

January 2014

### HISTORIC ST. JOHNS



#### WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240 Portland OR 97217-0240





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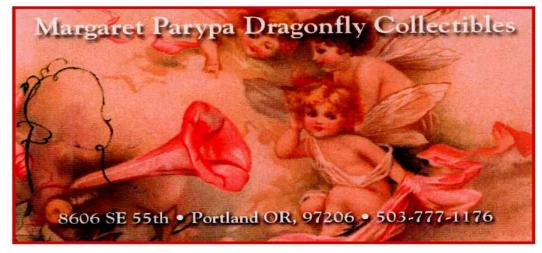


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Located at:

#### FARMHOUSE ANTIQUES

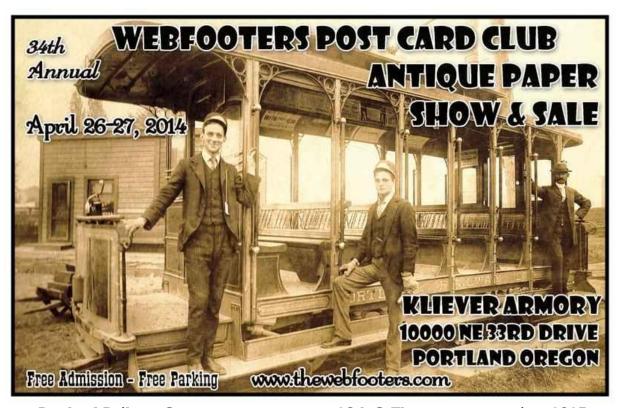


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Portland Railway Company streetcar near 16th & Thurman streets circa 1915.



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**Show Hours:** 

Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM Sunday: 10 AM - 4 PM

**Upcoming Shows in Portland, Oregon:** 

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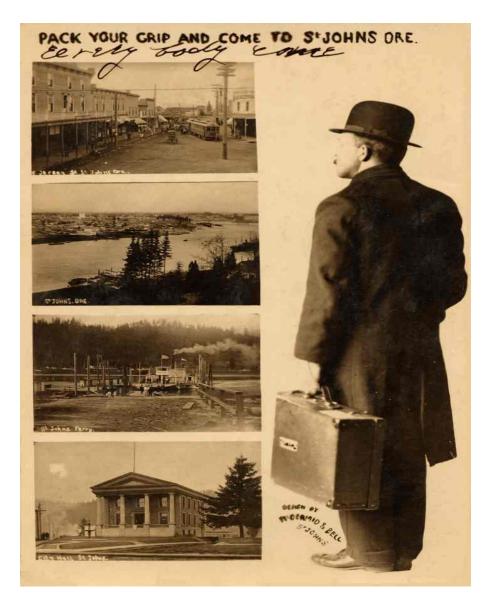
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# HISTORIC ST. JOHNS GATEWAY TO THE PORTLAND HARBOR



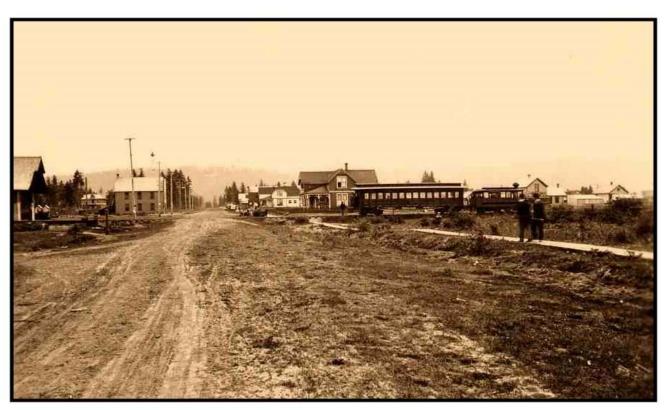
The owners of the Linnton Pool Hall, McDermid & Bell, published post cards in St. Johns.

Located four and a half miles downstream on the Willamette River from Portland's Steel Bridge, St. Johns was settled on the slopes above the Willamette to the high plateau between the Columbia and Willamette Rivers about 1850.

In 1841, James John set out across the plains to California with General John Bidwell. John came to Oregon in 1843 and settled at Linnton. Several years later, he moved to the site of the town that bears his name. He began operating a ferry there in 1852. The original plat for the town of St. Johns was filed on July 20, 1865 and the St. Johns Post Office opened in 1873.

