

Majestic Vistas of Mid-Columbia Seen on Wallula Cutoff Motorlog

Road Built Twice In 20-Year Period

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing in the June 12 issue of Northwest magazine, The Sunday Oregonian. It is one of an annual series sponsored jointly by the Oregon State Motor association and The Oregonian.

BY MERVIN SHOEMAKER
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Some day the "Wallula cutoff" may be renamed "the McNary Lakeshore drive." It is that kind of a highway, this 27-mile stretch between Umatilla, Or., and Wallula, Wash.

On one side of the smoothly flowing roadway is the broad expanse of water in the lake behind McNary dam. On the other, the wildly convoluted hills give a constantly changing panorama of ruggedly shaped beauty and awe-inspiring vastness.

On windless days the Washington hills of the far shore are inverted in the placid water, the symmetrical reflection of oddly formed rocks and exhilarating vistas giving an illusion of even greater spaciousness.

The road has a geographical location between points of importance to Northwest and even world history.

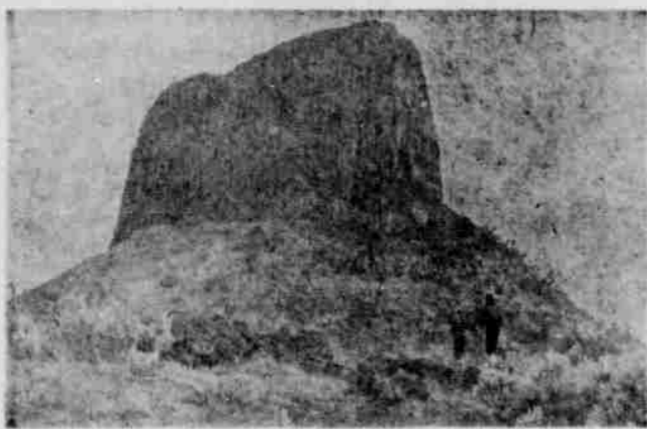
It travels upstream from a point near the recently completed dam, which is making an important addition to Northwest power resources.

From Wallula, where the original cutoff connected with an existing road, it is only a few miles to Richland, Wash., and the nearby Hanford atomic energy installation, which played such an important part in the ending of World War II.

Only 24 years ago, driving the rocky trail along the river between Umatilla and Wallula was considered quite an achievement.

One such trip was made in 1931 by a party which included the late Governor Earl Snell and the Oregon State Motor association's Ray Conway. Snell was then a member of the house of representatives.

The party also included Edward M. Miller, now assistant managing editor of The Oregonian, who did a motorlog story of the trip. It took sev-



Hat rock, prominent landmark a few miles east of McNary dam, overlooks state park with green lawns, picnic tables.

eral hours. Today, 25 minutes would be nothing to brag about. The route had been driven three years earlier—in 1928—by Merrill N. Jenkins, a Union Pacific railroad car inspector now retired and still living in Umatilla. The route he followed was open only at times of low water in the Columbia.

Residents of Umatilla and other points in this area wanted a shorter route to Walla Walla, Pasco and Spokane. At that time it was necessary to go through Pendleton from Umatilla to reach those towns, as shown by the accompanying map.

The state highway commission built the road, in about 1932, but only after Jenkins and five others had strongly urged that they be allowed to build it as a toll road.

Distance Cut 24 Miles

The previous 80-mile distance from Umatilla to Walla Walla thus was reduced to 56 miles.

There will be few Oregon cases of two fine highways being built along a previously roadless route in less than 20 years. That happened here.

The second building of the highway was occasioned by a mark of Northwest progress—building of McNary dam, which flooded most of the old roadbed.

Completed in 1951, it consisted of a general relocation of the highway, with a raise in grade of 13 to 28 feet in places where the old route was followed.

This stretch of road with particularly interesting modern history is reached by the motorist

taking highway 30 east from Portland—and the new water level route is built for speed and comfort.

A not-to-be-missed feature of McNary dam is a public viewing room where salmon ascending the ladders may be seen through glass as in an aquarium.

A good place for the picnic lunch—Hat Rock state park—is a few miles farther on. This park gets its name from a rock formation that looks startlingly like a huge hat tossed carelessly on a desert knoll and left there for a million years or so.

Just north of the Oregon-Washington line the road enters "Wallula gap," where the hills seem to draw back to let the Columbia through, and then there is Wallula, the town that moved to higher ground shortly before rising water rolled over the old site.

From here the motorist can take his choice of numerous interesting routes.

One of them—which we earmarked for another day—should be through Pasco and Kennewick to Richland, the 250-population village of some 15 years ago which the atomic age has brought to a present population of 27,500.

Now west out of Kennewick to Toppenish (travel faster by taking highway 3A out of Prosser), and back to Oregon on highway 97. Washington has done a good job with this part of The Dalles-California highway, and it's effortless sailing up to the 3149-foot elevation of Satus pass.

