

The North Santiam's Mill City Enterprise

Serving the North Santiam
Valley

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

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Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

My friends out of town when they write, usually give me a serious lecture on "looking out of the Canyon" once in a while, instead of up and down it.

But, despite the fact that I do take a peek from time to time, it resolves down to the unquestionable condition that things make sense here — and they don't very often outside.

Take, for instance, the case of the new U.S. policy toward China.

This nation, since the war, has undertaken a commitment of halting communism throughout the world. It has lavished your money and mine, to the impairment of American living standards and the complete disintegration of the price and wage balance, in order that shaky governments abroad be propped up enough to withstand the Reds.

But, so committed, what results did U. S. achieve. While possible communist revolution was postponed for awhile in Greece; and while a combination of unsavory elements was welded temporarily into an anti-communist front in Italy; and while in a few other nations—in all less than 100,000,000 in population—were "saved" from revolution, the 500,000,000 millions of Chinese were rolling merrily on to a genuine Red revolt.

Does that make sense. So long as this nation, by policy and plan, is patterning a program for eventual war with Russia and communism, does it make sense that we'd let half a billion people go over to the "enemy" while trying to hold as allies—and with terrific cost—a handful of washed-out, sawed-off, cut-over European counties, which the State Department has mistakenly called countries?

It is true that realism dictated that China was a lost cause. There was good reason to abandon the nefarious Chiang Kai-shek and his robber gang. Yet having so decided that China could no longer be an outpost of U.S. defenses against the Soviet, what next?

Such a momentous decision calls for another, because the balance of world power shifts violently in a new direction with the shifting of China on the scales.

China has long slept while western nations dominated her. Her vast population was of little account because of her backwardness and disunity.

But China has great potential power. Its people are industrious and alert. Given a start on industrialization they are likely to progress far more rapidly along that line than the Russians did. Truly, Mao, the Communist chief, has far better material in the coolie than Lenin and Stalin had in the muzik.

For Stalin, facing a hostile West, the American White Paper's acknowledgment of the loss of China to the Reds is a far greater triumph than a similar sweep would be in the motherland of Europe, which U.S. policy now has to concentrate upon.

In the White paper, there ought to be something more than the admission of the failure of our policy in China alone. It makes suspect the whole policy of "containing" communism.

Moreover, our leaders will be blind if they do not see that the forfeiture of China upsets the balance we might have had of overwhelming superiority over the forces of communism. The cold war is not going well for U. S. It would be reckless and foolhardy to believe we can now array the same powerful lineup of forces we once could. China—not the weak and torn China of today—but the China of tomorrow, will be a far greater nation than she was in the past. Toward the U. S. China has cherished a friendly feeling. There is a reservoir of good will we can preserve.

But, if we revalue our relations in a new turning point in history, and in respect to a new China, we ought to revalue our whole current policy. Will we have to bow out of other nations as ignominiously as we have had to do in China? Are we prepared to wage the cold war? Or will we be frozen out by it? Or, just for the hell of it, why not try the tactics of peace

Council Asks Money Back On Street Job

The city council Wednesday asked the State Highway Commission for its money back—for unrendered services.

Mill City had paid the state \$1000 for work on streets, promised to begin Aug. 1. Payment was made last June, the department requesting the money in advance.

In a letter to Jerry Farrar, highway official, Carl Kelly, street commissioner, wrote:

"The city of Mill City request the State Highway Commission refund our check for \$1000 which was intended for repair of our streets. We have decided against this plan and are going ahead with the paving with new equipment which we have purchased."

The council has assigned Police Chief J. T. King to superintend the street work. Larry Wright, former Marion County deputy sheriff in the upper Canyon area, has been asked to serve as local officer temporarily.

One of the biggest single jobs to be undertaken is grading down 1st Ave. to reduce the abrupt rise there.

The stretch has been culverted and work will begin in a week or so.

Huge Tank to Be Installed at Lyons

An 18,000 gallon gas tank will be installed in Lyons at a new railroad siding, it was announced by Sam Bridges, distributor of liquid bottled fuel in the Canyon area.

Mr. Bridges said a rapid increase in consumption of the fuel in the area his company serves necessitated additional storage facilities. The tank is 60 feet long, eight feet in diameter and foundations for it are being installed. A railroad siding already has been put in.

Mr. Bridges estimated the cost of the new installations at \$15,000.

The business was set up less than a year ago.

TRAILER BURNS

Fire destroyed the trailer home of Norman Thomason Sunday evening in Idanha.

It was believed that the fire had smoldered in the home for some time before breaking into flame, when observed by neighbors. The fire department was called out, but it was too late to save the trailer. It was the second recent fire for Mr. Thomason. A short time ago the inside of his car was burned.

BLESSED EVENT

George Steffy paced the floor all night. The stork was on time and a half. "Wild Honey," his cocker spaniel, had seven pups.

Search Unites Kin After 48 Years

A little, white-haired lady of 86 years was united with her granddaughter and her son after 48 years. They are Mrs. Evan Yates and her father, William Gillespie.

