

John Day Pool To Begin Rise Tuesday, April 16

The 77-mile-long pool behind John Day Dam on the Columbia River will begin to rise on the morning of Tuesday, April 16, preliminary to placing the navigation lock, fishways, and spillway in operation. First power on the line will follow — sometime in June.

This significant date, awaited for a decade by Pacific Northwest residents, was announced today by Brigadier General Elmer P. Yates, Division Engineer of the North Pacific Division, Army Corps of Engineers.

One of the largest multipurpose hydroelectric projects in the United States, John Day Lock and Dam was designed and built by the Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District. The Portland District will operate the huge project when it is placed in service.

Within three to five days, water is expected to rise nearly 100 feet behind the dam. The pool containing 2,000,000 acre-feet of water will form Lake Umatilla, extending to McNary Dam, 77 miles upstream, and providing the final link in slack-water navigation from tidewater to Pasco-Kennewick.

With the concurrence of Federal and State Fish and Game officials, a decision was made to fill the pool as rapidly as possible in order to provide the use of permanent fish-passage facilities to meet the spring runs of Chinook salmon.

Cooperation of agencies in the entire Columbia-Snake River Basin has been obtained to insure a water flow sufficient to fill the pool within the planned time schedule. Potential releases from upstream reservoirs have been assured through co-

ordinated action by the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Power Company, and Bonneville Power Administration. Columbia River water flows, to arrive in the Lake Umatilla pool during the planned rising, will be augmented by releases from Grand Coulee, Albeni Falls, Brownlee, Ice Harbor, and McNary reservoirs as the need may indicate.

During the first day after the closure, there will be no water flow past John Day Dam. Minimum flow of the river downstream will be maintained by releases from The Dalles and Bonneville reservoirs. After the reservoir behind John Day reaches an elevation of five feet above the spillway crest a release of at least 50,000 cubic feet per second will be made at John Day Dam to maintain flow in the lower river. This release

will be continued for the remainder of the filling period, estimated to last about four days.

Although lower flows have been experienced below Bonneville Dam under natural conditions, these will be the lowest sustained flows for a considerable number of years, and will be markedly lower than the regulated flows experienced during the past decade.

As a result of these low flows, river stages on the lower Columbia River below Bonneville Dam will be abnormally low. It is estimated that during times of low tide river stages at Portland and Vancouver could be as low as minus 0.5 feet.

The John Day navigation lock has been closed since January to permit the final stages of construction. During this period temporary trans-shipment facilities were provided for passage of liquid cargo. These will be removed prior to raising the pool, and the removal will start about the first of April.

In the intervening time, the Coast Guard will remove old navigation channel markers and remark traffic routes for the new Lake Umatilla. Closure of The Dalles and Bonneville locks for periodic maintenance is also scheduled during the 15-day period preceding the start of the pool raising.

The John Day project will become fully operational when first power is placed on the line, probably early in June. The project will be dedicated with appropriate public ceremonies in September.

John Day is one of the greatest multipurpose projects ever built by the Corps of Engineers, General Yates said, pointing out the vast benefits accruing from its construction. These include closing the final link in slack-water navigation in the Columbia all the way to the Tri-City area; 2.5 million kilowatts of power generating capacity initially, and over 3 million kilowatts in the ultimate installation; and 500,000 acre-feet of storage for control of floods on the Columbia River.

Visitors early last week at the home of Mrs. Alma Morgan and Harriet Evans were Mrs. Evans' brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sprouls of Parkdale, and Mr. and Mrs. Monte Brown of Portland. Mrs. Brown is a niece of Mrs. Evans. Also visiting over the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. Keith Connor of Beaverton, who visited his father and step mother, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Connor, and his brother, Nelson Connor, while staying at the home of another brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Connor.

Hermiston Boy Wins U. N. Speech Contest

Michael Davidson of Hermiston was judged district winner of this year's U. N. Pilgrimage for Youth speech contest, held in Pendleton IOOF hall on Sunday, March 10. The essay topic was "The Strength and Weakness of the United Nations."

Ralph Thonstad of Umatilla High school was a close runner-up. Others participating were Linda McKenny of Powder Valley High school; Robert Baum of Union High school, and Arnold Lloyd of Summerville. This was the first time for several years that Heppner High school was not represented.

The sponsoring organizations, Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges, are the only fraternal organizations which have the privilege of sending sophomores and juniors of public high schools to be received and conducted through the United Nations for study purposes. As of last year over 10,000 students had been rotated throughout the summer months on this project. Each state is divided into areas, with each area selecting the method whereby a student is chosen to win this tour.

