

# Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

A few weeks ago we moved into a new (or practically new) home. A rather startling fact has faced us in the process—we're unable to buy a lot of items that are essential for our new place right here at home.

There have been about 100 new houses built in Mill City and vicinity in the past nine months. And I got to thinking—the owners of these new homes must have been in the same fix as we were when it came to essentials.

For instance, one can't buy drapery materials anywhere in the Canyon. Curtains and drapes for 100 homes must have amounted to quite a figure—to Salem or Portland merchants—for these 100 homes.

The same is true of items like rugs, insulating materials, special decorations, shrubs, etc.

It would be, I believe, a conservative estimate that \$150 worth of such items, not locally carried, went into the hundred homes. In other words, \$15,000 in local spending went outside.

True, there is always a percentage of trade that goes to the bigger cities. There always will be. The local merchant can point out to you that it wouldn't pay to carry such items as I have mentioned. Yet, it could be pointed out to him that at times he can't afford not to carry them.

Mill City has a great future as a trading center. A large recreation area around the lake formed by the Detroit Dam will draw thousands as summertime residents on its shores. The improved road into Elkhorn, now being built, will draw into this Canyon the trade of a hundred resort households. That trade will be ours if competitively we can match the marts of more distant cities.

I'm not implying any criticism of our local merchants when I mention things they don't keep in stock. They have had their hands full just keeping apace with local growth, of building new buildings, of making all variety of adjustments to changed conditions. Yet the future seems bright for a real trading center here—and well stocked places of business are the key to such a program.

Rapid growth of population and additional building in the west and southwest parts of town has created a real problem of access streets for these newer districts. Within the city limits, vacant lots are filling up with new homes. And just outside are two additions waiting to come into the city.

Yet, for those who are settling to the west, there's but one way into town—the highway. For the 40 or 50 school children, walking along that heavily traveled route is a serious hazard.

To the southwest, the problem is a little different. All traffic must go via Kingwood St. (the county road) and First Ave. To school, this means eight or ten blocks for the child that lives but a few blocks from it.

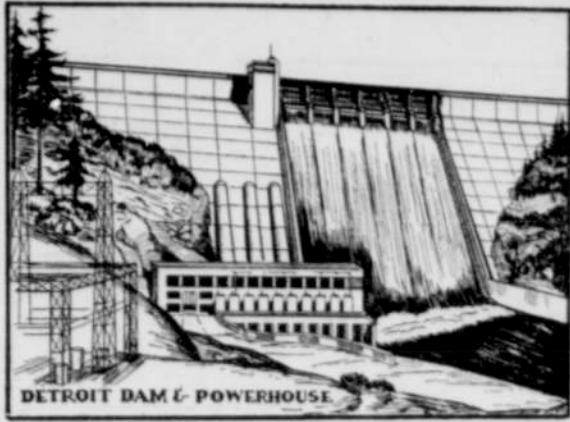
The Ogden addition, when developed, will provide access streets to both areas—the Swift addition and west along the highway and in the old Paradise addition. Both streets will lead into Evergreen, which Bob Veness, councilman, believes will be a main thoroughfare. Two years ago west from the school, Evergreen was a two-lane highway—there were two deep ruts.

A few weeks ago, the usually fair-minded former Governor Charles Sprague in The Statesmen was sharply critical of the Army Engineers for locating Mongold, Detroit Dam construction camp, below the eventual water level of the reservoir. The governor was doubtless influenced by a mild case of dyspepsia plus a reactionary article in the Readers Digest of which I will refrain from polite remarks at this time.

Fact is, Mongold was a logical step in the vast undertaking of building the dam, and it was the most economical means of providing housing for 48 families and over 500 single workers.

Mongold was built with material salvaged from old army bases, as was the Detroit school. The apartments were built out of housing that had been temporary—set up originally to last out a five-year war period. That it is serving another five years is all to the good. The barracks were of the same junk lumber, and their construction costs were lessened because they were delivered on the Mongold site partly fabricated. So were the apartments.

All the buildings are of such temporary construction that it is a relief to be assured that—ugly as they are—they will not mar the future land-



DETROIT DAM & POWERHOUSE

## Population Rise Jams Schools in Canyon

School buildings in the North Santiam Canyon bulged with children—with increases as much as 100 per cent over last year's enrollment.

Gates was the biggest gainer, as children from the many trailer parks in the area were added to an already large enrollment.

