

The North Santiam's Mill City Enterprise

Lyons, Mehama, Elkhorn, Mill City, Gates, Mongold, Detroit and Idanha

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Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

Today we are laying the foundation for a Mill City that's going to emerge during the next five years as one of the most prosperous canyon towns in the state. And the town and its leadership is deserving of the highest praise for the wise and sensible way it has taken the developments of recent months.

There is a real basis here for a future boom. Yet the town has wisely avoided the negative byproduct of that state of affairs—speculation, skyrocketing land prices, foolish ventures.

On the contrary, land is still available at fair prices for business and residential requirements. The minority that has ridiculous prices set on property in the Canyon just isn't getting it sold.

Noted also as a healthy sign is the building now being undertaken by local people. Small home and apartment units are going up, business blocks are being built, an expression of real faith in the future.

The residential area is widening and filling out. And current and prospective buildings for business are developing a real trading center, almost as if planned.

The great Detroit Dam will provide the spur to the development of the city. The new highway, scheduled for completion in early summer, will do much to hold the growth which comes in the dam building period of four or five years.

But to make this growth normal and lasting, two main tasks remain. First, is attracting industry into the Canyon, so that the people who come here to build the dam can see a way to remain with us. Industrial development cannot wait till the dam is finished. It must proceed right now.

Second, there must be a better use of the fertile hill and mountain land in the Canyon. One does not have to prove that the soil is good for fruits and berries. That is being proven year after year by the astounding crops raised by the Fern Ridge growers.

A stable agriculture, added to industry, recreation, cheap power and tourist trade, offers Mill City and the Canyon a permanent future of stable prosperity.

Let's not settle merely for a lumber industry. Let's not be satisfied with a tourist business. We've got more in this region to offer than that.

From Clay Cochran, secretary of the Lions Chamber of Commerce, comes a suggestion—and an offer. Here it is:

When comes the time, in early summer, for the North Santiam Highway to be opened for traffic, it ought to be done with a flourish. Mr. Cochran suggests that a big barbecue be held in the Canyon, with Salem, Stayton and other cities along the route, plus the Canyon communities participating. His offer is that Salem will pitch in to help make an event of it. Notables will be brought here to cut the tape officially opening the route, which provides the best and lowest pass through the Cascades to California and the East from the Northwest.

The publicity for this area would be worth more than any single event could bring.

And it would be the chance for this region, if it had a pavilion showing what the Canyon has to offer, to sell this beautiful area to thousands of visitors.

The Enterprise can claim a wide readership. Most distant of its readers is Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, a young German who is a friend of Lt. Lloyd Hoeye, a local boy who served in the occupation force.

Karl is already fairly handy with the English language, but there are a few things in The Enterprise that stop him cold. He wrote Lt. Hoeye in his precise English, something of this nature:

"I like to read about Mill City and I understand most of what is in the newspaper. However, I have looked in my dictionary and I cannot find any such words as ETAOIN or SHRDLU. Will you tell me what they mean?"

City Council Rushes Through Building Code

A model building code for small cities was passed unanimously Wednesday night by the city council, and an emergency clause put it into effect immediately.

The council chose to act swiftly because it wanted to stop before it ever got started the erection of substandard homes and business places, a common practice around big construction projects.

Davis Airport Given Boost

Mill City saw a new industry, up in the air, last Sunday.

There were four planes, from Silverton, part of them being used as trainers at the Davis Airport east of here. At least six local people have begun flying lessons, which are being given Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays by Ted Galbraith, Silverton flier.

Considerable work is in progress at the local field. A power line, which might have been a hazard to a plane, has been replaced with an underground cable, and a telephone line also will be buried at that point.

Work will proceed, as soon as the weather permits, on the new strip, which needs further grading and seeding. The new strip connects alongside the existing one, thus more than doubling the landing zone.

Byron Davis, owner of the airport, has purchased a trainer plane to add to his present flying equipment.

The airport has become increasingly popular with Valley airmen, many of whom have recently landed there.

Mason's Give \$50 For Respirator

The Masonic Lodge Monday night led off in the current drive to raise funds for a respirator, with a contribution of \$50.

The campaign to purchase for the community this lifesaving apparatus was launched by Police Chief J. T. King following the drowning recently of Dennis Bevier, 9, in a millpond here.

The respirator is on display in the window of the Red and White store.

Chief King has been giving demonstrations of the equipment. Last Sunday Mr. Blum, a fireman with the Salem force, and Mr. Neep, an equipment firm representative, showed the machine at a meeting in the Mill City Theatre.

Chief King was optimistic that the town would respond with enough money to buy the machine soon.

The respirator is useful, not only in cases of drowning, but also of shock, strangulation, heart attack, and gas poisoning.

The respirator attachment is automatic, and adjusts itself to the lung capacity of an infant or an adult.

