

# Looking Up and Down the Canyon

By CHARLES WOLVERTON

This week is my last as editor and publisher of the Mill City Enterprise. It marks the end of a little more than three years when it was my privilege to publish the events of the week of the Canyon and Mill City.

It was a real privilege. For no stranger could have been given a more cordial welcome or a happier environment in which to print a paper.

I say cordial in its real sense. Not the cordiality of showy hospitality, or even great outward friendliness. But rather, that kind of cordiality that tolerantly overlooked the mistakes with a good-humored chuckle; the kind that willingly gave the editor the right to his say, whether in agreement or not.

In the three years of my editorship never once did a businessman threaten to cancel an ad out of a desire to dictate what should or should not be printed. Never once did coercion of any sort appear.

Friendly words cheered us on when the going was rough. My family was welcomed as hospitably into the life of the community as if we had been natives.

I've often read or heard tales of city folks variously treated when they move to small towns. There are grim stories of cruel gossip, or hopeless boredom, or patronizing accounts of dear, quaint characters encountered. For my own part my life here has found none of these.

The town, the Canyon, has been wonderful to me.

There must be something in the heritage of the town and the Canyon that makes them happy places to live in. The narrow-minded souls are submerged by an overriding tolerance. The dictatorship of cliques has to give way to a natural and proud and vigorous democracy. Cheap standards of money-grubbing make way for a generosity that comes from the heart.

These feelings I cherish about the town and this region perhaps gave me the incentive to want to fight for it—and I have done so, often no doubt, with harsh words that were not wise. Yet as time passed their sting, and the resentment that engendered them, have gone away.

The Enterprise has grown since that rainy October day we came—to face three years of the hardest work we ever undertook, three years of tension and no little worry. But that growth has not been in part our contribution. It has been the result of generous support of a friendly community.

If I have any criticism of the town, it is criticism which just as easily can be directed at me as a member of the community. Chiefly, our greatest fault here is a reluctance to join together on programs to build and strengthen our town. I have been as guilty as anyone else in this sin of omission. Yet we must strive to overcome this laziness in community endeavor.

In the future—and the Canyon has a wonderful future—several important tasks remain to be done.

First of these—even ahead of manufacturing, is the development of a stable agriculture in the fertile hills nearby. Fruit finds a natural environment here. The vine and the tree, even untended, yield as magnificently as the Land of Honey. Yet that's the story—untended, undeveloped, unused.

Along with the need of basic wood industries to replace those that have timidly quit is the need for a more extensive use of labor on the raw products that are here. A more complete processing of wood, beyond the stage of dimension or planed lumber. Third, is the need for a more full use of wood waste, including the millions of feet of down timber. The idea of rayon or cellophane appears logical, in this instance.

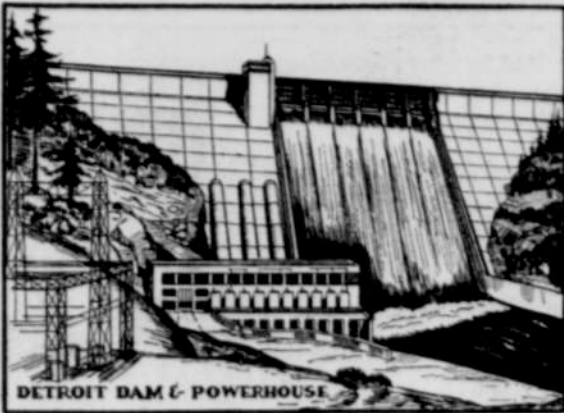
Fourth, to strengthen the process already underway of building a strong trading center here.

Fifth, the continued beautifying of the town, carrying on the good work done the past year.

Lastly, keeping up the drive for a modern highway into the Valley.

I'm confident that I'm turning over to Don Peterson a better paper than I took over three years ago. Because he comes, for the first time, to a vastly improved town than the one that I first saw.

There is consolation in the fact that although I am resigning from the paper, I'm still going to be a fellow-citizen. Charles Sprague wrote that it was part of the lure of Oregon that I should choose to remain after the paper was sold.



DETROIT DAM & POWERHOUSE

# THE MILL CITY ENTERPRISE

VOLUME V, NUMBER 43

MILL CITY, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1949

\$2.00 A YEAR, 5 CENTS A COPY

Serving  
LYONS, MEHAMA  
ELKHORN, MILL CITY  
GATES, MONGOLD  
DETROIT, IDANHA

## Charter Vote Postponed to November 8

Mill City's first charter election has been postponed till Nov. 8 due to delay in posting notice, the city council ruled Wednesday night.