Mill City grade school passed the 300 mark, an increase of 90 and the high school was up about 25, to a total of 92.

Detroit's grade school was not much smaller, with 240 enrolled and more expected.

High school there showed 338 early in the week.

Lyons enrollment went up to 200.

Fortunately, every community has anticipated the increase with new or enlarged buildings. But in many cases teachers will have classes rather too large until more personnel can be hired.

Gates schools opened Monday with a 100 per cent increase in registration.

Monday—with enrollment still incomplete—the total was 168, with 55 of that number in the junior and senior high schools.

Principal of the high school again this year is T. R. Burton, and the

## Gates Organizes Business Group

Gates businessmen, whose community, according to school registration this week, has experienced the most rapid growth of any in the Canyon, are organizing a commercial group.

First meeting was held at the Gates furniture store Thursday evening and again Monday night.

A board of directors was elected, including Glen Hearing, George Clise, Joe Jun, Floyd Volkel and Dick Parker. George Clise was chosen to serve as chairman and Dick Parker as secretary-treasurer.

Present at the first meeting, besides the directors, were Norman Garrison, J. Adams, John LaHaie, Gilbert Weathers, Jerry Lyons, Frank Saunders, Harold Heath, Ned Richards, William Hutcheson, Wilson Park and Bob Jackson.

## SNOWBALL BUSH BLOOMS

A snowball bush in the Frank Blazek must have thought the recent rain was a spring shower, for several blooms appeared on its top this week—out of season by half a year.

The bush stands about 15 feet high and Mrs. Addie Wells, who lives in a second story apartment nearby, first observed the blossoms, not noticeable from the ground.

Only the top branches had blooms.

## WILSONS BUY PROPERTY

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wilson, of Mehama, who operate a hatchery in that vicinity, have purchased property in Four Corners, containing several large and small buildings. The tract, with two large duplex buildings and two cottages, all rental property, was purchased from F. A. Boyington.

scapes.

At Mongold, rents of over \$125 a day are being collected from the barracks alone. The apartments are paying and more than paying their way.

The governor was also irked over the fact that the other installations such as streets, a water and sewage system, would be lost when the area is flooded.

Facts are that only the cheapest pipe went into the ground, and it is expected to last about as long as the dam building period. As for the foundations, streets, etc., that were installed—one has only to look at Camp Adair today to wish its debris, old foundations, stark chimneys and worthless streets were well under many feet of water.

In the Mongold area, much of the work was done by the Army Engineers themselves after contractors had bid too high over estimates. In every case, projects were completed at less cost than the lowest bid but below the estimates.

teaching staff includes Mr. and Mrs. William Hall and Mrs. Bowling.

Grade school teachers are Mrs. Riley Champ, Mrs. Olive Barnhart and Mrs. Gwen Schaar.

A number of students from the old Blowout Camp have been included in the Detroit district this year and will attend there, thus avoiding a long and hazardous trip for the school bus.

## Scouts Seek Cabin Sight

The city council Wednesday evening heard Boy Scout representatives and their plans for a scout cabin in the city park. Clyde Golden, local committee chairman, and Louis Verbeck, committeeman, presented plans for a large cabin an scout headquarters in the southeast corner of the park.

The council has referred the plans to the city planning commission.

The council was informed that the horseshoe shaped street in the CBI addition has been named Parkside Drive.

Work began Monday on cutting down the grade of First Ave, and the abrupt rise there already has disappeared.

Discussed as urgent business was the need for a city charter election as soon as possible. The council is planning to call for it soon, after certain legal details are worked out.

Lack of a city charter has prevented the city from proceeding with special assessment programs for paving, etc., and several additions waiting to come into the city limits cannot be voted in till the charter is set up.

## Family Burned Out

A family of eight was homeless Wednesday when their house in the hill country south of Mill City was totally destroyed by fire.

All personal belongings, including new clothing purchased for a school, was lost in the flames.

Fire was spotted by the lookout station on Monument Peak, and Byron Bates, county warden, investigated and found the Donald Philpott residence a smoldering ruin. He radioed back to Monument Peak and the lookout phoned to Mill City.

