

Bridging the Sound

Building plans go higher, bridges stretch farther, highways leap dizzily over once tranquil fields, and costs in hundreds of millions have become commonplace. Two building towers are being planned for New York City by the Port Authority, to be the tallest in the world—110 stories offering "16 acres of city real estate" by 1970. Construction cost alone is estimated at \$350 million.

Ethel Stannard of Connecticut sent word of an emotion charged bridge plan connecting Orient Point at the northern tip of Long Island, with Fishers Island in the Sound, and touching both Connecticut and Rhode Island, making a tri-state connection. The cost, \$260 million, would be taken care of in "self liquidating tolls" of \$3 for passenger cars and \$5 for commercial vehicles.

Any motorist who has waited uncertainly for the infrequent Orient Point ferry from Long Island to Connecticut, would cheer for such a bridge, but New England residents foresee with understandable horror the destruction of secluded summer resorts and the natural beauty of the shore line. Mayors of Groton and New London oppose it as a monstrosity.

New York senators and other politicians are for it, however, claiming there is an economic need for such a bridge in Long Island and Rhode Island.

Ethel Stannard wrote letters to the press opposing the structure on aesthetic grounds. But she also pointed out what would happen to land values in the bridge area and asked, "will those values be recovered to pay for the questionable project? Or could it be just one more gouging of taxpayers for the eventual unearned enrichment of privileged speculators?"

It is significant, wrote Mrs. Stannard, that one of the most enthusiastic supporters is a Long Island real estate broker, "that the New York Department of Commerce and Industrial Development is studying development of industrial parks in Long Island and that the Suffolk County planning director says the bridge would require a new superhighway running the whole length of Long Island."

Mrs. Ethel Stannard is relaxing a bit in her letter writing at present while she recovers from an illness at the home of her son E. Malcolm Stannard, Whitney Road, Columbia, Connecticut. So many enjoyed "A Square Mile of Victory" in the October HGN that they might like to write and cheer her on.

"Perhaps we Connecticut Yankees and our vote-mindful legislators in Hartford and Washington are so blind that we are going to be taken for this kind of a tax-ride," she wrote, "but I hardly think so."

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