



# Thomas Joseph Monahan

Noble Grand of  
Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge #128  
July 1899 Through December 1899  
Newspaper articles and other documents on  
**Thomas Joseph Monahan**

Click on underlined items to see source articles and documents.

[May 1872](#) - Married in Alanthus Grove Missouri.

[September 1881](#) - Left Alanthus Grove Missouri to move to Oregon.

[May 1882](#) - Settled in St. Johns Oregon. First job in St. Johns was for the Oregon Barrel Company.

[May 1890](#) - Hired by Willamette Bridge Street Railway Company as conductor on the first streetcar in St. Johns.

[1898 to 1903](#) - Served as St. Johns Director of Schools.

1899 - Elected Noble Grand of Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge #128

[1903 - 1904](#) - Elected as City Councilman of St. Johns

[1904](#) - Serves on committee to write new Charter for St. Johns

1905 - Becomes founding member Laurel Odd Fellows Lodge in St. Johns.

[1906](#) - Resigns as Railway Conductor to accept assignment as manager of St. Johns Branch of Portland General Electric Company.

[1907](#) - Appointed first President of the St. Johns Library Association.

[1909](#) - His daughter, Denos, dies at the age of 20

[1910](#) - Appointed Postmaster of St. Johns. See photos:

[1913](#) - Elected president of the St. Johns Betterment League.

[1914](#) - Appointed to St. Johns Board of Movie Censorship.

[1916](#) - Met with PTA to propose plan to create a historic and illustrated history of James John schools.

[1932](#) - Died at the age of 78, buried at [River View Cemetery](#).



1881 Left to right Julia Lyman, son William Henry , daughter Viola Belle and Thomas Monahan

ST. JOHNS COUPLE, MARRIED 40 YEARS, CELEBRATE ANNI-  
VERSARY.



*Mrs. J. J. Monahan  
And Children*

Married 40 years and having lived 30 of them in St. Johns is the record of Postmaster **T. J. Monahan** and wife. Married at Alathus, Mo., May 12, 1872, they moved to St. Johns in May, 1882, and have resided there continually since that time. Both have been prominent in the social and civic life of St. Johns during this period, Mrs. **Monahan** being especially prominent in the United Evangelical Church, of which both are members.

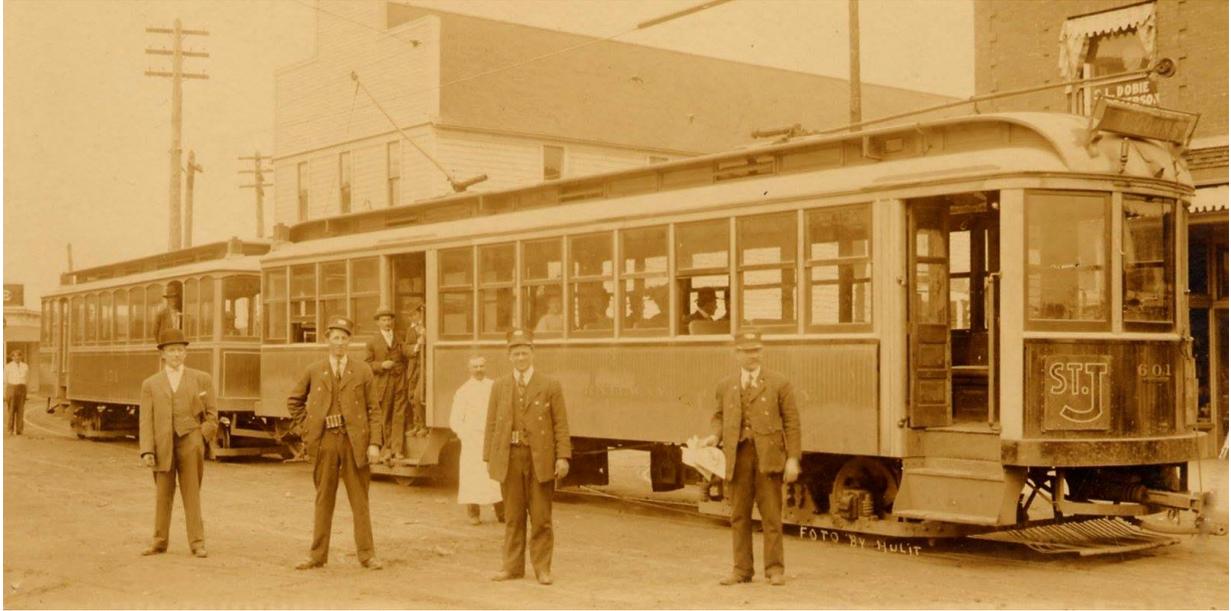
Mr. **Monahan** entered the employ of the Willamette Bridge Street Railway Company in May, 1890, and had the honor of being conductor on the first streetcar to enter St. Johns. At that time his run was from St. Johns to what is now Stanton and Commercial streets, and his schedule was six trips a day. He was School Director from 1898 to 1903 and City Councilman in 1903 and 1904, during which time he drew up nearly all the ordinances passed by the city. It is said that not one of these has been found faulty. Early in 1906 he was appointed manager of the St. Johns branch of the Portland General Electric Company, which position he held until appointed Postmaster, June 23, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. **Monahan** have had seven children, only three of whom are living. Their two boys, E. F. and W. H. **Monahan**, are in the employ of the City of Portland and their daughter Mrs. C. H. Thayer is in the St. Johns postoffice as her father's assistant.

