

Mehama-Mill City Road Link Not on Schedule; Detroit Dam Area Overrun with Job Seekers

Baldock Says Cost \$770,000 For Seven-Mile 'Bottleneck'

Spring renewal of work on the Detroit dam project and Santiam highway has once again awakened interest and rumors of interest in a new highway from Mehama to Mill City.

The right-of-way for this new route already belongs to the state. It lies along the Marion county side of the North Santiam river. Marion county purchased and cleared the right-of-way about 15 years ago and turned it over to the state.

State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock said Monday the project, a little over seven miles in length, would cost an estimated \$770,000.

"This project has not been placed on the highway program by the commission as yet," Baldock stresses. Agitation for the improved Mill City to Mehama link has cropped up from time to time, Baldock said, but has been consistently refused by the commission.

Proponents of the plan -- and these include municipal, county and civic officials in central and western Oregon -- point out that this seven-mile strip is a bottleneck in the long North Santiam highway. This highway begins at the Idaho border and sweeps through Marion and Polk counties and on to the coastal area.

Completion of the new Santiam highway above Mill City will bring traffic down the broad new route and throw it into the narrow bottleneck at Mill City.

"Eventually," said Baldock, "the important link will have to be improved. The existing road between Mill City and Mehama on the Linn county side is, however, a pretty good road. In portions it is as good as the rest of the highway into Salem."

Marion County Judge Grant Murphy pointed out Monday that the existing road has two glaring faults as a medium of travel from Mehama to Mill City. This road, the judge said, does not have bridges strong enough to support heavy equipment hauling to the Detroit dam site. It also has an abrupt hill at the Mill City end.

The proposed new route would parallel the river on the Marion county side from Mill City to Mehama. It would cross the Little North fork of the Santiam just east of Mehama. The route was first projected as part of the entire Santiam route improvement project.

Agitation simmered when the Detroit dam was in forming stages. But now, say proponents of the route, the new strip is needed more than ever. The big improvement in streets and bridges contemplated by the highway commission for Salem, however, also appears to have slowed up a new Mill City-Mehama road.

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New York Cabbies Strike



NEW YORK, April 4—Two men stand atop a cab while another stands on running board outside of a taxicab garage on 11th avenue, between 44th and 45th streets, here today, to urge striking taxicab drivers to return to work. A city-wide taxi strike was called by the Taxi Workers Organizing committee, local 35, United Construction Workers, an affiliate of John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers of America. Fleet—there are 437 in New York City—account for 6,800 of the city's 11,510 licensed cabs. The other 4,710 are owner-operated. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Sufficient Men For Year Sign Already at Dam

Work on the big Detroit dam project has not begun yet and workers were urged here Monday not to travel to the site in search of employment.

"The area is already overrun with over 1,000 men hoping for immediate employment," said F. D. Van Sweringen, executive secretary of the Salem Building Trades council. "A premature report that work actually had started has brought an avalanche of workers to the Detroit area."

Van Sweringen said the latest box score on the \$65,000,000 dam project showed:

Work probably will not start for another week or so. When it does it will be only in a preliminary "small way." Don Gessner, in charge of the Niagara branch of the Salem Building Trades council, already has enough men registered to supply contractors for "at least one year or longer."

Job-seekers should register at the Niagara office in person or by mail. Their names will be placed on a registration list and workers will be notified by Gessner by mail when they may expect to come to work. Registrants are asked to classify themselves as to the type of work desired.

Most of the initial workers needed will be laborers and carpenters. It is expected that more men will be used as the project expands to a peak of about 3,000 in the fall of 1950, Van Sweringen said.

"It is a waste of time for workers to go to the dam site now in search of work," he said. "When workers are needed the contractors will draw them from the work list compiled at Niagara."

The sudden influx of workers, said Gessner Monday, has completely over-taxed housing facilities in the dam site area.

"Many of them," he said "arrive here broke. They live in trailers and make-shift houses. They all expect dam jobs but it will probably be a year or more before they are all hired. Much of the equipment needed to work with has not even arrived yet."

Shrubs Pilfered At Nursery Here

Shrubs valued at \$100 were taken early Sunday morning from the F. A. Doerfler nursery on North Lancaster drive, according to investigating sheriff's deputies Monday.

Deputy William DeVall, who investigated the theft Sunday, said that 22 shrubs were removed from the nursery field where they had been loosely imbedded. A dozen camellia plants were taken from the nursery a week ago, Doerfler told deputies.

