

5-20-1937

## M.W.A.K. Columbian, Vol. 3, No. 20

Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Co.

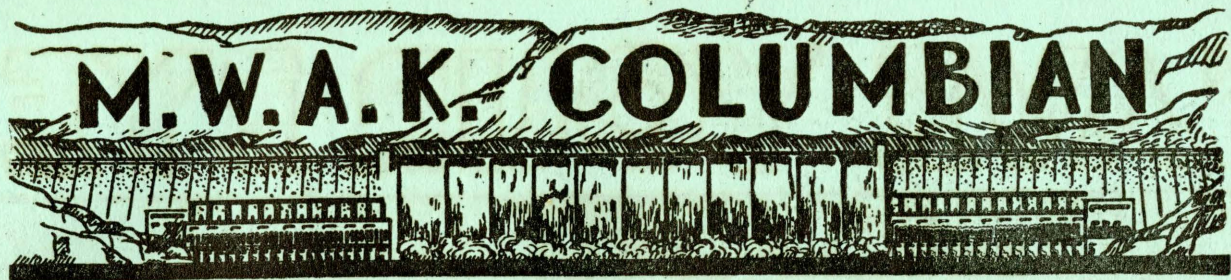
Follow this and additional works at: [http://dc.ewu.edu/mwak\\_columbian](http://dc.ewu.edu/mwak_columbian)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mason-Walsh-Atkinson-Kier Co., "M.W.A.K. Columbian, Vol. 3, No. 20" (1937). *Columbian (Grand Coulee Dam newsletter)*. 38.  
[http://dc.ewu.edu/mwak\\_columbian/38](http://dc.ewu.edu/mwak_columbian/38)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Columbian (Grand Coulee Dam newsletter)* by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [jotto@ewu.edu](mailto:jotto@ewu.edu).



SAFETY  
DEPARTMENT

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

MASON CITY  
WASHINGTON

Vol. 3 No. 20

M. Pete Shrauger--Editor  
Safety Engineer

May 21, 1937

## LAND FLEET FACES DRASTIC CUT AS BEDROCK CLEARS FOR CONCRETE

Strange, but an earth fleet that has moved a mountain of rock and earth at the Grand Coulee dam is only a remnant in numbers of what it was a month ago. And yet not so strange, either, because it had to happen. The numbers, in some cases, have been slashed in half, but this is only the beginning----

The Company had 155 pieces of transportation equipment and machinery such as trucks, excavation wagons and caterpillars. Of 43 excavation trucks once owned and in use, only 20 were in use Wednesday. On March 22 38 trucks averaged 15 hours each. As for the caterpillars, only 14 were working Monday. On Feb. 22 25 were employed.

Weekly hours of work dropped for trucks from 4,750 down to 2,750 for the week ending Monday; oil consumption from 1,200 gallons to 770. Hours for cats shot from 2,970 to 2,250.

The reason for it? The major demand for their work is done. Earth excavation ended shortly after the east conveyor and has meant the retention in the excavation areas of but six of an original 25 buggies or excavation wagons. For rock cleanup under way the large excavation trucks saw the cut and necessarily the caterpillars.

By June 15 it is unlikely that more than 14 or 15 excavation trucks will be held for continued use into early November. The middle of June should see the finish of rock excavation in the river section. Before this the doom will be sealed for the buggies. The probable 14 12-yard White trucks will continue with rock excavation on the east abutment, the pump house site on the west, and some additional work later back in the river section near the downstream cofferdam.

Excavation trucks were 15 12-yard Macks, 14 12-yard Whites, eight 8-yard Internationals, three 12-yard Internationals, and three Linn 10-yard trucks.

Caterpillars were 23 75's, three Allis-Chalmers and two "40's". A dozen were equipped as bulldozers for pushing and scraping excavation.

Buggies consisted of 18 10-12 yard Atheys, six 20-yard Wooldridges ("Woolies") and one 33-yard Isaacson. The Isaacson has long been "dead".