A reception was held at the **Monahan** residence, corner of Smith avenue and Oswego street, last night, attended by a number of old and new friends, who called to congratulate them on having passed the 40th milestone of married life.



*T. J. Monahan*



T.J. Monahan. (far right) worked as a streetcar conductor in St. Johns from 1890 to 1906. It was in this capacity that Monahan became a popular and well known member of the community. The contacts he made as conductor helped propel him into a life of politics and public service.



In 1903, Monahan (far right on front bench) was elected to the St. Johns City Council.



In 1905, Monahan (back row far left) and his son-in-law, C.J. Thayer (front row second from the left) were two of the founding members of Laurel Odd Fellows Lodge in St. Johns. C.J. Thayer was Noble Grand of Peninsula Lodge in 1901, and was the first Noble Grand of Laurel Lodge in 1905.



Laurel Odd Fellows lodge was very successful and membership (pictured here in 1907) grew rapidly. Monahan in center of street with members in V shape on either side of him.

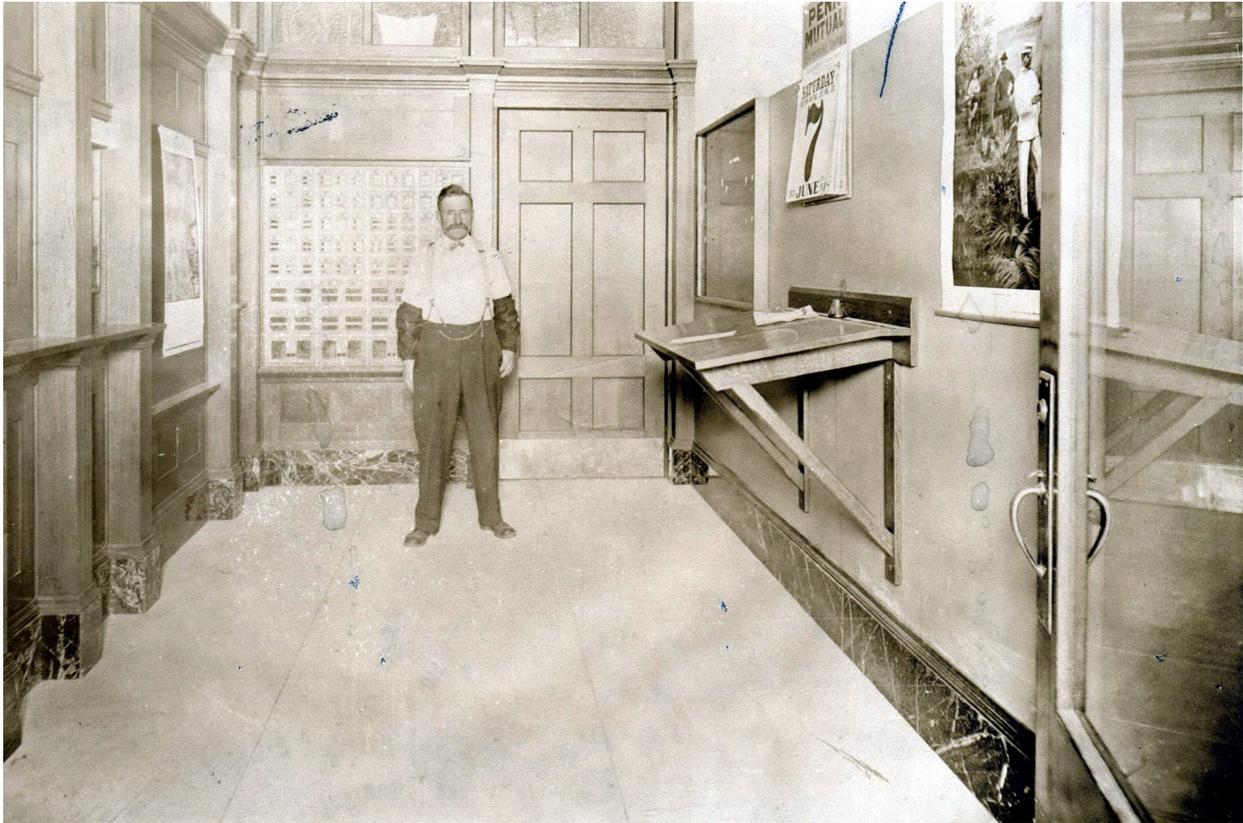


St. John's Odd Fellows pose on the steps of the National Cash Register building, which is now Mcmenamins St. Johns Pub. T.J. Monahan is far right in the front row.



