

'Tight Time Table' Made by Engineers To Complete Study

A "tight time table" has been prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in order to complete a report on the Rogue river by November, according to Col. W. L. Winegar, Portland, district engineer.

Letters received here from Colonel Winegar and Ben Hilton, Grants Pass, president of the Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources Association, indicate that the engineers will meet the deadline required for including the Rogue Basin project in the omnibus Rivers and Harbors bill in the spring of 1962.

Hilton wrote that "In discussions with the Corps of Engineers and the regional office of the bureau of sports fisheries and wildlife, it has been my feeling that these two services are impressed with the merits of the Rogue Basin project."

Classic Project
"They both recognize that this could be a classic project — multi-purpose in the true sense of the phrase, with substantial benefits to the traditional value of flood control, power and irrigation, and uniquely, to the fishery and recreation. This unique character is even more impressive when viewed in relation to the historic reputation of the Rogue's fish and its scenery."

"The time table is tight if the report is to reach congress next year. If it doesn't make the omnibus Rivers and Harbors bill in the spring of 1962, it will mean, at best, a delay of two years."

"This project will, in all probability, mean a local construction investment (substantially) in excess of \$100 million."

Schedule of Action

Colonel Winegar's letter gives the schedule of action planned in order to complete the Rogue study. He explained that funds for explorations and office work were not available when hoped for last year, and as a result "considerable time was lost" before work scheduled at a meeting last April could be initiated.

Colonel Winegar wrote that "personnel actively engaged in report activities have been working on an overtime basis since early in January, 1960. Studies in cooperation with the U.S. fish and wildlife service are progressing satisfactorily, and no difficulties are foreseen in maintaining coordinated progress in that respect."

"Nevertheless," he wrote, "it does not now appear possible to regain all the time which was lost during the period when funds were not

available. Considering the current status of the work and projecting a schedule based on continuation of overtime and use of all logical shortcuts, it now appears that the most rapid progress would be about as follows:

Public Hearing

"a. Hold a public hearing

in September, 1961. This would involve use of only a 30-day period between local presentation of complete project data and the hearing. It would be planned, however, to present project data, project by project, as it became available prior to the beginning of the 30-day period.

"b. Submit a report and recommendations to North Pacific division in November, 1961. This would be later than originally scheduled. However, arrangements have been made for the maximum practicable amount of review of the report to be published by the North Pacific division

concurrently with completion of studies and preparation of report text in this office. That procedure should result in a reduction of the time required before the report can be forwarded to higher authority in Washington."

The engineer said it is not expected that availability of funds will be a problem in adhering to the schedule. However, two matters under consideration "might develop into a problem which could delay the report," he cautioned.

Extent of Lands

One is the extent of lands which, under current and foreseeable conditions, should be anticipated to be irrigated from Lost Creek to Elk Creek

reservoirs. He explained that he has asked the U.S. bureau of reclamation to give specific attention to that problem and provide necessary data for analysis, in addition to bringing all irrigation data up to date.

Colonel Winegar said that there is also a need to determine what agency of the department of interior will be designated as the power-marketing agency.

The 1944 Flood Control act specifies that "power and energy surplus to project requirements shall be delivered to the secretary of the interior who shall transmit and dispose of such power in a specified manner."

In the case of Rogue river

power, the marketing agency presumably could be either the Bonneville Power administration or the bureau of reclamation. The question has been taken up with the BPA and an early reply has been requested, according to Colonel Winegar.

He said that it is his understanding that "since a matter of policy is involved, the question has been referred for decision at Washington level."

prevent submission of a report in November 1961," according to the letter.
Hilton and attorney Ben Day, Medford, plan to go to Washington, D.C., later this month to discuss the project with various agencies and "to see that the schedule is met."

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Oxygen System Is Designed for Long Space Trips

Washington (Science Service) — A system to convert an astronaut's breath into breathable oxygen is being designed at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

It is planned for use on space voyages lasting as long as three years. Dr. John F. Foster and Justin S. McNulty of Battelle reported to the annual meeting here of the Institute of Environmental Sciences.

