

7-Man Party Gets Details of Hell's Canyon

By ROBERT E. GEIGER
Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—It was 117 degrees hot. The ground was so rugged footwear lasted only 10 days. Nineteen rattlesnakes were killed. One false step meant a fall of hundreds of feet to death on sharp rocks.

Adventure fiction stuff? No, it's from a prosaic report on a government project aptly named Hell's Canyon Dam, Idaho, in the deepest gorge in America.

The bureau of reclamation wants to build the world's highest and third largest concrete dam there, in the Snake river gorge along the Idaho-Oregon border. The dam would be 742 feet high—as high as a 70 story office building. It would have a capacity of 900,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Last summer the bureau sent a seven-man party into the gorge to investigate problems the construction engineers may encounter.

Parts of this report came out today in an article in "Reclamation Era," bureau publication.

Of the gorge's reputation the article noted:

"It thwarted an attempt by Lewis and Clark to pass through its turbulent churning waters. The John Jacob Astor expedition lost three men and a fourth went mad trying to ride the rough Snake river) through this gorge.

"No wonder even our hardy forefathers upon seeing this playground of Satan for the first time decided it was a one way ticket to the hereafter instead of a passage to the green valleys of Oregon. They avoided it like plague."

The rim of the canyon is several thousand feet high in places. The engineers climbed the cliffs with ropes.

Even the mules couldn't make it. The ground was so rocky the pack saddles shifted constantly and gave them saddle sores.

But the party was a success, the reclamation bureau reports. It got its information.

Engineers said that Hell's canyon doesn't get its name from the heat, despite summer temperatures over the 100 mark. It's hot because there's a lot of sun and the heat gets trapped in the depression of the gorge. An engineer said the place probably was named Hell's canyon because someone thought it's bad-land characteristics resembled Hades.

Firm Withdraws Price Boosts

Chicago, Dec. 21 (AP)—New price increases announced Dec. 12 by International Harvester company were withdrawn voluntarily, but reluctantly yesterday by the farm implement firm.

The company, in announcing its return to Dec. 1 price levels, said it will seek government approval on reinstatement of the higher prices.

In a telegram notifying price stabilization director Michael V. Di Salle of rescinding the price boosts, the company said the action was taken "to support anti-inflation measures." It added the "roll back creates an immediate hardship in our business."

A company spokesman said that the price increases announced on Dec. 12 on a number of farm implements and other items averaged 3.8 per cent. He said withdrawal of the increases will cost the company "about \$36,000,000 in profits based on 1951 estimated sales." The company said the increases "only partially recover the rapidly rising wage and material costs we have experienced."

Jebby Davidson Ready to Resign

Washington, Dec. 21 (AP)—Assistant Secretary of the Interior C. Girard Davidson was reported on the verge of resigning today and planning to return to private law practice in Portland, Ore.

chased a home in Portland and plans to specialize in advising industries planning to expand in the Pacific northwest. Davidson in the past year handled much of the task of advocating the proposed Columbia valley administration.

A native of Lafayette, La., the 40-year-old cabinet aide entered government service in 1934 as an attorney for the Tennessee valley authority. Later he became chief counsel for Bonneville power administration and was appointed assistant secretary

Ida Ringling North Of Circus Fame Dies

Sarasota, Fla., Dec. 21 (AP)—Mrs. Ida Ringling North, 77, only sister of the Ringling Brothers of circus fame, died in a hospital here early today.

She had been in Sarasota hospital since Thanksgiving day when she suffered a stroke.

Mrs. North and her eldest son, John Ringling North — president of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Circuses, Inc.—were trustees and administrators of the estate of John Ringling, last of the five founding brothers, who died in December, 1936. There were two other Ringling brothers.

A survey places milk at the top of a list of favorite American beverages.

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PILLSBURY CAKE MIX White or Choc. Fudge 33c
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SOCIETE GUM DROPS RADIO MIX Orange Slices Lb. 25c
WALNUTS Cascade Bleached Lb. 35c
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