In 1910, Monahan (right) was appointed Postmaster of St. Johns.





Monahan inside Post Office in the McChesney building.

**POSTMASTER MONAHAN  
NAMES HIS ASSISTANT**

**T. J. Monahan.** **W. F. Johnson.**

# Grew Up With St. Johns Peninsula Span His Hope

1925



THOMAS J. MONAHAN.

## Present Superintendent of Suburban Postal Station Drove First Street Car From North Into Portland Years Ago.

BY VICTORIA CASE.

The merry eyes, bristling moustache and energetic figure of Thomas J. Monahan are familiar to every resident of St. Johns who visits the branch postoffice.

Monahan calls half the Peninsula by its first name, and can tell the history of every old timer, name his children or find his grave. He has made his home in the community for 45 years, and now, over 70, he is still active in the civic and social affairs of the district.

Monahan went to St. Johns in 1881, when nothing much but timber lined the banks of the Willamette. He was conductor of the first street car that ever tied St. Johns to the flourishing Portland farther up the river, in 1889. Then he became postmaster in 1910, changing to

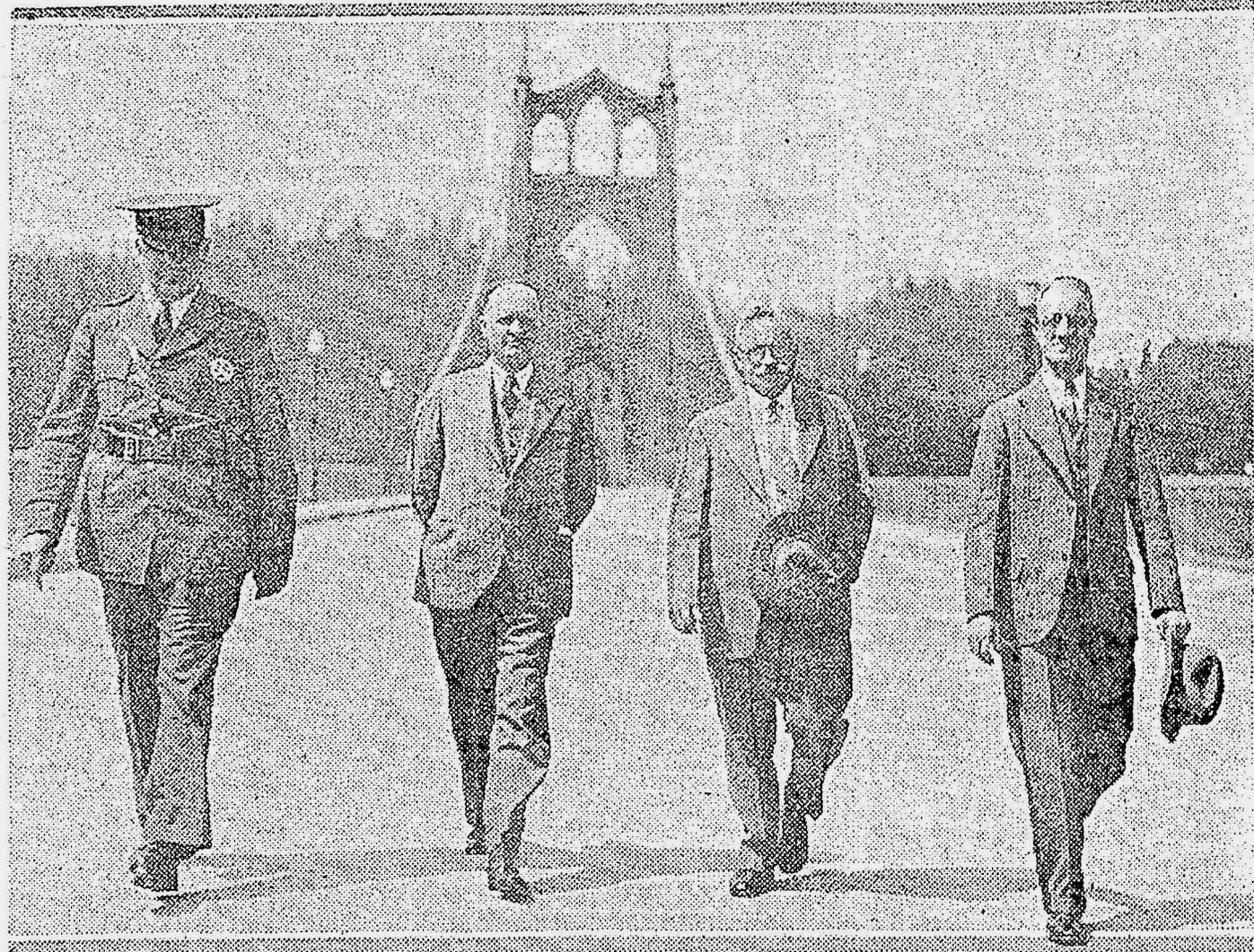
superintendent when St. Johns joined Portland in 1916.