Jack Sumner of Heppner is this year's chairman of local area No. 16, comprised of four counties, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Walla. He presided at the area speak-off on March 10. Introduced were Mrs. M. N. Kirk, Hermiston, state committee member on this project; Mrs. R. G. McMurtry, Heppner, secretary of the local committee, and the judges, Mrs. Kay Chapman of Pendleton High school, Mrs. Della Lindsay, English instructor at Riverside High school, and Mrs. Doris Brosnan, faculty member of Heppner High school. Each was presented an orchid corsage by Chairman Sumner.

Chairman Sumner was a student winner of the Pilgrimage tour when he represented Heppner High school in 1953, and has since had an active interest in this project. Of interest to Heppner residents, too, is the fact that this year's winner, Michael Davidson is a grandson of the late William O'Rourke who as a young man resided in Heppner.

Work Progresses On Civil Defense

Further organization work was done on Morrow county Civil Defense at a meeting in Heppner on February 20 with 27 persons attending, including Dan Viera, district coordinator.

Discussion was held on the emergency alerting system, on handling fire emergencies, on radios and communications, on radiological defense, community shelters, and other matters.

At the meeting Harold (Doc) Sherer was appointed chief of the engineering department; Vic Groshens was appointed shelter operations chief; Mrs. Herman Green deputy director of administration; Lowell Challey in charge of welfare; Groshens deputy for logistics; Herman Green chief of manpower and chief of transportation; Bud Springer chief of maintenance; D. E. Hudson chief of supply; and Bob Jepsen communications officer.

Dr. L. D. Tibbles is chief of medical needs and health and Don Munkers is chief of rescue.

The meeting followed a dinner, and Judge Paul Jones opened the session, after which he turned it over to Viera for discussion.

Viera presented the Civil Defense organization chart and explained it to the various chiefs.

The state warning system was explained in answer to a question by Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman. All counties would be alerted by the state system in event of an emergency, Viera said.

Judge Jones pointed out that the radio base station in the courthouse has been approved.

The judge said that North Lexington and Ruggs have shelters which have not been surveyed, and Viera advised that the Corps of Engineers has been requested to survey them.

The judge also announced that plans are being formulated to proceed with a community shelter to be built in Lexington with county supplies, labor and equipment on a lot owned by the City of Lexington in order to determine the cost at which a shelter could be built in other areas in the county and to provide shelter for the people of Lexington which is not now available.

Many questions were asked by various persons and answers discussed.

Attending the meeting were Judge Jones, Sheriff Bauman, Harold Sherer, Mrs. Herman Green, Stanley Cox, Mayor W. C. Rosewall, Viera, County Commissioner Jack VanWinkle, Fire Chief Forrest Burkenbine Leonard Munkers, D. E. Hudson, Herman Green, Perry Pummel of Irrigon police, Mrs. Dorothy Viera, Civil Defense instructor, County Commissioner Walter Hayes, Chief of Police Eldon Tucker of Ione, Bob Jepsen, Bud Springer, Chief of Police Glen Kolthorst of Heppner, Zearl Gillespie of Boardman, City Supt. Vic Groshens, Civil Defense Director Ted Smith, Bud Wilson, Mrs. Etta Parker, Wayne Harsin, Don Munkers and Roy Barnett, Ione city CD director.

Sweeney Chosen County Chairman Of College Group

Jerry Sweeney of Heppner has been appointed Morrow county chairman of Colleges for Oregon's Future, a statewide organization dedicated to public understanding of post-high school educational needs.

The appointment was announced by Charles A. Sprague, Salem, former Oregon governor and chairman of the state CFOF committee. At the same time the reappointment of Allen R. Nistad of Kinzua as Wheeler county chairman and the appointment of Richard J. Jaeger of Condon as Gilliam county chairman were announced.

Colleges for Oregon's Future was organized four years ago and recently incorporated as a non-profit group.

The executive board of CFOF recently passed a resolution supporting a ballot measure which proposes a long range bonding formula for state-supported higher education and community college building projects. The measure will be on the May primary election ballot.

Sprague is one of three former Oregon governors serving on the state CFOF committee. The others are Robert D. Holmes of Portland and Elmo Smith of Albany.

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Moving Now Starting at Riverside

Any alumni of Riverside High school, Boardman, who have nostalgic memories of the school and want to preserve them, had better take their cameras and get pictures of the building very soon.