Copies of the charter can be procured from Earl Ragsdale, City Recorder, or are posted at City Hall, the postoffice and the Enterprise office.

Voting places are the City Hall or the Linn County side and The Enterprise office on the Marion side, from 1 to 8 p.m.

Mayor Harold Kliever postponed the regular councilmanic election, which according to the proposed charter would have been Nov. 8 this year, to the second week in December, the 13th, so that the charter's provisions for a 30 day period for nominations and notice could be complied with.

The terms of Albert Toman and Carl Kelly expire this year.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION**  
NOTICE OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ACCORDING TO LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING OR REJECTING THE PROPOSED CHARTER FOR MILL CITY, OREGON, IS HEREBY GIVEN.

Pursuant to the provisions of an ordinance passed by the Common Council of the City of Mill City, Oregon, there will be a special election held upon the 8th day of November, 1949, at the City Hall in Mill City, Oregon, commencing at one o'clock, P. M. and continuing until 8 P. M. of said day, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of said city the proposition of adopting or rejecting the proposed CHARTER for Mill City, (copies of said proposer CHARTER are now posted at the City Hall, in the Post Office and in the office of the Mill City Enterprise; all in the city of Mill City, Oregon), and additional copies of said CHARTER are available for examination at the Recorder's office at City Hall in said City.

The following act shall be submitted to the electors of said City for their approval or rejection, to-wit:

"To enact a charter for the City of Mill City, Linn and Marion Counties, Oregon." Said ballots shall also contain the words "Yes, I vote for the proposed Charter" and "No, I vote against the proposed Charter" which ballot each voter shall mark and cast according to law as each voter may desire to vote.

First Publication, October 27, 1949  
Final Publication, November 3, 1949  
First Posted de, Occh, TTRHHA ETA  
First Posted, October 27, 1949

Earl Ragsdale  
City Recorder of Mill City, Oregon, by order of the Common Council of said city

Held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Rada Saturday was a combination surprise birthday party for her daughter, Carolyn, and a hallowe'en party for her grandchildren, Terry Lee and Tammy Lou Morris of Salem and Linda Lou Copeland of Springfield. Attending were Mrs. Lowell Stiffler, Neal and Wayne, Mrs. Beatrice Jones, Ronnie and David, Mrs. Ella Caswell and granddaughters, Patty and Pamela Slaten of Portland, Mrs. George Crook and Dickie, Mrs. Jack Carey and Phillip, Mrs. Barbara Walter, Mrs. Sig Jepson, Lucille Ziebert and Mrs. T. H. Morris and Mrs. E. L. Copeland.

Joe Toman and daughter, Irene, of Scio had dinner with the L. A. Radas Saturday.

Later in the evening T. H. Morris of Salem and E. L. Copeland of Springfield, sons-in-law of the Radas, arrived from eastern Oregon with their limit of ducks and geese.

Don Peterson will continue the process of improvement of The Enterprise. To it he will add a substantial new industry to the town—a printing business which I was unable to do justice to.

## Chest Solicitor Turns in \$300

H. I. Plymale, volunteer solicitor for the Community Chest, has collected over \$300 for the drive and expects to reach \$500 for the campaign. And that's more than the entire collection last year.

A big boost to the drive has been the formation of an incorporated Community Chest for Mill City and Gates. Under the new setup, about 70 per cent of the collection remains in the two communities, to foster and aid sponsored organizations and programs.

Mr. Plymale's districts were part of the Linn County side and the business area.

Total collections to date have not been announced.

## Idanha First, Again to Goal

For the third consecutive year, Idanha is the first town in Marion County to reach its Community Chest quota.

Sam Palmerton, local chairman, reported Idanha had gone over the top in its \$500 quota last Wednesday.

Huber Ray was co-chairman.

## Tree Planting Project Begins

A tree planting project was started last week by the Forest Service, S. T. Moore, district ranger, has announced.

Forest Service workers are planting a 50 acre tract in the vicinity of Bear's Saddle. About 30,000 trees will be planted. The trees are two-year-old fir seedlings from a Wind River, Wash., nursery.

It will take a crew of five about three weeks to complete the planting.

## JOB OFFICE SEEKS QUARTERS

Representatives of the Oregon Unemployment Compensation Commission said this week that it may have to discontinue its local office this winter if quarters are not found.

## TICKETS OUT FOR BENEFIT

Tickets were in the hands of volunteer firemen this week for their fifth annual benefit and dance Oct. 19. In anticipation of bigger crowds than ever, the firemen are preparing for a bigger evening.