Sponsored by the Air Force Air Research and Development Command, the Battelle research has resulted in a working prototype of a device to convert carbon dioxide into water. This is a major step in developing a complete oxygen recovery system.

Carbon Dioxide

The Battelle apparatus has carbon dioxide fed into it at the rate of 500 cubic centimeters per minute. The carbon dioxide reacts with hydrogen over a heated iron-containing catalyst (a combination of steel wool and iron oxide pellets) to produce water vapor and solid carbon.

The condensed water vapor will be fed to an electrolytic cell, now under development at Battelle, where it will be broken down into breathable oxygen and hydrogen. The latter will be used to react with more carbon dioxide. Solid carbon will be removed from the reactor every two or three days and discarded.

The Battelle system is less than five feet high, occupies about two square feet of floor space, and weighs about 200 pounds. Prior to its test in a space probe, the apparatus will be redesigned to increase the conversion rate and capacity while cutting down on weight.



GABLE'S SON—John Clark Gable, the two-week-old son of Clark Gable, makes his camera debut with his mother, Kay Gable of Hollywood. The only child of the late motion picture actor was born March 20. (UPI Telephoto)

Meadow Lark Gets Last Word; Knows How To Sing

Corvallis — With meadow larks, the male gets in the last "word," because he's the only one that really knows how to sing.

A male meadow lark perch-

es on a telephone line or other elevated place and sings to advertise to other male meadow larks that he is defending his territory.

The "kingdom" dominated by a pair of the birds runs from 10 to 30 acres, according to Dr. Robert M. Storm, Oregon State college zoology professor.

The western meadow lark song comes as a surprise to persons acquainted with the eastern meadow lark, which has a much weaker and much less impressive song.

Oregon's state bird, the meadow lark, sticks close to Oregon the year-round with only a slight population shift to the south in the winter. The meadow lark is found in both the arid sage plateaus of southeastern Oregon and the tide flats of the humid coast.

Size of Robin
A meadow lark is about the size of a robin, but chunkier and with a shorter tail. It is easily recognizable by a bright yellow breast with a black crescent on it. Males have yellow cheeks than the females.

Grass nests with a grass roof are built on the ground in any open areas. They nest twice a year, starting in April and laying 3 to 7 white eggs with brown and purple spots.

Both sexes help in building the nest and in incubating eggs which hatch in 15 days. The young leave the nest and hide in the grass before they can fly.

Insects make up 60 per cent of the meadow lark food intake with grain and seed accounting for the remaining 40 per cent. In fall and winter, it is not uncommon for some 70 meadow larks to flock in search of food.

Enemies of the meadow lark include skunks, raccoons, hawks and owls. Meadow larks survive on their ability to conceal their nest and their ability to produce so many young. Many are killed by grazing cattle which step on nests.

Meadow larks belong to the blackbird family which includes the blackbirds and orioles.

Car's Motor Purrs

Just Like a Cat

Barrington, R.I. — Mrs. Mabel Daley's car usually has a motor that purrs like a kitten, but one day it sounded more like a cat.

She examined the car and could find no sign of trouble. So she drove to a garage. An attendant found the source of the strange noise—a cat was snuggled under the battery.

AREA OF TURKEY

Turkey has an area of about 300,000 square miles.

Unusual Doll House Has All Utilities

Medford, Mass. — (UPI) — John T. Kreger's four daughters have what is one of the most unusual doll houses in the world. But they can't use it.

The youngest daughter is 28 years old. Three are married. Kreger began building the two-story, eight-room house in 1926 and it took him until 1954 to complete it. Kreger estimated that it took 10 full years of actual working time to build the house. It measures three feet square, is four feet high and is mounted on the undercarriage of a barber's chair so it may be raised, lowered or turned around.

It has real glass windows that can be opened and closed, plumbing that works, a coal furnace, closets with full-length mirrors, and a complete electrical system.

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