Forty-eight years ago Mrs. Gillespie and her husband came out to Oregon in a covered wagon with their three children. The husband did not survive and Mrs. Gillespie worked out to make a living. The children were placed out and finally became separated. Mr. Gillespie was fifteen the last time he saw his mother until a search finally discovered her living in Eugene.

Mrs. Yates is living at Martin's trailer court and it was last weekend that she saw her grandmother for the first time. She was still thrilled and dazed.

For a little while.

Well, all this is written to explain to my outlander friends why I like to write about the Canyon. Things make sense here. A great dam is being erected, kilowatts make sense. A vast lake will rise. Fishing's better than fighting. Man's efforts here add up to better gains, to a better life, and not to confusion.

N. Santiam Highway to Be Opened Sunday by McKay

Kindergarten Plans Completed

The kindergarten which the Mill City Parent-Teacher Assn. is sponsoring this year will begin the latter part of September, according to Mrs. Robert Veness, PTA president, who has been making arrangements. The upstairs of the firehall will probably be used.

Mrs. R. L. Ash, who formerly was a teacher in North Dakota, will have charge. If registration warrants it, an assistant will be needed.

A five-day week is being planned with children between the ages of 4 and 6 years eligible. Hours will be between 9 and 11:30 in the morning.

Later this month a special meeting will be announced so that all interested mothers will be informed of the equipment needed, the charge per month, and other necessary data.

Registration is open at the Mill City Enterprise or with Mrs. Robert Veness, president.

There has been discussion of afternoon classes. This matter will be taken up at the meeting.

School to Open September 6

Vernon S. Todd, superintendent of schools, called upon new residents this week to register their children well in advance of the regular opening of school Sept. 6.

Mr. Todd said the local school is aware that a great increase in student population has occurred this summer and the school wants to be ready.

Pre-registration of new students in both the grande and high schools will open Friday, Sept. 2. At the same time a registration of new first grade children and freshmen in the high school will be made.

Pre-school registration will be held from 9 to 12 the Morning of Sept. 2. Mr. Todd announced that Burton Borroughs, formerly athletic director at Sweet Home, will coach sports in the local high school this year, replacing Steve Beck, who resigned.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wright have moved to the Reid Motel apartments.

Railroad Above Gates Draws Toward Its Logging Finale

This week is the last one for the Southern Pacific branch above Gates, to Idanha, a chapter in railroad history closed by the opening of a new chapter in the age of electric power.

The line must make way for the Detroit Dam, whose reservoir will inundate eight miles of its trackage and end the usefulness of the remaining 12 or 13 miles above Gates. The SP has scheduled its abandonment effective today. And when the North Santiam highway is officially opened Sunday, they'll start tearing up the tracks.

D. B. Hill, local banker, said the first railroad to the upper Canyon in the latter 1880's. It was built by the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad, and was one of the first rail lines to cut its way into the big timber of the Cascades' west slope. But its builders went broke before the big profits of the virgin Douglas fir were reapable.

The company was so broke it could not pay its men. Workers who cut cordwood—the engines used wood instead of coal—for \$1 a cord and piled it along the right-of-way, burned it rather than let the railroad use it without paying for it.

The green gold of the timber along the road was reaped by A. B. Hammond, who bought the line, all the

Engineers Start Buying Reservoir Land

A program of land acquisition in the area of the Detroit Dam reservoir got under way this week, with purchases of several tracts by the Army Engineers.

Lt. Col. D. A. Elliget, acting Portland district engineer, said nine options had been accepted. Several hundred parcels of private and non-federal land will be acquired.

The tracts were:

Hammond Lumber Co., 146.73 acres, \$4585.

Oregon Fish Commission, 80 acres, \$2884.

Oregon Pulp and Paper Co., 55.5 acres, \$19,910.

Col. Elliget said the real estate division would continue to accept options until all property in the reservoir has been acquired.

Congress has not authorized purchase of any property, other than for direct use, above the water line of the lake.

Detroit to Receive New Auditorium

Detroit is getting a new auditorium for its school system this week.

The building will be turned over to the Detroit-Idanha school district in time for the pre-dedication ceremonies of the North Santiam highway. Overall dimensions of the building are 88 by 124 feet and is complete except for some hardware. It was built for the Army Engineers by the Rushlite Co.

The same company also has the contract for building the resident engineer's office at the damsite, scheduled to be ready in about six weeks.

Work started this week on the new townsite for permanent residents of the Detroit Dam personnel. Contract was won by Minnis and Shilling, Eugene, who will grade housing and parking areas, build a repair shop, warehouse, electrical, sewer and water systems, for an initial 15-home community on the lake formed by the dam between the Breitenbush and Tumble Creek bridges.

It Was a Trail 49 Years Ago

To one Canyon old resident, the opening of the North Santiam highway Sunday has especial meaning. For he and his family came down the same Canyon route 49 years ago in a pack train.

He is W. J. Stitt, of Gates, who has lived there for almost half a century.

