

History on the Channel

Your Monthly News Flash

WATERFRONT STREET IS BEING RAPIDLY COMPLETED

Juneau-July 1, 1914: Waterfront Street [Willoughby Avenue] is fast approaching completion, the piling having been driven almost to the Native Village, and the capping and decking being erected to a point encroaching upon the line of the government reserve, below Courthouse [Telephone] Hill.



Willoughby Avenue under construction, looking north from Telephone Hill, 1914. JDCM 98.20.13

[Occupants] living near and adjoining the reserve have combined their resources in working in front of their respective properties, furnishing the piles and labor, the City of Juneau supplying the caps and lumber for decking, after completion of which it is expected that the street will be officially deeded to the City.

The construction of this new highway will give an outlet to the residents of the Casey-Shattuck Addition, the waterfront [occupants], and those living on the southwest outskirts of the city [near today's Centennial Hall] and along the government road [to Salmon Creek and beyond.]

A great deal of controversy has arisen over the property extending to deep water as claimed by the several parties who claim based not only on possession by occupancy but by governmental sanction, and upon the strength of which have expended money on improvements. On the other hand several of the locators claim no title by their occupancy on the land in question or land desired by the Government Road Commission for use of barns etc., asked by the Department of War, on settlement of a government reserve. [Abridged]



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