

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Engineers,
Washington.

FORM B-1

July 14, 1917.

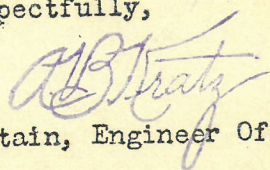
Mr. Charles Paul Keyser,
1147 E. Yamhill St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Sir:

1. The record of your examination for a commission in the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, submitted by the local board that examined you, has been carefully reviewed by the Central Board in this office and it is considered inadvisable to commission you because of physical disqualifications.
2. You will eventually receive more detailed notice to this effect from The Adjutant General of the Army, to whom your papers will be finally referred, but this advance information is given you as you are no doubt interested in knowing, as soon as possible, the final outcome of your case.
3. Owing to the very large number of applications received, it soon became apparent that more officers could be secured than would be needed, and it was therefore necessary to restrict the issuance of commissions to those applicants who were most highly fitted by profession and experience and who were in perfect physical condition.
4. The patriotic offer of your services is duly appreciated, and it is regretted that this office is unable to recommend you for a commission.

By direction of the Chief of Engineers:

Very respectfully,


Captain, Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps.

Journal June 9 1948 The Human Side of the Worst Flood

The congress is pondering flood relief for thousands of victims of the Columbia.

The emergency has brought here Gen. Wheeler, chief of United States engineers; Gen. Mark Clark of the United States army and Gen. Philip Fleming, head of the federal works agency.

The president is soon to arrive, part of his purpose being a personal inspection of the flood area and the damage.

Likewise the Red Cross is mobilizing all of its resources. Federal agencies have been put into action.

We would like to have the congress, as it ponders, realize that this action by top men and top agencies is acknowledgment of the reality of catastrophe.

We would like to have rescue organizations understand that persistence in holding the Rose Festival floral parade was a local act of bad judgment, even if well intended.

The float that was building in Vanport just before the flood destroyed that city will not show. It was to have been entitled "Water Babies." City firemen are building them another.

The mother whose baby came to the surface will not see the parade. Nor will thousands of others who have lost everything they had and to whom festivity under the circumstances seems grim irony.

We still think it would have been better to adjourn the large parade. To police it properly won't be possible. To have held the children's festival, the display in the stadium and the Rose Show would have been enough.

The flood is no respecter of persons. It has created appalling losses to people and property. It is like no other flood. Instead of receding it holds to a destructively high level with successive battering crests.

It is impressive to speak of thousands who are homeless, whose farms are submerged, whose crops are ruined, whose fears mount into panic as the flood

monster consumes with insatiable appetite.

But to grasp the sorrow and devastation of it all, it is necessary to get each individual experience.

The families that are broken. The missing from whom there is no report, the personal treasures (like the wedding gifts that had been put away for safe keeping in a Vanport home), the husband who kept up day and night his round of relief centers asking for his wife and baby.

There will be no delay in relief and rescue when these stories are told, if only in part. There will be no lack of pulling together.

Yes, it's too bad that it takes a great and sustained flood to bring to the unharmed people of the Columbia basin the realization that human suffering and monetary loss know no lines of race, creed and color, and that no one group has a corner on courage, resourcefulness and the will to help one's neighbor, be he a GI eking out an education at Vanport college, a stranded shipyard worker from the deep South, a farmer trying to save his crops and livestock or a merchant sandbagging his place of business against the rising tide.

When the call went out for shelter for the homeless, there was no quibbling over segregation and other details. People needed help, didn't they? That was enough.

And when the call went out for emergency crews to save melting dikes, no one thought to ask whose dike it was or whose property would be saved. There was a job to do, wasn't there?

We're learning our lesson, the hard way. The learning of that lesson must go on. It must go on in humility, in tolerance, in neighborliness, in co-operation, in the reality of human compassion.

The toughest part of the test is still to come.

Judge us not by our mistakes, but by our needs and our ability to help each other.

Re Vanport flood

72

June 14, 1948

C
O
P
Y

Marshall N. Dana
Editor, Oregon Journal
Portland, Oregon

Dear Marshall:

A bas la Wailing Wall! I wouldn't have one in the Capital City of Sorrows even, if I had my way.

I have been pondering your lugubrious editorial printed last Wednesday, and by the holy rood I think I ought to tell you that you will do better with a quill and plume than with a dull pick. But howe'er you grave your reflection, don't toll the bell. Get Sam Jackson's chimes going again to peal over the water, and don't let people who would incline to look down on us imagine we are sunk.

The anvil chorus is wonderful as a sign of something doing that is constructive or helpful. The yirms of the yammerers and the picky-pokes never helped anything worthy of notice.

The great Columbia River system has poured, and will pour, copiously as it has an almighty right to do, bearing the melted snows of winter to the ocean, and it recketh not at all of the last or highest high water mark. In this same June time in this region the roses bloom. Such will ever be the natural inexorable order. Do we not care about being the metropolis, in favorable situation, of the great Columbia's demesne? Then we would better fold our petals and dowse the glim of our complementing event of gladness.

Because some puny man-made works failed to hold back the torrent in full surge once again, are we telling the world that our traditional symbolic event must be called off? Have we any assurance that the Snake and the Columbia freshets will not come in unison to seep our margins again next year or any year? Are we going to feel any better about Vanport a year or two or several after the catastrophe? Are we to have no leisure time pursuits until things are all fixed up? And if the parade on its way like the

Marshall N. Dana

-2-

June 14, 1948

freshet, couldn't be stopped by a frown or a burst of maudlin sentiment misapplied, what was to be gained by caviling at it?

It seems to have been demonstrated first and last, sadly, that Vanport was a huge mistake. Let us thank God that the lesson was not more costly; that the devastation withheld until the ships were built, and that the breakthrough did not occur in the night. Tempting Providence, we had no right to expect better.

The Rose Festival has become a characteristic of our community, an establishment, a tradition, and to thousands of our natives, many in middle years, a heritage. Must we tip-toe and halt it because an improvised group shelter in the City's environs got the churn? Horseracing went all wet, but other commercialized divertissements still were advertised. Has anyone offered a substitute outlet for the mass enthusiasms of thousands of school kids and their parents, who have down through the years lent their spirit without stint to the idea? I believe the Journal, out of character, has been party to giving the Rose Festival a kick in the face to do the morale of our city a grievous injury.

I know you don't want to kill the Rose Festival. You wrought in its fledging. Pardon my presumption. I think you should always be all out for it.

The lame excuse has been offered by the dissident elements that we may be misunderstood in doing the usual with our left hand while dealing with the right in our submarginal exigency. You should know what a good left hand^{*} is good for, even if it had not been mentioned in the Good Book. I think our press owes it to our town to see to it that we are not misunderstood, nor ~~horrified unduly here and everywhere~~. Wasn't it a nice idea to have a parade for Vanport's float to show in, even after Vanport was no more? After all, if we are misunderstood regardless, let us live to our traditions.

Johnstown and Heppner were wiped out. So was Vanport. Call it Act of God if blame is too big to take, but don't forget that man in his own image has asked for it whenever he has lodged his tribes below the omnipresent menace of flooding waters, more especially of the mighty stream that has carved and abandoned the Grand Coulee and cut its channel down to sea-level through the Cascade Range. So called flood control dams would only tend

** Dana was left handed*

Marshall N. Dana

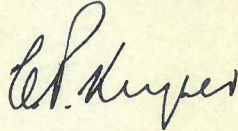
-3-

June 14, 1948

to lend more false security against the runoff of this region. We should know our river by now and figure to abide with it to best advantage, recognizing that all dams and dikes have their limitations. Q.E.D.

