

John Day River, in the little village of Monument, which weather bureau statistics tell us has a mean annual temperature and we'll certify to that for July and August. This was once an overnight stop for stages and freight wagons coming from the Columbia River, via Heppner, to John Day and points south. Old timers love to tell stories of the days when this was a region of romance and rattlesnakes, human as well as reptilian. Now the romance lives only in memory, the rattlesnakes are few and the place has settled into a typical cow town (milk cows roam the streets night and day). But there is a new interest afoot. Army engineers say the government is going to build a dam across the narrow gorge a mile down stream and impound several million feet of water. Some of the residents are jubilant while others say they won't move out. Well, all we can

say is, the government usually does as it plans and if these citizens remain obstinate, Monument may some day have quite a floating population.

Richard W. Smith, office man at John Day, has transferred to the weighmaster's department in Salem. Good luck to you, Dick, in your new work.

The manpower shortage is still acute in this district. Glen Cress, at Spray, was alone several weeks. Austin was the only station that had a full crew at last report. What's the secret, Frank, personality or climate. We've tried almost everything but taking Dorothy Dix's advice on how to get and hold a man.

Now that school is out in John Day, Dolly Williams, section foreman at Brogan, has moved his family down there. He had quite a time getting living quarters and is now only temporarily located, pending the completion of the purchase of a house. The housing problem seems to be as serious in the district as the manpower shortage. One employee who recently moved into a small town complained to us that he couldn't find a place fit for a hog to live in. The only advice we could offer him on the spur of the moment was

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