

# 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  
Have you taken a trip around town lately? There are many wonderful things to see. New buildings, new people. Everything new but the avenues.

Let me suggest an itinerary. You start out north on Springbush Drive, then turn left at Rattle Road. You proceed slowly, trying to decide which of a row of chuckholes to hit, then you turn right at Corduroy Street. All along the route you will see beautiful new homes, partially hidden by piles of excavated dirt along new water mains. Now you come, after changing three tires, to Highway 222, especially engineered by R. C. Baldock for oxcart travel. Thence across the bridge and up Baldock Curve, a gentle incline for which one is advised to hire a tow truck before attempting.

You have now taken in the sights of Mill City along its famous boulevards. If your credit is good at your local garage, I'd suggest an overhaul.

The Linn County courthouse operates on the theory that the North Santiam Canyon is out of bounds, although that which lies south of the river is—and we've got maps to prove it—without doubt in Linn.

The courthouse feels that what business there is to be transacted can be done by mail to this remote province.

I'm not kidding, that's how they police this part of the Canyon. It's hard to believe but true that the Albany officials are doing a mail order business in warrants for crime.

This is a true story. About a month ago three hoodlums went to the Grange dance at Mehama. There they demolished part of the hall and, when an officer of the lodge tried to restrain them, one of the rowdies slugged him in the eye, breaking his glasses with the blow and injuring him, fortunately not seriously.

The hoodlums were known. A formal complaint was signed against them. So—

The district attorney wrote them a letter! Asking, please, Mr. Hoodlum, will you kindly give yourself up in the matter of a little mayhem, assault and felonious vandalism.

The three accused men did not reply. Presumably, they didn't have a stamp.

So, your editor, always ready to oblige, has volunteered to reply in his best English in behalf of the tree, as follows:

"Dear Mr. District Attorney:  
"Thank you for your kind invitation to visit you in Albany and discuss matters of mutual interest.

"It so happens that on the day you suggest, I have another engagement. Some friends and myself were planning to muss up a joint up the Canyon a piece.

"In the matter you mention in your courteous letter, I wish to state that I am considering filing a complaint over the events of that particular evening. We found the Granges most un hospitable. In fact, they heaved us out of the place. Is that any way to treat a citizen, going about his business tearing down doors and busting windows?"

"I plan to be in Albany sometime in 1955. If you are still in office, I'll look you up.

"Please hold the warrant till I arrive.

"Respectfully,  
"Sampson Q. Slugfest"

Our business manager, who is still a woman, for all her practicality, says (I quote):  
"I'd rather have a thousand dollars on my back than a thousand dollars in the bank."

From the same source comes a report of news abroad. She said:

"I see where Ali is going to have a Baba."

Take it away, Herman!

### FALDOCK COLUMN

A heavy equipment truck loaded with a huge "cat" snapped a main driveshaft trying to make the steep grade on the highway here Monday and had to be eased down by gravity but blocked the traffic partially for about an hour.

## Big Rise Seen In School Enrollment

School registration in the Canyon this fall is expected to reach an all-time high, and school officials are waiting for registration day with a feeling of dread.

An estimated 75 to 100 additional students are expected in Gates. Up the Canyon, in the Detroit-Idanha district, school officials anticipate that even the facilities of the new building will be taxed.

Mill City doesn't know quite what to expect. Over 100 new dwellings have been built since the close of the spring term. Trailer camps are filling up. At least 150 of them are parked in the Mill City area. Charles Kelly, postmaster, estimated to the postal department that there are 2500 people in the Mill City area—the last official census in 1947 showed 1223.

All this indicates a tremendous increase in the school population and enrollment. Even a voluntary kindergarten registered 40 pre-school children—more than the customary first grade figure.

Lyons, too, has noticed what indicates a larger enrollment.

Every district in the Canyon anticipated the increase with building programs the past year. In Detroit a large building was erected for the district by the Army Engineers. Mill City is completing a large 12-room grade school. Gates added this summer to its facilities. Lyons consolidated district will have its new school completed by October.

