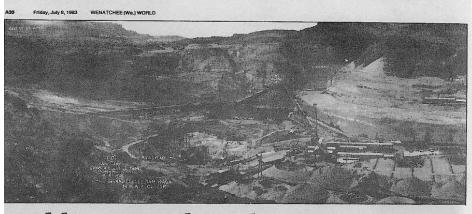
### Chapter 6

### Grand Coulee Dam Days

The family moved to Grand Coulee, Washington in late 1941. Sassy remembers that they left the Flathead reservation in Daddy's small car. Daddy, Jimmy and Uncle Jacque Williams had already traveled to Grand Coulee earlier that year (that summer) looking for work. They were lucky enough to find work at Grand Coulee Dam's construction site. After getting houses set up on the famous B Street, Jimmy and Jack stayed behind, while Daddy went back to Montana after their families. On the trip back to Washington Daddy's small car was literally jammed full of people. Daddy had luggage and family possessions tied down on top of the car. In the best Beverly Hillbilly style. Besides Daddy and Momma in the little car were Rainsey, Sassy, Dona and Darlene. And Daddy drove over to Hot Springs to pick up Aunt Rosie Williams and her kids, Leonard, Freddie, Rose Ellen (Sister) and Dickie.

On the way to Washington Daddy met another car coming from the opposite direction and that driver crowded Daddy off the road. This was at a point not far from Perma, the highway ran parallel to the railroad tracks. To avoid crashing into the oncoming car Daddy swerved off the road and landed in some tall grass and weeds. And all the time the car was flying off the road Momma was praying out loud. "Oh, God save us! Oh God save us!" she shouted repeatedly. Leonard Williams remembered this story and said once Momma got out of the car and investigated the situation and saw the car sitting in the grass which hid the cars tires, she loudly exclaimed, "God damn it! God damn it! You knocked off all the wheels!" Of course the tires were still on the car and only hidden by the grass. Leonard and Freddie would think about Momma switching from praying to cussing in minutes and laugh over it for years afterwards. It was not foolish that Momma thought the wheels were broken off though, as it had happened to others before. When Jim Grinder had married Mary Pablo, back in September of 1915, and they were returning home in his Rio from their honeymoon he made a sharp turn and hit a bank. All four wheels were broken off and completely demolished in the wreck!

They reached Grand Coulee during the night after a long and tiresome trip. The approach was made down the switch backs on the big hill from Almira. Leonard Williams remembers seeing all the lights from the dam construction, and Grand Coulee Dam was "all lit up" and the "workers were busy as bees." They went across the railroad tracks and up the little road to B Street. (This railroad track was removed after the dam construction was over). They were happy to bed down for the night as the trip was exhausting. In a few days, by November 3, all the kids were in school.



# **Building Grand Coulee Dam...**

"Ewelrything was ready to go."
There were other, comparatively minor accidents at the Coulee Dam construction site. For instance, a gigantic landslide, carrying an estimated 750,000 cubic yards of earth, swept down Rattlesnake Canyon and

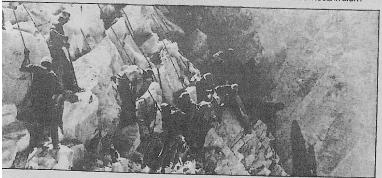
not and, on Jan. 22, 1991, the Columbia River turned the first generator in Grand Coulee Dam. With the push of a button, Frank A. Banks, supervising engineer for the Bureau of Reclama-tion, opened a gate in a 6-toot penstock, sending water surging into

It was the first of three service generators which are now used to energize the Grand Coulee Dam powerplant.

Seven months later, the first of nine 108,000-kilowatt generators, then the largest in the world, went on line.



LIGHTS ILLUMINATING THE DAM CONSTRUCTION AREA AT NIGHT PROVIDED A SPECTACULAR SIGHT



ORKERS HAD TO USE ROPES FOR SECURITY WHILE SHAPING BEDROCK WHICH SUPPORTED THE FOUNDATION

Administration linking Grand Coulee Dam with Western Washington, Bonneville Dam on the lower Columbia River, and Spokane.

Grand Coulee Dam had been authorized as primarily an irrigation project, but the events following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, would make Grand Coulee's power a much more valuable commodity in the short run.