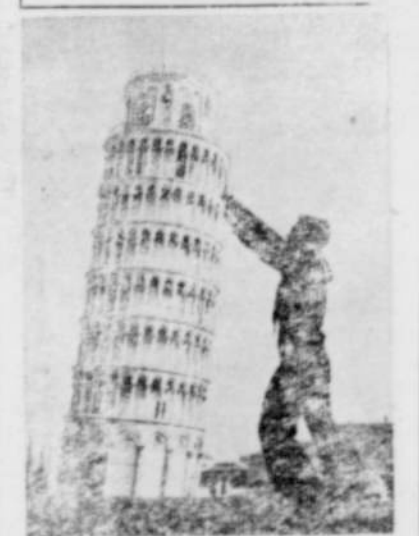
## WHO GOT STUNG?

Mrs. Leo Wagner of Mehama this week reported the theft of a hive of bees.

## NOTICE

Contributions of clothing for a family of eight, bedding and other household necessities are being received by the Firemen's Auxiliary in an emergency collection for the Philpott family, whose home was destroyed by fire. Leave contributions with Mrs. Frank Blazek or Mrs. George Ditter.

## STRAIGHTENER-UPPER



It's all in a day's work for a Navy Bluejacket. A crew member from one of the units of the Sixth Task Fleet lends a little support to the Leaning Tower of Pisa in the course of the Fleet's visit to the ports of northern Italy. Florence, Pisa and other Italian cities were on the sightseeing agenda as the Task Force brought the Naval version of America to Mediterranean shores. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph)

# THE MILL CITY ENTERPRISE

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LYONS, MEHAMA  
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GATES, MONGOLD  
DETROIT, IDANHA

## Key Recreation Area Seen for N. Santiam

### Detroit Vote To Incorporate Set For Oct. 19

The long-cherished hope that Detroit, a town marked for extinction because it lies below the eventual water line of the Detroit Dam reservoir, might find a way to continue on, was nearing reality today.

A bigger and more important Detroit is in the making.

This week the Marion County court set a date of Oct. 13 for holding an election to incorporate an area six miles along the Canyon—including Idanha as well. The incorporation lines proposed, all in Marion County, are bounded on the west by the new school house area eastward a quarter to a half mile in width to Marcy Creek, a mile above Idanha.

The incorporation area follows the same general lines as the Breitenbush fire district.

If the election favors incorporation, the town of Idanha will cease to exist by that name.

Petitions asking for the election were signed by 100 upper Canyon residents, or substantially above the 20 per cent required by law. There are 391 voters in the area.

County officials expedited the election procedure rapidly. Edison Vickers, justice of the Breitenbush justice court, presented the petition to the county court Monday. By Tuesday morning County Attorney Stadter validated the petitions, and by noon the same day the County Court had set the election date.

The new Detroit, which Mr. Vickers said would be the "longest little city in the country," has great hopes in the future of becoming a trading center for a large recreation area expected to develop around Detroit Dam Lake. This lake, about ten miles long, will have a shoreline of about 45 miles, and federal plans are for a road encircling it, with shore frontage leased to summer home owners.

The lake will be the nearest such body of water to a million or more people within 100 miles.

### BIRTHDAYS IDENTICAL

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wiltse, Mill City, are the parents of a boy born, Sept. 6, the same birthday as that of a previous youngster. Statistically, it's a 156 to 1 chance for parents to have two children with the same birth date.

## Complete Face - Lifting to Be Given Farm in Single Day

AUMSVILLE — Farmers from many points in the Pacific Northwest are expected to come here Saturday to see the first farm face-lifting event in the Willamette Valley. A corps of farmer volunteers, equipment company representatives and state and federal soil conservation technicians will attempt to complete a soil and water conservation program on the Irvin Bartels farm, one mile North of Shaw, in a single day.

Willamette Valley Conservation Day is being co-sponsored by the Oregon State Grange and the Santiam soil conservation district, with many civic groups co-operating. By the end of the day, the committee expects to have completed the proper land use and erosion control practices needed on the Bartels farm. All conservation work carried out by Bartels and the staff of equipment operators and soil technicians meets the capability requirements of his land.

### Detroit Dam Engineer Sure It Will Lead in Oregon

The North Santiam Canyon was envisioned today as becoming the greatest recreational area in Oregon by Lt. Col. Jack Miles, resident army engineer of the Detroit Dam.

"I'm getting to be a one-man chamber of commerce about it," he told Mill City Chamber of Commerce members at a noonday luncheon.