The fair City of Roses is still here, mostly high and dry -- not sunk; and let us confidently expect will continue no less favored in its destined way. We can stand our share of such havoc as Nature is wont to bestow on this well-favored region, and glory in what brings us roses and what they signalize.

Very truly yours,



Superintendent of Parks

CPK:mp

CHARLES PAUL KEYSER

UNIVERSITY CLUB

PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

November 10, 1969

Mr. Roy Beadle

Oregon Journal

re-written

Dear Mr. Beadle:-

I presume you are the one among many others whom I should thank particularly for the laudatory editorial commending the achievements and vision of a battler for a Park System that didn't just happen in the history of the City of Roses, following the cordial welcome I had received on the occasion of the Mill Ends Park Dedication and ~~and~~ ensuing publicity.

If not so, perhaps I could ask you to acquaint your whole Gang-capital G- with my elation with kindest regards.

I presume also that I should admit that I got my main-spring inspiration and devotion to the Cause from Dr. Thomas Lanb Eliot, familiarly rated as an outstanding individual in anybody's catalog of the most notable morale builders of the Portland Community in the first century of its history. He was the formulator and founder and implementer of the said Park system that I am getting ~~getting~~ my full measure of credit for.

In the course of events it happened in my ~~my~~ career that I was rejected for volunteer service when World War broke in 1917, and I was left to manage the Bureau of Parks. I mounted Rosinante to ride with spurs; but rather than tilt at windmills, I used a spyglass on my vision to detect indications from straws in the wind which more or less enabled me to rate force, direction and velocity of the winds that motivated the political windmills.

Incidentally I might add that I ~~was~~ ^{was} schooled quite some by the Honorable Dr. Harry Lane who was the incumbent Mayor when I joined the crew with all my imperfections ~~on my head~~ ^{on my head} when ~~ixx~~ I ~~join~~ ^{was} entered the service of ~~the~~ Park Commission in 1909.

February 25, 1941.

Mr. C. H. Cheney,
Palos Verdes Estates,
California.

Dear Harry:

I am mailing you, herewith enclosed, a small batch of photos from which you can give me your idea. So far I have no picture of the Art Museum which is opposite the "Rough Rider" statue, and I am told it is one of the notable pieces of architecture, but like Finley's Morningside Chapel, photo of which is enclosed, I only listened to the architect's talk about it. You be the judge.

Fronting on this same notable park property one block farther north and ensconcing the Lincoln Statue is the Masonic Temple, photo enclosed. I didn't think much of the picture of the Burnside Bridge even with the steamboat going under the draw span, but I am kind of partial to the St. Johns Bridge. The picture of the Vista Avenue Bridge is not so hot but as there is a glimpse of the City as one comes in the gate, as it were, I thought you might want to weave it into your story.

Terwilliger Boulevard, as you may remember, affords a breath-taking view of the City as you suddenly come upon it from behind the West Hills. Maybe that isn't an amenity however.

I thought you ought to have a picture of the Temple, Beth Israel, said to be our most pretentious temple of worship, and since you mentioned the Columbia Gorge I am giving you a picture of it and also Doyle's Multnomah Falls Lodge, sometimes called by the ribald "Kayser's Castle".

Now to answer your questions more particularly. Portland's Park system will never compare with Kansas City's any more than Kansas City's can compare with Portland's.

Perhaps the most notable thing in Washington Park

is the statue "The Coming of the White Man" or the International Rose Test Garden, or the reservoirs, or maybe "Sacajawea", anyhow a celebrated landscape architect didn't think much of the design.

Rocky Butte is a monument to W.P.A. in stone.
Enough said.

Laurelhurst Park is worth anybody's while anywhere. I think perhaps it is Mische's masterpiece of park design and still is a notable sample of artificial planting in proper relation to its setting. Both, the Eastmoreland Lake and the view of Mt. Hood across the Rose City Golf Links, however, I believe, would linger longer in the memory of a casual visitor than anything Laurelhurst has to present.

The only thing that has happened to the Columbia River Highway since you were here was the construction of the Bonneville Dam and the re-location of said highway in spots to fit it to modern traffic.

There is now building a water grade super highway from Troutdale to Bonneville, leaving the celebrated Columbia River Highway skirting the view points.

Portland has no notable streets such as the main drag in Mexico City or the one that was carved out in Rio.

Our interrupted North and South Park Blocks, of course, are somewhat similar to Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, but in my poor opinion a street isn't made within the confines of its property lines. As you know, there are many streets in Portland where the shade trees make a very attractive picture, but I doubt if you could feature them in your book.

The City of Portland never did get gifts of any consequence with the exception of Benson Park, thirty miles up the river, which included Multnomah and Wahkeena Falls and which has since been transferred to the State Highway Commission for a State Park on the super highway above mentioned, and the rest of it to the U. S. Forest Service as an extension of the Columbia Gorge Park.

I am going to get you a precious print of the 1923 Park Report which will give you a brief history of the growth of Portland's Park System.

Your friend, Mrs. Hubbard, complimented me one time on the unique fact that our Plaza Blocks in front of the Court House had some significance. All this I will bring out after you have criticized this burst of confidence.

Yours very truly,

Superintendent of Parks.

(Continued)

Under the war clouds and along the paths of peace the Portland Bureau of Parks has been making significant progress. When tax stringency struck in 1932, Recreation, considered generally as frosting on the cake, when there was insufficient wherewithal for bread, was expected to batten on the moor. Since that time, however, the Bureau's battin' average has not been so bad. To give an idea of the progress above mentioned, it is shown that the appropriations for functional operation were reduced \$100,000 in 1932 and were gradually restored, so that in 1940 the Bureau of Parks and Public Recreation had received the greatest percentage increase in budget appropriation, of all of the municipal governmental units.

In 1940 after many deferments, filtration was introduced in the municipal swimming pools. Besides various and sundry natatoriums attaching to private and semipublic institutions including an olympic pool at Jantzen Beach, the Bureau of Parks operates eight open air swimming pools in parks well scattered over the City. The policy is to provide swimming convenient in the neighborhoods, in swimming weather, when boys, and girls also, are wont to seek the old swimmin' hole with all of their health and safety menaces.

The adopted design of unit, based on a 25 yard dimension has worked out well. It provides a very unpretentious bath house, with pigeonhole system of checking of clothes, and a two compartment basin seventy five feet square. On one side of the partition wall is the splash pool 40 x 75, 2 to 4 feet deep, and on the other side is the swimming and diving compartment 35 x 75, 4 to 9 ft. deep. These pools are supplied with city water, unheated and unlighted except by sunshine. Bathers pro-

vide their own suits and towels, and there is no charge for admission. Rules and regulations are the minimum required by orderly and sanitary administration.

This goes to show that although Portland is situated at the confluence of two magnificent rivers, is within the vicinity of many mountain lakes, and is within easy reach of the Pacific Ocean, still and all there are artificial water facilities that play an important part in our recreational programs. In addition to the modern swimming holes above described, we have two man made ponds in Westmoreland Park. One is simply a stretch of a creek widened into a lagoon. The other is a rectangular basin of concrete 350 ft. x 410 ft., with a normal depth of 18 inches of water. It is a grand wading pool, serves admirably for model yacht sailing, and has everything including bordering turf areas, for fly casting.

Westmoreland Park was conceived in Federal Aid of the depression. It is primarily a major sports field, with facilities for all sorts of play. Present progress shows four softball fields, one of which is lighted, a baseball field, the water features above cited, two tennis courts, extensive children's play facilities, and a picnic ground with trees agrowing.

In 1940 our zoo took on new signs of life under the management of a new keeper, Carey N. Baldwin. Grizzly bear, yak, and several other ungulates including a wart hog, also a tiger, are new in our collection.

