

Talent Sublaterals Remain in Basin Project

Division Is 94 Per Cent Done; Potentials Noted

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Now that the Talent division of the Rogue River basin project is 94 per cent complete, what is left to do? What is its potential in terms of agriculture, power and recreation?

The west lateral enlargement and extension is to be let out on bid Feb. 15. Other phases of the actual work is just about completed, according to bureau of reclamation officials.

The expansion of Emigrant lake will be completed in April. Talent Irrigation district work on enlargement and rehabilitation will be finished in April. All collection and delivery systems have been completed. Only work left is completion of sublaterals to be run for distribution to new land. The TID will construct these.

Benefit 10,500 People
Water from this project will benefit directly about 10,500 persons, based on the 1959 crop census. That indicates that the three irrigation districts have a farm population of 3,840 persons. The related suburban and urban areas have a population of 6,712 persons.

What will this additional water mean to Rogue River valley agriculture? Breaking it down by districts, it means that a greater variety of agricultural products can be raised in the Talent Irrigation district.

"The trend in the last five years has been more diversification," TID Manager Walter Hoffbuhr said. "We will see more truck gardening, particularly. This means tomatoes, sugar beet seeds, melons, cucumbers, onions and that type of crop."

On Bottom Soil
Most of this type of crop will be grown on the more fertile rich Bear creek bottom soil—the heavy black silt-like soil which already supports many truck crops for farmers selling them from roadside stands between Phoenix and Ashland. Actually, TID records show about the same truck crop acreage within the district as the previous year.

"The bulk of new land brought under irrigation will go into pasture and hay production and quite a bit of it into orchards. Bear Creek orchards has been preparing for the new water already by planting an extensive acreage next to Bear creek in the Phoenix-Talent area. Much of this newly planted orchard land is being watered by tank truck until it is brought under TID water," Hoffbuhr explained.

"A lot of new subdivisions in the Griffin Creek, Dark Hollow and Cherry Hills districts will rely on TID water for watering lawns and gardens," the TID manager pointed out. "The ground water there is so poor that such districts have only domestic use from their wells."

Largest Return
"But pears do bring the largest return per acre and as much land as practicable coming under irrigation for the first time will be planted to pear trees," Hoffbuhr said. The TID will serve some new land in 1961. All of it will go on the water assessment roll in 1962. However, as Hoffbuhr pointed out, the



TALENT LATERAL—This shows the Talent lateral extending 20 miles on the west side of the valley. This picture was taken just off the old Phoenix-Talent highway. The project is under contract to Pacific

Concrete company, Portland. It is scheduled for completion in April. The new lateral will carry water to newly irrigated lands and bring supplemental Talent division water to lands now in short supply.

Talent project will not be completed until the secretary of the interior notifies the district.

The TID manager says general conditions so far indicate a good irrigation season next season providing a good snow-pack is spread over the high hills this winter. The upper layer of soil is better primed this year than it has been for several years. This means a good saturated upper mantle of earth so when a snow pack is formed there will be a more productive runoff. It will not have to seep into the parched high hills first, robbing the lowlands.

More Stable Crop
With good supplies from Four Mile and Fish lakes available, the Medford Irrigation district has developed a more permanent and stable crop situation.

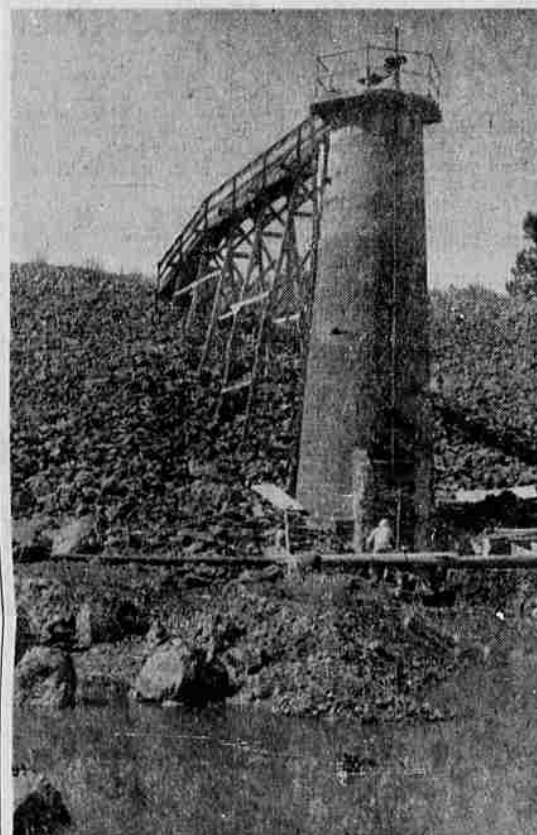
Jack Hoffbuhr, MID manager and brother of Walt Hoffbuhr, expects a definite increase in orchard lands with the water which will be added to his district when TID takes what it needs. Orchards will be planted farther out as the orchards closer to the population centers are used for subdivisions.

