

# The North Santiam's Mill City Enterprise

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## Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

The state ought to do something as its share in helping get the Detroit dam built. And its greatest contribution at this time would be to fulfill its long-planned program of a highway from Mill City into the Valley.

The present Highway 222—a made over wagon trail—is overloaded and inadequate even for the current traffic. When the lumber industry gets into operation again it will have all it can handle, without the tremendous inter-canyon travel that may be expected from the building of the dam.

Added to this, the North Santiam highway is scheduled for completion by June, except for surfacing, which means that a new load of trans-Cascades traffic will begin to flow into the Canyon.

The state has purchased right-of-way for a relocated highway between Mill City and Mehama. That portion is especially vital to the transportation of heavy equipment to the Detroit dam. For the present route cannot be used because of bridge interference.

Why can't the state immediately begin work on the Mill City-Mehama job, putting in the grade, at least, even if the surfacing was postponed until the heavy use was over?

It's all right to ask our congressmen to work for appropriations from the U. S. Treasury to build dams. Those dams serve not only parochial interests—they serve the nation. Yet it's plain that if the state were doing all it could as a partner with the federal government in the great task of developing the Northwest, the rest of the country could not charge special regional selfishness to us when we ask for these vast sums.

Moreover, Highway 222, when complete—and that means when the state has fulfilled its program—is destined to be an important filament of the national highway network. The federal government has done its part in hacking out a fine new road in this Canyon. It's up to the state to carry it into the valley and to the coast.

Think of it, within a week we may have word that the great Detroit dam contract may have been awarded, and within a month substantial work will be under way.

Few of us are able to visualize just what all this will mean to the small community of the North Santiam Canyon.

First of all, it means the employment, possibly by summer, of as big a working force as there are people now residing between Mehama and Idanha. It means that the total payroll of the Canyon, now about 750 or 800 men all are working, will be increased by 3000.

It means that this town which has suffered many setbacks in the past in the ups and downs of the lumber industry, is being offered not only the prosperity of a boom period but a future of prosperity and development into an enterprising trading and industrial center.

Old timers here have heard about the dam for so many years that they are still skeptical. The Detroit dam has been on paper for ten or 15 years and was talked about years before that. Meantime, nothing much has been done, until real work was accomplished in relocating the highway. But just because a lot of empty promises were made in the past is no excuse for pessimism now.

Truth is, this canyon has become a vital and strategic area in the nation's power program. A crippling shortage of electric power has developed in the Northwest. The growing population is placing a future strain on the power grid, even worse than the present shortage. Places like the North Santiam Canyon, with hundreds of thousands of unharvested kilowatts, are keys to the solution of the dilemma. A region's distress is our good fortune.

Something else which ought to be considered in this entire power development program is what it means to the future of the region.

Pennsylvania's coal was the foundation of the East's industrial structure. It fired its steel furnaces, provided the raw power for its electric

## Power Fails Mill City For 20 Hour Stretch

A 20-hour power failure in Mill City last Thursday all but paralyzed business—except the sale of lamps and candles.

Food in local deep freeze units and commercial lockers was endangered by the long power cutoff, but the lockers at the Mill City Meat Market held a temperature well below freezing until the power finally was resumed.

Muir's Bakery was unable to bake, because an electric oven is used. The Mill City Theater did not open. The Mill City Enterprise was late in publishing for the first time in two and a half years.

The power failure was caused by a broken wire between Lyons and Mill City. This caused an overload of current to be thrown into one transformer, burning it out. A set of three larger ones were installed and the power resumed on about 2 a.m. Friday morning.

None of the adjacent communities were affected for such a long time. Lights were burning in Gates and Lyons almost all day, and even the Silver Saddle station on the outskirts of town had power.

The local auxiliary plant did not have enough current to supply the entire city, but the street light system was on at nightfall.

Curt Cline, local manager, and his crew, aided by outside Mountain States Power Co. workers, were on the job from early Thursday morning until the current was resumed.

The power company said "that milder weather, improved water conditions and longer daylight hours have combined to relieve the Pacific Northwest power situation to the point where normal use of electricity can be resumed, except during a shortened evening peak load of one hour between 5 and 6 p.m."