Significant progress has been made lately in the development of the rose gardens in Washington Park. Notable is the extension on the north which will feature azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias. All of the beds in the Rosarian and International

Test sections as well as the display beds that feature new roses have been worked over and replanted. Two new stone stairways have been added, and the panel on the cross-ax has been markedly improved.

The City is proceeding consistently on its property acquisition program elaborated elsewhere in this report.

Recreation facilities described by Miss Lensch.



Geological Society of the Oregon Country

PORTLAND, OREGON

December 7, 1961

Mr. Charles Paul Keyser
c/o University Club
225 S. W. 6th Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Keyser:

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Geological Society of the Oregon Country, I, as secretary of the Society, was requested to convey to you the unanimously approved resolution of the Board expressing our appreciation to you.

It is our sincere hope that your interest in the GSOC and in the purposes for which the Society was formed, which include, among other things, providing facilities for and encouraging the study of geology among amateurs, preserving and promoting features of geologic interest and encouraging geologic investigation in Oregon, will continue to merit your valued interest.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Helen W. Fred

Secretary

HWF:m

R E S O L U T I O N

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Geological Society of the Oregon Country direct the Secretary to extend the Board's expression of appreciation to CHARLES PAUL KEYSER for his recent article contributed to the News Letter and invite him to attend our meetings at any time possible.

Unanimously approved by the Board of Directors meeting
November 24, 1961

Theresa H. Freed

Secretary

John W. Hamm

President

June 16, 1970

Editor, Oregon Journal :--

Agreeing with your OUT OF BILL'S LINE editorial of 6/15/70 suggesting a self-ordained nomination from the floor as you put it, I believe the name of George L. Baker should be considered ahead of any other in naming the spectacular park block recently wrought in front of the Civic Auditorium. He was a natural-born theatrical person and throughout his spectacular career he devoted his time and talents objectively in glorifying the City of Roses.

As an outstanding Council Member of Portland's notable City charter of "checks and balances" in vogue during a decade prior to the adoption of the Commission Form in 1913, ~~THAT~~ WHILE he played no second-fiddle part in/fray, and it seems to have been a dragging fray all the way, leading up to a successful campaign for a bond issue of \$565000 for a Public Auditorium voted in June 1911.

In the sweeping charter change election in 1913, perennial Councilman Baker was swept out of the City Hall, and for the next two years Commissioner Wm. L. Brewster, serving as Head of the Department of Public Affairs devoted his time and attention mainly toward clearing an authorization through the Supreme Court to build on the City-owned Market Block, lacking appropriation to negotiate the Dolph Block bounded by 5th, 6th, Jefferson and Columbia Streets, Marking to a bonnie notion of a placement, tied in with a Civic Center and not too far removed from theatre district.

Baker came back strong to replace Brewster in the election of 1915, and the bonds were issued as of March 1, 1916. I have a vivid recollection of Orator Baker's dedication speech when the Public Auditorium in its original form became a fait accompli. I would say before he was elected Mayor winning over Will Daly in 1917. Bill Bowes too rendered an outstanding service as a principal one of the many dedicated exemplars of the merits of our peculiar commission form municipal government. Perish the thought of return to an elected alibi council to cancel so much sagacity/authority of our time-proven thorough-going Administration. Something to think about in the merger of City and County revamp.

Please excuse. 41 years in the City Hall did not perfect typist.

Respectfully submitted -- G. P. K.

...a friend in. ...
Editor Oregon Journal

On journal article of June 15th entitled
OUT OF BILL'S LINE, of all distinguished public
servants that I have been close to ^{the word 'Bill' is} in the
City Hall, ^{speaking from the floor as suggested,} I would nominate W L Baker.
I have ~~always~~ ^{ever} since believed that he was
a foremost promulgator of public mass gathering
theatre, leading up to the ballot measure that
authorized a \$565,000 bond issue ^{in June 1911.} to finance its
construction. ^{At the moment} Baker ^{was} ^{was} a member of City Council
that was ^(eliminated) ~~eliminated~~ by the radical revision of
the City Charter, that ushered in our Communion
form rule in 1913.

In the ^{concurrent} reshuffle election, ^{innovated} premerial candidate
Baker was ground placed by the ^{Communion} preferential balloting
and during the ensuing two years, Wm L Brewster
took over the development of the ^{and} project. Baker
won out over Brewster in the succeeding election
in 1915, ^{remained 2 years as Communion of affairs, and was elected Mayor over W L Baker} ^{in 1917}
and ^{date} when the auditorium became a fait accompli.
The bond issue, ^{for \$565,000} that was voted in 1911, ^{as it transpired} provided only
for ~~costs~~ limited construction costs.

Concerning tactics let there be no dispute

De quibus non disputandum in Latin

Suppose we put it de quibus chills enthusiasm

~~Expletive. Speaking~~

~~translating into~~ innuendo Oh G and Oh H—

O'Gracious ~~for~~ to apply to the auditorium

O'Heate for the distraction opposite across the street

a certain Civil Engineer ^{in his signature 20's} ~~cleared to~~ ^{not long} after our S A War

~~was~~ ^{was} ~~bartering~~ diagonally through an unlighted

Park Block in Ogden Utah, came up behind

a returned Soldier with a girl on each each

arm. The overheard dialogue indicated that

there should be two instead of only one male person

in their ensemble. One girl suggested a horse

about 20 and 20. The other said right off. That

feller is a geeato. The Soldier said What's your

disposition of a geeato? answer - a geeato is a

feller that ought to be somebody and know some

and and ain't nobody and don't know nothin.

That gave him a notion as to who frequented City Park.

The Civil Engineer at the time was spending

two years ^{engaged} in building a causeway across Great

Salt Lake.

The People Speak

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." —Voltaire

Agnew Should Know

To The Editor: Vice President Spiro T. Agnew called Tuesday, June 16, for the resignation of 22-year-old Joseph Rhodes from a presidential commission to investigate campus unrest, after Rhodes stated a l l e g e d l y anti-Nixon views re. the Kent State shootings (Journal, June 16). Charging "transparent bias" on Rhodes' part, the vice president stated that Mr. Rhodes "intended to utilize his new post to lift him from the obscurity of an unpublicized position to national notoriety." Not content with that blast, Agnew continued by charging that Rhodes "does not possess the maturity, the objectivity, and the judgment to serve on a fact-finding body of national importance." Right on Mr. Agnew, it takes one to know one!

F. M. Nunn
7132 SW Corbett Ave.

A Nomination

To The Editor: Agreeing with your editorial, "Out Of Bill's Line" (Journal, June 15), suggesting self-ordained nomination "from the floor," as you put it, I believe the name of George L. Baker should be considered ahead of any other in naming the SPECTACULAR park block recently wrought in front of the Civic Auditorium. He was a natural-born theatrical person and throughout his SPECTACULAR career he devoted his time and talents objectively to glorifying the City of Roses.

As an outstanding council member of Portland's notable city charter of "checks and balances" in vogue during a decade prior to the adoption of the commission form in 1913, he played no second-fiddle part in the fray, and it seems to have been a dragging fray all the way, leading up to a successful campaign for a bond issue of \$565,000 for a Public

Auditorium voted in June, 1911.

In the sweeping charter change election in 1913, perennial Councilman Baker was swept out of the City Hall, and for the next two years Commissioner Wm. L. Brewster, serving as head of the Department of Public Affairs, devoted his time and attention mainly toward clearing an authorization through the Supreme Court to build on the city-owned Market Block, lacking appropriation to negotiate the Dolph Block bounded by 5th, 6th, Jefferson and Columbia Streets, harking to a bonnie notion of a placement tied in with a Civic Center and not too far removed from the down-town theater district.

