

ECHOES of the GORGE

THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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BONNEVILLE CASCADE LOCKS

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OBS MOPS UP BIG CUT, TURNS TO NEW GRADE

Orino, Birkemeir and Saremal are feeling good about their work of relocating the Union Pacific around the dam. Their 110-foot cut east of Eagle creek is just about completed in record time for the equipment used. All that remains to be done is sloping away the sides and cleaning it up. Three shovels and an average of 12 trucks have removed approximately 370,000 yards of excavation, largely rock.

Center of OBS work now shifts to making the new railroad grade between Tooth rock tunnel, which Orino, Bell and Malcom are finishing up, and the View point. As soon as the grade is finished, which OBS hopes will be in several weeks, its trucks will start rolling down it to carry away the excavation of the View point. OBS wants to get the point cut away before the rainy season starts.

Blasting was begun several weeks ago on the west side of the point, entire tip of which is to be removed to make way for the railroad, but its rock was found too large to be used to widen the railroad grade just west of Tanner creek. Material will come from other sources, to be determined by U. S. engineers. Excavating was then stopped, to be resumed when grade between the tunnel and the point is ready for trucks.

Big steel girders to complete Eagle creek railroad bridge are being delayed at the plant and will not arrive until about October 1, although due September 1. OBS plans building a temporary wood bridge to carry its trucks across the stream.

The View point excavation will be largely a drill and shoot job to remove 183,000 yards of what is almost all solid rock. Soil has been removed from the top. The rock will be trucked down the grade to near the toll bridge, where it will be dumped as riprap along the river to prevent washing away of the bank.

At the toll bridge end of the work, Brent Sturgill company, Inc., is making rapid progress in building the new grade. Subcontracting under OBS, Sturgill is moving from 2000 to 3000 yards a day, advancing westward. Its \$40,000 contract is expected to last six weeks, employ on the average 30 men a day.

FIRE DESTROYS HOME OF ERNEST MERKINS

Fire originating in the flue destroyed the home of Ernest Merkins, a dam employee at Eagle Creek Tuesday night.

Through efforts of the forest service pumps the fire was prevented from spreading to other homes.

The fire was discovered shortly after 11 o'clock. The family was asleep.

The house was recently moved to make way for the new railroad cut.

KAYO RECOVERS FROM 12,000-POUND HIGHLINE BUCKET SLAP; BRUISED

"Spanked" last week by the 12,000-pound highline bucket, Al Kayo, highline rider for General-Shea on the powerhouse, expected to return to work yesterday or today after a short stay in St. Vincent's hospital in Portland.

Kayo was standing on the bucket as it made one of its trips too close to the power house upper deck. The bucket hit a pile of planks, catapulted Kayo to the concrete. As he tried to scramble away, the bucket, now swinging wildly, swatted him from one slab across a hole 85 feet deep to another slab, left him laying.

In the hospital, Kayo recovered from severe bruises. His friends are telling him he is undoubtedly one of the luckiest men in the world.

MAYOR, COUNCIL TO TAKE OFFICE IN TWO WEEKS

Mayor-elect Nelson, members of the city council and other members of Cascade Locks first city administration will be sworn into office right after September 3.

The successful candidates cannot take over their official duties until they receive their certificates of election. The law directs that the certificates shall be issued by the board of county commissioners at its first regular meeting. The board meets September 3. The mayor and council, city recorder, city marshal and city treasurer will probably take over their duties the next day.

Meeting Monday night the members-elect of the administration discussed their duties and sought the advice on proper procedure from Teunis Wyers, Hood River lawyer, who is to become acting city attorney.

Wyers told Mayor-elect Nelson and the council that the city government would function under a group of laws enacted some years ago by the state legislature. These laws constitute what, in older incorporated towns, amounts to a charter. The numerous acts prescribe the powers of the municipality and gives it authority to regulate the affairs of the community through local laws, or ordinances. After hearing the Hood River lawyer, the mayor directed him to prepare a group of preliminary ordinances which can be acted upon at the proper season.

The meeting Monday night was held in a room in Seth O. Clodfelter's building, where the stage station is located. It was agreed that council meetings would be held there every Monday night. The room will seat 25 or 30 people. Chairs will be provided for the accommodation of people who may wish to attend the weekly meetings.

Leaky Crib Floods Inside Of Cofferdam, Retards Spillway Dam Progress

Work of excavating the main spillway dam foundation was halted inside the main crib cofferdam Monday afternoon for what is believed to be most of the week, when crib No. 8 sprang a bad leak, flooding the cofferdam.

MEANS SOUGHT TO GIVE LOCKS WATER SYSTEM

A. W. Myers, owner of the water system which provides Cascade Locks with a large share of its drinking water, is preparing to chlorinate the supply, as directed by the state board of health, he said yesterday.

Meantime, the newly elected mayor and city council are studying the water problem with a view to determining what action can be taken toward giving the community a municipal water system.

