

Natural Gas Pipeline Construction Scheduled For Completion In 1961

By GUY W. FARMER

A giant natural gas pipeline stretching 1,404 miles from Canada to the San Francisco Bay Area can well be termed progress in the shape of a pipe for the Klamath Basin.

When the line is completed this fall, it will deliver 415 million cubic feet of gas a day to Pacific Gas Transmission Company at the California-Oregon border. The

pipeline, supplying gas for commercial and domestic use, is expected to provide a needed boost to the area's lagging economy.

The impact of the project has already been felt in the Klamath area as engineers and surveyors were followed by clearing and pipe laying crews. Western Pipeline Co., responsible for laying the line in Oregon, has and operate the line. The approved

route was to be about 15 miles east of Klamath Falls from Main on north in the direction of Bonanza.

Clearing operations began early in November and the first pipe went into the ground Dec. 15. Crews worked on through the winter despite delays caused by heavy snows and freezing temperatures. Western Pipeline's contract calls for the pipe to be completed, tested and ready for service on Sept. 50.

Natural gas will flow from the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains to consumers scattered along its length. The pipe passes through every conceivable type of country, from the rugged Rockies to the flat farmlands of the Northwest plains. It moves south from Alberta, through British Columbia and then through the Idaho Panhandle, the Washington Palouse area and central Oregon to its terminus at Antioch, just northeast of San Francisco.

The total cost of the prodigious tube is \$177 million. The Oregon-Idaho-Washington share of the cost is \$129 million or 35 per cent of the total. A large portion of this money is spent in the areas where construction takes place through a considerable volume of local purchases made by sub-contractors. Western Pipeline, for example, has 50 accounts in Klamath County, some for more than \$7,000 a month.

The pipe itself is a separate story. More than 72 miles of 36-inch pipe were delivered to a storage yard at Sprague River last fall. There, crews working for Stanley-Bledsoe Co. of Tulsa processed the pipe by welding it, giving it a protective coating and testing it. Pipe is coated with a tar compound to guard against rust.

Besides boosting Klamath economy through a tremendous boost in the volume of natural gas flowing into the area, the pipeline will also be good news to present gas users. California-Pacific Utilities Co. spokesmen have said they expect commercial and domestic gas rates to drop 20 per cent, making gas both plentiful and cheap.

The Alberta-California Natural Gas Pipeline is truly progress in the shape of a pipe for the Klamath Basin.

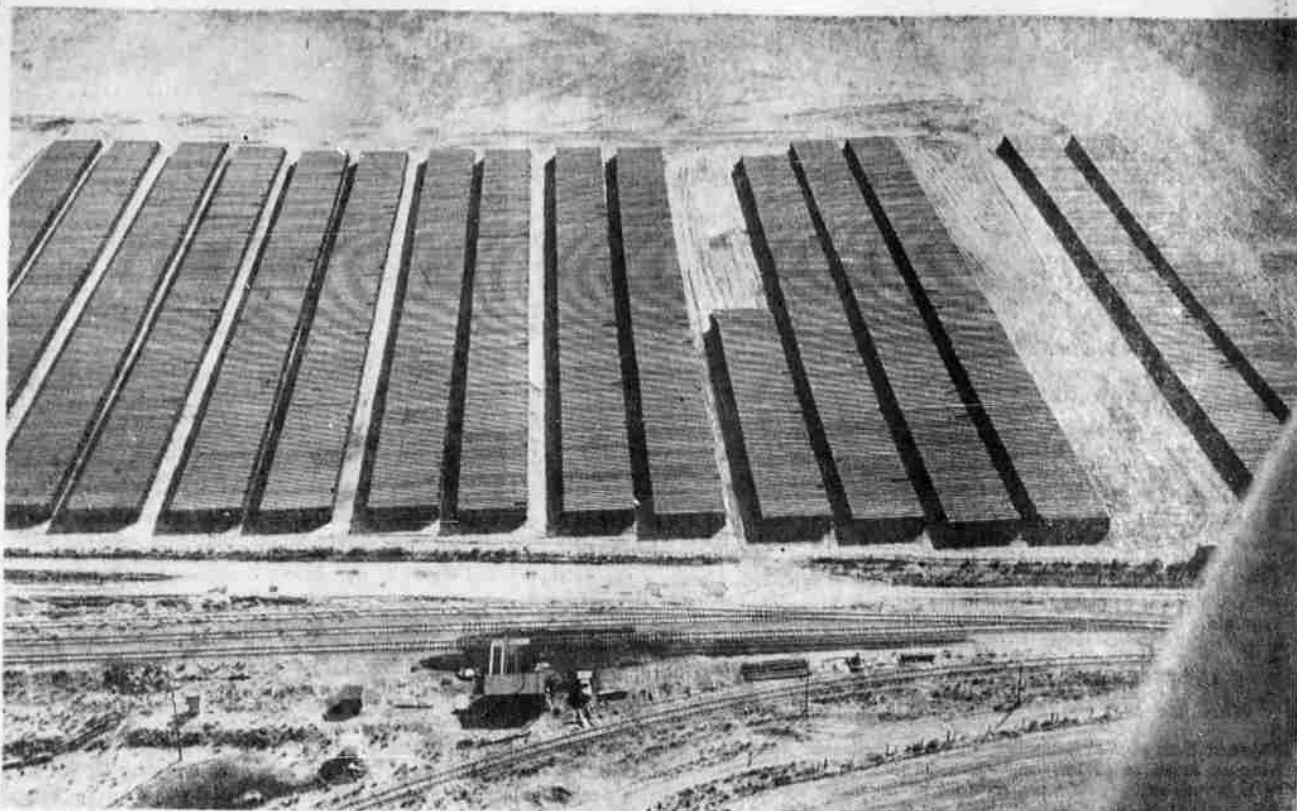


THIS MAP shows the route of the natural gas pipeline from the fields of Alberta, Canada, to the San Francisco Bay region. The largest segment of the pipeline, from the Northern California border to the Canadian border, is being financed by the Pacific Gas Transmission Company. It is expected the line will be in use by fall of this year.

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THIS DRAMATIC VIEW was taken of the stockpile of 40-foot lengths of pipe being stored in the Sprague River siding area for use in laying the natural gas pipeline. This represents 72 miles of pipe to reach from

the California-Oregon boundary to the vicinity of Guichrist where another 84 miles of pipe was stored. Work in the pipeline is progressing rapidly with completion scheduled for fall of 1961.

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