

Applegate Bridges Withstand Flooding

By MAUDE ZIEGLER
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Applegate Valley — Ray Offenbacher has constructed a bridge on his ranch that looks no different from what any man would build across a river to his back pasture. But this bridge is specially designed and streamlined to withstand flooding torrents, and when the flood subsides the bridge is said to remain as substantial as ever.

Offenbacher, who built it across the Applegate river last fall, knows it will stand against floods, because two like bridges were built at the Leon and LeRoy Offenbacher ranches about five years ago and have been tested in flood stages.

One of the secrets of construction is a slight tipping of the bridge deck on the upstream side so the surge of rising water tends to force the bridge downward, creating a vacuum, and holding the structure intact.

Free Water Flow
The end of the floor planks do not protrude over the stringers on the upstream side, making for free flow of water. The bridge is so low that by the time drift wood appears in the stream the depth of the flooding river keeps it above the bridge, the Offenbachers explain. They also said the higher the water gets, the greater the safety of the bridge.

The men had heard of the general plan of such bridges being used in South America, but it was Leon Offenbacher who built the first bridge in the community to accommodate his farm, and adapted it to the specific requirements of the Applegate river, which he believes equals any stream in velocity and destructiveness.

Recall Experience
While considering bridges and floods, the Offenbachers recall the harrowing experience of Leon's brother, Lance, who was standing on a bridge of ordinary construction during a flood of 1953 when the bridge was washed downstream. Lance was adrift and took refuge in a tree a mile or so downstream.

Neighbors lost their own boats and themselves wound up in trees after attempting rescue. After four or five hours of waiting, Offenbacher was rescued by Cole Rivers of the state game commission and other official help arriving from Grants Pass with a boat.

For Any Stream
LeRoy Offenbacher declares this new type structure comparatively simple to build and that any man with a knowledge of concrete and fir poles can build a bridge of this kind. He says some solid bedrock is all that is needed to anchor piers, and that a bridge 500 feet long could be built just as easily as this 66 foot one.

LeRoy says he would recommend this bridge for any stream the size of the Applegate or larger. The bigger the stream the better, he says.



SPECIALLY DESIGNED—Ray Offenbacher river which was specially built to withstand on his bridge over the Applegate stand flood conditions.

Cost of the bridge, including labor, was slightly under \$1,500 or about \$23 per foot.

Large steel dowels are imbedded three feet in the bedrock, six to ten anchoring a pier. Fewer of the steel pins are used in the bedrock if it is jagged. The three cement

piers are interlaced with reinforcing steel tied in with cross bars. Cost of the steel totaled about \$160.

Fir Pole Stringers
Stringers are 14-inch fir poles placed six to a span with headers between each stringer. The bridge floor is made of three-inch planks spaced an inch apart allowing for ventilation and drying of timbers. Planks are fastened to stringers with 3/4 inch

bolts ten inches long, six to a plank.

LeRoy expects to replace the deck of his bridge with concrete when the present timbers have deteriorated, which will make the bridge a permanent structure.

The Offenbachers say others in the community are considering building this type of bridge and invite any who are interested to inspect the project.

THE WEEK IN CALIFORNIA

Estimated 10,000 Out of Work Because of Laborers' Strike

By United Press International
An estimated 10,000 persons were out of work last week due to a strike by members of the Laborers Union (AFL-CIO).

The strikers hit 150 projects in northern and central California, affecting immediately about 10 per cent of the total construction in the area.

But there also was a possibility that the strike might spread to southern California and affect another \$4 billion worth of projects. The contracts of the same unions have expired in that area, but they are not free to strike until May 15 after a 15-day cooling-off period.

The 35,000-member laborers union began sporadic striking Tuesday after their contract with the Associated General Contractors (AGC) expired at midnight April 30.

William Baldwin, chief negotiator of the AGC, denounced the picketing as an "irresponsible action" in view of the interest expressed by the Federal Mediation Service and continued negotiations in "good faith" by the other crafts.

And he threatened to shut down northern California's \$3 billion construction industry as a "defense" measure against the striking unions. He said certain projects had been "discriminated against"

in reference to the fact that the union appeared to concentrate its action against projects under construction by key members of the AGC.

In another development on California's newsfront, Clarence Ashley, 37, was sentenced to die in the San Quentin gas chamber for the sex murder of a small girl.

The sentence against the former Army Chief Warrant Officer was pronounced by Superior Judge Gregory P. Maushart at Merced. He termed Ashley "sadistic, immoral and a sexual degenerate." The jurist said the crime was "conceived of diabolic cunning and executed in a manner that disgraces the human race."

Ashley was found guilty by an all male jury of kidnapping, molesting and murdering six-year-old Angie Mae Stewart Aug. 8, 1960. The same jury found him sane and recommended he die in the gas chamber for his crime.

Strike. A threatened strike that would have idled some 750,000 commuters in four southern California counties was averted when the union representing 2,700 bus and streetcar operators postponed the walkout for 12 days.

Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty requested the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen to postpone the threatened walkout. The union also consented to allow the mayor's labor relations committee to meet with brotherhood officials in hope of reaching a settlement.

A 22-cent an hour wage hike was rejected by the union March 16. Besides the pay hike, other issues involved were sick leave, lunch periods, vacation pay and pension funding.

Muslim. Four members of the so-called Black Muslim group were arraigned on charges arising out of a riot between police officers and members of the anti-white sect. During the riot outside the Muslim temple, one Muslim was shot to death and seven were wounded. One policeman was shot and other officers were knocked to the ground, kicked and beaten.

Ike. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, ended a desert winter vacation near Palm Springs and boarded a private railroad car for the east. The former president, well tanned, was bid farewell by about 300 persons gathered at the station. The former president indicated he would return next January.

Negroes. A group of 20 Negroes given free one-way railroad tickets by some Louisiana integration opponents arrived in Los Angeles and were welcomed by about 200 persons. Included in the group was one couple with 10 children.

Pay. A beginning social worker in the San Joaquin valley makes \$343 a month in a job requiring college training while a dog catcher with no previous experience may draw \$411. That was reported by the state department of social welfare at the California Association of Health and Welfare conference in Berkeley. One official

reasoned: "Maybe that's because public assistance recipients don't bite."

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