

Jenkins  
PUD  
4-22-57

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIEST RAPIDS, WASHINGTON, April 23 ---There's a long, adventurous history behind the black and white flag visitors will see flying over Priest Rapids Dam when they attend the first pouring of concrete for the vast project this Thursday afternoon (April 25).

The design of the flag is simple - a galloping black horse on a field of white. Behind that simple design, however, is a 97-year-old tradition of service closely linked with the march of progress throughout the United States.

The Black Horse Flag, as it is known, is the emblem of Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corporation, whose Construction Department is building Priest Rapids Dam for the Public Utility District of Grant County under a \$91,880,625 competitively bid contract. You'll find it on every piece of construction equipment at work on the job.

The flag dates back to the very founding of Merritt-Chapman & Scott in 1860. The company first started as a marine salvage organization, and the Black Horse emblem flew from the mast of the first ocean going salvage vessel put into service by Capt. Israel J. Merritt.

The emblem had a particular meaning in that age of sail. In those days, long before radio, marine underwriters relied on coastal farmers and fishermen to flash the first word of warning whenever they sighted a vessel in distress. These look-outs, in most instances, dashed by horseback to the nearest alarm point, providing a rescue service that quickly came to be known as "The Pony Express of the Beaches." The Black Horse of Merritt-Chapman

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& Scott, with mane flying and all four hooves off the ground, was conceived as a tribute to the unique "Pony Express."

With the years, operations of Merritt-Chapman & Scott expanded into other fields beyond marine salvage. As an extension of its marine activities, the company went into derrick heavy hoisting - now operates a fleet of floating heavy lift derricks along the eastern seaboard that is the most powerful of its kind in the United States.

With such powerful equipment readily available, it was only natural for the company to expand into the field of waterfront construction, and to move inland from there until its operations covered every field of construction activity, both throughout the United States and throughout the world.

Today, Merritt-Chapman & Scott's Construction Department is well known around the globe for its slogan: "You Name It, We Build It!"

Priest Rapids Dam is one of two dam projects the company currently has under way in the State of Washington, and its third in the Far West within the past several years. It is building Gorge High Dam across the Skagit River, at Newhalem, and recently completed Folsom Dam across the American River, in California. Early this month it submitted the low bid for construction of Glen Canyon Dam across the Colorado River, in Arizona.

The Black Horse Flag also flies over shipbuilding ways, chemical plants, paint factories, metallurgical mills and a wide variety of other facilities, for with the passing years Merritt expanded from construction into a diversified list of industrial activity.

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The company today operates through three departments - Chemical, Paint and Metallurgical; Construction, and Shipbuilding - and two divisions - Highway Trailer and Milton Steel.

Merritt's Chemical, Paint and Metallurgical Department is comprised of Devoe & Raynolds Company, Inc., and Tennessee Products & Chemical Corporation.

Devoe, with headquarters at Louisville, Ky., is one of the nation's leading producers of consumer paints, industrial finishes, chemicals and resins, with nine plants across the United States. Founded in 1754, it is known as "The First American Paint Maker."

Tennessee Products & Chemical Corporation, with headquarters at Nashville, Tenn., is known as "An Industry Serving All Industry" for it produces a widely diversified range of chemicals, metallurgical products, fuels and building materials. The company operates 13 plants throughout the South, largely using raw materials from its own coal mines and timber lands.

The Black Horse Flag flown by Merritt's Construction Department will be found flying over projects throughout the world, including an extensive pipeline across Spain to feed a chain of U. S. Air Force bases. Other major projects now in progress include vehicular tunnels beneath Baltimore Harbor, Md., Hampton Roads, Va., and Duquesne Heights, Pittsburgh, Pa.; bridges across the Straits of Mackinac and Hoosatic River, Conn.; a chain of radar stations in the sub-Arctic and air bases in Crete and Labrador.

Merritt-Chapman & Scott's Shipbuilding Department is comprised

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of New York Shipbuilding Corporation, whose yard at Camden, N.J. , is the second largest in the United States. Since the turn of the century, New York Ship has been building vessels of every description for the U. S. Navy and merchant marine operators. Work now underway at its yard includes the USS KITTY HAWK, the nation's fifth giant super-aircraft carrier - a fighting vessel more than 1100 feet long that from keel to mast-top will be as tall as a 25-story building.

