

# THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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CASCADE LOCKS

BONNEVILLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1938

## Freight Train Derailed at Oneonta

A giant boulder late Tuesday night tumbled down the cliffs of the Columbia Gorge to land on the Union Pacific tracks just before an 86-car freight train traveling west was due at the point.

Heroic efforts of two state highway patrolmen to avert the train crashing into the boulder were in vain. The freight train, roaring through the Gorge, plowed into the boulder, sending 26 cars into a jack-knifed heap that blocked traffic.

Marvin Lund, Troutdale, ran toward the train waving a flashlight, according to the state highway department, but its faint rays did no good. On the rock Lund and J. E. Buntin, also of Troutdale, had already placed a yellow flare but the train was proceeding at a speed too great to permit stopping.

The crash occurred 500 feet east of milepost 32 near Oneonta. The 6000-pound rock that caused the smash rolled down gorge cliffs and jumped the Columbia river highway in a 40-foot leap and rolled to the center of the track.

Although tracks are paralleled through much of the gorge by an electric fence, a precaution against just such accidents, there is none at this point, no trouble with falling rock ever having been experienced before. Had the rock struck a "hot" fence it would have set block signals automatically, thus stopping the train before the mishap. Approximately 250 feet of track was ripped up.

The locomotive that pulled the heavy load did not overturn after leaving the tracks, a fact that probably saved lives of the engine crew.

News reports yesterday gave credit for averting what could easily have been a fatal crash to Jay T. Rorick, who was at the locomotive throttle. Rorick, formerly of The Dalles, but now of Portland, through his manipulation of the locomotive, prevented greater damage in the crash, it is reported.

Estimates of damage could not be determined immediately but Union Pacific officials said it will be "considerable." The freight cars carried merchandise and a large quantity of wheat coming in from Eastern Oregon and Washington fields.

The train, No. 215, is a composite of Eastern Washington and Oregon cars. No train was following at the time and rail schedules were almost normal. Passenger train No. 11, due here from Spokane at 7:35 a. m., was a half hour late but No. 17 rolled in at 7:35 a. m. on time. Trains crossed to the Washington side at the Oregon Trunk junction east of The Dalles.

## Sunday School Tots Have Christmas Party

The beginners' Sunday School class of Cascade Locks was entertained at a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. B. C. Nelson on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Irene Walker received the prize for the school age group and Leonard Glazier carried home honors for the younger group. Refreshments of Christmas jello, cookies and candies were served. Present were Nina and Leonard Glazier, Irene Walker, Marvin Miastrell, Rodney and Gay Hawkins, Donald Davenport, Carlyle Lawrence, Robert Harrison, Joyce Cole, Earlene Rhodes, Thomas Harrison, Jean Scott, Barbara and Elli Nelson and Mesdames Carlisle Harrison, Tom Cole, Francis Randolph, R. J. Wuner and Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Nelson. Later in the afternoon the following group of friends joined the party for a pleasant hour of conversation and refreshments: Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Harrison and Mr. R. J. Wuner.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Smeltzer and son, Mr. and Mrs. F. Nackleby and Mrs. Morgan of Canada, North Dakota, arrived last Thursday for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Smeltzer and family on their way to Oakland, California.



... from *The Chronicle*

## Edifice To House Offices For Dam

Yesterday and today are moving days for 162 employees of the Bonneville project, now scattered through several Portland buildings. They will move into the new administration building constructed by the Lloyd corporation at a cost of \$90,000 at 811 Northeast Oregon street.

The Bonneville project has leased the building, which was constructed especially for that purpose. Seven departments to be moved to the structure are land, legal, procurement, project and contract, information, administration and finance.

### Tons To Be Moved

Forty tons of furniture, files and other equipment will be transferred from temporary offices in the Fajling and Guardian buildings and from the Bonneville annex at 1300 Northeast Union avenue. Engineering and construction divisions will remain in the annex.

The building is of reinforced concrete and glass block construction. The interior is finished with fir and the flooring of linoleum and tile.

Ertz & Burns, architects, said the structure utilizes more glass block than any other Portland structure. The building is one story high, 100 by 200 feet, contains 17,000 square feet of office space on the main floor and 3000 square feet in the basement. Exterior will be of plaster and painted white.

A striking entrance utilizes gleaming copper and many lights.

