

3 Segments of Talent Project Under Way

Howard Prairie Dam Completion Slated for 1959

Bid Openings Set For Other Phases

By ELLIOT CARLSON
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

About 4,500 feet above sea level in the Cascade mountains, nearly 20 miles southeast of Ashland, construction is under way on the first three of 23 segments of the \$21 million Talent project.

Preliminary work has started on preparing the foundation of the \$1,074,000 Howard Prairie dam, one of the major "project items" in the Talent project. Construction of the dam, to be an earth-filled structure, will be completed this fall.

The structure will be 8 feet high and 1,000 feet long at the crest with a concrete core, and will dam the Howard Prairie reservoir. The lake will be five miles long, 30 feet deep and 2,500 acres in area. It will be ready for use in the summer of 1959.

Bid Opening Set
Bids for clearing 800 acres of land for the reservoir will be opened at 2 p.m. June 18, as the bureau of reclamation office at Camp White, according to J. A. Callan, the bureau's project construction engineer. A contract to clear the balance of the reservoir site, totaling about 1,700 acres, will be awarded sometime in the summer of 1958.

Water to fill the lake will be diverted from several high-country creeks, through the Deadwood tunnel, near Dead Indian rd. Work on the \$426,000 tunnel, first phase of the Talent project to be started, has resulted in 2,000 feet of the 3,600-foot tunnel being excavated.

Water from the lake, to be used for irrigation and power generating purposes, will be diverted through creeks and man-made canals, conduits and tunnels through the Cascade divide to the west slope of the Green Springs.

To Power Plant
From there it will drop into the power plant. It will continue from there to Emigrant lake for distribution throughout the Rogue valley for irrigation.

Third major portion of the Talent project now under construction is the \$373,000 hydroelectric turbine and \$283,700 generator for the Green Springs power plant, which will generate about 18,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Callan has estimated that one-third of the work on the six-year Talent project will be either completed or under construction by the end of 1957. Bids will be either awarded or opened on six sections of work, including contracts valued at about \$6 million, early this summer, completing work scheduled for 1957.

Bids Rejected
Work on the project is a "trifle behind," Callan said, because several bids had to be rejected last fall due to excessive amounts. Twelve contracts remain to be awarded to finish the project, which is scheduled for completion in 1962.

Other work now in progress includes relocating Hyatt and Dead Indian rds. in order that their routes will not conflict with Talent project facilities. Clearing right-of-ways for the roads will be done this summer and grading will be concluded in 1958.

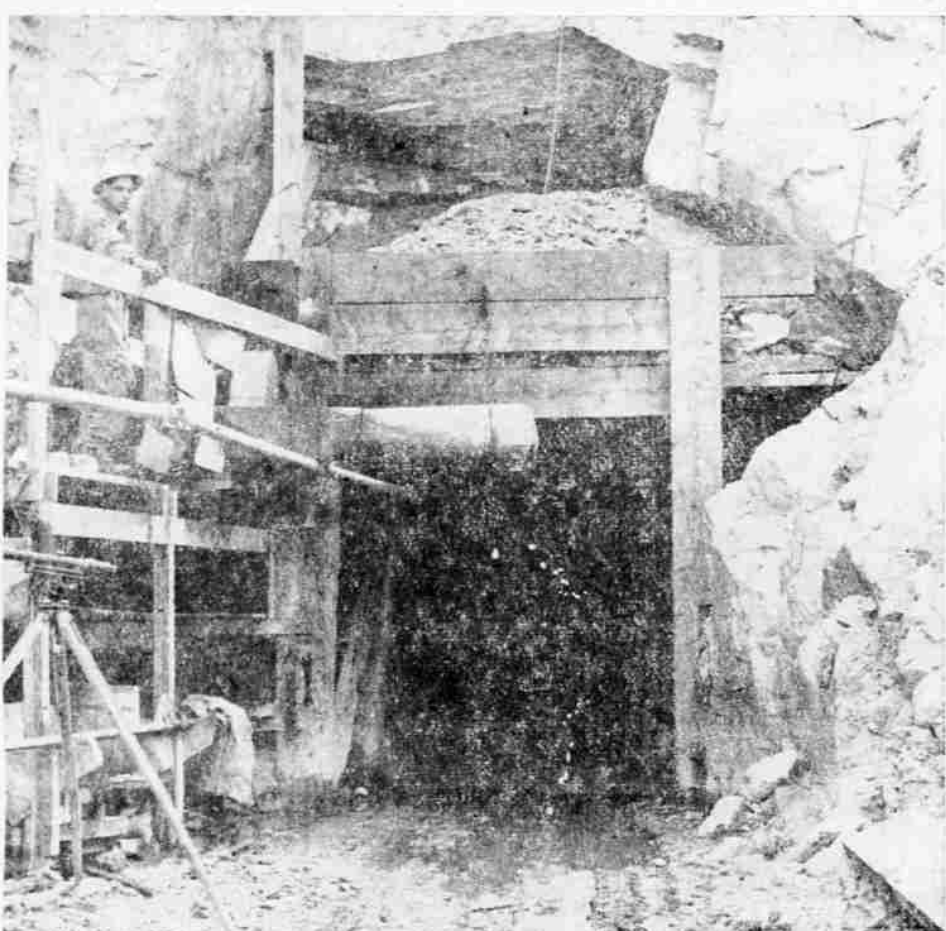
Bids will be opened June 18 on the Green Springs power plant switchyard and penstock. Then work will be constructed on a site southeast of Ashland along Emigrant creek near Highway 66. The penstock will provide a 1,775-foot drop into the Green Springs power plant.

