



# **An Oral History of Kellogg Lake**

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## Introduction

Kellogg Lake has been a central geographical feature in Milwaukie for over 160 years, but today most Milwaukie citizens, even the Lake's immediate neighbors, have little interaction with it.

Technically speaking, Kellogg Lake is a man-made "impoundment" with a surface area of about 14 acres. Originally, Kellogg Creek was dammed to power the Standard Mill in 1858 and it served as a mill pond for about three decades. According to the US Army Corps of Engineers (2002), the original stream channel has become masked deep within the lakebed by about 17,500 cubic yards of sediment that is contaminated above legal standards set by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for both DDT and Chlordane. It has experienced frequent sewer overflows and is the recipient of a significant amount of stormwater runoff from surrounding residential properties, Lake Rd, and McLoughlin Blvd. These factors contribute to its placement on the DEQ's "d" list (DEQ, 2004/2006), which is the lowest categorization for water quality, due to *e coli* violations.

Many of us, especially those who are young or new to Milwaukie, do not harbor affectionate memories of playing around Kellogg Lake, swimming and fishing in it, or skating and sledding on it. For most, it's easy to see a body of water defined by its ecological limitations; poor passage for native fish, invasive plant species, contamination, and bank erosion.

But this perspective does not do justice to the early history of Kellogg Lake, and the ways that it enriched the lives of those that lived near its shores during the 20's, 30's, and 40's. Nor does it recognize the chain of events that lead to the lake's eventual degradation beginning largely in the 50's. Lastly, it doesn't honor sporadic efforts undertaken by groups and individuals who have working tirelessly to reinstate the integrity of the Lake for recreation and habitat.

This Oral History Project attempts to reconcile the contrasting feelings of affection, disregard, and apathy associated with Kellogg Lake. Based largely on the memories of those interviewed, this document strives to tell the story of a lake that was once enjoyed and cherished but now forgotten, and how it got from there to here.

## Methodology

### ***Preliminary Research of Non-Oral Sources***

The primary challenge of oral histories is that they are intended to capture the living stories of a person or community. The accuracy and effectiveness of an oral history begins to decline rapidly when one digs deeper into the past than the lives of the interviewees. So, they tend to be both defined and limited by generations. For this reason, preliminary research of non-oral sources is an essential starting point if the goal is to tell a story which extends farther into history than living community members.

Extensive research was conducted, which attempted to decipher the early history of Kellogg Lake; to determine how, when, and why it came to be and also to support information derived during the interview process. In this way, this final document is a fusion of traditional historical research, with a strong interview-based or oral component.

This research was conducted throughout the duration of the project with the assistance of; The Ledding Library, the Oregon Historical Society, the Multnomah County Library, the Clackamas Library, the Milwaukie Museum and Historical Society, and multiple online resources.

### ***Interviews***

Multiple Milwaukie residents graciously shared their memories of areas in and around Kellogg Lake. Interviews occurred during the spring and summer of 2009, usually in the homes of the interviewees or in popular Milwaukie businesses. Each interview was audio taped, with the approval of the interviewee, and later transcribed. While compiling the final report, quotations were rearranged to create a sense of cohesion and flow for the reader, but the accuracy of the quotations themselves was upheld. These interviews provided a puzzle-piece framework telling a story of a lake that was loved, cherished, taken advantage of, abused, and largely forgotten.

Interviewees were identified with the assistance of JoAnn Herrigel, City of Milwaukie Community Services Director. Also, the project was advertised and interviewees sought through notifications published in the *Milwaukie Pilot* and the *Milwaukie Center's* monthly newsletter.

Finally, in completing this project, the City of Milwaukie recognizes that history is an evolutionary process, never ceasing to unfold around us as memory forms and fades. We can hardly expect that 160 years of sentiments toward Kellogg Lake could be summed up in a handful of interviews. Therefore, if reading this document stirs your memories of Kellogg Lake—please don't hesitate to call and share your stories<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Weaknesses with the Study***

There were two main factors inhibiting this research project. Interviews were conducted by City of Milwaukie staff, which brought challenges to the interview process. This fact seemed to create a certain degree of suspicion about the project's intent as well as occasionally prompting interviewees to be sidetracked by other local concerns, unrelated to Kellogg Lake.

Secondly, interviewer and interviewee rapport was, at times, compromised by the City's Kellogg for Coho Initiative (KFCI); a project which plans to reconstruct a naturalized Kellogg Creek and associated riparian habitat, in the place of Kellogg Lake. The association between cataloguing Kellogg Lake memories in this oral history and the Kellogg-for-Coho Initiative presented a sense of irony; citizens were sharing memories of a lake they may have cherished, with the understanding that it may not last forever. I believe that an individual with no affiliation to any governmental agency, and particularly to the Kellogg for Coho Initiative, may have had the opportunity to develop a stronger rapport with the citizens interviewed.

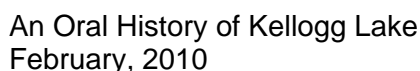
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<sup>1</sup> To share your memories of Kellogg Lake, contact; Nicole West at 503-786-7643



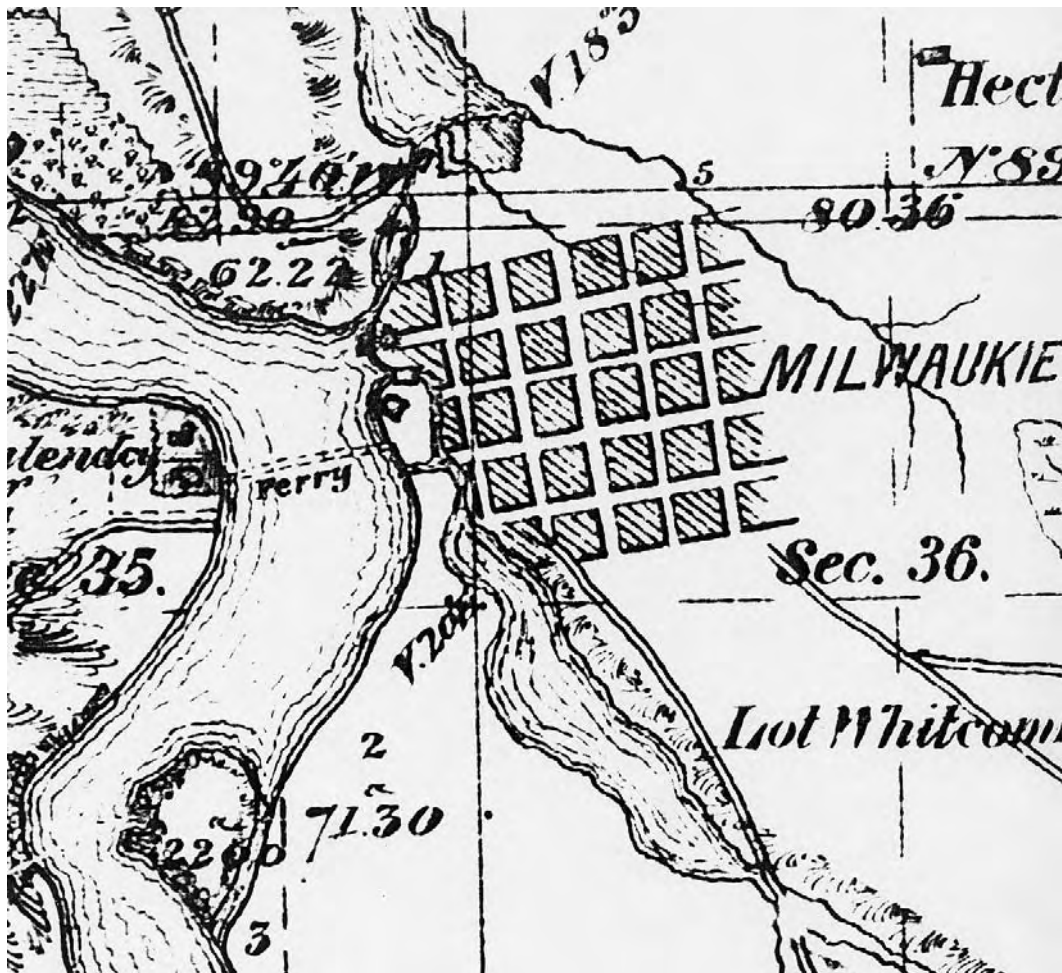
### ***Early Significance of Waterways on Regional Settlement***

By the time Milwaukie was founded in 1847, disease and the virtual extermination of all fur bearing animals, due to the early pioneer explosion of the fur trade industry, had eliminated all but a handful of the Native Clackamas population within the region (Olson, p.6) and the “area was a forested wilderness of fir, hemlock, cedar, and oak, with clumps of maple and alder, and with thickets of hazel, currant and salmon-berry bushes” (Olson, p. 3). Lot Whitcomb quickly decided upon the site of present day Milwaukie, and derived its name from an indigenous word from his home state of Wisconsin meaning the “meeting place of waters”. Early in 1851, the area was surveyed for the first time. This survey, shown below, is the only documentation illustrating the original free-flowing creek, initially referred to as Cold Creek. According to Dimon (1981), the name Cold Creek was likely derived from Whitcomb’s childhood town; Cold Creek, Michigan. The name was later changed to Kellogg Creek, after Joseph Kellogg who established his homestead and a successful grist mill on a donation land claim along the creek’s edge.



Settlers first set up farms and businesses along the Willamette that seeped down its tributaries and the rivers. According to Corning (1973), wagon travel was debilitated by the soggy land within the Willamette Valley, so travel along the main-stem and its tributaries was a necessity for the first settlers. River behavior was largely unpredictable and varied greatly with the changing of seasons.

According to the Oregon Historical Society, Journal #68 (p. 161), Lot Whitcomb completed the first plat of Milwaukie (pictured below) in 1851<sup>2</sup>. This plat illustrates the first planning effort to determine the layout of the downtown and the damming of Kellogg Creek. It's fascinating to note that the plat clearly indicates **two** outlets for Kellogg Creek; one in the location of the present day outlet, and the other further north near Johnson Creek. Conversations with soil, water, and geological professionals indicate that, during the pre-settlement era, the area of present-day downtown Milwaukie was likely a large wetland of braided channels. As settlement encroached on the waterways, they were actively channelized into the two distinct areas illustrated below. This would have dried out downtown Milwaukie for future development and allowed for multiple mills to benefit from the natural hydrology of the area. No information was encountered that explains when or how the northern channel of Kellogg Creek became filled.



<sup>2</sup> However other sources, like Clackamas County surveyors dispute this and date the plat to 1852. Due to a devastating flood in the basement of City Hall, when most all original planning were destroyed, many unanswered question about the early development in Milwaukie persist.

The significance of early Milwaukie's linkages to its surrounding rivers and streams only grew with technological advancement, particularly the steam engine. Fast-paced industrial development and settlement associated with the California Gold Rush of 1849 demanded unprecedented amounts of resources from the Pacific Northwest. Lot Whitcomb's steamship enterprise, on the shores of the Willamette, was the first in Oregon to provide regional timber and flour from Milwaukie's state-of-the-art grist mills to the Bay Area in California.

*"...No difficulty was experienced in disposing of all the lumber that could be cut, most of it going by vessels to San Francisco. On December 13, 1849, the 'Oregon Spectator' claimed that four sawmills were operating or would be operating at Milwaukie... Then early in 1849, a commissioned Joseph Kellogg had taken up a donation land claim next to that of Lot Whitcomb, to build a schooner to carry lumber and flour to the San Francisco market. Kellogg constructed a crude shipyard near the Whitcomb sawmill and went to work on the vessel. When the schooner was completed, it was loaded with lumber, flour and bacon. In San Francisco, the entire cargo was disposed of at fabulous prices. After that the saw mill-and-grist mill at Milwaukie worked day and night."* (Olson, p. 8-9)

### ***The Standard Mill and Origin of Kellogg Dam***

The damming of Kellogg Creek was a formative event in Milwaukie history and contributed to its growing fame as a bustling mill town in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. The seemingly insatiable demand provided by the settlement frenzy of the California Gold Rush was mirrored by a sense that timber, fisheries, and agricultural products from the Pacific Northwest were equally limitless. As a result, Milwaukie quickly developed a strong reputation, not only for Whitcomb's state-of-the-art steamship enterprise but also as a prominent mill-town, well positioned to process wheat from the fertile lands lining the western shores of the Willamette and timber hauled out from as far away as Estacada.

The small settlement boasted multiple mills and perhaps most notable was the Standard Mill, which initially dammed Kellogg Creek to power its operation in **1858**. The Standard Mill, a joint enterprise between Kellogg, Bradbury, and Eddy gave Oregon flour its reputation as the first mill to produce pure, white flour.

*"From the Tualatin Plains came the wheat that was ground into flour. Among other things that builder (Joseph Kellogg) did was to invent an apparatus for separating blue-pod from the wheat, and this in the grinding, left the flour perfectly pure and white. Other mills lacked this appliance for separating foreign matter from the grain, and although all flour was considered good, the Standard Mill product was highly superior. (Oregon Historical Society Scrapbook #4, 145-146)*

Industry continued to boom for the Pacific Northwest and log mills and ponds were the principle settings for lumber production and staging. As the mountain ranges in Central Oregon posed particular transportation challenges, even for the steam locomotive, shipping by sea remained the principle form of transportation for Oregon Valley natural resources (timber, firs, fish etc) well into the 1900's. However, as a result of the growing appeal in size and availability of the Portland Harbor and the narrowly-navigable

shallows constituted by gravel bars downstream of Ross Island, Milwaukie was slowly abandoned by sea-going commerce.

## Story of the Standard Mill

It Will Not Topple Into the River, says Captain Joseph Kellogg,  
Who Designed the Structure.

*June 1st - 1891*

Talk about the possibility of the old Standard mill, at Milwaukie, tumbling into the river and floating down stream reached the ears of the venerable, but still active and sprightly, Captain Joseph Kellogg only a day or two ago. When he was informed that the county officials feared the old mill would foul the bridges he indulged in a chuckle.

"I'd be ashamed, so I would," he said, in his quaint fashion. His eyes twinkled as he said it, and then he repeated it to make it emphatic. "I'd be ashamed to say that a mill made so long ago by being hewed out of the forest timber, by hand, and the big timbers put together with draw-borers, could tear down a modern iron bridge. They tell me that the Burnside Bridge might stand it, but that none of the others would."

"Why, they need not fear. The old mill will not fall down so easy as that. There is but one or two ways to get it out of the way. It will have to be dynamited or burned down. It will be a good many years before that old structure gives way by falling over."

Captain Joseph Kellogg, who lives at 408 Second street, is a millwright by trade, and he it was who not only designed the machinery of the Standard mill in 1853, but superintended the putting together of its timbers. He drew the designs for the machinery and the measurements of the buhrs that ground the wheat into flour. The plans for the mill are still preserved by the captain. The captain was a ship carpenter, too, and added to all his other accomplishments that of piloting of vessels in the river.

Captain Kellogg, W. J. Bradbury and H. W. Eddy composed the company that started the enterprise. Peter Taylor, the veteran fireman of this city whose presence is always in demand at the old volunteer firemen's reunions, made the machinery at his foundry.

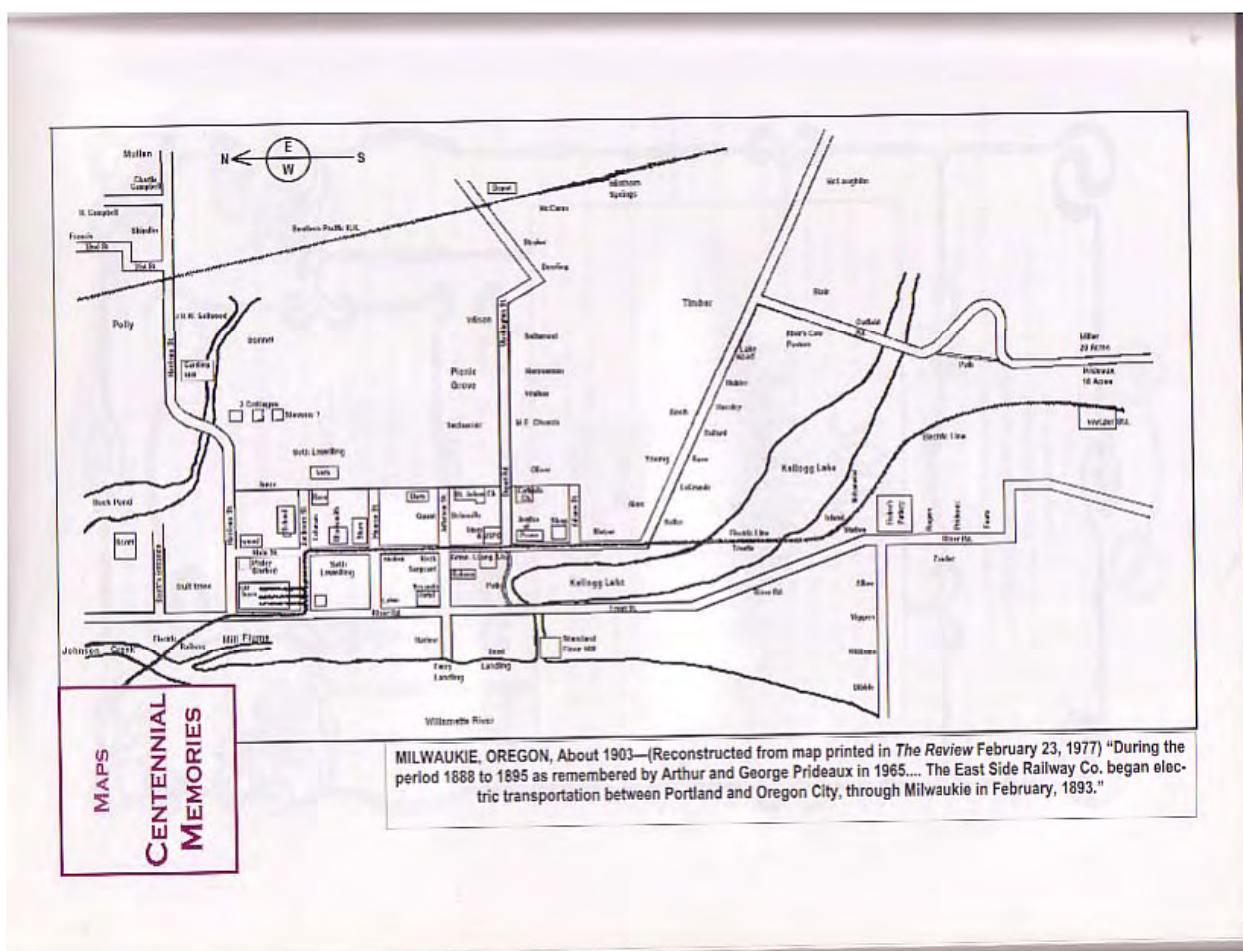
The old Standard mill was famous for its product because of the ingenuity of the millwright in inventing an apparatus for the separation of blue-pod and other foreign matter that got into the grain, and which, in the grinding, discolored the flour. In it Mr. Kellogg says there was constructed the first elevator in this country. It was like all the other inventions that the pioneers, just getting into business, made. They were inventions that were born of necessity, and while they may not have been the neatest appearing apparatus, they performed the service desired. The elevator was run by water. It was something like a chain pump on a large scale. Every three feet there was a crosspiece of board which held the sacks of wheat as they were hauled from the mill to the deck of the vessels which loaded at the dock. The speed of the wheel kept the deckhands doing a lively stunt to keep up.

The capacity of the Standard mill was 100 barrels of flour per day. There were four run of buhrstones, each 4 feet in diameter, and the motive power was two central discharge wheels made at a new foundry in Portland. The mill passed from one ownership to another until finally the controlling interest was acquired by the Ladd estate, and eventually the machinery in the mill was torn down and taken elsewhere.

Despite this decline in sea-going commerce, livelihood was maintained by Milwaukie's riverboats, sawmills, and the popular name of the Standard Mill brand's pure white flour that kept the mill in business through 1879. But, according to Corning (1973), as the town's economy grew and shifted, Milwaukie became a town of moderate size, largely detached from river life. The Old Standard Mill faded into an emblem of Milwaukie's industrial boom, a relic of its dream to be the greatest port city on the Willamette.

*The timbers that formed the Standard Mill were carved from the forest and as honestly put together as the hands that constructed it. The old timers will tell you with pride that in the flood of 1861, when the water swept over the second floor of the mill and leveled the adjacent low-lying valley of the Willamette, every other mill was washed out but the Old Standard stuck to her moorings. Forty three years passed by and still the old mill remains as an honorable landmark of Milwaukie and a feature that readily catches the eye of many artists looking for views.”(Oregon Historical Society Scrapbook #4, 145-146 )*

After 43 years, the Mill fell subject to dilapidation and finally fell in 1901. A map of downtown Milwaukie, reconstructed based on memories in 1903 to depict the city around the time of 1896 was printed in *The Review* (February 23, 1977). This map (below) shows the location of the Standard Mill building on the South side of Kellogg’s confluence with the Willamette.



## An Oral History 1918-Present

### ***The Early Days; Enjoying Kellogg Lake***

Since the days when it was first flanked by the Donation Land Claims of Milwaukie's founding fathers, Lot Whitcomb and Joseph Kellogg, Kellogg Lake has been privately owned. For this reason, citizen use and enjoyment of the Lake has been largely restricted to those that lived in its immediate vicinity. Aside from powering the Standard Mill, little is known of its recreational or functional use between 1858 and 1920. But the interviews that follow tell a rich story of how the Lake's immediate neighbors, and their friends, spent three decades recreating in and around Kellogg Lake

One of those historic lake neighbors was **Ernie Bisio**, who is likely Milwaukie's oldest living resident. He was born at home, on his family's farm at 25<sup>th</sup> St. and Lake Rd, in 1918. Now dominated by residential development, his family farmed the entire hillside sloping toward Kellogg Lake in a variety of garden vegetables. He and his wife, Ann<sup>3</sup>, attended school together beginning in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade at St John's Catholic. They graduated from Milwaukie High in 1936 and have resided in Milwaukie since.

As the survivor of a near-death boating accident, Ernie has a particularly interesting relationship with Milwaukie's waters. On May 28, 1939 Ernie was thrown from his boat while taking a leisure ride in the Willamette River. After being submerged for about 20 minutes, Bisio was fished out by a grappling hook that was manned by Staff Jennings. Jennings proceeded to perform CPR for one-and-a-half hours before Bisio eventually came to.<sup>4</sup>

Like this death-defying story, most of Bisio's river memories took place on the Willamette or Johnson Creek. But, when asked about his memories of Kellogg Lake, he still had a lot to talk about;

*"Well my brother and I, we'd walk down there to the lake, you know. And we found an old row boat out there and we got in it and we rowed around on the lake..."—he pauses to chuckle— "...in fact I can remember that this row boat, the front end of it was rotted away so we had to sit at the back end of the boat while we rowed around otherwise water would come in and flood the boat! In fact the farm here, they used to go down and get the crawfish. We used to have big crawfish feeds and they'd get the craw fish out of creek there and they were all healthy crawfish-big ones and so I'd say everything was pretty clear. It hadn't gotten polluted because the population was still way down."—Ernie Bisio*

When prodded more about recreating around the Lake, Bisio's memories unfold like an abridged agricultural history of Milwaukie and I understood quickly that his childhood was occupied by the tasks and duties of life on a farm much more so than lake-side recreation.

*"We grew all types of vegetables and in 1918 my dad had planted lots of garlic. And in 1918 we also had the influenza. It was an epidemic and garlic was supposed to have been the cure and my dad had planted lots of garlic and he made lots of money because people were coming to the farm there to buy the garlic. That's the year I was born. February 1918. And from there-that money,*

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<sup>3</sup> Ernie's wife was originally Ann Corti, a prominent family in early Milwaukie. Her brother, Dr George Corti, had a family medicine practice and many Milwaukie residents were his patients.