Baker came back strong to replace Brewster in the election of 1915, and the bonds were issued as of March 1, 1916. I have a vivid recollection of orator Baker's dedication speech when the Public Auditorium in its original form became a fait accompli, I would say before he was elected mayor winning over Will Daly in 1917. Bill Bowes, too, rendered an outstanding service as a principal one of the many dedicat-

ed exemplars of the merits of our peculiar commission form of municipal government. Perish the thought of return to an elected alibi council to cancel so much cogent authority of our time-proven thorough-going administration. Something to think about in the merger of city and county revamp.

C. Paul Keyser
University Club.

One Journal reader has suggested that the Auditorium forecourt be named for the writer of the foregoing letter. Mr. Keyser, now 92, served with the City Park Bureau for 40 years, 23 years as superintendent, and gave leadership under which Portland developed one of the finest city park systems in the country.—The Editor.

Cure-All

To The Editor: Were it possible, every man, woman and child of the United States should go fishing one week end each month. That's about all the "luxury" and about all the doctoring they would need.

D'Brooks Hogan
3436 SE Tibbetts St.

Charles F. Keyser

APR 9 1967

Portland, Oregon, April 6, 1967

Mr. Jackson Martindell
Publisher, Marquis -- Who's Who, Inc.
210 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Ills.

Dear Mr. Martindell:

Responding to your request for biographical data pertaining to my career, I am submitting herewith enclosed your BRIEF CAREER SUMMARY as per request. Wondering why my fame, however notable, should be called for in a WHO'S WHO now in my eightyninth year, perhaps you can allow me to be more garrulous.

My bid for recognition in any WHO'S WHO listing must be based on my essential part in the achievement of a notable Park & Recreation System, that it fell to my lot to weave into the pattern of the Metropolis of Oregon. As noted on the filled-out form, I graduated from the University of Nevada in 1899 with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, and have never sought higher academic distinction.

In my first year following graduation I was employed in the office of the Claims Attorney pointing toward Engineering Law, identified with the Southern Pacific Railway System in San Francisco. During the next seven years I was variously engaged in Civil Engineering, mainly in railway location, construction, and operation, in California, Nevada, Utah, and Oregon. I had been self employed in the practise of Professional Engineering for one year prior to appointment to the position of Engineer & Principal Assistant to the General Superintendent of Parks of the City of Portland, Oregon, on March 17, 1909. At the moment the Municipal Park Commission was entering on a pretentious expansion of the Park System, with an initial \$1 million bond issue.

I occupied the above position until August, 1917 when, having been rejected for Military Service in World War 1, I succeeded my predecessor who was called to the colors and did not reclaim his position when mustered out. I then continued as the Chief Executive of the Bureau of Parks & Recreation until my retirement as of December 31, 1949. Meanwhile, a phenomenal increase in the application of internal combustion power to pleasure vehicles along with the Good Roads movement, had effected a radical mobility in leisure-time pursuits. Recreation became more active and less restful in sum in the new tempo.

Not long after I mounted into the saddle, I won my spurs with a successfully campaigned ballot measure providing a continuing millage levy calculated to bring the City a well distributed system of neighborhood parks featuring supervised playgrounds. Two years later the electorate authorized \$1 000 027 in municipal bonds toward forehanded development of the millage program instituted in 1917.

Our program showed consistent progress during the decade immediately following the Armistice, along with some windfall from various "Alphabet" relief devices of the New Deal -- largess from the Federal Treasury. In this place in our history we established three Public Links Golf Courses, and an Arboretum of distinction featuring an unexcelled collection of indigenous and exotic evergreens and other gymnosperms that local climate and soil especially favors. In 1915 we moved definitely toward founding a 5000 Acre Municipal Forest mostly within the corporate limits and convenient walking distance from the heart of the City. This Forest Park was dedicated in 1946. It terminates on its prominate end in the Arboretum, to which the International Rose Test Garden, established in 1917 is nearly subjoined. Since my retirement a projected \$5 million Zoo has been developed next to the Arboretum.

#2 Charles P. Keyser
APR 9 1967

Jackson Martindell p. 2

After retirement at 71, I was retained as a consultant for an additional five years, serving also as a member of the Portland Art Commission. Along the way, I became a Director of the American Institute of Park Executives and served as its President in 1935 & 36. I was elected to Membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1917 and served five years as Secretary and one year as President, of the Oregon Section of the Society. A member of the City Planning Division of the A.S.C.E., I collaborated in the formulation of the Portland City Planning Commission, and thereafter consistently ^{conferred} on land uses; in relating open spaces in the urban and suburban pattern. In recognition of my work in the acquisition of properties forming the Park System, I was awarded an honorary membership in the Portland Realty Board.

I served six consecutive years on the Board of Governors of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club, notably serving as the Chairman of the Building Committee for the athletic field and Civic Stadium that was built on the Club's property in 1926. I have been a perennial Director of the Portland Rose Festival Association ever since 1920. I have been consistently identified in Conservation through such organizations as the Izaak Walton League, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the Trails Club of Oregon, and the Mazamas. I was a member of the Portland City Club from its founding until my retirement. I have never authored a significant technical book or didactic monograph, and not often a magazine article.

I have been a registered Democrat, believing in sound money and two-party Government and Civil Service vouchsafed. In my public career I have not engaged in partisan politics. I am the son of a Baptist father and a Presbyterian mother, never in my life identified with any sectarian religious Congregation. Joining in 1902, I have been a Free Mason — Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Mystic Shrine and still have life memberships in all three orders. I am also a life member in the Multnomah Athletic Club and the University Club. I was married only once, and to a classmate of the University of Nevada. Our only progeny is a son and a grandson. I have been a widower since 1948. It chanced that I was excluded from military service through three Wars: accordingly no service record.

Finally, if I am bidden to boast years after "putting off my harness" let me say I do appreciate your recognition of the modicum of service that I have been privileged to ^{render} my City. Even so, in my harness I happened to be third in line for credit due. I was exceptionally favored in having had my course charted by Dr. Thomas Lamb Eliot, "the latchet of whose shoes I was unworthy to unloose". He was the exemplar par excellent of morals and culture in the City of Roses through the first century of its history. Soon after the turn of the Century he had laid the foundation scheme for a Metropolitan Park System that he envisioned, but he did not rest until he had headed a successful campaign to finance it, and engage a qualified expert, E.T. Mische of Olmstead Brothers of Brookline Mass. to execute it. Mische made a great showing with the first million dollars disbursed, and I went along and learned how. I must also pay tribute to the eight Mayors in whose Administrations I had served in my 41 years in the City Hall, as well as many others who were happy to aid and abet my spinning and weaving in the pattern of the City Beautiful.

Again, thanking you for the compliment, I beg to remain

Very truly yours

Charles Paul Keyser
Charles Paul Keyser

Editor Oregonian

Regarding it as a hopeful sign of restoration

I would like to offer a bit of ~~comment~~ ^{comment} on your
 letter a Halperin's article, ^{concerning a picture of} ~~that~~ ^{Daniel P.} ~~that~~ ^{David} ~~that~~ ^{himself} appeared in the

Original of July 12 1973 under the caption Aplis

108 years; perhaps I can add a bit of interesting ^{particular?} commu.
To me, ^{as member} ~~and~~ ^{most} close connected, ^{with the} ~~the~~ ^{Progressive} working back to days of Dr F. L. Eliot's Park

Commission that was ~~at~~^{put out} ~~extinguished~~ by the sweeping
city ~~extinguished~~ with the march of time
at T. C. P. 1

Charter amendment of 1913, I would like to ~~bring~~
to your praise ^{as} shown in ~~the~~ historic records of
~~but~~ the records of ~~in particular~~ to two prominent

civic minded Public Servants who ^{had therefore} seen their duty
and done it." Sylvester Penoyer who had ^{a famous} honorable
record as Governor of Oregon followed by a worthy account
of ~~the~~ Tenure in the office of Mayor of the City of Portland.
Incidentally he had donated a neighborhood Park that
bore his name, on Portland Heights and soon became the
abutting owner of the ~~Park~~ ^{next west} Block, between Morrison and Alder;
~~next west was~~ ^{next west} was the

He was a rugged individual who could tell the President of the Groves Cleveland to attend to his business in Washington while ^{he the groves would} move his ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ Oregon. He had an intimate appreciation of the reflected benefit ^{of the groves} to the Pollock.

points the Public, of ~~our~~ Parks & when Mr. W. Page the sharp-shooting
lawyer who had plotted ^{a large number of} the town that he named Albion
had succeeded in writing the city title to the five hours
B. B. B.

