

10-18-1935

## M.W.A.K. Columbian, Vol. 1, No. 17

Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Co.

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### Recommended Citation

Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Co., "M.W.A.K. Columbian, Vol. 1, No. 17" (1935). *Columbian (Grand Coulee Dam newsletter)*. 18.  
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# M. W. A. K.

# COLUMBIAN

**SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT**

**MASON-WALSH-ATKINSON-KIER CO.  
BUILDERS OF COULEE DAM**

**MASON CITY  
WASHINGTON**

Vol. 1 No. 17

M. Pete Shrauger--Editor  
Safety Engineer

October 18, 1935

## ELECTRICITY AND THE DAM

The greatest working force at the site for the Grand Coulee dam has never been clearly defined.

It was recognized, not as a working force, but as something great thousands of years ago. Without its use the great pyramids of Egypt were thousands of years in the making.

Jagged fire that struck trees, shot flames over an area that was laid desolate, made ancient races terror stricken, and caused rites to be performed and sacrifice made to Vulcan, God of Fire. Soon fire was used. It became and was recognized as a gift to the races of the earth. But the flashes that rent the sky were still mysterious and not understood.

Through the ages of time, terror faded. It was toward the close of the 18th century that two Italians, Volta and Galvani, discovered the volt and then galvanic action on the leg of a frog. Benjamin Franklin then brought electricity out of the air. The way was paved for the present electrical age.

Here on the banks of the Columbia, is situated Mason City, an all-electric town, and the construction workings for the building of the world's largest dam, the

Grand Coulee dam.

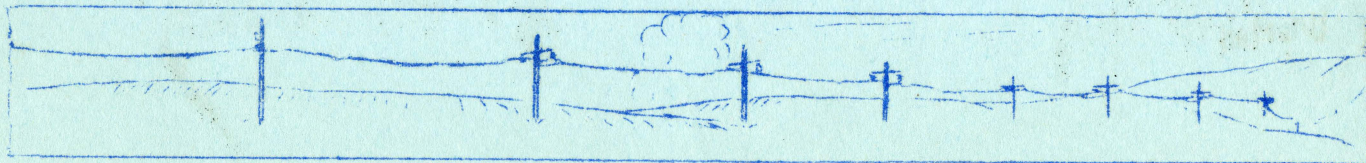
The installed kilowatt load on the electrical energy is tremendous at the site for the dam. Since "hooking up" the lines on November 18th, 1934, this electrical energy has been harnessed to a total demand load of approximately 25,000 kilowatts. The consumption, however, is less than 10,000 kilowatts hourly.

Primarily the kilowatt demand is as follows: Mason City, with its family houses, bunkhouses, latrines, mess hall, business sections and other buildings needs more than 12,000 kilowatts for heating, cooking, lighting and the operation of other various electrically operated conveniences.

The belt conveyor, with its myriad rows of zigzag lights, is a system that has a demand load of 5,000 horse power.

The six compressors, with an installed capacity of 2400 horse power come next, and then the gravel plant with an installed capacity of over 8000 horse power. The gravel plant will be in constant use later on.

A little bit of wiring was necessary to conduct all this energy. Approximately 230  
(Continued on Page 5)