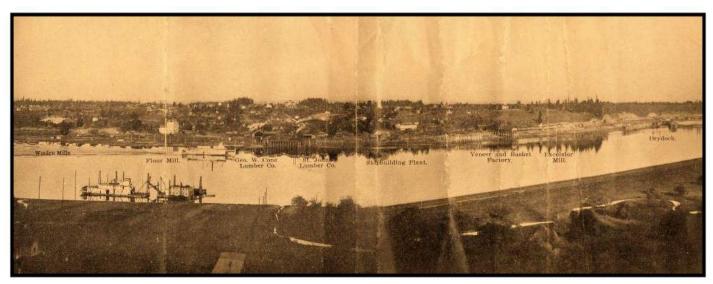


The James John Ferry navigates the Willamette River into the ferry landing.

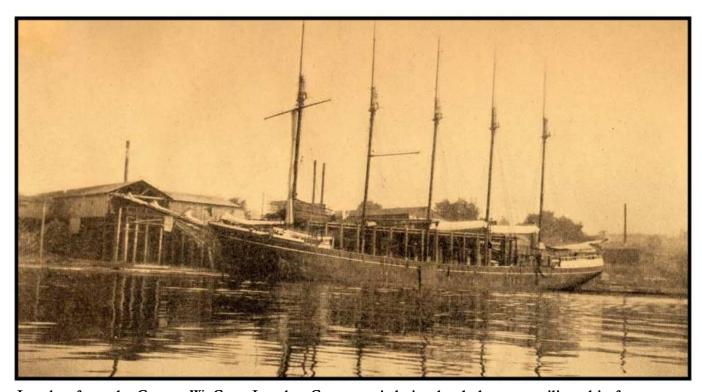


Passenger trains with steam engines began serving Portsmouth in 1889 and then St. Johns in 1890. They connected with the Portland and Vancouver Railway at the Killingsworth Transfer Station. In 1903, the St. Johns line was electrified.

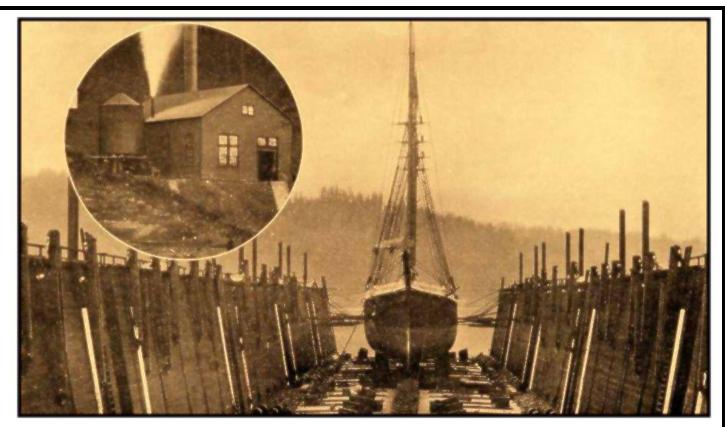
James John died in 1886 and St. Johns became a sleepy little town with a few residents and no industries. Everything began to change in 1902 when the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company saw an opportunity to extend the rail line from Portland to St. Johns. The ORGN thought St. Johns would be a natural site for manufacturing and other industries. By connecting their rail lines to the marine facilities that were already there, profits from commercial opportunities could be fairly handsome from numerous industries and manufacturing customers who would need their line to haul incoming and outgoing goods and materials.



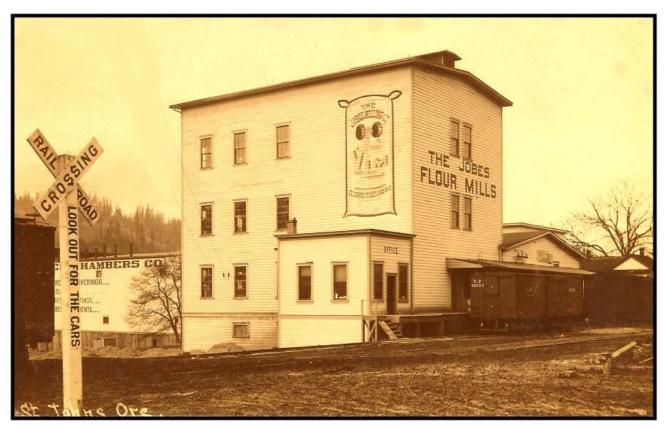
By 1904, St. Johns was home to the Portland Woolen Mills, the Jobes Flour Mill, the George W. Cone Lumber Company, the St. Johns Lumber Company which was owned by A.S. Douglas & Sons, a shipbuilding plant, Portland Manufacturing Company's Veneer & Basket Factory, the Excelsior Mill as well as a drydock.



