

Judge Jones Testifies before Congress on Willow Creek Project

See Also Page 1, Section 1
By JUDGE PAUL JONES

Monday morning, with Quentin Bowman, we interviewed Congressman Ullman regarding the Willow Creek dam and other projects in Oregon. Following this interview, we met with Robert Packwood and his administrative assistant, Mr. Crosby. Again, we stressed the need for Willow Creek.

I was impressed by Senator Packwood's questions regarding many of the problems involving reclamation projects in Oregon. I came away with the impression that a person should know his subject when talking to the Senators. If he did not know some of the questions and answers to Oregon's reclamation situation he would say so and state that he would do research. I think he has a great capacity for work. He was in shirt sleeves and wet with perspiration. Mr. Crosby and his office made the initial provisions for me to appear before the Senate Subcommittee on appropriations.

Senator Hatfield was not at his office but Sam Mallicoat was most obliging and stated that he would assist in helping to get me an appearance before the committee on Tuesday. At least I did appear and did testify.

We then went to the Congressional Committee Room in the Cannon building where the House Committee was receiving testimony.

Quentin was called first and gave a short but very thorough summation of the needed Bureau and Corps projects in Oregon. He stressed Willow Creek very strongly and stated it was among the top priority items in the State of Oregon.

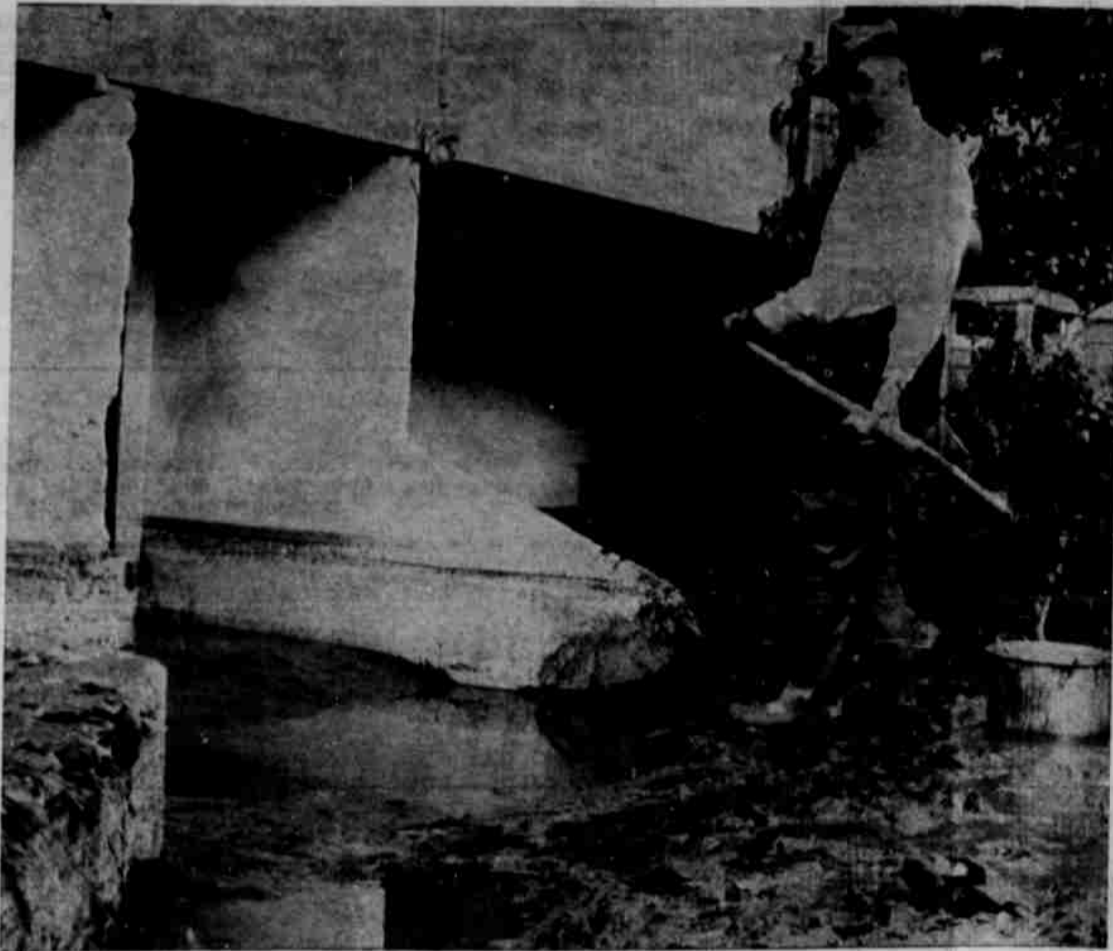
Congressman Ullman was then called. He took only about a minute and a half in which time he stated that Willow Creek was a top priority item and must be included in the appropriations. He then introduced me. My prepared talk was about four minutes in duration. At the conclusion I asked if there were any questions. I was asked a few but the full committee seemed very interested.

