



Features

Sports

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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A New Rogue River Trail



The black line on the edge of the cliff along Rogue river between Grave and Whiskey creeks shows the location of the new Rogue river trail, being constructed by the bureau of land management under the accelerated public works program in Josephine county. The new trail starts at the right of the top picture at a boat ramp near Alameda bridge, which is behind the trees to the extreme right of the picture. The new trail connects with an old trail at the extreme left of the lower composite picture by the bureau of land management. The pier of an old bridge across the river is located where the new trail connects with the old one at the left of the bottom picture. Pictures on this page, other than BLM composite picture above, were taken along the new trail last week.

What may prove to be one of the most beautiful foot trails in the Pacific northwest is under construction along Rogue river just downstream from the confluence of Grave creek and Rogue river.

The trail is being blasted, hoed and dug out of the face of cliffs and terraced in the steep slopes of dense forest along four miles where there has been no trail.

Construction of the trail, on the north side of the river, is expected to be completed by June 30, and open for public use after July 1.

It is being constructed under the accelerated public works program in which funds are made available to governmental agencies to help relieve problems in areas where there is high incidence of unemployment. Josephine county in southern Oregon qualifies for this program.

Work from Both Ends

The trail is being constructed by the bureau of land management with workers recruited through the Grants Pass state employment service office. Thirty-two men, two crews

of 16 each, are working from both ends of the four-mile section, and are now almost within shouting distance of each other.

One crew goes to the site daily from Grants Pass, 32 miles away; the other crew lives at an old BLM blister rust control camp where Whiskey creek enters the Rogue.

The BLM has stressed recreation and forestry projects in the accelerated public works program, and workers in the program have come to realize they are accomplishing good re-

sults, worthwhile for the future of the area.

This is seen in the trail itself. It is wide—two people can walk side by side with no difficulty—and sturdy, since it has been constructed by hand. Hand-laid rock rip-rap, in many places, supports the trail along rocky ledges.

Completion of the trail will provide an easy hike—almost a walk—along the north side of the river. A trail on the south side, visible in places from the new trail, will be improved under the accelerated public works program. The trail downstream from Whiskey creek also will be improved with the addition of toilet facilities and picnic tables along the route to Marial, about 23 miles from Whiskey creek.

Important to the construction of the trail has been the experienced miners who are handling explosives used in blasting through solid rock, and the gasoline-powered jackhammers used in drilling.

With the exception of the jackhammers and explosives, the trail is being built by men with shovels, picks, hoes, wheelbarrows, and a considerable amount of stamina to cope with the glaring hot sun on the face of the cliffs.

Progress Slow, Dangerous

In places, progress is slow and dangerous, especially in the cliff areas. But here again the experience of miners has paid off. Heavy

lines are used when the work requires men to literally hang-over the edge with a long drop into the swift current of the river.

Quenton Stone is general trail construction foreman, and Bob Pruitt, former Grants Pass city councilman, is camp boss. Pruitt also is a well-known river guide.

Construction of the Rogue river trail is not the only APW project in Josephine county.

Used in Reforestation

The BLM used APW personnel working in reforestation in a burned over area north of Grants Pass, and APW men were used in a snag falling operation. A timber stand improvement project is under way near Kerby in which the trees are thinned for better timber growth and value.

Josephine county and bureau of land management officials took a pre-opening hike along the new Rogue river trail last week.

On the inspection trip were Don McGregor and Louis Ringuette, Josephine county commissioners; Jack Sims, Josephine county recreation supervisor; Don Stiffler, manager of the Grants Pass office of the state employment service; Don Schofield, district manager of the BLM; Dick Schachter, Bob Hostetter, Wilson Edinger, Ray Johnson, and Jim Stoop, of the bureau of land management and representatives of area newspapers.