<sup>4</sup> See full article, "Milwaukie Man Rescued From River Tells How It Feels to Die", in Appendix



*that's when he bought this property here, the 4 acres up over the hill here. Now, we just have this and the field up above, about an acre-and-a-half here."*

*"My dad built the home up there in 1923. Let's see there's our house, the house my brother built, and then another house, and then the family house. I spent the first 4 or 5 years down on the farm there. When my dad and brother were building the house, I'd walk up there-4 or 5 years old-with the lunch pail. Up to 25<sup>th</sup> and bring the lunch up there. Lake Rd maybe had 100 cars a day on it, if that many. It wasn't a very traveled road and that was it. And I knew some of the people who lived along it and they kind of made fun of me walking up there."*

*"When I say that 100 cars a day was a lot of traffic, I mean it. One street that wasn't paved that you couldn't drive through it because it was a mud hole was 21<sup>st</sup> St. That was a mud hole through there. The problem was that the log trucks were coming down there under the trestle. And the logs got bigger and bigger, and pretty soon, they couldn't go under the trestle. One time they went down there and the log truck got wedged underneath there and they were trying to figure it out. And a bunch of us walked down there and saw-and I forgot who it was-but one of us said 'well let the air out of the tires on the log truck'. So, they let the air down and out and they had the clearance to get through there. We were probably 10, 11, 12 years old."*

*"It was all just farms up through here then. We pumped water out of the lake to irrigate the gardens. Yes, it was all farm land up through here. People were growing everything, but mostly what we called garden vegetables like radishes, green onions, spinach, lettuce, tomatoes, beans, peas, cabbage, and stuff. We had an old gasoline pump that pumped the water out. We had an early morning market that we went to. Oh yes, we had to get up at two o'clock in the morning. It was on 11<sup>th</sup> and Belmont. There were no farmers markets in Milwaukie then. All the farmers came there. Everybody came there. It was two blocks big and we had our stalls where we drove our trucks in there and laid our vegetables. We would sell some, and buy some, and I had a number of poppa and momma grocery stores that I would deliver produce to and so I would probably have some of the stuff that we grew that I needed and then maybe they wanted some peas and I would have to buy peas from someone that grew peas. Well and all the grocery stores wanted their produce at seven in the morning-so I had to get up at three o'clock-two o'clock in the morning and-oh yes-it was two or three o'clock every morning we'd get up and then go to the market and sell what we wanted to sell, buy what we wanted to buy, and load the truck up, and then go deliver the goods to the stores because everybody wanted it by 7:00am. It had to be that way. Our house was one of the only houses in the neighborhood. In fact, over here on 36<sup>th</sup> this was a big field-my dad used to plant it every spring in peas-oh I'll bet 7-8 acres, it was all peas. And then he'd get students to come and pick the peas for the farm. And Gilford drive down there that was all farm land. Across the way there were two berry farms, Bosses and Fishers; two berry farms where Rowe Middle School is now. That was all berry farms. And on this side this was all farm land. There weren't ten houses up along there..."*  
—Ernie Bisio

Bringing us back to the question of recreating in Kellogg Lake, Ernie's wife adds,

*"That's the other thing too...there just wasn't swimming the way there is now. Swimming just wasn't a big thing-young people were **working** when they were teenagers. They were working. We had to work. And I know in my case, my mother discouraged us to go anywhere where there was water. She did not encourage swimming. She was afraid of water. My brother learned to swim-but I didn't." - Ann Bisio*

I asked if she or Ernie ever spent time at the City's Bandstand, that used to be located near present day Dogwood Park;

*"That isn't anything my mother would have encouraged us to do-going down to the bandstand." -Ann*

As this and other interviews unfolded, I quickly learned that just about everybody had stories of the Tillamook Branch railroad trestles that cross Kellogg Lake just upstream from OR 99E. The Bisio's were no exception;

*"I think my mother was so afraid of water-and cautioning us about water. The only thing I can remember as far as Kellogg-is that one time a group of us, about three or four of us friends, young friends, we decided we were going to walk across the trestle. There's a trestle across Kellogg and I remember that. That was the scariest thing I ever did in my life. We did it. We walked on that-and that was so scary. I don't remember coming back. But I remember going. That's as close as I ever came to Kellogg Lake. There was nothing to hang onto-there was nothing. You looked down and it was very scary. Oh we were probably 13-14 years old." -Ann*

*"A bunch of us used to go down to the trestle and smoke. And I went down there once and I was going to start smoking. But my brother came down and caught me down there and he said 'If I ever catch you with a cigarette in your hands I'm going to knock your head off. So I never did. He scared me to death and I never did smoke." -Ernie*

*"In 1946 after he came back from WWII we walked all the way to Lake Oswego on the trestle. Yes we did-to Lake Oswego across that trestle and across the Willamette River trestle over to Lake Oswego. We didn't have a car so we just walked. We were going over to my brother's and he lived on the lake over there. But we did get a ride back. We didn't have to walk back. You're stepping from one tie to another." -Ann*

*Well, I figured if I would fall in the river, I'd make it. I had done it once!" -Ernie*

Like Bisio, **Bob Hatz** grew up in the immediate vicinity of Kellogg Lake. He was also born in 1918 and was raised in a home near the end of 23<sup>rd</sup> St, directly across from Kellogg Lake. His childhood home is exactly where the Milwaukie High School auditorium sits today. When interviewed, he was 90 years old. Sitting together at one of his favorite local establishments, Libby's, we laugh as he shares similar stories of rather unsuccessful boating attempts in Kellogg Lake;

*"Ok, to begin with when I was in...I think either the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or Junior High, I built a boat...out of scraps. Ok, I built a scow. That's a boat that doesn't have a point. But it had sides and everything. Anyway, I was so proud of that and took it down to the lake and put it in and I climbed up top onto the rafters...above the trestle and I jumped in and I went clear down into the lake." -**Bob Hatz***



He pauses to laugh heartily in spite of himself...

*"That was the only time I went swimming instead of boating and that was the end of my building of a boat. In my backyard, I just built it and took it down and a whole bunch of kids were with me. 'Oh I'm going to get in here...I'm going to jump in.' And I jumped. You know, I nailed it this way instead of grooving and things...I was a young kid. I didn't know better. I did get some tar you know. But I did it the wrong way. And a whole bunch of kids were with me. It could be someplace down there..."*

As a comic afterthought, he adds,

*"I shouldn't have told you this. I'll be blamed for polluting the lake!"*

*"As a kid, the Milwaukie dump was all right on the lake. From Washington St. it didn't go through down to the old super highway. This here wasn't a street then-it was just a whole big dump. This was terrible. A bunch of the umm...what you want to call them, hobos, or out of work people, they would come to the dump all the time and they made money by getting the old canning jar lids. There's kind of a glass stuff in them and they would knock that out and they would get the lead in the lids and sell it. That's how they made money. I guess they didn't realize it was bad. Now Milwaukie bought that property there. It used to be Mac's Pit<sup>5</sup> and then it became another restaurant and then it became a kind of a Pawn Shop. But originally, it was the City's dump. I tell you worse than that, when Milwaukie had their regular sewer, it went right into the river and right down Jefferson St. that's where the sewer went into the river. But that's where the park came to be. Anyway, it was bad."*

*"But there were still lots of open space and fir trees around and another little creek that come (into Kellogg Lake) from the natural springs on the old Presbyterian Church property...There is a holly tree that is still growing where my dad planted it in 1912. It's still there. I got a picture of me and my dad and my sister. I should have brought it...and you know the Milwaukie Market Place? That was all beaver dam-that's why that ground was so good."*

When asked to give some context for life in the 1920's and 30's, he responded,

*"Well, I'll tell you my wages. When I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade of grammar school, which was right in Milwaukie, during the summer I worked for the Binn Brother's Celery Fields, owned by George and Ted Binn, which is now Milwaukie Market place. We were getting 15 cents and hour. And the men that were doing the manual work, they were making 25 cents and hour. I was the "plunky" that dropped the celery plants. I dropped 'em. They had a rig that would make the spots and I'd take the flat and take out the plants and drop 'em one...one...one and the men behind, they were the planters. They had a stick deal that they'd poke a hole down and put the celery plant in and push it over. So they were making 25 cents and we were making 15."*

*"But, when I was still in Junior High School, and it was during the depression, I bought a very nice row boat for \$5. It was from one of the, basically a transient, they were out of work. He fished the lake and he wanted to sell his boat because he needed money. I was, like I say, I was only about 13 years old. But*

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<sup>5</sup> Mac's Pit was a famous local establishment. It experienced serious decline in its later years, but was once a very popular family barbecue.

*I got it from my folks. I got the money and got the boat. My dad was fortunate. He was working for the government so I could get a little money. Mainly it was asking for nickels. I had my boat until my junior year and then I got more interested in the girls. And my row boat, I didn't get down to the lake, and it disappeared. Somebody took it. I just left it."*

*"As a kid, I was also at Elk Rock Island many times. When we went over to the island in the summertime, it was all rocks and we just walked across all the time. To begin with there was a big dance hall-but it wasn't in use at that time. Anyway we would take our roller skates and we would roller skate on the floors and about a year or two later as it was still deteriorating we would rip off the shingles off of the side of the dance hall and we would start our bon fires and have a weenie roast on the beach. We had a lot of fun. And there were times when the water was too high above that we would take our row boats and go up over there. It was just all nature there-there was a dance hall down below and up above there were three cabins up above. When I was a kid they were more or less not used or anything. One of the cabins, a caretaker and his family lived in it and they would have to get the row boat and go to Milwaukie to get supplies and go back."*

*"But a lot of my memories are on the trestle... You know, at 2 o'clock the express train would come. We would get out in the middle of the trestle and we would run and try to beat the trains. But we would run on the ties. They had quite a few of those little rain barrels on the sides. And lots of times we would just stand there (on the side platforms) and watch the trains go by... The other part, underneath the trestle, are these beams that go across holding the trestle and we would walk across those way up at the top. We got pretty good at that... One of the kids didn't make it and he had to jump off onto the land and broke his legs."*

*"Oh there was one time a group of us, I was about a junior. And we started and we swam in the lake from down by the trestle, we went in and went under the trestle down to where the dam was and into the river and we swam clear down to Waverly Country Club. That was just a dare to see if we could do it. We had the boats. There was, I think... Lee, Bill... yes, four of us that did it. Yes, we used the lake and we used the river."*

*"We also would fish for the croppies. Croppies and the sunfish and the blue gills were all basically the same type of fish, basically they're a flat-lot of bones. But the prize fishing was when you went on over to what we called the island (Elk Rock Island) -you take a plug and fish for the big-mouth bass. They were pretty tricky... Every year it did that; every spring. We sat there and we would fish for salmon in the river."*

*"But the problem in the springs when the water was so high-it wasn't salmon-it was the darn carp would come in. They were partially responsible for the other fish to disappear."*

*"Now, I think I should tell you more about the dam. In 1932 when President FDR came into being and everything was 'happy days are here again', he created this CCC and the WPA. In 1934, they had the fellas in there with*

*shovels and pick axes and they made a whole trench underneath the bridge.<sup>6</sup> To begin with the street cars went right down the middle of Main St. But anyhow, I was down there all the time while they were doing this, making a big trench. I was about 14 maybe 15, in that area. Ya, that's when I was just a nosey little kid watching everything and the men were very nice to little kids like me. They let me go up and be all around everything that was being done.*

*And they drained the lake completely. And then they put in this, like a gate in and it built the lake back up. That's how they drained the lake the first time. It was a slow process. But they gradually did it. And they made the gate. And about two years later there was a problem in the upper part of the lake, so they drained the thing again. So it was drained twice.”<sup>7</sup>*

*“They never did get rid of the stream when they drained the water still kept coming-they filled in a lot. The WPA people-they were just draining the lake. I went all through the mud. I walked all through there and there was a type of a clam even I saw in the mud.”*

*“See before they had Bonneville Dam, every spring the snow melt would be so heavy they would back the rivers up and it would back clear up to Oregon City. And there wasn't the dams to control it. So what happened, the lake would be part of the river. In the spring, we would row from the lake right into the river into the Willamette. It was way up above (the dam). It was high. See, they control that more now.”*

*“Growing up seemed like there was a lot more snow and cold. My mother told me that when she was a girl they went up to The Dalles where some of our relatives are, and it was in the winter and roads were so bad-of course in those days, with a team of horses, they rode all the way from The Dalles down to Portland and up the Willamette on the ice with their team of horses and got out on Milwaukie. At that time, my mother lived just a little east of Milwaukie. I also walked on the river on the ice and to me the winters were colder back in those days. Basically in the winter, mainly we would go up to Monroe, they would close off Monroe and we would sled down that.”*

*“Oh yes and my first set of ice skates...I learned to ice skate on Kellogg Lake and it was fun. I don't know if you're aware, my idol was Dan Birkemeier. Are you talking with Enid Briggs? She's quite a lady. You'll enjoy her cause her mother was a Birkemeier and Dan Birkemeier, he was a contractor. In fact he built a lot of major tunnels and things. The Birkemeier house is still on the lake in Island Station and everybody always used to look up to Dan. He was an excellent ice skater. He was quite a leader. Everybody would watch him...I did anyway.” -Bob Hatz*

**Enid Briggs, Adele (Briggs) Wilder, and Don McLaughlin** were interviewed together in Enid and Adele's home in Milwaukie. The two sisters, their cousin Don, and the rest of their immense extended family truly cherished Kellogg Lake. The three of

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<sup>6</sup> Hatz' memory is referring to a modification made to the dam structure. The original design intended for the impoundment to be drained occasionally for maintenance.

<sup>7</sup> According to Floyd Bennett, a highly informed citizen, the lake was actually drained 6-7 times during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

them in particular spent a large portion of their childhood playing at the original homestead, where their grandparents raised 10 children (including their parents) on the southern shore of Kellogg Lake. The three Birkemeier boys; Dan, Fred, and Aaron are pictured on Kellogg Lake below. Fred Birkemeier, seated at right, was the eldest son and was born in the mid-1880s. Although the photo was not dated, it's estimated sometime around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



The original Birkemeier family established their homestead on the southern shore of Kellogg Lake in 1879. They recreated and utilized the Lake from then until the 1940's when the last of the family moved away from its waters. The historic Birkemeier-Sweetland home still sits on its original homestead on Kellogg's southern shore and has seen over 100 years of change come through Milwaukie. Later, it became the home of former Oregon democratic Leader and State Senator, Monroe Sweetland, and was visited by several esteemed political visitors; including JFK.<sup>8</sup>

The eldest of the three, **Don McLaughlin** was born on a farm on Kellogg Creek, one mile upstream from the lake in 1924. He has lived in Milwaukie his entire life. The farm he grew up on; including its hayfield, cow pasture, and farmhouse, is now North Clackamas Park. His father made the property available for a park in the 1960's. When interviewed, Don was 85 years old.

**Enid Briggs** was born on Briggs Ave in Milwaukie in 1925. She grew up in a little house her uncle built, with her sister Adele. When interview she was 84 years old.

**Adele Briggs Wilder** was born in Milwaukie in 1928. Like her sister and cousin, she has lived in the Milwaukie area all her life. When interviewed she was 81 years old.

When asked about their memories of growing up in Milwaukie and recreating on Kellogg Lake in the 1930's and 40's, the trio became animated in their telling;

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<sup>8</sup> *Birkemeier-Sweetland house burnishes status*; The Oregonian, 8/20/98

*"Milwaukie was a busy little town that had everything; a shoe store, a clothing store, restaurants, and everything else. Not all these...whatever they have now!" -Adele*

*"And when you went to Milwaukie you knew everyone you met on the street." -Don*

*"Yea that's right" -Enid*

*"Yea, there was a little dime store" -Adele*

*"And a soda fountain. Yea, that soda fountain is the same. And the pharmacy right across the street, that was a hamburger soda fountain place that we all went called Diane's." -Enid*

*"And the original little dime store is where Cha Cha Cha is-that was a dime store. And the people that owned it-the daughter and I went to school together, so that was special. And when they changed that, Safeway went in over there and then Safeway went out and Olsen Brother's went in and so you watch these changes-but now it doesn't seem like a little city. There's nothing to go down there for anymore." -Adele*

*"One thing that I think is real interesting; right on the edge of the lake, we used to go to the band concerts when the band shell was there. I always remembered that." -Enid*

*"The lake was the fun part-because we went to Grandpa's. Grandpa had a dock and a row boat and we sat on that and from there we would take the boat as far out-even up to the creek sometimes. And back down. I didn't swim much but they had the rope swing up there where all the apartments are now...But that's all gone now." -Adele*



*"And you didn't go boating on the lake without a proper hat!" -Don adds jokingly, referring to the photo at left.<sup>9</sup>*

*"We spent two days a week down there just floating around the lake." -Enid*

*"You can see entertainment wasn't TV!" -Adele*

*"There's our cousin on the lake (Enid*

*refers to a photo not shown here of her cousin in a homemade sailboat on Kellogg Lake)-and there's some more pictures of those houses. That was Richard, our cousin-that was Dan's son. Dan was one of the ten kids." -Enid*

<sup>9</sup> Handwritten caption on the back indicates that the photo was taken during Don, Enid, and Adele's parents' generation. Caption reads; "**La Grande House, around 1910.**" Pictured from left: Hulda Birkemeier, unknown man, Martha Birkemeier (Don's mother), and Clyde Shumaker.



*"Of those ten kids-the next generation, which we call the cousin generation, there were 35 of us. Now there's just six." -Don*

*"We spent days on the lake-just going out in the boat. We would go down to grandpas and we'd start off there and we'd take a lunch sometimes, and sometimes we'd stop off at that little...ah where that swing dropped in. We didn't swim there-oh but a lot of people did. A lot of people did. There was a sandbar that came way out into the lake and that's where those apartments are. And we would go there or we would go up to the Cogswell place and have a lunch and goof around.<sup>10</sup> We could go by ourselves because the lake was never that deep-I mean not deep-deep. So they never worried. And there would be us, and we had a brother, and sometimes friends. I don't remember much of Don then because, like he said, he was out working while we were playing. We just spent time on the boat, going up and down all the way from down on one end to the other, and picking blackberries down the sides...And it was always kind of scary to go down and under the highway with the boat; go under the trestles and then a train went by." -Adele*

*"(Those are) my two sisters" -Don says, referring to the picture at right "and that's the Birkemeier boat."*



*"Nope, I never did cross on those trestles. My folks would have frowned on that. But a lot of the kids did, before they put that foot bridge in. The kids that lived on the other side walked across there to get to school. One of them fell off once...My experience was riding my bicycle down to the place and mowing the lawn for grandpa! I think I got 35 cents." -Don*

*"You know when the water came up to where the Highway is? Remember Eleanor Falk? She drowned in the lake. She was on her bike and fell into the lake right there and drowned; right in that spot where the lake came right up to the highway. Well she was hit by a car and fell. Other than that, the memories of the lake are wonderful." -Adele*

*"I don't think there was very many fish in there...oh but there was carp!" -Enid*

*"When you'd go to get the boat the carp would be in the boat!" -Don*

*"...but you don't call them fish do you?" -Adele*

*"Oh and I can remember going upstream where it was real desolate-real quietly because you could see turtles on the log. Remember turtles up by the sandbar?" -Don*

*"You get old and forget a whole lot of things." -Adele*

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<sup>10</sup> This was around the late 1930's-40's

*"I think of just boating so many times-and being on the lake-they were great. With all of our cousins and family." -Enid*

*"It was fun to just go down there and sit on that float. Because grandpa had a bench down there. And just watch what was going on." -Adele*

*"Watch the carp jump." -Don*

*"and birds and bats in the evening." -Adele*

*"And I remember how down at the log dump, I'd watch as they put a cable underneath of the log and pull it and just roll it off. And down they'd go crashing into the (Willamette) river. The log trucks used to be steady on Lake Rd-coming in from the Estacada area. They were old trucks coming up the hill there. If they were going ten miles an hour they were speeding. If we could get up behind a log on our bikes and grab on, it would be a free ride to Milwaukie; as long as our parents didn't see us! I can remember bicycling down Lake Rd and going like mad to see if I could get to Oatfield before a car came by. Imagine that. That's before there was a 224 and Lake Rd took all the traffic from between Milwaukie and the Clackamas area. But you could go all the way down before a car came by." -Don*

*"That doesn't seem like very long ago that they did that..." -Enid*

*"Up at the end of the lake where it goes into Kellogg Creek, my grandfather built the log house that's there. And those apartments that are there now use that log house for their office. And they don't even know the name of it. I went down there one day to look at it and they said 'oh this is the Kellogg House'. And I says 'the Kellogg House?' It was the Cogswell house and now those people know nothing about the history. He built it for the Cogswells and they were good friends of ours. In fact that China closet (she points to her furniture) they gave that to me and my bedroom set. And he was a senator also for Oregon and they were good friends of my family's. But it was the Cogswell house. It's not a Kellogg House. That's where all the carp were-they congregated at the end of the lake there." -Enid*

*"We used to go to that sand bar a lot because it was all woods there. And we could walk up to that woods and play in that sandbar." -Adele*

*"The Indians lived there when the Birkemeier first arrived here in 1879 because we've got arrowheads and things that they left." -Enid*

*"Well and the Gypsies lived there too. Right where they filled in, right close in that area." -Adele*

*"Oh that's right! The gypsies moved in there too!" -Enid*

*"I wish that we had had our mother write this down because she would tell us stories about the gypsies. She was young-she was home-and she lived there then. But she was born in 1896 so it must have been the early 1900's. I think they just kind of moved from place to place." -Adele*

*"I remember them being out on Lake Rd when I lived at home. There where Cereghino is raising onions and radishes now. Part of his farm that is now onions was a grove of Fir Trees and across Lake Rd there was a big grove of Oak Trees where that care center is now-and the gypsies would camp in there. And I can remember the concern because we used to walk to school and back*

*and our folks didn't want us doing that when the gypsies were camped there. I don't know where they came from or where they went. But (when they were there) we got taken to school in the Model T Ford."* **-Don**

*"I never went swimming in it in the summer time because by the time you're that big on a farm, you've got chores to do! But In the winter time I'd go down there and skate. My memory is that we'd build a big fire there on the bank and, beside the Birkemeier Family, the whole neighborhood all around would come and they'd block what now they call River Rd. but before it was 3<sup>rd</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> or whatever. They'd block that off up at the top up at the curve in the road for sledding. Somebody in the community had a bobsled and we'd all pile on-about half a dozen of us in that long thing and we'd go over on the lake bank and go out on the lake."* **-Don**

*"When they built a fire down there-then the community would come down."* **-Don**

*"Just to sit around the fire and toast your fingers for awhile and then go skate awhile and go back and sit around the fire. Well you know-it used to freeze over every year."* **-Adele**

*"(My best memories were) sliding down the hill onto the lake when it was iced over. You could take the sled up and go down the hill. It was where the apartments are now out near the sandbar."* **-Enid**

*"Rains would still come-this is Oregon-but it would be a week or so of skating."* **-Don**

*"Every year."* **-Adele**

*"Yea, our uncle,<sup>11</sup> he checked it out for ice skating every year. And when my mother was growing up the Willamette froze over so much you could drive a car over it."* **-Enid**

*"Now we only see a little scum of ice-but never enough to skate on it. I think it's because it's too warm."* **-Adele**



**Helen Ellis** was born on Willard St in Milwaukie in 1927. The house where she was raised, until the age of 20, still stands today and is directly next door to the Annie Ross House. She has been a resident of Milwaukie 82 years come May; her entire life. Her best girl friend was Helen Bennett, the sister of Floyd Bennett (also interviewed) whose

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<sup>11</sup> Enid is referring to Dan Birkemeier, shown in the photo above, taken around 1910. From left; Dan Birkemeier, Emma Birkemeier (Fred's wife), Martha McLaughlin (Don's mother, formerly a Birkemeier), and Chester McLaughlin (Don's father). Dan and Martha were among the ten Birkemeier children raised in the historic Birkemeier-Sweetland home. Dan was also the man who Bob Hatz referred to as "his idol" due to his renowned ice skating on Kellogg Lake.



family lived on the north shores of Kellogg Lake. "The Two Helen's" as they were affectionately called, shared many memories enjoying Kellogg Lake.

Helen was interviewed in her home in Oak Grove on the morning of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

*"I think there were only about-not more than three houses on Willard Street at the time (when I grew up).<sup>12</sup> One on the corner, that was the Pelton's house. and then, let's see, my folks'. It was pretty bare when my folks first built there, and the Lenard's, and the Herman's house."*

*"I just went down (to the Bennett's) everyday after school. I would get on my bicycle and go down and we'd go bicycle riding or whatever. And there were no fancy bicycles in those days."*

*"Helen Bennett's folks had a-it was kind of a boat ramp-actually it was just a great big, huge boat dock and they had a boat tied up to it. We started in the first grade together. We went from the first grade clear through High School. The Two Helens, they always called us. So, after we were old enough, probably in-oh maybe-5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we were allowed to go down and be on the dock there. You know, just play around like kids do. We often took our lunch down and sat in the boat and you know, had lunch there and enjoyed the lake really. The lake was very deep then and it was wider, a lot wider and a lot deeper."*

*"We weren't allowed to use the boat. Her father took us for a ride occasionally but we weren't allowed to use the boat except just to sit in and be there and we respected that. And then later on, well after we were probably in Junior High we had a group of kids that we played with from what we called "The Side Street" which was probably 21<sup>st</sup> St., but it used to be more like an alley. There were a few houses on it. Those boys in the summer, would swim in Kellogg Lake and jump off of the foot bridge. I mean **dive** off of it. We didn't go swimming in it. Oh yes, just the boys. Girls wouldn't do anything like that. We never set foot in that water. Oh we might have dangled our feet, sitting in the boat or something but it was dirty. And a lot of us girls didn't swim. There was no place to learn to swim until the Milwaukie pool was created and then we spent practically all summer down there. It's a parking lot right now. Oh but it was such an innovation for Milwaukie and it was a really nice large pool and everybody from Ardenwald, Wichita and all the surrounding areas, the kids would just come and swim in the summer. We used to go out Lake Rd, which was berry farms out that way, and Helen and I would go out in the morning and pick berries and in the afternoon we would go down and swim in the pool, so we probably could have been in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade."<sup>13</sup>*

*"The band stand at Kellogg Lake had concerts down there every now and then...I don't know when that happened. So I don't know if I went very often and don't remember a lot about it. I just remember that it was a neat bandstand."*

*"Fishing wasn't my thing. But I was told people used to fish there and also that my dad, his name was Secor, ice skated there. The only reason that I know,*

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<sup>12</sup> The 1920's

<sup>13</sup> This would have been about 1938-1940

*was that my uncle Larry, who's still living and in Milwaukie knew about my dad skating and fishing."*

*"My mom was pretty particular about my sister and me; if we went out or if we were going to catch cold and all that type of thing. The snow I remember was 1939. I'm not sure we had a sled, but we would sled down the hill on Willard St, by the high school."*

*"(Aside from going to the Bennett's), I didn't hang around Kellogg Lake much because we weren't allowed, at that age of our lives, to go down and be around the water that much. Like I said we thought those boys were crazy jumping off the foot bridge! We did enjoy that footbridge because it allowed us to go over to the other side however we just walked to the end of it and back- we didn't go over there to the road off the highway either. That was sort of dangerous. We were pretty well protected as we were growing up. Our folks paid attention to what we were doing and where we were and looked after us really well. It was just the way in those days that people took care of their kids and what was going on all the time." -Helen Ellis*

**Floyd Bennett** was born in his family's home, on the north shore of Kellogg Lake in 1928. When interviewed he was 80 years old. He is the elder brother of Helen Bennett, Helen Ellis' best friend (the other of "The Two Helens"). Four years after his birth, the family moved just one lot downstream into a flat above their grandmother's home. As a child, he remembers playing around the remnants of the historic Standard Mill. In 1940, his parents built a new home adjacent to their grandparent's land, which he lived in until he got married. Floyd and his wife then raised their family only a few blocks away, still within walking distance of Kellogg Lake. For this reason, he has followed issues surrounding Kellogg Lake through most of his life.