Of all the projects in the Willamette Valley Project, the Detroit Dam offers in the reservoir area the longest season for recreational uses, he said.

"I further predict that the view across the reservoir from the highway near Piety Knob, with Mt. Jefferson in the distance, will become as familiar to the nation and the world as the view of Mt. Hood across Lost Lake," he added.

He said that Piety Knob would be an island in the reservoir and would add further to the new lake's possibilities for recreation.

And since not far away there are centers of winter sports, the Canyon's possibilities are not limited to a few months of the year, he said.

But, the colonel advised, those potentialities will come sooner if the Canyon's people see them and do something about them. If they don't, he said, others from the outside will do them later.

The resident engineer's talk covered a wide scope of facts about power production, irrigation, water capacity and river flow statistics.

### Importance of Dam Stressed.

Speaking of the dam, Col. Miles explained its functions as part of the Willamette Valley Project and termed a "very important link" in that vast undertaking which ultimately is intended completely to harness the river and its tributaries. He said the seven dams now under construction or about to be built in the lower Willamette will successfully control floods, and other installations ultimately will maintain the river at a fluctuation of about three feet.

Outflow on the North Santiam is on an average of 1,475,000 acre-feet annually, the major part in the winter and spring. The Detroit Dam, as designed, will retain two-thirds of the maximum recorded flow of the river. The North Santiam, he said, fluctuates between a recorded maximum flow of 61,300 cubic feet per second, and in low water stage drops to a known minimum of but 320 cu. ft. per second.

The reservoir will store 455,000 acre-feet of water (an acre-foot is

the amount one foot deep on an acre) of which 40,000 acre-feet is reserved for power production, 160,000 "dead storage" and the remaining amount flood control storage.

### Water for Irrigation.

Col. Miles estimated that a total of 135,000 acres of land could be irrigated with water from the reservoir, if used. He stated that 200,000 acre feet could be used for that purpose. The irrigation possibilities of the dam were figured in the economics of the planning, the engineer declared, pointing out that he had had to correct certain misconceptions in the Valley by farmers who thought irrigation would be forced upon them. Col. Miles explained that irrigation proceeds only after the farmers of an area set up an irrigation district.

"I was surprised to find out that a lot of folks in the Canyon don't know what Big Cliff Dam is for," he said. "One man told me he thought it was for catching salmon."

Here is how power production will work at Detroit and Big Cliff dams:

Detroit Dam will generate 100,000 kw in two 50,000 kw generators during the periods of peak use in the Northwest, about five or six hours a day. Because production of that volume of power lets loose a veritable flood of water, some means had to be devised to level off the ebb and flow. Hence, Big Cliff Dam, which will hold back these periodic rushes of water and release them in regular volume.

At the same time Big Cliff will be generating a constant 18,000 kw. Power from Detroit Dam will be sent over the Cascades into the NW power pool. Big Cliff's power will go to the valley.

Present schedule calls for the completion of Detroit Dam in June, 1953, but production of power there will actually precede the windup of the job; the first generator is to be cut over in November, 1952.

"Big Cliff Dam must be ready by the time the first generator starts producing power."

### RESCUE IR ROUGH GOING FOR INJURED LOGGER

A hand-over-hand rescue in the rugged McCully Mountain region Friday succeeded in bringing out a Mehama logger to safety and on his way to a Salem hospital.

He was Harry Monroe, employe of Erci IWI Logging Co., whose hip was fractured when a rock was dislodged on a steep hillside and hit him in the back.

The logging area was too rough for stretcher-bearing. The injured man was lifted from the canyon hand over hand up the main line, aided and supported by Ollie Adams and Jim Toome, fellow workers.

### TWO LOSE FINGERS

Two local men lost fingers in construction work last week.

Joe Podrabsky lost part of his left forefinger in a plaster mix machine while working on the Lyons school last Thursday.

Frank Racin, who is building cabins, lost parts of two fingers on a cutoff saw.

### SURPLUS STORE TO OPEN

Burnett Cole, of Detroit, will open a war surplus store in the Mill City Furniture Co. quarters Friday.

The store, called the Santiam War Surplus, will have the same name as the one he opened in Detroit about a year ago. The establishment will carry clothing, shoes and many other items.

### DON'T MISS IT!

An event of greatest importance to everyone interested in agriculture is the "field day" on soil conservation at the Bartels farm near Shaw Saturday. Don't miss it!

(Continued on Back Page)