LINDMAN

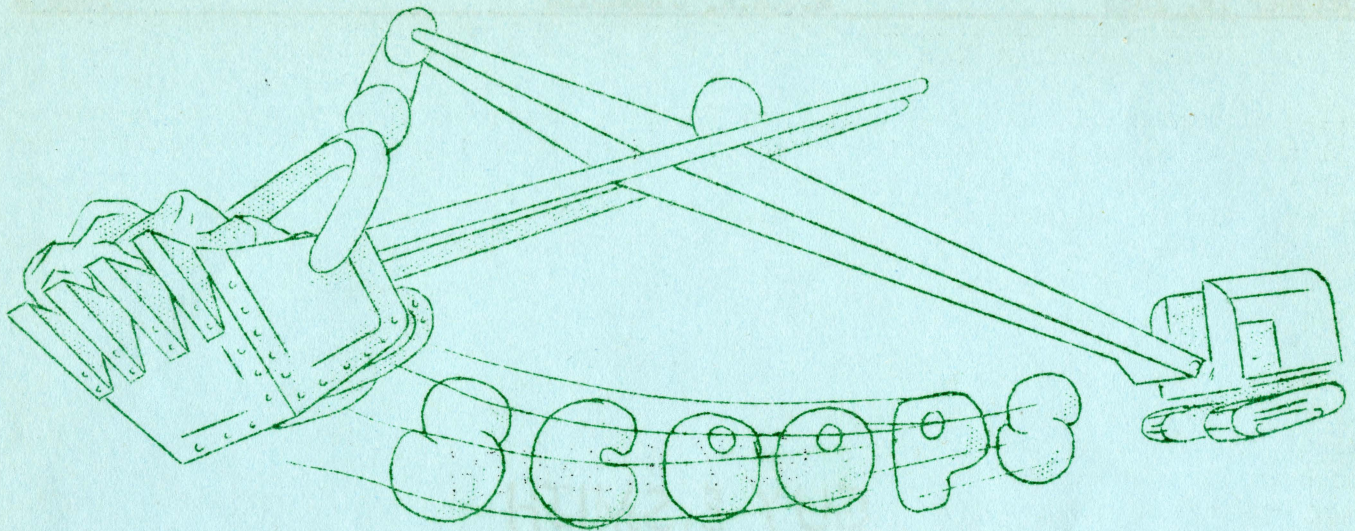
# GUY E. SMITH

Chief Electrician of the Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Company.

Guy E. Smith was born in North Orrington, Maine, graduating from Bangor High School and from Pratt Institute, School of Technology, in the year 1909. Following his graduation he worked for the General Electric Company in their Pittsfield works until the outbreak of the World War in the capacities of test man, laboratory technician and Engineer on Transformer design. At the outbreak of the World War he enlisted in Company F, 104th regiment and spent 22 months overseas. While in France he was for three months on detached duty in the U.S. A. on the Third Liberty Loan and Red Cross Week and under the auspices of the State Council of National Defense of Wyoming.

After the war he worked in mines in Nevada State in various capacities, on an electric suction dredge off the coast of Oregon with an eight month period spent with what is now known as the Portland General Electric Company. His next work was on dam construction in California, Oregon, Arizona and the Canal Zone, the last of which he left at its finish to begin work here on the 10th of October, 1934.

Mr. Smith volunteered the information that this is the biggest construction job he has ever worked on, but despite the magnitude of operations and the rapidity of progress, the ability and loyalty of his men have made his work a pleasure.



Traffic cop: "Use your noodle, lady!  
Use your noodle!"

Lady: "My goodness! Where is that?  
I've pushed and pulled everything in the  
car."

His flowing beard and the old-fashioned  
ulster dangling about his knees certainly  
made him look like a hill-billy, and per-  
haps an easy mark. He emerged from the  
stage depot and inquired of the first auto-  
mobile owner what he'd ask to drive him  
to the dam site.

"One dollar," was the prompt reply.

"All right, we'll go with ye. The old  
woman's in the depot. I'll go get her."

"Two dollars, then; it's a dollar a pas-  
senger," said the driver.

"All right," was the ready reply, "You  
kin take the old woman fust, and then cum  
back fur me. They's lots of time."

#### BROKEN LEGS, BROKEN HEADS, BROKEN HEARTS

Teacher: "Johnny, what did Paul Re-  
vere say at the end of his famous ride?"

Johnny: "Whoa!"

"He put on speed, thinking he could  
get across ahead of the truck."

"Did he get across?"

"He will as soon as the tombstone maker  
has it finished."

Twenty-eight to thirty are the ten  
best years of a woman's life.

I want to know how long girls should  
be courted?"

"The same as short ones."

Grocer: "You want a pound of ocre?"  
Is it to be red ocre for painting bricks?"

Small boy: "No, it's tappy ocre what  
Maw makes pudding with."