The response to the vast amount of power made available by Grand Coulee Dam was just as its proponents had promised. Grand Coulee created its own market for power. The Bonneville Power Administration was directed to market the power from the federal dams on the Columbia.

The headlines told the story: "Two big metals plants." "Coulee Dam." "Coulee Dam." "Coulee Dam the federal dams on the Columbia industrial plants." "Glant magnesium plant virtually assured."

Grand Coulee's electricity was needed to beef up industrial production in the Pacific Northwest. Aluminum, needed for aircraft production, was in short supply during the early war years. Grand Coulee's growing power to help fill the breach.

By the end of 1943, six Grand Coulee units were completed. Two additional

to help fill the breach.

By the end of 1943, six Grand Coulee
units were completed. Two additional
75,000-kilowatt generators which had
been earmarked for Shasta Dam in
California were rerouted to Grand

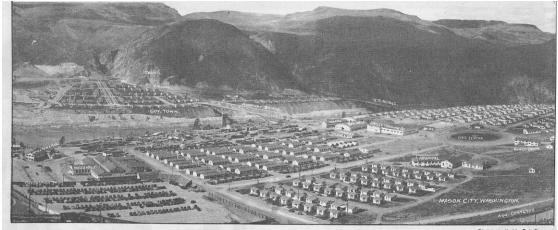
Coulee.

That same year, BPA received an urgent request to provide electricity for a project shrouded in secrecy at Hanford, near Richland. The goings-on were revealed several years later when atomic bombs, made from plutonium produced at Hanford, were dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By 1951, the last three generators were on line at Grand Coulee Dam, bringing the total to 18. The dam itself was fully operational.

The power which critics said would not be needed until the Zind Century was needed in the 1950s.

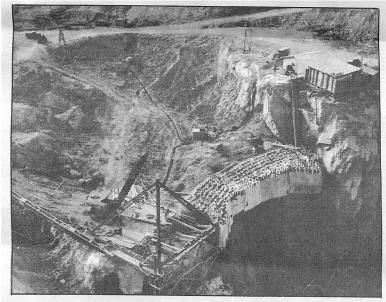
Grand Coulee Dam - The First 50 Years 1933-1983, "The Wenatchee World, page A30



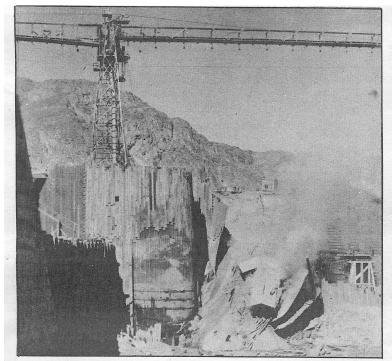


# Grand Coulee Dam project in 1937

The construction of Grand Coulee Dam reached the hallway mark in 1937, when this panoramic photograph was taken for the MWAK Co., the first main contractor on the job. It shows how the east side cofferdam diverted the Columbia River so that excavation could be done. Notice the intricate system of conveyor belts which stretched from the gravel pit to the far right but off the picture, to the storage yard and to the west side mixing plant. Mason City, the town for construction workers built by MWAK, is located to the right. Across the river is Government Town, which housed the engineers.