One possible crop change may be some planting of cane berries on lands suitable for farming. By bringing additional lands under the district it will achieve a broader base, meaning a thinner cost spread.

No Change Seen
Rogue River Valley Irrigation district probably will not change its crop outlook much. Much of the district is already planted to a diversified type of farming, orchards, seed crops, truck gardens and pasture and hay lands. It will use the water diverted from MID. Agate dam on Dry creek will influence its development more than the Talent project.

The project gives the residents of the Rogue river valley a chain of three lakes, Howard Prairie which covers an area four miles long and width varying from a half to a mile, Hyatt reservoir covering two miles by a half mile and Emigrant reservoir measuring 2 1/2 miles long by a half mile wide.

When the local recreation people speak of recreation they are thinking primarily of Howard Prairie. Those people pushing for its development can visualize a busy recreation area on the west side



FIRST SCREEN STRUCTURE—This is a picture of the existing lower outlet works for the Hyatt Prairie dam fish screen structure. The photo shows the contractor removing the concrete walls and slab at trash rack. (Photo by F. E. Ross, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.)

of the reservoir in late spring and summer. A comparatively small marina development extends its finger piers out into the deeper water so recreationists can tie up their boats while they come in for a quick snack in the attractive service building.

Building Planned
This building now being planned will probably have a large glassed in front so outdoorsmen and their families can watch the activity on the lake while they eat or those out on a Sunday drive can enjoy the scenery in front of them. Here in this large building, which also houses the caretaker's apartment, on the second floor, groceries, fishing gear and various boating equipment and supplies, can be purchased.

Far out on the lake the sharp prow of a sailboat knifes through the water as the boat's white wings billow to the afternoon breeze. A fisherman with his outdoor motor temporarily silent deftly nets one of the large trout destined to make Howard Prairie the "hottest fishing lake in the state," according to Cole Rivers, biologist in this area for the state game commission.

In their restricted zone, water-skiers delicately balance on their twin boards as ski-boats surge through the water. And there are others content merely to dangle their feet in the water while sitting on the edge of the boat piers.

Other Recreation
Perhaps a diver arcs her sun-tanned body high over the lake before splashing cleanly into the water below a diving board. A picnicker puffs contentedly on his pipe as his wife packs away the remains of a hearty picnic lunch on one of the neat one-unit tables with benches. The fire in the outdoor concrete fireplace has already been carefully extinguished.

As the seasons change duck hunters may take their stands in blinds along the lake's shores. Then, in winter, slim ice-boats may spread their bright sails as their sharp

steel runners bite into the ice of the lake. Skaters skim gracefully in singles and pairs over the frozen surface as bonfires spread rosy glows along the shore.

This is recreation and this is a phase of all irrigation projects which is becoming increasingly important and inseparable.

But what about the engineering features? **Distribution Systems**
The distribution systems which carry the water from the reservoirs to the farm lands cover 101.1 miles, according to bureau of reclamation figures.

This system will serve a total of 18,020 acres. It includes the Ashland lateral extension, Ashland Lateral rehabilitation, east lateral enlargement, west lateral enlargement and extension, Talent lateral enlargement, existing sublaterals' rehabilitation, new sublaterals construction.

