on each side of its entire length, which

will have to be condemned before the improvement can be made, as the property owners refuse, for various reasons, to dedicate the land necessary.

Next in costliness, but of no less importance, will be the improvement of Philadelphia street. While this thoroughfare is but half a dozen blocks long, it is the widest street in St. Johns, being 100 feet in width. An enormous amount of filling will be necessary and about 4000 cubic yards of crushed rock will be needed. The grade will be about 9.3 per cent, and cement sidewalks will be laid from the city hall to the lower extremity. This thoroughfare leads directly to the new city dock, and more traffic will pass over it than upon any other street. The handsome new high school will adorn the eminence along the top crest of Philadelphia street, making its environment particularly attractive. The cost of this improvement will be not far from \$25,000.

The extension of Richmond street through the Caples tract, and the laying of concrete sidewalks from Jersey to Bradford streets will be another great improvement to St. Johns. The total cost of this work will exceed \$10,000.

The improvement of various other streets, while the cost to the property owners is less, their importance in the way of making St. Johns a city of fine streets is just as great. Every improvement on the thoroughfares and highways of our city improves the appearance of the city as a whole. The city can congratulate itself upon having such a progressive and public spirited body of citizens as these numerous petitions for street improvement proclaim.

## Gas For St. Johns

The city council met in regular session Tuesday evening with all members present and Mayor Brice in the chair. Attorney Collier was absent owing to the fact that he was a victim of a slight attack of the grip.

After the minutes were read and approved, a report from the St. Johns Transportation company was read, which showed that 2958 foot passengers, 114 single rigs and 88 double rigs had crossed in the ferry the past month. Report was accepted.

Report of Judge Webster and county commissioners regarding the ferry proposition was read, in which the claim was made that the boat in its present condition was not satisfactory, according to Matt Welsh's opinion. Communication was accepted.

A petition praying council to bring up the matter at the April election of issuing bonds in the amount of \$16,000 for the construction of a new ferry boat to be operated from the foot of Fessenden street, containing 74 signatures, was read. As according to charter it is necessary to reject the purchase of the present boat before the proposition of constructing a new one can be submitted to the people to ballot upon, no action could be taken other than to accept the communication and place it on file, which was done.

Bills to the amount of \$154.92 were allowed.

Engineer and street Committee's acceptance of two blocks of improvement on Oswego street was accepted.

A resolution to improve Wall street from Willis boulevard to Dawson was adopted.

All bids on the sidewalking of Richmond street were rejected on motion of Councilman Windie, and new bids ordered advertised. The bids received were not specific enough for intelligent letting of the contract.

An amended ordinance granting the Portland Gas company permission to use the streets of St. Johns for the laying of gas mains passed first and second readings. As it is necessary to publish the proposed

## Gas For St. Johns

ordinance twice and sixty days must elapse before final passage from the date of the introduction of the franchise, no further action was taken. Without doubt it is the fairest proposition that has yet come before the council in the gas line, and there is little doubt but that the franchise will be given by the incoming council.

A resolution calling for a general election was adopted and may be held elsewhere in this issue.

Adjournment to Thursday evening, when an ordinance of the St. Johns Gas Light & Heat Co. will be entertained.

## A Glowing Report

John A. Collier, secretary and treasurer of the Eastern Oregon Oil & Gas company, returned Sunday from a visit to that company's oil holdings in Malheur county. He reports prospects exceedingly bright for striking oil in large volume upon their land, and that great excitement and enthusiasm prevails in that territory. An expert oil man accompanied Mr. Collier on the trip and he unhesitatingly stated that without the shadow of a doubt that oil in vast quantities lies underneath the land of the company. Mr. Collier made arrangements for the sinking of a well and looked after other business connected with the company while there. Many of the residents of the Vale district have so much confidence in the discovery of oil there that they have put all the money they could scrape together to invest in land in the supposed oil belt.