In addition to such excavation equipment as these are 23 pickups, 21 flatbeds, and other trucks, 13 Company-owned auto

(Continued on page 5)

# Safety in Everything

# SAVE YOUR EYES



## CHIPPING ROCK

# GOGGLES CAN AND WILL IF YOU WEAR THEM

# FROM THE CRYSTAL BALL



# A YEAR AGO

CLAIR DUNCAN desperately trying to control the fever of his roomie.....

....ORVAL J. BOYCE--"It's all in the head"

FRANK GODFREY happily swearing off, and off, and off.....

....STEVE GIRARD hiding out.....

GRAHAM E. PEDWELL, after appearing in five pictures in Hollywood, "There's no such thing as true love!".....

....JOHN SISK looking for ink to "spill" out a great American novel.....

CONNIE WALTERS turning domestic.....

....L. E. SHERWOOD chanting "To Her Majesty, the Columbia".....

ROY BRIDGES, "Soon I'll be driving the golden spike.".....

....BILL TELL, in chain demonstration that might have been more successful, hearing, "No sah, boss, Ah don' wanna do it that way.".....

What OLSON, No. 7689 issued himself a red card by mistake?.....

....MIKE BERLANDSON taking a caricaturing poke at how we spend our money.....

BOB WARNICK, "That seecress is okaye; she said \$1.20. Now if the \$1.55 only shows up.".....

....ED MOORE--How he likes to carry a water bag!.....

T. E. GRIFFIN (at Lewiston), apparently tired of staying single.....

....LIFE MEANS ATTENTION TO SAFE HABITS

JOE PLUMB--He's spoofin' you. He's not wedded (married).....

....SAMMY GRANDE, with gesture, "Mussolini, I come! (A little more and I'll be oke)."

MRS. DEAN SUMMERS--she was checking on papa, anyway.....

....DUTCH HENDRICK, "Wee! It's almost the old life again.".....

Welding Foreman EDELMAN--How many cigarettés does he buy?.....

....SLUGGER EVANS hits a homer to Spokane and then fans himself with his cap.....

F. W. DeHAVEN--Why did he and she go into Spokane Monday? An unfounded rumor?.....

....ART BIRDZELL manifesting an unusual interest in carpentering.....

B. A. Herring, "I'll name the next girl 'Alice'. It's a good name.".....

....EMIL SCHNEIDER expounding on the right and wrong of European activity.....

----Only a cross-section crew remains above the immediate shore line of the flooded east side after 260,000 yards of the slide area had been moved out.-----

----Company orders 10 new 12-yard Mack trucks for delivery before June 15-----

----Ladies Aid hold first bazaar-----

----Concrete placement in drain shaft completed.-----

----Survey crew at work for riprap scene along river north of block 40-----

----Tom Hydorn fanned 13 and allowed but three singles as the Mason City Beavers shut out the previously unbeaten Coeur D'Alene baseball club.-----

----CUTS NEGLECTED GET INFECTED-----GET FIRST AID-----

----Only five jackhammermen at work on east abutment-----

----Freddie Steele appears in boxing exhibition-----

*Old 'N' Ends*

----Devil's tower, in the Black hills, has an exposed height of 865 feet and is nearly 1,000 feet in diameter at its base. The tower was formed by the pushing up of molten rock through the earth's surface-----

----In poker the chance of getting a straight flush is one in 62,000; of getting four of a kind, one in 4,000; a full house, one in 600; three of a kind, one in 50, and two pairs, one in 20.-----

----The geographic mile is 6,087.1 feet in length and equal to one minute of longitude at the equator-----

