

# Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 70 years ago

April 25, 1946

## Engineers will bid on Dorena Dam

Army Engineers will open bids here on May 14 for a major contract in connection with Dorena dam on the Row river in Lane County which will involve railroad and highway relocation and other work estimated to cost in the neighborhood of one million dollars.

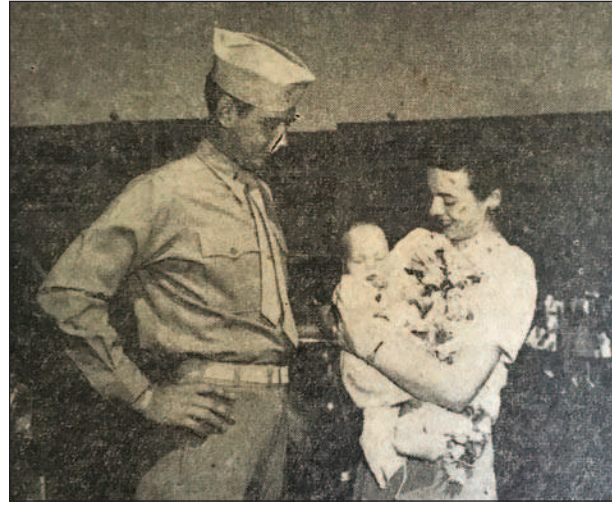
In announcing the pending contract, which is the first large construction project of the engineers since the war ended, Colonel O.E. Walsh, district engineer, pointed out that Dorena is one of the seven proposed dams in the Willamette Valley flood control project. Two of the dams, Cottage Grove and Fern Ridge, are already in place.

Preliminary work at Dorena dam was started prior to the war, under contract to E.C. Hall and McNutt Brothers, Eugene, but the contract was cancelled and the work halted.

The present contract will involve relocation of the Oregon Pacific and Eastern railroad, market road No. 30 and the Cottage Grove municipal water supply line leading from a reservoir in the vicinity of Dorena. It will also include construction of a county road on the left bank of the stream and construction of a borrow area drainage system. The building of one highway bridge and two railroad spans is included in the relocation work.

Walter A. Schwarz, resident engineer at Eugene, will be immediately in charge of the project. A contract for erecting an engineers' office building and other preliminary work was awarded the first of April to Tauf Charneski, Leaburg, and this contract is now underway.

## Carlton Woodard Family



Marine Second Lieutenant Carlton Woodard, Marine Garrison Forces, Pearl Harbor, Navy Yard, saw his three-month-old baby, Kim, for the first time when he met his family at Pier 11, Honolulu.

Mrs. Woodard, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Miller,

live at 258 19th street, Santa Monica, California, has been residing at that address. Lieutenant Woodard, formerly of Cottage Grove, had not seen Mrs. Woodard since last July. They live in the Navy Housing Project here.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

April 11

### Suspicious Conditions, Bohemia Park

A reporting person advised that a young male (around 12) was found hiding in the play structure at the location. He advised the reporting person that he didn't want to go to school because he was being picked on. An officer located the subject and was transported to Lincoln Middle School and released to the staff.

### Suspicious Subject, Village Dr.

A caller advised there is a male wearing a green jacket carrying

a white plastic bag, and that he is talking to himself and flailing his arms all over.

### Patrol Request, Veterans Park

A complainant came to the front counter to request patrols of the park due to the transient population congregating and drinking in the park every day and making it uncomfortable for others to use.

April 12

### Abandoned Vehicle/Illegal Parking

A total of 10 vehicles were

cited within an hour for being parked illegally. Six of the vehicles were marked as abandoned and four of them were moved. Four others were cited for parking illegally, three of which were parked in the wrong direction on the curb. A few hours later, another vehicle was moved.

April 15

### Agency Assist, N 16 St.

A complainant requested assistance with contacting the owner of a vehicle located in a ditch on Shoreview near milepost 4. Police determined

that the owner was aware of the vehicle's status.

### Identity Theft, Harvey

A caller advised that her identity was being used for several different credit card applications and reported a burglary on Oct. 15 and that her personal information was taken at the time. She was in possession of the suspect's email address.

### Theft attempt, Row River Rd.

A reporting person at the station wanted to report an attempted fraudulent use of his credit card. The use was unsuccessful and has been cancelled.