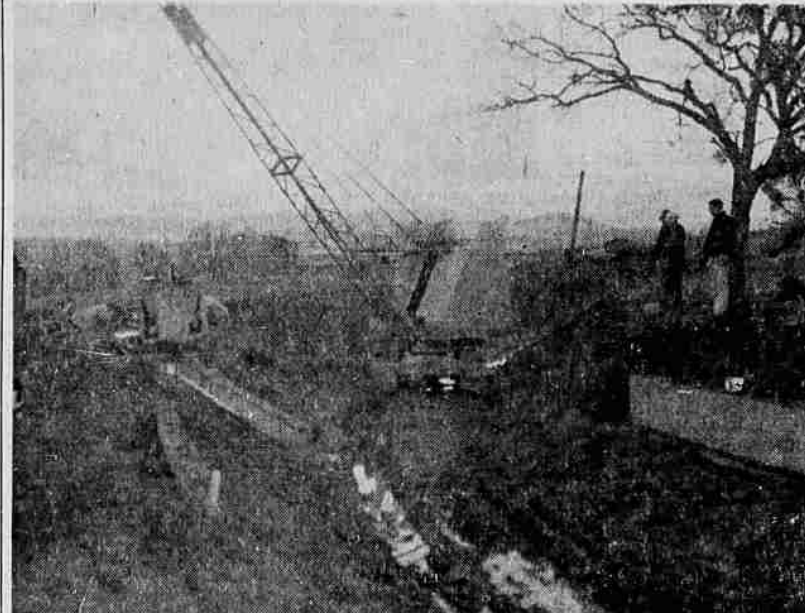
The collection canals cover 16.7 miles; the south fork collection canal nine miles (including the Deadwood tunnel), Daley collection canal, Dead Indian and Conde creek canals. When this complicated and extensive project is completed by 1962, it will provide supplemental irrigation water to 9,921 irrigable acres now in short supply, and a full supply to 3,130 irrigable acres of dry lands in the Talent division.

Howard Prairie dam is located on Beaver creek in the Klamath basin, 27 miles east of Ashland. It is 105 feet high. Its surface area is 2,000 acres and capacity 60,500 acre feet. **East of Ashland**
Hyatt Prairie lake on Keene creek in the Klamath river basin, is 18 miles east of Ashland and was built in 1922. The dam is 53 feet high. Total capacity is 16,200 acre feet.

Emigrant dam is located on Emigrant creek east of Ashland. The dam is 196 feet high. The reservoir covers 38,500 acre feet. The Green Springs power plant is located between Hyatt and Emigrant reservoirs. Its



DAM ENLARGEMENT—This view shows the Emigrant dam enlargement. This is a composite picture showing the up-stream face. It is a view from the right bank near the axis of the dam. Contractor is R. A. Heintz Construction company. This dam is located on Emigrant creek east of Ashland. The dam is 196 feet high. The reservoir contains 50,000 acre feet. (F. E. Ross photo)



LATERAL REHABILITATION—This photo shows Talent lateral rehabilitation structures and is a view of the "meter-gate" turnout and farm bridge (abutments) structures under construction. Such distribution systems which carry the water from the reservoirs to the farmlands cover 101.1, according to bureau of reclamation figures. (F. E. Ross photo)



WASTE-WAY—This picture shows a concrete waste-way in the Talent lateral on the west side of the valley. Normally there are flashboard gates inserted in the box to control the outlet of water. This gate is opened to carry away storm or waste water in order to prevent flooding the lateral. The gate is left open to drain the lateral in the winter time when the irrigation water is not needed.

commercially available annual power production is estimated at \$2,100,000 kilowatt hours. Annual operation, maintenance and replacement costs are estimated at \$62,700. The power plant makes the project feasible for the farmers. It will pay for 32 per cent of irrigation costs and all its own cost plus interest at 2 1/4 per cent annually.

Authorizing Act
The authorizing act for the Talent provision provides that all costs, including those to be returned from power and from the water users should be repaid in a 60-year period. The commercial power investment should be amortized under an interest rate formula.

The act requires that the power revenues be used first to amortize the commercial power investment which will require approximately 40 years. Thereafter it is to be used to assist in the return of the irrigation costs.

Net federal investment for the project was \$24,736,930. This includes construction costs of \$23,700,000, less past investigations at \$436,000, less salvage value of \$77,000. **Construction Costs**
The total construction costs of \$23,700,000 include Howard Prairie dam and reservoir \$1,810,000, but excludes \$65,000 fish and wildlife costs. It also includes Emigrant dam and reservoir at \$4,944,000, Keene creek dam and reservoir at \$935,000.