The Gates schools will open for the fall term September 12. The grade school has received a new coat of paint inside and a new oil burning furnace has been installed. The high school building has been completely renovated and the kitchen from which the hot lunches are served has also been painted and is ready for the opening of school. An addition of three new dressing rooms and eight showers has enlarged the gymnasium and brought the building up to standard. It has been ceiled inside and newly painted inside and out. A new roof has been placed on the building and an automatic oil burner installed. Other improvements are cement side walks and gravel placed over the yard in the back making a large parking space free from mud.

## Kindergarten To Start in Fall

At a special meeting Wednesday afternoon, plans were discussed for the new kindergarten which is being sponsored by the Mill City Parent-Teacher Association. About 40 children have been registered for the pre-school instruction which will begin Monday morning, September 12, at the firehall.

A charge of six dollars per month will be made for each child, plus an assessment for equipment as the need arises. Mrs. R. L. Ash, instructor, said would order many of the necessary supplies on her visit to Seattle this week.

## Work on Road To Elkhorn Begins

A Marion County crew started to work Wednesday on the Elkhorn on the Gates-Elkhorn road four miles over the north ridge.

Elkhorn residents today said a wide roadbed is being cut through, and believed the road would be an adequate link between the two communities.

Commissioner Roy Rice said the road would be ditched and crowned to prevent washing. Steepest part is on the Elkhorn side, where 10 per cent grades may be the best that can be done.

The road is important to the Canyon because it connects it with an important recreation and export area. It may be valuable in logging operations, for millions of feet of white pine timber are in the Little North Fork watershed.

The improvement was sought in a local Chamber of Commerce resolution two years ago.

## Traffic Hits Record on New Road

Traffic on the new North Santiam highway more than doubled in the ten days since its opening Aug. 14, a spot check revealed this week. Last Sunday more than two and one-half times normal travel took to the new route.

Already heavy trucks going to California and the east are seen in increasing numbers.

Sunday, tourist and recreation travel boomed. Traffic was far heavier than it was for the opening day the previous Sunday.

Local restaurant and tavern trade jumped considerably during the day. The cars of picnickers and fishermen were rolling up the Canyon bumper to bumper, from early morning, and the stream of traffic both ways did not subside till some time after dusk.

The use of the road since the opening appears to be but a preview of what it is expected to be as soon as surfacing is completed.

A crusher is being set up along the unsurfaced portion and Bureau of Public Roads officials are hopeful that the final surface can be laid before the fall rains set in. The highway will be black-topped.

Rogers Bros., Portland contractors for surfacing the 14 miles, shipped part of their crusher up the Canyon today.

## Paving Plans Hit a Snag

Three meetings of property owners and school and city officials were held this week in an effort to reach an agreement on paving Evergreen St. from the CBI addition to First Ave.

The parties concerned were to meet again Thursday evening. But chief obstacle so far has been lack of funds in the school district, which has property on two thirds of the stretch. Consolidated Builders, Inc., has offered to pay the cost of the pavement past its addition and along the park frontage south of the centerline of the street.

In meetings thus far, the school board had to report, reluctantly, that it just didn't have the funds for the pavement.

Also discussed was a plan to place a stoplight at the school crosswalk to the new school. The light would be of a type that pedestrians could operate when crossing the street.

The street has become increasingly in use with the building of 40 or more homes in the area using it. Also, the city council has previously studied a plan for cutting a new street feeding out of the Swift addition into the school area. This would further increase its use.

### FOOTBALL PRACTICE TO START

Coach Burton Boroughs of the Mill City High School has announced that football practice will start Sept. 1, a few days in advance of the opening of school.

Mr. Boroughs said the first meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a practice period beginning at 5. Equipment will be issued the same day.

Coach Boroughs, who takes over sports direction here this year after several successful seasons in Sweet Home, stressed the importance of all football prospects showing up for the initial meeting.

Although Mill City High School lost some key players by graduation last year, it still has a hard core of veterans around which to build a successful team, with newcomers an unknown quantity. On the line the veteran Ernie Podrabsky will bolster up the guard position, but it will be hard to replace Verbeck at end and Al Haas at center. The sparkplugs of last year's back field, Leo and Lawrence Poole, are returning.

It looks as if Coach Boroughs will have to concentrate on filling up a strong line.

### OF C PICNIC SUNDAY

The Knights of Columbus will hold a picnic at King's between Mill City and Lyons beginning at noon Sunday.

