

6 Brookings Harbor Pilot
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1953

Rotary Told Of Canadian Project

By ALBERT JOY

After being taken to South America two weeks ago the local Rotarians and visitors were told at their luncheon Tuesday noon of last week of a great aluminum project being built in the wilds of British Columbia, by Harold Echols, who is in Brookings visiting his brother Charley.

Mr. Echols is a construction engineer working on the project which will cost close to \$500,000,000.

He explained to his hearers that the price of aluminum is largely determined by the cost of electrical current; as it requires 10 kilowatts of current to produce one pound of the finished product. Because of competition from other sources for electrical energy the great companies producing aluminum are forced away from thickly settled areas, and are developing their own power.

The project on which Mr. Echols is working is located in a wild, uninhabited part of British Columbia, but, he explained, a vast amount of water power is available. Snow in the 5000 square-

mile water shed amounts to 520 inches annually. By building a comparatively small dam, digging a ten-mile tunnel through the Cascade mountains the company will be able, with a fall of 2500 feet, to generate 2,240,000 horse power.

All but around one mile of the tunnel is completed and work on the power house and the transmission lines is going forward. The power house which is 900 feet long and 80 feet wide is being cut a quarter mile within a mountain side. This being necessary, he said, because there was no level place available and also to make it safe from bombing.

The current is to be carried some 50 miles to a site level enough to construct the smelter necessary for the manufacture of the finished product, aluminum. The raw product, bauxite, strangely enough, must be brought to the smelter by boat from Jamaica.

He explained that there were no roads into the area and that all materials were brought in either by air or boat. The company owns seven helicopters which land on 25-foot platforms built on steel towers.

Many displaced persons work on the project and one hears many different languages spoken.

He told of the small trailer villages located wherever a level place could be made in which the 6000 laborers and families live.

Past President Earl Breuer presented the Rotary pin and formally received into the club Ralph Menning, formerly a Kiwanian of Coquille.

Word has come that Miss Ruth Woodward is enjoying her teaching of English and drama in Elkton High school. Miss Woodward, employed as private secretary for District Attorney Hall the last year, taught in Brookings High school prior to that time.

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PTA Meets This Evening; Sees Film

The PTA Association will meet tonight at 8 o'clock at the High school. The program will consist of a film on cancer, presented by Mrs. Roy Weideman, cancer chairman. This film should be of interest to everyone as it will illustrate danger signs which help to diagnose cancer in its early stages.

Also on the program will be a tape recording made by the upper grade students and group singing led by the music instructor, Mr. Dick.

October is the month for the membership drive. Mrs. Dorothy Herman is in charge of the drive and her committee is aiming at a 100 per cent membership this year. Slips asking parents to join will be sent home with the students, and memberships will be solicited at the meeting.

The PTA will have Christmas cards for sale at the meeting. The cards are being sold to obtain a coffee maker for the organization.

Merritt Services Held In Medford

Services for William Lewis Merritt, 58, who died Tuesday at

Forks, Wash., were held in Conger-Morris chapel, Medford, Monday at 3 p.m., with the Rev. Rolf Hansen officiating. Interment is in the Central Point cemetery.

The deceased was born March 3, 1896, in Las Animas, Colo. He came to southern Oregon in 1934, living in Grants Pass for ten years, moved to Brookings for a time, lived in Medford from May, 1948, to October, 1949, when he returned to Brookings. Recently he had been working at Forks, Wash., in logging work.

Survivors include three sons, George E., Seattle; William L., Port Angeles, Wash.; and Donald R., with the Sea Bees in Alaska; two daughters, Mrs. Edward Walls, Talent; and Mrs. Jess Stout, Central Point; three brothers, Ralph E., Medford; Robert B., Central Point; and James E., Ashland; two sisters, Mrs. John C. Stillie, Shady Cove, and Mrs. Elmer Cearley, Parma, Ida.; his mother, Mrs. Emma Merritt, Central Point; and seven grandchildren.

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