

# NEWS from the . . . . . Washington State Highway Department



"Instant ground-breaking"

October 15, 1968

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the longest concrete arch bridge in North America will be held near Yakima Wednesday.

Members of the Legislature from the Yakima area, local and state officials will join in the "instant ground-breaking".

State Highways Director Charles G. Pahl said the \$4,356,070 span, with a spread of 529 feet between the arches, will surpass the present record-holder on the Cowlitz River near the town of Mossyrock. The Cowlitz Bridge measures 520 feet between arches and was opened to traffic May 3, 1968.

Members of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsor of the brief ceremony, are expected to join the public officials in the program.

The bridge is the first giant step toward the construction of Interstate 82, a four-lane divided highway connecting Yakima and Interstate 80N near Pendleton, Oregon, to the south and Interstate 90 near Ellensburg to the north.

The Selah Creek spans were designed by Ken R. White, a consulting engineer, in cooperation with George Stevens, bridge engineer for the State Highways Department. Cost of the bridge is being paid entirely with gas tax funds, 90 per cent by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads and 10 per cent by the state.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION . . . . .

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## SELAH CREEK BRIDGE

Description . . . . . Two parallel concrete arch bridges with  
prestressed concrete girder superstructure

Location . . . . . On Interstate 82, eight miles north of Yakima

Cost . . . . . \$4,356,070

Total length . . . . . 1,336' 3"

Arch span . . . . . 549' 6"

Contractor . . . . . Peter Kiewit Sons Co., Vancouver, Washington

Roadway . . . . . 33 feet for two lanes north and two south

Steel Reinforcing Bars . . . . . 3,993,100 pounds

Prestressed Concrete Girders . . . . . 13,208 linear feet

Concrete . . . . . 19,740 cubic yards

Contract awarded . . . . . September 26, 1968

Completion date . . . . . 530 working days

Ground breaking ceremony . . . . . October 16, 1963, 11 a.m.

The Selah Creek Bridge, when completed, will be the longest concrete arch span in North America. The Cowlitz River Bridge, in Lewis County, currently is the longest span on the continent at 520 feet. It was opened May 3, 1968. The previous record holder was the Westinghouse Bridge in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, at 495 feet.

(more)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Ground-breaking arrangements: Washington State Highway Commission  
George D. Zahn, Chairman

Department of Highways  
Charles G. Pahl, Director

Yakima Chamber of Commerce  
J. Russell Rennie, President

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# NEWS from the . . . . . Washington State Highway Department



ferry service begins

October 18, 1968

A Diesel-powered barge carried its first passengers across the Columbia River near Brewster at 6:00 a.m. this morning.

The 20 by 84-foot steel barge began service today as a temporary replacement for the Brewster Bridge which was destroyed by fire August 5. The barge operates on a fixed cable stretched across the river and pulled by winch.

Brewster is located 67 miles north of Wenatchee.

Dale M. Madden Construction, Inc., of Seattle won the \$153,680 contract. The ferry will provide about 100 hours of service per week with additional overtime hours when requested.

Bridge engineers of the State Highways Department are designing a bridge to replace the 40-year-old span on State Highway 173. George Stevens, department bridge engineer, said plans are being finalized. The department hopes to advertise for bids on the new structure in December.

The barge is expected to receive considerable use until the bridge is replaced. Orchardists in the area point out that the longer overland route from Brewster to Bridgeport via State Highway 17 creates additional burdens and expense during the current apple-picking season.

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