Other vessels under construction or soon to be started at New York Ship include six large commercial tankers, ranging in capacity from 35,500 to 45,000 tons each, a high speed submarine, three guided missile destroyers, and a team of two specialized vessels for offshore oil drilling operations. The company recently submitted a low bid for construction of a sister ship to the SS UNITED STATES, fastest and one of the largest passenger liners in the world.

Highway Trailer Company, of Edgerton, Wis. , operates as Merritt's Highway Trailer Division. The company, one of the pioneers in its field, manufactures a broad range of truck trailers and equipment used in the construction and maintenance of public utility lines.

The Black Horse Flag also flies over a steel mill at Milton, Pa. , home of the M-C&S Milton Steel Division. The company predominately produces steel reinforcing rods.

Herb Jenkins  
PUD  
4-23-57

Immediate Release

## THE RIVER SPIRITS WILL BE WATCHING

PRIEST RAPIDS ---The River Spirits who live in the depths of the Columbia will be among those watching on April 25 as visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest witness the first pouring of concrete on the dam being built here under a \$91,880,625 contract for the Public Utility District of Grant County.

The River Spirits of Indian folklore are uneasy and restless. For untold centuries the Columbia river has flowed past Priest Rapids without any serious interference from Man.

Throughout the ages, for about ten months of the year the mighty Columbia has raced over the rocks and through the channels of Priest Rapids, almost indifferent to the obstructions in its way. During the early summer months of each year the river roars past in a torrential flood, overflowing its normal boundaries, burying its former channel obstructions under thousands of tons of water, gnawing at its banks, and raging toward the sea in a mighty display of power and fury.

For almost half a century Man has looked at this untamed water at Priest Rapids and dreamed of putting it to work. Early in this century the Army Corps of Engineers mentioned Priest Rapids as a possible site for a dam. Throughout the following years a number of plans for a development at the site were suggested by irrigation companies, private electric utilities and

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by individuals.

From time to time soundings were taken, surveys made and exploratory drill holes sunk in the area.

The River Spirits watched as Man made his sporadic investigations. Then they shrugged indifferently as Man gathered up his tools and left the river undisturbed again for a period of years.

Just a few years ago the situation changed. Once again Man appeared with his surveying instruments and core drills. Only this time he didn't go away. In July of 1956 Man started to build a new road to Priest Rapids. Materials and equipment started to arrive at the site.

The River Spirits suddenly awakened as in September of 1956 giant power shovels, draglines and bulldozers started clawing at the banks of the Columbia. Still they didn't get too disturbed. Perhaps this was just another puny attack by Man.

But within a few months a steel cofferdam started edging out into the river from the east bank. The river snarled and raged, but Man marched on with his fence, and suddenly the River Spirits found themselves crowded out into the middle of the channel. The ancient river bed where they had lived undisturbed for thousands of years was exposed and probed ruthlessly with dynamite and drills.

With the completion of the first cofferdam, Man started another section farther out into the river. The bottom leg of this second cofferdam was constructed first --- parallel with the stream flow. The river chuckled

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and offered little resistance to this fence.

Then Man moved to the upstream side of the cofferdam and started to drive piling. The river gathered itself for a mighty effort and tore frantically at the cofferdam cells blocking its path. But Man paid no attention, and with the completion of the second cofferdam the River Spirits found themselves shoved even farther to one side and confined to a channel 500 feet wide. Tossing its waves in white-capped fury, the river now thunders down its remaining narrow pathway, roaring and fuming as it struggles in its restricted channel.

In the meantime, Man calmly plans to complete his barrier across the river. He does not anticipate any great difficulty --- neither does he discount the power of the Columbia. The spring of 1958 will see the showdown as the last cofferdam is built across the remaining channel. Man expects to win this fight, but he knows he is in for a battle---for the River Spirits do not submit lightly to being tamed.



PUD  
4-25-57  
Jenkins

For Release 1:30 PM PST - April 25

PRIEST RAPIDS, WASHINGTON, APRIL 25 ---Construction of a new \$166 million dam to harness the Columbia River at Priest Rapids passed a major milestone today when Governor Albert D. Rosellini of Washington turned a valve to start the first placement of concrete for the huge hydro-electric power project.

