

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
January 8, 1968

EPHRATA --- Activity for the Grant County PUD during the year 1968 could range from very quiet to extremely busy, depending upon the outcome of several economic "ifs," says R. W. Gillette, District Manager.

Some of these economic "ifs" are whether the food processing industry will continue to expand; whether large industrial growth will occur on the Grant County Airport to offset the loss of military uses on the former Larson Air Force Base, and whether the development of the Wahluke Slope will proceed as originally planned. Other economic factors that could influence the activity of the PUD are the rate of progress of work on the third powerhouse at Grand Coulee, and if work will begin on the cooperative high energy test center programmed for the Grand Coulee area. Still another factor is the schedule of work on another Bacon siphon and tunnel.

If all these developments, or even part of them, go ahead this year, then the District will be extremely busy, Gillette said. However, if most of the developments are delayed for the year, then the District's activities could be very quiet.

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Regardless of the outcome of the developments mentioned above, the budget estimate for 1968 calls for \$942,000 to be invested in additions and improvements to the Electric System. This will include line sectionalizing to insure better continuity of service and to make it possible to isolate trouble areas and restore service with a minimum of inconvenience to the customers in case of an outage. Other items can be deferred if the growth does not materialize, Gillette said.

Normal load growth is expected to continue in irrigation areas, making line extensions and irrigation pump connections necessary. Provision has been made for the purchase of heavy electrical equipment to care for the anticipated continued growth, not only for existing industrial plants, but for potential industries.

The program of change-over from incandescent to mercury vapor street lights will be continued. Present requests call for 170 mercury vapor street lights to be installed in Quincy to replace incandescent lights. Also planned is the addition of mercury vapor lights at the Grant County Airport to serve the Port District, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Big Bend Community College North Campus. These lights will be in addition to those previously installed in 1967.

Twenty-five mercury vapor lights will replace incandescent lights in the residential areas of Ephrata. Fifteen lights were installed last year.

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During the past year mercury vapor lights were installed in Wilson Creek, Warden, Lakeview Park and Westlake, and about half of Coulee City's street lights were changed over.

Royal City and George now have all either fluorescent or mercury vapor lights.

A new switching station was activated in Coulee City on August 31, 1967 to give greater capacity and more reliable service to that area. A Ruff-Wheeler feeder line was constructed to serve the ever-increasing electric loads caused by deep well pumping in that vicinity. Three new heavy duty line trucks were put in service to replace older and lighter equipment.

More than 2,000 persons visited the Wanapum Tour Center during Grant County Visitors Days, April 22 and 23. More than 21,000 persons from all sections of the nation visited Wanapum during 1967 and 4,423 visited Priest Rapids.

Also during 1967, the Grant County PUD cooperated with other Public Utility Districts of the state to produce a 17-minute sound color film, "A Brighter Land," which depicts the role of public power in the State of Washington. This film is available for free showing to any interested group in Grant County.

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A Silver Anniversary Report, tracing the history of the Grant County PUD from 1942 to 1967, was issued last year. The book also gives the history of the first electric power in each community and contains more than 100 photos of pioneer days.

In October the Commission approved the issuance of \$1,000,000 in Electric System Revenue Bonds, the money to be used for extensions, improvements and additions to the Electric System of the District.

It was announced in December that \$17,473,000 in money left over from the construction of Wanapum dam would be used to redeem Wanapum bonds on January 1, 1968. E. L. Douglass, District Auditor, said \$15,000,000 of this amount was transferred to the bond fund trustee after the closing of the Wanapum construction fund, and that the remainder was an accumulation in the reserve account of the bond fund.

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
March 13, 1968

WANAPUM DAM --- The Tour Center at Wanapum dam will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. seven days a week, starting Saturday, March 16, Grant County PUD officials announced today.

The Tour Center, located five miles downstream from Vantage, Washington, has proven a popular tourist attraction with its displays of early Indian and pioneer life in the Northwest.

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June 1968: The first four-barge tow to pass through John Day Lock and Dam moves placidly through the newly raised Lake Umatilla, upstream the dam. Slack-water navigation for such tows is now possible from the Pacific Ocean to Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, Washington. Additional dams under construction by the Army Corps of Engineers will make such commercial traffic possible to Lewiston, Idaho, in the early 1970's. This cargo was wheat and petroleum products.

FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN TO THE COAST OF ALASKA, INCLUDING THE BERING SEA.

THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY MADE BY THE U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON, IN 1907.

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U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, WALLA WALLA
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

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Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
June 27, 1968

WANAPUM DAM --- Another salmon run is now in progress and visitors at the Wanapum fish viewing room during the next five or six weeks have an excellent chance of seeing migrating fish, Grant County PUD officials said today.

It is estimated that the peak run of chinooks and bluebacks will occur about July 10 to 15.

The Wanapum Tour Center is open from 8 a. m. until 9 p. m. seven days a week.

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
October 7, 1968

WANAPUM DAM --- More than 15,000 visitors signed the register up to October 1 this year at the Wanapum Tour Center, it was announced today by Grant County PUD officials.

The Tour Center will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily through October. New displays were added during the year and others were rearranged.

A new feature this year was six colored postcard views of Wanapum, the Tour Center, Priest Rapids and Crescent Bar. These cards are available from the guides upon request. The cards proved so popular that 9,000 were given out this year.

Jenkins
PUD

EPHRATA, May 16 -- Approval of the \$91,878,625 low bid by Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corporation, New York, for the construction of the Priest Rapids Dam was announced today (Wednesday) by the Grant County Public Utility District. The District issued a letter of intent for construction of the dam by Merritt-Chapman & Scott subject to the sale of a revenue bond issue to finance the project.

The Merritt-Chapman & Scott bid, submitted on March 12, is believed to be the largest competitive bid ever submitted for a construction contract by a single company.

Merritt-Chapman & Scott's bid was approximately \$1,250,000 lower than the next bid and was the only one of the five bids submitted that was made by a single company. The other four bids were submitted by joint-venture combinations of 28 major construction organizations from all parts of the country.

The Priest Rapids Dam, a flood control, navigation and power project at Priest Rapids, about 24 miles below Vantage, will be built for the Public Utility District of Grant County under authorization of the Federal Flood Control Act of 1920.

The major part of the project calls for the construction of an 8,412-foot-long reinforced concrete and earthfill dam, of which 2,427 feet will be concrete and 5,985 feet earthen embankment. The dam, which will extend in a straight line across the river, will have a maximum height of 175 feet from

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the deepest point of excavation. It will include a 1,142-foot-long reinforced concrete spillway section containing 22 gates, each 50 feet high and 40 feet wide; a powerhouse 900 feet long and 205 feet wide; rockfill embankments extending to high ground on either side of the river; upstream migratory fish passages and provisions for a future navigation lock.

The dam is the second in the State of Washington to be constructed by Merritt-Chapman & Scott. The company's Construction Department currently is building Gorge High Dam across the Skagit River, about 100 miles northeast of Seattle, for the City of Seattle as a municipal power project. The Gorge High Dam was started as a joint venture with the Savin Construction Corporation, of East Hartford, Conn., which last fall became a member of M-C & S. Merritt-Chapman & Scott and Savin also recently completed construction of Folsom Dam across the American River in California's Central Valley for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam was dedicated May 5.

The Priest Rapids Dam project will require the use of about 910,000 cubic yards of concrete -- enough to pave more than 300 miles of a two-lane, 22-foot-wide highway.

Approximately 3,240,000 cubic yards of rock and earth will be excavated enough to fill a string of railroad hopper cars extending about 650 miles. A slightly lesser amount of fill -- 3,210,000 cubic yards -- will be required.

The spillway section, the most massive part of the dam, will be 218 feet wide at the base and 31 feet wide at the top.

The powerhouse will contain eight generators with a rated capacity of 78,850 kilowatts each. Space will be provided for the installation of two additional generators at a later date.

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Provision will be made for a future navigation lock, 1,000 feet long and 250 feet wide, on the right side of the river, facing downstream, at the dam site. Two fish ladders, one on each side of the dam, will be constructed. ✓

The contract also calls for the construction of an $18\frac{1}{2}$ -foot-wide concrete and asphalt road along the top of the dam and for the construction of access roads from existing highways on either side of the river.

When completed, the dam will provide a reservoir area of 22 square miles and will have a drainage area of 95,500 square miles.