## Offbeat Oregon History

Famous Jefferson 'secession' was largely a publicity stunt

BY FINN J.D. JOHN  
For the Sentinel

Most Oregonians know about the State of Jefferson — in general concept, at least: a small group of Southern Oregon people got together in 1941 to proclaim a new state,

made up of southwest Oregon and northwest California, called Jefferson; just as they got started, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor; and the idea just never got off the ground.

All of which is true enough. But it barely touches the real story of Jefferson — and it's not

even the most interesting part.

The fact is, the 1941 move for statehood was mostly a publicity stunt. It was crafted over drinks by two guys who seem right out of central casting for a Hollywood movie — a high-rolling, back-slapping business promoter and a hard-drinking, wildly imaginative newspaper man.

The newsman actually won a Pulitzer prize for his part in the affair. His name was Stanton Delaplaine; he wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle.

The business promoter was a stocky, dynamic man named Gilbert E. Gable, onetime dinosaur egg hunter, movie-maker, NBC radio-show star and (he claimed) Navajo Indian chief. In 1941, he was mayor of the tiny Oregon town of Port Orford and, for a brief and shining moment, governor of the State of Jefferson.

### The promoter

Gilbert Elledy Gable was born in Pennsylvania in the late

1880s. Although he never went to college, he quickly found his way into public relations and spent nine years as a publicity man for Theodore Vail's Bell Telephone Company. During this time, Bell transitioned from the most hated company in the nation to one of the most trusted, publicly committed to using its market dominance to bring telephone service to the remotest outposts of America. That story is more than we can get into in this article, but it's one of history's greatest public-relations triumphs. And Gable was a part of it — although I have been unable to learn how big a role he played.

### The Adventurer

The phone business must have been good to him, though, because after the war Gable became an explorer and amateur paleontologist. He discovered a vast assortment of dinosaur tracks in Arizona, as well as a

lost ancient Indian village, and claimed to have been made an honorary chief of the Navajo people — a claim he backed up with a certificate "written in human blood." He made a number of dinosaur-hunting expeditions to the Painted Desert area, until in 1929, the governor of Arizona ordered police to prevent "Dr. Gable" from removing any more fossils or artifacts.

He also made movies. In 1927, as vice-president of Bray Motion Pictures, he won publicity for the silent movie "Menace" by bringing a film crew down the wild Colorado River on a boat through the Grand Canyon, a feat that was breathlessly described in the papers as fraught with deadly peril.

### The radio star

By the early 1930s, Gable had gotten involved in the new world of radio broadcasting

Please see **OFFBEAT**, Page 6A

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## 6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY April 21

50° | 70°



Partly Cloudy

FRIDAY April 22

45° | 61°



Poss. Showers

SATURDAY April 23

43° | 56°



Poss. Showers

SUNDAY April 24

49° | 56°



Poss. Showers

MONDAY April 25

41° | 57°



Mostly Cloudy

TUESDAY April 26

42° | 62°



Partly cloudy

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**1700 Clark...** 3 bedroom with 4th bedroom or family room. Extras include forced air gas furnace, large fenced yard, Shop, RV Parking. **\$179,900**

**342 Quincy...** Turn of the Century 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2340sqft with wrap around porch. Adjacent lot also available. **\$239,900**

### BIG AND BEAUTIFUL

**1155 Holly...** Amazing 3 bedroom 3 bath home on edge of town with golf course view. Over 2600 sqft with 12ft ceilings gas fireplace, gourmet kitchen with wine fridge, quartz counter and more **\$399,900**

**31284 Latham Rd...** Spacious 4 bedroom 2 bath home built in 2007. Family room, nice deck with view of the mountains, usable fenced land with guests house. Priced to sell **\$354,900**

**State Farm Bank**

\*Annual Percentage Yield as of 03/30/16. Advertised rates are subject to change at the Bank's discretion. The minimum balance required to earn the stated APY is \$500 (rates apply to deposits less than \$100,000). A penalty may be imposed for withdrawals prior to maturity. Special Term CDs renew automatically into the next highest Standard Term CD. Some products and services not available in all areas. FDIC basic coverage amount is \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for each ownership category. IRA and ESA CDs are not available for terms less than 12 months. Callers who are hearing or speech impaired should dial 711 or use a preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