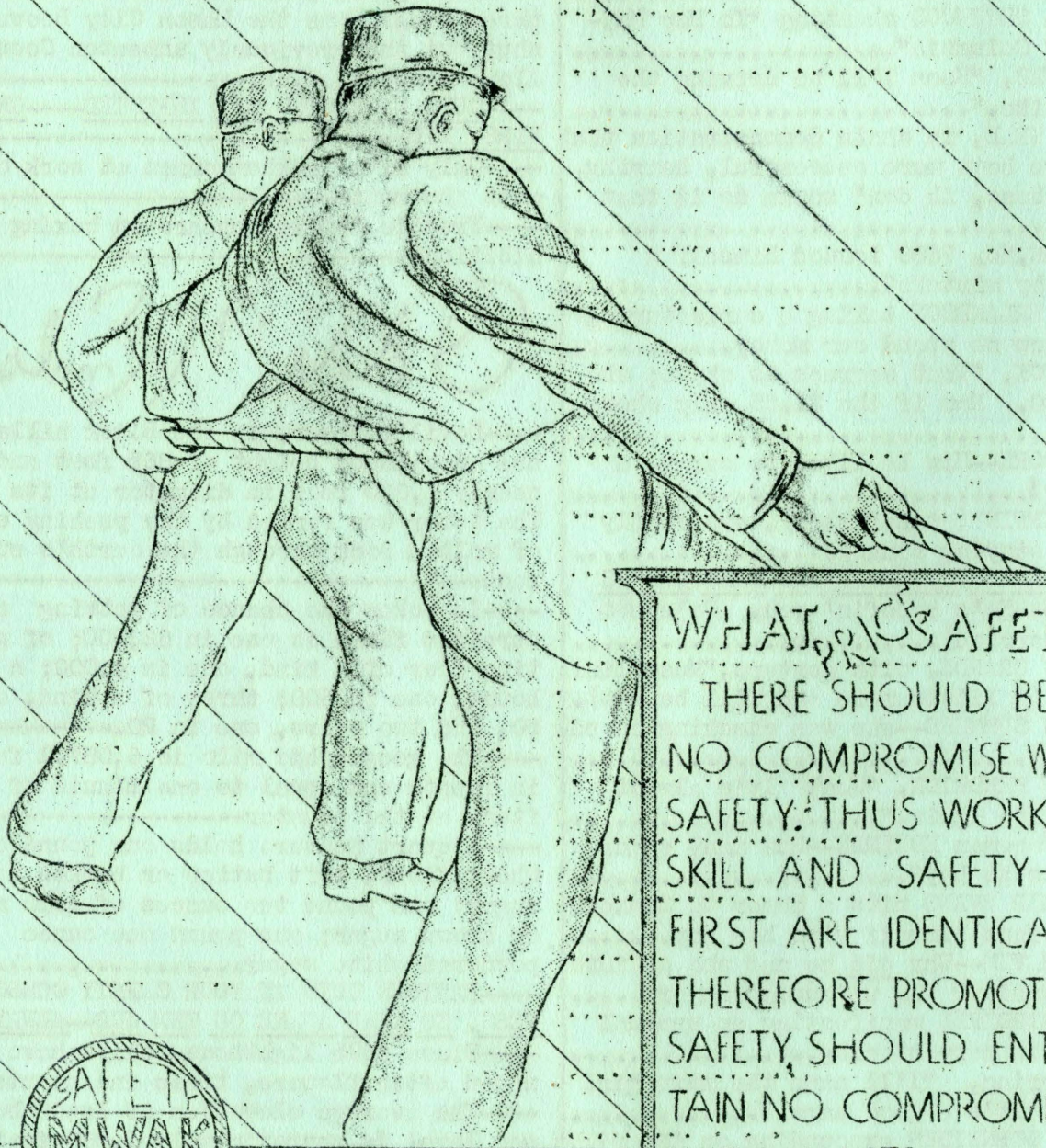
----A quart measure holds one pound of wheat flour, soft butter or broken loaf sugar: one pound two ounces of corn meal or brown sugar; one pound one ounce of powdered white sugar.-----

----FATIGUE CUTS AT YOUR SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS, SO KEEP AWAKE ON THE JOB--ALWAYS-----

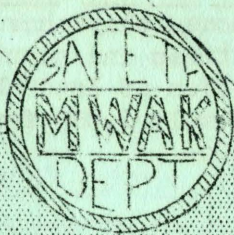
----Since 1875 lighthouse ships have been named after flowers, trees and plants-----

----The average elevation of land above sea level is approximately 2,800 feet.