[illegible]

in ~~of~~ ^{confronting} the City of Portland alleging a defective title

Portland, Oregon
July 2, 1970

Mr. Lee Tabor
KOIN
140 S.W. Columbia
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Tabor:

Now that I have had time to let my first-blush impression of the SPECTACULAR fountain soak in, and have viewed it lit up after dark, I will offer my cursory criticism pertaining to the Portland Development Commission's Peoples' Park fronting on the revamped Public Auditorium.

You will recall that I horned into this matter with an unqualified nomination of the late Mayor George L. Baker, if any one was to be honored in giving it a distinguished name:

First - Concerning tastes let there be no dispute: says an ancient Latin proverb; and you must allow me a predilection for Santayana who gives us: "Everything ideal has a natural basis; and everything natural has an ideal development." Artistically, I would say sharp edges and corners of slots and flat concrete surfaces do not blend naturally in display of running water.

Second - I would be concerned about hazards - bound to cause accidents resulting from tripping, slipping or falling on the stark slabs, gaps between, and sheer drops. I believe some safeguards, unobtrusive as may be devised, will be found to be critically necessary. And it is going to be a constant worrisome chore for somebody to keep the entire block neat and tidy and enjoyable. Of course there will have to be an enclosing and excluding chain link fence or something similar for control.

Nice in summer. Will it be kept flowing and lighted just for looks during inclemencies in Fall, Winter and Spring?

Third - At all events, it occurs to me to suggest a more fantastic treatment; say installation of a group of spouting artificial geysers that would maintain a variable sequence of eruptions within the bordering walkways and thereby enhance the spectacular effect, but more specifically keep the horizontal surfaces unceremoniously doused for him or her who might essay to intrude with or without habiliments.

Incidentally our cross-sectioned civilization has not as yet reached a status of innocuous desuetude. For the time being anyhow, we all must have variety - our spice of life - lest we languish.

Devotedly yours,

Charles Paul Keyser

Copies to Keep
✓ Buckley
✓ Mayor Robinson
✓ Roy Riddle Journal (returned)
✓ Edward M. Miller Oregonian
C.P.K. file

740 1/2 E 14th. ave.

2/7/58

Eugene, Oregon

February 3, 1958

Dear Mr. Keyser.

End with reply
Report of Plan Commission Park Conditions March 1929

and "Philosophy" and Field of Recreational Management and Recreation Administration in long hand

First of all I want to thank you again for your very thoughtful Christmas Card. You must think all year on how to express the greetings the next time. They are always so thought provoking.

I am now doing graduate work at the University of Oregon. I am also delving into recreation again a field that is really my first love I think. I am taking a course in Recreation Administration and it really has been giving me an insight into this big field. As you know my view point has been mainly from a life guard stand.

Now I'm going to ask you if you can help me on a project? I know of no one who has a better background of the information. This is it. I want to make a report on the history & development of the Park & Recreation Department in Portland. How is it that a small city like Portland has been able to develop a park & Rec. program that is outstanding nationally for cities of its size? I know there must have been some long range planning and foresight. It all didn't just happen. Some one had to be able to take advantage and see opportunity when it knocked. How is it we have been able to have such a large golf course program? What were some of the legal aspects that made the acquisition of land and other facilities possible. I'll see if Dorothy can carry on from

2. Where you left off when you retired.

I wonder if a study of such has ever been made and I think it might be of interest to the people if it could be worked up and written up. There's only one catch to this there is a dead line. This must be ready for report not later than Mar 3.

If you cannot find time to do this can you suggest how I might go about it?

Some thing else in the way of history I'd like to delve into in the interest of Recreation, is. How did Oswald West come to have foresight and influence enough to save our Oregon Coast line? When would I find that.

Portland has had a Park Recreation system for as long as I can remember and that is longer than I like to admit. ~~And~~ When I read the history of Recreation movement. I realize. We were moving not far behind. Boston and some of the so called leaders.

I do hope you can help me on this project. I'd appreciate an early reply because if this is not possible I'll have to get on to another subject.

Thank you for any advise you can give.

Sincerely,

Pearl Atkinson

(Physical Ed. director of
Women's activities at Reed College)

P.S. I'd like things like where the Multnomah Falls got into the picture to.

Maie also had my story of how Eastmanland was
developed and financed.

Public Recreation in the City of Portland

by Charles Paul Keyser January 1958

1
a review of progress over the first century of growth of the City of Portland (Oregon) will clearly indicate that a strong supporting sentiment ^{for} parks was laid in the foundations and has ever since been consistently sustained. The municipal incorporation was set up in 1851. In 1852 David H. Larned who had acquired the original townsite one mile square, recorded an official plat of streets blocks and lots in which he dedicated twenty three blocks to public use for parks. Other parks were established by gift or donation as the town grew, until in 1871, 40 acres which became known as "City Park" was purchased. The price was \$32,624.00, and it was a notable, a really ambitious achievement for a frontier town of 8,243 inhabitants to boast of. Expanded from time to time to comprehend 650 acres, outstanding features are the zoo, which is being moved and rebuilt ^{for the} third time since first started in 1885; the international rose test garden and garden theatre; the Shakespeare garden, and the Hoyt arboretum.

The early enthusiasm shown for parks is the more remarkable ^{considering that} at that time one had only to step out of the door-yard to be in the woods, on the river or in the scenic hills and mountains with which the country round about has been so generously blessed. Surely there could not have been any lack of naturalistic park atmosphere convenient to the ~~former~~ entire population of 1871. Credit is due for provision for recreational areas to a prevailing element of integrity, people of discernment.

and foresight; the same element which has built and carried the Portland standards of excellence in education and culture. Out of this influence, initiating and continuing, has come the urban recreational system as an integral part of town plan and community life.

A foremost leader in civic achievement was Thomas Lamb Tibbitts, a pioneer Unitarian clergyman. He was primarily instrumental in founding his church and congregation, the public library, the Portland Art Association, the Boys & Girls Aid Society, the Oregon Humane Society, and he was the father of Portland's modern park system. He also served as County Superintendent of Schools at a time when their standards needed elevating, and he induced Amanda Reed to ^{found and} endow Reed College.

About the turn of the century in company with a group of influential citizens, he led a movement to set up a Park Commission by act of the State Legislature and served as its chairman for several years until he had produced a comprehensive city wide, really metropolitan, scheme for a park system, and had successfully campaigned a \$1,000,000 bond issue for parks. The Olmsted Brothers of Brookline Mass. rated as the country's foremost landscape architects and park planners made the survey and report. They also recommended Emanuel Tullman Mische, a man with years of background with their firm, to build the system and superintend the maintenance and operations of the established Park Department.