He was interviewed in downtown Milwaukie on the afternoon of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. He had no difficulty recalling fond memories of recreating around Kellogg Lake.

*"There were probably 8-10 boats on the lake when I was a kid and people would bring down canoes and dump them in off our dock. We had a boat and canoe and probably the most popular, well second most popular, swimming hole was off our dock. This was a garage basement (indicates in a photo), that door goes in and my dad had some machinery in there and the neighbors would all use it for their dressing room. Somebody had to be home to get the*

*key to open the basement and the whole entourage would come. It was only boys (that changed in the garage). The girls had to show up with whatever they would swim in."*



*"Here's our boat. That's me standing there. This was our boat landing. We called it the float. This is what kids swam off of. That's my wife, who I've*

*known since high school. We used to run around in the same neighborhood gang. I can't remember who took the picture but anyhow, that's my wife. We were juniors in High School, so 1945."*

*"Oh well-it was probably 15 ft. (deep). We used a pole to try and find the bottom once, it was a thing that they had been working on the railroad and had left it there...and we couldn't find the bottom so it was relatively deep all over."*

*"It was all private property and it was just a case of whether the private property was accessible or not; like the sandbar. Nobody cared. I don't know who owned it, but somebody owned it."*

*"And this was the footbridge, built in 1937, when it was in its prime. That was built by WPA, which was a depression project"*

*"Anyhow, this went right along our property line so everybody-a lot of kids rode the streetcar from Oak Grove and they got off and crossed McLoughlin. There wasn't even a crosswalk and people actually stopped for them. And they'd come across and go across the foot bridge and up to school."<sup>14</sup>*



*"There were a lot of trains then. There were probably ten trains per day. It was a busy railroad. And at one time they had passengers on there and they ran to Tillamook."*

*"By the way, the railroad trestle in that era, people were using it all the time. No one ever got run over. One guy fell off and broke his back. He didn't fall on the water and that was after the foot bridge was gone. At lunch time; it was a high school kid. There was little like porches that had a 50 gal drum of water and a bucket hanging on the side so you could put out fire on the bridge I guess. You know, steam trains started fires all the time. If you saw a train coming, you could run pretty fast and get to one of those porches."*

*"The City Bandstand was on the Lake too. It was there until I got out of high school. It was a big round thing. It was right on the lake. There was a path down from each end of the bandstand to Main St. at the end of Adams. It was there for about 50 years. But then they built a theatre in 1942. My sister and I both worked there. You could get a job if you were 4 years old..."*

*"The other popular swimming hole was called the sand bar. You know where those apartments are on McLoughlin Blvd? If you go to the south end of those*

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<sup>14</sup> Kellogg Lake Footbridge is picture above. Constructed in 1937, the footbridge ran parallel, immediately east, to the railroad trestles. It was intended to provide school kids a safe crossing from the Park Ave Street Car station, located south of Kellogg Lake, to the Milwaukie High School.

*there's another creek that used to come in<sup>15</sup>. It was big enough to create a sandbar and it was accessible - there were no houses or anything there and kids would park from above and go out on the sandbar. It may have been more popular, you didn't have to bother anyone or go through private property, just show up. It was a popular teenage party place. "*

*"But the lake was drained in 1926 when the fish ladder was put in. They changed the concrete structure several times and of course they had to drain the lake every time. Anyhow they drained the lake two or three times in my lifetime. It was drained when they repaired it in '59."*

*"And some steelhead would come up the fish ladder. They couldn't get up it now if they wanted to because the thing is dilapidated. The thing is so broken up now. There's a picture of debris, it looks like a dam up against the railroad bridge. A week ago, I just drove by...there was a big shovel cleaning out the debris. When the SP owned the railroad, it would always pile up in this corner first, and the section foreman here...you hear of George Corty the doctor, he's a semi-retired doctor but stills sees patients. Well his dad was in charge of maintenance of the line and he'd have a crew there cleaning this whole thing up. It was immaculate all the time."*

*"There are also carp in there. And the interesting thing about carp is that during WWII there were foreigners off the ships in Portland and they would take the streetcar out (to Milwaukie). Somehow they knew about this place. They would come and go out on the timbers of the railroad bridge and fish...They'd come down and fish and they'd take these carp somewhere in a gunnysack and they'd eat them! They thought it a big deal. They were dark skinned people, I'm pretty sure they were East Indian. And it wasn't always the same ones-like they'd left them a map of how to get there and word got out because they'd come back."*

*"The Fish and Wildlife that would come and stock the Lake every year and the trout would always head upstream toward the fresher water. They would usually park and dump the fish in right by our house or from Birkemeier's property where it was real accessible. And they'd come with a big tanker truck with trout in it; ten inches long or longer. In our case, they would back down the drive and hook up this pipe. This thing was probably 12 inches wide, and they'd put 'em down into the lake. They came from the Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, which is still there, still hatching fish. But they'd keep them two years or whatever it takes to get them to good size. They planted fish every year for many years. But, the most common fish in the Lake was croppie and bass and there were some pretty good sized bass. I never did fish-I didn't have patience."*

*"Near the fish ladder, there was a log dump off-shore from where the sewage treatment plant is today. All the Estacada timber came down. There was probably 100 log trucks a day to dump there. And they raft them up and haul them down the river. The vacant lot now across from the street that goes down to what use to be the log dump and is now the park, there was a building there called Mac's Pit Barbecue-and it was very popular!"*

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<sup>15</sup> Bennett is referring to a small tributary to Kellogg Creek, named Oak Grove Creek that has been buried in a pipe for unknown decades.

*"(During the flood of 1964-65), in our garage basement where my dad's machine shop was, the water came up right to the middle of the window. And during the Vanport flood of 1949, the water was across the highway. The water hasn't been across the highway since then. The Dec '64-Jan '65 flood was comparable to the Vanport Flood. The foot bridge was clear out of site. It was buried completely in the water. That '64-'65 flood was bigger than most. We've only had one since then that flooded a portion of McLoughlin.<sup>16</sup> No matter what they do, it's not going to change that."*

*"The last really good freeze where there was probably two to three of community playing on the lake was the last big freeze in Dec '49-Jan '50 and the Lake froze eight to ten inches thick. We had four or five days of near-zero temperatures. And that was the last real freeze. I mean, it's frozen over many times since then, but there were people out there with snow shovels shoveling the snow off so they could skate, and sled out there, and there were many people on the lake that winter."*

*"Once there was a young man drowning in the icy water at the end of 28<sup>th</sup> St. and another time a fire man drowned trying to rescue someone. These instances occurred in the same place, about 4 years apart...And several times I saw where people laid ladders down on the ice to crawl on hands and knees out to pull people out."*

*"There was a family named Birkemeier, they had been here as long as-since the 1870's probably. There was an architect and contractor named Dan who lived there and in my mother's era he was the first one of the lake. If he went out and skated they knew it was ok."*

*"I didn't really ice skate very well, but I sledded on it. I biked on it and it entertained a lot of kids in the summer that came to swim. Nobody was afraid of it. They were swimming there through the early 50's that I know of-maybe longer."*

*"I just remember the old days. If it was contaminated then, nobody cared."*

*"When the Kronberg Brothers began dumping surplus large river rock into the lake in 1954, it was the begging of the end of Kellogg Lake as we knew it."*

**-Floyd Bennett**

**Owen Street** was born in 1925 and moved to Milwaukie in 1936, when he was 11 years old. He attended Milwaukie Junior High and was part of the first class to go through the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the "new" facility that was built where the Waldorf School stands today. He graduated from Milwaukie High in 1943 and spent his senior year working the ship yards at Willamette Iron Steel on Swan Island. After graduating, he joined the service and married his wife, Gayle. When interviewed, he was 84 years old.

*"<Oatfield Rd> goes down across the creek, right down at the bottom of the hill there was a house. At the time when we were going to high school the Beeches lived there-Marcus Beech, a good friend of mine. We were good friends in high school. So we built us a raft. We were going to sail a raft down the creek into the lake. Well, as you might guess we weren't very good raft builders and we got maybe from here to the television over there and down we go."*

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<sup>16</sup> Bennett is referring to the flood of 1996

When Street was asked "How was the swimming?" he made a swimming motion with his arms, laughed, and said, "Muddy".

*"Ok, when I was in...all the neighborhood kids we used to ...you know where all the condos are right now-there was nothing down through there except our paths to the lake and there was a little sand bar out in the lake and that's where we used to fish and swim. And the water was never what you'd call clear. But kids don't care-so anyway we found an old row boat there that somebody had left...Well, this row boat we found, wasn't much. It had a bottom and some sides and it really leaked. So, smart like we were in those days, we says "we'll just put some sand in it and plug up the holes." So, smart as we were, we did that and so we're out there maybe 30 ft and that sand didn't hold! Down we go to the bottom of the creek and here I am in the water holding my fly rod in one hand and my fish in the other hand, going back to the shore."*

*"Down by the railroad trestle-that's all filled in. That all used to be water clear right out to the highway. And there was a footbridge there...the footbridge was across about 50 yards and that's the way I went to school. Plus I used to fish off of it for croppies, blue gill and maybe you'd get a bass once in a while."*

His wife, **Gayle** chimes in,

*"Cause what they did then, is what they're all doing. Boys will be boys." –Gayle*

*"I would say...no. I never caught a lot of fish, but it was enough to keep you coming back to fish more."*

*"And right there where that home is-Willamette View-that wasn't there. But there was a bluff and you could get down to the (Willamette) River from there. We would sit there and watch the rails throw logs. You'd see the guys that would put this big cable on underneath the logs and through the train. They had big metal skids clear down into the river. Shooooop! And they'd send it down there with a big splash." –Owen*

*"That's because you didn't have TV in those days!" –Gayle*

*"And some of us were pretty good skaters. But I wouldn't trust myself on a pair of skates now though! I fall down enough as it is."*

*"Well, I spent more time there in my younger years, but after I got into high school I had other priorities; no, not girls, because I never had a car. The street car track from Oregon City ran right by about 2 blocks away on Park Ave. There used to be a bridge there and a TB hospital too. McLoughlin to Park Ave, there used to be a bridge going across, with a little creek running underneath that bridge. And we'd get under that bridge and hop across the piles. Right there at the Evergreen Station there was an old mom-and-pop grocery store and my folks used to give me 50cents and I'd go down to the store to buy a quarter gallon of milk, a loaf of bread, and dog food. You'd get change...for 50cents. Now it costs a lot more than 50cents for just the milk."*

*"Like I said, we didn't own a car-we took the street car. Some of us used to go down to the Oaks Park and go skating and ride the street car home and you'd get to Island Station and there's two of three of four of us and everybody would get off except one guy. He'd stay on the street car and you ride that from Island Station up to Evergreen Station-and it costs an extra nickel-so the guys that*

*jumped off the street car at Island Station, you'd wait until the street car would take off again-then you had two steps to go to get in and you'd jump up the steps and hang on and ride up there to Evergreen Station-where the other kid got off and paid his nickel! So we took turns doing that."* **-Owen Street**

**Jane Genz Hanno** moved to Milwaukie in 1944 when she was twelve years old. Together with her sister Joan (below) she spent a great amount of time exploring the shores of Kellogg Lake near the home where their grandmother and great uncle were caretakers.

**Joan Genz Malsom** moved to Milwaukie with her family, including her sister Jane (above) in 1944. She was nine years old, going into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. During their formative childhood years, the sisters spent much of their summers with their grandmother and great uncle, who were caretakers of the Robert's Home on the north shores of Kellogg Lake. She described this time as a "big part of their lives". After the Robert's family passed away, the Hannos moved permanently into the caretaker's home closer to Kellogg Lake.

*"The lake was not pristine-* **Joan**

*"It wasn't!" Jane chimes in, "It was very muddy."<sup>17</sup> And actually the mud build up was about as deep as the water was. I mean you'd step in the water and sink. We were never supposed to go into the water-our mother was always a worrier. I remember once I was wading and I was probably up to my knee in mud and I cut my foot really bad."* **-Jane**

*"One year...well, we kind of have different memories about this-but this is the way I remember it; a row boat just washed up once. I don't know it was not real big. It probably would have been 1947-anyway it had lots of leaks in it, but we would just row down with my mom and dad and go have dinner in the Mac's Pitt, which was the place to go...And we had to keep bailing. We all had a pan."* **-Joan**

*"In the summer time, because it was so shallow, the carp, these great big huge carp would be laying on top of the mud but their top fin-their dorsal fin-or whatever you call it would be sticking out and this uncle of ours that was the grounds keeper, he would go and stand on a rock there and he'd stand with a pitch fork and put them in his garden for fertilizer. We were told that they weren't good to eat."* **-Jane**

*"One thing I always think about that was really interesting, I wish we could have looked into it-but when the water was really low, we were walking along the bank up towards Milwaukie, Maybe two or three lots away...we really weren't supposed to leave that property, but we would. Anyway, we came across a tombstone. And it had a name, and you know-we could never find it again when we wanted to go back."* **-Joan**

*"It always really haunted me-and we were never supposed to be there anyway and then the water came up and we could never find it again."* **-Jane**

*"There were lots of trees-fir trees and oak trees"* **-Joan**

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<sup>17</sup> This would have been around the 1940's

*"Yes, the oak trees and the fir trees and white dogwood trees!" -Jane*

*"And we each had our own branch on this fir tree." -Joan*

*"See we've written the same things here!" -Jane*

*"Yes, they were real bouncy and they were our horses and we each had our own." -Joan*

*"We had two brothers and an older sister-but she was prissy. She was just much older than we were." -Jane*

*"There was a big gully. It had roots hanging out from the sides and we played Tarzan there on the river." -Joan*

*"And I got to be Tarzan's mate Jane." -Jane*

*"And there was a big snake that we watched for days-like a water snake...you know for days and days we'd see it swimming, and we started throwing rocks at it and one day we saw a thing sticking up out of the water. So this girl that lived next door, she was a brave one, she got a pole and fished it out and it was dead. And she rolled it out with a pin and there was a frog inside."-Joan*

*"It had all of these lumps in it, you know, and she was a gutsy one-Sarah Branland<sup>18</sup>-and she rolled it out with a stick. And we did find-you remember the big turtle-you know I hate to guess how big it was. Things look so big when you're tiny. But it seems to me it was pretty big. And of course there were the mallard ducks. There were no geese that I remember-certainly not the Canadian geese that swarm the city now but there were tons of mallard ducks and china pheasants<sup>19</sup>."-Jane*

*"The piece of property we lived on had probably every kind of apple tree imaginable. Every kind of peach trees-pear trees and my great uncle had his huge garden. You know we would just eat out of the garden and sit up in a tree and eat apples."-Joan*

*"I think one of our favorite memories, the Roberts family belonged to a wealthy church that's still in existence out in Beaver Creek, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July they would always have a big picnic on that property and our uncle-actually he was our great uncle-would spend at least 6 weeks maybe 2 months preparing the property and then of course when the picnic came he would celebrate by getting loaded. He made quite a few trips back and forth to the Mac's Pitt. Then he would buy tons of fireworks and at that time they were all legal and as soon as it got dark we'd go down and he'd put on a show over the lake for us."-Jane*

*"The way the property was; you'd drop down say an acre from Lake Rd. and then it leveled out for maybe three acres, and then there was another drop down to the lake. And the year of the Vanport Flood the water came up level to that evened off place. It really did flood. It made (Kellogg Lake) twice as wide...And there was a year too, prior to that, and as close as I can remember it was probably '44 or '45 it froze over. I don't remember if I was still in Junior*

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<sup>18</sup> Sarah Branland later became Sarah Holmes when she married the son of Ex. Oregon Governor Robert D. Holmes.

<sup>19</sup> According to Wikipedia, Chinese Pheasant can refer to any pheasant species originally native to China. Jane was likely referring to the Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). This usage is most common in the USA where the bird is widely naturalized.



*High or if I was in High School but we walked from the footbridge all the way up to the creek (on the ice)."-Jane*

*"My mom, she was kind of like-it was like she was camping out-and so in the summer there was an old wood cook stove down by the lake. And she had all her pots and pans and had them in cupboards and that's where she cooked all summer if it wasn't pouring down rain."-Joan*

*"And then one of the last memories I have, and this was when I was an adult because after Joan got married and I got married and she moved away and then I moved back a couple of years later to an adjoining property up in a big house on Lake Rd...then when my kids were in school, I started a 4-H group. We were having our initial meeting with all of these little boys and I was going to take them down for a marshmallow roast down on Kellogg Lake. You know our kids, my kids, didn't really go down there that much because it was pretty well un-taken care of and overgrown. We built a fire to do our marshmallow roast on and we built it on top of a wasps nest! And all of these little boys were running helter-skelter. One of them ran all the way to his home up on Guilford Drive, which is quite a ways down. I came running back with a can of bug spray."-Jane*

**Butch Davis** has lived in Milwaukie twice. The first time he lived in Milwaukie was between the years of 1943-45. He was in grade school and attended the original Harmony School for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and moved on to Milwaukie Grammar in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Coincidentally, he was enrolled in the same 6<sup>th</sup> grade class as interviewee Joan Hanno. He shows an old black-and-white photograph of their class, where his teacher's (ironically named Mrs. Crab) face has been entirely scribbled out. After leaving Milwaukie, he returned to the community in his adulthood and was 74 years old when interviewed.

*"Oh ya, I had a lot of good memories! Those were my grade school memories of swimming in Kellogg Lake; at the dock, by the footbridge and the railroad bridge. I'm the only kid in the family so I just had the run of the place...In fact I probably went to the movies about every night. I also played a lot at the fish ladders and watched the log trucks dump logs in the Willamette River near the fish ladder. There were a lot of log rafts by the boat ramp."*

*"I lived in apartments next to Vic's Tavern. Across the street was this famous place, the original Mac's Pitt. My mom worked there as a waitress for years. It's a beauty salon now. And the apartments are all tore down now too, but that's when I learned about Kellogg Lake."*

*"In the old days in WWII they had a life raft...It had a center cut out and it was about yay thick (he indicates) and it had cloth and painted over cloth all the way wrapped around it and I think it was a life preserver for the ocean-but somehow the kids would jump off the foot bridge into the center and we did see a kid one time hit it real bad and just scraped up the side. It was kind of docked-just lying around."*

*"Well, we used to swim off that footbridge. Plus, they had a big dock down there and I swam across a couple of times before Kronberg filled it."*

*"There was a sandbar up from the railroad tracks along highway 99, about three blocks over. It was all wooded area back then. You had to come down the woods to where we would swim, and lay around, and sunbathe. It really wasn't a nice swimming hole. When you walked into the water you would sink into the silt to your knees. It was terrible feeling."*

*"I used to catch mud-doggers down there. One time, when my mom worked at Mac's Pitt I brought a whole box of mud-doggers. I thought they were trout-and I brought 'em right into the restaurant and she just about flipped out. Because they were just ugly lookin'. If you know what a mud-dogger is."* **-Butch Davis**

**Dick Shook** was born in 1937 and moved to Milwaukie with his family in 1943, when he was 5-and-a-half years old. His father moved first, from Illinois, in search of wartime related work. The family followed later by train, after spending a summer in Kansas with his mother's family, and enrolled Dick in Milwaukie Grammar. He was 71 when interviewed.

*"I don't remember much of Kellogg Lake except there was a foot bridge across the lake and there was also-underneath the railroad tracks-there was a walkway that was two boards wide. Most of the people used the foot bridge and then some people just for fun would go on the walkway underneath. And then of course the brave people walked on the railroad tracks. I never did that. But I did walk underneath the railroad trestle on the boards underneath."*

*"Of course the apartments that are on the south side of the lake weren't there. And the white house that's down there, of the politician that died recently was there. Of course those houses that are along Lake Rd, the older houses, were there. As I recall Lake Rd was fairly well built out to Oatfield Rd. Then from Oatfield on out it was pretty sparse. In fact in high school it was our drag strip. You know what drag racing is? I didn't do it. I went to high school and graduated in '55 so it was at that time. And I don't know how many years they did it after."*

*"I think McLoughlin went in, in the late 30's. It was called the super highway. There was a sea plane base on the water front and the Milwaukie Inter-Urban Station trolley line was in back of Vic's Tavern. Then there was Island Station which was farther south. That area is still called Island Station."*

*"I had a friend in grade school, where the Post Office is now and that vacant lot in back of the auditorium-used to be where the feed mill was for Milwaukie. It was spelled really funny-anyway there was a church in there. I can't remember what it was-but my friend lived in a house that was in back of the church right about where the Post Office is now. So I remember going down there-but I don't remember going to the lake at all in that point of time."*

*"We played in the creek above Oatfield Bridge a lot-even fished some. A friend of mine caught a trout here in the pond by the Junior High. In fact it made the paper and was out of season. But actually most of what we caught were bullheads and little small fish-like croppies. We did it for fun-not to catch fish to eat. Although I think the creek was probably pretty clean in those days. I heard tales of the mess that they made when they put the sewer in-I don't remember that. And I'm not even sure when they did that-I guess in the late 60s."*

*"They used to form up log rafts right off the mouth of Kellogg Creek. If I recall before they built the truck dump there-they had a railroad siding where they could pull in and unload the railroad cars into the river and then they would make up these big log rafts and float them downriver into North Portland. I think a lot of these logs were coming out of Molalla. There's a branch line that runs up through Molalla. I think it's still there. It goes through Canby. And there was a private logging Road up there that they ran extra wide log trucks."*

*"The revetment there was built when they quit bringing logs in on the railroad-so they built that for trucks and the trucks used to dump there. In fact if my memory serves me right, that was put in by the Caffel Brothers. Caffel Brothers had a Cedar Mill in New Era-it's where you go up the bank and away from the river. But Caffel Brothers exported logs. So they would take their rafted logs and I think they put them on ships in Longview. When they put in this revetment for the trucks, they moved it further west. It used to be further back. I think they put in a lot of fill around there. So they drove those sheet pilings for the truck dump and then back filled."*

*"Now in high school too, we used to-where the sewage treatment plant is-you probably heard this-it was a gravel sorter. (Dick Jones) was a couple of years behind me in high school and we were both in the Rock and Agate Club. We were the geeks. But anyway we would go down there for the club, or as individuals, and a lot of the gravel was dredged out of the river and so we would sort through the gravel piles looking for agates. I remember finding some."*

*"One big flood was in 1964. I remember because we had just bought a piece of property off of River Forest Dr that was not on the river but across from the river and it came up on the property a little ways. And in '62 I was working for the railroad and there was a huge wind storm. We were living in Oregon City and my folks were out of town-and I left work and drove up to the folk's house to make sure everything was alright and when I got home and the front window was gone and the top of the roof. The storm was really bad. And all these trees were blown down. I know the river went across McLoughlin in '64 but I don't remember what else." -Dick Shook*

**Scott Griffith** was born in Sellwood in 1953 and moved to Milwaukie in 1955 when he was two-years old. He still lives in the same old farm house on the corner of 27<sup>th</sup> and Lake Rd where he grew up. During his childhood, the home sat on 12 acres of farmland and a hayfield that was originally settled by the Olson family sometime before 1915. When interviewed, Griffith was 56 years old and much of the family's land has been developed by the Milwaukie High School.