"In spite of the improved situation however, the margin in the Northwest between generator capacity and power load is still narrow and any sharp drop in temperature could quickly create a new crisis."

Locally Curt Cline, manager, said that the capacity of the transformer bank has been increased from 400 kilowatts to 600 kw following last week's interrupted service.

The company stated that "users of electricity are urged to avoid waste of power and to be alert to notice any critical development whether due to weather or to possible breakdown of heavily loaded local generators and transmission facilities of the Northwest."

"All members of the Northwest group, comprising private and public distributors of electric service, join in expressing warm appreciation of the wonderful public co-operation which was responsible for avoiding a general breakdown of electric service during recent critical weeks. Also, they cannot overemphasize the fact that the combined power systems of the region, even with favorable weather and water conditions, have no reserve capacity

generators. All industrial civilizations are built upon a foundation of an important and plentiful fuel source.

What the Army Engineers are doing, with their hydroelectric power development, is laying a foundation for the Northwest of an ample supply of fuel for a future population that will rival the East's, if the current migration continues.

Upon that foundation an industrial foundation of magnificent proportions will be built.

In many respects the Northwest has a greater future than California, for all its mushroom growth. Our neighbor to the south already is hemmed in by a scarcity of water—hence a lack of power.

There's a new saying: People come to California—they stay in Oregon.

and the 1949-50 winter season is expected to bring much more serious problems of curtailment.

"But for the fact that water conditions were unusually good at the beginning of this winter's cold spell, it would have been necessary throughout the Pacific Northwest to make

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

During the Thursday power breakdown people noticed an electric light burning in the Arey Podrabsky residence.

Several persons phoned, asking, "How come?"

"It's because I'm a city councilman," Mr. Podrabsky told them.

It turned out that he had hooked up a 6 volt, 50 watt lamp to a battery.

much more drastic cuts in power use to pull through the season.

"There can be no real relief in the region's critical power situation until new dams in course of construction can be completed and placed in operation."

## Youth Admits Series of 8 Burglaries

Eight burglaries, most of them with a trademark of a trail of burnt matches left by the intruder, were cleared up this week by the confession of a 16-year-old Mill City youth who was under a year's suspended sentence to Woodburn Industrial School on another conviction.

J. T. King, local police chief, and Deputy Sheriff Larry Wright said Monday that several other burglaries with similar telltale marks may be cracked by further confessions of the youth.

Burglaries cleared up by the arrest include those at the Roge Kimbrough, Julian DeJardin and Paul Kirsch residences in Stayton, the Wayne Ransom and Sherman Wall homes in Mehama, the Robert Veness home in Mill City, and the office of Mill City High School. In most cases burnt matches were strewn in the invaded homes, and similar clues were left in the burglary of the Santiam Tavern between Stayton and Mehama during the holidays.

At the Wayne Ransom home, the house was ransacked, burnt matches left and 50 cents and a package of cigarettes taken. At the Wall home, nothing was taken, but the same evidence of matches was left.

The Mill City High school burglary was attempted, apparently to locate student body funds, but the burglar could not find them. There, too, the trail of burnt matches indicated that the same thief had broken in.

In the Stayton homes, all of which bore similar marks of the match-burner burglar, the DeJardin home lost \$9, the Kimbrough home, some money and a ruby ring, which the youth gave to the officers. All told the burglaries amounted to about \$75 in cash.

The youth was under a year's suspended sentence to Woodburn after he was picked up here in a drunken condition by Chief King. He was sentenced by City Judge Don Sheythe and returning to school was a condition of his parole. He did not return to school, however.

When tried here, the boy admitted he had been previously arrested for another crime, but refused to say what it was.

### JAMES COOKE WINS AS ORATOR

James Cooke, Salem high school student, shared highest honors Saturday in a debating contest sponsored by Linfield College in McMinnville.

With John Rockenfeller, another Salem student, they took the top awards over high school orators from western Oregon towns.

Young Cooke is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cooke of Mill City.

## Amateur Acts Draw Crowd Of 350 Here

More than 350 people filled the Mill City Theater Tuesday evening to applaud and thoroughly enjoy what may well become an annual Lions Club event—the first amateur show ever sponsored for Canyon audiences.

