

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

JUNE 21, 1956

Start On New Dam

Norman McKenney, lean, dark-haired construction superintendent for Stone & Webster, indicates that providing housing will be one of the biggest problems for the upper valley in connection with construction of the new Upper Baker Dam.

McKenney said, however, that the problem will be one that may be slow in developing, in that not too many men will move into the area for the next three weeks. At the end of that time about 150 men are expected here and from then on more will arrive each month.

A construction camp to house several hundred men will be built near the dam site to take care of the single men and those unable to bring their families here.

"The campsite is now forested," McKenney said. "We've got to clear it, bulldoze it, provide power, furnish water and provide sanitary facilities. It probably won't be finished for two or three months."

A request has been sent out from the Stone & Webster office here for local people to list with them all spare rooms that may be rented, or anyone wishing to provide both room and board for one man or more.

The superintendent declined to make an comment on future activities. "Until we get organized, there's not too much we can say," he remarked.

The hiring plan is to use all the local people possible.

Superior Portland Cement, Inc. will furnish half of the cement to be used in building the dam, the other half to be purchased from Olympic Portland Cement in Bellingham—making a fifty-fifty break between Skagit and Whatcom counties. Some 700,000 barrels will be required during the job.

Although this is a good-sized order, the local plant expects that it will be filled gradually and will not mean any increased production. It will level out the plant's storage problem and possibly prevent the rumors of shutdown that always accompany approaching any maximum of storage capacity.

Consensus of opinion about the town of Concrete is that there will be no actual "boom" here, but that any increase in population will bring additional revenue into the town. Most businesses are counting on the increased logging activity behind the dam to provide most of the local prosperity.