First stages of moving to the new Riverside building are underway, although it will not get into full momentum until "spring vacation" week of April 8-12.

The old building must be abandoned, according to agreement with the salvage contractor on April 10, and the John Day dam waters will start to rise on April 16.

Schedule of the moving process was presented at the regular school directors' meeting held Monday night at Heppner High school. Playground equipment, gym backstops and outdoor equipment have been removed, and equipment from the old gym was to be removed Monday and Tuesday.

The gym was to be vacated by Wednesday, and the salvage contractor was to claim it for wrecking.

Grade school equipment is scheduled to be moved March 25 to 29 and classes for the primary students will be installed in the Greenfield Grange building for the balance of the year. Shop equipment will be moved to the shop area in the new Riverside building. Lighting fixtures will be removed from the elementary building and paper and other supplies will be moved to the new building.

The elementary building will be vacated by April 1 and turned over to the contractor. On April 5, student desks, teachers' desks, and miscellaneous equipment will go to the new building. Remaining equipment will be removed from April 6-9.

Spring vacation—if it can be called that—will provide opportunity for the high school to get installed in that portion of the new building far enough along for occupancy. Work in

other portions of the building will continue while school is in session.

Riverside and Boardman elementary students did not take their vacation at the same time the rest of the county was out of school because of the forthcoming move.

School will resume after spring vacation there on April 15 and will continue until May 29.

Calendar Adopted
The directors Monday night adopted school calendar for 1968-69, fixing the following dates: August 27, 1968, building in-service day (one-half day for new teachers only); August 28, teacher in-service day (for all teachers); August 29, 30, teacher work days (no students); September 3, first day of school; November 11, Veteran's Day (no school); November 28, 29, Thanksgiving vacation; December 20, Christmas vacation begins at regular dismissal time; January 2, 1969, school resumes; March 17 to 21, spring vacation; May 21, Riverside graduation; May 22, Ione graduation; May 23, Heppner graduation; May 29, last day of school for students; June 2, report cards mailed home.

There will be 177 student days in the school year and 181 teacher days.

It was announced that the term of Dr. L. D. Tibbles, director of Zone VII (Heppner), will expire June 30. Advisory committee positions which will expire the same date and length of term for the position are as follows: Heppner—Dr. Wallace Wolff, 2 years; Mary Ann Barclay, 3 years; and Edda Mae Lovren, 3 years; Ione—James Barnett, 3 years; Dorothy Krebs, 3 years; Boardman—Irma West, 3 years; and Irrigon—Margaret Jorgensen, 3 years.

Those who wish petitions to circulate for candidates for these offices may obtain them at the school office. School election is scheduled for May 6, but petitions must be in at an earlier date.

Resignations Told

Two resignations were received at the board meeting. Mrs. Doris Brosnan resigned from the Heppner High faculty effective at the end of the year because she is expecting a child, and Mrs. Ruth Coy resigned from the Riverside High faculty. The board accepted the resignations and passed a motion to send the teachers letters of commendation for their work in the system.

On motion of Director Jack Sumner, the board unanimously voted to send commendation to the student body officers, coaches, and players of Heppner High school for their state tournament basketball effort.

The board approved a supplemental budget that is designed to take care of the technicality of removing \$8000 from a fund for improving the Morgan Street extension to Heppner High school in order to make it available for use in the teacherage fund. There is a deficit in the latter fund created by the necessity of building a house in Ione, and the \$8000 for the improvement project could not be used because the state declined to do the project on the proposed matching basis.

The teacherage fund will pay back the \$8000 over a three-year period from rentals, making the money available for the street improvement work at a later date.

I.E.D. Plans Talked
Directors discussed proposals for reorganizing the Intermediate Education districts and voted to the effect that Morrow county's first choice would be to unite with Union and Umatilla counties to form a district. Second choice would be to unite with Umatilla alone.

The 3-count plan drew most favor because of the broader tax base that it would encompass. Another meeting on the I.E.D. reorganization is scheduled in La Grande Saturday, and it is expected that the Morrow county district will be represented.

Insurance Discussed
Supt. Ron Daniels told the board that a new state law removes the district from immunity from lawsuit, opening the possibility of suits on liability. Because of this, he said he is investigating cost of liability insurance and will report his findings to the board.

He also reported on the cost of theft insurance in view of the fact that the district has suffered losses of \$1200 from break-ins this year.

For a premium of \$154 per year, all buildings would be covered for property thefts up to \$1000 and monetary loss of \$500, with \$50 deductible on the property only, he said. The board favored the insurance.

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