

The North Santiam's Mill City Enterprise

Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

Salute to Bob Veness! Last week The Enterprise saluted the town and its organizations for the alert and wise way they have met the problems—and the opportunities—that have come with the great Detroit Dam project now under way on the North Santiam Canyon.

But this week we ought to get down to cases, to people, to a particular person, in the distribution of praise, the ungrudgingly offered applause of the entire community.

That man is Bob Veness. From many who have themselves been active and hard at work in behalf of the community these words have come:

"If Mill City gets the CBI housing project, the credit for it belongs to Bob Veness." We concur with that, and could add a lot more to the accomplishments of this tireless worker for the city and for the Canyon. A newly activated Chamber of Commerce owes much to Bob's enthusiastic labors. A garden club recently was formed. Bob helped initiate it. The list of his works does not end there, by a good deal. It all adds up however to days upon days spent exclusively for the community—good deal more than a 40 hour week for the past couple months or more, contributed willingly and without stint—and to the neglect of his own business.

Sometimes a man who gives a \$10 bill to every drive that comes along feels he's doing his part for his home town. And cash does mean a lot. But there are too few of us who will give our time, day and night, to the service of our community. That is the larger contribution.

I don't think the town knew, I don't think Bob knew, he had so much to contribute to use here. Like the stranger said to the gal on Whistle Corner:

"Wher ehave you been all our lives?"

I could name a half a dozen instances of people who've put outlandish prices on their land losing out here with those who are coming in to start new businesses and other developments. Invariably, there are other people, with the better interests of the town at heart, who are willing to offer ground at prices that are acceptable—the result being that everyone, including the landowner, being better off thereby.

Towns have developed into cities by actually giving industries sites to establish upon. And it pays off for everybody. A good payroll is worth more than any initial high price on a plot of unused land.

Looking about the town and seeing what could be done, what needs to be done to beautify it, I am reminded of an old German woman in my home town in Kansas. She had rooms for rent, nice ones, too, but her home unfortunately was located near the creamery, which manufactured buttermilk powder. That process creates a powerful smell, one which makes Pittsburgh, Pa., seem like a fresh air resort.

The gentleman looked at the room, liked it and was about to rent it when he opened a window. The odor of the buttermilk powder plant almost knocked him down.

"Madam," he said, "I like the room very much, but I'm afraid I couldn't stand that smell."

"Ach," she exclaimed, "It var nothing! After awhile, Mister, you get so you sorta like dot shink."

It's the same with much of our town. We've become accustomed to seeing unsightly spectacles. We don't even notice them any more.

It's up to the new garden club to point them out to us.

This is no BULLETIN: Your editor's new crop of hair, which started recently because of a secret formula on a head that looked like a well-logged-off mountaintop, is still in a thriving condition and continues to amaze even the most skeptical.

GRAVEL FIRM REGISTERED

The Colgan Construction Co., of Mill City was registered under that name this week in the courthouse.

House Votes \$11 Million For Detroit Dam, 1950

The Detroit Dam fared better than ordinarily this week in the House of Representatives, which voted to appropriate \$11,000,000 for its construction in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950.

Word of the action was sent to the Salem Chamber of Commerce by Rep. Walter Norblad.

The appropriation is subject to a 15 per cent reduction if lower building costs warrant.

The Army Engineers requested \$11,300,000. No word was received on the outcome of a request for a \$2,000,000 deficiency appropriation in

the current year.

In Salem Friday, Col. O. E. Walsh, district Army engineer, Portland, told an audience of Salem businessmen that the engineers were planning to divide the reservoir clearing job in smaller parcels to enable local logging concerns to share in the job.

He also told many details of the plans for the dam. Al Bauer, general manager of Consolidated Builders, Inc., contractors on the dam, also attended the meeting.

Robert Veness, secretary, represented the Mill City Chamber of Commerce at the meeting, at which Gov. Douglas McKay and other state officials were present.

The \$11,000,000 fund also includes the initiation of work on Big Cliff Dam three miles below the big project.