Bar Memorial Honors Zerzan

Memorial services for the late Charles J. Zerzan, local attorney, who died here recently, were held Monday morning in Marion county circuit court rooms.

On motion of District Attorney E. O. Stadler, Jr., president of the Marion County Bar association, a resolution was presented by Paul Hendricks and entered into the court records.

The resolution noted that the late lawyer was for many years a Marion county deputy district attorney, an active member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic church, and a member of American Legion, Capital post 9.

Births

HOFSTETTER — To Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hofstetter, 517 S. 23rd st., a son, Monday, April 4, at Salem Memorial hospital.

STRUNK — To Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Strunk, 546 N. Church st., a son, Monday, April 4, at Salem Memorial hospital.

RUSSELL — To Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Russell, 4025 Earl st., a daughter, Monday, April 4, at Salem Memorial hospital.

ALLEN — To Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Allen, Albany route 3, a son, Sunday, April 3, at Salem Memorial hospital.

COULTER — To Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Coulter, 2510 Cherry st., a son, Sunday, April 3, at Salem Memorial hospital.

MCGILL — To Mr. and Mrs. Mervin McGill, Jefferson route 1, a son, Sunday, April 3, at Salem Memorial hospital.

the winter wheat belt over the week end. It brought a little selling into the new crop futures. Visible supply of wheat increased a little last week to 97,815,000 bushels.

Oils Bright Spot in Day's Market Gains

NEW YORK, April 4—(P)—Oils were the bright spot in today's stock market with advances of fractions to nearly 2 points and extreme gains of around 4.

Otherwise the day was about a standoff with the lift spreading out into a pattern of losses in fractions and gains of fractions to around a point.

An early rising tendency throughout slowed down toward mid-day and then reversed itself in many of the major groups. The high point of the oils advance was lost in late trading.

Industry sources believe the 1/2 cent a gallon rise in gasoline prices posted by Socony Vacuum will be followed by others.

Railroad shares eased away from their best and closed virtually unchanged.

Grains Drift, Lose Slightly

CHICAGO, April 4—(P)—Minor fractions were shaved off grain values on the board of trade today. For nearly the entire session the market just drifted along, unruffled by routine grain news. Final prices were a bit above the day's lows.

Wheat closed 1/4-3/4 lower, corn was 1/4-3/4 lower, oats were 1/4-1/2 lower, rye was unchanged to 1/4 lower, soybeans were 1/4 lower to 1/4 higher and lard was 7 to 10 cents a hundred pounds lower. More moisture was received in

changed. Steels, motors, metals and farm implements were mostly lower. Utilities, aircraft, airlines and distillers were mixed. Chemicals were unchanged to lower.

The Associated Press average of 60 stocks was unchanged. The volume of trading stepped up a little to 920,000 shares.

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SALEM, OREGON

Smith to Head Y's Men Here

Robert O. Smith was elected president of the Salem Y's Men's club at a meeting in the YMCA Monday night. Harry Manning was chosen vice president.

Other officers elected at the meeting were Stuart Compton, secretary; Leon Margosian, treasurer; Everett Clark, Dale Biles and Dr. Robert Wulf, members of the board.

Dale Bates, Howard Arnot and Dr. William Crothers were initiated into the club at the Monday meeting. Following the initiation Dr. Wulf and Dr. Crothers led a discussion on socialized medicine and explained legislation now before congress. Wives of members were guests at the discussion period.

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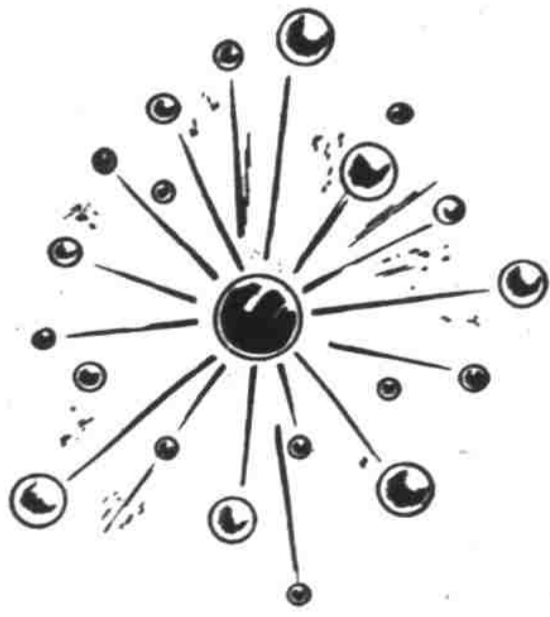
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