Efforts to clear up the pollution in the water supply has led nowhere to date, and both the state and federal government are reported to be uncertain whether the source of contamination can be located.

It is said about town that the government is preparing to abandon the small line which supplies the families at the Locks with water and take the domestic supply off the large 10-inch line that comes down through town past the Bridge of The Gods hotel. To do this the government would be compelled to fence off Dry creek and run a line up the mountain toward Dry creek falls. C. A. Saunders, superintendent at the Locks, refused to confirm or deny the report.

"I have nothing to give out," he said.

Methods to be pursued in financing a municipal water system appears to be a problem which cannot be solved until a study of the law has been completed by attorneys and a study of existing water systems have been made by engineers.

At the office of the state board of health in Portland it was said two weeks ago that a chlorinating machine, necessary to purify the water, would cost about \$750, but Myers says he has an inexpensive method of chlorinating. The method, he declared, has the approval of the health board.

The water, although labeled unfit for drinking purposes, does not show a high bacteria count and is not really as bad as it sounds. However, with the source of pollution still a mystery the state fears it may suddenly become worse and bring on an epidemic of typhoid fever. Should the bacteria count become too high before the chlorination system is working the state will advise the public to boil all drinking water.

The leak was anticipated by U. S. engineers, who were in readiness to drive a section of sheet steel piling to plug it. Twenty-six additional men were called to work immediately. The cofferdam had been pumped practically dry at the time.

The leak was caused when the Columbia river's 22 mile-an-hour current past the dam washed under the bottom of the crib, in the outside, upstream position. Columbia Construction company pulled out all its equipment, including the big monaghan dragline and two smaller shovels, from the bottom. In an hour and a half after the pumps were stopped water had risen five and one-half feet and U. S. engineers were letting the cofferdam flood until the break could be plugged.

The crib itself is not believed damaged. Engineers plan to drive a section of sheet steel piling, extra "T" joints for which were provided when the cofferdam was built last year, at the break to effectively plug it. Three days, they said, should see the leak stopped so Columbia could begin once again the work of pumping the cofferdam out to resume work on the spillway.

The leak is regarded as serious because it delays the spillway job, previously held up several weeks by continued high water.

Democrats to Meet at Rally

Democrats of the district will rally Friday night when the Cascade Locks Democratic club holds another social evening at the Bridge of The Gods hotel. Dodgers announced the meeting and emphasizing the fact that the occasion is one for democrats only, have been spread about.

J. A. Merrill, president of the club, is in southern Oregon with his family on a brief vacation, but is expected back in time to preside. Refreshments, music and speaking will be features of the evening.

FULGHAM BUILDS LOG CABIN

John Fulgham and son, Henry, have just completed a small log cabin on the bluff overlooking the Columbia gorge east of Cascade Locks. The cabin is the result of six-weeks of work, is beautifully built of fir logs with the bark left on. Even the windows slide back in rustic frames. The Fulghams are now building rustic furniture with which to furnish it. They plan to use it as a retreat to which they can take friends.

STILL UP IN AIR

The Chronicle last week suggested that the officers in the numerous civic organizations should resign and permit the people as a whole to organize one strong body which would be free of politics. To date none have offered to step aside or take the lead in bringing all the business men together in a single group. That is unfortunate because the business men are tired of the bickering and the town is tired of it. Some of these days the public will act on its own initiative. No town in Oregon has a brighter future if permitted to develop.

SENATOR McNARY

With a special session of the legislature just around the corner and ambitious self starters grooming themselves for the spring primary election, politics will soon be commanding considerable attention. Senator McNary must seek re-election next year and democrats and republicans are beginning to talk of the fight which will be made upon him by the war veterans, who have not forgotten that he voted against the bonus.

HE WAS HUNGRY

An old man sat over a plate of food at the lunch counter in the Lakeside hotel the other day. He wolfed the food ravenously like one who had not eaten for a long time. He had entered the hotel to beg a meal. Joe Burt watched him eat.

"That man was hungry," he said, "we can't feed them all, but we try to take care of our share of them."

Somehow, we were reminded of what Jesus said:

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these, the least of mine, also have ye done unto me."

SCHOOL AFFAIRS

People of Cascade Locks, disgusted with operation of the county unit school system, find themselves helpless to escape. The law must be amended before the town can enjoy home rule in its school affairs. Action to this end might be taken at the special session of the legislature if parents of the community will act promptly and lay the situation before Governor Martin. The schools are being run by a group of men in a distant part of the county, and they in turn are largely dominated by Superintendent Gibson.

It is not commonly known but Superintendent Gibson was reemployed for another year at a meeting held prior to the school election. These things will continue to go on until the people of Cascade Locks to before the legislature and insist upon the present law being amended in a manner that will enable them to regain control of their schools and their school moneys.

FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED

Cascade Locks residents are still required to obtain forest service permits to burn slash, rubbish or debris of any kind. District Ranger Roy L. Weeman of Columbia Gorge station said.