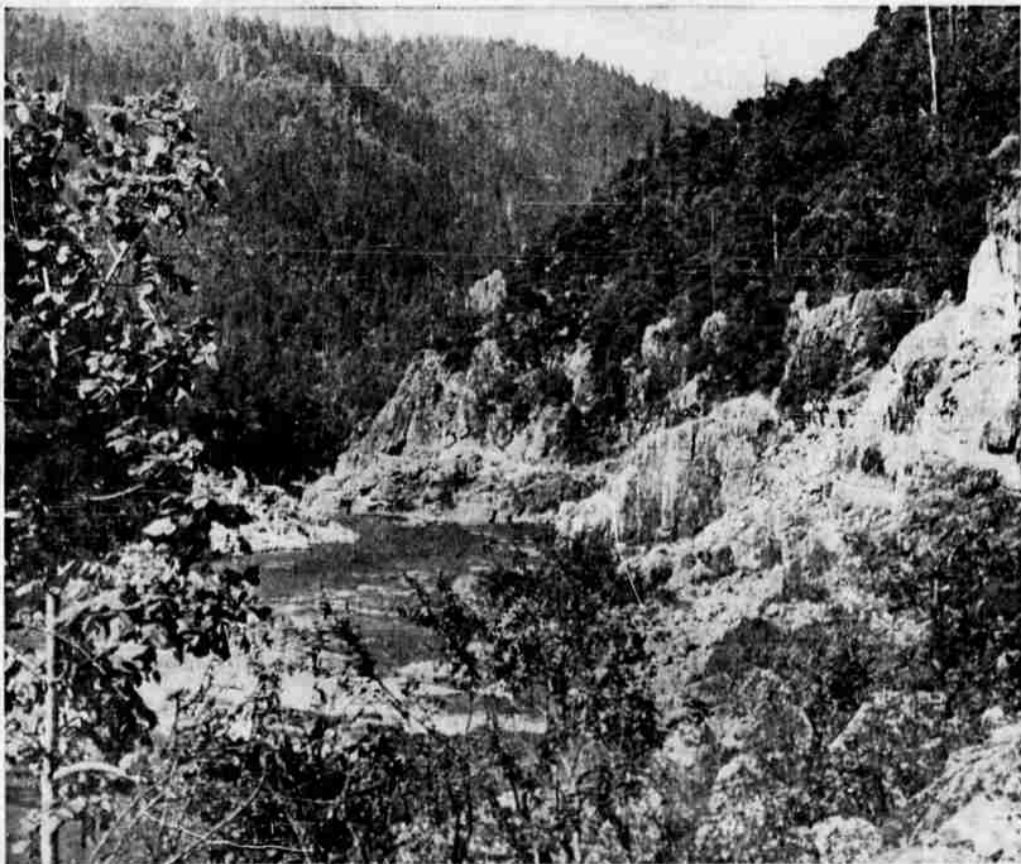
Phil Squires crouches on top of a cliff overlooking Rogue river breaking off rock loosened by a dynamite blast a few minutes earlier. The trail at this location will be about half way done.



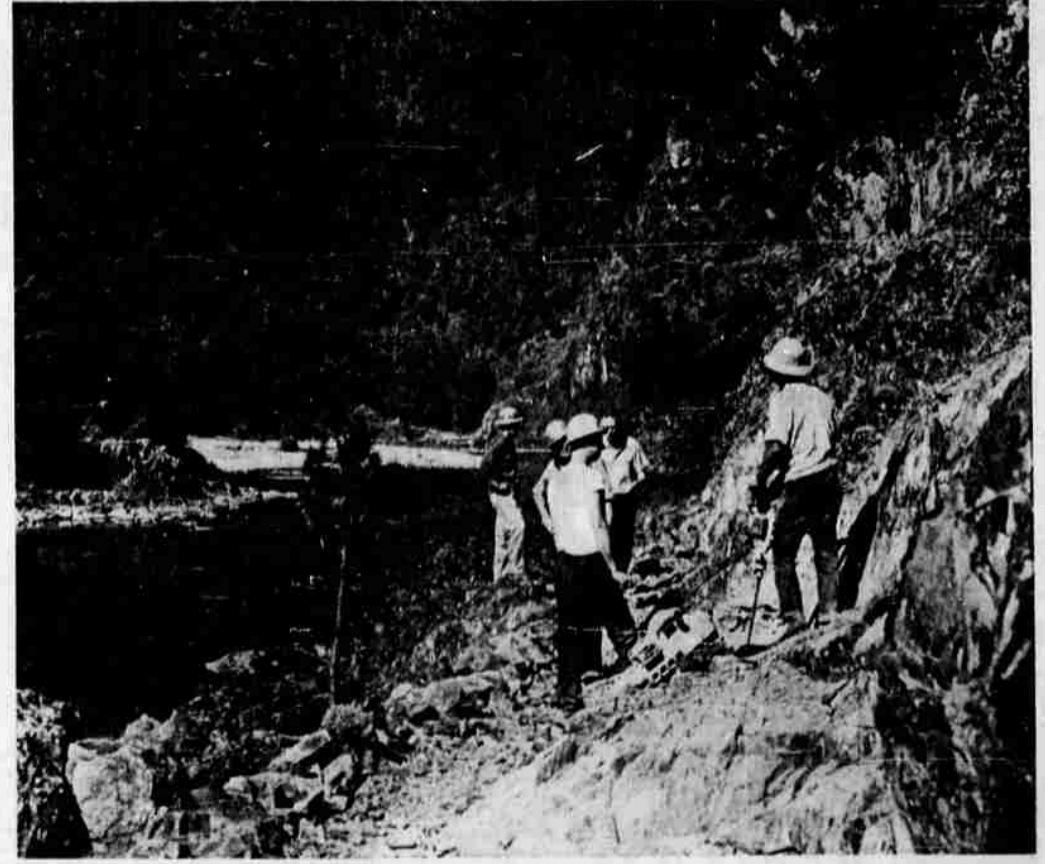
Explosives clear the way for much of the new four-mile section of the Rogue river trail on the north side of the river.



The new Rogue river trail, in some places, has been blasted out of solid rock, as at the location pictured above. When completed, the trail will provide access into an area where access has been limited.



This is typical of the country through which the new Rogue river trail, which is visible at the right of the picture, is being constructed. The scope of the project, and the ruggedness of the area can be visualized by the comparative size of the group of people on the trail at the right.



Men working under the accelerated public works program are shown above preparing a ledge for blasting. Explosives and the gasoline-powered jackhammers, visible above, are the only "power tools" in the construction of the Rogue river trail. Hand-laid rock rip-rap work is visible at the trail in the foreground.