The Olmsted report made no specific recommendations ~~for~~ looking toward supervised playgrounds as an essential feature of recreational facilities, but Musche along with Dr. Eliot foresaw the essential requirement. The National Recreation Association was founded by Joseph Lee of Boston in 1906. Musche was well informed as to their aims and objectives. When he arrived in Portland in 1908, the Peoples Institute had been operating a playground along with its welfare programs. This playground was taken over and equipped by the Park Commission in 1909, and thus became Portland's first public supervised playground. It ~~was~~ and still is on the North Park Block opposite the old Custom House. We read in old newspaper files that Councilman George Baker proposed to establish a playground for children on a North Park Block circa 1904, and that Harry Corbett son of Helen Ladd Corbett head of the Peoples Institute, in 1908 took unsupervised children for joy rides ^{in his automobile} starting from the North Park Blocks. While Eliot's name does not appear conspicuously in connection with the workings of the Peoples Institute in this connection, it may be assumed that as Chairman of the Park Board, he had a hand in furthering the movement in its inception. Musche went on and established 24 playgrounds widely distributed over the city.

Musche also got rid of a municipal bath house that had been precariously moored at the foot of

et

Jefferson Street, and replaced it with a swimming pool in Sellwood Park in 1910. The floating bath house at Jefferson Street was an enclosure with slat bottoms that seemed to fill a real need, but had to be abandoned along with the Windemuth bath as a private operation on the north end of Rose Island, when pollution of the river became intolerable. Swimming pools were built in Pinnacles, Creston, Columbia, Mt Scott and Montavilla Parks in the next few years after 1910. The pools in Mt Scott and Pier Parks also grew with above listed units. Mische built the first Community House which was located in Pinnacles Park and it went into commission circa 1913. He also negotiated the purchase of the Sellwood branch Y.M.C.A. building and started its operation as the second community center. The Peoples Institute was managed by Mrs Corbett's private secretary Miss Valentine Prichard. She employed Miss Carin Segermark and assigned the supervision of the North Park Block playground to her. When the Park Board took over the operation the following season Miss Segermark continued as play director and became a regular employee of the City, ^(Park Commission) where the Community House programs were set up she became director of activities. However the Park Board's summer schedules were directed by a Mr. Kelley on temporary loan from the Y.M.C.A. the first year, then by Robert Krohn physical director of the Portland Schools, who was succeeded by Gym Director Thompson of the Multnomah amateur athletic club. Eventually Miss Segermark was put in charge of the

Mrs Helen Ladd Corbett
Harry Corbett's mother

He was a man of ambition, initiative, to an unusual degree, and habitually set goals and time tables to work to.

The entire playground and community house activities and carried on until she joined the American Expeditionary Forces and saw service in 1917-18. The success of the movement which became thus assured was due to Miss Segermark's ability and perception, ^{more} than to any other factor in place in the initial stages.

Wierha's star went dim when in 1912 and again in 1913 the electorate turned down proposed bond issues for \$2,000,000 to continue his program. The Park Commission was abolished by charter amendment in 1913 also. Wierha failed to click with the new regime and in 1915 was superseded by James O. Conwell. Wierha was ~~an~~ exceptionally well informed in all matters pertaining to landscape and gardening as well as in park design and city planning, to give him a competence in his line second to none. He set the pattern for Portland's parks and recreation system with the first million voted, and it ^{is} ~~is~~ unfortunate that the next two millions asked for was denied because as it appeared, the cause was not properly campaigned.

Besides a record of considerable municipal experience including press relations ^{Conwell} ~~he~~ had a background in various major sports particularly in football. He well understood what adolescents react to and he expanded Miss Segermark's programs and broadened the facilities. He instituted evening programs in the public school gymnasiums and it was he in collaboration,

6

with a copy of the Multnomah Club T. Morris Pugsley
 who got municipal golf started. Councilman ~~was~~
 was in 1917, and after the armistice elected to promote
 and shape the institution of the American Legion, and
^{was} not to return to the position of Superintendent of
 Parks + Public Recreation. Later he operated a dairy
 at Butport, followed by a real job of refinancing the
 Port and the City of Astoria after a devastating fire. He
 served as City Manager of Astoria with an enviable record
 for several years, and finished up his municipal career
 to retirement as City Manager of Corvallis. Mische
 also got into war work (Civilian) in architectural planning
 particularly in Navy Cantonments and thereafter resumed practice of his profession. Miss
 Degensmark returned to duty in the Bureau of Parks
 after she was mustered out, but like Council she
 resigned shortly to engage in her own enterprises
 notably a girls camp on Elk Lake out from Bend, Oregon.

It might be pertinent to mention here that the Park
 Department was set up by Mayor Bates in 1885. He
 appointed Charles Meyers as the first Superintendent.
 Meyers developed the 40 acres of rough woodland
 purchased in 1871 into "City Park" (rechristened Washington
 Park in Mische's regime). Meyers started the zoo in
 the ravine since occupied by two main city residences,
 with a few birds and small mammals plus native
 deer and bear. The zoo was moved to higher ground
 in 1893, and ^{again} farther back and higher in 1925. At
 long last it is being rebuilt in commendable

The story of how Portland became to be known as The City of Roses traces to the hobby interest in rose culture and exhibition in two men: first W.B. Gibson who built a home at 13th + Salmon Sts in 1874 with a rose garden as the principal feature of his rose yard. Later he developed a rather pretentious rose garden overlooking the River at the southern edge of the city. Mainly through his influence the first rose show of consequence was held under the auspices of the Women's Guild in Bishop Booth Academy on May 27 1889. The other was Frederick V. Holman. In 1900 a movement began toward celebrating the arrival of Lewis & Clark in 1805, ^{with} ~~an~~ ⁱⁿ 13, 1901, 1901 international exposition. Holman proposed ~~on~~ December 1901 at a meeting he had called to meet in the law office ^{to be} that the city make itself known in a big way as the City of Roses to attract visitors to the Fair held in 1905. At the Rose show held within the Fair in 1905 Mayor Henry Lane stated publicly that the City of Roses should have an annual Rose Fiesta. From this suggestion the Portland Rose Festival came into being a ^{fete} ~~festival~~ of the community, ^{that became customary,} first held in 1907. The Portland Rose Society had been ^{follow-up} ~~formally~~ ^{where a constitution was adopted, and officers were elected} instituted at a meeting called by Holman on Feb 14 1902. ^{city wide} He organized a campaign by districts, which accomplished miles and miles of Caroline T. Ford roses on the market ^{with} ~~at~~ at least one rose in every rose yard ^{imported.} One of the first show features that ~~was~~ worked into a design for park development when he arrived in ^{with a nearly authorized \$1000000 bond issue at the command of the Portland Park Commission} 1908 was the ~~sunken~~ rose garden in Burnside Park. The International Rose Test Garden was established in Washington Park in 1917. This latter was the brain child of Juel A. Currey.

① The early Rose Shows 1889 to 1893 had been staged originally by W.B. Gibson under the sponsorship of the Floral Committee of the Oregon Horticultural Society. In 1894 the Portland Rose Association, headed mainly by Mrs. J. C. Card (with Gibson's support) was established along the Rose shows until the Portland Rose Society was instituted mainly by Holman (and Gibson) as noted above. Mrs. Card was the first elected President.