Several cats and several dogs have been  
around the bunkhouses for months. A kind-  
ly bullcook, thinking they might be able  
to find a better home, advertised for a  
home for pets. A sweet young thing accos-  
ted him one day.

"I want a pet."

"I'd love to," he said, "but the boss  
is mighty strict.

"How can I avoid fallen arches?"

"Don't walk under them."

"Yes, sir," panted the new shepherd, "I  
got all the sheep in, but I had to run some  
to get those lambs."

"Lambs? I have no lambs. Let's see  
what you've got."

Looking into the shed, the astonished  
owner saw fourteen panting jack-rabbits.

An editor received from a lady some  
verses daintily tied up with a pink ribbon  
entitled: "I Wonder if He'll Miss Me?"

After reading them, he returned the ef-  
fort to the sender with the following note

"If he does, he ought never to be trust-  
ed with firearms again."

Then there was the office worker who  
lost his glasses and was in an awful pre-  
dicament. He couldn't look for them until  
he found them.

ACCIDENTS ARE NOT VERY DEMOCRATIC--  
THEY SEEK OUT CARELESS WORKMEN.

ELECTRICITY AND THE DAM  
(Continued from Page 1)

miles of rubber covered wires were used in all the buildings as well as for reaching all the conveyor systems and the gravel plant. For the heating of all the buildings in Mason City, about 20 miles of two conductor armored cable were used for the runs from the panel boxes to the outlets.

In and around the excavation area nearly 21 miles of large rubber cable were used. The numerous small pumps that are used in the excavation area and require many movings as the pockets of water are pumped out, are connected to permanent lines by cables of this type. Energy for the big electric shovels and the thousands of portable lights use this type of cable; also hundreds of emergency runs that are later replaced with more permanent types of construction.

More than 200 miles of bare and weatherproof wire were used on all exposed work. The total weight of the wire is approximately 385,000 pounds.

More than 480 fifty-five foot poles bring the main power line from Coulee City. Throughout the town and the work area 1337 poles of various lengths were used. The total number of poles have an equivalent of 90,850 board feet of lumber. If all these poles were used for the running of single conductor, they would reach a town more than 235 miles away from Mason City.

Mason City and the construction areas required more than 200 transformers, and these transformers vary in size from 500 watts to 3,333 kilowatts, with a total capacity of

over 25,000 kilowatts. The largest are the four at the main line sub-station at the south of the Administration building. Three of these transformers have a total of more than 10,000 kilowatts. The fourth of the transformers is a spare or a standby for the replacement of any of the other three which might prove defective. The second largest of all the transformers here are those used by the compressors.

Many guesses have been made as to the number of light globes that are in use throughout Mason City and the areas where men and machinery are constantly breaking world's records for moving earth and rock. Three thousand light globes cluster about the west abutment, along the conveyor systems, in the homes of Mason City and more are scattered over the entire work area.

For the many operations on the job, few less than 400 electrical motors are used. These vary in size from one-sixth horse power to five hundred horse power.

If the clock could turn ahead for Vulcan, that important name of an ancient age might need a host of lieutenants to comprehend that thousands of things are happening to the electrical era in the building of the Grand Coulee dam---thousands of things that electrical tests in 600 B.C. failed even to suggest.

--oO--

LOOK OUT FOR THE FIRST STEP!

--oO--

RAIN BOTHERS WORK

The steady rainfall of Monday and Tuesday increased the difficulty of moving the mucky material in the east excavation area. The 1934 rain season began just one year ago.