1st Project Studied By Garden Club

A suggested first project for the newly formed Garden Club will be landscaping the steep bank just to the North of the downtown section on the Marion side of the river.

Although the project has not definitely been decided upon, there was much concurrence with the idea at last week's meeting.

About 25 persons joined and the charter officers are: Mrs. Frances Dolezal, president, Mrs. Maggie Shaw, vice president, and Mrs. Virginia Robison, secretary-treasurer.

A special meeting has been called for Thursday evening, March 31, at the Albert Toman home.

WITNESS CALLED IN CASE OF SPOTLIGHT HUNTING

Bill Bickett, Elkhorn, was subpoenaed to appear in court Friday as a witness against Bill Roberts of Auna vill who is charged with spotlighting deer on the Bickett property last fall.

The case was postponed for the third time.

Concrete foundations will be the rule henceforth for dwellings and business houses within the city limits. Certain sanitary codes must be observed, and construction must be done to pass fire prevention codes.

A building permit system is set up in the same ordinance. Filing cost is 50 cents, and a permit will cost \$5 for the first \$1000 valuation and \$1.50 per \$1000 for buildings over that.

Certain structural requirements are in the code concerning the strength of joists, etc.

The ordinance is modeled after one written by the League of Oregon Cities.

Salem Firm Low In Gates Gym Bid

Bids for the remodeling and addition for Gates high school gymnasium were opened by the board of directors Monday, with the Butler Construction Co. of Salem low with \$15,669.

The board has planned for the job to be done by the opening of the fall term of school.

Plans call for an addition to the present building of 20x80 feet and installation of a new heating system, dressing rooms, and showers.

Red Cross Drive Third of the Way

About a third of the \$600 quota for Mill City in the current drive of the Red Cross has been raised, it was announced this week.

Additional volunteer workers canvassing the town are Mrs. Edith Mason, Mrs. Lester Hathaway, Mrs. Floyd Fleetwood and Mrs. George Stewart.

Only about half of the businesses have been canvassed so far. Milk bottles have been placed in several of them.

Mrs. Charles Wolverton is local chairman.

LEGION HONORS RAGSDALE

A charter member of the American Legion when it was organized in France 30 years ago was given special tribute at a local post meeting here Thursday.

He is Ernest Ragsdale, also a charter member of the local post. Mr. Ragsdale displayed membership papers he received 30 years ago.

He served in France under Gen. White, whose former private secretary, Mrs. O. K. DeWitt, was present at last week's meeting here.

The local post has gone over its quota of 30 members. Guy Sorenson is commander, Dr. David J. Ferguson, adjutant.

ROAD CONDITION PROTESTED

George Ditto, Niagara, this week complained to the Marion County Court that the hill road there had become nearly impassable due to use by heavy equipment of the Bonneville line clearing project. The court ordered rock work on the bad stretch.

\$250,000 Housing Project On Way

COUGAR STALKS MAN LEAVING BREITENBUSH

Jake Prince, an employee at the Lower Breitenbush Springs by E. C. Kennedy, was trailed by a cougar as he made his way by snowshoes from the resort after being snowbound since last fall. He got out last week.

Mr. Prince, who left for Albany after he made it to Detroit, said the cougar followed him most of the way.

Deer and elk, he said, were feeding happily on hay which was taken into the area by volunteers several weeks ago.

Spotlight Hunters Called Spoilers

With the advent of spring, the night hunter will again be on the prowl. An honest citizen by day, but an illegal marauder at night.

Last fall, the buzzards circling a hundred feet from the Gates hill testified to a night hunter's careless aim. A big 4-point buck had been wounded with a small caliber gun and left to die.

Not only do the wild creatures suffer, but no one's property is safe. One of Bill Bickett's cows died last year on his Elkhorn farm as the result of a "spotlighter's" bullet.

The year before a goat was killed. Why can't people realize that illegal hunting only deprives everyone of game that is rightfully his, and can be had in abundance if the laws are obeyed?

Educate your children to enjoy and conserve the wildlife—a rich heritage!

(Mrs. Roberts is Elkhorn correspondent of The Enterprise.)

DETROIT COMMERCIAL CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

Edison Vickers, upper Canyon businessman, was elected president of the Canyon Commercial Club at its last meeting.

Other officers include, Ray Johnson, vice president, Nolan Rasnick, secretary-treasurer, and Otto Russell and Len Davis, directors.

PLUMBING SHOP PLANNED

Clarence Nichol, Silverton, recently purchased property in the Gates section on Highway 222, for the erection of a plumbing shop. The property was owned by Al Haun of Mill City.

David M. Reid was the broker.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Chester Hamblin, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem and president of the Oregon Federation of Churches, has been selected as speaker for the Mill City high school commencement May 26. Morton Boothe, Albany, a former Navy chaplain, will give the baccalaureate address here May 22.