*"Well, ok, I always try to find things to do-so usually when I would find myself hanging out around Kellogg Lake it was summer time-vacation-something like that. And you're too young to drive and you don't have a car. And you fly model airplanes in the field and stuff. And I would go fishing down at the dock in Willamette down there. So I'd go fishing for croppies-and we could walk around Kellogg Lake and we'd kind of climb around the outlet of the dam there around Kellogg Lake. I remember one thing that I loved doing was to dam up the flow. You know-use a piece of plywood and we'd take the plywood and shove it down*

*and shut off the fish ladder or whatever it was and look for the fish that were flopping around down there. I seem to remember fishing at Kellogg Lake. I remember fishing but I don't remember much about ever catching anything. I just remember the water was always muddy. The river actually was kind of clear and you could look into it, but I never really knew why (the lake was muddy). It wasn't moving or turbulent. So why was it always this mucky brown?"*

*"But, you know, I never really cared much for the lake. For one thing, I can't swim. I'm afraid of the water and there wasn't really any good areas to walk down and walk around it. It was just real steep and it fell off into the water. So you didn't have any paths or anything."*

*"Most of the time I was climbing around down by the trestle...Up on top and on the bottom-oh ya, the thing about the top is that you have to be careful that you don't get out there when a train is coming-when you get out there about mid-way, you're out there listening because a train could come up on you. And one time-well they have this one little side thing you could drop out on. But they would say-well if the train is going by really fast it can suck you in and stuff to scare you. But more of the time I just went underneath-on that walkway that went there. I had friends that lived on McLoughlin so I'd go through there all the time. Well the walkway was there-I don't think you were really supposed to use it-but it was there. I remember back in the early 70s a friend of mine-had a brother-they lived up that way where those Lake apartments are. And they used to walk to school all the time and one time his brother wasn't paying attention and one of the boards was missing and he walked off-fell and should have been killed."*

*"Ya, it worked real well. But there weren't any kind of side rails or safety. And then at some point I remember a couple of the boards would be missing, so you had to walk to one side or the other. But when I was doing it early on-it was still pretty solid. I was a common thing to go across. But I don't really think we were supposed to be doing it."*

*"I don't remember ever seeing anybody in a boat (on Kellogg)"*

*"It just felt mushy, mucky. It's always had that brown look-never clear. So that's got to be all sediment. But that would be cool to be able to walk around and have a passage way. As a kid-I would have spent more time down there."*

*"But you know-being afraid of the water-I didn't want to fall in. That was the main thing. I wanted to walk around it-but you couldn't do it the way it was. That's why I'm thinking if they turned it into a stream and you've got paths to walk around on, it would be cool."*

*"We used to go down there in the wintertime. Sometimes it would freeze over and I had a friend of mine that I think one time we walked across it. It was just when you had those really cold (winters)-I mean I probably only remember it freezing over a half a dozen times. I remember hearing stories from my dad or grandfather about when the Willamette froze over and they drove cars across it. And I've never really seen ice on the Willamette-But it was cold enough to be able to walk out on the ice out there (Kellogg) and it hasn't been like that for a long time. That would have to have been probably the late 60's. Another time he got out in the middle and it started to crack. You hear that 'crack-crack-*

*crack' you know and then you get on your hands and knees and crawl back. You know, the stupid things you do as a kid."*

*"Growing up here was great-because Milwaukie had a vibrant downtown and we had all the stores down there and the theatre and the Dairy Queen and the hobby shop. I was really into model airplanes back then. You could just window shop. It was really self-sufficient too. You could get whatever you wanted; hardware, grocery, but I remember that at some point there was Thriftway, Safeway, and Albertsons all within walking distance. I could pick either one. Or walk over to Safeway and it was just like 6 blocks away. Sometimes we delivered to people who weren't there and they'd leave the door unlocked we'd go over to these nice expensive places, go into the kitchen, set things on the table. If there were items that needed to be kept cold we put them in the refrigerator and we'd leave the bill."*

*"Well it's a real school community, so that's why you need stuff for them to do. There not much downtown to do. When I was growing up there were things you could do. You know gradually that all went away; the stores, the hobby shop, even the-what used to be the Dairy Queen-it was Libby's Too, now it's the little gambling shack. There was Libby's and Libby's Too-it was a little hamburger spot and it was the Dairy Queen. The Dairy Queen was a good place to hang out. You could go to a movie and go to the dairy queen, stop at the Melissa's Five and Dime, or go to the hobby shop, or candy land. There were two drugs stores. The one where dark horse is where I got all of my comics. I was a big comic reader. That's why the owner of Dark Horse came back, because that's where he used to buy all of his comics too." -**Scott Griffith***

### ***The Decline of Kellogg Lake***

The decline of Kellogg Lake began in the 1940's and was the result of several inter-related factors. Firstly, as the Lake's long-time neighbors and admirers grew into adults, got jobs in Portland, became married and had children of their own, they were slowly drawn away from the Lake.

Additionally, World War II spurred a shift in the physical and cultural shape of Milwaukie. Wartime housing, like Kellogg Park, sprang up at unprecedented rates, bringing new residents and significantly altering local land-use. OR 99 E, otherwise known as the "Super Highway" was built in the late 30's, which moved traffic by Kellogg Lake more quickly than ever before. As these activities changed the character of Milwaukie, their effects were in turn, reflected in Kellogg Lake.

When asked about the last time they had used Kellogg Lake, interviewees responded;

*"Truthfully, I think (the last time I used Kellogg Lake) was as a kid, I'm afraid. Oh I still went down there occasionally when I was a junior or senior<sup>20</sup>. Well, I have to tell you; I don't know. My problem was that I got a job in Portland and it took so much of my time...I lived in Milwaukie but it was just like they say...the bedroom. So there were a lot of things that happened that I wasn't aware of."*  
**-Bob Hatz**

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<sup>20</sup> This would have been around 1935.

*"Well (my grandpa Birkemeier) died in '42 and (my sister Jean) got married around that time and lived in the apartments for a couple of years. It was before I went into the service in WWII. So I would say it was about '42 or so. After my grandpa died my sister bought the house. She was starting to raise kids and pretty soon she decided that she didn't want to raise kids on the lake. It was too much worry of keeping track of them and my aunt out on the farm died so that house became available. So she moved from the lake out there. I don't think I've been down there since Jean's family lived there and that was in the late 40's."* **-Don McLaughlin**

*"When (Don's sister Jean) lived there and started having kids I would baby sit there. But at that time I don't remember going out on the lake anymore-too much. Because I wasn't going to take these little kids and I was growing up. Yes, the last time I remember being down there on the lake was wintertime-but that must have been before Jean. We went down when Sweetland lived down there, not on the lake, just to see him and see the house and visit with him. He always wanted us to come down. It had changed so much to me because I remember going from the house down to the lake and it was kind of a steep slope bank that kind of leveled before you got onto the little thing-but maybe I just can't remember it because it's hard to remember when you get old."* **-Adele Briggs Wilder**

*"It wasn't too many years ago that sewage probably was a problem. Because our house was on septic tank and we didn't have enough ground for the drain field and it would come oozing out the bank."* **-Don McLaughlin**

*"I haven't been down there for years."* **-Joan Hanno**

*"Well, apartments go all the way down to the lake now. You can barely see it."* **-Jane Hanno**

*"As far as our property, it's so different now because it's all apartments where it used to be just farms. It's hard for me to see."<sup>21</sup>* **-Joan Hanno**

*"I don't think there were many that swam in the lake (since) maybe back in the 30's. That's when my father ice skated on that lake. The last time I was there was probably, like I said, when I was junior high school (this would have been up to about 1940) because in high school Helen and I were both busy. We played sports and we had homework and I used to go down to (the Bennett) house a lot, but we sort of outgrew that part of our lives. We were on our bicycles then. We both had bikes, so we would ride into Milwaukie and down to the swimming pool and...(Kellogg Lake) wasn't important to us anymore. Ya, and all defense housing came during the 40s and my husband and I lived there a couple of years and that's when we moved to Oak Grove. So I really wasn't too familiar with any part of the Lake except just driving back and forth on it over McLoughlin. And of course we were married and had other things going on. We both worked and started our family early, so that part of our lives...well, the Lake just didn't really have much significance."* **-Helen Ellis**

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<sup>21</sup> Coincidentally, the Chestnut Hill Apartments occupies the site where Jane and Joan Hanno were raised and is also the current resident of interviewee, Butch Davis.

*"Oh god-I can't tell you. It's been years (since I've been down to the Lake). After I got out of school and went into the service and came back home-I wasn't very concerned about the lake. Well, you've got those condos down there and you can't get down to the lake. Then you got all this land filled in there by the railroad trestle...To me the change that I see is for the worst. With all those damn condos down there-it keeps kids from going down there and playing in the lake. I assume there are kids around there-that are my age when I was going down there."* **-Owen Street**

*"People have cars now and there are so many parks and other places like the beach. People are a lot more mobile now than when he was younger. When he was young, I mean-it was an occasion-I mean a real annual occasion when you went to the beach."* **-Gayle Street**

*"People might walk across (the trestles) when I was a kid, but there wasn't anything to do. You know you had blackberries down there. There was kind of an area where you could get down to the trestle and there was kind of a bank down there. I think I can remember seeing somebody down there fishing once in a while but there was no park area. There was no area to hang out. So you'd go down there and got bored after awhile. I always felt disappointed, you know, as a kid. I'd go down there and I'd just...and I just remember being disappointed that there wasn't more I could do down there. I actually remember that feeling of being down there like 'Here's a lake. There should be something to do. But there's no boats, no access.' You're just climbing through all of this brush. With steep edges and its mucky and you wouldn't dare swim in it. I don't think I ever saw anyone swim in it. I guess there was no one in 50 years that wanted to do something about it. But it seems like some years ago, they may have cleaned up some of the brush that was around it. I remember it being a lot more overgrown than it is now. Now you can kind of go down there and see the lake. There for awhile you couldn't even see the lake through the brush. When it was really overgrown, it was foul. So you really couldn't get down there. I don't think Dogwood Park was even there. I mean the land was there, but it was just packed with brush. Again-the only place to get down was by the dam or by the trestle. I remember just-you know you-having all of this time on your hands when you're a kid and you want stuff to do and I remember hanging out down there and kinda being bored..."*

*"But it was a quieter area then. Now I can hear the traffic at nighttime. I remember when I was a kid, being on the front porch, you just couldn't hear anything. You just hear the crickets and something faint in the distance. And now you just have your ears full. They cut the trees down by the lake for the Lake Apartments. So all the sudden there's more openness and more traffic and you can hear that roar of the sound of the traffic and I'm just surprised how loud it is. And I thought 'I'm far enough away' but it travels"* **-Scott Griffith**

The decline of Kellogg Lake as a recreational amenity was seriously amplified by the infamous filling at Kronberg Park; which interviewees commented on extensively.

*Kronberg Brothers* was a Milwaukie-based real estate agency, owned and managed by Lee and Robert Kronberg, selling commercial and residential properties beginning in 1938. In the early 1950's Kronberg began inviting gravel and construction companies to

dump excess river rock and building debris directly into Kellogg Lake to fill in the lots they owned along the south shore. The goal, allegedly, was to expand the property, thus increasing its market value. At this time, property ownership along the southern shore extended into the lake bottom, to the center line. Consequently, the Kronberg Brothers argued that the filling was restricted to their own property and was entirely legal, which



created a regulatory challenge. Despite growing neighbor discontent, some 50,000 yards of heavy rock refuse was hauled into the lake<sup>22</sup>. North-shore property owners, represented by Krause & Evans, challenged Kronberg in County Court. Unfortunately, these initial efforts were unsuccessful but after years of appeal and protest, these concerned neighbors took the issue to the state and were able to put an end to the dumping<sup>23</sup>. Unfortunately, before achieving this success, dumping in and around Kellogg Lake had become excessive. The Kronberg dumping had spurred nearly a decade of illegal dumping that significantly deteriorated the recreational appeal of the Lake.<sup>24</sup>

During the interviews, the Kronberg issue rarely needed much prodding. Some interviewees even attribute the

fall of Kellogg Lake almost exclusively to this fill activity and the years of unregulated dumping that followed.

*"I hated to see that happen. It was near the beginning of the end." -Bob Hatz*

*"Instead of filling that in, if there was a way to have gotten down there and done some nice things." -Don McLaughlin*

*"Oh ya, the neighborhood was pretty upset about that. It just kind of gradually happened. They just kept filling it in and filling it in, which made that end of it more narrow, and there was a lot of dissention about that for a long time. And I didn't really like it, but see, after I was married when I was 21 and then my husband and I lived in Portland for awhile, and then at Kellogg Park which was the defense housing, so I was out of touch a lot with the lake." -Helen Ellis*

*"I have been in the immediate neighborhood forever. And this was a disaster when Bob Kronberg filled Kronberg Park. He violated every rule and regulation and thumbed his nose at the City when they tried to stop it and he thumbed his nose at the Fish and Wildlife when they tried to stop it..."*

<sup>22</sup> See appendix for Milwaukie Review, Thursday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1954; *Kellogg Lake Dispute May End in Courts*

<sup>23</sup> See appendix for correspondence between Albert Combs and Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield

<sup>24</sup> See appendix for Milwaukie Review, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1965.



*"When this happened, people started pulling their boats out. They were disgusted..."*

*"Here, this will give you an idea (he indicates an aerial photo). That is right on top of the fill. There was a rock crusher right in here on the Willamette. This was a box company here. They built boxes, wooden apple boxes. They took this site and put a big rock crusher in here and they stripped rocks. But certain rocks, about this big (he indicates about the size of a fist) or bigger, that didn't get crushed went down a shoot into a pile and Bob Kronberg got onto this. So the Kronbergs went to the court house and paid \$5 or so and they didn't claim the Heirs of Purchase, which actually was an illegal transaction because the heirs actually had to write off on the thing. And so, he just paid for the quit claim deed and then he, for free, these people could get rid of this rock. They'd cross right over across here, and then they dumped, right here. It was river rock. They were dredging the river. They had two dredges out here constantly for years..."*

*"They (the gravel company) were mining gravel, sand and gravel. So they hauled it for nothing and then dumped millions of yards into Kellogg Lake. And this whole thing that comes out there...you go over there and look the water's right up to the highway...In fact I was in my backyard one day and I saw two cars collide one of them went in the Lake and clear out of site. So it was deep enough for a car to go out of site..."*

*The problem with the rock fill that Kronberg dumped was that it came down and actually he went beyond the property that he had acquired on the quit claim deed. Well actually it was County property-because the bottom of the lake was all privately held and you could go to the County and get an affidavit from the heir of the owners if you could find them and pay a very modest fee- \$10-\$15-\$20 bucks, it wasn't very much, to take a part of that land. That's what Kronberg did, only he did it illegally. As far as anybody could tell he did not get any affidavits from anybody. And that's pointed out in this letter from Al Combs<sup>25</sup>. He researched it and went to the County and went through all the records of the transfer. It was not legally developed. He filled out to as far as he thought he could, but by the time Al Combs got involved and finally wrote the Governor, and the Governor turned it over to some department, they found he was dumping beyond his property line, because the dump would roll...There's a quote that he was going to fill it and apply for a zone change to commercial and then sell it. That was his plan...He was able to do it and he just didn't take no for an answer..."*

*"When (Al Combs) wrote that in '65 it had been going on for years by then. Everybody had been fighting everybody. But finally, the government did get it stopped and got some of it cleaned up. Parts of it got cleaned up. On this side of the railroad trestle, people would pull in here and they started dumping everything in there. They should be put in jail but instead they named a park after him. Anyhow that was the beginning of the end of Kellogg Lake as everybody knew it...It was a mess and the foot bridge started to rot in the 60's..."*

*"When all that (Kronberg filling) was being dumped in there...probably 20 truck loads a day. I mean there were two trucks (going back and forth) dumping 20*

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<sup>25</sup> Al Comb's correspondence with the State can be found in the appendix at the end of this document.

*yards at a time. We had our boat-we had two boats in the water when that started...I don't even know what happened to them...they're gone. People started dumping on the other side of the railroad...*

*My hope was that they would clean up the lake after.” -Floyd Bennett*

*“Well they put that fill in-that’s one thing they didn’t have when I was here. Second, it just looks dirtier, even dirtier than when I was growing up. That’s about all I can tell you.” -Butch Davis*

*“I was over there digging through (the filled area)...I remember being a kid digging through the dirt. And I was getting these bottles from a pharmacy. There were like these cobalt blue bottles that had chemicals. I remember one was like ‘Bithmis sub-salphate’ or something. I was collecting these bottles that weren’t broken. I think a pharmacy had burned down somewhere and they were using the ruins for fill. And there were plenty of chemicals in it and (the ground) was all colorful...What I remember walking through there and seeing stuff-so I started to dig and found those bottles. Ya, they were filling it in. I didn’t know quite what they were doing with it. It looked like they were just filling it in and getting rid of the lake. I just remember it was fun to find those chemicals. I was into chemistry and I wanted to build rockets. But you know, when you think about it, it probably wasn’t a good thing to just be dumping it into the ground. You couldn’t do it today. I think it was in the mid 60’s, because I was younger. I probably would have been like in Junior High.” -Scott Griffith*

Concerned citizens did respond to the deterioration of Kellogg Lake. In addition to research and advocacy conducted by Al Combs in effort to expose the illegality of Kronberg’s filling, Oregon Legislator and lake neighbor, Monroe Sweetland organized a community clean-up of the lake in 1959.<sup>26</sup> At this time, the lake was drained and neighbors cooperatively collected trash and debris from the lake bottom. But this effort was quickly over-shadowed by continued dumping and disinterest in the Lake’s future. The photos below depict the dump sight in 1968, about 15 years after the beginning of the filling, and 9 years after the community clean-up effort organized by Sweetland.



About two decades after Monroe Sweetland’s initial attempt at revitalizing Kellogg Lake, his daughter Becky, followed his lead by forming a citizen group intent on preserving the

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<sup>26</sup> See appendix for articles from the Oregonian and The Milwaukie Review.

recreational integrity of the Lake. The group, *Friends of Kellogg Lake*, predominantly worked throughout the late 70's and 80's to protect lake-side property from large-scale residential developments. As part of this effort they successfully lobbied toward the inclusion of Kellogg Lake, and its shoreline, in the Willamette Greenway, a zoning ordinance providing increased protection of metropolitan waterways.

Friends of Kellogg Lake's organizational activity ebbed and flowed throughout its two-decades of existence, and its last burst of energy spoke clearly to citizen's desire for a restored, urban, natural area. During the late 1990s, the City of Milwaukie became interested in multiple community development and enhancement prospects around Kellogg Lake and slowly began gaining ownership of the lake bottom, and drafting plans for the Lake's future. As planning for the Milwaukie Light Rail intensified, the City began exploring options for transit-oriented development around the area of the Kronberg filling. Wide-spread community opposition, lead by the *Friends of Kellogg Lake*, kept this latest incarnation of development at bay and demonstrated that, despite the lake's contamination and general state of disregard, citizens remain strong advocates of an urban natural area for people and wildlife. A new solution for Kellogg Lake needed to be sought.

### **Kellogg Lake Today: the Milwaukie Presbyterian Church**

While the *Friends of Kellogg Lake* were advocating against large-scale residential and transit-oriented development, another movement was taking shape on Kellogg Lake's north shore. The Milwaukie Presbyterian Church, under strong leadership from Shirley Stageberg, began exploring how their congregation could educate themselves and directly restore the native landscape on their property. Their exemplary efforts have provided a model for property ownership and community involvement opportunities in this sensitive area.

Stageberg moved to Milwaukie in 1983 and became involved with the Presbyterian Church around 1990. But it wasn't until very recently, that Shirley became deeply invested in the Lake. With the help of Joining Hands, a Presbyterian mission program, Milwaukie Presbyterian began fostering a relationship with a sister organization in Bolivia, which was comprised of members from several church denominations and non-governmental organizations. In January 2008 Stageberg visited Bolivia with a delegation, further anchoring her investment in that partnership. One of the program's goals was to campaign and share information about local water issues. Their Bolivian sister organization chose to campaign against water contamination from the mining industry. The Bolivians invited those from the U.S. to conduct investigations of water issues in their own areas. The Milwaukie Presbyterian Church chose to focus on Kellogg Lake.

According to Stageberg, when members of the congregation began talking about Kellogg Lake, the misinformation was astonishing. Some parishioners even thought that Kellogg Lake was associated with the Kellogg Wastewater Treatment Plant; that it was a holding facility for contaminated wastewater. Most had no idea that the lake was actually fed by natural streams and springs, contained native habitat, and had been deeply cherished by some Milwaukie citizens.

A team of individuals from the congregation began organizing hikes and canoe trips around their five acre property and inviting local ecologists to come and teach them about the land and its potential. They compiled a report on Kellogg Lake to send to their sister organization in Bolivia. By then, the effort had gathered such momentum and interest they didn't want to stop there.

Within this same year the team applied for and received a "Dollars on the Ground" grant through the *Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District*. They received \$645 which allowed them to contract professional services to remove blackberries from the upper, exposed area in preparation for future tree planting. Church members matched the funds with 132 hours of volunteer labor, and spent this time removing invasive plants from three-and-a-half acres of wetlands on their property. When the money ran out, they simply kept working on an unpaid, volunteer basis, pulling more invasive plants and researching additional grant opportunities.

In the spring of 2009, they partnered with several organizations<sup>27</sup>, applied for, and were rewarded \$7800 through Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods Grant Program. The grant funds 157 hours of professional restoration services<sup>28</sup>, materials for small, low-impact infrastructural improvements like trails and a staircase, 650 native plants, and the continuation of their efforts to conduct community outreach and raise public awareness. Interviewee, Helen Ellis is a member of the church and has been involved in their projects;

*"However, now I'm taking more of an interest in Kellogg Lake again because our church, the Presbyterian Church, is helping to clear off that bank. Yes I worked on that several hours last year and I signed up to also work more with the berry bushes and things like that. We're trying to make it more of a park area. Yes, it's kind of a heritage thing for me. I'm kind of coming back to my heritage." -Helen Ellis*

The Church will continue this work throughout 2010, until their grant cycle and funding through Metro is exhausted. However, if their history and ambition speaks for anything, they are not likely to stop there.

## **Responding to Change; the Future of Kellogg Lake**

*"I'm not sure I'd fight it if I knew all the facts. But I'd sure miss the lake. It's my Walden."*

*—Monroe Sweetland*

In response to Kellogg's current conditions the City of Milwaukie has been conducting planning for a large-scale effort, the Kellogg-for-Coho-Initiative, to remove the Kellogg Dam and re-naturalize the Creek and its native stream-side habitat within the 14 acre lakebed. This effort has included extensive public involvement and consultation.

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<sup>27</sup> Partners on the grant are; Milwaukie Cooperative Pre-school, Boy Scout Troop #376, the Milwaukie High School, Franciscan Spiritual Center, and the City of Milwaukie

<sup>28</sup> Though Happy Fish Restoration Landscaping

During this oral history project, interviewees were asked to respond to this project concept and offer suggestions for how they'd like to see the lake remembered;

*"Truthfully, I got mixed feelings. I don't want it to go-but the way it is-it's not good. It has to go. Like I say, I've got many good memories about swimming and row boating and fishing and ice skating and doing everything on the lake. During the summer months-that was basically where we went. It was good. But the creek was there before. It was ideal...Well, it could be remembered like it originally was before Kronberg ruined it."* **-Bob Hatz**

*"Well I will just remember it like it was in my day. All of our relatives that knew all of this stuff are long gone and we didn't have brains enough to ask them."* **-Don McLaughlin**

*"Yea, isn't that sad. You just don't think about it. I'd like it to be remembered by a really nice park at the corner with some history someway of how it was."* **-Adele Briggs Wilder**

*"But here's something that I don't understand; because the carp became such a nuisance, they drained the lake years ago, I think they've even drained it twice, just by opening up the gate under the bridge there. Now they talk like it's going to take a million dollars for a new bridge in order to drain the lake. Why can't they just open the gate they used to open and let the water out? The other thing that urks me is that they talk about restoring the salmon. I grew up there on Kellogg Creek and I never saw a salmon. And we were growing up during the depression era; if there had been salmon there we would have been catching them to eat. And have our lives been diminished because they don't go up the creek? I don't think so."* **-Don McLaughlin**

*"You know what I think they should do today-now that they have that park. Personally I didn't like it when they filled in that park. But anyway, what they should do is put a ramp down there and put boats on the lake and let people do things down there. We either spent all of our time at the lake or out at the farm riding the hay wagon."* **-Enid Briggs**

*"Well, I'd hate to have (the Lake) go away-but economically, environmentally if it's ok...and of course with us living in Oak Grove now, we don't have as much to do with that lake, except with the church. And, of course, the older we get, we're probably not going to be hauled out there...Well, I think we need some waterways around and some parks and that type of thing around the community. There is so much building going on and the land is being gobbled up by all kinds of building. So I really feel that we need to have water as much as we can around where it's feasible. Well I'd say make it more like a park setting if possible with a plaque with a little bit of history on it."* **-Helen Ellis**

*"I would like to see them spend the same amount of money that they're proposing to spend on this thing to just drain it and bulldoze all the crap out of it. But I will remember it as it was when people along the lake all enjoyed the lake. There were some very nice houses built along the lake. Anyhow, I just hate to see the thing go. And I'm not sure when they'll ever get funding to do it. It'll be 100 years before it is done."* **-Floyd Bennett**

*"I'd hate to see it disappear. But if it's going to be for the better-then that's ok-because maybe we've seen its usefulness go. Well I'm supposed to be dead in a couple years anyway, so...and in my mind I've got the memories of it. And that's good enough."* **-Owen Street**

*"I think if they can make it natural and have fish go in there, that's the way it should be. I think it was just bad judgment when they closed it off. But I'm not from here, so it's different. Maybe we'll get some eagles nesting! Wouldn't that be wonderful?"* **-Gayle Street**

*"When they first came with this idea, I was kind of opposed to it, because that Lake's been there forever, and it is part of Milwaukie. But then the more I heard about it and read about it, you know, I'm very much in favor of it being removed. But even with it removed I don't think we're going to get big fish. I think we'll get some steelhead and coho in there especially if we can enhance those cold springs in there. The fish biologists that were at the meeting that day<sup>29</sup>, I learned a lot from them about what the different fish need."* **-Dick Shook**

*"It's just one of those things. Of course Kellogg Lake is historically important to Milwaukie, but the creek will always carry on the historical legacy of Kellogg's history with its name. In one sense, removing the dam is bringing us back to ancient history like when Whitcomb first founded Milwaukie at the "meeting place of rivers".* **-Madalaine Bohl**

*"Milwaukie needs to have more around the creek. We used to ride our bikes to Elk Rock Island. Sometimes you couldn't get over to the island because the water was too high. But when you could, we would go over there and play all over the place. But you have to take advantage of the scenery...I wish they would remove the sewage treatment plant in Milwaukie and also put in a park or a restaurant (near the water front)."* **-Butch Davis**

*"I think that's the main thing that I'd like to see is for the fish to have a way to get back up here and make it healthy. It just never seemed like a healthy place. It always just looked like a mosquito breeding ground and muddy water. So I'm not really reminiscent of the lake itself. I'm really excited about the fact that it might go back to a stream... I just love the idea of getting it back to a more natural state. There's a lot more reason to go visit it. And wildlife is having such a tough time. If it gets taken back to a natural state eventually-the wildlife will come back."* **-Scott Griffith**

## **Summary of Conclusions; Remembering Kellogg Lake**

Kellogg Lake has transitioned through many phases. Documented accounts of the early settlement of Milwaukie outline its contribution to industry. Specifically, the power it provided to the Standard Mill led to the invention of pure white flour which helped feed the California Gold Rush, while the space at Kellogg's confluence with the Willamette

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<sup>29</sup> Shook is referring to a public meeting held at City Hall in May 2009; for Kellogg Lake neighbors to learn more about what kinds of restoration and habitat to expect post-dam removal.

acted as a staging ground for the logging industry. But little is known of how it was used or regarded by everyday citizens until around 1918. This is where the oral history begins with Ernie Bisio and Bob Hatz.