# Dam Tunnel to Be Finished by Sept. 2

## New Route For Highway Under Study

Request of the Marion County court for immediate construction of a new route for Highway 222 on the Marion side of the river was put on the agenda of the State Highway Commission this week for "earliest possible attention."

In reply to a strong demand from Marion County officials, Secretary Glayser said the matter would be put up to the commission at first opportunity.

The court contended that the present route would not carry the big equipment and installations for the Detroit Dam, and pointed out that two bridges, in Mehama and Mill City were too narrow for many anticipated loads.

Locally there has been further surveying by the state, and property owners of unpurchased portions of right of way have been approached.

## Elkhorn Asks School Tieup

Residents of the Elkhorn district voted overwhelmingly to join the Mill City school district, in a special meeting at the school house.

In the final vote 13 ballots were cast in favor of joining with Mill City and 7 for joining with Lyons.

Bill Bickett was chairman of the meeting at which Mrs. Agnes Booth, county superintendent of schools in Marion County, and Walter Bell, of Stayton, attorney, were present.

The Elkhorn district has found it increasingly difficult to maintain a school for the 15 or more children of permanent residents because of the teacher shortage.

With a good road across the ridge—and one is now being constructed by the county—the children can be served by school buses.

Mrs. Ray Roberts and others from Elkhorn conferred today with members of the Mill City school board.

### AUTO CLIFF PLUNGE KILLS 2

A Portland couple, Roscoe Pierce and Mrs. Anna B. Pierce, both about 30, were killed early Monday when their station wagon plunged into a deep canyon off Highway 22.

A motorist noticed auto lights still burning in the wrecked car and Lester Howell, county deputy, arrived at the scene about 3 a.m.

Apparently a tire had burst and the brakes locked just before the two went over the cliff.

## More Clearing Bids Opened

The Bonneville Power Administration Tuesday awarded a low bid of \$52,760 for clearing a portion of fringed land on its right-of-way from the Detroit Dam over the Cascades to Clem H. Eslinger, of Hillboro. The bids on the portion ranged as high as \$400,000.

The area in question, a 175 foot right-of-way, is from the damsite and Breitenbush.

The contractor was given 360 days to complete the job. Announcement of the award was made by W. E. Trommershausen, Eugene, district manager for BPA.

Comment of contractors engaged in clearing work for Bonneville and the Detroit Dam reservoir was generally skeptical that the job could be done for the contract figure. They pointed out that there are hundreds of snags—"widow makers"—that are a menace and a chore in any logging or clearing operation.

BPA also announced the opening of bids on another section of clearing on the Maupin-Detroit transmission line—the Warm Springs portion. Low bidder when estimates were opened Tuesday was the V & M Operating Co., Oswego, for \$129,000.

The contract was divided into three parts, and not all bidders submitted estimates for all three schedules. Of those that did, the following bids were made:

Andre J. Schmid, Orchards, Wash., \$273,408.00; M. A. Pithoud, Vancouver, \$296,950; and F. E. Wilder, Olympia, \$297,500.

Bids are being reviewed.

## First Street Signs Installed Here

Now you know where you live. This week porcelain, white-on-blue street signs were installed on most of the main streets in town, and the townsfolk, who up to now have had a hard time directing strangers, will find the job a little easier.

Robert Veness, councilman, had the assignment of getting the signs and installing them.

A few weeks ago, in the Thomas addition, the first street sign was installed there by a property owner, George Steffy.

### HOTEL INTEREST SOLD

Alva Johnston, formerly of Dallas, has purchased the equipment and fixtures of the Mill City Hotel and took over the management this week. He recently operated a hotel in Truckee, Calif., and before then ran the Imperial Hotel in Dallas.

## Old Railroad Taken Up

The diversion tunnel for the North Santiam River through the mountain on the south bank is scheduled to be completed Sept. 2, according to the Mill City office of Consolidated Builders, Inc.

(In Washington this week an appropriation of \$9,500,000 for the Detroit Dam was approved by a joint conference of Representatives and Senators. The sum is lower than the \$11,300,000 sought by the Army Engineers.)

The tunnel, 25 feet in diameter and 1400 feet long, is being excavated by the Shea Co., Alhambra, Calif., one of the principals of CBI. Ed Shea of the Alhambra firm visited the tunnel job Thursday.