Collection canals cost an estimated \$1,876,000; canals and laterals, \$487,000, but excludes \$24,000 fish and wildlife costs. Sublaterals cost

\$487,000; the drainage system, \$300,000. The Green Springs power plant and switchyard cost an estimated \$6,023,000; fish facilities, \$104,000, maintenance machinery and equipment \$146,000, but excludes fish and wildlife at \$15,000 and recreation costs at \$140,000. **Benefits Estimated**
Direct and indirect benefits of irrigation were estimated at a total of \$919,000; power at \$417,000; flood control at \$29,300; fish and wildlife \$29,500 and recreation at \$8,200.

Irrigation is not a modern day development. Hot, dry summers plus the need to keep livestock close to the settlements during Indian troubles early in the valley's history emphasized the irrigation need. Simple stream diversions furnished irrigation for summer pastures.

By 1860, there were 3,950 acres irrigated in the valley. This acreage grew from year to year until all tributary streams were appropriated for the summer flow. By 1890, some 17,000 acres were irrigated.

This success of early irrigation created a desire for larger projects. Early attempts to control the larger streams, however, proved inadequate. **Fruit Potential Seen**
When the railroad was completed in 1887, the fruit growing potential was seen here. Commercial orchards were planted near Ashland. However, water supplies still were not dependable.

The Fish Lake Ditch company was developed in 1898. This company began water deliveries in 1902 and through reorganization is now the

Pacific Telephone Plans Expansion During Next Year

Pacific Telephone Northwest has programmed a \$23.9 million outlay to expand and improve telephone service in Oregon during 1961. F. M. Mitchell, the company's vice president and general manager, has announced.

"This expenditure of almost \$24 million is certainly the best evidence of our belief in the essential soundness of Oregon's economy and in the future growth prospects of the state," Mitchell said.

Reporting on 1960, Mitchell said the number of telephones served by the company in the state increased by 22,942 to a total of 576,169. The number of long distance calls went up about 6.6 per cent during the year, he added. **687 Telephones Added**
In Medford, 687 telephones were added to the total in service during the year, according to Manager J. H. Creager. There are now 16,771 phones in the Medford exchange.

Looking ahead, Mitchell listed bringing direct distance dialing to some 180,000 Portland and Beaverton in May, 1961, as one of the company's biggest projects during the coming year. DDD will be extended to the rest of Portland and nearby suburban communities in 1962.

Completion of manual to dial conversions at Florence and at Arlington in 1961 will bring dial service to 99 per cent of the company's telephones in Oregon, he said.

Grange Notes

Phoenix Grange held a social evening Dec. 27 as the Yuletide holidays were recognized. A potluck dinner was the preceding event followed by a variable program. There was no business meeting. Lecturer Mrs. Lloyd Lacy was in charge.

A vocal group, "The Lady and the Tramps," sang several songs. The members are Darlene Coffman, Dorothy James, Penney Simmons and Pam Grove, at the piano.

Mr. and Mrs. Olin Poe gave a Christmas skit. Accordion students of Rose Meadows played a number of Christmas melodies. The students are Danny O'Duane, Randy and Roger Wiley, Rick Campbell, Douglas Mann, Raymond Potter, Walter, Frank and Delia Fitzgerald and William Breedlove.

The evening ended with five members of the Phoenix Judo Academy giving a demonstration. They were Larry Nolte, master of ceremonies; Jo Rutter, Dr. Paul H. Rutter, Buster Norton and Jack Wheeler. Nolte explained the terms and actions as they proceeded and also gave the history and origin of the judo arts.

Dances Scheduled For Area Students

Dances for junior and senior high school students in January have been announced by the Young Men's Christian association, Medford.

High school dances will be held Jan. 6, 8 to 11 p.m.; Jan. 13 and 14, 10 to 12 p.m.; Jan. 21, 10 to 12 p.m.; and Jan. 27 and Jan. 28, both 7 to 10 p.m. Proceeds from ticket sales are to be used to purchase new dance equipment and to help start the new Junior Hi-Y club. Refreshments will be available at the affairs, and recorded music is featured.

Dr. Seuss Featured In Tuesday Story

Dr. Seuss will again be featured at the pre-school story time in the children's department of the Public Library of Medford and Jackson County.

The Tuesday morning story will be "If I Ran the Circus" with Mrs. Charles Henry the story teller. Mrs. Henry will also include other stories and finger plays in her program.

The program for pre-school age children is regularly scheduled in the children's department on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

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