

Full Use Of River's Power Being Developed

By Robert Penland

How a river can be completely put to work was demonstrated last Friday to a group of Eastern Oregon newspaper, radio and television men by Pacific Power and Light company when officials escorted the newsmen over one of the largest private power development projects on the Pacific coast.

The Lewis river in southwestern Washington, a short distance from Portland, was the focal point of the trip which included inspection of two completed PP&L hydroelectric projects, Merwin and Yale dams, and what soon will be the world's highest earth-fill dam—Swift, a \$51,000,000 structure that will provide 250,000 kilowatts of power for the northwest. The Swift dam, now under major construction contracts and scheduled to start putting kilowatts into the Northwest Power pool late in 1958, was the center of interest for the visitors, and the size of the project dwarfs many government works of a similar nature.

Swift dam is located at the junction of two streams near the base of Mt. St. Helens, the Lewis river and Swift creek, from which the project gains its name. It will be an earth fill structure 510 feet high, 1950 feet long at its base and 2100 feet wide at its crest. It will back up a lake 12 miles long holding 270,000 acre feet of water, equal to 10 times the amount of water stored in McKay reservoir near Pendleton.

There are many unique features of this dam, but adequate description of the huge job cannot be put into words in a manner that can really explain the size of the project. Accompanying this story is a picture of some of the newsmen who visited the works, taken in front of some of the immense 25 foot steel liners which will seal the tunnels that soon will lead water to the powerhouse generators. The size of the "pipe" in the picture will give an idea of the expanse of the entire project.

How well the Lewis river will eventually be put to full use is shown in the dams already built and those either under construction or planned. Farthest down on the river, not far from Woodland, Wash. is Merwin dam, the oldest, which supplies 90,000 kilowatts of power and will soon produce 150,000 KW when a third generator installation is completed. At the head of Merwin

reservoir is Yale dam, an earth fill structure completed in 1953 providing peak generation of 133,000 kilowatts.

Swift Adds Water Use

Three miles above the headwaters of the Yale reservoir is the Swift project, but those three miles of fall (between the dam and the head of the Yale backwater) will not go to waste for the Cowlitz County Public Utility District is now building a canal which will use the water from the Swift powerhouse and funnel it into another powerhouse that will generate 70,000 kilowatts. After this water has been well used, it will flow into the Yale reservoir and from there to Merwin. Nothing is being wasted.

Planned for the future are two other hydroelectric projects above Swift on the same Lewis river. The first is the Muddy project, expected to cost \$34 million and the Meadows project, cost yet unestimated.

Developed entirely without government money, the Swift, and other Lewis river projects, hold a particularly beneficial position in the power supply plan of the northwest for they gain their highest peak of power development during the winter when Columbia river projects are at

Half Millionth Phone Installed in State; Use Up in Heppner

Pacific Telephone installed its 500,000th telephone in Oregon on Tuesday, August 6, just four days after its 79th birthday. The first telephone exchange was established in Portland August 2, 1878.

The occasion of the 500,000th installation was observed in Salem by presentation to Governor Robert D. Holmes at his office of a green Speakerphone bearing an engraved plaque.

Making the presentation to the Governor was F. A. Dresslar, vice president and general manager for Pacific Telephone in Oregon. Mr. Dresslar commented that in a period of tremendous growth in Oregon during the past 10 years the company has installed as many phones as it did during the first 69 years of its existence. The 250,000th telephone went into service in the state during February, 1947.

In Heppner, according to manager D. A. Short, the number of telephones has increased during the past 10 years from 510 to 721.

their lowest capacity. The Swift dam, and the surrounding mountain area which can be reached on good roads, is a remarkable scenic and interesting area, and thousands of visitors take advantage of the viewpoints each week to watch the progress and serve as "hillside" superintendents.

The Eastern Oregon region group who made the Friday trip included newsmen from Heppner, Hermiston, Umatilla, Pendleton, Athena, Milton-Freewater, Walla Walla, and Dayton, Wash., and PP&L officials from this district.

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS HERE EQUAL \$12,000 MONTHLY PAYROLL

More than 240 beneficiaries in Morrow county were getting monthly social security payments totalling \$12,101 at the end of 1956. The number of beneficiaries increased by 150 over 1955 and the total of monthly benefits being paid in the county at the close of the year was \$2,299 over the total being paid a year ago.

Vernon A. Welo, district manager of the La Grande social security office announced today. These increases, he noted, result in part from the protection provided to farm families by the coverage of farm employment and self-employment under social security.

