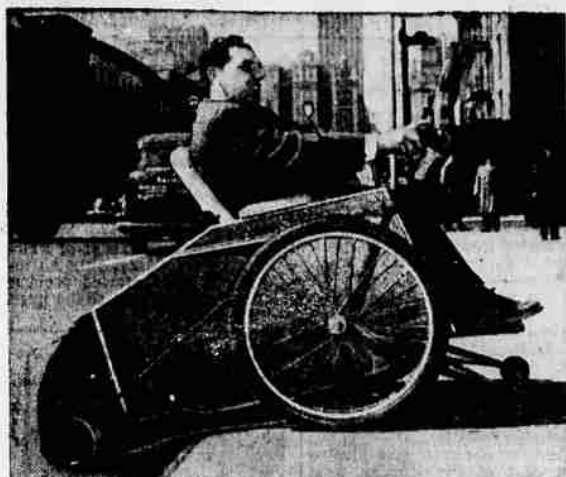




CURB-CLIMBER — M. Arnold Lerman, a New York City paraplegic, shows off the motorized wheel chair he developed. It allows a disabled person to climb the highest curb and move easily through sand and snow. Powered by a two-cylinder engine it can travel between 10 and 15 mph. Lerman claims the user can control the vehicle with one hand.

Reclamation Commissioner Stresses Need For Power

WASHINGTON (AP) — W. A. Dexheimer, reclamation commissioner, has told congress his bureau's construction program is "drying up" despite the urgent need for more water and power in the 17 Western states.

Therefore, he told a House Appropriations Subcommittee, it is "most important" that the bureau's investigations program be maintained at a satisfactory level so it can supply congress with information needed for project authorizations.

Dexheimer testified in February in support of the bureau's budget request of \$155,292,000 for the year beginning July 1. Testimony given at the hearings was made public Wednesday.

The bureau's current budget totals \$143,670,000 — about 11 1/2 mil-

lion less than the total sought for the next fiscal year.

For construction, the bureau seeks \$121,838,000 in the new budget, compared to expenditures of \$152,000,000 this year. It proposes spending 26,000,000 on general investigations, which Dexheimer said was about four per cent above current allocations.

"The need for reclamation in the Western states continues unabated," Dexheimer said, and continued:

"It is most important that the general investigations program be maintained at a satisfactory level if reclamation is to develop all the information necessary to permit Congress to exercise intelligent judgment in passing on new projects."

"Continuation of this program at

a magnitude sufficient to meet the needs of the growing Western states is dependent on legislation authorizing additional work to go forward."

"It takes years to plan and build a modern multi-purpose irrigation project," Dexheimer said. "We should be starting today those works which are to serve five or even 10 years hence."

"I cannot stress too strongly the need for starting our planning years ahead so... we will be ready to go into construction when the proper time comes."

"Reclamation creates wealth," Dexheimer told the subcommittee, and is "good sound business." He said beneficiaries of reclamation works have returned \$517,000,000 to the government since 1902.

On other matters, Dexheimer

said the number of employees in the bureau has been cut from 13,249 on Jan. 1, 1953 to 10,629 on Dec. 31, 1953.

During the current fiscal year, he said, the bureau's program will add 297,250 kilowatts of capacity to the bureau's system. During the last half of 1954 the bureau will open for settlement more than 21,000 irrigable acres of land on the Columbia Basin project and nearly that much on various other projects.

FORMER CHIEF SIGNED
KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP)—Eddie Taylor, general manager of the Tri-City Braves of the Western International Baseball League, announced Saturday night the Braves had signed Jack Warren, a catcher who led the league in hitting last season with a .354 average.

Thur. Apr. 1, 1954—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 7

Washington Considering Seattle Toll Highway

OLYMPIA (AP) — An eight-lane freeway through Seattle is part of a proposed 158 million dollar toll highway from Tacoma to Everett, it was reported here Tuesday.

A study prepared for the State Toll Bridge Authority by a firm of New York consulting engineers estimated cost of the freeway at \$112,885,000. It would run from downtown Seattle to 35th street. The Coverdale and Colpitts engineering report indicated the entire 45-mile project from Everett to Tacoma could be financed by tolls.

Toll for the road, which would run parallel to and just east of U.S. Highway 99, would be 85 cents, arying fees would be collected at seven toll barriers along the route.

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