Unionization Discussed for High School

Action on unionization of the high schools of Gates and Mill City, with several non-high districts included, this week awaited meetings of the two boards to decide further steps. An enthusiastic meeting was held by taxpayers of several districts at the Gates school last Thursday night.

About 50 attended the meeting called by the Gates school board. They heard Mrs. Agnes Booth, Marion County school superintendent, and Don Emmerson of the State Department of Education, present arguments for unionization. Both officials asserted that better school standards and wider curricula were possible in schools with a wider tax base.

At present there are between 20 and 25 students in Gates High and about 80 in Mill City.

Next steps toward unionization, if they are taken, are elections in the separate districts and petitions.

The meeting heard the issue discussed, but was not an official school session and could take no action. It was seen at Silver Saddle station, Mill City, \$1800.

Brought out at the meeting was the fact that Bob Van Eaton of this community had walked over the hill above Gates the last two years to attend high school, bad weather finally ending his daily 10-mile trek this winter.

THEY LIKE OUR STORES

'Twould appear that Mill City businesses are so popular with customers that they can't even wait to get out of their cars.

Tuesday, several U. S. Employment officials, of Salem, were attempting to park in front of the Mill City Pharmacy, and their car got out of control and ran into the store. The door, supports, and a window pane were broken.

The same day Mrs. Wendell Gilbert of Salem ran into the storeroom of the Mill City Furniture Co. when she released the brake of her car as she was backing it out. No damage was done.

Mrs. Smith Dies

Funeral services for Mrs. Marietta Navarre Smith, 82, who died Thursday at the home of a son, Charles E. Smith, of Gates, were held in the chapel of the Weddie Funeral Home in Stayton Sunday afternoon, the Rev. Willard Buckner, Stayton, officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Gates.

Mrs. Smith was born in Toledo, O., May 23, 1866 where she married William Jack Smith in 1896. They came to Gates in 1901 and since 1938 she made her home in Mill City.

She was a member of Rebekah lodge for 42 years and a past noble grand of Santiam Lodge No. 166 of Mill City.

Surviving are five sons, Robert J. Salem; William J. Sutherlin; Charles E. Gates; Raymond J. North Bend; and George French, Toledo. Another son, Amos French, died during the first world war. And two daughters, Mrs. Edith McCann, Burlington, Cal., and Mrs. Alice Hoeye, Mill City; a brother, Rudolph Navarre, of Toledo, and a sister in the east.

BONNEVILLE GETS FUND OK

The Bonneville Power Administration's full request for \$6,917,000 for the Goldendale-Detroit-Goshen (Eugene) transmission line was approved this week by the House Appropriations Committee in Washington, it was announced today by W. E. Trommerhausen, district manager, in Eugene.

"All transmission lines, substations and power facilities requested by the administration were approved," he said.

The favorable action virtually assures work according to schedule on lines and other facilities being built to serve the Detroit dam. Last year BA suffered a drastic cut in its request.

Although all projects were approved as requested in the President's budget message, the House committee recommended a 15 per cent cut if construction costs show a decline.

MONTAG AWARDED CONTRACT

A contract to build the Detroit-Lyons 230 kv transmission line was awarded last week to C. J. Montag & Son, Portland.

The concern, which has been a subcontractor on the North Santiam highway, bid \$694,654 on the 21.4-mile project, part of the McNary-Detroit-Goshen line which will supply power for building the Detroit Dam and later will transmit power produced at that source to the Bonneville grid.

Ed Sischo, Elkhorn Pioneer, Dies

Ed (Dad) Sischo, one of Elkhorn's oldest residents, died Wednesday last week in Salem at the age of 81.

Mr. and Mrs. Sischo and son Ray moved to Oregon from Wisconsin nearly 50 years ago. At first they settled in Salem, but in 1913 they moved to Elkhorn.

Dad Sischo came to the Elkhorn country by team and wagon over the Gates hill, which then was the only route.

For many years he drove a freight wagon over the route to the mines above.

He is survived by a son, Ray, of Elkhorn, and a grandson, Terry Ray.

Need Deputies, Says Sheriff

Sheriff Denver Young of Marion County said last week he would request the county court for funds to hire another deputy for the upper Canyon area.

