

THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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This Week's Thought
New Year Greetings
to Chronicle Subscribers

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BONNEVILLE

HOOD RIVER

CASCADE LOCKS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1937

Gorge Citizens Seek Reopening of Columbia

Thirty representatives of Mid-Columbia communities met at The Dalles Monday to consider the order issued last week by Lieutenant Colonel C. F. Williams, district engineer, closing the Columbia river to water traffic for one year beginning January 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams' statement said unprecedented low water on the Columbia and greater progress in dam construction than anticipated would force the closing of the navigation lock at Bonneville until December 31, 1937, to both east- and west-bound traffic.

A committee of seven men was named to compile data showing the river should be kept open, and to confer with the United States engineers on methods by which this objective might be reached.

Chairman will be W. S. Nelson of The Dalles, who will be aided by Bernard Pollard of White Salmon, C. L. Nellor of The Dalles, O. W. Gustafson of The Dalles, G. B. Gronewald of The Dalles, Lew Russell of Portland, J. H. Travis of Hood River and Cascade Locks and C. T. Smith of The Dalles.

At the meeting spokesmen brought out that much freight is already being moved through the locks at Bonneville, bound in both directions; that the Shaver Forwarding company and Inland Navigation company have spent large sums on floating stock and shore facilities; the Inland company having been ordered by the Interstate Commerce commission to have at least one boat in operation by February 15; and that development of river transport would be delayed almost two years by this move.

Efforts of the engineers to develop the Columbia for navigation were praised by those present, but they deplored any closing of the river for a considerable period.

DAM AREA RECEIVES FIRST SNOW TUESDAY

A shift of wind to the northeast following several days of rainy weather brought the dam area its first snowfall of the season Tuesday night. The fall was light, running from one to two inches, depending on altitude.

Temperature rose slightly above freezing Wednesday morning so that the Columbia River highway was in fairly good condition for travel, especially as state highway trucks immediately sanded the most dangerous curves, and scraped heavily covered sections.

The gorge can expect lower temperatures and possibly more snow for the next few days.

CHAMBERLAIN-McCULLOUGH

Mr. Bill Chamberlain and Lucille McCullough of Bonneville were married Christmas eve at Stevenson, Mrs. Rich, wife of Jimmy Rich of the Super Service Station, acted as bride's maid, and Al Harris, of Portland, formerly of Bonneville, was best man. The happy couple are now residing in a cabin in Cook's Addition. They spent Christmas eve in Portland and Christmas day in Hood River at Mrs. Chamberlain's parents' home.

Work Starts On Third Step Cofferdams

Divers are working in swift and chill waters to help set 20-ton steel bulkheads which will support huge concrete slabs to form the downstream seal for the third step cofferdams between piers in the south half of the dam.

There will be two bulkhead sections between each set of piers, but as there is only one set of bulkheads the work of cofferdamming and pouring the ogee sections will be done one section at a time.

After the downstream seal is complete, stoplogs will be placed between the upstream edges of the piers and the intervening water pumped out. Forms will then be placed and the ogee sections poured.

Each ogee bay will require about 3500 cubic yards of concrete. The base of the third step stands at minus 8 feet, and the top of the curve will reach plus 24 feet, a net gain in height of 32 feet. Gates of the spillway dam eventually will rest against the top of the ogee sections.

POURING UNDER WAY ON TUNNEL PROJECT

Some light, sporadic shooting has been done in the west entrance to the Tooth Rock Columbia River highway tunnel, but at present efforts are being concentrated on completing pouring of concrete lining in parts of the tunnel already dug.

The base section has been poured on each side nearly the entire length of the east shaft, and several of the overhead sections are entirely complete. Two sets of movable steel forms are being used for the pouring.

Ringstones on the west portal are all in, and the masonry wall east of the east portal is done.

The stretch of highway through the tunnel will be 22 feet wide, concreted, with rock shoulder and a rock footpath on each side.

ENGINEERS OFF

Another long holiday will be enjoyed this week by employees of the United States engineers, who will get New Year's day and Saturday off, according to official announcement, except those who will make up the skeleton maintenance staff.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Williams, district engineer, wrote a public letter to employees of the engineers, thanking them for their loyalty and cooperation, and wishing them a prosperous New Year.

CABIN STILL PLANNED

Answering several queries which have been put since the Cascade Locks Scout troop announced it would probably take over the grade school gymnasium as a meeting room this winter, Scoutmaster M. L. Morgan says the troop has not abandoned plans for building its cabin, but has merely postponed work until weather clears up in the spring.

FISHLADDER WORK PUSHED; PIERS RISE

Work in the north cofferdam area is being concentrated to some extent on the fishladder, where Columbia Construction company crews are carrying on the difficult forming and pouring of diffusion chambers and vents which will underlie the base slabs of the ladder itself. Most current work is being done in sections 11, 14 and 15.

Only 2000 yards of concrete was poured last week, due chiefly to the long Christmas lay-off. Forms are being erected now which will carry seven of the eight piers to plus 76 feet.

The pier 1 training wall stands complete at a level of plus 55 feet, and will require only a connecting bridge, lights and guard rail to attain final form.

On the south side, the girder span between piers 10 and 11 will be the next one done.

Bonneville Rates May Be Fixed Soon

Plans of the national administration for a country-wide policy of integrating large power developments are expected to be submitted to congress early in the coming session, news dispatches yesterday revealed.

Proposed wholesale rates for Bonneville power have been prepared by the federal power commission, and it is expected the rates will be put in effect by enabling legislation. Similar measures drawn up by the four northwestern senators failed of enactment at the close of the last session.