# Safety in Everything



WHAT IS SAFETY  
THERE SHOULD BE  
NO COMPROMISE WITH  
SAFETY. THUS WORKING  
SKILL AND SAFETY -  
FIRST ARE IDENTICAL.  
THEREFORE PROMOTING  
SAFETY SHOULD ENTER-  
TAIN NO COMPROMISE  
WITH HASTE



# LAND FLEET

(Continued from Page 1)

mobiles, an ambulance and a field engineer's car. This does not include police and fire department traveling equipment. These groups of light trucks and cars are largely unaffected by the cut in excavation equipment.

Some of the caterpillars are coming into the cat shop, one by one, for overhauling, re-painting, and for sale. Six have gone the way of "cats not to be kept." The same fate is in store for unneeded trucks.

The job history of the trucks in use for excavation here has been one of long, terrific grinding. Pulling up steep inclines much of the time, in second and low gears, heavily weighted with about 15 tons of earth or 20 of rock, many of the trucks have turned in 100 hours of work per week. This is shown a little more clearly by realizing that one of 10 new Macks bought nearly a year ago has registered more than 21,000 miles of work at an average speed of not more than 10 miles an hour.

While rain, snow, muck, freezing temperatures and heavy tonnage have torn at the vitals of excavation-carrying equipment ever since the fall of 1935, they are regularly checked by a field mechanic to avoid mechanical disturbances or breakdowns. They are also checked during a 32-hour shutdown every week-end. Valves are ground every two months regardless of apparent condition. This length of time, it has been said, is the equivalent of at least a year under ordinary conditions.

Today, however, the job of overhauling trucks is not so bad as before. This is due to Company changes in the trucks, in seven important parts.

To reduce truck vibration, air tanks were taken from the frames and mounted on running boards.

Five extra leaves in front and two be-

hind were added to reinforce springs and prevent the not uncommon breakage.

Axels were revamped and raised three inches higher to eliminate front axle breakage by giving a better distribution of the load.

Heavier metal was welded on at the weaker points of truck frames.

Fenders and hoods were fabricated of heavier metal.

Radiator shells were fabricated from sheet steel. This meant not only a saving in cost but also prevented breakage by bouncing rocks on a cast shell.

Pipe welded to the upper edges gave increased capacity to the bodies.

Such changes contributed to a needed improvement before truck operation could maintain peak efficiency over a period of months.

An interesting comparison, if it were available, would be that between truck mileage forward and mileage backward at some particular scene. Backing is an important item in truck excavation, for a machine must usually back down a haul road to receive its load from a power shovel. It backs into position when it upends its burden. At times trucks have backed along a narrow, granite-formed road for a quarter of a mile. This was especially true when riprap was placed along the west side of the Columbia river. On some short hauls the statement that "trucks back up as much as they go forward" literally holds true.

Their speed, agility and ease of handling for long hauls somewhat explains why trucks will be retained for the balance of rock excavation, and why caterpillar-drawn wagons will not. The wagons found high favor for short hauls of earth excavation and when the excavation area was wide and comparatively level. But conditions are changing more and more from their native sphere, and so they, with their caterpillar mode of transportation, are practically ready to hear their excavation swan song.



"Hi Pop! Been waiting long!"

# YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN EINSTEIN

Charles Manfredi further exemplifies the fact that active consideration of safety hazards on the job are not buried in a dead sea. Manfredi showed sufficient constructive interest in accident prevention to warrant the deserved receipt of a box of cigars and a personal appreciative letter from the office of the superintendent.

