Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 1996!

Harrison West News

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places"

December 14, 7:30 p.m Fourth Avenue School Senior Center

Next HW Society Meeting

Volume 6

DECEMBER 1995

Number 12

County Bridges In The Press Across The 20th Century — The two stories below, from 1918 and 1995, illustrate the demands of the public since the beginning of the century to have an appropriate expression of civic pride in its public structures versus the utilitarian efficiency of the County Engineer's fiscal calculus. The present 3rd Avenue Bridge, costing \$90,000 in 1918, will have had an average cost of \$1,139 per year of its life.

Reprinted with permission, The Columbus Dispatch, November 27, 1995

Arches nixed for new bridges, but designs still will try to please

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By Mary Stephens
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Bridge engineer Mark Sherman knows people will miss the concrete arches of the 3rd Avenue and King Avenue bridges when the spans are replaced, but he hopes he can offer some consolation.

Sherman has a drawing table covered with sketches of brick-dressed piers, Victorian-style lampposts, ornate railings and other ideas to make the replacement bridges distinctive and fitting for their neighborhoods.

"We have an opportunity to do something special here," said Sherman, who supervises bridge design for

arches.

build.

arch slightly."

the office of Franklin County Engineer John Circle.

He expects the 3rd Avenue bridge to be replaced in 1997, followed by King Avenue in 1998. Each is estimated to cost \$2 million.

That's a few hundred thousand dollars more than it costs to build a standard, freeway-style bridge, but about half the cost of replicating the earth-filled, barrel-vaulted arch design used on the current bridges and the former Broad Street bridge when they were replaced after the 1913 flood.

3rd Avenue's proximity to the historic Harrison West and Victorian Village neighborhoods, and King Avenue's status as an entry to the Ohio State University campus, make them candidates for something special, he said.

Perhaps taking cues from the experience of replacing the Board Street bridge — original plans for a freeway bridge were

loudly decried by preservationists — Circle's office scheduled public hearings about the two bridges.

"All of this is based on what people have said they want," Sherman said, although he added that no design element pleases everybody.

Reaction to the brick piers for the 3rd Avenue bridge was mixed at a meeting of Harrison West residents, he said. And opinions on decorative railings for the King Avenue span "were all over the map," with each of several proposed designs winning some level of support.

Plans also call for a brick plaza at the western end of the 3rd Avenue bridge to serve as a gateway to Harrison West — possibly with an ironwork arch over the bridge.

Columbus' bikeway plan calls for the path to run along the north side of the 3rd Avenue bridge.

Some at public meetings have asked if it will be

safe for southbound bikes along Olentangy River Road to go through the intersection with 3rd Avenue.

So, Sherman is considering taking the path under the bridge and along the river bank, similar to the bike path at the Rt. 161 bridge.

After Sherman presented designs to the Columbus Landmarks Foundation, the group expressed general support.

It also suggested that barriers between the vehicle lanes and sidewalks be lighter and more attractive.

The foundation especially pleased that Sherman sought has reaction the foundation and other community groups, Executive Director Kate Kelliher said.

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The best he can offer, he said, is a system of horizontal supports, between piers, that arch slightly.

Reprinted from the February 4, 1918

OHIO STATE JOURNAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor Ohio State Journal:

A studied effort has been made, and is being followed, by parties in interest to place me in a false position as to my policies in the government of the surveyor's [engineer's] office.

First: A visit in company with the county commissioners last summer to other states convinced me that our road procedure and system was wrong. My position is that main county roads be first improved; that is, roads like those running through Delaware, London, Newark, Circleville, Washington C. H., Marysville, Sunbury, Johnstown and Lancaster. Then maintain them and properly mark them for the traveler. I am not in favor of spending public moneys on short pieces of roads when the main traveled roads are not adequate to the needs of the public. These main roads come first in my judgment, and this is what I am contending for.

Second: I unqualifiedly want good bridges in this county, but in the order of the necessity and with some idea of character and cost. I want beautiful bridges, first at Broad Street, and at Town and State Streets, that will stand the test of time and beautify our city and be a source of pride to our citizens. I want bridges built in their order in conformity to flood protection with a due regard to cost. I am not an obstructionist, but am trying to be progressive and right. I do not want to arrogate any of the duties of the county commissioners to myself, nor do I want the county commissioners to ignore me as the qualified, elected engineer of the

JOHN J. DUN, County Surveyor. Columbus, Feb. 1.

Minutes Harrison West Society November 10, 1995

Commercial truck traffic through Harrison West was discussed. The two loci of concern were the areas adjacent to ABITEC Inc. and Moretti's Poultry. The success of these business has resulted in ever increasing traffic with ABITEC Inc. reporting 13,000 heavy trucks coming and going in a year. The effects of commercial transit upon homeowners' peace of mind, obnoxious noise and smells, along with the destruction of personal property, were concerns expressed. Joe Spinelli and Mary Funk agreed to act as a liaison with the City to seek resolution on at least some aspects of these problems. For instance, First Avenue at Neil and the alley west of Michigan Avenue at 5th are marked "No Through Trucks," but need active enforcement.