South of Goldendale comes the most striking scenery of the Toppenish-Columbia river part of the trip. And among the best of this is Oregon's own, seen with startling abruptness as the hills spread apart on the approach to the Columbia.

That is the vast carpet of green or golden Sherman county wheat land stretching south, east and west from the high Columbia river bluffs near Rufus.

Come back to Oregon via The Dalles bridge for a better highway and a view of The Dalles dam a-building. The toll is 50 cents a car.



Wallula cutoff replaced roundabout road via Pendleton

Many Visitors at Lonerock Homes Over July Fourth

By Verna Hayes

Visitors at the Mattlon Hicks' residences over the Fourth of July were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Andrews of Portland, cousins of Mrs. Hicks. Leaving here, Tuesday, the Andrews were on their way to New York, where they will make their home for the next year.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rogers of Sweet Home and Mr. and Mrs. Cook and family of Lebanon were Fourth of July guests at the Ellen and Lloyd Rogers' home.

Homer and Carol Davis made a business trip to Spokane, on Friday. On their way back, they visited their brother, Lee and family, who operates a wheat ranch at Mabton, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Huddleston of Hermiston are the parents of a 7 pound 15 ounce son, born at the Good Shepherd hospital on June 26.

Sid Seale of Condon, was a caller at the Lonerock store, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Freund of The Dalles spent the third and fourth of July visiting at the home of their aunt and uncle, the Glenn Hayes. Other visitors were Homer, of Portland, Clarence of Corvallis, their grandson, Bill, of Kinzua, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hayes and Christine of Condon, Mrs. Grace Nickerson and granddaughter of Heppner.

Relatives visiting at the Emmett Davis ranch, during the past two weeks were Mrs. Esther Jordan and daughter, Patsy and Mrs. Bob Mead and three sons of Fortuna, California, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Swan and son of Inglewood, California and Mrs. Jean Swan of Roseburg, who is a sister of Mrs. Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bennett of Centralia, accompanied by their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bennett, of Seattle, Wash., spent the weekend of the Fourth of July, at the Tom Perry home.

Mrs. M. F. Lynch, Peter and Patsy of Portland, spent the third and fourth of July at the Morley ranch. They returned to their home Monday evening.



"This is known as 'peaceful co-existence.' Notice the 'peaceful' look on the face of the bear!"

ment, where she has been visiting her son-in-law and daughter and family. Mr. and Mrs. Norris Stubblefield, for the last two weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Pete Haynes made a business trip to Heppner on Friday. Mr. Bill Conboy of Condon was caller in Lonerock Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Pete Haynes, and Marilyn, Mr. and Mrs. Mattlon Hicks, Joe Boyer, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Huddleston were business

callers in Heppner during the past week.
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Boardman News

Continued from Page 2

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Potts and daughters, Marie and Irene, went to The Dalles Sunday, to visit at the home of Potts' cousin, Mr. and Mrs. George Ramsey.

Weekend visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ely were their daughter, Ora Ely, who is employed at Pasco, Wash., and well Vaught, Richland, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Miller went to Corbett Tuesday to take their daughter Patty, Eileen Ely and Brenda Billings to Trout Creek Bible camp.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marlow were Marlow's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. William Thurman, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thurman and son Rodney, Pendleton, and Mr. and Mrs. Danny Ransier and daughters, Stanfield. Mrs. Truman Messenger, Sr., of

Mitchell and Mrs. Carl Marquardt of Lexington, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claud Coats, and Mr. and Mrs. Zearl Gillespie, on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe went to Heppner on business Tuesday. The temperature reached 88 here Monday, making it the warmest day here so far this month. Tuesday promised to be even warmer, with the thermometer up to 86 at 11 a. m.

Children attending 4-H summer camp on Willow creek about twenty miles from Heppner are Kirk Gantenbein, Jimmy Hoffman, Gwendolyn Fussell, Richard Watts, Dorothy Rash, Toni Taylor, and Eddie Hoffman. Mrs. Arnold Hoffman accompanied them.

Visitors last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Sicard were Sicard's sister, Beatrice Sicard, Portland; Mrs. Sicard's brother-in-law and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Al Dodge, Burnt Woods, and Mrs. Alma Russ, Albany; and Ralph Watts, Elgin, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ball, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Ball, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baker went to a family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Berl Akers in Ione last Saturday. It was held in honor of Roy Ball's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. George Ulocker, Tacoma, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Luhrs and children, Langlois, were weekend visitors at the home of Luhrs' brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Skoubo.

Mrs. Dean Ekleberry and daughter Cora, The Dalles, visited at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ely, Tuesday, after spending the 4th at Hermiston.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marlow spent the 4th at Pasco, Wash., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Woolley.

Donna Rae Shouse, Hermiston, is visiting at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thornhill.

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