He added that a survey recently made showed that at least five more men would be needed by next year.

Col. Jack Miles, resident Army engineer, told Mr. Young that 1500 men, in peak employment, would be at work on the dam, about 500 in clearing operations and another 500 on Big Cliff dam. With auxiliary employment a total of about 3000 would be at work in the area, he said.

The sheriff assigned Larry Wright as deputy last summer after numerous petitions from Idanha and Detroit were presented to the county court. Before then an occasional state cop got up that way when the aroma of venison (possibly illegal) wafted down the Canyon.

\$250,000 Housing Project to Start

Enterprise Will Get New Office In A Month

In recording all the developments around the Canyon, The Enterprise, two weeks running, has failed to record that the Enterprise is soon to move into a new building.

(If some folks complain their stories don't get into the paper, our defense henceforth will be that we sometimes don't even get in our own stories.)

Frank Blazek is building a two-story structure on a highway corner above the downtown section, construction under way with Roy Beebe in charge. The second floor will house two apartments.

The Enterprise, a sort of orphan among the businesses around town, will soon emerge from the cobwebs into what, in contrast, is nothing short of a castle.

Stiffler's radio store will use the vacated space for expansion.

The move will be made within a month.

Blast Rips Idanha Mill; 35 Unhurt

A steam explosion heard for many miles in the upper Canyon area demolished the Idanha Lumber Co. boilerhouse and mill Monday, but 35 workers escaped without injury.

It was the mill's first day of operation after a shutdown of three months. Huber Ray, manager, estimated damage at \$20,000 and said it will take 30 days to get the mill back in operating condition.

The blast was believed caused by the failure of a governor on the engine which runs the power plant to function. A large flywheel picked up so much speed it literally flew apart, and pieces of it penetrated a six-inch steam pipe near by.

Mr. Ray said the trouble probably developed as a result of machinery deteriorating during the long shutdown.

Ed Hansen, fireman on duty in the boiler room, somehow escaped injury. Heat became so intense a fire started in acetylene gas tanks, but it was quickly extinguished by the Canyon Fire Patrol which had rushed to the scene.

Everything in the boiler room was destroyed, including generators. The metal roof was stripped off the building which housed both main boiler room and mill.

Early the same morning a small boiler in the dry kilns, located south of the main building, blew up causing some damage. Fireman Carl Schaffer had just left the boiler room.

CARS COLLIDE

A car driven by Even Evenson, Idanha, collided Saturday with another automobile while he was en route to Redmond, damaging both cars badly. No one was injured.

The accident was blamed on wind and snow. The Evenson car lost two fenders and a headlight. His son, Eddie, was with him.

GARDEN CLUB MEETS

The Mill City Garden Club was to meet Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Albert Toman to hear a report by Mrs. Kerr, who has been in touch with the State Highway Department in regard to beautifying the north bank of the highway on the Marion County side, above the business section.

A suggestion has been made that the triangle at the south end of the bridge be planted with shrubs and flowers.

Byers Wins Subcontract On Clearing

The R. W. Byers Construction Co. was awarded the subcontract last week on clearing about 140 acres of rough terrain in and near the dam site of the Detroit Dam.

Consolidated Builders, Inc., main contractor on the big project in the North Santiam Canyon, announced the award to the Byers firm, which has been engaged for the past six months in this area clearing 21 miles of right of way for a power line between Lyons and the damsite.

Bidding for the subcontract was spirited. A local concern, formed of several logging outfits a month ago, placed a bid, but it was far out of line. The company ended up with only three outfits of an original six.

The clearing specifications call for grubbing in parts of the area: the damsite, the power house site, part of an access road on the Marion side and about 11 acres at the Cumby Creek quarry site, most of which is above the top crest of the dam.

The subcontract calls for completion of some tracts as soon as 30 days, others 70 and 110 days.

Work will begin next week.

Detroit and Idanha Plan to Dress Up

A modernization plan for Detroit and Idanha was discussed Tuesday in a joint meeting of the Canyon Commercial Club and the Women's Civic Club at the high school in Detroit.

