

Feathers from the Duster

By The Over-time Editor

MOUNT BAKER is a very attractive asset to scenic beauty of our area. It can be seen from many different points, each with a different angle, often surprising the unwary by popping up in places unexpected—such as on the Baker Lake road where it can be in front of you, beside you or behind you, according to the whim of the wandering highway. We have a great many fine pictures of the mountain taken from afar, but have always had a battle of patience to win out for a close-up character study.

On a recent hike to Mazama Park, where the mountain starts up from the glacier at the top ridges of the meadow it would seem that a sunny day was all that was needed. Not so. The bashful snow cap put on a veil of clouds all day long, never revealing more than a bit of skyline, a flash of rocks and ridges.

Finally, for the umpteenth time, we had to give up and do our photography of the lower glaciers, the meadows and the gigantic ditch dug from the side of the mountain by the Easton Glacier. The scene is spectacular from all angles, but we wish we knew some way to make friends with the mountain itself.

THERE ARE LOTS of ways to skin a cat, but Fred Miller now knows that there are several ways to get a cat skin. The thief who wanted his displayed cougar hides so bad must have whittled for an hour or two on the back door of The Hub before gaining entry. With a skinning knife?

A FINE CROP of Blueberries probably went down the drain in the rain the past week. On a trip into the meadows a week ago we found berries by the acre all the way from Schreiber's meadows to the top of Mazama Ridge. It was noted in sampling that they tasted better with every step of elevation and on the sunny side of the meadow at the top they were sweet
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Langley Scooter Too Fast For Lion Defense

The Concrete Lions' loss to Langley in their opening game here last Friday night by the score of 13-0 was not because the teams were unequal in strength, but because a little Langley back by the name of Del Hutchinson was harder to catch than a flea on a hot griddle. In the second quarter he squirted around end and down the sidelines for 74 yards and a touchdown, then again in the fourth quarter repeated in an 85-yard run to the 3 yard line. Between these forays both teams played steady football with few penalties for an opening game.

Concrete had the ball deep in Langley territory several times but were unable to crack the goal line. Charlie Messer topped the Lion backs with 45 yards rushing, followed closely by Robin Buller with 35 and Rod Buchanan with 20. Ernie Allen connected with one pass in seven tries—an 18-yarder to Craig Knechtel. The Lions fumbled three times, recovered two. Total mileage in the game was 107 yards.

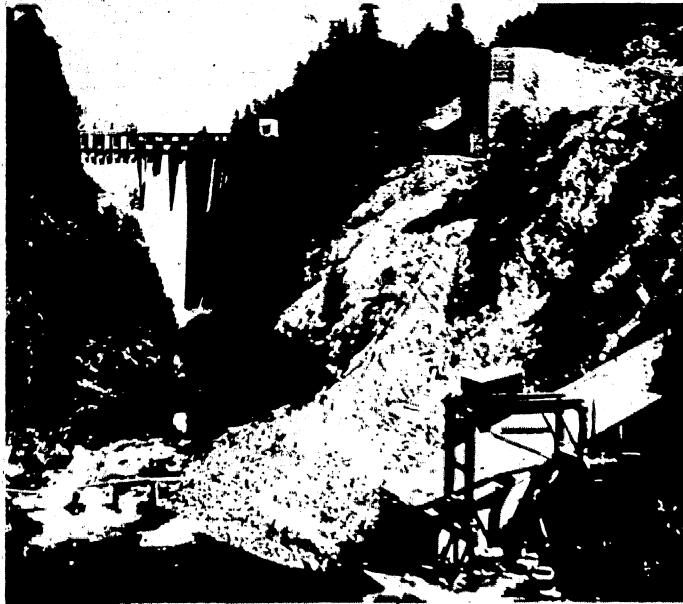
Langley moved the ball at times into scoring distance without being able to cash in against a strong Concrete defense. Their best gains were in the two long runs, and a few shorter drives in mid-field. On defense Knechtel
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The Concrete Herald

Vol. 68, No. 38, Sept. 18, 1968

Baker Power Plant Back On The Line



Kilowatts, which had been flowing past the Lower Baker River Powerhouse since the slide of May, 1965, were being collected again this week and put to work on the power grid of Puget Sound Power & Light. The new powerhouse, which houses the 70,000 kilowatt generator salvaged from the disaster, is now in official operation although testing and the usual shakedown of "bugs" will continue until all equipment is operating efficiently.