Facts Well Received
The written statement and facts concerning the dam were well received and I was complimented very highly on them and the reproduction of the 1903 Gazette-Times on the flood. Incidentally, Wendell Wyatt, with whom I talked also, stated he would give every assistance possible.

Tuesday morning when the Senate Committee convened, Senators Hatfield and Packwood were present and spoke for the Willow Creek Dam.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

HEPPNER
Hepppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, June 12, 1969 Sec. 2



TOMMY HOWELL looks weary and worn from digging muck from behind a house they own on Cannon Street. Basement apartment was flooded and filled with silt. The Howells do not live in this place but on the other side of town.

"There were many witnesses that morning and at 5 minutes of 12, Magnuson, who was chairing the committee, announced adjournment. Senator Hatfield intervened and requested that I be given a chance to make a short statement. I repeated in essence what I had said before the House committee. Later, in the hallway, Senator Magnuson told me that the project seemed to be quite interesting and he would see what help could be given it.

Had Hatfield not intervened when he did I probably would not have had a chance to speak at all.

Hatfield had mentioned five other projects in the State. He then said:

We have another flood control project in Oregon that is somewhat unique and it has not yet had a planning start. Willow Creek Reservoir in Heppner was authorized in 1965 after more than half a century of on again—off again studies. In

1903, 66 years ago a flood took 247 lives at Heppner in what was then the worst natural disaster of its kind in the United States. Sixty-six years later we still plead for a planning start on this reservoir project."

Packwood Gives Support
Following Senator Hatfield, Senator Packwood endorsed the statement of Senator Hatfield and urged that Willow Creek, among others, be included in the authorization.

In summary, I feel very grat-

ified by the attitude and interest shown in the Willow Creek project by both sub-committees and their membership. I must conclude by saying that I have reached the opinion that personal appearances must be continued by local people if we are going to get this and other projects.

It is my firm belief that Congressman Ullman who has worked long and hard for this project, will continue to help us, but he cannot do it alone. Local interest will either "make or break" this dam. We must have support at the county level by our own citizens.

My verbal statement before both committees follows:

I am here to make a statement in support of Willow Creek Dam which was authorized by Congress in 1965.

The prepared bulletins which I have just handed you contain many facts and figures relative to this project; many of these figures prepared by the Corps of Engineers. I will attempt to avoid duplicating what you have in the folder.

The Willow Creek Dam is not a large project as such. But, it is tailor-made to do the job needed. The location, just south of Heppner but below the confluence of Willow and Balm Creeks, makes it ideally located to serve as a flood control, recreation, and reclamation project. May I refer you to the front of the folder which shows the dam in reference to these two creeks and the City of Heppner.

In 1903 Heppner suffered a disastrous flood and a terrific loss of life: some 247 persons died that Sunday afternoon in a period of minutes when, following a severe lightning and thunder storm, a wall of water swept through the city taking everything before it. The back cover of the folder illustrates a small part of the property damage.

May I make it very clear that the identical conditions still exist today even as they did in 1903.

There have been damaging storms since that time and in 1934 much of the town was again damaged by a severe Memorial Day storm, fortunately without loss of life.

Multi-purpose Uses Given
The Reclamation feature of this project would place some 3000 acres under irrigation from the dam. Part of this land now gets water from the creek when there is any. Last year, with only 14% of a normal flow, the downstream area suffered so severely from drought, as did all of the county. Some cattlemen hauled hay last winter from as far as 300 miles to provide feed for stock. Fortunately,

the stream flow is above normal this spring and could be filling the dam if it were not built. The impact on downstream irrigators of a guaranteed water supply would be a tremendous boon to them and would have a great effect on the economy of the Willow Creek Valley.