## Electric Sales Take Sharp Drop

SALEM—October commercial sales of electricity dropped approximately 1½ million kilowatt hours below September, State Utility Commissioner Wallace reported Wednesday.

This reduction terminated a five months' steady rise and causes disparity between 1938 and 1937 to be increased from 4.09 per cent in September to 6.59 per cent in October. Residential and domestic service including rural ceased to follow past precedents to increase over the preceding months and fell 171,624 kilowatt hours short of the all-time high set in September. October sales were 334,278 kilowatt hours greater than August and 9.79 per cent greater than October of last year.

### Revenues Mount Up

Wallace's report shows that while the residential and commercial kilowatt hour sales were less than in September, the revenues for these classes of service increased.

Although sales to ultimate consumers, such as commercial and residential, dropped below September they are still 300,000 kilowatt hours greater than in August.

Sales to other electric utilities continued to surge upward to 23,891,224 kilowatt hours, an increase of 1,888,844 kilowatt hours over the all-time high set in September and 111.15 per cent greater than in October, 1937.

The large increase was due mainly to increased sales by the Northwestern Electric company.

Albert Anderson is visiting his mother, Mrs. Marie Whitman, in Portland for a few days.

## Power Enthusiast Builds Tiniest Motor

A workable electric motor, small enough to fit the setting of a modest engagement ring, has been produced in the Pacific Northwest, home of such power giants as the Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dams.

Built to operate on 54 ten-billionths of one horsepower of energy, the motor was constructed by Merl (cq) Bassett who is associated with the Cowlitz County (Washington) public utility district. It took 94 hours to build and is slightly more than 12/100 of an inch in diameter. Fourteen motors like it could be placed on a single dime.

When Bassett brought the midget motor to the offices of the Bonneville Project in Portland recently, the entire staff marveled at the minute workmanship. J. D. Ross, Bonneville Administrator, declared it to be the tiniest bit of construction he had ever seen. Power from one of Bonneville's huge generators would furnish wattage to operate one and one-third billion such motors.

The rotor has 19 pieces and was made from a No. 6 box nail. It has a squirrel-cage winding of No. 36 enameled wire. The screws, also made from nails, are 14/1000 of an inch in diameter.

Other motor data: volts, .0017; amperes, .0121; ohms, 14; watts, .00020074; power factor, 80 per cent; and efficiency, 24 per cent.

Bassett believes his creation to be the smallest thing of its kind in existence. The presence of Bonneville Dam has stimulated other westerners to similar activity. Wesley Stringer of Oswego, Oregon, has built a lilliputian motor, but it is larger than Bassett's by a good 5/100 of an inch.

## Drums of Cable Arrive for Dam

Drums of copper and aluminum cable were being piled on Vancouver and Portland docks Wednesday and additional shipments will arrive every few days until 12,000,000 feet, costing nearly \$1,750,000, will have been received for the Bonneville network.

Administrator J. D. Ross of the Bonneville project said that all the heavy aluminum cable required for the 220,000-volt line between the dam and Vancouver has been delivered, as have first shipments of cable for lines south from Portland to Eugene and north from Vancouver to Aberdeen.

## River Drops During Christmas Rush

The Columbia River last week showed an even lower flowage than the week before, when on December 27 a volume of 68,000 second-feet was recorded. This was a drop from 72,000 feet on the 23rd. Just what the big stream did between those days is not known, as those were holidays and the readings were not taken.

Following are flowage figures and temperature readings of the river:

Date	Sec. Feet	Max.	Min.
Dec. 21	71,000	37	32
Dec. 22	72,000	41	32
Dec. 23	72,000	50	39
Dec. 27	68,000	46	33
Dec. 28	69,000	53	34
Dec. 29	70,000	53	45

## To Allow Ringside View of Locks

Little of news value happened around the dam during the holidays. The placing of hand rails along the sides of the locks was begun and as soon as those on the south side are completed and a few other safety measures are taken, army officials expect to open this side of the locks to the inspection of the general public. Rails will be placed on both sides of the locks but for the present only the south side will be open to the public.

Tests on the Mud Mountain Dam model on the reservation are going on in great style.

Another load of concrete stop-logs for the closing of the bays where the new powerhouse is to be built arrived this week and are being put in place.