By this time, farmers had begun using the Lake to irrigate agricultural land sprawling along the sparse hillside on both sides of Lake Rd. The stories of interviewees beyond this point tell of how Kellogg Lake was recreationally used and enjoyed by its neighbors, especially youth, for the next three decades.

Interestingly, these memories repeatedly make subtle hints at the slow degradation of the Lake. The interviews outlined above include multiple accounts of carp domination, increasingly turbid and mucky water, and other signs of its deterioration long before the dumping began in the 1950's. The 60 years since are characterized predominantly by the Lake's decline, punctuated by brief moments of civic revival efforts.

Today, the Lake faces the heavy impacts brought by increasing urbanization throughout the region and is highly contaminated. The fish ladder is nearly a century old and has received only sub-par improvements, the most recent in 1999. It provides safe fish passage for State and Federally listed endangered fish species during an extremely narrow set of flow conditions<sup>30</sup>; while the lake has become more attractive to scores of invasive species of fish, plants, and other wildlife than to those species that are native to Oregon.

Despite the fond memories of long-time residents, it's fair to conclude that Kellogg Lake does not hold a special place in the hearts of most current-day citizens. In fact, the overwhelming majority of Milwaukie citizens have no interaction with or affection toward the Lake. To this end, not one potential interviewee responded to this Oral History's outreach efforts with fond memories of Kellogg Lake since 1960.

*"What I get is. 'Oh where's Kellogg Lake?' They don't really know that it's there. You don't really see it (when you're) driving everywhere." –Adele Briggs Wilder*

Aside from the work underway at Milwaukie Presbyterian, casual everyday glances from immediate lake neighbors, and City of Milwaukie efforts, very minimal regard is paid to Kellogg Lake by today's citizenry. As a result, degradation continues to be its dominant feature.

But we are all invited to the challenge of combating this. Oral histories in particular remind everyone to keep memories alive through telling and asking for stories. They call on us to pay homage to a culture of remembering through storytelling and using those memories as an entry point to project us into the future.

The current incarnation of Kellogg Lake tells only the later chapters of its story. But this document attempts to demonstrate that many members of our community have other, valuable stories to tell; about the early days of sledding, ice skating, or swimming in deeper water or of their interest and investment in a restored open space, for people and wildlife, that is still to come.

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<sup>30</sup> According to hydraulic analysis conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers in February, 2002, fish passage through the Kellogg Dam is characterized as "good" only 3% of the time during winter months and less than 2% of the time during summer months.



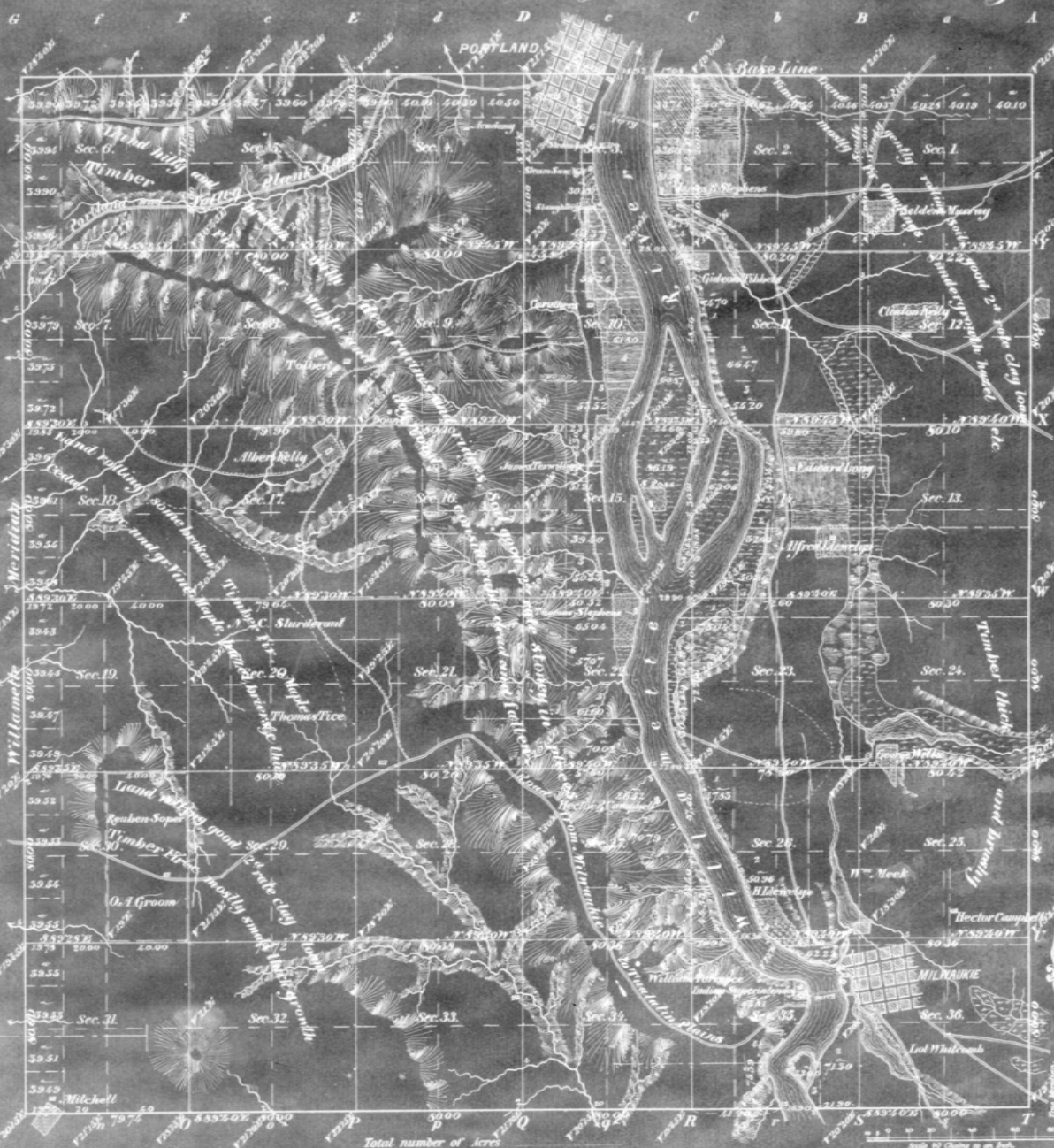
# **Appendix**

## **Relevant Maps and News Articles, 1852-Present**

**An Oral History of  
Kellogg Lake**



Township N<sup>o</sup> 1 South Range N<sup>o</sup> 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, Oregon.

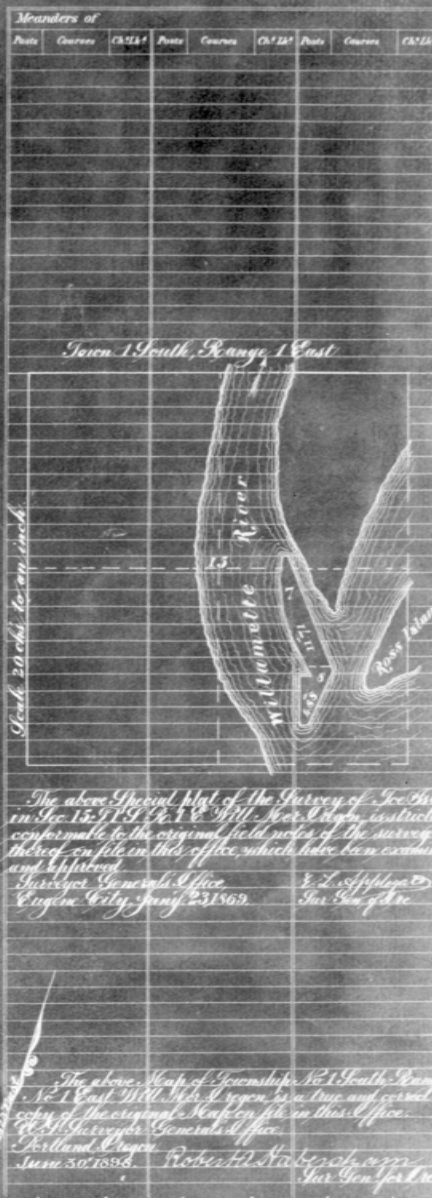


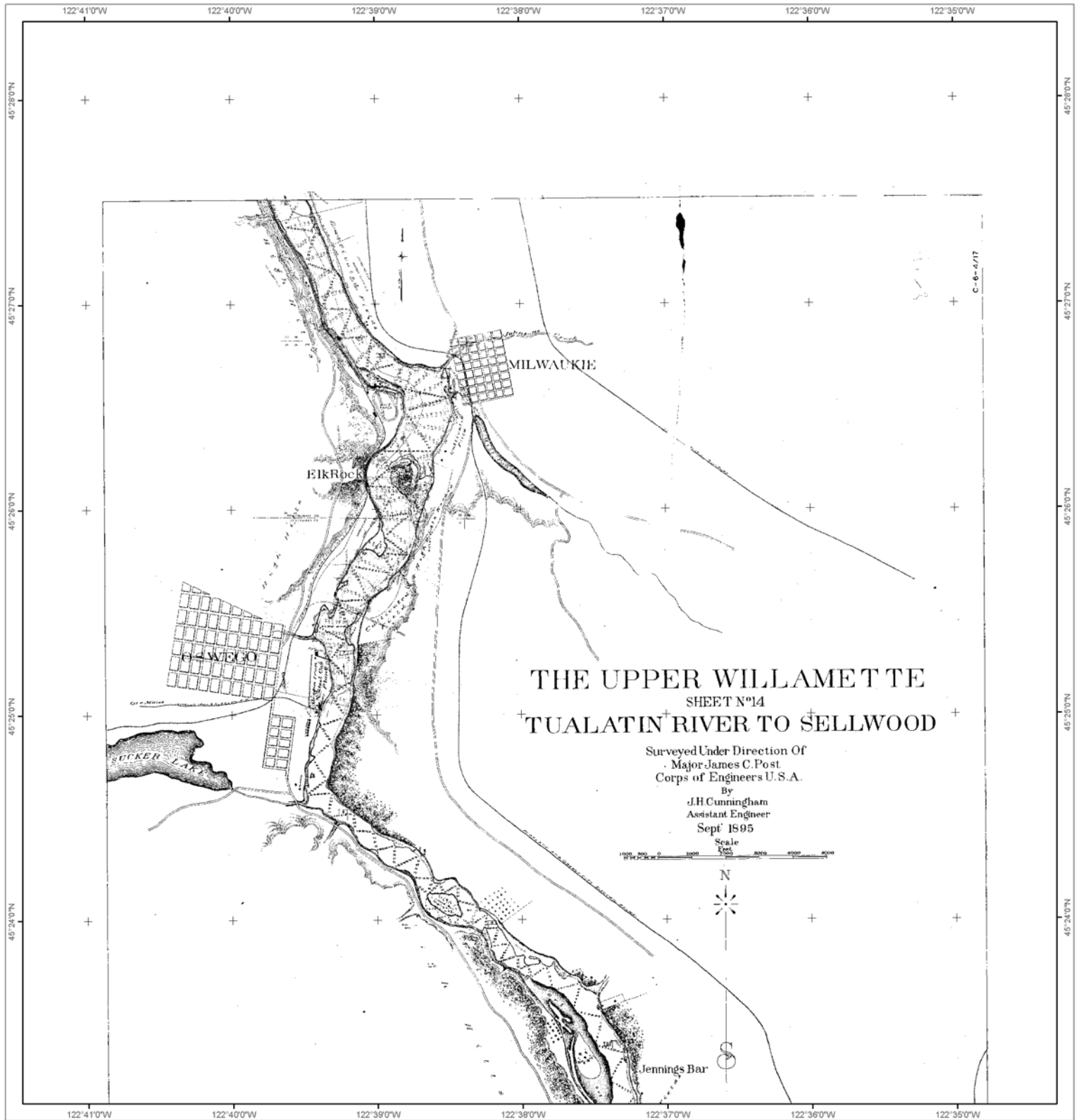
Survey Designated	By Whom Surveyed	Date of Contract	Amount of Survey M. Ck. 1 <sup>st</sup>	When Surveyed	When changed to Sec. 36, 1 <sup>st</sup> 1852
Township lines	Butler & Doss	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 1851	11 79 7 1/2	October 20, 1851	1 <sup>st</sup> 1852
Subdivisions	Butler & Doss	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 24, 1851	74 69 4 1/2	May 20, 1852	2 <sup>nd</sup> 1852
			3 40 6 1/2		3 <sup>rd</sup> 1852

The above Map of Township N<sup>o</sup> 1 South of Range N<sup>o</sup> 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, Territory of Oregon, is strictly conformable to the field notes of the survey thereof on file in this office, which have been examined and approved.

Surveyor General's Office,  
Oregon City, May 20<sup>th</sup> 1852

Wm. B. Poston  
Sur. Gen'l for Ore.





## He Really Cheated Death



Ernest J. Bisio, 21, of Milwaukie, now recovering in the Portland General hospital after being rescued from the bottom of the Willamette river by Stafford Jennings. Story on page 1.

## MR. FIXIT explains: Tale of Man Salvaged From River

Mr. Fixit: Will you please tell me about the man who walked out of a boat there in the Willamette river in Portland, who was in the river for several hours and lived to tell the story? When was it? How long was he in the water? I will appreciate any further information you can give. We have had an argument at the Alcoa plant at Troutdale about it.

Melvin R. Foulds.

At first glance this looked like a sticker, but one or two inquiries set me on the trail and I think the following are the facts that gave rise to this incredible story. It happened in May, 1939. The man, who "walked out of the boat" was Ernest Bisio. This was just above the Sellwood bridge

where the water was 45 feet deep. Staff Jennings, who has a boat moorage nearby, was the man who fished the heedless "walker" out with a grappling hook. Bisio had been submerged for some 20 minutes, and he was brought back to life after 1½ hours of artificial respiration. This may not be the story you have in mind, but it is the nearest to it that I can find. May be some reader has a better one.

### Needed Nurse

Mr. Fixit: I am a registered nurse working at the Barnes hospital where my help is badly needed. My husband is leaving for military service and I am obliged to move. I cannot continue at the hospital unless I can

Accident Date:  
May 28, 1939

# Milwaukian Rescued From River Tells How It Feels to Die

BY DON McLEOD

Staff Writer, The Oregonian

(Picture on Page 3)

Ernest J. Bisio, 21-year-old wholesale produce dealer of Milwaukie, lay in a bed at Portland General hospital Tuesday and told how it feels to "die."

Bisio is the young man who Sunday night was dragged from death under 45 feet of Willamette river water by a grappling hook, expertly ma-

neuvered by Stafford Jennings.

Knocked unconscious when catapulted from his speedboat by a heavy wave, the husky produce merchant sank to the river bottom and only the rescue by Mr. Jennings prevented him from certain drowning.

"I don't recall hitting the water," Bisio stated from his hospital bed, "but I remember going down and was convinced my time to die had come."

Still shaken from the har-

rowing brush with death, Bisio said a surge of thoughts flooded his mind while he was sinking, but his principal concern was for his mother.

"I thought of the insurance policies I had taken out in her favor several years ago and was happy that she would receive the money," the near-victim related. "I never gave myself a chance to get out of that river alive."

Heavily clothed and unable to swim, Bisio hit the oozy

river bottom quickly, he stated, but suffered little discomfort.

"The water wasn't cold and I didn't notice any great pressure."

In fact, this false sense of security, he explained, led him to believe that he would walk along the bottom and eventually reach shore. Fortunately, however, he lost consciousness and was snared by Mr. Jennings' probing hook before

he could start on any such impossible exploration.

"Things happened awfully fast," he recounted, "but I remember the orderly parade of thoughts that marched through my mind before I went 'out.' One thing I recalled was the silver dollars in my pocket. I had received them as change for a bill before the accident, and when Mr. Jennings asked if I would accept the silver, I told him

"Sure, they'll help weigh me down."

"And boy, how that prophecy came true."

Bisio was considered virtually out of danger by his nurse, but was being kept under close observation for any infection that might develop from the polluted river water. For the first time since he was taken to the Portland General hospital, he was breathing without the help of an oxygen tent.



# Milwaukie Review

red as a Second Class Matter at the Milwaukie, Ore., Branch  
be Portland Post Office under the Act of March 2, 1879

MILWAUKIE, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1954

45

## Oak Grove Oregon Jubilee'

ay

ber communities, making the most publicity which has come since Miss d "Miss Oregon of 1954," are com- ation which starts Saturday after- to the summer night.

ubilee" is highlighted by the pres- herself. During the afternoon she iness communities, where souvenir

Miss tap-dancer; Janice Dailey, panto- mine; the Girls Trio from Os- wego; baton expert Mary Kline; Indian dancers Caroline and Dan Fillpot, and a blind-fold act by Frank Fillpot. This program is planned to begin about 1:30 and extend to 3 o'clock or later.

Miss ittee, "Cle" oster has plan yone Ore- 1953 nilon Mr. 1 of ided tion Oak med Oak on" won ives natic \$500 to ver- all. iers hol- vin-

"MISS OREGON" PORTRAITS  
Oak Grove and Bomber Dis- trict merchants have arranged to have a supply of large auto- graphed souvenir portraits of "Miss Oregon," 11 by 15 inches, for free distribution to those visiting their stores during the "Miss Oregon Jubilee."

"Miss Oregon" will visit from place to place all afternoon in Oak Grove and all along U. S. 99 between Park avenue and Con- cord.

The evening's festivities shift to The Bomber district. Here a traditional rip-snoiting, Western- Style whing-ding is scheduled. Art Lacey will act as Emcee and ringmaster as the Joe Parenti Music School artists carry on. Among the stellar attractions will be the 25-girl singers known as the "Harmoncats," a spate of guitarists, and a 4-piece western band for the dancing which fol- lows. An area is being roped off for the dancing, which will go on into the night.

There is no admission, of course, for any of the festivities.

## Grade School Erecting Fence

A six-foot chain-link fence for the east and west sides of the Grade School grounds was ap- proved by the board at its meet- ing Monday evening. A low bid

## Steelhead Issue Rod-Gun Subject

Word has come as we go to press that Joseph K. Carson, Jr., who may be Oregon's next Governor, has accepted the in- vitation of friends to 'sit in' on the Rod & Gun debate Monday night. Joe said he wanted to 'bone up' on the steelhead con- troversy, and this was the best place to do it.

Milwaukie Rod and Gun Club meets Monday evening at the St. Johns (Catholic) parish hall in its monthly meeting, and the sub- ject is a 'hot' one among all Ore- gon fishermen: Shall Oregon make Steelhead a game fish?

According to Club secretary D. C. Swinford, the issue will be debated by two speakers on each side and at least one 'middle- man'. Those advocating the change will be Kenny Gates of 'Western Rod & Reel' and Don Fields. Those opposing change will be Charlie Henne of the Fishermen's Union and Jan Schenck. 'On the fence' will be Tom Carter.

A big turnout and lively debate is expected. The public is invited.

## New Kiwanis Club

Milwaukie Kiwanis Club has scored again in the completion of plans for the chartering of the new Gladstone Club next Thurs- day evening at the West Linn Inn. Some 250 Kiwanians and their wives from all over the dis- trict have purchased tickets to attend. The new Club has been sponsored by the Milwaukie group, which previously had the Estacada Kiwanis Club to its credit.

Some thirty charter members are in the group. The ceremonies are under the direction of Charles Potter of Milwaukie, Lieuten- ant Governor of the Kiwanis Dis- trict.

## DAUGHTER TO SEXTONS

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sexton have a brand-new daughter, Catherine Louise, born July 25th. Their son Gary was 2 years old on July 27th. Mr. Sexton is 5th Grade teacher at Milwaukie Grade School.

## COURT UNANIMOUS ON KELLOGG LAKE PROBLEM

Clackamas County's governing body this week replied to the appeals for help from the residents along Kellogg Lake, who in recent months have felt that their Lake was threatened by title disputes and lake-bank fills.

In a letter to Leslie J. Werschkul of Milwaukie, a leader among the lakeside residents, the Court's three members joined in the following letter:

"This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter in regard to the preservation of Kellogg Lake at Milwaukie. All the County Court members are of the opinion that the beauty of Kellogg Lake should not be destroyed by the encroachment of industrial or residential projects.

"We shall do everything that we can to help preserve this na- tional beauty spot for the Mil- waukie area.

Sincerely,

Clackamas County Court  
Wallace R. Telford  
County Judge  
Stan Skoko,  
Commissioner  
Bob Jones,  
Commissioner

On Wednesday the Board of Trustee of the Milwaukie Pres- byterian Church joined in the protest by resolution, as follows:

"As a group with substantial frontage on Kellogg lake, and with an interest in youth, church and civic activities on property it is developing, we hereby in- dorse any worthwhile effort to clean up the lake and to retain it as a community asset.

"We heartily indorse retention of the lake as a whole for resi- dential and church, park or civic use as it is more appropriately adapted for such use. As a group and as individuals we also in- dorse any study and effort which can be made immediately by local, county and state au- thorities toward this direction."

Fred Sperr at St. Vincent's

Milwaukie's city manager, Fred Sperr, underwent major surgery early today (Thurs- day) at St. Vincent's Hospital, Portland. Mrs. Sperr and their son Jack were with him. In his absence the Council has ap- pointed Mayor Leonard Mullan to be acting-manager.

## FBI Swoops Here

It all happened so fast at Ber- nard's Garage Saturday that it was over almost before anyone knew what was happening. A cus- tomer drove up to the pumps, an- other car came in alongside, two armed FBI men grabbed the driver of the first car, had him on his back and manacled in 10 seconds.

Identity of the parties is not known, but the Federals tarried only long enough to identify themselves and say the man ar- rested was an Army deserter. (Never have found out whether the FBI made it up to Joe for the lost customer!)

## Ralph Irwin Sr. at Kentucky K-C Meet

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Irwin, Sr., are on their way this week to Louisville, Kentucky, where he is one of Oregon's six delegates to the National Convention of the Knights of Columbus.

The Irwins will go to Flint, Michigan, while East, where they are picking up a new car, and will then take a 2-week tour through Southern States before driving West again.

**POLIO VICTIMS  
NEED HELP  
NOW!**



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**THIS AERIAL PHOTO TAKEN** last weekend shows the rock-and-gravel fill at the lower end of Kellogg Lake which has set off a chain reaction of claims and counter-claims to title to lake-bottom land, which may end in courts. This also furnishes

Milwaukie's lake, scenic attraction, fishing hole for the kids, and residential site, this week became the center of a community controversy which may end in the highest courts.

The lake is an artificial one, but has been Milwaukie's landmark for almost a century. It was made when a pioneer grist mill was installed here, and the Lake was the mill-pond. Much like Lake Oswego on the opppsite side of the Willamette, it has become a central feature of the community plan.

Recently however, titles to the land under the lake came under close scrutiny as Lee and Robert Kronberg, prominent local realtors, began to fill in the lots they own adjoining the SP railroad trestle which crosses the west end of the Lake. Some 50,000 yards of heavy rock refuse from the gravel company across US 99 has been hauled into the lot, and a sizable portion of the lake filled. Residents on the north bank of the Lake protested first against the scarification of the view across from their homes, but the deeds to Mr. Kronberg were examined and found to be entirely clear in giving him title to the lake bed for some 200-feet out from shore. Concern deepened, however, when it was learned that Mr. Kronberg had obtained quit-claim deeds from descendants of the hundred-year-ago owners of the lake-bed across to the water's edge on the north bank. This became important because the deeds on the north bank of Kellogg Lake, unlike those on the south bank, read 'to the water's edge', 'to the meander line of the lake' or 'pond', and assert no claims out into the Lake.

The north-bank owners have employed the Portland firm of Krause & Evans to represent them, and this week presented a round-robin letter to the Clackamas County Court urging the Court to assert its claim to the lake bottom, based on foreclosure for delinquent taxes back in the 1930's. The City also has some rights due to dedicated streets which bisect the Lake,

Mr. Kronberg assured the Review this week that he has no ulterior intentions whatever, and that the fill along US 99 will enhance the attractiveness of the Lake when he is finished. He has consulted landscape advisors, he says, who will eventually supervise the covering of the gravel with top-soil and the bank with vines and shrubs. He cites the records to prove that not only his present land, but the entire

lake-bottom, was actually privately-owned, and has never been officially dedicated to public use. He did not comment on the force or validity of the titles which he may have sought to acquire through the quit-claim deeds to the lake-bottom.

At Oregon City, meanwhile, County Judge Telford said that he is investigating the problem thoroughly from every aspect, that he believes the County has paramount title to the lake-bottom, and that he is seriously considering steps to make it into a county park to preserve value of the established home-sites all around the Lake, and to quiet further controversy.

Active in the appeals for help from the County are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sutton, Mrs. Lena Keller, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Werschul, and the officers of the Presbyterian Church whose new 5-acre church and park site is along the north shoreline of the Lake.

The Oregon City firm of Butler & Jack are Mr. Kronberg's attorneys.

Next incident in the unfolding situation may be the petition to vacate one or more streets owned by the city which traverse the lower lake, which is the subject of a hearing on August 4th at City Hall.

## Local K Club Backs Gladstone

Milwaukie Kiwanians, headed by President Bob Pfeiffer and Kiwanis Lieutenant-Governor Charlie Potter, have completed the preliminary work for the establishment of a new Kiwanis Club at Gladstone. After a meeting at Gladstone City Hall last Thursday night with about 20 prospective members of the new club, about 25 members of the Milwaukie Club are meeting tonight at dinner in Gladstone for the official launching of the new unit.

our readers with a fine view of downtown Milwaukie as far Kellogg Park, including the schools and churches of the cent area.