It is possible that St. Johns may enroll still another industry to its rapidly growing list. E. C. Hurlbert, combination salt and pepper shaker genius, is making experiments with sand to be found hereabouts and if he can find the proper quality will at once begin the erection of a glass plant in St. Johns for the manufacture of bottles and shakers. He says that prospects look bright for securing sand with enough silica mingled therewith to make it adaptable for this purpose. Here's hoping he may find it in abundance.

## Death of May Shepard

The sad intelligence reached St. Johns Wednesday afternoon that May Shepard had passed to the great beyond at Tucson, Arizona, whither she had gone in the hope that a drier climate would be beneficial to her health. The news cast a pall of gloom to settle over this city where she was so well known and so universally liked. May was possessed of a charming and winning disposition, her happy and sunny smile was ever in evidence and she had a pleasant word for everybody. Knowing well that she was a victim of that dread malady, tuberculosis, and that her chances of shaking off the disease was growing slimmer and slimmer each day, yet the cheerful smile and kindly word were always in evidence, even if a tinge of sadness, like the shadow of impending death, did at times become manifest.

May Shepard was aged about 21 years and had been a sufferer from tuberculosis for some time. For a year or more she was employed as stenographer at the St. Johns Lumber Co.'s office, but was compelled to abandon this work on account of the confinement. The following members of her family are left to mourn their great loss: Richard P. Shepard, father; Willard, Richard, Oscar, Clarence, Charles, Walter, Thomas, brothers; Mrs. W. W. Windle, sister.

As was her wish, the remains will be taken to Hillsdale, Iowa, for burial and will be laid to rest beside her mother and brother. Thus passes from life in the flower of her youth one of the finest young women that ever graced St. Johns with her presence. Bright, accomplished, loving and genial, her pleasing personality will linger long in the memories of those who knew and loved her so well.

Attorney Geo. J. Perkins and S. C. Norton, the pioneer real estate dealer, have removed their office from their Jersey street location to the Holbrook building. The site of their former office will be occupied by a modern brick building, and thus the march of progress has forced them to seek new quarters.

## MAY SECURE A NEW PLANT

Manufacturing Company  
Seeking Location

TO EMPLOY 50 HANDS

St. Johns has a chance of securing another manufacturing plant in the form of the Columbia Electric Heating & Manufacturing company. An architect has been at work for some time on plans for a factory, and a site within the limits of St. Johns is now being considered. Just where this site is located has not yet been divulged, but from what we are able to learn St. Johns has a good chance of securing it.

The object of the company is to turn out electric irons of a new type and other electrical appliances. They operate a factory in Los Angeles, which enjoys a good trade in the south and as far east as New York, but which is restricted from trade with the orient by its location. Coming to St. Johns will place them in a position to draw a large trade from the northwest and orient.

The electric iron which they intend to make their specialty is of a different construction from others on the market. It is heated by means of a coil running through the lower part of the iron and can be repaired quite easily at home.

According to the present plans of the company they intend to establish a plant which can turn out about 200 irons a day and to employ at least 50 men and boys. Should the demand grow the company plans enlarging the plant considerably and probably putting in a foundry. At first the casting work will be let out at contract and only the wiring, electroplating and polishing done at the factory. The company will also manufacture electric soldering irons, stoves, bread toasters and electric water heating appliances.

## A Pleasant Event

On Friday of last week at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Pascal Hill, 618 North Jersey street, one of the swellest affairs of the week took place. The decorations consisted of violets and Oregon grape. Progressive whist was the leading feature of the evening, after which a twelve o'clock dinner, consisting of eight courses, was served. Every one enjoyed the evening immensely, and Mr. and Mrs. Hill proved themselves to be royal entertainers. The guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Downey, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Hiff, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mrs. E. F. Day, Mrs. R. McKinney, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. G. W. Dunbar, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Remington, Mrs. B. S. Hoover, Mrs. J. H. Black, Mrs. W. C. Bailey, Mrs. N. J. Bailey, Mrs. Hutaway, Mrs. Markwell, Miss Crab, Miss Cowles, Miss McDonald, Miss Dunbar, Miss Gatten, Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Georgia Perrine, Miss Robison, Miss A. Perrine, H. Simmons, A. Seales, N. Perrine, Jack Galloway, Wesley Overstreet and Charles Hewitt. Mrs. Markwell won the first prize, a beautiful rose jar, and Mrs. McKinney secured the consolation one. H. E. Hewitt won the gentleman's prize of an ink well and H. S. Simmons the consolation.

