

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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Water Power From Baker Was Much Too Powerful

One of the early day “busts” in Concrete was an attempt to use the Baker River as power for the Washington Cement plant. A wooden flume was built through the Baker canyon and for miles up the river where an earth dam was installed to divert the water into the flume.

The flume itself was a marvelous piece of carpentry, wide enough for two horses to run abreast and deep enough to hold a sizeable river. The only trouble was that the earth dam would not hold against flood waters and the flume had to be abandoned. It stood for many years until it was gradually torn town by folks who needed some of its fine lumber.