—A DeLano Aerial Photograph

## Ardenwald-Portland Annex Vote Being Mulled; Ballot Asked

Portland's City Council has under consideration a petition said to be signed by several hundred Ardenwald residents asking a vote at the November 2nd Election on annexation of the area to Portland.

Ardenwald residents have been sharply divided three ways for several years on the question of annexation to Portland, to Milwaukie, or remaining as 'unorganized' territory. Population of the area is thought to be about 3,000.

Before Portland officials decide whether they want to put the proposal to a vote, it must clear a survey of whether it is advantageous or not to Portland. Then the hearing will be held in Portland, probably July 21 or 28.

Local observers pointed out today that Ardenwald would have to pay its taxes to Milwaukie schools, to the Rural Fire Protection District, and many other overlapping governmental units, even if it joins Portland where

taxes are somewhat heavier locally.

There was also talk among Milwaukie Ardenwald residents that it would be better to join Clackamas County city, to w the adjoining community is ready tied into taxing u school districts, fire boards, e

## Park Bridge To B Ready For Schoc

A member of the Co Court, Robert Jones, st Thursday morning that cont to the rumor that the Park a ue bridge fill will be six mo in the doing, it must be fini. In the two months left be school opens. The school b use that route, and every e will be toward opening it to fic as quickly as possible. bridge has been condemned closed to traffic.

The Oak Lodge Water Dej ment is at work making terr ary connections to take car users till the permanent m are ready to be installed. l land Gas and Coke Co. pipel are also being readied for tined service to patrons.

## Don Graf New 1-C Chairman

Milwaukie school District held its annual organiza meeting Wednesday night, elected Don W. Graf to be el man for the next year. He ceeds Harold Nevin of Wie District, last year's presiding ficer. Arvid Bertman is re-ele Clerk.

In view of interest in the el of possible Ardenwald ann tion to Portland, the Board ed bluntly, by a unanimous, that it "would not recommen approve any change in the b dary of 1-C" because of and nexations to other cities. A which shares responsibility the tax obligations of the dist cannot be relieved of them v out permission of the rest of area, board officials pointed

## Kellogg Park Area Homes Sold At Last

By December 28 of this year the last of the Kellogg Park Housing units will have been removed under terms of the sales completed last week by the San Francisco office of the US Housing Authority.

47 bidders cleaned up the homes of what was once a teeming section of the City of Milwaukie. One bidder, the Cleveland Wrecking Co. of San Francisco, bid \$67,866 for 406 of the remaining buildings. The other 73 buildings were divided among the 46 other bidders, for a total of \$22,124.

The permanent buildings—fire hall, administration building, etc.—have not yet been appraised. It is expected they will be sold on site with their land as permanent buildings to remain where they are.





begin next week, Monday, August 15, according to Fire Chief Bob Lillis.

## 'No Man's Land' On Lake Bottom Gets Council Eye

Robert Sutton, L. J. Werschkul and Mrs. E. R. Bennett headed a delegation of lakeside property owners which requested the city council to take steps to acquire firm title to the 'no man's land' at the bottom of Kellogg Lake to prevent expropriation of the area for private uses.

Under ancient deeds, the numerous north-bank owners hold title 'to the water's edge'; south side deeds are written 'to the middle of the lake.' The land in question lies east of the railroad trestle, and between the middle of the lake and the north shore. The city limits go to the middle of the lake.

In response to this appeal, the Council Monday directed the city attorney to prepare a resolution to be sent the county court to request the county to merge its title and that of the city, so that permanent dedication of the lake bottom to public use might be made.

There have been rumors for some time that private parties were trying to find descendants of the original donation land claims to pick up quit-claim deeds to lake bottom land.

**BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY  
BY JOINING YOUR  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

County roadmen and all three county commissioners, together with safety advisors from the State Highway Commission, gathered at Island Station Tuesday morning to look over the various proposals for more convenient access from 2nd street and the Island district, onto McLoughlin Boulevard.

The new safety installations at the junction of River Road, 7th avenue and 2nd street (Island Station) included a halt to access directly from 2nd street into the highway. Among the proposals being given consideration as the officials made their on-the-spot inspection, was one for a diagonal access from 2nd street to 7th avenue, to permit direct access into the safety lane.

Members of the 6-man committee named at the citizens' meeting at Bob Sutton's plant last week, accompanied the officials on their inspection.

## Beaver-Salmon Movie At Rod Club Monday

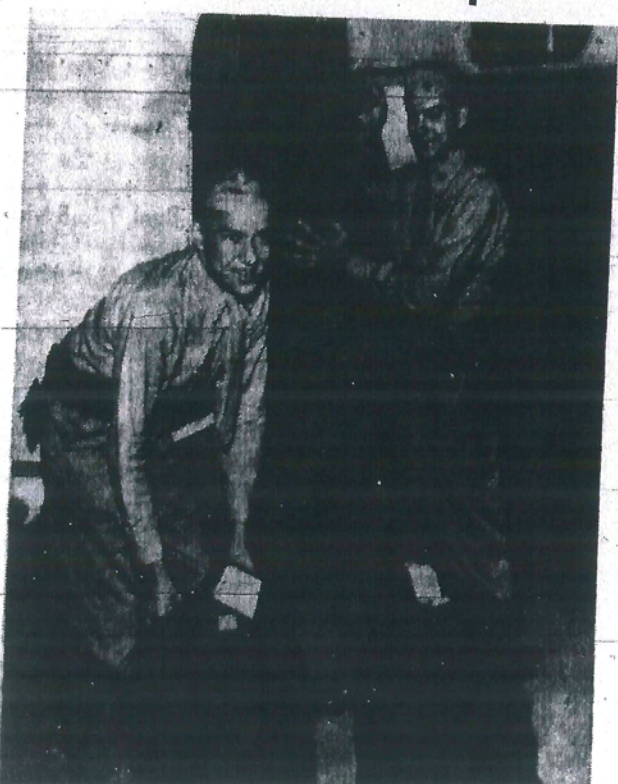
Milwaukie Rod & Gun Club meets next Monday, August 15, at the auditorium of St. John's Catholic School in Milwaukie. Featured on the program will be a three-part picture "Marine Life—the Beaver and the Salmon."

Sign-up for the map-and-compass course and discussion of the deer derby will be on the agenda, and a special message from the president.

### TREASURER'S NAME OMITTED FROM LIST

In listing the new officers of Transit Savers, Inc., last week, the name of the treasurer was omitted. A. H. Miller was elected to that capacity at the annual meeting of that organization.

## Marines at Camp



replaced. This threat of a 'lock strike' brought prompt reassurance from City Recorder Ellen Martin that she "is sure the Council will not pass the assessment ordinance until the residents are satisfied."

"Among the specific allegations heard in council was the charge of Verne Utz, 1755 34th, that 'the driveway was supposed to be 5 inches thick, and it's only 3 1/2' at the thickest, and has already cracked twice."

Gordon Sherman, 1756 34th, charge that 'my curb and walk cracked up when it expanded.'

George Mickel of 1946 34th, stated that 'this is important to all the taxpayers of Milwaukie. If this slipshod work gets by, they'll get by with other projects, and eventually the taxpayers will foot the bill.'

John E. Botsford, 2000 34th, did much of the speaking for the delegation. He outlined the specific complaints heard along the street, and charged that much of the work was installed without 'watering down' of the grades and fills. In some instances, he stated, the residents watered down the fills, but in others the settling was, in his opinion, attributable to failure to water the filling.

"I have 5 cracks within my 100 feet," R. J. Wisner, 3325 SE Wister, said.

Numerous residents voiced similar or confirming objections to the workmanship, including Charles Wilder, Ludwig Straus and others.

City Manager Earl Burdick, who satisfied the group that some items listed in their complaints were not well founded, nevertheless acknowledged there was a basis for objection.

"If the contractor does not make good on defects which are his responsibility, the City has a year to collect on the bond after making the repairs ourselves," Mr. Burdick said. "We think it will be wise to let the job set through the winter to see wheth-

## Trolley Case Fight Won in Court; Battle Continuing

On Monday last the scene of combat shifted from Clackamas County to Salem in the long battle between the commuters and the Portland Traction Co. over the effort to abandon passenger service on the Oregon City-Portland line. Attorney John Sheldahl, counsel for Transit-Savers, sat in at the court of Judge Val Sloper in the matter of the injunction sought by the Portland Traction Co. and the Southern Pacific against the Public Utility Commissioner to restrain the PUC from intervening in the efforts of the two utilities to abandon service in southern Oregon (in the SP case) and in Clackamas County, where the PTC seeks to reduce its schedule by one-third.

The Court denied the request for a temporary restraining order against the Commissioner.

not readily. The cost is nominal. With the number change on all Milwaukie telephones to become effective early next month, the necessity of businesses being listed in the directory is more important than ever. Call EV. 1-8551 and confirm your old listing or arrange for a new one.

## Sewage Probe Plans Develop

Wednesday night a group of about 30 residents of the unorganized territory between Milwaukie and Gladstone met at Oak Grove to continue the inquiry into an over-all sewage disposal program for the area.

M. Homer Reeves, Oak Grove insurance man who has sparked the recent activity, presented speakers from the State Board of Health and the engineering firm of Stevens and Thompson. Mr. E. L. Boydson spoke for the state agency and M. W. Runyon of Oak Grove for the engineering firm which installed previous Clackamas County disposal plants.

\$779.77 has already been contributed by individuals in the affected area to finance a feasibility survey to determine which areas within the district are practical for sewage units, but some \$3,000 will be necessary to cover the entire area, spokesmen indicated.

## PTC's 1955 Earnings Soar

Zooming profits on the freight service of Portland Transit Company and stable passenger revenues enabled the Company and its operating subsidiary, Portland Traction Co., to report earnings for the first six months of 1955 more than 10 times what they were for the comparable period of 1954.

In an announcement this week, PTC reported consolidated net income of \$240,409 for the 1st six months of this year, contrasted with only \$20,441 for the same period last year. After payment of preferred dividends, therefore, the company is paying 67 cents per share of common stock, in place of a deficit of 5 cents-a-share last year.

Freight traffic rose from 7,868 carloads in the first half of 1954 to 9,983 this year. All revenues of the Company produced gross income of \$3,446,497 this year's first half, as against \$3,373,913 a year ago.

This announcement comes while PTC is trying to abandon passenger service on the Oregon City-Bellrose trolley line on a plea of too-heavy losses.

**BLACK COCKER STRAYS**  
Found in the vicinity of...



## Great Fun on the Ice



**CAMERA SHY?** No, we think not, A piece of card board on the the ice can almost upset even a veteran skater like Dan Birkemeier and a fast swing of his arm put his face behind his hand. The wind was blowing a gale late Monday when Mr. Birkemeier, who for more than a half century has been the first skater on Kellogg Lake, was seen trying the ice on the upper lake near the scene of his birth. As a young man, we are told, the adventuresome lad, would try out the ice while his companions waited on the lake shore. This picture was taken from the dock at the Monroe



# KRONBERGS FILE SUIT IN NEW BID FOR KELLOGG LAKE BOTTOM

Suit was filed this week in the circuit court at Oregon City by R. A. Lee and Marjorie H. Kronberg against Judge Ed Latourette, and county commissioners Darrell Jones and Stan Ely, claiming that the plaintiffs have title to the land underneath Milwaukie's Kellogg Lake, or at least a substantial part of it.

Clackamas County's title to the lake bottom has been under fire from the Kronbergs' who operate actively in real estate development and promotion, and who claim to have side landowners who already have packed up quitclaim deeds from clear title to the middle of the heirs of the original Lot Whitcomb Donation Land Claim. The County's claim rests, at least in part, on tax delinquencies which remained unpaid for several generations. Originally the lake was created when the grist mill was installed on Kellogg Creek, nearly 100 years ago.

Kronbergs are one of the south-

## Centennial Chief Chamber Speaker

Anthony Brandenthaler, Chairman of the Oregon Centennial Commission and Baker lumberman, will be the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce at noon Wednesday, June 11 at Kendall Community Hall.

Mr. Brandenthaler, who was one of the original organizers of the Centennial Celebration project, is expected to discuss plans for the Exposition and International Trade Fair which will be the focal point for Centennial activity in 1939, and to discuss the ways in which communities may reap the maximum benefit from the Centennial observation.

## Farewells Said At Rotary Lunch

Milwaukie Rotarians and their

side landowners who already have clear title to the middle of the Lake, but they now claim title also from the center across to the north meander line. The Kronberg land adjoining McLoughlin Blvd. has already been filled to the center of the Lake with rock waste from a nearby gravel operation. When this fill approached the center of the Lake three years ago, lakeside residents protested vigorously and the operation halted.

The present Kronberg claim is that they have clear title from Madison Street, north of the railroad trestle, southward and eastward to what would be a projection of 21st Street, or approximately to the Griffith property on Lake Road.

District Attorney Winston Bradshaw assured residents of Milwaukie this week that he would firmly oppose the efforts of the realtors claim title. The assumption of all parties is that the Kronbergs, if able to support their claim, would proceed to fill the Lake and develop it as real estate.

## Clackamas 56% Primary Vote Among Highest

County Clerk Bob Schumacher, through his deputy Francis Tanzer, this week released the official exact total and percentages of voting in the May 16 Primary.

56% of all Clackamas County registered voters took part, making it high if not highest among the state's 36 counties. The state aver-

## Body Of Steven Phillips Found; Funeral Service Conducted Thursday

County police officers and Oswego Tuesday, April 22. A week search was made by county, and local police officers and volunteers of the Oak Grove area, bloodhounds brought to the trail the lad to the river but was assumed that he had sh into the river. Dragging operations were carried on for many days. Steven, an only child, was May 11, 1933, in Seaside. He lived with his parents in Oak C for four years.

Unidentified fishermen discovered the body floating in the water and called for assistance. Von C. Jensen placed the call to the sheriff's office giving the report. Deputy Vern White was dispatched to the scene and with the assistance of Jensen and Richard Knight, who offered the use of his boat, recovered the body 200 feet north of the center pier of the Southern Pacific Railroad bridge.

Officer Ted Parker of the Oswego police was at the dock when the trio arrived and assisted White and the volunteers in getting the body ashore.

Deputy coroner Don Kjos arrived at the scene at 9 p.m. and took charge of the remains.

Mr. and Mrs. George Phillips, parents of the lad, were called to Peake Memorial Chapel, where they identified their missing son.

Little Steven, who would have been six years old mothers' day, was reported missing to state police.

## Final Rite For Mrs. Lottie Taylor Set For Saturday

Mrs. Lottie Taylor, 77, widow of the late Wilbur H. Taylor, resident of Milwaukie for 31 years, died Thursday morning in Redwood Nursing home. She had suffered a stroke Friday and had not regained

Final rites were held Thursday June 5, at 10 a.m., in River Cemetery chapel with Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher, Portland, officiating. Peake Memorial Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

## Portland Gravel Company Sued Milwaukie Matron

Portland Gravel Company, Milwaukie, was faced with a \$25 lawsuit in Clackamas County circuit court following a complaint filed by the Portland law firm Krause, Lindsay and Kennedy, S.E. Second Street, Milwaukie, on behalf of Joan Wagenknecht, plaintiff.

Mrs. Wagenknecht asks \$150,000 general damages; \$100 punitive damages; \$855.55 special damages plus costs and disbursements. Mrs. Wagenknecht charges the gravel company with operating their business near her home in such a manner as to cause mental and physical illness. Gravel trucks operate near her property she says and the noise and dust are a nuisance to neighbors in the area which formerly was purely residential.



They were given Thursday afternoon.

# Draining Due Kellogg Lake

Kellogg Lake in Milwaukie, a onetime millpond alongside McLoughlin Blvd., is being drained preparatory to cleaning it of debris accumulated over the years since it stored water for an early day flour mill.

Owners of the lake and other Milwaukians plan to beautify the half-mile long lake, stock it with pond fish and make it a recreational spot.

The Lake was created by damming Kellogg Creek to form a millpond for the old Standard Flour Co., mill, one of the enterprises of Lot Whitcomb.

Whitcomb, known in Oregon history as the builder of the first steamship in Oregon, milled grain at the old mill into flour for sale at bonanza prices to miners in the diggings in California.

Oregonian  
Oct 2 1959

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action came as the direct opposition to the change. Congressman Norblad had last indicated his opposition to a tendency of the Post department to want to convert many suburban offices to "islands of Portland." He thinks "it would be a move in the wrong direction."

Local franchises are often devalued. Clackamas county firms believe their Portland addresses are being sold, and many mix-ups in automobile license fees and

## Sept. 15 Set for Sewer, Fire Vote

that Milwaukie's 3-mill tax would pay off the sewage disposal authorized 10 years ago, the council Monday proposed to vote that the tax be continued for the next 20 years to finance the sewers, enlarging the treatment plant, and acquire new fire equipment. This proposal, the city recommended, would not require any tax increase and would be for necessary expansion of fire services.

total bond issue which these would pay off would total \$1,000,000. Maintenance of present fire insurance rate is a major item in the proposal, councilmen

firemen would be much more. Engineers have advised the city that it would be to install fire engines generally throughout the city with capacity to take care of residential and industrial expansion. New fire equipment has been made urgently necessary when the Fire District recently separated itself from the City. New fire engines and heavy industrial plants have made enlarge-



**A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION** was presented to Bill McCready, district Governor of Rotary International, by past president Barney McClain for his interest in the Milwaukie group. The gift, a set of P&C Tools, was presented at a recent meeting of Milwaukie Rotary at which McCready was the guest speaker.

## Bottom's Up In Kellogg Lake; Kids, Gulls And Lakers Busy

Late last week, after months of smaller fingerlings of croppies, bass, bluegills, catfish and carp. Freshwater clams as big as a man's hand were plentiful on both shores as the water receded. The kids

(Continued on Page Two)

As always, the uncanny telegraph system of the seagulls worked on schedule. As the rock and silt bottom was exposed from McLoughlin to Oatfield Road, the gulls moved in. As fish and clams and crawdads were stranded, the gulls thoroughly enjoyed their scavenger job. In the shallow waters of sprawling Kellogg Creek, which runs through the Lake, the ducks gorged themselves on the

## Honors Possible For Milwaukie

Have you ever desired to attain the highest honor in the world? Any healthy individual can qualify, and it only takes a few minutes of your time.

Saving a life stands as the highest honor. Every time you give blood you have contributed to one of the finest welfare's possible, and it doesn't take a news-making event for you to help save a life.

The Red Cross bloodmobile will be in Milwaukie Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple.

Blood is always needed, so make your appointment NOW!

## Sweetland New Publishers Unit Chairman

Oregon publishers and editors of daily and weekly newspapers met last week-end at Timberline Lodge for their annual session on editorial problems. Chairman Wesley Sullivan of the Oregon Statesman (Salem) presided.

Elected Chairman for the next year was Monroe Sweetland, publisher of the Milwaukie Review, with Robert Chandler, publisher of the Bend Bulletin, elected vice-chairman with automatic succession to succeed Sweetland as the 1960-61 chairman.

Watford Reed of the Oregon Journal won the competition for the outstanding writing in the field of law, which carries a \$300 award from the Oregon Bar Association.

The sessions were held Friday and Saturday of last week. Gearhart was chosen for next year's sessions. The Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association organizes the annual editorial and news conferences.

## Area in At Chan

"Welcome" presented to new industries in Clackamas County at a meeting Wednesday in Clackamas County.

President Peterson presented to Pak-Well Paper Co., Jacuzzi Bros. and Cold Storage.

Irwin Adams station KGON, Shan, general "Blueprints for program in the "increased membership of \$10,000 in well in sight." stands near 500,000.

Robert Fran important industries in the Chamber, of guests and membership of the introduction

## Clackamas Legisla

Clackamas County received word of approval of no scholarship at substantial tuition for Oregon State college. These awards are terms of the State scholarship approved by the

Representative named Dorothy graduate of Mc OSC this fall.

Senator Morn Frank Ott, Jr., son of Mr. and



## Lake Cleanup

(Continued from Page One)

were garnering great collections of crayfish from under the rocks.

Not since 1924—35 years ago—has the lake been emptied. The residents plan to work fast to cut up old logs and stumps which have rested on the bottom, to clean up the debris of a century in the form of bottles, metal, and all sorts of flotsam which are now exposed. Some areas are deeply layered with silt which it is hoped may be reduced by the fall freshets.

September was chosen for the emptying of the Lake, after consultation with the Game Commission, so that the Lake may be filled again in late October in time for the Fall runs of Steelhead, silver salmon and cutthroat trout which come up from the Ocean. It is also hoped that the draining will reduce the over-population of carp which has grown too plentiful. Willamette River floods which for a century have risen up to the Lake level and have brought in scrap fish (carp) annually, are probably being reduced below the Lake level by the up-river dams.

Sponsors of the operation are urging public-spirited citizens to assist the clean-up of the Lake so it will be a more pleasant and beautiful place for its swimming, boating, fishing and recreational uses. Kellogg Lake, like Lake Oswego, is an artificial lake but it is now more than 100 years old. Much of the bottom of the Lake is public property, but the land titles along the south shore run to mid-lake.

## Late Classified

APARTMENT FOR RENT

## Mustang Game

(Continued on Page Two)

only moral victory over the Jesuit Crusaders last Friday, losing 12 to 0.

The Cavs almost scored in the second quarter with a beautiful 40 yard pass but, like Milwaukie, were cheated by the clock.

Both TD's for Jesuit were unearned, one being made off a bad cen-



JOE HARVEY

## Grand Opening At Auto Serv

Grand opening of a "self" Auto service shop scheduled for Saturday. Bosch, of B&K Auto Shop, is the proprietor.

In business for 12 years, Bosch is a new service. He offers free instruction and service to automobile owners to save money on their repairs.

Several opening gifts will be given Saturday. Customers will receive candy, the staff will be given carnations, coffee and doughnuts served to all visitors.

## Kindergarten

Martin Luther Church is in the process of organizing kindergarten as a service beginning on October 1. Classes will be held at 85th and King Road on Thursday morning. David Roake as instructor.

The kindergarten will accept children four and five years of age. The cost of \$5 per month. Parents interested in registering their children are asked to call Mrs. Roake at 4-8579 immediately.

with Beaverton at the Elmer Miller said: "It'll be a ... anything can happen game."

Beaverton has a larger squad than the Clackamas.

Chances are, the Beaverton will fend off a "cross charge" defense. Their offense will be an unbalanced line.



2136 S. E. Lake Road  
Milwaukie, Oregon  
December 22, 1965

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield  
Governor of Oregon  
Salem

My dear Governor:

Recently you spoke to the Rotary Club of Portland at the Benson Hotel relating to the conservation of Oregon's natural beauty and resources, the prevention of pollution of our rivers, streams and lakes, and the preservation of our water supply.

It becomes fitting and we feel moved to call to the attention of all concerned in our State Department of the willful pollution, abuse and destruction of Kellog Lake within the city limits of Milwaukie.

In the first place, a certain party for personal gains and purposes secured quick claim deeds to delinquent tax lots, long off the tax rolls, and under the surface water of Kellog Lake (which was possibly not legal, see ORS 274420 and ORS 274040). These deeds were signed not by heirs of the long deceased original owners, but by the removed descendants (this is also questioned as to legal ownership).

Further, as recorded at the Court House in Oregon City, "37-173 Mes 6.18% David Robertson Bernhard Quant" Description of property - deed follows). "Then provided that none of the property above described shall be used to erect or maintain on same a slaughter house, tannery, pullery or other use that would render the adjoining property less desirable or valuable. Should the above described property, or any of it, be used for any of the above purposes this deed to be null and void and the land above described to revert to the grantor herein together with the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenants thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and also all of my estate, right of title and interest at law and equity therein and thereto including dower and right of dower. I have and to hold the same to the said Bernhard Quant, his heirs and assigns forever." Warranty; etc. March 7, 1890 by Hannah B. Robertson.

The recent purchaser then quietly proceeded to fill the Kellog Lake along the McLaughlin Highway with gross-sized gravel, and asserted when he was challenged by local residents that he planned only on extending the water frontage of the land into the Lake, then to apply to the City for rezoning in order to sell the filled area for commercial sites.

Local residents protested to the City and County authorities with no avail until they have now grown weary and discouraged. For the past several years Kellog Lake has been a public dump for old stumps, old stoves, kitchen sinks, old toilets, tin cans, beer bottles, and even some garbage and debris, as well as old building lumber, plaster and wallboard. Some of the waste floats down the Lake with the current and clogs up the fish ladder to the overflow into the Willamette River.

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield  
December 22, 1965

-2-

A few days ago a picture appeared in the local Milwaukie paper showing the unsightly mess on the Lake shore; consequently, the owner then posted a new sign stating, "Only dumping by permission of the owner".

At the present time there is a great pile of debris near the Southern Pacific Railway tressel that is as obnoxious as a dirty pig pen. The dumping to this date still persists there, however, lately the other area is being filled with dirt since the paper published the picture.

During the past summer of 1965 children have been swimming in the Lake as well as having picnics on the site of the gravel dump. These are local children, of course, who have no park in the city limits of Milwaukie. There are also numerous pleasure boats at times on the Lake. Many varieties of water fowl are on the lake, and some are migratory. This may be lost if all this dumping in the Lake continues in the future as it has in the past, and this is tragic.

We trust an investigation will be made and sincerely hope the State Department, who by Oregon laws are really the legitimate owners of Kellog Lake, will see that this procedure ceases and that restrictions are imposed on the use of the property so that Kellog Lake and its beauty can be retained and improved.

Respectfully yours,

Albert N. Combs

ANC:ht





MARK O. HATFIELD  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM 97310  
December 29, 1965

Mr. Albert N. Combs  
2136 S. E. Lake Road  
Milwaukie, Oregon

Dear Mr. Combs:

It is indeed unfortunate that property owners in the Kellog Lake area of Milwaukie have been forced to suffer because of the apparent thoughtlessness of others.