He pointed out that self-employed farmers were first brought under social security in January, 1955. Those over retirement age at that time, or who reached retirement age before the end of 1956, became insured if they reported self-employment income of at least \$400 for 1955, and again for 1956. These insured persons were able to qualify for old-age benefit payments during the latter year. Welo said that about 210 self-employed farmers and their dependents filed claims for benefits in the La Grande office service area in 1956. The number of farm claims filed in 1957 will be much greater Welo said. For example, during the 6 months, January-June, 1957, 907 farm claims for benefits have been filed.

Noting the impact of farm coverage in general on essentially agricultural areas like Morrow county, Welo said that a farm employee for instance, who was already at retirement by mid-1956 became insured as of April 1 of that year if he had taxable wages of \$400 or more in 1955 and of at least \$200 in 1956. Benefits paid to farmers and their dependents, moreover, figured in the nationwide totals for 1956. At the

close of the year, over 9 million people were receiving one-half billion dollars in monthly benefit payments. In Morrow county for the month of December 1956, 147 retired workers were getting \$8,663.00 monthly. Also 36 wives or dependent aged husbands of retired workers were being paid a total of \$1,649 monthly; in the same county for December, a total of \$666 was being paid to aged widows or dependent aged widowers and parents of deceased workers. This was an increase of 33% in monthly payments to aged workers and their dependents and 43% to dependent aged survivors of deceased workers in this area. The lowering of the age at which benefits is reflected in these figures, Welo pointed out. Effective with November 1956 benefits could be paid to women starting at age 62.

Monthly payments of \$1,723 were being made to 44 widowed mothers with children under 18 in their care and minor children of retired or deceased workers and accounted for 14% of the total old-age and survivors insurance benefits being paid in Morrow county, as of December 1956. Nine out of ten mothers and children in the United States now have social security protection. At the end of the year, nationwide, about 1,341,000 children under 18 were receiving monthly social security payments. Of these, 131,000 were being paid monthly benefits because of the retirement of an aged insured parent. Children who become totally disabled before age 18 may now be eligible for disabled child's benefit payments after age 18. This type of social security insurance benefit, however, did not become payable until January, 1957 and such benefits and beneficiaries are not included in the figures quoted above.

Commenting on the steady growth of the social security insurance program, Welo said that three-fourths of all men becoming 65 this year will be eligible for social security benefit payments. A representative of the social security office will be in Heppner for his monthly visit from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, August 22.

Charles James Bovan, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10 fine. Robert Lee Lovgren, axle overload, \$88.80 fine. Gus L. Hekkala, overweight load, \$10 fine. Marilyn June Pettyjohn, no tall light, \$10 fine.

PARENTS OF SON

Mr. and Mrs. George Griffith of Morgan are the parents of a son born August 9 at The Dalles hospital. He weighed 8 lbs. 12 1/2 oz. and has been named Glen George. Grandparents are Mrs. Fannie Griffith of Ione and Mrs. Frances Mitchell of Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Parker of Heppner are great-grandparents.

Mrs. Irene Marciel of San Leandro, Calif. is visiting her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fraters.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pedersen, Janet and Perry and Mr. and Mrs. Hans Pedersen of Seattle, were weekend guests at the home of Mrs. Harry Duvall. Jack Angel of Walla Walla, former administrator of Pioneer Memorial hospital, was visiting in Heppner Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Connor and Danny of Forest Grove visited recently with his parents, the Frank Connors.

Miss Joan Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wright, is now working in the office of Dr. Clifford Wagner.

Mrs. Richard T. Meador and daughters, Beverly Blake and Bernice Thomson were in The Dalles Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Groshens, and Mr. and Mrs. Verner Troedson of Ione, returned the first of the week from a short stay in Portland.