Michie's garden covered six acres, had 14,000 rose plants
 with over 900 named varieties. Currier's garden covered 9
 acres and embraced not only the Tietz garden but also more
 extensive beds of display roses in vogue, and also displays
 of Rhododendrons and Camellias, ^{and azaleas} as well as a Shakespearean
 garden. Portland's zoo situated in Washington Park for
 70 years beginning in 1885 never was much to boast of
 until Mayor Fred Peterson induced another Egel Minister
 to come to ~~pitch~~ ^{pitch} the ride of Portland (a baby elephant) ^{Edward M.} ^{Miles of the}
 gave the paper something to talk about. ^{had all along given a great support to the movement when it would blossom, and}
 Oregonian, became ^{actively} ~~passionately~~ interested. Out of the fare fare
 came a zoo commission that swung a \$500,000 special tax levy
^{to} ~~and~~ pitch a modern institution in adjoining Hoyt Park. It
 is easy to explain why attendance at the zoo exceeds
 attendance at the rose gardens even in the City of Roses
 not so easy to tell why the City of Roses neglected to
 get a zoo to boast ^{the} during all of ^{the} seventy years.
^{Following Mayor Egel's appointment of Charles M. Weyer in 1885.}
 Hoyt Park arboretum and Forest Park were realized
^{summing} from influence on the part of the City Club of Portland,
 particularly ^{three} ~~two~~ members, ^{two of whom} ~~who~~ were also active members of the
 Forestry Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, although Michie
 also a member of the City Club ^{who had} served a year as its
 president, had pioneered ahead of both Thornton I. Munger
 and E. Cannon brought the proposition to the City Club and was appointed general chairman of the
 and Sinclair a Wilson the two above referred to. ^{These two}
^{Wilson and Munger}
~~and~~ ^{who had} ~~spoke~~ ^{who had} plugged committees that lobbied bills through
 the state legislature that enabled the county to cancel out
 tax reverted property for the benefit of designated areas and
 parcels to be devoted to park and recreational ^{North of Mackay Park.}
 (See City Club Report published in their Bulletin of 1946, ^{authored in the name by Wilson,}
^{who had collaborated with Michie on the City Forest Parkway as far back as 1915})

Committee that supplemented the procedure.

at the same time the City was prevailed upon to cancel delinquent bonded taxes to clear its "Dead Horse" account against properties that appeared should be permanently removed from tax rolls and dedicated to park and recreational use. There were still some odd parcels in the jigsaw of delinquency that remained to be acquired by direct negotiation. The original County Poor Farm comprising 212 acres called Hoyt Park had been abandoned by the County and after an abortive attempt to put it back on the tax roll it had been turned over to the City. Later the sector between the old City Park and Hoyt Park and the Canyon Road were annexed as above indicated. The Hoyt Park Arboretum, mainly a naturalistic planting of needle bearing ^{trees} and other gymnosperms covering approximately 60 acres which may be expanded, was developed from seedling specimens supplied from surplus from or through the agency of the US Forest Service Wood River Experimental Tree nursery, with which manager was closely associated. The development work of replacing a native second growth of forest with specimen arboretum trees was set up as a W.P.A. project circa 1938. This and the development of the West-land Athletic park are the only projects of significance that the Portland Park Dept. got out of W.P.A. Other Memorial make-work projects benefiting the Bureau of Parks are

(There was a W.P.A. Project, proposed to explore the geology of Mt. Tabor Park that was discontinued after a good start because it did not provide opportunity for enough make-work bonded labor.)

The dredging of Laurelhurst Lake and the construction of five miles of drives in Mt. Tabor Park also macadamizing of three miles of Fremont's Boulevard

in 1914 by the city's "charity" gangs, ^{or unemployed} are also worthy of
 mention. A C.C.C. unit in Beacon Park accomplished
 some extensive improvements - trails, bridges, and a lagoon
 at the mouth of Nahkeena Creek, ^{are noteworthy.} afterwards the city transferred
 its ownership to its Columbia gorge properties to either the county,
 the state park system or the U.S. Forest Service with the
 exception of the Lighthouse Park near St. Peter's home, for the
 reason that appropriate ^{prominence and location} based on values within the corporate
 city limits were not easy to allocate in preference to playground
 needs ^{of the urban area.} When the city acquired these Columbia Gorge Properties
 (mostly by gift) there did not exist a state or county
 recreational authority and the government seemed to have all
 it could administer at Eagle Creek in the way of a program
 devoted to park rather than forest use. The story of how
 Portland came into possession of Beacon Park is interesting.
 Circa 1910 Samuel Hall a relative of the great Northern Hall
 family promoted the Columbia River Highway traversing the
 Columbia River gorge. Previously there had been only a very
 inadequate wagon road that came down from the rim
 back of Latourelle. Samuel Beacon a large logging operator
 from the lower Columbia had retired and bought Nahkeena
 Falls intending to build himself a Shangri-la. He saw
 immediately that ^a scenic highway would invade the privacy
 of his hide away and besides it came over him that it was
 right that this beautiful setting should be enjoyed not
 by an individual exclusively but by the entire public.
 He thereupon decided to deed it for park and recreation.

purposes. He went further and offered to extend
 it to include Multnomah Falls. Mische always assumed
 that a park system should be considered metropolitan in
 scope. There being no immediate prospect of a state or
 county park system, Mische prevailed on Benson to take
 an 800 acres all told and present it to the City of Portland.
 Benson was unable to negotiate the parcel of land that
 Multnomah Falls belonged to. But he told Mische to
 file a condemnation suit and he would satisfy the
 judgment. That took care of the high fall but the Oregon
 Railway and Navigation Railway owned a 25 acre rectangle
 that included the lower fall and gave complete control
 of access, and the company was not disposed to relinquish
 it, particularly since there was a lease with five years
 to run on a satisfactory conclusion to the Hazelwood Company.
 Then J. B. Lyon a Tillamook of Benson, as a labor of love
 supervised the building of the ^{Columbia River} highway in Multnomah
 County. In the operation he and Angus Benson son of Benson
 hired a Port of Portland dredge towed it to the site and
 filled a hollow between the railway and the highway for
 standing room opposite the Multnomah Falls. Fearing
 that they would have been forbidden they rushed the job
 through in an overnight operation of pumping mud and gravel
 out of the river. All was lovely except that the hydraulic
 pile suddenly placed bulged the railroad ^{embankment} ~~fill~~ and
 put a stretch of track out of commission for a day
 or two until it was ^{made} ~~put~~ safe to resume traffic.

Thereafter neither Benson nor Lyon or anyone else
connected with the county could talk to the Railway officials.
Benson further offered to present ^{at 40's,} ~~Unwata~~ ^{was} ~~Gorge~~
writable to negotiate it from the owner and proposed to
underwrite another ^{such} indemnification, that the city brought when
the jury brought in an unconscionable award for the
city to satisfy. Benson was absolved and the deal fell
through. Years later Amos Smith when chairman of
the Board of ^{multnomah} County Commissioners succeeded in buying it
at a fair price from the widow of the man who had
been condemned, and the County turned it over to the
city. Some time in the early 20's Carl Gray President of
the Union Pacific System was brought by his friend
^{Eric V} E. V. Hauser to Laurelhurst Park to witness the crowning
of the Rose Festival Queen. The narrator of this account
was present in the capacity of a director of the Rose Festival
as he had been when Hauser served as President in 1920.
There was an awful jam of people and no reserved seats but
Mr Hauser and Mr Gray were ushered by a policeman to a
place close up that was just for them. P.K. got a chance
gracefully to tell Hauser that he would like to have Gray
consider donating the 20 acres at Multnomah Falls to the
city. Not long after P.K. received a letter from Gray asking
him to state and explain his request. This was followed
up by a visit to Portland where P.K. was called to
the General Manager's office for a tussle with the ^{General Manager,} ~~Gen~~
the chief counsel, and Gray. Gray told the Gen he had

he proposed to donate the 20 acre piece to the city receiving only so much as might be required for right of way which the Gov. stated should be 100 feet in width. Gray asked P.K. if he had any mind any restrictions on the deed, and was told it should have a reversionary clause if and when it might be transferred to another use, and suggested that it stipulate that the city build a lodge to cost \$12500 to replace the Haydwood enclosures after the lease should expire. The city complied with this covenant, although in the end the lodge had cost more than double the amount stipulated.

