

DAM CHRONICLE

CASCADE LOCKS, OREGON, OCTOBER 19, 1934

No. 29

ENGINEERS TO SUSPEND WORK ON 3 TUNNELS

Completion of Drainage System in Ruckle Slide to Be Held Pending Further Study.

Work of boring tunnels under the mountain west of the toll bridge for the purpose of draining the Ruckle slide has been halted on tunnel No. 1 at a distance of 200 feet, and will be halted in other tunnels shortly.

The engineers have failed to make any large flow of water and want to watch the results of the work done to date before advancing further into the mountainside.

Original plans provided that the tunnels be driven into the mountain to solid rock, but since no one has been able to determine the exact location of the Eagle creek formation under the slide some question exists whether anything can be gained by pushing the tunnels to greater depth.

Test holes are still being sunk into the surface in search of information that may give the engineers a clue to the whereabouts of the solid rock, but nothing of definite nature has been revealed.

One of the tunnels has been pushed to a point under the road that leads to the Harvey Fox farm in Cascade Locks, but only a small quantity of water is flowing out of it. Nor is much water coming out of the other tunnels.

Geologists cling to the opinion that in ages past the mountain slid forward toward the river and blocked the drainage and prevented the water from reaching the river. This, they say, causes the mountain to act like a bowl of jelly.

The engineers have found boulders mixed with bits of wood and gravel as they progressed into the mountainside, and from this know the mountain has slid forward time and again. It was to stop the slides by releasing the water that tunneling was undertaken by the government.

A request has been made by the engineers for permission to start work on two more tunnels. If the request is granted work will be started this fall and carried on through the winter.

BUSINESS BLOCK AT DAM TO BE OPENED BY FIRST

First block in Bonneville's new business district is nearing completion and the several store rooms in it will be ready for occupancy before the end of the month.

First room to the west will be occupied by the telephone company's exchange; the second by a drug store; the third by the Bonneville Mercantile company; the fourth by a bar, card room and pool hall, and the fifth, on the east end, by the Bonneville Coffee Shop.

A. L. Funk, superintendent in charge of the work for George H. Buckler company, contractor on the job, will start a crew to painting the building this week.

CLODFELTER BUYS MORE PROPERTY; ENLARGES

H. R. Clodfelter, son of S. O. Clodfelter, is preparing to build on that portion of his father's lot now occupied by the building which housed the vegetable stand. The Clodfelters have purchased the property, thus giving them full frontage on the street. The old building now on the lot is being moved onto the lot adjoining the property on the west and will be occupied by Elmer Electric & Variety Store. Jack Eimer has been busy all week finishing up the inside of the building and building tables.

TUG BOAT FIRM IS KEPT BUSY; EMPLOYS 7 MEN

One of the concerns doing work on the dam is the Smith & Rosenbeck Towing company of Cascade Locks. At present it has in operation a fleet of three boats and employs around seven men.

The Warco, largest of the fleet, is perhaps the fastest tug on the river. Powered with a Superior full diesel motor, it has been used in towing piling for one of the temporary railroad spurs. The Betty, another of the fleet, has been used in moving barges and dredges in the main channel. Both the Betty and the Doris have been used in towing piling for trestles on the temporary railroad work.

The Doris, which belongs to "Hank" Rosenbeck, has recently been overhauled and two new motors installed. One of these motors is a Packard generating 555 H. P. and the other is a Van Bleurk 65 H. P.

The remainder of the fleet is tied up for the winter. These boats will also be placed in active service with the coming of warm weather in the spring.

OFFICIAL FROM ALUMINUM COMPANY VISITS IN LOCKS

A. G. Garland, of the Aluminum Company of America, which is controlled by Andrew Mellon, former U. S. secretary of treasury, has been in and out of Cascade Locks for the past week. His presence in town has given rise to a report that the huge eastern corporation is carrying on an intensive study of opportunities in the district with a view to utilizing power from Bonneville dam.

The Mellons are said to be closely identified with the Bohn Aluminum and Brass company of Detroit, which asked the federal government to give it the rate that will be charged for power after the dam is in operation.

The Detroit company, a heavy consumer of electrical energy, and uses scrap aluminum and sells much of its products to the Ford Motor company.

Garland has declined to discuss the purpose of his visits to Cascade Locks and his refusal to talk has had the result of heightening interest in his presence in the district. So far as can be learned he has not sought options on any property.

MERRILL WILL OPEN PAVILION WITH BIG BALL

Large Floor, Now Under Roof, Is to Be Used First Time on Saturday Night October 27.

"Jim" Merrill's new dance pavilion, recognized as the largest dance floor between Portland and Pendleton, will be thrown open to the public at a Halloween ball on the night of October 27.

Opening night falls on Saturday and plans are under way to throw a dance that will attract pleasure seekers from The Dalles, Hood River, Stevenson, Portland and Vancouver.

Covered with a hip roof which rises 36 feet above the floor, the pavilion is of sufficient size to accommodate several hundred people. It is being equipped with rest and check rooms and will be heated with a furnace.

Fame of the pavilion has already spread up and down the highway and promises to bring large crowds to Cascade Locks for the dances this winter. Merrill proposes to install a 7-piece orchestra, employ a master of ceremonies and put on dances that will surpass anything to which the public in surrounding towns has been accustomed. Choice of the orchestra for the opening night has not been announced, but it will be one of the best in Portland.