Priest Rapids Dam is being built by the Public Utility District of Grant County, Washington, as the first phase of a new Columbia River Development - financed entirely through the sale of revenue bonds - that will create the third largest source of hydro-electric power in the United States.

Visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest cheered as Governor Rosellini guided the first bucket of concrete into place upon signal from Glenn Smothers, manager of the Grant County PUD. Washington's two U. S. Senators, Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson, and Don Magnuson, the State's U. S. Congressman at Large, were among the principal speakers. A message was read from Congressman Hal Holmes who was unable to attend.

A total of approximately 910,000 cubic yards of concrete will go into construction of the central section of the dam - enough to build a two-lane highway across the state of Washington. The "first concrete" placed today marked the start of construction on foundations for the dam's power house, which will be equipped with eight generators with a total installed capacity of 630,000 Kilowatts.

Construction of the Priest Rapids Development was started in July, 1956, by Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corporation, of New York, under a

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\$91,880,625 competitively bid contract - the largest ever awarded to a single company - covering the dam and power house. Harza Engineering Company, of Chicago, designed the project, and is supervising its construction for the Grant County PUD.

Benefitted by a winter of comparatively good weather, construction is currently running ahead of schedule. A 35-acre area on the east side of the Columbia River has been completely sealed off by a giant cofferdam of steel sheet piling and construction crews are excavating within its protection to an average depth of 85 feet through bed rock. A second cofferdam has been extended two-thirds of the way across the river to enclose the area in which the easterly side of the main spillway section is to be constructed.

Priest Rapids Dam will extend a total length of 8,412 feet across the Columbia River, including a central 2,427-foot section of reinforced concrete flanked by earthen embankments totalling 5,985 feet. From deepest point of excavation to crest, the dam will be 178 feet high. Its spillway section will be 1,142 feet long, and will be equipped with 22 tainter gates, each 50 feet high and 40 feet wide. The dam's 1,025 foot long powerhouse is located on the easterly side of the river.

In addition to Priest Rapids, the Grant County PUD has been licensed by the Federal Power Commission to build a second hydro-electric installation of approximately equivalent size about 18 miles farther upstream. Construction of this second project, to be known as Wanapum Dam in honor of the Indian Tribe which formerly inhabited the Priest Rapids area, is expected to start in 1958 under a separate contract.

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Wanapum Dam will have a rated generating capacity of 570,000 Kilowatts. Within the United States, the combined 1,200,000 Kilowatt capacity of Priest Rapids and Wanapum are exceeded only by Grand Coulee and Hoover Dams.

As in the case of Priest Rapids, the Grant County PUD plans to finance Wanapum through the sale of 50-year revenue bonds to be retired through the sale of power.

Twelve public and private utilities in Washington, and three other northwestern states have signed 50-year contracts with the Grant County PUD for the purchase of 63.5 percent of the power generated by Priest Rapids. Under their contracts, they also agreed to be responsible for the same percentage of the annual cost of the dam, including debt retirement service.

Under the allocation plan, the Grant County PUD will retain for its own use 36.5 percent of the total power generated, or approximately 230,000 kilowatts. Other utilities in the State of Washington will receive 28.5 percent, or approximately 180,000 Kilowatts, and purchasers in Oregon, Idaho and Montana will receive 35 percent of 220,000 Kilowatts.

The utilities purchasing Priest Rapids power also have an option to buy an equivalent percentage of the power to be generated by the Wanapum Development. All output from Priest Rapids and Wanapum will be integrated with the Northwest Power Pool.

Representatives of the power purchasers were among those attending today's "first concrete" ceremony. Representatives of the managing group

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of the nationwide syndicate of underwriters who handled the sale of the \$166 million revenue bond issue that financed the Priest Rapids Development, also were on hand, as were representatives of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Department of Interior, Department of Fisheries and other federal agencies interested in progress of the project.

HOLD FOR RELEASE APRIL 25

Congressman Hal Holmes sent the following message to Mr. Glen Smothers of the Grant County PUD to be read at the ceremonies of the pouring of the first concrete at the Priest Rapids Damsite Thursday, April 25.

"I regret very much that I cannot be present at this important occasion of the pouring of the first concrete for the Priest Rapids Damsite. Having been connected with every move in the legislative procedures of this project, I remember so well when the President signed the Holmes Bill H. R. 7664 on July 27, 1954 making the construction possible.