Ever since first pouring of concrete on the job, clamp wires for holding cooling pipe had points exposed. As long as the points were vertical, results were not so bad, but when they became bent they became dangerous. Manfredi decided that the exposed wires were an unnecessary menace--IF THERE COULD BE A SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE.

BORN at the Mason City hospital----

- May 14, to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cawrse of Grand Coulee, a daughter
- May 14, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of Mason City, a son
- May 15, to Mr. and Mrs. Garnett Crowley of Delano, a son
- May 16, to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rose of Osborne, a son
- Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Duncan of Grand Coulee, a daughter
- May 18, to Mr. and Mrs. B. E. McCavarn of Coulee Center, a daughter

-oOo-

"COLUMBIAN" NUMBERS 100

One hundred issues of the "M. W. A. K. Columbian has appeared with No. 20 today. In 1935, beginning with the monthly issue in March, 27 numbers appeared, and 53 for 1936.

-oOo-

ROCK WORK NOT DONE

Contrary to expressions from many workmen, rock work will not be completed when the main river bed for concrete is cleaned.

Work schedules show that approximately 35,000 yards of rock will be removed from the east abutment and about 35,000 yards from the pumping plant site. This work is expected to take about two months, beginning at the time of completion of present cleanup on the river bed.

Also 10,000 yards of rock are to be removed in late fall from the river area just inside the downstream cofferdam.

-oOo-

Approximately 1,000 diners were at the Company mess hall last Sunday noon. This falls fewer than 100 short of the record set for the first Sunday in May last year.

-oOo-

Bureau of Reclamation employees are carrying on their annual "Floodstakes", a pool as to the top elevation of the river during the 1937 flood season.

The answer was to invert the wires in the poured concrete and to cut them for wiring only at the time of cooling pipe placement. This would expose wire points for only a matter of minutes and only while they were being worked on, rather than for periods of time that sometimes reached days and weeks, depending upon when a succeeding concrete lift would be poured.

What is important is that Manfredi was aware of a hazard. He knew that it ought to be changed. Through a process of elimination he conceived a workable plan. It called for some thought, and thought should be recognized because it is too rare here or anywhere else.

Destructive criticism is the easiest and most common noisiness everywhere. Now and then it brings some action because--once in a while--it has some value. The trouble ordinarily is that to correct the causes of noisy criticism can hardly have a value suggested by the amount of noise first created.

The world has always known a great many causes, both general and specific, for accidents. After an accident it is often apparent as to the cause or causes.

**BUT HOW TO CORRECT THEM, SPECIFICALLY, POINTEDLY, THAT IS THE THING THAT COUNTS.**

If the specific and pointed attention of Manfredi were only exemplified by even a few more men on the job, we should see some changes in the petty and not so petty injuries that YOU might have prevented.

-oOo-

WHO COULDN'T USE \$96?

Bill Borland of Grand Coulee collected \$96 at the Tuesday "Sweepstakes" of the Mason City theatre.

Earl Myers and A. Black would have taken second and third place money if they had been present.

-oOo-

The first 10,000 series of "brass" appeared during the present employment rise

-oOo-





(We wish to thank Fred Carper, timekeeper, for his contributions of jokes)  
-000-

We don't know quite everything, but listen to this:

"How long should a hen remain on eggs?" a woman wrote in the other day.

"Three weeks for chickens and four for ducks," we replied.

Three weeks later the woman wrote back:

"Thank you very much for your kind advice. The hen remained on the eggs for three weeks, and there were no chickens hatched, and as I did not care for ducks I took her off the nest and sold the eggs."

-000-

THE HONEYMOON MAY BE SAID TO BE OVER WHEN HE DISCOVERS THAT HIS PET LAMB IS REALLY A LITTLE BOSSY.

-000-

"And if I refuse you, 'Gooseneck', will you kill yourself?"

"That has been my usual custom."

-000-

LAST YEAR THERE WERE 39,000 FATAL ACCIDENTS IN AMERICAN HOMES AND 38,600 ON THE HIGHWAYS. SOME DAY WE WILL ALL LIVE IN TRAILERS AND GET OURSELVES KILLED IN ONE COLUMN.