Mr. Stitt, his wife, now deceased, his father, William Stitt, and two children made the trip by horseback around 1900 over the Minto Trail.

One child rode with his father, and Mrs. Stitt carried a baby on another horse. Mr. Stitt managed the pack horses.

They were living in eastern Oregon when they decided to make the trip to Gates, where they had relatives.

The trail was the only route besides the railroad until 1925 when the first highway was built.

Realty Deals Portend New Building Rise

Real estate transactions which pre-empt thousands of dollars of business developments in the lower Canyon area were made this week.

The M. & M. Woodworking Co. of Portland purchased property along the Southern Pacific branch, between Mill City and Gates, from Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Lanphear, for a reload site and car loading area. Preparation of the site is already in progress.

The loading zone will be used to transfer veneer from the Idanha Veneer Co., a subsidiary, and for loading logs. After the abandonment of the railroad this week above Gates, lumber companies in the upper Canyon will be no longer able to ship wood products through the construction area of the Detroit Dam.

The Ford Harvey mill and the Idanha Lumber Co. previously were reported as purchasers of sites for sidings.

Dick Turpin sold 108 feet of highway frontage in the northeast part of town to C. H. Cass and L. C. Davis, both of Detroit. Mr. Cass said that construction of 100 feet of retail business frontage was planned for the site.

Mr. Turpin said that the Detroiters had sold their Detroit stores to the government in the land acquisition program of the Army Engineers of the area to be covered by the reservoir of the Detroit dam.

Mr. Davis is proprietor of a general store in Detroit, the old Roy Newport business, and Mr. Cass has been a contractor and builder in the same area.

The Mill City State Bank's new quarters, being remodeled out of the old Red and White building, are going ahead rapidly. Cement piers and supports were being poured on the south wall this week. As soon as the work on the walls is completed, construction of an interior more than double the size of the bank's present quarters will begin.

Mrs. Ruth Witt has announced the leasing of half of her store building to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Oleson, of Woodland, Wash., for a ready-to-wear and gift shop. The Olesons operate a similar business in Woodland. It will be Mill City's first dress shop.

The new laundry building on 1st Av. was nearing completion, and Alt Construction Co. completed the exterior walls on a new garage being built for an Albany garage man adjacent to it. Both are of block construction.

Quality job printing at the Enterprise.

Ceremony Planned At Bridge

Gov. Douglas McKay will preside over the dedication of the North Santiam Highway Sunday, his office said today.

The North Santiam Highway is a dream come true. Its opening Sunday lights the whole future of this Canyon.

Once a back road avoided by all but the hardiest motorist, it now has become a modern thoroughfare, linking the Pacific Northwest with the East and the Southwest.

Dedication ceremonies will be held at Breitenbush Bridge Sunday morning at 11:30, after caravans from the east and west meet there.

Following the dedication a picnic will be held at Whitewater forest camp at 1 o'clock.

Miss Jeanne Bray, Detroit, has been chosen queen for the day. Her princesses are Mary Gordon and Delphine Tucker, Idanha, Jackie Payne, Detroit, and Lorena Devine, Gates.

Honoring the royal court a queen's ball will be held in the new auditorium of the Detroit school Friday evening.

County Judge Frank Murphy will cross the open in ceremonies following the banquet.

Parking space at the dedication is to be open at the school grounds. The Boy Scouts will have charge of the sale of ice cream and pop.

The following committees have made the arrangements:

East of the Cascades: Tommy Thompson, Redmond; M. K. Hawk, (Continued on Back Page)

BRIGHT COLORS GLAMOURIZE SCHOOL FOR LOCAL KIDS

Going to school may be a dull business, but it's bound to be a little brighter in the new Mill City Grade School.

Interior decoration is progressing rapidly in the new building. Bright colors are the rule. Even the old blackboard has turned a bright green. Tile floors in two colors contrast with two-tone walls in every room.

About 75 per cent of the glazing has been completed. Most of the cabinets are completed and some of them are in.

Al Adams, superintendent, is sure now that the building will be ready for the opening of school Sept. 6.

Thick maple floors were being laid this week in the gymnasium. A huge stage at the west end has been constructed.

16 ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS REPORTED FOR JULY

Police Chief J. T. King reported to the city council 16 arrests, upon which there were the same number of convictions, for the month of July.

Of these, six were for disorderly conduct, five for drunkenness, three for speeding and two for reckless driving.

LOSES FINGER IN SAW

John J. McMahon lost his little finger in a buzz saw Wednesday when he was helping a neighbor cut wood.

Mr. McMahon said he looked down and saw his little finger dangling and the saw cutting into the next finger before he felt any pain. He had six stitches taken in the next finger. He was treated by the local physician.

Mr. McMahon is a new resident, coming from Feather River, Calif.

LOGGER INJURED

Edward Tschiller suffered a broken leg when a log twisted, striking him, in a logging operation of Idanha Lumber Co. He was taken to a Salem hospital.

The Tschillers live in a trailer house above Idanha.