## Some Musings of the Lonesome Fish Census Taker

Some few words have been said about fish counting but lets look into the same details of the counter himself. These men have to have first of all good eyesight to catch each fish as it darts on its way up stream and to identify it, and this must be done while the fish are swimming a distance of 4 feet over a white board. Many times for the hourly period records are made as high as 1200 fish crossed this small area and Mr. Fish Counter must record each one by its kind. A few of the most common are the Chinook, Blue Back, Silver, Chum and Jack Salmon. The Steelhead, Sea run and other species of trout, the so-called scrap fish are the Sucker, Squawfish, Chub, Whitefish, Carp, Shiner, Dace and Lampreys. The above species does not touch them all as a few Crappies, Bass, Catfish, Shad, etc., have been counted. Some of the above are also of different kinds. There are several different kinds of Suckers, Carp, Chubs and Dace, etc.

It would seem that an accurate check would almost be impossible, but it is not at all impossible, and very, very few minor errors are made. It means that Mr. Fish Counter must know his fish, be active with his fingers on the counters, and have very good eyesight. It is not an easy job to sit in a little 4-ft by 4-ft. house and do all of the above things. It is not a common laborer's job by any means. These men must be, and are, all fisheries men with years of experience and a good job is being done.

Most important of all is that the 10 million dollar fisheries industry of Oregon and Washington watch the count daily and the entire future will be based on their count. It is true it is a mighty important job and is being well done.

## Portland Bidder Low On Barracks

Ross B. Hammond company of Portland submitted the low bid for construction of the barracks at McChord field, the new army air field at Tacoma, it was learned here yesterday. The local contractor's bid was \$769,000.

Plans call for construction of barracks at the field to house 1285 men. Reuben Horwitz, vice-president of the company, was in Tacoma for the opening of the proposals.

## Seek To Buy P. P. & L. Co. System

Public utility district commissioners from Southern Washington have asked Administrator J. D. Ross to recommend a fair price to offer the Pacific Power and Light Company for the electrical facilities in their area.

Representatives from Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Benton and Franklin counties gathered in Prosser on Tuesday to form the Southeast Washington Utility Commissioners Association, and unanimously voted to negotiate for purchase of the existing generation, transmission and distribution systems in their districts.

### Ross To Value

The Bonneville Administrator agreed to investigate the value of the Pacific Power and Light Company properties and said he would try to submit his recommendation to the utility districts within 60 days. He expressed the belief that the stockholders and bondholders would consider a fair offer for their holdings. Recently the West Coast Power Company agreed to sell its distribution system to the town of Cascade Locks under terms fixed by the Administrator, and in Nebraska similar recommendations of Mr. Ross have been approved by districts and power companies alike.

The Bonneville chief urged the Washington commissioners to avoid building competitive lines. A policy of uneconomic duplication is harmful both to the district and private utility investors, he pointed out. The power of condemnation should be exercised only as a last resort, he said, and should not be used as a threat.

### Unified Purchase Best

In purchasing the power lines, Administrator Ross recommended that the districts acquire the Pacific Power and Light Company properties as an integrated system. "It is poor policy to chop up a utility network," he said. "I believe some plan may be worked out to purchase all of the company's facilities that comprise a single unit."

Adjoining counties in Oregon served by the Pacific Power and Light Company are Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla and Wallowa. Administrator Ross also mentioned that the Northwestern Electric Company, an affiliate of the Pacific system, operates in Portland. That city at present has an option to purchase the Northwestern facilities, he said, and it might be possible to negotiate for the entire network as a unit.

### Revenue Bonds Used

The Bonneville Administrator pointed out that it would be easier to finance the larger system. In Washington revenue bonds, payable solely from electric receipts, would be used for the purchase. The present Oregon district law does not authorize such bonds, but the legislature will consider a proposal to permit their issuance. Purchase of the entire private system would allow the districts to borrow money from the Rural Electrification Administration to build lines to serve farmers now without electricity. Such funds are available at the low (Continued on page six)

## Pioneer Resident Taken by Death

Louis Clark, one of the old-time residents of Cascade Locks, died at the home of his son, Frank, Wednesday, Mr. Clark, who was 82 years old, first purchased property in Cascade Locks in 1900, shortly after coming out of Alaska. In those early days he ran scows of cordwood from Cascade Locks to The Dalles.

He is survived by his wife, Rozella; daughter, Mrs. Helen Hopkins; and grandson, Clark Hopkins, all of Wenatchee; son, Frank, and granddaughter, Betty Jean, of Cascade Locks.

Services will be held today in Portland at the Riverview Abbey.