### Hard Rock All the Way.

The tunnel work has progressed rapidly since it was started in July. It will be completed on schedule. All the way the diggers encountered only solid rock with no faults, indicating that a solid foundation for the dam will be provided at the site.

Meanwhile work is going ahead on a coffer dam just below the upper tunnel entrance. When the hole is cut through, the water of the river will be diverted by the temporary dam into the tunnel.

At the exit end of the hole, a training wall is being installed. This is to direct the water from the tunnel back into the channel below the dam.

The tunnel is large enough that a car can turn around in it.

### CBI Hiring 480.

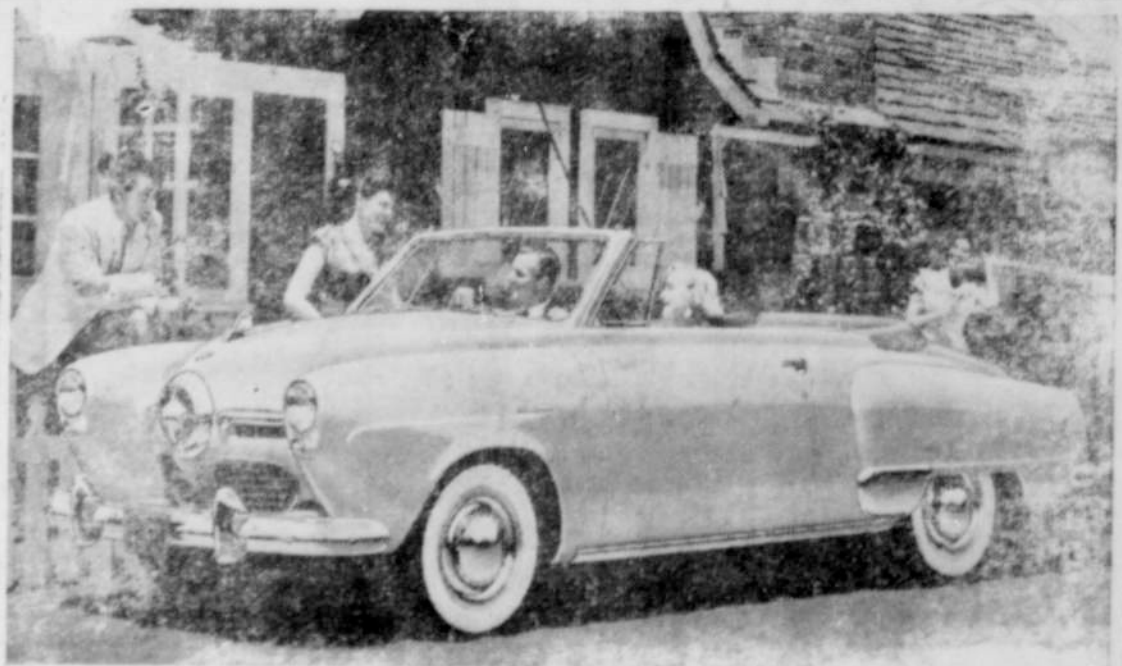
At present, 480 are on the CBI payroll here. In addition several hundred more are indirectly employed in the Detroit Dam project by the Army Engineers, Bonneville and numerous subcontractors.

Work started last week on dismantling the railroad, which was closed above the dam when the highway was opened. Local engineers said that the abandonment of the branch has helped to speed up work on the dam, and excavation of the north face will proceed soon after the tracks are removed.

Traffic is being held up for brief periods on the highway while a power shovel above loads big "Ukes" with rock. The site is being excavated for a tower—one of two which will hold cables that carry huge buckets of concrete to pour into the form for the dam.

### Methods Still Under Study

CBI engineers said that the method of transporting rock, gravel and sand from the Cumley Creek quarry has still not been decided. Either a wide rubber conveyor belt will carry the aggregate, or a truck road will be used. More likely is the conveyor belt system.



The new exterior beauty of the 1950 Studebaker passenger cars is shown in this view of the Champion convertible. The streamlined interiors keep pace with an advanced design which gives the cars sweeping new lines. The redesigned coil spring front suspension provides peak riding and handling ease. The new model is on display at Baughn's in Detroit.