To return to the exigence of the New Deal. Prior to World War II the Playground Division of the Bureau of Parks had been operating on an annual budget of \$60000 or thereabouts. Provision had to be made for the sudden influx of war workers both for hurry up housing and provision for leisure time activities through the munimentality of the ^{Lanham} act a number of new community houses were built and implemented. Miss ^{Lensch} ~~Doehner~~ ^{Lensch} Director of the City's recreational programs was given the handling of the community programs supplementing her own and the two merged into a single systematized operation with a volume four ~~fold~~ fold of what it had been prior to the influx. After the Lanham act revenue dried up the City continued the program eliminating some of the units but continuing the programs pretty much as they were at the cessation of hostilities.

65

When the Park Commission was abolished by charter change in 1913 the Park Department became the Bureau of Parks and was assigned to the Department of Public Affairs, under Commissioner Tom L. Brewster. A \$2,000,000 bond issue to continue the Park Board's program of development had been rejected by the electorate. Brewster thought the policy should be to concentrate on one park somewhere to finish it up. To point to in advocating more bond money. Mirche stubbornly wanted to continue to spread what was left on a number of projects that the Park Board had formally authorized. Brewster wanted Mirche available for a good part of every day to advise and confer. Mirche wanted to go on drawing plans at night and carrying them out by day in the field. Brewster suggested that Mirche hire an assistant to execute ~~and~~ plans and supervise operations. Mirche declined ~~to~~ or neglected to find one and Brewster said then he would get him one. Brewster was a lawyer and somewhat of a sociologist. He saw no advantage to the park system in having a built-in engineering department. He took the position that all engineering should be handled by the City Engineer. Keyser had gone to work with Mirche under the Park Regime in March 1909 and tried in spite of Brewster's attitude toward engineers and engineering to bridge the widening gap between Brewster and Mirche to no avail. James O. Connel had come and gone as a park employee. He came into the City Hall looking for a job. Keyser ~~had~~

told Connel how Brewster was looking for a man to
 appoint to arrest Mische and Connel landed the job.
 Brewster was succeeded by George L. Baker at the end of
 Brewster's two year term in the middle of 1915. By this
 time Mische was quite much *persona non grata* and
 Baker promoted Connel to the position of head of the Bureau
 and put Mische on a retainer in an advisory capacity.
 It is understandable that Connel did not care to advise
 with Mische but rather teamed up with Keyes. About this
 time the whole aspect of the use of leisure time was
 beginning to be profoundly affected by the advent of
 pleasure line of ^{internal} combustion engines, mainly in automobiles
 but also in small craft motor boats. The gasoline tax
 was instituted first in the state of Oregon and that supported
 the good roads movement. War clouds were gathering
 and the people were not interested in water skiing with
 a grand boulevard system in the city. They wanted to go
 joyriding to the ocean or up the scenic Columbia Gorge
 or to Canada or Mexico. When war was declared by the
 U.S. Connel and Keyes both volunteered for service in
 the armed forces. Both at first were rejected. Connel
 got in on a second try, whereas Keyes drew a
 second rejection and so Keyes carried on alone for the
 duration. When Connel returned he elected to engage
 in other pursuits and Keyes was appointed head of
 the Bureau permanently. Keyes had sometime prior
 to the war reached an opinion that a measure designed
 to fetch widely dispersed neighborhood playgrounds

could be successfully campaigned. He browsed around and found that the various community clubs organized for civic betterment were willing to beat the drum for each for a playground for its own neighborhood. Because the South Portland Improvement Club was in the van in wanting the equal of Marguam Gulch transformed into a ~~swimming pool~~ ^{swimming pool} they seemed to come first. But in order to get every body on the band wagon it would take concerted action. Accordingly a Federation of Community Clubs was organized that campaigned a ballot measure to make a continuing millage levy of 4/10 of a mill annually beginning in 1917 with the agreement that the first yield of something like \$120,000 was to be allocated to the Marguam Gulch project. After that no other neighborhood was content to sit by and wait their turn. The logical move was to advance the program with two companion bond issues in 1919: one for \$500,000 to purchase the more important sites and the other for \$527,000 to improve and equip. Many people who did not know which was their pet measure voted for both to make sure, and both carried. This set the pattern which has given the City of Boise one of the best distributed systems of neighborhood playgrounds. In 1934 the Superintendent of Parks recommended to the City Council that the Planning Commission be directed to make a study and report on where parks and playgrounds were lacking. The ensuing report recommended acquisitions estimated to total to \$500,000. Mayor Carson was aware to increasing the City's bonded indebtedness in the existing conditions but he would father another millage 4/10 mandatory levied to the annual levy. Again the Federated Community Clubs went into action on this occasion they were reinforced

by the sky rocketing Mantle Club 3000 strong who carried on a city wide door bell ringing campaign to a successful outcome. When the first ten year authority had expired another 10 year continuation was voted.

In the city park system are four distinct race tracks. They are City View now Belwood Park; Livingston only partially covered by Irving ~~Park~~ Park; Fairport ~~High~~ Place now Pennicula Park; and the Rose City Country Club now occupied by the first nine ^{holes} of the Rose City Golf course. The Rose City property 94 acres was bought for the mortgage used 1923. Commissioner L.C. Peir was averse to spending more than \$20000 of the 1919 bond money in any one spot. Heysen drove a bargain with the mortgagee for as much as \$20000 would buy and then weighed him into deducting the whole price for the face of the mortgage a little in excess of the \$20000 allocated. This was not only a first class one mile race track with a grandstand but also was provided with stock barns designed to contain the Multnomah County Fair in preference to Gresham and it had been used ^{variously} ~~variously~~, once for a head-on collision of two old locomotives as a spectacle put on by the American Legion. It was the first landing field for an airplane in this vicinity. But the time came when it was no longer a good neighbor to encroaching residential development. The grandstand and barns were razed and sold for salvage value. A small group of nearby residents began to play golf on a nine hole layout of their own. For cups they

make tomato cans, and they kept the dandelions down
with hand lawn mowers brought from home. They put
logs on apple trees at the trees to hold sand and water.
It wasn't long until the Park Bureau improved their
layout into a satisfactory nine hole course and gave it
regular maintenance and full operation. Followed there
in 1925 and 26 an extension of some 80 acres and the
^{development of the} ~~addition of a~~ second nine holes. This latter and the
club house were put under by utility certificates a la
Eastmoreland. The nine hole golf course laid out on
the site of the abandoned Poor Farm (Hoyt Park) and known
as the West Hill Course never required special financing
as it was self supporting from greens fees. When
it was raised to make way for the new zoo, space
was found for an 18 hole pitch & putt course. and
to take the place of the West Hill golf course an old
farm property has been acquired at Progress in Washington
country which will be developed into ^{a full scale} ~~an~~ 18 hole course.
So far Portland has not done too well in its showing
of bowling on the green. But the two greens at West-
moreland are attracting increasing patronage. The city
still lacks an ice skating rink which sometime will
be built before too long and indications are that it
can be maintained by fees charged.

although Portland's Park System has two outdoor theatres
one in the Washington Park Rose Garden, and one in the
ruined crater ^{of the extinct volcano} in Mt Tabor Park
there is another ^{tentatively} ~~planned~~ in the Hoyt Park Zoo which
will accommodate large audiences ^{and} ample parking
space already serving the zoo the ^{Oregon} ~~University of~~ ^{University of} ~~Portland~~ ^{Portland}
and ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{pitch & putt} golf course. ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~park~~ ^{park} is to ^{comprise} ~~comprise~~
over 5000 acres and be maintained primarily as a municipal
park for various nature programs of recreation.