Originally built as an open-air pavilion, the floor has not been injured by the rains. The floor is of hemlock and will have to be scraped and sanded, but after the work is completed should be in better condition than when laid last summer.

Merrill has not determined as yet whether he will hold dances oftener than once a week, but he proposes to use the pavilion every Saturday night. If the mid-week crowds are of sufficient size he will hold dances on Wednesday nights.

The orchestra pit is being installed in the center of the floor, which is 62x82 feet. The hipped roof will provide acoustics which will make the music clear and sharp in every corner of the room.

People who visit the pavilion are surprised at the immensity of it, for the floor appears to be much larger than formerly now that it is enclosed. Visitors from other towns are strong in their praise of it and are helping to advertise it in Portland and elsewhere.

The pavilion will be available for rent and is expected to provide an amusement center for groups, societies and organizations desiring to put on dances.

EAGLES TO ORGANIZE AERIE IN CASCADE LOCKS

The Cascade Locks-Bonneville Aerie of Eagles will be founded Thursday night when a large class is to be initiated into the order at a ceremony to be directed by visiting Eagles from Stevenson.

The initiation will be held in "Jim" Merrill's new pavilion. The building will not be entirely completed, but it has been enclosed and is being made ready for use by the Eagles.

ODD FELLOWS SOON TO COMMENCE REBUILDING

The Odd Fellows appear to be approaching a position where they can start rebuilding on their corner. Work on the new building would have been under way a month ago except for the fact that the fraternal order has experienced more than its share of trouble in collecting its insurance.

A. W. Meyer has been in Portland for several days endeavoring to get the insurance adjusted, and it was believed early in the week that the lodge would be prepared to start work within 10 days on the new building.

RIP RAPING OF RUCKLE SLIDE TO BE STARTED

Kern & Kibbe, sub-contractors on the railroad work, will commence ripraping the mountainside just west of the toll bridge within three weeks.

Thousands of tons of rock taken from the excavation for the powerhouse and locks, and this will be used by the contractors in facing the mountainside in an effort to hold back Ruckle slide.

Ripraping is to be carried on between the toll bridge and Eagle creek. Much of the rock for the project will be taken from the tunnel which is to be driven beneath Tooth Rock, just west of Eagle creek. Other rock will be obtained from the bluff on which the Samuel C. Lancaster cabin stands, overlooking the reservation.

Preliminary work is being pushed by the contractors, and the Union Pacific is putting in a trestle at the locks to expedite work of getting rock off the reservation.

JUST RUMORS

A physician is preparing to locate in Cascade Locks, according to the latest report of our undercover man. Three or four doctors have been in town within the past three weeks looking over the field, so we are unable to establish the identity of the particular individual who has made up his mind to settle in the idistrict.

Then there is the report that the defunct Checkerboard Inn is about to reform and become a sedate moving picture theater. This is only a rumor, of course, and since our undercover man refuses to vouch for the story we shall play safe, too, and decline to pass it along as a fact.

Fresh interest is being exhibited in vacant business property by Portland people, who are said to be seeking locations for different lines of business in the district. No hot deals have been recorded during the week, but three or four are pending and may break any day now.

It only takes one small jack to lift up an automobile, but it takes a lot of jack to keep it up.

CONTRACTORS START TUNNEL FOR RAILROAD

Right of Way Cleared and Crews Busy on Viaduct Bridge at Dam and Eagle Creek.

With the right of way for the new line of the Union Pacific railroad tracks between Tanner and Eagle creeks cleared, Orin, Bell & Malcolm, contractors, are preparing to drive a 620-foot tunnel under a ledge of the mountain extending down to the river, just west of Eagle creek.

The Kuckenberg-Wittman company, Portland sub-contractors on the Eagle creek bridge, has a crew of 20 men at work excavating for the pier and abutments for the bridge and hope to complete the job within a few weeks.

Berkmeier & Sarmier, sub-contractors on the Tanner creek viaduct at the fish hatchery, have another crew busy excavating for the piers to carry the tracks onto the reservation, and expect to commence pouring concrete within a short time.

A concrete mixer is being erected on the reservation near the huge rock dump pile. Concrete for the Tanner creek and Eagle creek jobs will be mixed there. Tanner creek piers will require 6500 square yards of concrete.

The contract held by Orin, Bell & Malcolm ends at Eagle creek. Their contract must be finished by late spring. When the second section, from Eagle creek to the toll bridge, will be let has not been determined, but probably not before the first of the year, if then.

The new roadbed, tunnel, viaduct and bridge will be of sufficient width to carry a double track, but only one track will be laid by the government.

Steel work for the Eagle creek bridge is not included in the present contract, but will be let at a later date and laid when the second unit is started.

Whether the railroad will be carried east from Eagle creek to the river through a tunnel or an open cut has not been determined, but at any rate indications are that a change will be necessary in the highway at the point where it winds up the hill.

The state highway commission and railroad company are still sparring over a joint right of way through Ruckle side. Numerous crews of surveyors have been running lines up the hill at Eagle creek, but no definite locations have been established.

Veterans of Foreign Wars will meet Tuesday night at the fridge of the Gods hotel to nominate and elect officers. Owing to the interest in the election the meeting promises to be well attended.

OFFICE HOURS

Our Bonneville office located on the second floor of Tyrell's Tavern, is open every afternoon from 1 p. m. until 4:30. News items, subscriptions and ads may be left at this office.