Street lighting, sidewalks, a water system, sewage disposal and law enforcement were discussed.

Denver Young, Marion County sheriff, talked about his plan to get additional deputies assigned to the upper Canyon communities.

Sam Palmerton, Detroit - Idanha fire chief, called upon Detroit men to respond to drill calls.

TAVERN NAME CHANGED

The name of the Idanha Tavern, which was purchased recently from Bud Gesher by Marion Alderman of Myrtle Creek, has been changed to the Spillway Tavern by its new owner.

Mr. Alderman's family will move to Idanha as soon as housing is available.

It's Old Home Week as Gang Of Oregonship Starts on Dam

It's been old home week in Mill City for a fabulous group of men—the ones who built Bonneville and other big dams and then, without previous experience, became the top ship builders of the world.

For the clan that built Boulder, Bonneville and Grand Coulee is back building dams again, right here in the North Santiam Canyon. It's headed by Russell Hoffman who was with the Henry Kaiser organization at all three dams and came to Portland to build ships in 1941.

That is a story all by itself. How an alert group of men, who didn't the portside from the poopdeck managed to set a world's record of 400 Liberty and Victory ships in two or three years.

Another story is that of Willow Run, a huge war plant which Kaiser-Frazier converted into an automobile factory—with the same gang of ex-dam builders.

Among the other Kaiser personnel who have reported at the Mill City office are Roy Kendler, ex-paymaster at Oregonship, later at Willow Run;

Waits Find Cleaning of Land Titles

A major housing development of at least 25 homes costing between \$200,000 and \$250,000 will probably be under way by next week here on a tract in the vicinity of the Canyon Park.

Virtually all transactions transferring about seven or eight acres from several owners to the Consolidated Builders, Inc., Detroit Dam contractors, were completed early this week.

A last minute hitch in the plans was encountered when it was found that Linn County owned a small parcel that was thought to be included in another tract. However, this fraction of an acre was bought from the county.

Inasmuch as all the property involved had been given guaranteed titles in previous transactions, further legal details are felt to be easily expedited.

The 25 homes will house key personnel, and their families, of CBI. Property for the housing development was purchased from the Lions Club, Robert Swift, Leonard He-man and Mrs. Ogden, with the additional county-owned land.

The price paid for the Lions Club tract was \$2400. The entire piece was bought for about \$6000.

Streamlined Construction Planned

Joe McNeely, CBI housing expert, said that the homes would be built with assembly line methods. A central sawing and assembly shop will be set up. Here all timbers and lumber will be delivered, and then taken to each home site pre-cut and ready for the carpenters. Union labor will be used.

Tentative landscaping calls for a sweeping, curved street entering into the site from two points on the north. A side street connecting the acre also has been considered. However, exact platting has not yet been undertaken.

Officials of the company were hoping to break ground by April 4.

CBI liked the site because it was convenient to the school and its local offices.

The company is considering some additional temporary housing for later on.

PLYMILL BREAKS DOWN

The Idanha Veneer Co. was shut down for several hours last week as the result of a broken driveshaft on one of the large motors.

Ken Nielson, purchasing agent at Swan Island, later Willow Run; Ray Walker, warehouseman at Oregonship, later Willow Run; Ray Steiner, Unionmelt superintendent at Oregonship; Ossy Mikkelsen, master mechanic at Oregonship, later at K-F; Vince Palmer, a superintendent at Oregonship and recently assistant to Al Bauer, general manager of CBI-Swan Island; Jack Lacey, cost engineer at Oregonship; Bert Provost, assistant superintendent at Oregonship, later chassis assembly boss at K-F and now a concrete man on the Detroit dam; George "Scotty" Wright, erection superintendent at Oregonship, later at K-F; Ernie Bauer, assistant office manager at Vancouver yard, since at Swan Island; Eldon Lents, an administrative official at CBI.

Along with these are dozens of others, like Big Fred Snyder, now a Salem contractor, have renewed old friendships with the men with whom he worked at Bonneville this week, and Russ Kelly, Mill City lumberman, who worked with the same clan.