-000-

Mrs. Riordan: "May I have some further details about this magnificent property you offer for sale."

Agent: "Do you wish to buy it?"

"No, but I think I can use your flowing description of it in my new novel."

-000-

First Shipwreck: "I see nothing but the horizon."

Second Ditto: "Well, pull for that. It's better than nothing."

-000-

Safety  
Still  
Pays

DON'T LET SUNSHINE MAKE YOU FORGET THAT CARELESSNESS CAN BRING DARKNESS.

-000-

Many a father suffers from a touch of the sun.

This happened in Coulee Center Wednesday---

Child: "Look at that funny man across the street."

Fa: "What's he doing?"

Child: "Sitting on the pavement talking to a banana skin."

-000-

A WESTERN SCHOOL ANNOUNCES THE DISCONTINUANCE OF A PRACTICE OF ACCEPTING LIVE STOCK IN LIEU OF TUITION. IT WILL MAKE AN EXCEPTION OF A SERVICEABLE HALF-BACK ON THE HOOF.

-000-

Baby Ear of Corn: "Mama, where did I come from?"

Mama Ear of Corn: "Hush, dear, the stalk brought you."

-000-

When is the only time a woman is justified in spitting in a man's face?

"When his moustache is on fire."

-000-

"WHEN WAS THE FIRST LIE DETECTOR MADE? A READER ASKS. WHILE ADAM WAS IN DEEP SLEEP.

-000-

Fa had his day off. He was standing at the edge of the cliff, looking down into the Grand Coulee, sandwiches in his hand. Sonny approached and tugged at his coat.

"Mom says it isn't safe here," said the boy. "And you're either to come away or else give me the sandwiches."

-000-

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE TO BE 80, DON'T LOOK FOR IT ON THE SPEEDOMETER.

-000-

Police court report: According to Grand Coulee Gracie's statement, she threw a bucket of water at him, scratched his face, struck him with a shovel and screamed for help.

-000-

Safety  
Never  
Fails!

# COLUMBIAN

**COMMUNITY CHURCH**—The Rev. W. W. Sloan  
Ph. D., pastor

9:45 a.m. Church school

11:00 a.m. Morning worship; subject,  
"A SEEKING RELIGION".

11:00 a.m. Junior church

7:00 p.m. Three services: vesper, junior  
high, senior high

8:00 p.m. FRIDAY (tonight), social hour  
for all older young people in the  
community and camp.

8:00 p.m. Next Thursday, continuation of  
study on "The Story of Christianity"

**CATHOLIC CHURCH**—Father A. Ferrally, pastor

On Sunday, May 23, mass will be said  
in St. Benedict's church, Mason City, at  
9 a.m. and in Grand Coulee at 11 a.m. In-  
structions for children will be given Sat-  
urday at 10 a.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
—R. E. Nuttall, superintendent  
(Mason City high school)

10:30 a.m. Opening  
exercises

11:15 a.m. Depart-  
mental works:  
Gospel doctrine:  
adults  
Church hiltory:  
juniors  
Primary

**ELECTRIC CITY UNION  
CHURCH**—M. L. Benn  
ett, pastor

11:00 a.m. Sunday  
School

12:00 a.m. Morning  
worship

6:30 p.m. Young  
peoples group

7:30 p.m. Evening  
worship

**DAYS IN THE HOSPITAL  
ARE MUCH LONGER THAN  
THOSE OF THE JOB  
BE CAREFUL.**

-oOo-

**OL' MAN RIVER BREATHES QUIETLY**

At this time last year the Columbia  
river was less than 10 feet from its high  
point for the year at 976.5. Last Monday  
with the river at only 952.5 the level  
was 24 feet short of last year's high.  
The Columbia is now approximately 20 feet  
above its low mark for the past year.