ELGIN-WALTHAM-HAMILTON-WATCHES-PARKER-PEN SETS  
 COULEE TRADING  
**JEWELRY**  
 FRED N. LUDWIG  
 S-DIAMOND-BRIDAL-SETS-CIGARETTE CASES-VANITY-CASES  
 RING

SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	%
COMMUNITY CHURCH--The Rev. Albert N. Park, Jr., Pastor	7	6	1	.857
Services for Sunday, Oct. 20: 9:45 a.m. Sunday School. Lesson subject, "The Message of Jeremiah." 11.45 a.m. Morning Worship. Sermon subject, "The Making of the Bible." 7.00 p.m. Young People's Society. Subjects for consideration, "The Effect of Alcohol on the Body and the Mind," and "How Shall We Pray?" Leaders: Lewis Conn and the Pastor. 8.00 p.m. Evening song service.	7	6	1	.857
CATHOLIC CHURCH--Father A. Furrelly, Pastor	7	5	2	.714
Mass will be said Sunday, Oct. 20, in the American Legion hall, Coulee Center, at 9 a.m. and in St. Benedict's church, Mason City, at 11 a.m. Confessions will be heard in Coulee Center from 8.30 until 9 o'clock Sunday morning. Instructions for children will be given on Saturdays at 10 a.m.	6	4	2	.667
	4	2	2	.500
	4	1	3	.250
	6	1	5	.167
	6	0	6	.000

Games for Sunday and Monday, rained out, will be scheduled for play at a later date.

Scheduled play ends Friday night, and the two top teams will meet in a playoff series at a date agreed upon by the two teams.

Standings include the Tuesday night encounter between the Field Area and the CCC Camp.

---oOo---

TOUCH UP GRAVEL PLANT

With all heavy construction work completed at the gravel plant, workmen continue to "iron out" any possibilities of future trouble.

Particular attention has been paid to the screening and washing plant. The necessary dust that filled the air from the crusher house attracted the attention of many in Mason City.

---oOo---

White paint will be sprayed over the entire outside of the fence of Walsh Stadium....The drainage tunnel system under the slide area is practically complete.

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTS

The student body of Mason City high school has elected John Blackstone, president; Zea Hurlburt, vice-president, and Lidie Lou Maloch, secretary-treasurer. Class presidents are Helen Small, senior; Arthur Mackay, junior; Virginia Paul, sophomore, and Frances Jasper, freshman.

---oOo---

TENT HOUSES RETURN

Four of the eight tent houses in use at the peak of activity last February are again in place to care for any additional increase in labor. Bunkhouses are filled. The second four frames will not be used unless necessary. Present labor increases are chiefly due to laborers coming in from old work orders.

---oOo---

Corrugated iron coverings that were first put in place on the suspension bridge Wednesday will not be used elsewhere, unless plans change. These are specially adapted for trestle structures because of their comparative lightness and low wind resistance.

---oOo---

The USBR will build an 18x32 field house at the south end of the Time office.

DINE  
COMMUNITY CLUB  
SAT.-OCT. 26,  
7-TO-9 \$1.00 9-TO-12  
DINE DANCE  
DANCE

# MASON CITY THEATRE

## Red Salute



WITH  
**BARBARA STANWYCK**  
AND  
**ROBERT YOUNG**

FRI. SAT.

IT'S A WOW!!



FRED  
ASTAIRE  
GINGER  
ROGERS  
IN  
**TOP HAT**

SUN. MON. TUES.

## Clive BROOK



ALSO

BUCK  
JONES  
IN  
THROW  
BACK



WED. THUR.

### THE WEEK AT THE THEATRE

An American girl hesitantly accepts the teachings of a communist. Arriving in Mexico from the States, confusion results when she meets a young American soldier who tries to convert her to patriotism. This comic situation, with its heart interest, is a part of the "red" menace in "Red Salute" at the Mason City theater Friday and Saturday. It features Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Young.

### TOP HAT

When producers went after the matchless dancing feet of Fred Astaire, success for "Top Hat" was assured. With the addition of sparkling Ginger Rogers, "Top Hat" has become one of the superior musicals of the year. It continues to break all-time box office records throughout the United States. This picture of the Riviera

abounds with Irving Berlin selections and involves questions of identities. Some of the best comic support in Hollywood shows up in Edward Everett Horton. Eric Blore and Erik Rhodes at the theater for three days beginning Sunday.