Work on the powerplant will include a single-unit concrete structure and tailrace structure.



PANORAMA OF CONSTRUCTION SITE—The R. A. Heintz Construction company, Portland, is stripping the abutments on what will be the Howard Prairie dam, shown above. The Talent project dam will include 186,000 cubic yards of earth fill, 204,000 cubic yards of rock fill and a concrete core. It will be equipped with an outlet to the canal and a spillway. The structure, to be 1,000 feet across at the crest, 426 feet

wide at the base and 88 feet high, will dam a large, new lake, the Howard Prairie reservoir. It will store water diverted to it by the Deadwood tunnel, located several hundred feet higher in the Cascades and a few miles east of the dam site. The water is to be used for irrigation and power generating purposes. The dam will be completed late this fall and the lake will be full in the summer of 1959.



DEADWOOD TUNNEL—Shown above is the upstream portal of the Deadwood tunnel that, when completed, will divert water from several high-country creeks to the Howard Prairie reservoir. Glenn A. Gerrard, crew member of the Lord Brothers Construction company, Portland, stands near a large pipe that pumps fresh air deep into the tunnel.

At this end, what workers call "moletrain crews" have bored 400 feet into the tunnel. It will be 3,600 feet long when complete. Crews at the other end also have progressed a few hundred feet. Work on \$426,000 tunnel started last September, first phase of the Talent project to get under construction.

a major plant equipped by the government, about 9,000 linear feet of steel penstock, a surge tank, a switchyard, road relocation and a parking area.

Bids on Headquarters
Bids will be opened June 20 on a headquarters for a Howard Prairie dam caretaker and bureau of reclamation survey crews and inspection personnel.

A \$1,636,000 bid was awarded recently for construction of the first 10 miles of the Howard Prairie delivery canal, scheduled for completion in about a year from this fall. This portion of the canal extends from Howard Prairie dam to the Little Beaver creek siphon and wasteway.

Bids will be awarded later this summer on the second portion of the delivery canal, which will then continue nine miles from the Little Beaver point to the Keene creek dam and reservoir, near Highway 66. Bids on this segment will be called late in June.

Major Contract
According to Callan, bids will be called late in June on a major contract that will include several important phases of work. Among the projects are construction of the Keene creek dam and reservoir, relocating Highway 66, and construction of the 4,000-foot long power conduit line and tunnels, one 1,800 feet long and the other 5,000 feet.

About 11 segments of the Talent project will remain to be started in 1958, among them reconstruction of Emigrant dam on Emigrant creek, about the last work scheduled for the project. It will be completed in 1962.

The present dam on the site, near Highway 66, will be raised 75 feet, which will enlarge storage capacity of the Emigrant reservoir from 8,000 to 40,000 acre-feet of water. The work will cost and estimated \$4,581,000.

Other contracts will be awarded next year on rehabilitation work on Emigrant dam's east canal, which extends 24 miles from the dam to an area east of Medford, and on rehabilitation work on Talent Irrigation district facilities.