He was a member of the first school board organized to care for education in St. Johns. He is now teacher of the Sans Lieu Rien class in St. Johns Evangelical church, and finds his greatest pleasure in hearing the confidences and sharing the joys and sorrows of his group of young people.

Monahan has prepared lantern slides of old scenes and residents, and he delivers splendid lectures on the history of the community. He is still interested in the troubles of the street car company, declaring that people complained of the service when he ran the first car "and they are still kicking."

"I hope to walk across a St. Johns bridge before I die," he said. "They've needed one here ever since I came."

AND NOW THE NEW ST. JOHNS BRIDGE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY OPENED



HIKING ACROSS THIS BEAUTIFUL STRUCTURE ARE, FROM LEFT, POLICE SERGEANT MAXWELL, C. B. RUSSELL, T. J. MONOHAN AND PROFESSOR CHARLES A. FRY.

# BRIDGE DREAM REALIZED

## T. J. MONOHAN WALKS OVER ST. JOHNS SPAN.

Prediction Made 11 Years Ago to  
Commercial Club Borne Out  
and Stroll Follows.

Life will be happier for T. J. Monohan all the days hereafter—he has walked across the St. Johns bridge. This he did yesterday morning, escorted all the way from east side to west by Charles A. Fry, principal of the Roosevelt high school; C. B. Russell, vice-president of the Peninsula National bank, and Police Sergeant C. B. Maxwell, who celebrated his 49th birthday yesterday.

All walked across the beautiful new bridge—but Sergeant Russell arranged for motor transportation back.

January 19, 1920, when Mr. Monohan was made president of the St. Johns Commercial club, he announced that the time would come when many present would be able to cross the river on a bridge that would be located at St. Johns. Many laughed.

"I may not be able to do so, but you younger people will be," he continued. "But if I am alive and kicking when it is constructed, I'll walk across it if it is the last thing I do."

Recently Principal Fry called Mr. Monohan's attention to the statement made 11 years ago. So they set the time for 10 A. M., June 24, and right on the minute the procession started. Two newspaper photographers and a scribe also were present.

Mr. Monohan, by the way, walked just as spryly as any in the party, although he will be 78 years old January 27 next. He has lived in St. Johns since 1881. For 21 years he was with the old City & Suburban Street railway, and then for 20 years was connected with the local postoffice. He is now retired, but is still active in civic affairs.

Monahan passed away on April 26, 1932 and was buried in the Odd Fellows section of River View Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.



## Thomas Joseph Monahan

BIRTH	27 Jan 1854 Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, USA
DEATH	26 Apr 1932 (aged 78) Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, USA
BURIAL	<u><a href="#">River View Cemetery</a></u> Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, USA
MEMORIAL ID	84094906 · <u><a href="#">View Source</a></u>