"My heartiest congratulations to the Grant County PUD for the work of its staff and officers in their untiring efforts which make this ceremony possible.

"To all of you present, my sincere best wishes and kindest regards.

Hal Holmes, M. C."

HOLD FOR RELEASE APRIL 26

Congressman Hal Holmes sent the following message to Mr. J. Carroll Pratt, Secretary-Treasury of the Kennewick Project Committee, Kennewick, Washington, to be read at the official ceremonies of the first water on the Kennewick Project Friday, April 26.

"It is with deep regret that I cannot be present for the first water ceremonies on the Kennewick Project. I have followed this project from its inception, having introduced the bill which made it possible, H. R. 4954. The Holmes bill was introduced in the House of Representatives January 14, 1948, and I was particularly pleased when the President affixed his signature to the bill June 12 of the same year making it a law.

"So, you can well appreciate my disappointment at not being able to be present to personally congratulate all of the individuals so actively engaged in helping to get the appropriations each year for this project.

"My best wishes and kindest personal regards to all of you present today.

Hal Holmes, H. C."



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PUD  
5-10-57

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PRIEST RAPIDS--Since the first week of May the rising waters of the Columbia River have been flowing over the top of the Stage 1B cofferdam at Priest Rapids, it was announced today by Priest Rapids engineers. In anticipation of this topping of the cofferdam by high water, the cells were capped with two feet of concrete to prevent washing of the gravel from the cells.

The Stage 1B cofferdam is the low-walled cofferdam that is extended out into the river from the high cofferdam on the east bank that encloses the powerhouse construction area. The walls of the first cofferdam are built to a height well above expected high water and will not be flooded.

The river was flowing at approximately 260,000 cubic feet per second during the early part of May, and the flow could reach more than 500,000 cubic feet per second during the normal high water period in June and July.

After the high water recedes the area enclosed by the Stage 1B cofferdam will be pumped out and construction will start on the first 11 bays of the concrete spillway section.

Confined to about one-third of its normal channel by the cofferdams, the rising river is lashing at the west bank and, as anticipated, is causing some washing on the bank. Water is swirling around part of the foundation of the abandoned powerhouse on the west bank, but apparently no damage has been done to the building as yet.

The old powerhouse was built by the Hanford Irrigation and Power Company in 1908 to supply power to pump water from the river to irrigate orchards. Later, the 2400 KW plant was operated for many years by the Pacific Power and Light Co., with a line to Beverly. The Atomic Energy Commission acquired the powerhouse during the war years. The powerhouse was finally sold to the Public Utility District of Grant County, and was closed down after 48 years of operation, <sup>it will</sup> ~~and must~~ be dismantled in 1958.



Jenkins  
PUD  
6-26-57

EPHRATA --- A total of \$17,518,000 has been spent on the Priest Rapids dam from the start of planning for the Development more than six years ago up until May 31~~st~~, of this year, John Hinkle, Chief Accountant for the Public Utility District of Grant County, said today. This total includes all expenses such as preliminary surveys and explorations, land acquisition, engineering, payroll, construction charges and other costs.

Hinkle added that \$284,675 had been spent on preliminary work on Wanapum dam, which will be located upstream from Priest Rapids, between Beverly and Vantage.

Nine hundred and eighty-two men are now employed by Merritt-Chapman & Scott, the contractors who are building the dam for the Grant County PUD. The Grant County PUD has 72 employees at the dam, including a small staff from the Harza Engineering Co. of Chicago. The Harza Engineering Co. is the designer of the dam and the consulting engineer on the Development for the PUD.

The Merritt-Chapman & Scott payroll is now averaging more than \$100,000 a week, and the PUD payroll approximately \$9200 a week, it was said.

As of June 18, the excavation for the left embankment was virtually complete, with 1,144,203 cubic yards of material removed. Placing of the impervious core, which will be 40 feet 9 inches wide, is under way, with 82,454 cubic yards in place. It is estimated the impervious core on the left

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embankment will require 510,000 cubic yards. Also under way is the placing of the transition material and pervious material alongside the impervious core.

Approximately 23,000 cubic yards of concrete have been poured. The entire job will require 910,000 cubic yards of concrete, enough to build a sidewalk 4 feet wide and 4 inches thick clear across the United States.

As of June 18, the Priest Rapids dam was estimated to be approximately 14% physically complete.