Wednesday and Thursday bring a variety double bill. "Loves of a Dictator," with Clive Brook, one of the established English-American actors, is a fascinating drama of imperialism. "The Throwback" features Buck Jones in a rapid-fire picture of the West.

---oOo---

### AMATEUR NIGHT RETURNS

Beginning Saturday and for each Saturday night thereafter, any amateur entertainer may compete for \$10 in cash prizes at the Mason City theater. Registrations should be made as soon as possible each week. Later, in a jubilee night, weekly winners will compete for the grand prizes.

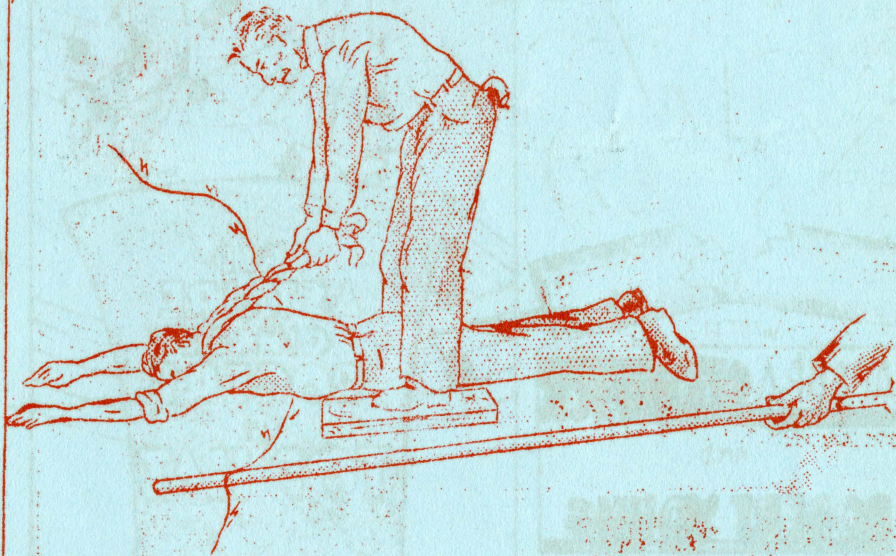


# RESCUE

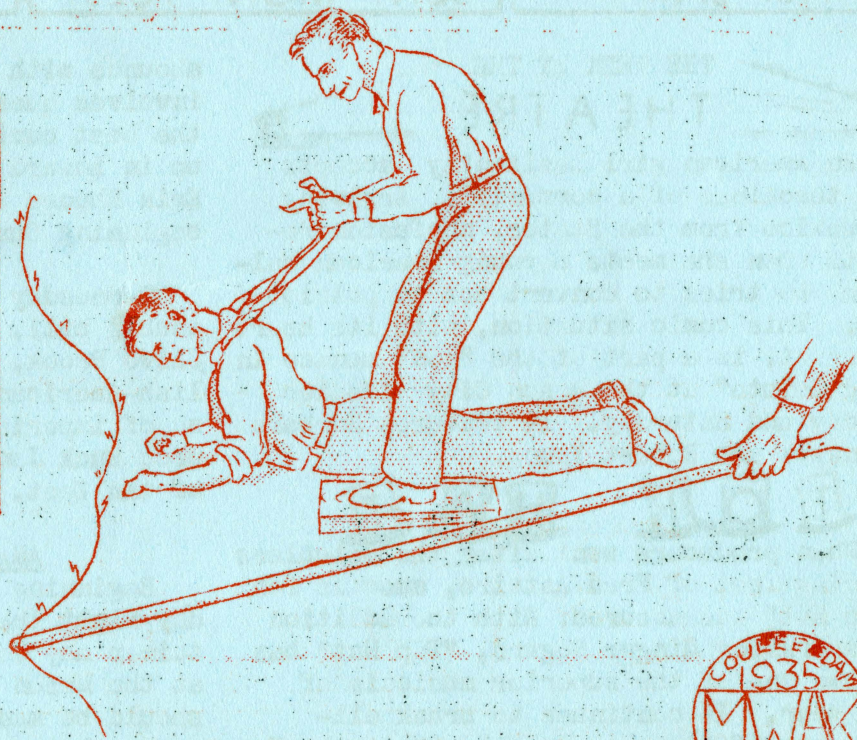
FROM

# LIVE WIRE

USE DRY ROPE  
BANDAGE-OR-PIECE  
OF DRY CLOTHING  
USE RUBBER GLOVES  
IF AVAILABLE AND  
BE SURE TO INS-  
ULATE YOURSELF  
BY STANDING ON  
SOME DRY NON-  
CONDUCTING  
MATERIAL