The reconstruction of the hydro-electric facility included the construction of a new powerhouse with a sloping roof that will eliminate the chance of any damage from future slides. It was also necessary to rebuild the old surge tank with solid concrete, replacing the former steel tank that had added the extra height required when the last generator was installed.

Work on the project was done by the Bechtel Corporation and was started in the spring of 1967. The cost of the completed project has been set at \$4,750,000. The company had been awarded \$5,144,645 from insurance following the destruction of the original plant.

New work done during the reconstruction included building of a new switchyard on the hill above the powerhouse, across the road from the lookout point. The switches had been on the lower level and partially covered by mud in the slide. Most of the equipment was salvaged, but the new installation is much larger in scope and will handle future generating equipment that is planned for installation in the new powerhouse to double its present capacity.

While the Bechtel Corporation was on the job the company had them renew all 23 of the spillway gates on the dam. Eight of them were replaced with steel instead of wood and will be operated by remote control. The entire powerhouse has been designed for remote control operation from the Redmond Operation Center by solid state microwave units.

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Kindergarten Class Too Large; To Be Split Into Morning - Afternoon Sessions And Use Busses

The kindergarten class, incorporated in the Concrete school system with the opening of the fall term, went on double session this Monday to take care of the large enrollment of pre-school children.

Children from outlying areas, including Marblemount, Rockport, Sauk, Van Horn, and South Skagit, are assigned to the morning session which starts at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m.

Children living within the Concrete and Birdview area attend the afternoon session. Hours are from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The division allows the use of school bus transportation to school for the morning session and home from school for the afternoon session. Parents provide car pools for the children one way.

Coincidentally the two sessions evened out with 21 in the morning period and 20 in the afternoon. Mrs. Dorothy Knechtel will continue to teach both sessions.

The division of the kindergarten into two groups received approval by the Concrete school board at its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday evening.

Board Minutes

Supt. Fred Culbertson reported that work on the boilers in the high school's water heating system is progressing satisfactorily. Several valves had to be replaced which will up the expense around \$1,200 since the valves were not included in the present contract. As soon as work on the boilers is finished a follow-up inspection will be conducted to pinpoint any leaks.

The school district has applied for federal funds under Project Title I-8910 which allots aid based on the number of families in the community with

incomes of \$3,000 and less at the last census (1960).

Concrete school district qualifies for about \$4,000 this year. The funds will be applied to the salary of a guidance and counseling instructor.

Nucleus of the lay committee being formed in the school district is now being appointed with the first meeting to be held in the near future. Members will be chosen from each section of the district, including Rockport, Marblemount, Birdview, City Camps at Newhalem and Diablo, and Concrete. One teacher will be chosen by the Concrete Educational Association. Herb Larsen was appointed by the school board to serve in an ex officio capacity.

A survey of the grade school building will be made early next month by a representative sent by the State Department of Education at the request of Supt. Culbertson. The inspection is scheduled for Oct. 8, date of the next school board meeting, so that a report may be made to the board that evening.

Reception Planned For Teachers Sept. 24

Teachers of the Upper Skagit School District No. 102, which includes Concrete and Marblemount schools, will be welcomed into the community at an open reception next Tuesday evening, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Concrete grade school gym.

The get-acquainted affair is being arranged through the combined efforts of social and church groups. Refreshments of cake and coffee will be served.

SERVICES HELD FOR VICTOR LAURENT

Requiem mass for Victor C. Laurent, a resident of Rockport for the last 25 years, was held yesterday morning, Sept. 17, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Sedro-Woolley. Vigil services were held the evening before in the Lemley Chapel. Father Leonard Rafalowski officiated.

He was born Nov. 14, 1904, in Cle Elum. He was employed as a logging truck driver and mechanic.

He is survived by his wife, Evadina, of Rockport; three sons, Victor and William, both of Rockport, and David of Anacortes; two daughters, Mary Ellen and Marguerite of Rockport; three brothers, Chester of Renton, Alva of Seattle, and Milton of Yakima; and two sisters, Charolotte Brazovich of Tacoma and Lorane Warfield of Seattle.

Heart Attack Given As Cause Of Laurent Death



Ambulance attendants remove the body of Victor C. Laurent, 63, of Rockport, after it was pulled from underneath his panel truck which hit the ditch just east of the Johnson place above Rockport. The accident occurred about 5:45 Friday evening. The coroner's report was that Laurent had suffered a fatal heart attack before the car left the road and overturned. The truck had to be lifted by block and tackle in a nearby tree to free the body, pinned underneath.

A few hours later Riley Conklin's car left the road just a short distance down-river, but escaped injury. The car was badly smashed.