Contestants, filling 16 acts, ranged in age from four and one-half to the rocking chair stage, and were roundly applauded for providing outstanding entertainment. An applause meter determined the winners. Bob Fisher of Salem was master of ceremonies. Mrs. Don Sheythe served as accompanist.

Kirk Wirick, tenor, of Lyons, and a senior at Mill City High School, won first prize of \$25. Close behind were Norma and Lorena Devine of Gates, a sister act with accordions. Lois Hart, Mill City seventh grader, won third prize for her short order artistry.

Mehama, Lyons, Mill City, Gates and Detroit were represented in the talent show which included singers, dancers, instrumentalists and an artist.

The audience also had some winners. Groceries contributed by Faust & Ross and the Hilltop Store were won by Mrs. John Davis, Detroit. Mrs. Carl Kelly, Mill City, Jimmy Weston, Gates, and Glen Julian, Lyons, Floyd Johnson won a certificate from the Mill City Food Co.

## Scouts Planning To Build Cabin

An appeal for help from the public to build a cabin for the Boy Scouts was made by local leaders at a demonstration meeting in the high school auditorium Monday night.

Clyde Golden, chairman, appointed Eugene Gregory, Howard Kanoff and Louis Vebeck to lead a campaign for the cabin.

Lawrence Kanoff, scoutmaster, led the demonstration which included emergency first aid, artificial respiration, live wire precautions, carrying injured person, etc. Participating in the work were Richard Kanoff, Seely Bennett, Le Roy Golden, Richard Verbeck, Herbert Hampton, Tommy Kanoff, Howard Powelson, Phillip Carey, Elton Gregory, Joe Stodola, Gerry Golden, Richard Crook, and Vernon Christensen.

Merit badge speeches were given by Elton Gregory and Richard Verbeck.

Eric Soderberg, district executive, spoke, and showed films on scouting. Warner Hampton reported on hiking and camping. Refreshments included a cake contributed by the Mill City Bakery.

Guests were Lyons Troop 81 and its scoutmaster, Chet Grimes. About 30 were present.

### TEACHERS AT INSTITUTE

The high school faculty attended teachers institute in Corvallis Thursday and Friday. High school classes were dismissed the two days. Grade school pupils were dismissed Thursday because of the power breakdown.

"CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?" First Habenger of spring—Wanda Vandermeer picked violets in her back yard Monday. They were on a south slope where the sun was especially warm.

All the other violets hiding under a foot or more of snow said: "We gotta get out of here by June."

## Pet Deer Has Pal

By BOOTS CHAMPION

There's a sequel to the story about Mary AAnn, Detroit's pet deer.

You remember what we wrote about Mary Ann having a little friend?

Well, Friday morning about 9 a.m. Mary Ann brought her little friend right into town, to the surprise of Detroiters.

Yes, sir, and she took her right up the main street, too.

The little stranger was a bit nervous, but decided to brave the awestruck stares of the townfolk. Those of you who did not see this unusual feat, really missed a sight.

## Congress Unit OKs \$2,000,000 for Dam; BA Line Funds Dne

### Bonneville Line Here Gets Boost

A House appropriations committee this week recommended a fund of about \$7,500,000 for new transmission lines in the Northwest.

The recommended fund was a deficiency appropriation for the current year, until June 30. It included about \$1,000,000 for the Detroit-Goshen (Eugene) line—a 230 kv tower line, part of which is under construction through the Canyon here.

The sum will cover the installation of a substation to provide power to the contractor of the Detroit dam.

Eventually the line will be extended over the Cascades to eastern Oregon and link Detroit Dam with the Bonneville grid there.

The R. W. Byers Co. is now clearing right-of-way for the line through the Canyon from Lyons to the dam site, and the BPA has unloaded tower equipment at many places along the line. The contract for building the line will be let soon.

Another contractor is clearing the right-of-way between Lyons and Lebanon.

### Snow Tangles Roads, Rails

Although two "cats" have been working regularly to plow snow from the SP tracks in the upper Canyon, the locomotive skidded off the track again Friday at the crossing by the veneer plant, near Idanha. Ray Watkins took the crew to Mill City.

