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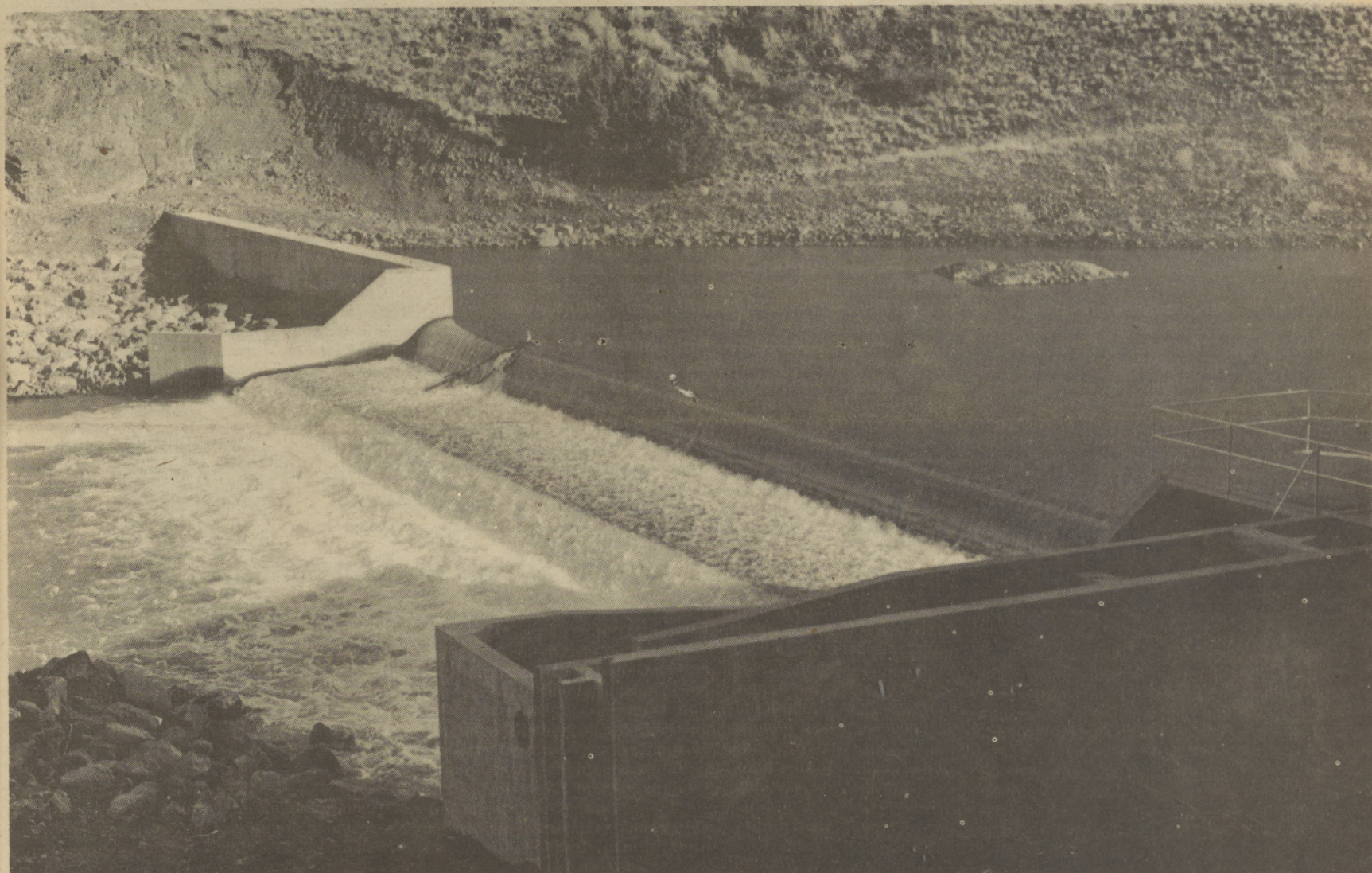
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Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery Making Progress



by Olney Patt, Jr.

The Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery is slated to begin operations in January of 1977. At that time, the first official occupants, rainbow trout, will be put into the care of the hatchery staff. The eventual goal of this initial project will be to release 140,000 legal size trout into the Warm Springs River, Shitike Creek, Lake Simtustus, and streams on the Umatilla Reservation.

Being federally funded - hence, National Fish Hatchery - fish produced by the hatchery can only be released in streams on federally-owned or federally-sponsored lands. This will include National Parks, National Forests, and Reservations.

The nurturing of trout, from egg-take to release, is a process that requires just over a year to complete. During that year, the "school" suffers

an estimated mortality rate of 12.5 percent. At their time of release, the remainder will measure no less than six inches, and their approximate weight set at ten fish per pound. The initial release, then, will be 14,000 pounds of trout.

Chinook Production:

The date for the beginning of Chinook salmon production has been set back pending the completion of holding ponds at the hatchery. Bidding has been accepted on construction for the adult holding ponds.

The unique fish ladder, in a rectangular S-shaped configuration, will lead to a bi-directional gate at the top, where hatchery technicians can either allow fish to pass into the river channel or divert them into the holding ponds (on a selective basis), which will sit adjacent to the ladder. During spawning season, salmon eggs can thus be more easily obtained for

fish propagation and readied for release.

For Chinook salmon, the time for egg-take to release is four and a half months longer than for rainbow trout - about 17 months.

When production gets into full swing, hatchery staff will be collecting about 575,000 eggs, of which 400,000 will survive to release date. At seven fish per pound, this figures out to 57,000 pounds released. Of these, only 12,000 (3 percent) will return at the end of their stay at sea, according to Nat'l. Fish Hatchery predictions.

State and federal game biologists and the W.S. Natural Resource Department will help to monitor the movement of downstream migrants to help determine the hatchery's contribution to the total fish population. At present, there are

approximately 4 million salmon eggs incubating in reservation rivers by natural spawning.

Hatchery Staff:

To succeed in having the hatchery fully operated by tribal members, there needs to be a change in the indifferent attitude toward conservation work, according to Gene Greene. To prepare for work in

this field, Greene recommends concentrated studies in the area of natural science, especially zoology and biology. He made these recommendations in talks he gave junior high and high school students interested in going into the resource field.

The hatchery will have a staff of eight full-time em-

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M.H.S. Graduates Honored

Graduation ceremonies for seniors at Madras High School will take place tonight at 8 p.m. At the graduation there will be a special presentation of pictures of graduating seniors and a tape recording to accompany it by Joyce Ennis.

Indians graduating from Warm Springs and Madras are: Barbara Billingsley, Merlin Branham, Carla Conner, Wendell Jim, Wilbur Johnson, Tamera Kalama, Ed Manion,

Oliver Moses, Margaret Nicodemus, Rebecca Quinn, William Rhoan, Relda Ross Barney, Dean Seyler, and Annie Smith, and Bill Katchia.

Awards and graduation rehearsal took place on Thursday.

After the graduation ceremonies, a senior party is scheduled in Madras at the Madras airport in the hangar. A band, "High Voltage" will play for the occasion.