Retarded warm weather conditions have  
held the river down. Continued cool weath-  
er might prolong comparatively low water  
level without a great high. A sudden hot  
wave might shoot the river up faster and  
higher than last year, however.

-oOo-

Mason City high school netsters have  
scheduled a home tennis meet with Wilbur  
next Wednesday afternoon. The locals de-  
feated Wilbur two weeks ago away from home  
3-2.

-oOo-

**RAILS FOR CARRYING WASTE CONCRETE FROM**  
the westrix were again placed this week.  
Rails had been removed following the last  
pouring of concrete Dec. 29 on the west  
side until after cold weather. Tracks  
had been removed to allow the placement  
of riprap

-oOo-

Also under construct-  
ion this week was the  
cement pipe line from  
the cement silos to the  
westrix, independent  
of the line to the east-  
rix.

-oOo-

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST  
CHURCH** (at Electric  
City Union church)

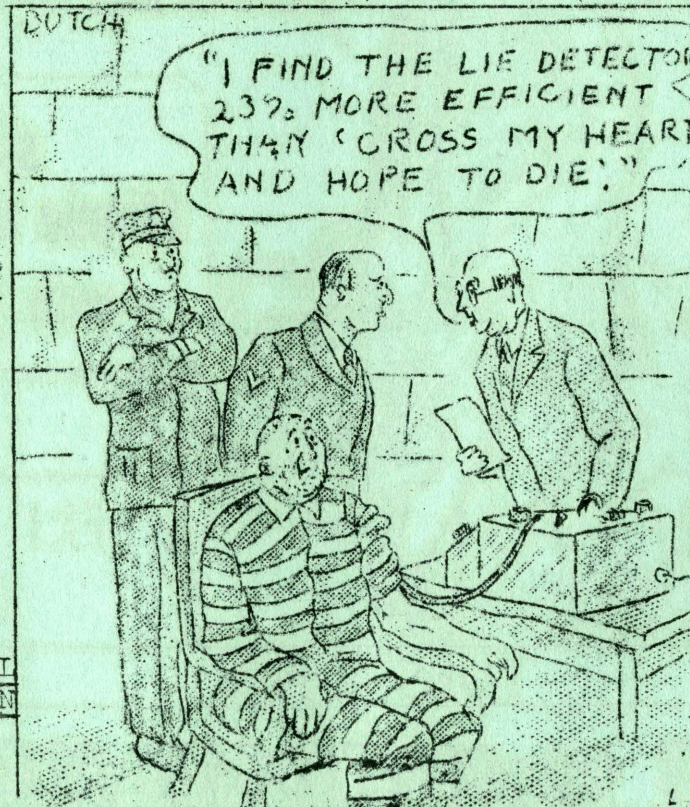
Services are held ev-  
ery Saturday at 9:45 a.  
m., followed by Bible  
study.

-oOo-

Eighteen months of  
design work and 75 com-  
binations were necessa-  
ry by the bureau of rec-  
lamation at Denver in  
designing a suitable  
spillway bucket for the  
Grand Coulee dam.