Fund raising for 1996 was the next item for discussion. Selling T-shirts with the Harrison West logo was suggested. A neighborhood search for a graphic designer interested in creating a logo was recommended.

Raffles, selling Entertainment '96 dining packages, or Kroger gift certificates were more of the ideas discussed. A Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser slated for Saturday, March 16, 1996 was endorsed as the best idea to come out of the meeting and a committee to that purpose was formed by Maddy Weisz, Mary Funk, Joe Spinelli and Pastor Morris.

Additional discussions about the Third Avenue Bridge plans were held. The Society would be represented at the Riverfront Commons Corporation meeting on November 14th, soliciting their support to urge the Franklin County Engineer, John Circle to build a structure that best reflected the architectural values embodied by the present bridge. The City Traffic Engineering Office's Dale Hooper. had expressed in a previous conversation that the Olentangy Bikeway would tend to be a choke point or bottleneck if more than 200 people per hour were crossing the bridge. The Bikeway along the river will connect all of northwest Columbus and OSU to downtown. Estimates for initial usage indicate that usership could easily exceed 200 per hour at peak times within two or three years.

Editors note: The Riverfront Commons Corporation referred the issues of historical context and architectural continuity of the replacements for the Third and King Avenue Bridges to the City's Historic Resources Commission. Craig Copeland reports that he felt that having the HRC involved in the process was the best possible outcome from the RCC meeting.

Liquor Agents Bust Three At Zeno's Bar

Two plainclothes agents from the Ohio Liquor Control Commission mingling with customers at Zeno's on the evening of November 2, charged three persons with first degree misdemeanor violations related to the sale and/or furnishing beer to a person under the age of 21 years old. According to a Commission spokesman, the agents reported observing a 23 year old patron provide a beer to a person under the age of 21. The bartender that was alleged to have sold the beer was cited. The permit holder, Bar Tec Inc., received an administrative citation that will be prosecuted by the State Attorney General's Office.

In an unrelated matter, the on-going appeal regarding the constitutionality of the law granting the opportunity for the voters to prohibit on-site sales and consumption of beer and liquor in Ward 33, Precinct I is still before the Franklin County Court of Appeals. Both parties to the matter, the State Attorney General, representing the voters and Zeno's permit holder, Bar Tec, Inc. must have all their filings made with the Court soon. Judges Peggy Bryant, Michael Close and Dana Deshler will then consider the merits of the appeal and could render a decision in January. Judge Johnson, whose decision is the one being appealed, was quoted in the Columbus Dispatch saying that attempts to overturn the November 1994 election had "virtually no likelihood of success."

Is OSU Taking Over Battelle's Property? Old Dump At 5th Avenue & River May Trash Deal

For well over a year Battelle and OSU have been discussing the possibility of Battelle moving to OSU's research park and OSU taking ownership of Battelle's current King Avenue site. Battelle initiated the idea as a solution to its desire to move to new research facilities. More cynical observers suggest that Battelle is eager to transfer its contaminated land and buildings to any willing buyer and that the adjacent OSU may be a buyer eager to meet the pressure of an expanding medical facility

OSU's primary interest is expansion of its hospital offices and research facilities. OSU does not see a move to put classrooms there, pointing out that it has been consolidating instruction back to its main campus.

At the outset, both parties agreed to conduct their discussions secretly, but Battelle broke the promise and informed the press a couple of months ago. According to OSU attorney Robert Haverkamp, Battelle has hired the Galbreath Co. to represent it. Last year

Battelle promised to decide its willingness to swap property by the end of 1994. This year it promises to decide by December 31, 1995. The latest obstacle is the discovery of yet another contaminated dump on Battelle's land. —Tim Wagner

P.A.L.'s Mentors at Everett

In January of 1996, a new mentoring program will begin at Everett Middle School. The program is a joint effort between the school and the Police Athletic League. The school is looking for men and women to volunteers to share their time with the students, grades 6 through 8. Mentor teams will meet 1-2 hours a week during both morning and "lunch" hours to discuss how to help the children develop their goals for the future. Training and materials will be provided. For more information, please call Diane Harris at 645-4809 Monday through Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.

Harrison West Neighborhood "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser!

Saturday, March 16, 1996, 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 each for adults and \$3.00 for each children. Come out and get to know your neighbor and out about all of the exciting things happening in our neighborhood! Money raised at this dinner will be used by the Harrison West Society to improve our neighborhood. Hope to see you there!

To reserve your tickets call Mary Funk at 291-9545, Joe Spinelli at 294-3637, or Pastor Richard Morris at 299-3663.

Harrison West Neighbors And Seniors Gather For Thanksgiving Dinner

On Sunday, November 19, the seniors who make their home at the former Fourth Avenue School enjoyed Thanksgiving Dinner with a score of Harrison West residents.

The Kroger Food & Drug Store at 7th and High donated a fabulous 22-pound turkey that was virtually devoured in its entirety. Kudos go to the neighbors who brought ample helpings of the traditional side dishes and desserts that made for a wonderful afternoon for all to share.

Harrison West Society, Inc. President

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Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday: 5:30-6 p.m. and by appointment

ALL ARE WELCOME

KEN WIGHTMAN

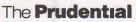
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