LIFT PATIENT FROM  
LIVE WIRE,  
REMOVE WIRE  
AND START  
ARTIFICIAL  
RESPIRATION



"POOR MAN, HE ONCE WAS--"

If automobile accidents have increased 15 per cent over the year 1933, then carelessness has also increased. The census bureau lists the death toll at 33,980 for the year 1934.

With human nature about the same the world over, it becomes a difficult thing to make all human beings safety conscious. Ordinary carelessness is one difficulty. An inflated pride, a desire for praise in taking risks, is another. Hence, the increased death toll.

Man's responsibility should be enough to make him careful. The life or severe injury of himself and quite often of others rest in his hands. Often he has dependents who would suffer sorely should any injury befall him. Even persons who know only the names of victims sympathize with the names.

On a construction job similar situations arise. Traffic problems, of automobiles, trucks and other machinery, confront every workman. An attendant haste and carelessness endanger life and limb. A company can try to point out problems, supply safety equipment and keep up safety consciousness, but cooperation will always continue to be necessary for best results.

---oOo---

FINISH MONTHLY PICTURES

Company photographers have recently finished 15 progress pictures of work by the MWAK company. This is a total of 210 since last November. All are 8x10 and are taken from different vantage points whenever possible, in order to bring in more detail.

COLLEGIANS VISIT

Ninety students and ten professors visited the dam site from Washington State college Saturday. They met with alumni of Washington State, the University of Washington and of other higher institutions. In two groups, they were shown about the working areas by Bureau of Reclamation engineers. Twenty-two automobiles were needed for their transportation.

In charge was M. K. Snyder, professor and head of the department of civil engineering. Others of the engineering department were Harry Garver, H. H. Langdon, H. H. Montgomery, Howard Phelps, E. B. Parker, F. W. Welch, and J. W. Woodburn, professors; George Sayles and James G. McGivern, instructors. R. P. Cope, professor of chemistry, and Professor Claudius O. Johnson, head of the department of history and political science, were also in the party. Dr. Johnson is a noted textbook writer and is engaged in writing the biography of Senator Borah of Idaho. In 1933 he was scheduled to appear in a political debate with the late Will Rogers, a debate that never was held.

---oOo---

ACCIDENTS, LIKE FIRE, NEVER ACCEPT  
IGNORANCE AS AN EXCUSE!

---oOo---

DANGER ALWAYS RIDES

With the possibility of the rainy season not far off, accidents may become all the more numerous unless care is exercised.

Employees should watch their step continually. They must be especially careful when it is necessary to ride on loads, chains, slings, or hooks of cranes, derricks, or other overhead conveyances.

**DOLLAR-DAY-FOUNTAIN-SPECIAL**

FRI. **25** DEVILED EGG SANDWICH with SHRIMP SALAD ~COFFEE & PIE~ **25¢ SAT.**

HOT DRINKS COULEE TRADING CO. 3 AM - 10 PM



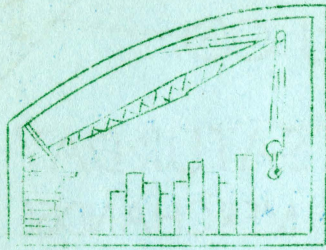
THAT'S ALL RIGHT BOSS, TRY AGAIN

NEW  
\$300,000  
BRIDGE

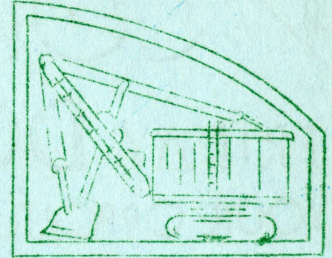
LINDMAN

10-18-35

SAFETY  
DEPT.  
MWAK  
COULDE  
JAM



# AROUND THE DAM



### NOTED PERSONS VISIT

Five prominent national figures were visitors at the dam site Monday.