FIRST LUMBER SHIPPED

The season's first commercial load of lumber left the upper Canyon via truck March 15. Production is almost back to normal this week.

Plans Housing

Edison Vickers of Idanha has announced the formation of a company to build homes in the Upper Canyon area for the influx of population expected soon in that area. A \$100,000 housing project of 12 homes is planned.

Parents Face Rap if Kids Go Astray

From now on, it's going to be the parent who will be penalized in the delinquency of a minor.

The Mill City Council Wednesday night passed an ordinance, following the line of one passed recently in many Oregon cities, including Salem, that holds a parent responsible for child delinquency.

If parental neglect is the cause, they must face the courts along with their children.

ELECTRICAL FIRM TO LOCATE

Robert Taylor, a former Mill City resident, has arranged to establish an electrical contracting business in Mill City. He has several local contracts at this time. He is from Lebanon.

OUT OF HOSPITAL

Mrs. John Young, one of three injured in an automobile wreck last week above Detroit, was released recently from a Bend hospital, after a few days observation. She expects to return home soon.

She has been staying at the home of Harold Pugh in Bend. Mr. Pugh, with John Young, were the others injured and are making satisfactory recovery.

BOY SCOUTS HOLD COURT

The Boy Scouts Monday night held court of honor and presented a program here. Participants in the program included June and Lorena Devine, Gates, Ernest Podrabsky, Don Fieck and Kirk Wirick. Police Chief J. T. King demonstrated the uses of a respirator, a fund for which is now being sought.

70 AT LYONS X-RAYED

Seventy persons took the chest X-ray examination when the county mobile unit was in Lyons Thursday.

Mrs. George Huffman was local chairman, and several women assisted her.

CAR DAMAGED IN HIT-RUN

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Carleton had their car badly damaged Thursday evening when struck by a hit-and-run driver when they were returning to their home in Fox Valley. No one was injured.

ELKHORN TEACHER SIGNED

Mrs. Patrick of Mehama has signed a contract to teach school at Elkhorn next year.

Price OK'd On Tract In Park

A \$200,000 to \$250,000 housing project for Mill City awaited this week only a few details of land transfer to set the vast home development on its way and under construction early next month.

Agreement upon a price of \$2400 for three to four acres of park land was made between the Santiam Lions Club and Consolidated Builders, Inc., contractors for the \$65,000,000 Detroit Dam 12 miles above Mill City.

Al Bauer, general manager of the contracting concern, and a committee of the Lions Club including Robert Veness, Albert Toman and Carl Kelly, negotiated the price of the tract this week.

Agreement also was reached for the purchase of several small adjacent tracts, one the home place of Leonard Herman, who agreed to sell virtually at cost to help get the home project here.

Costly Homes Planned

CBI representatives have stated it is their intention to build homes in the \$8000 to \$10,000 class, and to develop the entire area into a planned section, with landscaping and other features.

About 25 homes for key personnel are to be built. Company representatives said CBI elected to build permanent homes instead of temporary ones because they felt the resale value after they have completed the dam would be greater than cheaper construction and would pay over what the extra cost might be.

Russell Hoffman, general superintendent of the job, has been in Mill City or the damsite most of the week and other engineers have been assisting him in planning for the construction procedures.

Vince Palmer assisted by Carl Palmer last week completed the specifications on the clearing to be done at the damsite and the Cumley Creek quarry area. The two tracts are about 140 acres, of which over 25 must be grubbed.

Six or more concerns had indicated interest in bidding on the subcontract and the company will open bids this Friday at 3 p.m.

In the meantime very little hiring of workers has been done, although hundreds of applicants came here the past week.

From Washington came news of the approval by the House appropriations committee of the fund sought by the Army Engineers for Detroit Dam in the fiscal year of 1949-'50. The full amount of the request—\$11,300,000 was approved. The deficiency appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the dam this fiscal year met similar approval by the Senate appropriations body.

Gravel Firm Starts

The Colgan Construction Co. has leased a quarry and gravel site from Al Geddes, near Mill City, and will set up soon a rock crusher, screening plant and maintain a fleet of trucks.

J. R. Colgan, formerly of Pendleton, is manager of the new business. He had been engaged in similar business there. Mr. Colgan has purchased most of his equipment and was awaiting a report on the rock at the site. It passed a favorable government test last week.

Mr. Colgan is making his home in Mill City.

3 PASS BROKER TESTS

Mrs. Barbara Pennick, her partner, Mrs. N. L. Pennick, both of Gates, and Fred Lindemann, Lyons, passed examinations last week for real estate brokers' licenses.

The Pennicks operate their business in Gates and Mr. Lindemann has an office in Lyons.

Mill City from the Air



THIS VIEW, taken with a small camera by Buzz Fleetwood from Byron Davis' plane, appears in the brochure prepared by the Mill City Chamber of Commerce.