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Tribute Paid John F. Stevens For Part In Panama Canal Construction

Stevens, chief engineer of the Secretary of War Taft and the Panama Canal and international- Isthmian Canal Commission, written by Governor Maurice H. ly known for his other feats in Congress decided on Stevens' Thatcher, who was a Civil Govengineering, was printed in the recommendations and approved ernor of the Canal Zone and the Congressional Record recently. them.

C. Stevens of Southern Pines, two years but resigned early in serving more than three years made his home on Orchard Road 1907, expressing his desire to reduring the peak of canal con-

at the age of 90. anniversary of the decision, in gust and irritation at Washington 1906, to construct a high-level officialdom." lake and lock-type canal at Panama. Stevens is credited with Roosevelt to insist to the Conwhich had been in favor until that time, not be constructed.

Following are excerpts from a speech made by Rep. Daniel J. substantially obscured for a Flood, included in the tribute, time," Rep. Flood said, "has gainwhich was printed on the request ed stature with the years. He resof Rep. Flood.

"Fifty years ago, the Governlevel, later described as the "Bat- success was a certainty. tle of the Levels," victory went to the high-level lake and lock type. That was the key decision in building the Panama Canal.

"How were these results accomplished? The full answer is a long and complicated story. However, when reduced to its essentials, the explanation is relative- Horse Places 2nd ly brief and simple. It revolves about one sturdy man-chief engineer John F. Stevens of the Canal Commission. . .

"A native of Maine, Mr. Stevens, after a try at teaching, decided, despite his lack of formal nual running of the \$100,000 technical training, to become an Hambletonian Stakes at Good engineer. In 1874, at the age of Time Park in Goshen, N. Y. Wed-21, he moved to Minneapolis nesday. where his uncle was an engineer eer for the city-a rodman.

ing too limited. Stevens, in 1876, length, timed in 2:03. Dana Cam-"Finding municipal engineershifted to railroading with a posi- eron was the driver. tion as a second hand in Texas. strument man, surveyor, location at Far Hills, N. J. engineer and construction super-intendent to finally he became an executive, and attracted the atempire builder.

"He located a route for the Great Northern Railway across suffering a hoof injury in the the Rockies, and, for this extra-rough first dash of one mile. ordinary feat, the engineer-explorer was honored during his lifetime by the erection of a heroic bronze stature near the tracks at Summit, Mont., showing him as he appeared at the Highway 1 Nears ing him as he appeared at the time of the discovery.

suitable pass and located the best line for a railroad between westas Stevens Pass.

"In 1905 Stevens was in Chicaof the railroad building projects er of the corporation that is esthe Philippine government was ready to undertake. Though not expecting ever to be actively connected with the great enterprise of construction of the Panama Canal, which was then under active consideration by the Isthmian Canal Commission, Stevens had followed the unfolding of isthmian events with increasing understanding.

"Ominous events on the isth mus of many months duration had culminted in a yellow fever epidemic followed by the unexpected resignation in June, 1905. of the first chief engineer, John F. Wallace. The Canal Zone promptly became a scene of chaos trom, and John D. McConnell, and hysteria, for a time threat-secretary. ening the security of the canal program, which was then still in

the experimental and development stage. "President Roosevelt. . . sought the advice of various leaders in the railroad world. ultimately turning to James J. Hill, who told the President of the accomplishments of Stevens."

After a number of conferences, at which Stevens laid down the terms under which he would accept appointment as chief enginsituation which found employees cemetery of McDonalds Chapel scared out of their boots afraid near Pinehurst. of vellow fever and afraid of

everything." Prove the high-level-lake and lock type plan of construction.

McDonald, all of the home; and Finally, in June, 1906 with the four grandchildren.

A moving tribute to John F. strong support of the President,

The tribute marked the 50th said, "Stevens revealed his dis-

Following his service on the canal, Stevens was appointed by persuading President Theodore President Wilson during World War 1 to Russia, then an ally, to gress that a sea-level canal, supervise the operation and improvement of Russian railroads.

canal contributions, though subcued the project from posible disaster, assembled a major part of ment of the United States was the plant and organized the faced with the grave responsibili- forces for construction; planned ty of deciding the type of canal the main features of the waterto be constructed at Panama. In way and brought about the great a memorable struggle in the Condecision for the high-level-lake gress in 1906 between advocates and lock plan; launched the enof a canal formed by elevated terprise into the era of construclakes and those for one at sea tion and guided the work until its

"A man of eminent vision whose great gifts were harnessed to practicality, Stevens made no major mistakes, either of engin-

Pinehurst Trained In Hambletonian

Valiant Rodney, Pinehursttrained, placed second in the an-

Valiant Rodney, owned by Mrs. and began as an assistant engin- David Johnston of Whitehill Farm, Charlotte, won the first dash by three quarters of a

The rich race was won by In-He rose. . . through the ranks, truder, owned by a New York serving as axman, rodman, in- mining engineer who has a farm

tention of James J. Hill, railroad Pinehurst last winter by Earle Avery, failed in her quest to become queen of the trotters after

New Warehouse On "He later explored and found a Completion Date

Completion of the Sandhills ern Montana and the Pudget Bonded Warehouse, Inc., a mo-Sound... the pass today is known dern sprinkler-system building with a huge capacity for cotton and other commodities, is set for go preparing to leave for the September 15, it was anounced Philippines to assume direction today by John C. Ostrom, treasurtablishing the business.

Located just north of Southern Pines off US Highway 1, the building will have a capacity of 3,000 bales of cotton, Ostrom said, and will be registered under the Commodity Credit Corporation on both a state and national basis. He said that it is expected a majority of cotton farmers in this locality will patronize the ware-

Ostrom said the warehouse is so constructed that it can properly store most other commodities except combustibles and perish-

ables. Officers of the new corporation are Richard Earle, president, Os-

Mrs. Sarah Cleve McDonald Dies: Rites Held Sunday

Mrs. Sarah Cleve McDonald, 67, died Friday at Moore County Hospital after a lingering illness. Funeral services were held eer on what has since become Sunday at 3 p. m. at the Pineknown as the world's greatest hurst Community Church, of engineering project. Stevens took which she was a member, conthe job and headed for Panama ducted by the pastor, the Rev. R. and "a dangerous psychological L. Prince. Burial followed in the

She was a native and lifelong resident of Moore County. Sur-Ren. Flood traced the many viving are her husband, Cary M. problems that confronted Stevens McDonald; three daughters, Mrs. as he made initial surveys of the George Blanchard, Raleigh, Mrs. project, of his tremendous study Carl Kivett, Carthage, and Mrs. to determine the best type canal Del Harris, Pinehurst; three to build, and his battles with adopted children, Cary Wesley Congress and the President to an- McDonald, George Marlon Mc-

eering or policy. His great constructive contributions for the Panama Canal have now emerged into historical perspective. The facts increasingly demonstrate that he was the basic architect of FOR SALE: Used 1-3 ton Philco the Canal."

Rep. Flood closed his speech by reading a tribute in verse, sole surviving member of the Mr. Stevens, father of Eugene Stevens stayed on the job for Isthmian Canal Commission, here until his death in June, 1943, turn to the railroads. "To his struction. Governor Thatcher is close associates, however," Flood also a past president and honorary life president of the Panama Canal Society of Washington.

Light face caps and lower case type, 4c per word; BLACK CAPI-"The significance of Stevens' anal contributions, though sub-

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