The Southern Pacific logging train was derailed Monday at noon and tipped over into a snow bank at Larson station above Detroit. The rail buckled up under the engine.

An engineer John Demaris, of Portland, was trying to drain the water from the engine, a bulldozer which was trying to upright it crushed Mr. Demaris, breaking his ribs. He was rushed to Salem by ambulance.

The engine was in bad shape. The SP wrecking crew went up the Canyon Tuesday to get the train back on the tracks.

The highway from Marion Forks over the Santiam pass has been closed since Monday, Feb. 7, because of the deep snow and slides.

Ben Hauck, bus driver, on his last trip through Monday en route from Bend to Salem, had to shovel his way through in places, to bring his bus and passengers through. He also helped the highway crew saw and clear a tree from the highway.

### 'DOZER KEEPS OPEN ELKHORN ROAD

Except for the persistence of the county grader man and Phil Dooley with his cat, the Elkhorn community would have been completely snow-bound the past week.

There was between three and four feet of snow on the ground and was heaped on the sides of the road higher than a car.

The Elkhorn Guest Ranch was isolated several days with over four feet of snow.

A slide on Monday prevented the grader from coming up. Word was sent to Dooley who dozed the slide out Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stewart who have lived here, at Frank's mill, for nearly two years, moved back to Portland Wednesday.

Phil Dooley's cat almost burned up Sunday.

He had just started it to go to the assistance of the county grader when the vehicle burst into flames.

### Prospect Good For Added '49 Appropriation

Congress this week was doing its part to place the Detroit Dam on a power producing basis by 1952, the aim of the Corps of Army Engineers.

A house appropriations committee in Washington recommended a sum of \$2,000,000 — what the Engineers sought—as a deficiency appropriation for the current year ending June 30. This brings the total for this year for the North Santiam project to about \$5,400,000, of which only a small part has been spent so far this year.

Chances for the deficiency fund of \$2,000,000 passing the Congress are excellent because the Democratic majority is favorable, and Western Republicans are pledged to the program.

Col. O. E. Walsh in December told a Willamette Project meeting that an appropriation of \$2,000,000 this year, and \$11,000,000 or more for 1949-50, would virtually assure completion of the dam and production of electric power from its generators by 1952.

Meanwhile, local business were not letting any chances slip away to share in the building of the dam. A delegation representing local logging concerns conferred Friday with Col. Walsh in Portland on biding to clear the Detroit Dam reservoir. The colonel encouraged them to go ahead with their plans of forming a company to bid on the job, which comes up in six weeks.

In the delegation were Fred Gooch Jr., Al Yankus, Charles and Walter Thomas, Walter Bell, Stayton attorney and Charles Wolvertton, publisher of the Enterprise.

A meeting will be held this Friday in Mr. Bell's office in Stayton at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the plan. All logging outfits, large and small, are urged to attend.

## Snow Crushes Dancehall Roof

A corner of the Canyon Moon dancehall, housing the sandwich counter, collapsed Tuesday night under the weight of snow on the roof.

The building will be remembered as the old community hall at Camp 17. The structure was built in 1937 on the property of George Streff. Materials and labor were donated by the community, and the local union (CIO). A few years later the property was sold to R. R. (Bub) Huseman of Idanha who in turn leased the property to two young GIs, Paul and J. D. Bruce of Sublimity.

The Bruces did some extensive remodeling and opened the hall last October. Since that time the building has been used for social functions as well as dancing.

Another Upper Canyon building collapsed under the heavy snow.

## Play in Tournament

In the second playoff of the Marion County B League basketball championship Saturday night at the Willamette University Gym in Salem the Detroit high school was defeated by Sublimity by a score of 62 to 32.

The eight teams that participated at Salem were Sublimity vs. Detroit; Jefferson vs. Turner, 30 to 28; Oregon State Deaf School vs. Aumsville; 49 to 38; Chemawa vs. Hubbard, 53-37. Sublimity, Jefferson, the Deaf School and Chemawa will play in the semifinals Feb. 17. The two winners will play the following Saturday, for the B League championship.

The school bus piloted by Bill Harris transported the pupils and some of the parents to Salem for the game.