Harold Wiltse is general chairman of the benefit.

To newcomers in this region who weren't here in previous years, the affair usually draws the biggest crowds of any event in the Canyon. It is held in the high school gym, and proceeds go towards the purchase of fire fighting or first aid equipment.

The Lions Auxiliary met Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Vernon Todd with nine members present. After the business meeting a lovely luncheon was served by the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wargnier and family drove to Springfield over the week end visiting his sisters.

The newly organized Bluebird group had their first meeting at the home of Mrs. Vincent Palmer.

Miss Daisy Hendricson spent Monday and Tuesday in Portland visiting Mr. and Mrs. Courtenanche, former Mill City residents. Mrs. Albert Toman and Mrs. Charles Wolverton also were in Portland the same time.

Stopping at the Lowell Stifflers on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Maloney, former neighbors, who are now living at the coast.

Hostesses at the opening of the Mill City State Bank Saturday afternoon included Mrs. Clifford Trask, Mrs. W. W. Allen, Mrs. C. E. Mason, Mrs. J. W. Scott, Mrs. J. K. Harris, Miss Helen Wilson, Mrs. D. B. Hill and Miss Lela Mel Kelly.

Byron and Tally Davis and Benny Bennett thought they saw a half-duck - half-duck in the Worden yard at Fox Valley Monday. The Wordens report it's just an old hen.

Kenneth Hickie and Clyde Barney have purchased lots in the Swift addition.

## \$20,000 Tank For Water System Begun

Mountain States Power Co. this week started construction of a 150,000 gallon water tank at the site of the old tanks which have been removed.

The tank, which will cost about \$20,000, is the final big project of the company's local improvement program. Last year a \$25,000 settling tank and pumping equipment was installed. In addition, several miles of larger mains have been put in.

The new tank will be about 40 feet in diameter and will set on a foundation of crushed rock. A Portland contracting firm is erecting it.

## Paper Awaits New Owner

This week's Enterprise is the last one to be published by its present owners, Charles and Elsie Wolverton. Ownership and management passes to Don Peterson, lately of Helena, Mont., with the next issue.

Mr. Peterson, a printer of over 30 years experience has been foreman of the Educational Co-operative Publishing Co. of Helena and a director of that concern. In a story published in that company's publication, Mr. Peterson was referred to as "one of the finest printing artists in the state."

Leo C. Dean, present foreman of the back shop of The Enterprise, will take care of the advertising and editorial duties of the new management. Mr. Dean has published weeklies in the Midwest, and was advertising manager of the Capital Press, Salem, for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have purchased a home here. They have six children.

Mr. Peterson plans to develop the job printing department, and a new Kluge automatic press, capable of 3500 impressions an hour, has been purchased by him.

Mr. Peterson wrote he expects to arrive Saturday or on Monday and arrive Friday or Saturday.

## CBI ROLLS UNCHANGED

Jack Murray, Consolidated Builders, Inc. executive, reported employment at Detroit Dam as unchanged from last week when 496 were on the job. Continued work on main projects of the dam was reported and progress made.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hoffman had as their guests over the week end Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Andrews and sons Jack and Dick.

Sunnie Hoffman went to Portland with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Steiner and children. Sunnie visited Roosevelt High in the afternoon and went to the football game in the evening. She spent the night with Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Andrews.

Mrs. Lyle Roberts and children visited his parents in Vancouver over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Bechler and Mrs. Bechler's sister and daughter from California spent the week in Portland and at the coast.

Mr. and Mrs. George Veteto were guests at a pheasant dinner Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. King.

Mr. and Mrs. George Veteto are leaving for Portland this week end to visit friends.

Attending National Campfire convalesce in Portland this week are Mrs. Vincent Palmer, Mrs. Arthur Kriever and Mrs. Charles Harmon.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Harmon of Salem stopped to see the C. E. Covilles Sunday.

## BILLY ROSE SAYS:

"The editor of a New York daily once told me that if he could develop half the reader interest of the average weekly newspaper, he would be justified in doubling his advertising rates.

# Blast Wrecks Gravel Plant

## Santiam Mills Expand Plants

A big planer, capable of processing timbers up to 24 by 80 inches, was put in operation at the Mill City Planing and Processing Co. last week.

Called a "bull" planer, it is one of the few of its kind in this timber producing state. The installation, including a new building which houses it, cost an estimated \$10,000.

Carl and Russell Kelly, partners in the company, are now using it to produce 2x12s and larger stock.