Five segments in the Rogue water shed, to be started in 1958,

are scheduled to complete work on the Talent project. They include construction of the South Fork Little Butte creek diversion dam and canal, the Daley creek diversion site, the Beaver dam creek diversion site, Dead Indian diversion dam and Conde creek diversion dam and canal.

Arkansas spent 4.8 per cent of its revenues for cost of government and miscellaneous general agencies during fiscal 1955-56.

Revenue Increase For Cities Signed

Salem—A bill to increase to 10 per cent the amount of money cities receive from state liquor revenues and another to permit complete reorganization of the State Board of Agriculture have been signed into law by Gov. Robert D. Holmes.

Senate Bill 245 boosts the share for cities from liquor profits from five to ten per cent. The remaining 90 per cent of the profit will continue to go into the state general fund.

House Bill 793 calls for abolishment of the present Agriculture Board and reappointment of a seven-member board by the Governor on July 1. The new law calls for appointment of one member with a term to expire July 1, 1959, two for July 1, 1960 and two for July 1, 1961.

The bills provide that various geographical areas of the state be represented and that at least six members be actively engaged in agriculture. It also provides that the board shall hold four meetings a year, two more than under the old law.

School Officials Plan Meeting on Wednesday

Members of district 13 school board association will meet Wednesday, June 12, at 8 p.m. in the Hedrick Junior High school cafeteria.

State Sen. Philip Lowry, member of the senate education committee, will speak on school legislation. Attending the meeting will be all directors and administrators from the district, which includes Jackson and Josephine counties.

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Senate Demo Leaders Hope To Get Help From Idaho Write-Off Case

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington — Senate Democratic leaders are holding back on bringing up the Hells Canyon dam authorization bill in hopes that public reaction against the fast write-off for Idaho Power Co. will help turn the tide of votes in favor of the high dam bill.



The public reaction is expected to be stimulated by the disclosures coming from the investigation of Senator Kefauver's anti-monopoly subcommittee, which is thoroughly covering the administrator's decision to grant the \$65,000,000 tax write-off to the Idaho utility.

That subcommittee last week reached what its members feel was one of its high points when it showed that on the day the Office of Defense Mobilization approved and signed the Idaho Power tax certificates, the utility's stock hit a new high for the year on the New York exchange in a big spurt of trading. That was April 17, a week before ODM announced its decision to the public. ODM admits that on April 18 it turned over the tax certificates to Idaho Power representatives but didn't leak the information the day before.

Triple Average Gains

It may be several weeks before the subcommittee concludes this phase by trying to determine who purchased the Idaho Power securities on that critical day and whether they were given inside information on which to make a killing. The company's stock subsequently made steady gains, roughly triple the average securities gains as shown by the Dow-Jones average.

These disclosures may intensify the reaction against the tax write-off, but whether it will improve the chances of the high

dam bill being passed is open to question. Reportedly too many southern Democrats are still unwilling to vote for the Hells Canyon bill, despite the outraged feelings home have vented about the tax grant.

The Republicans are expected to hold firm, against the bill, although many privately are sore as hornets over the hole the tax write-off has put them in. Yet they are pleased that Senator Wayne Morse has given them a chance to defend the integrity

of President Eisenhower against Morse's attacks. It's easier to defend the popular president than an unpopular tax handout.

Democrats Hold Key
The conservative Democrats hold the key. Some hope is being expressed among Hells Canyon advocates that they will be persuaded by the following financial consideration:

The net cost to the taxpayers of the administration's scheme for developing the Snake River is going to be some \$35,000,000 more than if the high dam were built.

This argument is based on the calculation by experts of the Federal Power Commission that the tax write-off to Idaho Power will cost the U.S. treasury \$85,000,000 over the lifetime of the company's 50-year license — a figure derived from figuring that the government will have to borrow money at 3½ per cent to make up the tax losses in the write-off. The net cost to the treasury of the high dam, on the other hand, will be \$55,000,000 over the same period of years, inasmuch as all of the remainder of the original \$306,000,000 high dam cost will be repaid with interest.

Whether men like Senator Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia will buy this argument or not will probably determine what happens when the Hells Canyon bill comes around for its final showdown vote in the near future.

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