It is likely the rates will be established with an eye to ultimate completion of the Grand Coulee and Fort Peck projects, in order to forestall competitive rates.

LOCKS CHAMBER WILL BACK NEGOTIATIONS

The Cascade Locks chamber of commerce Tuesday noon voted to endorse the activities of a special committee headed by W. S. Nelson of The Dalles which is negotiating with United States engineers to keep the Columbia river open during 1937 instead of closing it, as announced, from January 15 to December 31.

Nelson drove down from The Dalles Tuesday morning and conferred with members of the chamber who are interested in the move.

The meeting marked the opening of the new term of office of Ira Owen, president, re-elected at last Tuesday's meeting, and his staff of officers.

TRAVIS ARRIVES

A welcome sight to Jack Travis was the low winged Army monoplane that came roaring down the gorge late yesterday afternoon.

The ship was piloted by Lt. James Travis, brother of Jack, and had been weather-bound first in Boise, and then Pendleton, since the day before Christmas when Lt. Travis had flown up from March field in California by the inside route on his way to Portland for Christmas.

The ship was the most modern of Army pursuit ships.

Mrs. W. J. Carlson fell ill with the flu the first part of this week.

Unavoidable, Declare Engineers of Closure

Legionnaires Send Sacks To Bandon

Several dozen sacks of toys remaining from the 335 sacks prepared for the American Legion children's Christmas party last week at the Bonneville auditorium were sent to Bandon families, the Legionnaires report.

About 200 children who attended the party received balloons and masks, in addition to candy and toys.

The program, put on by Bonneville school children, was so well received that several numbers were given curtain calls. Marjorie Marvin and Charles Sedler, who danced in colonial costume, were given two enthusiastic calls, and Mary Cook and Frances Linton, who read "Two Little Nigger Dolls," dressed in blackface, were called upon for an encore. The school orchestra also put on a superior performance.

Maxine Keyes performed a major mental feat by memorizing a magazine story, "The Star of Bethlehem," which required 14 minutes for presentation. She was prompted only twice.

The flag drill, which prompted much applause, was directed by Miss Barnum of Bonneville school. Other teachers who helped prepare the numbers were Miss Galasheff, Miss Merritt, and Mrs. O'Keefe. Mrs. I. E. Burks played the piano for the dances and flag drill.

Jeff Olsen, past-commander of the American Legion, presented an American flag to the Bonneville Boy Scout troop, No. 389, on behalf of the Legion, and Harrell Kanzler made the speech of acceptance.

Santa Claus, aided by the Scouts, then distributed presents to the children. The entire program consumed only one and one-half hours.

Firms which donated materials for the party were the Oregon Journal, which gave balloons and marks; Epping's Red and White store, Cascade Locks, nuts and candy and oranges; and the Bonneville Mercantile company, material for Christmas stockings. The stockings themselves were made by members of the Bonneville Women's Community club. C. C. C. boys cut and delivered the Christmas tree.

Charles Sedler, Marjorie Marvin and Elaine Regnier, acrobatic dancer, were coached by Miss Thelma Robison of Portland. Miss Regnier, formerly one of the Young Oregonians' topnotchers, is available for club or other organization entertainments.

Master of ceremonies at the party was Ed Clark, the Legion's community service chairman.

C. C. C. TO DANCE

Enrollees of C. C. C. company 4765, stationed at Wyeth, will entertain at a public dance Wednesday night, December 30 at the camp. Johnny Walker's orchestra will play for the affair.

At least a 10-months' closure of the Columbia during final stages of construction has been contemplated since plans were first completed. United States engineer officials said yesterday in explaining the recent order to close the river to water traffic at Bonneville from January 15 to December 31, 1937.

Completion of the hump-backed ogee sections between the piers on the south side of the river, already under way, will create a miniature dam from the Oregon to the Washington shore, and will increase the head at the navigation locks about 30 feet. The stoplogs at present used in the locks were designed for a maximum head of 12 feet, and greater pressure would break out the concrete flanges which back up the stoplogs.

The engineers plan to take advantage of this river condition by moving up the date for installing big mitre gates in the locks from next fall to the coming spring. The big gap in the upstream sill, left open to permit passage of boats while the water was low during dam construction, will be filled with concrete, and the chain fender blocks will be poured. A small cofferdam will be thrown across the channel above the locks while this work is in progress.

There is little that can be done to keep river traffic moving during 1937, the engineers say, holding out little hope to upriver shippers and transportation companies who are demanding that some sort of provision be made for moving cargoes past the dam.

CARNIVAL BALL IS LISTED AT GARDENS

Johnny Walker, the tall tale-telling Texan, and his tintinabulating tooters will toll out tons of tricky tunes Thursday night, December 31, at Columbia Gardens in the big New Year's Eve event.

The spirit of carnival will swoop unfettered through the hall, which will be gay with laughter, confetti, horns and whatnot, provided by the management.

Here's something to ponder: This will be your last opportunity to dance to the music of Johnny Walker's boys in 1936. It will also be their fourth dance in eight days, as they tripled up on the big Christmas week-end.

B. R. A. PLANS DANCE

New Year's Eve will be celebrated at Bonneville by the Bonneville Recreation association, which is sponsoring a dance Thursday night at the civic auditorium, with Jimmy Amato's orchestra furnishing the music.

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Piper and Kenneth were in Cascade Locks Tuesday after spending Christmas with relatives in western Washington. The Pipers stopped in Warrendale where Kenneth visited Harrison Wade.

A. T. Lovell, formerly of Cascade Locks, who has lived in Doris, California, since September, was visiting his folks in Cascade Locks over the holidays.