While it would seem the problems you have outlined might easily be solved by city officials, I am directing a copy of your letter to the State Land Board and State Sanitary Authority with the request that the matter of lake bed ownership be determined and that an investigation be initiated to ascertain whether state pollution control laws have been violated.

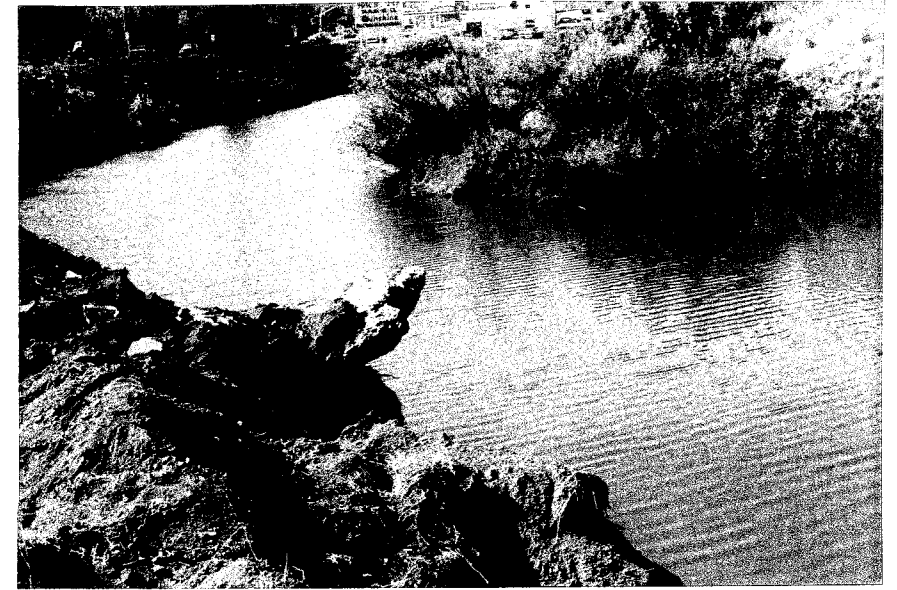
The matter of eliminating community blight and ugliness must be the concern of government officials at every level, as well as that of individual citizens, and I am grateful to you for bringing the Kellog Lake situation to my attention. As soon as additional information is available, I will be writing you further on the subject.

Sincerely,

Governor

MOH:al

cc: Mr. Dale Mallicoat  
Mr. Kenneth Spies



V 8 5 8

6-26-68

Fill on private property along east  
side of McLaughlin Blvd. at Kellogg  
Lake.





# The New Review

Clackamas County's Only Independent Newspaper.

Volume 58, Number 14

Wednesday, March 28, 1979

Milwaukie, Oregon

653-1732

20 Cents

## KELLOGG LAKE'S FRIENDS RUN RACE WITH 'DOZERS

By LOREN MITCHELL

A group of concerned citizens met Monday night in Milwaukie City Hall to discuss plans which would save Kellogg Lake from the bulldozers.

Some 35 Kellogg Lake Friends said they must organize to prevent

the 14-acre lake from being surrounded by commercial and residential development.

The man-made lake is believed to have been built more than 100 years ago by a man who used the water to power a grist mill. The mill was located near the concrete

dam, just west of McLoughlin Boulevard.

The concept of preserving Kellogg Lake for public use is not new. Milwaukie citizens expressed concern for the preservation of the lake as long as 40 years ago, but the city lacked the funds to

purchase the private property surrounding the area.

Of immediate concern to the Kellogg Lake Friends is the acquisition of 11 separate properties along the southwestern edge of the lake.

The assessed valuation of those properties is \$378,000.

Kellogg Lake Friends Chairman Gene Lambird and Milwaukie Councilwoman Anne Nickel expressed optimism that a portion of the acquisition costs might be available through various federal and state agencies.

"Time is very, very critical," Mrs. Nickel stated.

"There are two commercial projects now in the planning stages that involve the property we want to acquire.

"We don't have months to start this program."

Co-chairman Rebecca Sweetland proposed a plan to acquire the lake land for public use. A key part of the proposal is to establish six committees to seek funding, to bring the project to the attention of the public, and to ultimately acquire the land.

Mrs. Sweetland pointed out that the land in question is part of a 100-year flood plain, and that some buildings close to the lake have already suffered damage in recent floods.

Several of those attending the meeting expressed concern about the quality of water in the lake, even though the area is known to support migrating birds and water-front wildlife.

Kellogg Lake is located on the southern limits of the City of Milwaukie, just east of McLoughlin Boulevard.

If the Kellogg Lake Friends are successful in bringing the lake into the public domain, existing buildings on the south side of the lake will remain.

The history of the Birkemeier house will be investigated and a log house on the Nutting property will be used for a senior citizen center.

### U-MARKET, PENNEY ADVERTISE TODAY

The New Review this week scored more gains in one of the most phenomenal growth cycles of any weekly newspaper anywhere.

Joining the newspaper's ranks of major advertisers this week are the U-Market food store of Clackamas on Page A11 and J.C. Penney's Oregon City Shopping Center store on B12.

"We heartily welcome these major advertisers, and urge readers to shop the pages of The New Review for the best bargains in the North Clackamas area," said General Manager Chuck Pritchard.

### Residents Protest Rezoning

Eighty-eight residents of Oak Lodge presented a petition to the Clackamas County Planning Commission Friday seeking to reverse a zone change decision made earlier this month.

The controversial area is on the west side of Berghammer Road near the intersection of Roethe Road in Jennings Lodge.

Nancy L. Farrell sought to have a 76,693-square-foot area rezoned from single-family residential to multi-family residential to accommodate some 21 units.

Quinton R. Gale, Oak Lodge



THREATENED—Kellogg Lake in Milwaukie looks quiet, and civic organization hopes to keep developers away from historical setting.

(Photo by Loren Mitchell)

### Local Governments Take Part In MSD Regional Housing Plan



# But Appeal's

## '100% Certain'

By GARY PAGE

An application to modify the 100-year flood-plain of Kellogg Creek to allow development of 7.76 acres has been denied by Clackamas County Hearings Officer Ken Stewart.

Stewart's 10-page decision on the matter was rendered Monday night by Richard Crisp, also a Clackamas County hearings officer.

The decision closed one chapter in the controversy over development within the flood-plain and opened a new chapter in the continuing battle.

Following the decision, John Hendrickson, an attorney for the applicant, said it was "100 percent certain" that K&R Plumbing Construction Co. will file an appeal.

The developer has until Tuesday May 15 to file an appeal with the Board of Clackamas County Commissioners for a review of the decision.

Opponents of the development were happy with the decision, but recognized it was only a tentative victory.

A group of residents from the Kellogg Creek area met immediately after the decision to begin planning strategy for the appeal process.

Among the group's tentative options are:

- To seek legal advice and help from 1,000 Friends of Oregon or the Northwest Environmental League, both groups which champion environmental causes, and
- To begin a new petition drive for the benefit of the commissioners.

But the main concern of Roger Hohimer, chairman of the group, was maintaining an organization for the fight ahead.

"We can make a good fight, but we have to get enough people committed to it," he said.

The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, in the View Acres School library, 4828 S.E. View Acres Rd., to plan strategy.

Stewart sorted through nearly nine hours of public testimony and reams of submitted documents in rendering the decision.

In denying the application, Stewart wrote that the "request doesn't meet the spirit of zoning laws."

He also cited the drainage and standing water problems of Wilderness Estates I residents.

K&R Plumbing was the developer of Wilderness I and had planned an 18-home subdivision to be called Wilderness Estates II on the flood-plain land.

Stewart hinted the same prob-

lems might be repeated if the development was allowed to proceed.

"If we don't learn from history, we learn nothing at all," he wrote.

He also cited the need to retain Kellogg Creek as a preserve for wildlife.

Many of the same arguments had been advanced by opponents of the planned subdivision in public testimony.

The decision went against a county planning department staff report which had recommended approval of the application.

## 'We Wanna Work,' Say Teenagers

By LESLIE NUDELMAN

Placements will begin next Tuesday to match North Clackamas area teenagers between 12 and 15 years old with employers needing summer help.

Response to the schools' program, called "Hire-A-Teen," has been "very good so far," according to Marla Jordan, Oak Grove-Riverside area community school coordinator.

As a public service, The New Review will publish free of charge job-seeking ads for all North Clackamas area teenagers looking for summer work. The section in the paper will be called "We Wanna Work."

Employment application forms are available from junior high and high school counselors in the North Clackamas School District.

Applications must be returned to counselors no later than May 15.

According to Ms. Jordan, 12- and 13-year-olds can do non-hazardous work such as babysitting, animal-sitting, and yard-work.

Fourteen- and 15-year-olds can do the same chores but may also work in retail businesses including grocery stores, restaurants and offices as well as delivery, kitchen and agriculture work.

Safety orientation sessions for students interested in the program will be held in the district's junior high school and sessions on employee-employer relations will be held in the high schools in early May.

Community school coordinators at Linwood and Oak Grove-Riverside elementary schools and at Rowe and McLoughlin junior high schools will take job orders from employers and match them with student applications.

light. Carnival also included the usual games  
(Photo by Wayne Martin)



### Peake Picked

Leslie Peake of Milwaukie was named a member of the Rotary International legislative committee at the club's annual district conference last weekend in Pendleton.

in 1977  
575,410;  
1/4; and



# The New Review

Clackamas County's Only Independent Newspaper.

Volume 58, Number 30

One Section

Wednesday, July 25, 1979

Milwaukie, Oregon

653-1732

20 cents

## County Nixes Builder's Kellogg Creek Plans

By HUB WALTER and GARY PAGE

Clackamas County commissioners Monday denied the request of K&R Plumbing Construction Co. to modify the 100-year floodplain of Kellogg Creek to allow development.

K&R had sought the modification so the firm could proceed with a planned 18-home subdivision on 7.76 acres of land at Clackamas Avenue and Stohler

Road, near Johnson City.

Commissioners Stan Skoko and Ralph Groener sided against Commissioner Robert Schumacher in upholding denial of the application by county

Hearings Officer Ken Stewart.

Stewart denied the original request April 30 and K&R brought the matter before the commissioners on appeal.

"I have spent a lot of time on this matter and have decided to support the hearings officer's decision," said Skoko, who cast the deciding vote on the matter.

"But I also have regrets that I cannot overturn it," he added.

Skoko explained later that he was alluding to his regrets over the death of "Bud" Rogers, owner of K&R Plumbing Construction Co. Rogers died last week after suffering a heart attack.

When Skoko cast the decisive vote, the audience of about 50 people, most wearing "Save Kellogg Wetlands" buttons, burst into applause.

Residents of the area had opposed the development, charging it would pose a danger to wildlife and impede stream flow.

Proponents of the development, to be called Wilderness Estate II, had denied it would have an adverse effect on the area.

Jon Hendrickson, attorney for K&R, said it would be up to Rogers' widow whether the appeal would be carried to court in an effort to have the commission's decision overturned.

"However, this thing is not going to be turned loose," Hendrickson vowed.

The attorney said it was obvious to him that neither Skoko nor Groener had read the transcript of the case before deciding on it.

## Six Nabbed In Great Boat Snatch

Milwaukie police arrested six persons last week after a \$65,000 speedboat was stolen from a Columbia River marina and wrecked four hours later in the Willamette River at Milwaukie.

The arrests came after the boat's owner and an off-duty Multnomah County sheriff's deputy chased the stolen craft up the Willamette River.

Arrested were Craig Bryant Anderson, 31, Eugene; Eric Nelson-Kight, 19, Portland; Edward Gordon Westerdahl, 18, Portland; and three 17-year-old Portland youths.

The three adults were lodged in Clackamas County Jail on a charge of unauthorized use of a boat. Bail was set at \$2,505 each for the felony charge, according to Milwaukie police.

The three juveniles were released to the custody of their parents shortly after the Wednesday incident, police said.

The craft ran across some rocks at Elk Rock Island, breaking off both outriggers and scraping up the bottom.

The owners and Pratt caught up with it as the boat was being towed to shore by another craft at Milwaukie, where Pratt boarded it and made the arrests.

Owners estimated damage to the craft at between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Police said two people were probably responsible for the theft of the boat and that the other four passengers boarded it at Kelly Point.

## Again

The council had little choice but to reduce the proposed budget levy after voters rejected a \$4.30 rate June 14 and axed a \$4.60 rate July 10.

The \$4.25 rate represents \$170,000 in reductions from the \$4.60 rate.

The major cutbacks are elimination of the neighborhood council coordinator and deputy city attorney positions.

The council coordinator position was eliminated in the \$4.30 budget, spurring the five neighborhood councils to mount an active campaign to get it defeated. They supported the \$4.60 rate, which would have retained the position.

Apparently the neighborhood councils will support the \$4.25 rate.

The deputy city attorney post is funded by a grant through September, but would have cost the city more than \$14,000 in salary next year. Instead, the city will hire a part-time law clerk to work with the City Attorney Myer Avedovech.

Don Oblander, finance director, said the impact of the cuts was lessened because of additional revenues, which have been identified since June and a \$30,000 salary savings on 28 vacant positions which have been frozen until a budget is approved.

With the frozen positions, Oblander said the city has been operating at a \$3.50 rate since entering the fiscal year July 1 without an approved budget.

City Manager Hal Schilling said the



## Beaverton Bound

Jack Rosenberg, vice president and manager of First State Bank of Oregon's headquarters office in Milwaukie, is resigning to become president and manager of Beaverton Banking Co. Plans for establishing the new bank are underway.

## Boat Mishap Kills Man, 25

## Heart Attack Fells K&R's Bud Rogers

Asher Lee "Bud" Rogers, a prominent Clackamas builder who was involved in a controversial plan to develop land within the Kellogg Creek floodplain, died last week at his home after suffering a heart attack.

Rogers, 50, was the owner and operator of K&R Plumbing Construction Co.

Rogers also owned Stearns Rock Crushing, Inc., and B. C. R. Tire Co., Inc., both located in Sherwood.

Services were Monday, July 23, in Peake Memorial Chapel in Milwaukie. (See Obituaries, Page 4).



## Kellogg Lake Friends set another appeal

MILWAUKIE — The legal battle over the fate of a proposed development on Kellogg Lake continued last week, as opponents on April 3 filed a notice of intent to appeal with the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

The opponents, Kellogg Lake Friends, contend that the development does not comply with provisions of the Willamette River Greenway — "to protect and conserve" the qualities of land along Willamette River, according to Ernie Griffith, president of Kellogg Lake Friends.

Earlier in March, a county hearings officer affirmed the development complies with the Greenway conditions.

The organization is also awaiting a LUBA decision on their demand that the development be set back 100 or 150 feet from the lake, Griffith said. Oral arguments before LUBA on this matter were given by both sides in February.

"It's a question of whether they can build or not," said Griffith. "If they cannot comply (with the Greenway ordinance), they cannot build."

Griffith said Kellogg Lake Friends will continue to fight the "two-front" battle "until all our legal rights are exhausted."

The 18-acre parcel was formally annexed to Milwaukie on April 1.

Developers in March said they hope to begin work on the 240-unit apartment complex this

## County facilities plan Commissioners question con.

By Michael Dale  
Staff Writer for The Review

A consultants' study delivered to county commissioners and officials on Wednesday last week appears to be causing more confusion than clarification.

The \$12,000 study, prepared primarily by the Andrea Bainbridge Design firm, concludes that the optimum location for consolidating widely scattered county offices is at 12th and Main streets in Oregon City. Two other sites in Oregon City — Red Soils and the county courthouse area — were considered and rejected.

However, Commissioner Ed Lindquist believes the study should have considered sites outside of Oregon City. He expressed that view at the Wednesday workshop, held at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center on Oregon 211 between Eagle Creek and Sandy, and he repeated them this week.

"I want them to look outside Oregon City as well," he said. "We need to know what is in the best interests for taxpayers throughout the county, not just in Oregon City. If the costs in Oregon City are too high, then it might pay to go elsewhere."

However, according to county Director of General Services Carol Berggren, the study was never intended to make formal siting recommendations.

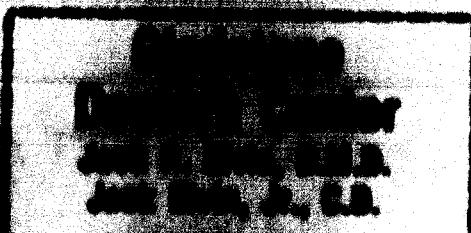
"The study was commissioned as a (space) needs inventory both for now and in the future," she said. "The siting part was just 'what ifting'."

Berggren is responsible for space allocation for county offices, and it is she who has received numerous complaints from

**"We need to know the interests for taxpayers not just in Oregon City are too high, to go elsewhere."**

county employees and citizens about the lack of space at county's far-flung offices. The study itself documented about 40 people per day at the wrong county office. Berggren described herself as a "mover" in putting the proposal before the commission.

Despite Berggren's analysis of the consultants work, their



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an

Scouts Kelly Freeman, 11, David Anderson, 12, Jason Hoffmann, 6, and Lacey Smith, 7, hold red, white and blue ribbons they were going to tie onto trees at Milwaukie City Hall last week. The ribbons were show support for the troops engaged in the gulf war.

Ron Oberg/THE REVIEW

# March elections bring out levies, ca

By Ron Oberg  
Editor

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY** — From sewer to water to fire and schools, voters here will soon have another chance to select new leaders and give a thumbs up or down decision on at least two bond levies.

## NC12 growth and repair levy

Among the levies on the mail-in ballot will be a \$22 million, 20-year-

bond levy for the North Clackamas School District. The levy will raise money for repairs of the district's facilities and renovations to ease overcrowding.

According to district officials there is an immediate need for additional classrooms, numerous electrical, roof and heating repairs, and better access to district libraries and computer labs.

The money will also help build a

new elementary school. Officials have planned to build the school at the east end of the district to accommodate expected growth there. The cost of the new school is estimated at \$5.4 million.

The general obligation issue will not exceed \$22,090,000 and will have a term of 20 years. Passage of the levy would pay \$60 per \$1,000 assessed property value in the district to pay the cost of the bonds.

## Kellogg salmon are gone Save The Creek group formed

By Neil Kirk  
Correspondent for The Review

**MILWAUKIE** — Four years ago salmon vanished from Kellogg Creek because of declining water quality, said local resident and conservationist John Flynn.

Flynn, who lives along the stream near Aldercrest Road, has recently helped initiate an environmental group, the Friends of Kellogg Creek, in order to halt pollution and to restore local fisheries.

To create an awareness, the group will be holding a public meeting February 7, at the library

of Rowe Junior highschool at 7:30 p.m.

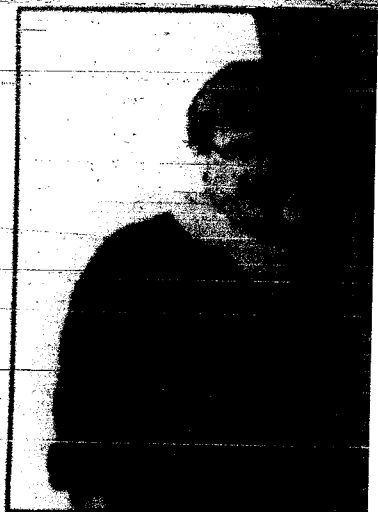
Jerry Herrmann from Clackamas Community College will speak at the meeting as an expert concerning the stream, he said.

Herrmann has helped improve water quality by creating a wetlands preserve at the college's John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center.

With the present condition of Kellogg Creek, Flynn said the water quality must be improved in order to provide an adequate habitat for fish.

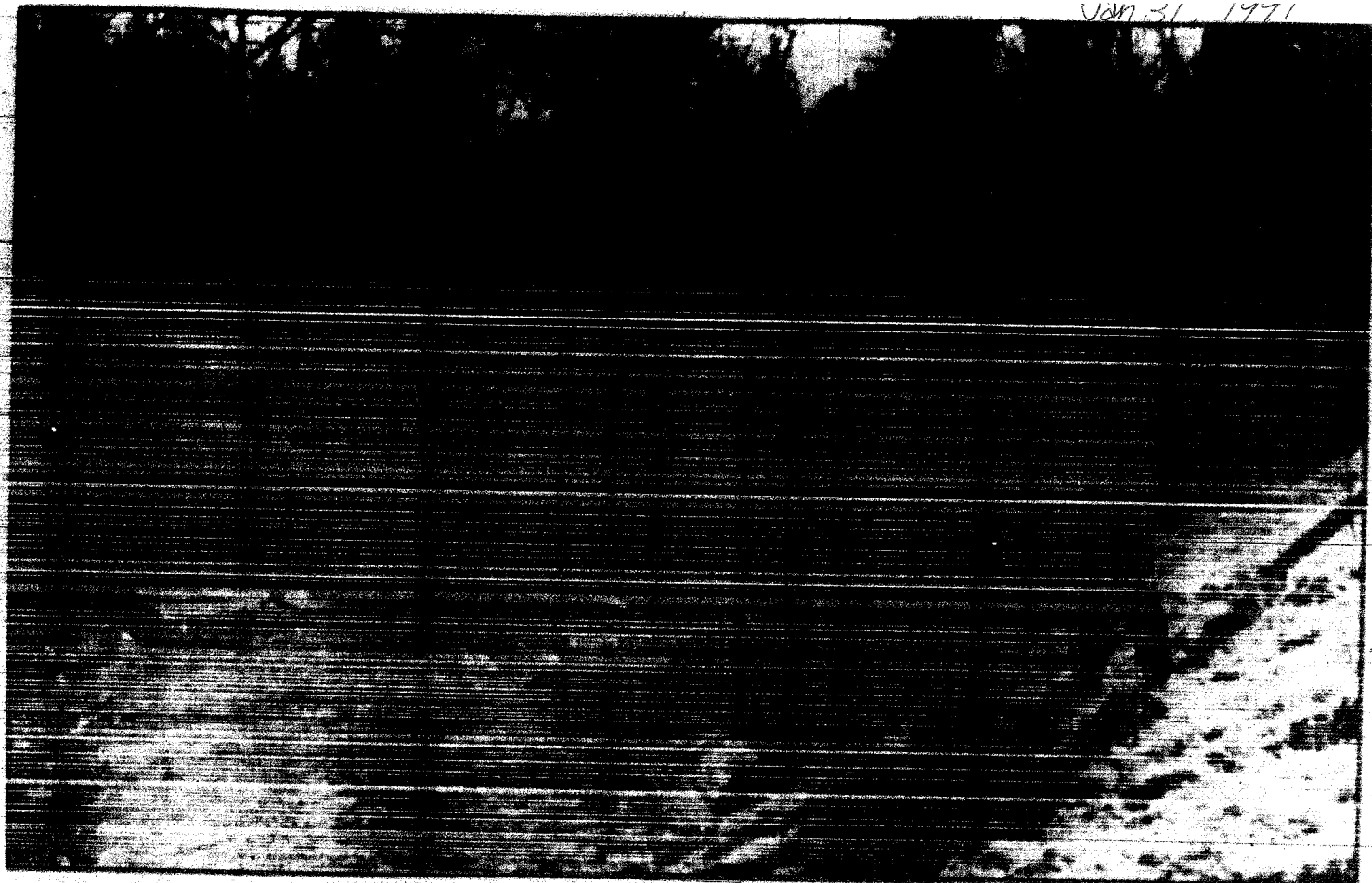
One reason for the poor water quality is the poor water treatment. Please See Page 3

## Stars & Stripes



A Milwaukie resident is the allied operation in the details.





John Flynn, Gary Olson and Beverly Cook walk along Kellogg Creek located near Aldercrest Road. They are concerned because the last reported salmon run was four years ago. The three together have initiated an environmental group called the Friends of Kellogg Creek in an effort to halt the pollution.

Photo by Neil Kirk

# Kellogg Creek pollution stirs concerns

Continued From Page 1

quality is that some local residents pipe waste water into the stream, he said.

Flynn is also concerned about the chemicals that people use on their lawns. He said the lawns slope toward the stream in the area, and many yards extend to the water's edge. He added that during winter rains, the fertilizers that people dump on their lawns wash in into the creek.

But pollution from local homeowners is only part of the problem. A few years ago, diesel spilled into Kellogg Creek and the salmon disappeared after the incident. Flynn cautioned that the fuel oil spill may be only coincidental to the decline in the fisheries.

Nearby shopping malls also con-

tribute to the problem, Flynn said. The oil that collects on the the malls' parking lots from leaking cars engines washes into the drains, he said.

During heavy rains the water has no place to go but to wash across the pavement, sweeping contaminants toward rivers and streams.

The malls and other businesses are required to have traps to catch motor oil, but Flynn said no laws require the basins to be cleaned.

In order to address the complex issue of pollution other environmental groups have had successes, he said. Friends of Fanno Creek represents such an example. "They have had some input on permits that might affect land near Fanno Creek."

The large stagnant pool called Kellogg Lake near downtown Milwaukie is a case in which public input would be useful in the granting or denying of land use permits, he said.

## Industry cooperation needed

"The water (in the lake) looks like hot chocolate," he said. Flynn added that the lake was silting in because construction workers are spraying mud off the streets and into Kellogg Creek.

"We want to invite major industry to cooperate in the Kellogg Creek clean-up," he said. "We want to see big companies re-route their water."

If the water quality can be improved, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife will help restock the stream with salmon, he said.

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# Arson activity plagues G

By Ron Oberg  
Editor

GLADSTONE — Fire Marshall Wayne Hauck is facing a problem that may prove to be more difficult to solve than explain. Within the

past month there have been three possible youth-caused arson fires in the city and another situation that could have resulted in a number of students being badly burned.

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## Buildings may soon cover Milwaukie natural zone

MILWAUKIE — The city's natural resource zone at the west side of Kellogg Lake will be lost to 15 townhouses.