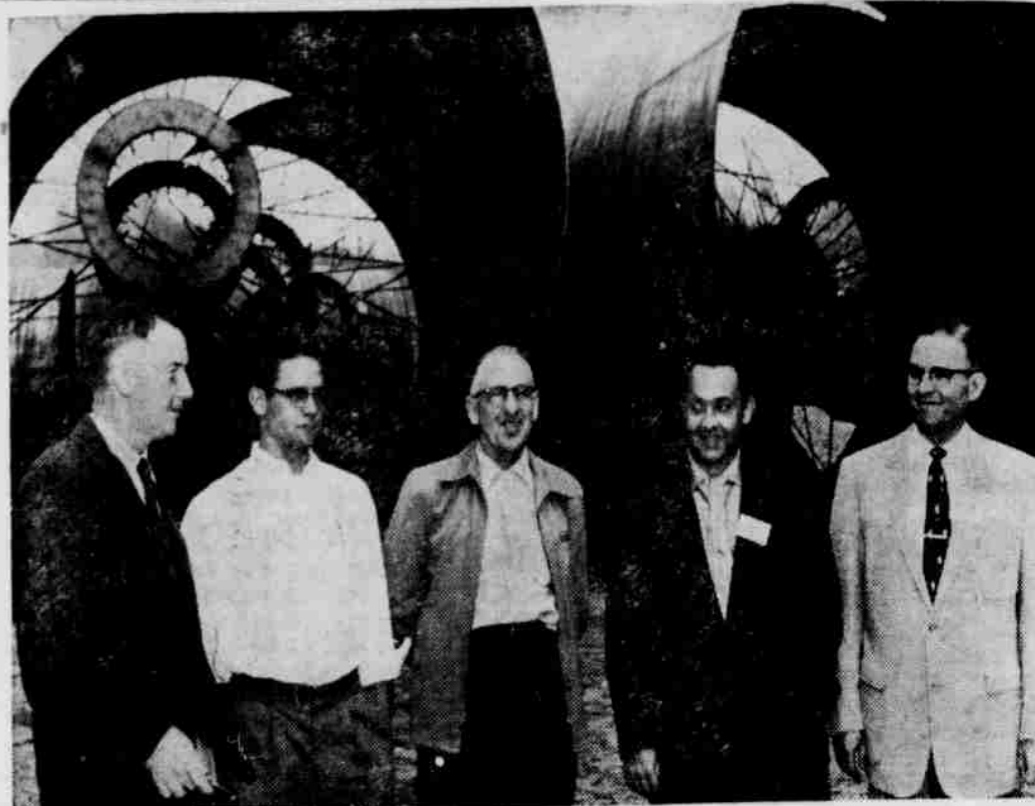
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Carlson of Milton-Freewater visited this week at the home of her sister, Mrs. George Blakney, and Mr. Blakney.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Homlin spent the weekend in Redmond and Gresham. They were accompanied home by her grandsons, Ted Herlinger, of Redmond.

Bernard Damon of La Grande is visiting this week at the Claude Graham home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lindsay and family spent the weekend fishing at East Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spaulding, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. William Heath were in Eugene last week to attend the State American Legion convention.



HUGE STEEL LINER SECTIONS for power tunnel of Pacific Power & Light company's Swift hydroelectric project on the Lewis river provided a backdrop for picture of editors and publishers of eastern Oregon during their visit Friday at the site of what will become the world's highest earth fill dam. Tom Keenan, left, Pendleton district manager, reported project will require 1575 feet of 25-foot diameter liner. Standing to the right of Keenan are: Don Bartlett Jr., Editor and Publisher of the Umatilla Sun; R. C. Cooke, Editor and Publisher of Athena Press; Robert Penland, Editor and Publisher of the Heppner Gazette Times; Dan C. Bartlett, Editor and Publisher of Hermiston Herald.

Justice and Municipal Courts

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Dr. and Mrs. E. K. Schaffitz, Diane and Jimmy returned Tuesday from a few days spent in Portland. They were accompanied home by Mrs. Mary Carter, mother of Mrs. Schaffitz, who will visit here.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Homlin made a trip to Portland over the weekend.

A SPICY COMEDY is being presented in blushing color on the screen of the Star Theater, Sunday and Monday.

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HOSPITAL NEWS

New Arrivals—To Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Smith, Lexington, an 8 lb boy born Aug. 6 named Oscar Dean. To Mr. and Mrs. M. Snell Weatherford, Condon, a 5 lb 13 1/2 oz. boy born Aug. 8, named James Horatio. To Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Owens, Condon, a 6 lb. 5 1/2 oz. boy born Aug. 8, named Calvin Dale. To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sorenson, Heppner, a 6 lb. 10 oz. girl born Aug. 9, named Sandra Sue. To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woody, Fossil, a 7 lb. 1/2 oz. girl born Aug. 10, named Willamae. Medical—Joe Wood, Condon; Frank E. Wilson, Kinzua, dismissed; Willis Wright, Kinzua; Barbara Richards, Monument; Vivian Springer, Heppner, dismissed; Robert Selby, Condon, dismissed.

Minor Surgery—Alex Thompson, Heppner, dismissed; Marshall Lovgren, Heppner, dismissed; Candace Papineau, Lexington, dismissed; Grace Richardson, Kinzua.

Major Surgery—Antonia Yzaguirre, Hermiston; Connie Bowman, Monument; Alleta Addleman, Hermiston; Art Keen, Ione; David Rietmann, Ione.

Eddie Groshens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Groshens, has been visiting friends in Portland. From there he went to Eugene where he is attending a workshop for student body officers. He is expected home Sunday.

LIVESTOCK MARKET Cattle—Hogs—Sheep SALE EVERY TUESDAY 12 Noon On U. S. Hiway No. 30 NORTHWESTERN LIVESTOCK COMMISSION CO. JO 7-8655 Hermiston, Oregon Frank Wink & Sons, Owners Don Wink Mgr. Res. Hermiston JO 7-3111

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