-oOo-

**SAFETY--NO STRANGE WOY**



# Mason City Theatre

THRILLING THE WORLD WITH  
MADCAP FUN

GRACE  
MOORE

CARY  
GRANT

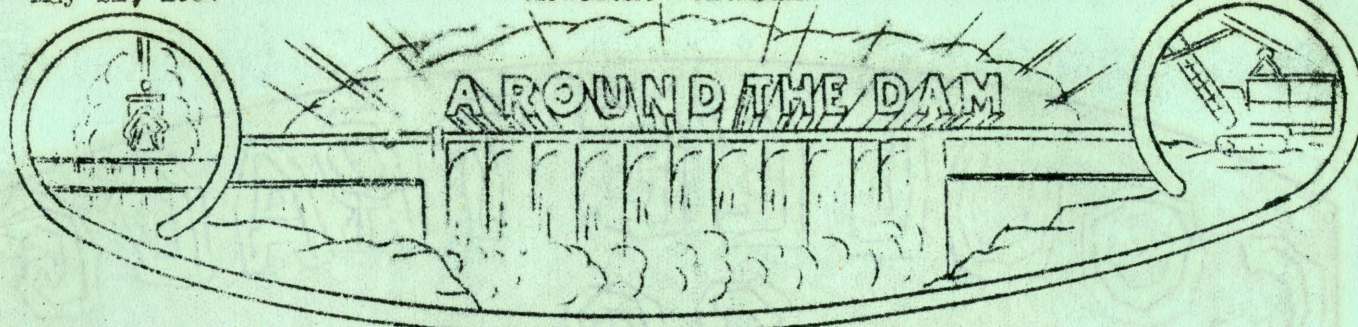
*When You're in Love*

sings  
"Minnie the Moocher"  
with gestures

FRI SAT SUN  
& MON

TUES ONLY

MOVIE SWEEPSTAKES \$38.



EMPLOYMENT REACHES NEW HIGH

The greatest number of employees ever working for the MWAK company are to be paid this week. Although figures were not available at this writing, it was estimated that between 100 and 200 employees have been added to last week's total. Last week broke all previous totals for payoffs with 5,566.

Figures released by the government last week did not show a new high. However, those weekly figures are arrived at as of men actually employed by Thursday midnight. This would naturally not include all men paid off during a given week.

Government figures showed that the MWAK had 5,396 employees last week; the dam site, 5,862, with a previous grand total high of 5,934 for last summer.

Even government-released figures today should break the 5,934 record.

-oOo-

BAD MIDDLE HOLE CLEAN

The rock cut ahead of the east upstream trestle may see its last round of blasting tonight. Yesterday inspectors stated that the rock appeared in pretty good condition and that one more round might be sufficient. This cut has held up high trestle erection from the east side for several weeks. Beyond the cut, however, is another that may take some additional time, particularly toward the north.

Rock for another bent from the high trestle approaching from the west has been okayed. This is bent 40.

-oOo-

A POINT WELL WORTH REMEMBERING IS THAT SAFETY DOES NOT COME BY ACCIDENT.

-oOo-

Ready for erection near the end of the east high trestle is another stiff-leg derrick. This will be used for handling panel forms, steel, and cleanup materials.

-oOo-

Five thousand tons of reinforcement steel have been used.

CENTER CONCRETE SPREADS

The creeping expanse of bedrock acceptable for concrete in the river section totals an area for 13 blocks near the block 40 region. This includes block 45, fifth block eastward or 250 feet from block 40. Seven of the blocks already have bedrock at least covered with one five-foot lift of concrete. Three are in the upper rows, or A, B and C; four are in D and E near the downstream available bedrock.

-oOo-

By early next week all rows for penstock steel on the east side will get their first taste of steel and penstock forms. Steel for the first two 18-foot-diameter water-conducting tubes has been in place near the east abutment for some time.

-oOo-

Block 67-A, lowest block in the east hole because it started from lowest bedrock, is nevertheless now the highest of all east blocks--in terms of number of concrete lifts poured. With the top level at elevation 915, the block is approximately 150 feet high.

-oOo-

HORSE-FLAY IS THE ENEMY OF SAFETY

-oOo-

More trestle steel is ready to go up. Today the site for a fourth bent ahead of those erected at present will probably be okayed for steel placement in the low trestle. Rock for three more bents had been passed by yesterday noon.

-oOo-

With the exception of one bad crevice, most of the rock in the river section is expected to be cleaned off over the weekend.

-oOo-

The last of the 400 points driven down to freeze the east slide were pulled last Saturday. The dismantling of the rest of the system is essentially done.

-oOo-

COULEE TRADING  
CO.

-ARMOURS  
CHUCK  
ROAST  
19¢#

SPRING  
LAMB  
LEGS  
31¢#

ROLLED  
SHOULDER  
LAMB  
31¢#

PURE  
LARD  
2#  
29¢

MEAT DEPT