They were Congressman Sam. B. Hill, of Washington; Senator Matthew M. Neely, West Virginia; Senator E. W. Gibson, Vermont; Representative Robert A. Green, Florida, and Representative Allen Treadway, ranking republican on the ways and means committee. The party was en route to Seattle and the Philippine Islands. With Mrs. Hill they arrived from Spokane in a chartered bus.

Governor Clarence D. Martin visited the dam area and Company officials for three hours last Friday. He was on the way to Spokane and the Roza celebration at Yakima by aeroplane.

Arriving early for installation night at Grand Coulee, a group of 75 Odd Fellows looked over the workings of the MWAK Wednesday. Two special stages brought 43 of them from Spokane.

---oOo---

### LAY GROUND MAT

Fifteen sections of No. 4, 19 strand, copper wire were laid as an overload mat on the west tailrace slope Wednesday. In time three others will be placed in the ground, one on the east slope and one for each power house.

Each section extends up the slope 150 feet with crosswires every 10 feet. The mat can act as a ground wire for probably 100,000 volts. It will be rirapped to a depth of about eight feet.

---oOo---

WATCH THOSE HANDS---THEY ARE  
ESPECIALLY SUBJECT TO  
INJURY!

### WESTMIX PILLARS ARE UP

The westmix plant is ready for the steel of the plant itself. By Wednesday concrete had been poured to the top of the last supporting pillar, about level 1040.

---oOo---

### BLASTING TAPERS OFF

A crew of 100 men each shift are concentrating on the bedrock of the west excavation area. A crew of jackhammermen has been shifted to the south rim of the deep central gully near the cofferdam and back along the lone feeder. The feeder and cross-section men limit dynamite work. The feeder will have to be moved to permit nearby granite removal.

A crew of about fifty are cleaning up bedrock near the abutment. This, with an absence of machinery on the floor, signifies that most of the blasting work on bedrock is done.

Very shortly a crew will be shifted to the upstream face of the cliff for steady blasting. Later a tunnel will be cut deep into the cliff and numerous holes drilled along the base of the east spillway slope for drainage purposes. Some may possibly be more than 60 feet deep.

---oOo---

### NOTES-----

- Newly elected officers of the American Legion Auxiliary were in charge of the regular meeting in the north wing of the mess hall Wednesday night.....
- Twelve million yards of overburden will be removed by Saturday, if the present rate continues.....
- In the east pit feeder No. 3 was moved Wednesday. It will be installed with a new conveyor lateral as No. 10.....
- The highway bridge was formally opened to pedestrian traffic Wednesday.....

# COULEE TRADING co.

FRIDAY DOLLAR DAYS SATURDAY

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ON DEPENDABLE MERCHANDISE  
LOOK FOR OUR COMPLETE AD.

LADIES NOVELTY PAJAMAS

2 PIECE RAYON IN ALL SIZES .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

PULLAWAY SHEETS LARGE SIZE 81 X 99 .....

PILLOW CASES 5 FOR .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

MENS KNITTED JACKETS

BROWN HEATHER-OXFORD GRAY .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

MENS WOOL SOX

ASSORTED HEATHER COLORS 4 PR. FOR .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

UNUSUAL HOUSE DRESSES

FAST COLORS ALL SIZES .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

MENS DRESS SHIRTS

BROKEN LOTS OF \$1.29 & \$1.49 FOR ONLY .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

MENS BAND OVERALLS

8OZ FULL CUT-SANFORIZED PRE SHRUNK

ALL SIZES 32 TO 42 .....

\$ 1<sup>00</sup>

BIG FOOD SHOW  
GROCERY DEPARTMENT