Last year some 25 wells were drilled in the valley to provide supplemental water when Willow Creek dried up. Geologists who have tested this water indicate it is 27,000 years old, thus indicating there is no flow into or out of some of the underground pools. The probability is that some wells will thus go dry in a short time. When the dam is built much of the pumping from these wells will be discontinued, thus saving our underground water.

According to the Corps of Engineers, the total expenditure to date on the Willow Creek Reservoir Project for the preparation of the survey report is \$57,000. (Bureau of Reclamation \$35,000).

There is no lake, dam, or impoundment presently in the interior of Morrow county. I cannot emphasize too strongly the impact on the county and communities, from a recreational standpoint, of a reservoir so near the center of our county and at the very edge of the city limits of Heppner. Having an artificial lake so close to town would be a marvelous thing for—not only our youth—but our elders as well.

The City of Heppner has already included an item in their

Tibbles to Get Doctor's Degree

Larry Lyman Tibbles, son of Dr. and Mrs. L. D. Tibbles, will receive his Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Oregon Medical School at graduation exercises Friday evening, June 13. His parents will attend the ceremonies, to be held in the Medical School Student Activities Building in Portland, at 8:00 p.m.

Tibbles has been accepted for intern practice at the Orange County General Hospital in Orange, Calif. He and his wife, Judy, will move to California soon after graduation to begin work there July 1.

After graduating from Heppner High school in 1961, Tibbles enrolled in medicine at the University of Oregon, where he received his bachelor of science degree in 1965, prior to entering the U of O Medical School.

1969-1970 budget for payment of rights-of-ways on the channel through the City of Heppner.

"Finally, in conclusion, may I again emphasize that the actual threat to another loss of life still exists. I urge you to include an appropriation sufficient to initiate preconstruction on this project. The actual amounts needed are to be found in the folder I gave you a few minutes ago.

"I appreciate your time and the privilege you have given me to appear here. The chance to come to the nation's capitol is one not given to many from our area.

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STATE CONSERVATION FIELD DAY

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At The Peterson Ranch Just North of the Valby Church

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Come and Join Those From All Over Oregon, Interested in Conservation, in Commending the Petersons on Their Fine Work!

The Petersons' Conservation Practices:

OVER-ALL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Diversion ditches	17 miles
Sod Waterways	10 acres
Subsoiling (1967)	400 acres
Rotation Grazing	307 acres
Deferred Grazing	2,349 acres
Improved Pasture	90 acres
Deep Wells	7
Channel straightening & shaping	1½ miles
Strip cropping	600 acres
Sagebrush & Rabbitbrush spraying	300 acres
Bird Guzzlers	1
Spring Development	1
Fence Row Weed Control	3 miles
Straw incorporation in sandblow areas	

All cropland is planted and tilled on the contour.



Herb Peterson

Bob Peterson

PROGRAM

- 10:00 A.M. Assemble at Peterson Ranch which is located 16 miles from Ione, near the Valby Church.
- 10:15 A.M. Introductions by Tad Miller, president Morrow County Wheat Growers League.
- 10:20 A.M. Welcome by Bob Peterson.
- 10:25 A.M. Tour Eight-Mile Place.
- 12:30 Noon Free Lunch, Peterson Ranch. Sponsored by Paul & Helen Pettyjohn, Shell Oil & Chemical jobbers, Ione.
- Remarks by Louis Carlson, 1969 chairman of the selection committee.
- Remarks by Tom Vaughan, president, Oregon Wheat Growers League.
- Remarks by Don Robinson, one of the sponsors of Conservation Man of Year Contest.
- 1:15 P.M. Tour remainder of ranch.
- 4:00 P.M. Tour Ends.

Cold drinks furnished by Paul & Helen Pettyjohn

THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING IN TRIBUTE TO THE PETERSONS AND IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSERVATION:

Heppner Branch

- First National Bank of Oregon
- Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative

- Bank of Eastern Oregon
- Morrow County Grain Growers