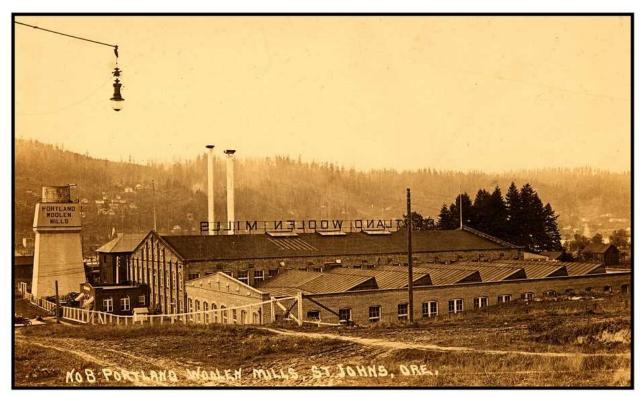
Lumber from the George W. Cone Lumber Company is being loaded onto a sailing ship for export.



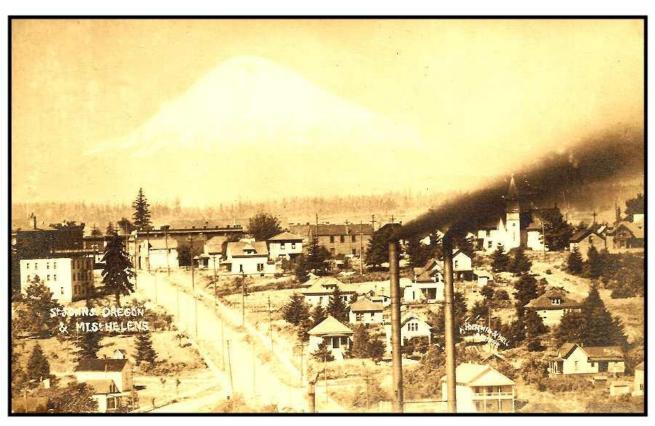
The St. Johns Drydock is shown with an inset photo of the powerhouse. St. Johns had two shipbuilding plants, one for building and repairing wooden vessels and one for building and repairing steel ships.



M.V. Jobes & Sons, formerly owners of the Inland Empire Milling Company of Spokane, moved to St. Johns and established a flour mill.

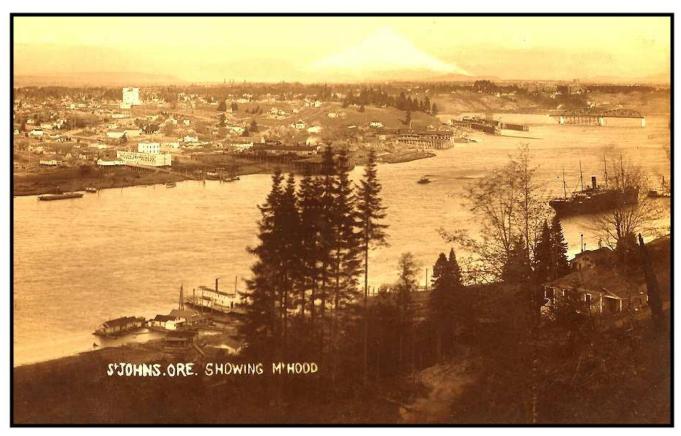


After a disastrous fire in February 1904, Portland Woolen Mills, which was located in Sellwood, built a brand new plant in St. Johns.



A view of St. Johns looking northeast to Mt. St. Helens.

The town of St. Johns was incorporated in 1902 and it was annexed into Portland in 1915.



The view from Linnton toward St. Johns and Mt. Hood to the east.

## WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB 2014 ANTIQUE PAPER AUCTIONS + SHOW + SALE

#### ORAL AUCTION & BANQUET

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

AUCTION PREVIEW AT 4:00 PM ★ BANQUET DINNER AT 5:30 PM ★ ORAL AUCTION BEGINS AT 7:00 PM

THE GROTTO CONFERENCE CENTER, 8840 NE SKIDMORE ST

DINNER \$17.00 PER PERSON ★ RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 21—503-901-0505 OR cbessw@aol.com

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