After public testimony Feb. 26 at Milwaukie Center, the city's Planning Commission granted developer Gerald Engler preliminary approval for a planned development along Kellogg Lake. The City Council will be charged with granting final approval.

Before approval by the council, Engler must receive the commission's blessing concerning access and scenic views as they relate to the development.

Engler further must provide traffic studies in order to be granted an access permit. The commission placed that condition on the application, and details will be resolved through city staff and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Dave Krogh, assistant planner, said the city's comprehensive plan had designated this area around Kellogg Lake as a natural resource.

During the public testimony, Teresa Spillman said because the backyards of these townhouses faced the lake, the storm water would carry contaminants into the water.

"You will have fertilizers and insecticides washed into the lake," she said. Then in turn the Willamette will become polluted.

Also threatened are the blackberries growing around the lake that provide a great habitat for many birds, she said. The birds live, eat and hide in the lake's natural environment, Spillman said.

"As a community, we have a responsibility to protect the environment for the animals and creatures that live there," Spillman said.

Please See Page 2

Colo

A Friend  
to prom  
election

March 7<sup>th</sup> 1991



# Happy Valley to inspect for septic failures

By Rosemond E. Dowden  
Staff Writer for The Review

**HAPPY VALLEY** — City Administrator Bill Brandon has been asked by Mayor James Robnett to physically inspect all properties within Happy Valley for possible septic failures.

The request results from the Feb. 19 meeting between the state Department of Environmental Quality, Clackamas Sewer Service District No. 1, and city officials concerning use of state revolving funds for phase-one sewer financing in the valley.

According to DEQ State Revolving Fund Administrator Martin Loring, "When a water quality problem exists the problem must be solved and we try to find a way to solve that problem."

"The phase-one plan presented at the Feb. 19 meeting does not solve the Happy Valley problem as we now know it, nor is there a commitment over a period of time for a phase two, phase three and so on to pursue and correct the problem," said Loring.

The decision to release funds will be based on data supplied by Brandon, who expects to have his project done within 30 days, and on

information released by Clackamas County concerning the possible need of sewer service to the Happy Valley Elementary School.

Brandon said that there are three possible septic types in Happy Valley. "There are septic tanks built before 1975, those built after 1975 according to DEQ guidelines, and homes already hooked up to sewer," he said.

"I'm looking for those that had problems and have since been corrected and those that may still be problematic," said Brandon. "These findings will then go to DEQ."

Bruce Erickson, manager of the engineering department of the county utilities department, said, "We are reviewing the sewer needs of the Happy Valley school. The school is expanding and they have been approved for two additional rooms to be built — but this depends on the availability of sewer service to the school."

Erickson said that the county's findings will also be sent to DEQ.

Loring said that the DEQ is awaiting the new data and workable proposals from the city and the county before any decision can be rendered concerning state

funds to be issued for construction of the phase-one sewer trunk line. Brandon said that if state funds are not made available to the city it is probable that the cost of phase one would fall on prospective developers.

Brandon also said that the City Council had accepted the sewer proposal agreement prepared by Mike Bye, city engineer, at the Monday night City Council meeting.

## Kellogg Lake woes

Continued From Page 1

"The lake is a garbage pit," she said. "Everything is draining into it."

To defend his position, Engler said, "The lake is an eyesore that is filled with concrete chunks." He added that his development would be adding to the aesthetic qualities of the lake.

In response to the city's comprehensive plan, he said, Milwaukie's ruling is inconsistent with the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

He pointed to a map of the city that pictured buildable areas and said the agency's rules would not prohibit his proposal. Engler also said Milwaukie had allowed property to be developed that failed to qualify under LCDC's rules. He said the property just south of Kellogg

Lake along McLoughlin Boulevard had been developed. He pointed to the map locating those properties that failed to meet LCDC's standards.

He then addressed the storm drainage issue. Engler said catch basins would be constructed to catch the storm-water run-off. He added that a firm called Scientific Research had evaluated the area and determined that the proposed construction area had virtually no habitat.

Engler said the development would not harm the environment. He added that considerable value is placed on the natural resources by people who live along the river.

Engler said transients tend to abuse the water — not the local residents.

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## AGENCIES PONDER EFFECT OF DRAINING TINY KELLOGG LAKE

The Oregonian - Wednesday, May 12, 1999

Author: VINCE KOHLER

Summary: The action follows extension by the federal government of protection to salmon and steelhead trout

Fish and lakes go together, right?

Think again -- and think big. Think draining **Kellogg Lake**.

It could come true, under tough new federal environmental regulations protecting salmon and steelhead trout.

Pulling the plug on the 12-acre, man-made lake on the southern edge of Milwaukie would restore an ancient salmon spawning ground. The idea of removing the dam under Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard that created the lake recently came up as the National Marine Fisheries Service sparred with Clackamas County, the Oregon Department of Transportation and other agencies about how to mitigate potential environmental effects of a freeway project about six miles east of the lake.

The draining of **Kellogg Lake** might never happen. But the proposal provides the first inkling of the radical effect that protecting steelhead and salmon promises to have on the region's way of life.

"The idea of removing the lake came up independently from several agencies," said Jim Turner of the National Marine Fisheries Service. "The act is simple, but the implications are a little more complicated.

"People around the lake view it as an amenity. . . . It's absolutely worthy of more discussion. There's no such thing as a simple answer here."

**Kellogg Lake** is a man-made finger of water about two-thirds of a mile long, running down the east side of Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard or Oregon 99E. The lake is about 330 feet wide at its widest, narrowing to about 45 feet.

### *Creek dammed in 1930s*

The lake in its current form has been part of Milwaukie's ambience since the 1930s, when the Oregon Department of Transportation dammed Kellogg Creek in the process of building the state highway. The dam and a badly functioning fish ladder corking the creek are an integral part of the highway's structure.

Before that, the lake consisted of a smaller man-made mill pond dating from the mid-1800s, according to Jeff Kaiser, projects manager for the state transportation department's Portland office. The mill pond first served as a flour mill, then a sawmill.

Before people intervened, the area was a network of streams and wetlands where salmon and steelhead spawned. Now the lake is the home of nonnative, warm-water fish such as bass, which dine on the few salmon hardy enough to make it up the fish ladder.

Kaiser said his agency would underwrite a study by Clackamas County to see whether it is prudent to remove the dam. If it isn't, the county and the transportation department might upgrade the fish ladder so that it's more effective.

Development has sprung up along the lake, including vintage houses and newer apartments. Residents uneasily contemplate change.

"I'm not sure what I think of the idea," said Monroe Sweetland, 89, a former legislator whose family has lived beside the lake for years. "I'm not sure I'd fight it if I knew all the facts. But I'd sure miss the lake. It's my Walden."

### *Regulation expensive and painful*

The screws tightened in March, when the National Marine Fisheries Service extended federal protection to salmon and steelhead trout in all primary rivers of the Northwest. Anything that degrades the quality of rivers and streams used by protected salmon or steelhead will become subject to regulation -- and that could be expensive and painful.

Draining **Kellogg Lake** would compensate for environmental effects of the multimillion-dollar Sunnybrook interchange project on Interstate 205 near Clackamas Town Center. The Fisheries Service said that draining the lake would mitigate potential effects on Mount Scott Creek, which is close to the freeway project and part of the protected Clackamas River watershed.

"Sunnybrook is within 300 feet of Mount Scott Creek, so they want us to mitigate the impact for the whole footprint," said Steve Maltby of the Clackamas County Development Agency.

"This is the first really big project in this region that's encountered this problem. We're breaking into new territory. All the agencies are trying to feel their way through this maze. It's been difficult. And time-consuming. And expensive. Until we have a permit in hand, we may not know what the costs are.

"We could be facing much more in the future. The running joke is that Lake Oswego is next -- and you know that's not going to happen in our lifetime."

The fate of about 15 cedars just east of the Southeast 97th Avenue intersection adjacent to Mount Scott Creek was the tripwire issue, said Clackamas County Commissioner Michael Jordan.

Fish habitat at core of concern "We want to cut 15 trees, and they want to drain **Kellogg Lake**," Jordan said. "It's a good example of the kinds of impacts we're going to face. Once these (federal) guys decide there's been a 'taking' that affects fish habitat, they can make you do anything. They don't have to worry about the money."

John Marshall of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the county, state and federal government all would have to sign off on draining the lake, under an informal agreement brokered by the office of Rep. Darlene Hooley, D-Ore.

"We never got to the point of saying, 'If you don't do that, you can't have your highway project,' " said Marshall, a fish and wildlife biologist. "But we'll genuinely look at it. It would happen under a thoroughly scrutinized public process. Right now, it's just an idea.

"One of the things you'd need before you could start talking about it is money -- but it is a highly likely candidate for qualifying for restoration money."

Draining **Kellogg Lake** would be followed by restoration of wetlands and riparian areas. That would include re-establishing the stream in its historic channel; planting willows, cottonwoods and other native species; and enhancing wetlands vegetation.

Marshall said that could cost as much as \$1 million and would require years.

"It will take as long to get us back to something workable as it took to get us where we are now," Marshall said. "It just depends on how much importance as a society we give to this. And that is a pretty lake. People like that kind of view from their home."

### *Control worries city, residents*

Milwaukie officials and members of the city's neighborhood associations are worried about just how much control they'll have over the issue. The city owns the lake, but the state owns the critical dam under the highway, said Martha Bennett, assistant city administrator for public works and planning.

Draining the lake would have a profound effect for Milwaukie's hopes of developing its downtown waterfront, not to mention area flood control, Bennett said.

"If (draining) has a significant fish impact, there's an advantage," she said. "But the lake has historical value, and there's public concern. And what we'd find if the lake were drained, nobody knows. There'd be more public open space if the lake were drained. But this would need to be a community decision.

"Nobody really knows the magnitude of the listing at this point, the range of things that could happen. We don't have any clue about how real this is. But obviously it needs to be discussed."

Ed Zumwalt of the Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood Association thinks draining **Kellogg Lake** is unlikely.

"The consensus is that people would hate to see this happen," he said. Zumwalt speaks of boyhood memories of catching three steelhead a day at Nehalem in the early 1940s.

"There's a lot of history on this lake. They might save some fish, but probably they would cause more environmental problems -- there used to be a landfill in there of some kind. They might stir up some stuff that should be left unstirred. Like everything dealing with the environment, we're only 60 or 70 years late."

## EXPERTS WADE INTO CREEKS FOR FISH IDEAS

The Oregonian - Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Author: JOSEPH ROSE

Summary: The possibility of removing the **Kellogg Lake** dam in Milwaukie is controversial in an effort to save salmon

As salmon habitat studies go, it's nothing major. But a \$75,000 search-and-inventory project planned for Kellogg and Mount Scott creeks could be the Portland suburbs' most debated fish-saving initiative this year.

In the next six months, biologists and engineers will wade through the creeks and their tributaries, looking for ways to improve passage for threatened salmon that spawn in the watershed.

In the end, the study could call for improvements ranging from repairing a fish ladder to the government acquiring private water rights to pulling the plug on **Kellogg Lake** in Milwaukie.

Clackamas County commissioners gave the go-ahead to the project Tuesday.

"We're looking for what works and what doesn't work from the viewpoint of the fish," said Ela Whelan of Clackamas County Water Environment Services. "We're looking for any barriers."

Debate over removing the **Kellogg Lake** dam under Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard means the study will attract more than the typical attention, Whelan said.

A series of public hearings, scheduled to start within six weeks, is part of the process. No dates have been set.

Last year federal environmental officials suggested draining the 12-acre, man-made lake on the southern edge of Milwaukie to restore an ancient salmon spawning ground. The lake is also home to non-native fish such as the northern pike minnow, which prey upon small salmonids.

The finger of water is also part of the town's character. Houses, apartments and other development have sprung up around the shallow lake. Residents aren't expected to give up their lake without a fight.

"It's the biggest issue surrounding" the study, Whelan said. "But there's no guarantee this study will say yes or no to removing the lake."

If for no other reason, John Nagy of Water Environment Services said the people should know why strangers are snooping around the creek behind their property.

The Kellogg-Mount Scott watershed stretches from the Willamette River at Milwaukie to Happy Valley. Conducting a fish passage study will help state and county transportation officials find ways to mitigate potential environmental damage of the multimillion-dollar Sunnybrook interchange project on Interstate 205.

With the Oregon Department of Transportation and the county splitting the cost, a private engineering firm will do the field work and cull data from previous studies before making the final recommendations.

Nagy said the study is wide open.

Culvert enhancement could be on the list. A small earthen dam that diverts storm water from subdivisions off Southeast 129th Avenue might have to go. Private water rights, typically used for watering lawns, will be reviewed.

The adequacy of a fish ladder at the Willamette River is under debate. And because salmon need gravel, property owners might be ordered to remove concrete stream beds built to keep the water from changing course.

"There might be good habitat upstream, but we want to make sure the fish can access it," Nagy said.



## MILWAUKIE ASKS FEDERAL STUDY ON KELLOGG LAKE DAM REMOVAL

The Oregonian - Thursday, February 7, 2002

### COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Summary: Milwaukie asks federal study on **Kellogg Lake** dam removal

MILWAUKIE -- City officials are asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the possibility of removing **Kellogg Lake** dam and restoring the Kellogg Creek stream channel and fish habitat.

JoAnn Herrigel, Milwaukie's program services coordinator, said the corps offered to conduct the study free upon the formal written request of City Manager Mike Swanson. He signed a letter requesting the study Monday.

The idea of removing the dam and draining the 12-acre lake surfaced three years ago. Clackamas County, federal and state agencies were looking for a way to compensate for potential adverse effects that the Sunnybrook Boulevard interchange, then under construction six miles to the east of **Kellogg Lake**, might have on Mount Scott Creek and its fish habitat. In March 1999, new federal environmental regulations extended protection to salmon and steelhead trout in all primary rivers in the Northwest, including the Clackamas River. Mount Scott Creek, which lies within 300 feet of the Sunnybrook interchange, is part of the protected Clackamas River watershed. The corps' 15-month study will determine whether tearing down the dam that created **Kellogg Lake** nearly 70 years ago would help restore coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout populations in Kellogg Creek. The corps also will determine the costs of restoring the stream channel and possible financing options. Although the city is not obligated to pay any of the study costs, Herrigel said the city would be required to pay 35 percent of any restoration project it entered into with the corps. But the City Council has the option of deciding whether it wants to proceed with restoration once the study is completed.

## AT 100, MILWAUKIE SHARES MEMORIES

The Oregonian - Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Author: DENNIS MCCARTHY

Summary: Nostalgic talks, tours past historic homes play a part in a yearlong celebration

Enid Briggs and Betty Farr have amassed more than 150 years of memories of Milwaukie, most of them good ones about growing up in a small, friendly town that reached out to people in need.

"Sharing Milwaukie Memories," sponsored by the Milwaukie Historical Society, is part of the city's yearlong Milwaukie Centennial Celebration.

The next weekend, former City Councilor Mary King is coordinating a free walking tour past some of the city's historic homes in the Ardenwald neighborhood. The two-hour tour will start at Ardenwald Park on Southeast Roswell Street at 10 a.m. Oct. 25 and 26.

Briggs, 78, is a granddaughter of Fred Birkemeier, an early Milwaukie carpenter and contractor who built the first Milwaukie Evangelical Church in the 1920s and several Milwaukie homes. The church was torn down, but the 124-year-old family home Birkemeier built in 1879 still stands -- about 200 feet east of its original site.

The house, which later would become the home of retired Oregon legislator Monroe Sweetland, was moved twice, first to make way for a Portland Traction Co. streetcar line and later for construction of Oregon 99E. It now sits on the banks of **Kellogg Lake**.

"I remember ice-skating on **Kellogg Lake** when the lake froze over," Briggs said. She also recalls walking in Milwaukie Junior High School's annual "dress-up" parade down Main Street, dressed as Heidi, with one of her family's goats in about 1937.

Like Briggs, Farr, 76, has fond memories of her childhood, such as the day she roller-skated down Main Street and right through the open front doors of the former Perry's Pharmacy at Main and Monroe streets.

She also remembers when Crystal Lake Park off Harrison Street was a popular amusement park. As a girl, she sat on the porch with her parents, watching families arriving by streetcar from Portland and Oregon City for a day of fun and leisure at Crystal Lake.

The daughter of the late Bill Roberts, a Milwaukie barber for 40 years, Farr remembers her father cutting hair eight to 10 hours a day, coming home for dinner, then going out to cut hair and shave men who couldn't come into his downtown barber shop or who were laid up in the hospital. Farr said they would pay him with fresh vegetables from their gardens or an occasional chicken.

Farr also recalls her mother occasionally would feed hobos who established camps along the railroad tracks near her family's Harrison Street home. Homeless people would slip into neighbors' unlocked basements on cold winter nights to sleep, then pack up their gear the next morning and leave, without stealing any valuables.

"It wasn't like it is today; everybody cared about everybody else," Farr said. "A lot of neighbors didn't lock their doors at night because they had no fear of people."

## MILWAUKIE WANTS TO BUY LAND UNDER KELLOGG LAKE FOR BUFFER

The Oregonian - Wednesday, August 31, 2005

Author: DENNIS McCARTHY

Summary: The City Council will consider acquiring the five acres for vegetation if the site is drained and restored

City officials want to buy land at the bottom of **Kellogg Lake**.

The five-acre tract is currently worthless. But if the lake is drained and restored as a natural-flowing stream, the city would use the land as a vegetated buffer.

The city has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study ways of improving fish passage to Kellogg Creek, said JoAnn Herrigel, Milwaukie's community services director. She said the corps hopes to have its study and recommendations done by early next year.

Herrigel said the city probably owns about half of the property under the 12-acre lake, which was created in the 1930s when the Oregon Department of Transportation dammed Kellogg Creek while building Oregon 99E (Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard).

Before the dam was built, the area had a network of streams and wetlands where salmon and steelhead spawned. Warm-water fish have taken over much of the habitat.

The **Kellogg Lake** parcel came into county ownership through tax foreclosure, said Linda Carpenter, Clackamas County property agent. The county has a policy of offering surplus property to its departments or other interested governmental agencies before they go on the auction block. Carpenter said the next auction will be held March 14.

The submerged parcel is located near the northern third of the lake, north and east of the two-acre parcel the city hopes eventually will become its new transit center.

Herrigel said the county knew of Milwaukie's interest in creating a buffer for possible restoration of Kellogg Creek. She estimates the cost to the city to acquire the parcel would be less than \$5,000, including the unpaid taxes and about \$2,700 in administrative costs.

On Tuesday, the City Council will consider authorizing City Manager Mike Swanson to negotiate the deal. The council meets at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 10722 S.E. Main St.



## DEED COMPLICATES MILWAUKIE'S PLANS FOR KELLOGG LAKE

The Oregonian - Thursday, November 10, 2005

Author: DENNIS MCCARTHY

Summary: **Kellogg Lake** Officials are having second thoughts about siting a transit center on land that was donated to the city

MILWAUKIE -- City councilors' decision last week to designate 5 acres along **Kellogg Lake** as a park honoring the late Robert Kronberg may have kept a promise, but questions remained about whether the site could still be developed as a transit center for buses and future light rail.

Mayor Jim Bernard and the council met in special session Tuesday to discuss how the lakeside property might be used in light of the park designation.

A recently uncovered 14-year-old deed of sale agreement between the city and former property owners Norman and Dena Swanson caught city councilors by surprise.

As part of the agreement signed in December 1991, the City Council agreed to pay the Swansons \$38,000 for their property and allow the couple to claim a \$44,000 tax deduction for donating part of the property to the city for a park. One stipulation required the city to name the park in honor of Dena Swanson's first husband, Robert Kronberg, a longtime Milwaukie businessman.

Former City Manager Dan Bartlett, now city manager of Astoria, said council members chose not to name the property Kronberg Park at that time, saying they would wait until the site was developed to park standards.

However, it was designated **Kellogg Lake** Park in 1992 when the city turned over operation and maintenance of city parks to the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District.

Dena Swanson, who now lives in Portland, said she called Bernard about a month ago after reading an article in The Oregonian about the city's plans to place a transit center and possibly a future light rail-station on her old property.

She asked what had become of the deed of sale and the city's agreement to create a park honoring her late husband.

Bernard said he was shocked to learn about the deed of sale and Bartlett's letter outlining terms of the agreement. A search of old city files turned up the documents.

After a long and contentious public hearing, the council agreed last week that it had a moral obligation to grant Dena Swanson's wishes to adopt the Kronberg name. No decision was made at that time on whether to pursue development of a transit center at the site.

Checking on intentions

While some on the council contended the deed doesn't restrict uses for the property, Councilor Susan Stone argued Dena Swanson's intentions were clear: She and her second husband, Norman, now deceased, wanted to donate the property for a park in Kronberg's memory.

Stone, who has opposed siting the transit center at **Kellogg Lake** , pressed the council for a commitment on how the property would be used. Bernard said the council would discuss that issue at its next meeting.

Swanson, who initially expressed reservations about a transit center on her former property, now says she doesn't have objections to the city locating such a facility at **Kellogg Lake** as long as it's tied into the park.

Swanson, in a phone call from her winter home in Palm Desert, Calif., said she's received several calls from proponents and opponents of the **Kellogg Lake** transit center since news of the deed became public Nov. 1, including one from former Mayor Carolyn Tomei asking Swanson to fax her a letter saying she doesn't object to a transit center on the property.

Tomei said she asked Swanson to fax her the letter of support, but denied she put any pressure on the former landowner.

During the council discussion Nov. 1, Stone said she thought it was improper and unethical for Milwaukie residents or city officials to exert pressure on Swanson to change her mind or to convince her of the importance of the transit center at **Kellogg Lake** .

Partly in response to Stone's comments, the council later voted 3-2 to direct City Manager Mike Swanson, no relation, to have no further contact with Dena Swanson.

#### Long road to transit

The process of selecting a transit center site in the city has been long and often controversial. TriMet officials could not be reached for comment on the current situation.

TriMet ruled out the old Safeway store property at the corner of Southeast Main and Harrison streets as a future transit center site in 2000 after several residents and nearby businesses raised issues of noise and air pollution.

The former Southgate Theater site on north Main Street and Milport Road then was proposed as a transit site. That plan ran into major opposition from industrial leaders and manufacturers who complained that commuters riding a light-rail line or using transit facilities on the site would tie up their transport carriers, create major traffic jams at the corner of Main and Milport, and potentially eliminate several manufacturing and industrial jobs.

Although the City Council chose the Southgate site as its preferred alternative for light rail and a transit center, TriMet in 2003 formed a 36-member group of businesspeople, residents, school leaders, transportation experts and local officials to look at alternatives.

The group spent more than six months debating eight potential sites before Carlotta Collette, then president of the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood Association, suggested the city-owned property on the west bank of **Kellogg Lake** . Lakeside homeowners and dozens of other Milwaukie residents objected.

After several stormy Planning Commission and City Council hearings, councilors voted in June 2004 to recommend the west **Kellogg Lake** site to Metro's South Corridor Policy Committee.

That committee will recommend to the Metro Council which site should be developed and funded.

## **RAW SEWAGE SPILLED INTO KELLOGG LAKE**

The Oregonian - Thursday, August 28, 2008

Author: PETER ZUCKERMANN

Between 6,000 and 11,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled into **Kellogg Lake** earlier this month when a manhole overflowed.

Clackamas County emergency services dispatchers received a call from a road worker at 10:45 a.m. Aug. 16 about the overflowing manhole near Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard and Southeast Silver Springs Road, according to the Oak Lodge Sanitary District.

Crews found a large piece of concrete blocking the sewage line. They don't know how the concrete got there but suspect it came from construction work that Oregon Department of Transportation workers were doing to resurface McLoughlin.

Sanitary district crews got the system fixed by about 1 p.m.

The spilled sewage drained into a storm-water line that leads to **Kellogg Lake** .

District staff flushed McLoughlin Boulevard and the storm-water line with water. A sign warning of a sanitary sewer overflow was placed in Dogwood Park. It has since been removed.



## LOOKING FOR SOME HELP ON KELLOGG LAKE PROJECT

The Oregonian - Thursday, February 12, 2009

Author: JONATHAN NELSON

Summary: City leaders hope for federal stimulus funds to take out dam, improve public access

Milwaukie city leaders hope a new president means new dollars are available to make **Kellogg Lake** more fish friendly and a waterfront park easier for pedestrians to reach.

A coalition of city, regional and federal agencies wants to remove the **Kellogg Lake** Dam, replace the bridge that crosses the creek and McLoughlin Boulevard and rebuild the creek bed.

The two-year project is estimated to cost \$10 million, with construction slated to begin in 2011. The city hopes to gain funding by tapping into President Barack Obama's stimulus package, said Kenny Asher, the city's director of Community Development and Public Works.

"It's an underperforming asset for Milwaukie," Asher said.

The downtown lake used to be a rest stop for spring chinook, steelhead, coho and other fish species seeking refuge when the Willamette River was running too deep or strong.

However, fish need almost perfect conditions to get over the existing dam via an aged fish ladder. In addition, the water is too shallow, too warm and contaminated. The oxygen level is low and there is little cover to escape predators.

Removing the dam and replacing the bridge that crosses the mouth of the lake at McLoughlin Boulevard also gives the city a solution to another long-standing dilemma: how to move people from downtown to the waterfront park without crossing the busy road.

The lake runs parallel to McLoughlin on the south end of downtown, where city leaders are developing a plan for a public plaza and light-rail station. Asher said the plaza would give public access to the refurbished lake.

By including a pedestrian underpass in the design of the new bridge, Asher said the lake project could tie the redeveloped downtown to its waterfront park, which is also scheduled for a major makeover.

Federal agencies and the city have committed \$1.3 million for bridge design and studies of the biological and transportation benefits of the work.

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