## In Better Quarters

The Vogue Millinery has removed this week from the Petersen & Noce building to the second room north of the postoffice in the McChesney block. This popular establishment will now have more room to display to better advantage the large stock of millinery that is arriving daily. When fully arranged this new millinery emporium will compare favorably with many of the Portland establishments. Before buying Easter headgear it will pay you to visit the Vogue.

Louis Heirl of Astoria is a guest of Mrs. J. Stark at present.

## FOUL MURDERS ON SLOUGH

Two Men Instantly Killed  
With Gun and Axe

VILE WRETCH UNKNOWN

Oscar Hiett, aged 23, and John Dale, 54 years old, were found lying dead, the victims of a desperate duel, or a fiendish murder, at a duck preserve on Columbia Slough, two miles southeast of St. Johns, at 10:30 o'clock Monday forenoon. An ax and a shotgun, lying between the bodies, revealed the manner of death. Hiett had been killed by a charge of bird shot fired from a distance into the side of his head.

Dale's death resulted from a blow with a sharp ax across the forehead. The bodies lay side by side and there was no evidence of any struggle. Seemingly the two lay where they had fallen. Dale was on the preserve as a watchman for H. L. Pitlock and F. W. Leadbetter, who own the place. Hiett had been staying with him at intervals and Mrs. Hiett was there with her husband occasionally.

Although the theory now favored by the authorities is that Dale shot Hiett while partly drunk, and was then struck down by the younger man an element of profound mystery prevails. A number of peculiar facts surround the case and the theory of a fatal combat between the two men is not yet fully accepted without question.

The men were known to have quarreled over Mrs. Hiett, bride of less than a year. The trouble over the woman occurred just before Christmas and since then the men have seemed to be friends again.

Dale is known to have said he would separate the couple which lends color to the duel theory. On the other hand, two valuable shotguns, belonging to Mr. Leadbetter, are missing from the clubhouse. Dale, too, is reputed to have had considerable money buried on the preserve. The preponderance of evidence points to the belief that each man killed the other, but the authorities are in no wise satisfied that the two were not murdered by others.

Mrs. Hiett, the comely young bride over whom the two men have quarreled, was the one to discover the two bodies. In company with her 13-year-old brother, Claude Bushor, she went to the duck preserve in search of her husband. She says he left her Sunday morning in Albina, saying he was going to see Dale and that he would return to her by 1 P. M.

Indescribably horrible was the spectacle she met in approaching the clubhouse, which rests in a thick clump of bushes, a hundred yards from the duck lake. Out in front of the cabin, beside a frame lean-to used for the storage of wood, she nearly stumbled over the bodies of her husband and Dale. She displayed considerable courage and did not become hysterical. Sending her brother to call C. V. Bergen, a dairyman whose place is a quarter of a mile distant, she remained by the body of her husband until Berger arrived.

She was crouched beside the ghastly object, crying, when Bergen came. He sent her away at once and she said she would go to the home of her mother, Mrs. F. R. Bushor, 1637 Lively street, St. Johns. She also asked that Hiett's body be sent there—Oregonian.

An autopsy over the remains has since developed the fact that it was impossible for either man to have killed the other after receiving the fatal wound, and therefore there seems to be no doubt that both murders were committed by a third party whose identity is as yet unknown. It is more than likely that the affair will go down in the annals of history as another unsolved mystery.

The Thimble club met with Mrs. Hiller Thursday afternoon. The ladies present were Mrs. A. V. Learned, Mrs. Otis Learned, Mrs. M. Pettard, Mrs. M. Weeks, Mrs. E. C. Hurlbert, Miss E. Braasch, Mrs. Brogber, Mrs. E. F. Day, Mrs. C. H. Boyd, Mrs. N. Gamble, Mrs. L. Lathrup.