Next step in their development will be the construction of a dry kiln.

## Idanha Mill Adds Storage Shed

The Idanha Lumber Co. has just completed the construction of a large dry-kiln lumber storage building.

The building, which will be used to store surplus lumber, is 136 feet long and 72 feet wide, with a height of 42 feet. It is supported by piers.

The building, part of a big expansion program of almost a third of a million dollars at the big Idanha industry, was started in July.

## CAR SHORTAGE STYMIES LUMBER TRADE GAIN

A serious shortage of freight cars in the area has almost wiped out the benefits of a stronger lumber market, local mills reported this week.

Carl Kelly of the Mill City Planing and Processing Co. said his yards are full of lumber already on order but held here because of a lack of rolling stock.

For over a month, other millmen reported, there has been a steady gain in orders, and No. 2 and better grades are up about \$5 a thousand above their low marks of the earlier part of the year.

Continued good weather has given local mills good production figures. The Willamette Shingle's sawmill between Gates and Mill City, set up to produce about 30,000 feet daily, cut 39,000 one day last week.

Most logging operations have continued unhampered, and snow which fell in some of the higher shows has disappeared.

## Martin's Trailer Court.

By Trigger Howard

Mary Keith entertained the children of the court with a birthday party in honor of her daughter, Beverly, who is four years old. After the opening of gifts, games were played and refreshments served. Fifteen were present.

Opal Werner tangled with a cup the other day. The cup won, though. It broke and cut an artery in her wrist. She was rushed to the doctor where several stitches were taken.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hansen and daughter Sherry spent a few days in Longview this week. They came home Wednesday.

Mert and Hip Carlson visited Mr. and Mrs. Ed Getz at Detroit Sunday afternoon.

Bobby and Evans Yates and Bell and Todd McGee saw the show in Mill City Sunday.

Happy McElvaine took Gertrude Woodrum and Trigger Howard into Salem on business and shopping on Tuesday.

Edna and Lou McCabe stayed at home Sunday and finished painting their trailer.

Lee and Harvey Parks and Friedns, Edna and Lou McCabe and Ralph and Alice Jetton celebrated Harvey Parks' birthday Sunday. Helen and Marion Wiley went hunting Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Veness and children went to Portland Tuesday.

## Avalanche Of Rock Hits Crusher

A big rock crusher near Highway 222 above the Detroit damsite was virtually demolished Monday when a rock blast went awry, piling an avalanche of stone upon thousands of dollars of equipment.

According to workers at the site, a "coyote" blast had been set off with a big charge of dynamite. Faulty rock formation was blamed for the accident, which partly covered a big crusher and conveyor plant and several pieces of equipment.

The plant, set up by the Rogers Construction Co. of Portland to prepare rock for the new North Santiam highway, was being shipped out this week for repair. Thursday the company was still digging out from the blast that covered an estimated \$50,000 worth of equipment and with a damage total of about \$20,000.

No one was injured. Workers said that the "coyote" blasting had been done at the same spot before without any trouble. But this time the entire rock formation around the explosion slipped and rolled over onto the equipment.

(A coyote hole was explained as a type of excavation where a small cut is made, then blasted out, followed by a bigger charge in the original opening.)

The crusher was set up not far from the slide area which gave the Kuckenberg Construction Co., contractors on the highway, so much trouble the past year. The company finally had to carve out a series of benches above the road to protect it from falling rock. The geological formation is rock creased with loose dirt in that area and is subject to frequent slides.

The Detroit office of the Bureau of Public Roads declined to comment or give information about the mishap.

## Bank Opening Attracts 300

More than 250 people attended the opening of the Mill City State Bank in its new quarters on First Ave. and Front St. last Saturday, and another 50 or more stopped to see it the next day.

The new interior, one of the most modern and attractive in the Valley area, was banked with flowers.

D. B. Hill, cashier, said many of the visitors were from out of town, and many tourists stopped to inspect the building, where not long ago an unattractive old red brick structure stood.

Congratulations to the directors came from many sources.

The Carl Construction Co. of Salem completely remodeled the old building, inside and out.

## Chamber Ponders Need for Industry

A lively discussion on means to expand local payroll was held at the Mill City Chamber of Commerce noon day meeting last Thursday.

Suggestions included seeking new mills, investigating the idea of wood waste for the manufacture of cellulose and the development of a recreation and tourist trade.

President J. C. Kimmel proposed that publicity about Mill City be directed to the trade journals. He will set up an active committee to seek out new industries for the Canyon.

Further discussion on the problem will be held next week.