"ICE DAM" WHICH STABILIZED CLAY BANK ON EAST SIDE

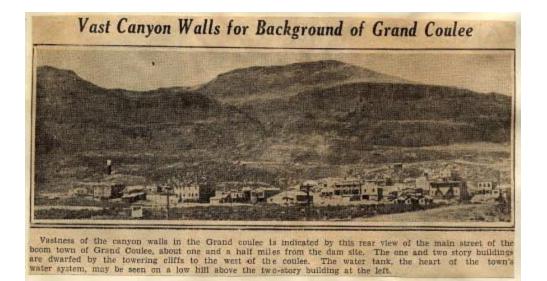


U.S. Bureau of Reclamation photos
THIS IS THE COFFERDAM WHICH COLLAPSED IN 1937

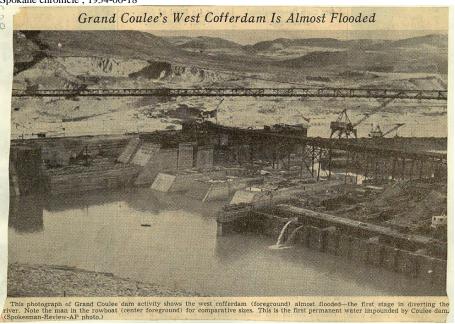
Page A31



Spokesman-review; 1934-04-29



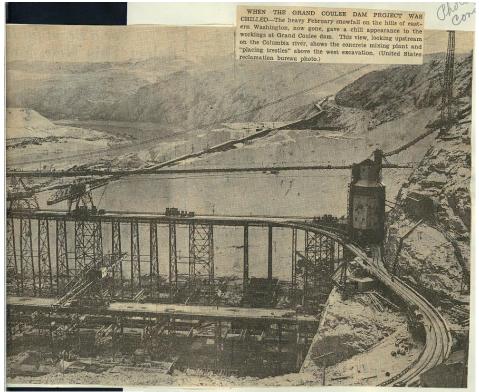
Spokane chronicle; 1934-06-18



Spokesman-review; 1936-11-10



Coeur d'Alene Press ; 1936-02-28



Spokesman-review; 1936-03-08



Spokesman-review; 1937-11-26



Great falls tribune; 1937-08-07

### GRAND COULEE CALLS FOR MORE SKILLED LABORERS

GRAND COULEE, Wash.—Carpenters, jackhammer operators and hardrock miners are needed at Grand Coulee dam and the national employment service has notified nearby employment officials to list that class of laborers for employment.

Carpenters capable of building concrete forms will receive 90 cents per hour; jackhammer men, 75 cents, and laborers, 50 cents. The local relief office can give further information.

Latah citizen; 1936-10-18



This huge conveyance is being used by the Smith Fuel and Sawdust company to rush shavings to Coulee dam to aid in plugging the leak in the coffer dam and save the giant structure when the rush of spring water begins. It carries 10 cords of shavings at a time and is making two trips daily in addition to another four-cord truck making two daily trips. Corliss Smith, proprietor of the company, is shown with the truck.

Spokesman-review; 1937-04-18

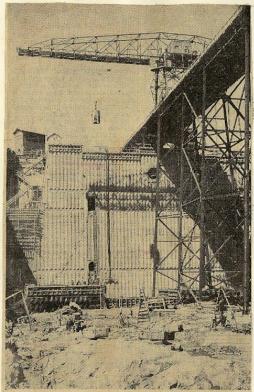


Pocatello Tribune ; 1936-03-17

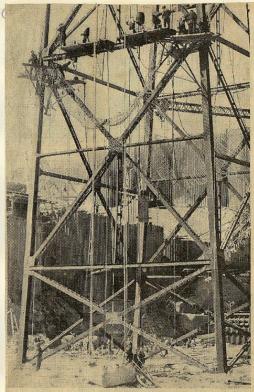


Spokesman-review; 1937-12-19

## Trestle as High as a 12-Story Building Being Buried in Concrete at Grand Coulee Dam,



Some idea of the vastness of the workings at Grand Coulee dam may be gained from these oficial reclamation bureau pictures, just released. At the left, 90 feet below the level of the spring flood waters of the Columbia river, flowing outside the cofferdam, workmen place concrete in the Grand Coulee dam on bedrock which underly the former bed of the diverted river. A completed portion of the dam foundation, the ribbed concrete mass in the background, forms a part of the cofferdam. Suspended from the boom of a traveling crane with a reach of 115



feet is a bucket containing four cubic yards of concrete. At the right, ironworkers on dangling platforms high above the bedrock of the Columbia river put together a trestle as high as a 12-story building on the site of the Grand Coulee-dam. From three standard gauge railroad tracks and a crane track on the trestle, concrete to form the dam is placed in five-foot slabs 50 feet square. Incidentally, the trestle is buried in concrete as it serves its purpose, and is lost.

Spokane Chronicle; 1937-06-22

# Prosperity Has Traveled This Road to Grand Coulee

Stability which is featuring construction of the Grand Coulee dam is spreading stability which is resulting constructed on the Grand Coulee, one of the private towns in the vicinity of the project. The large building the center is the New Continental hotel, opened this month. In the foreground is the highway crossing over the government railroad, which connects with the main line of the Northern Pacific at Odair, and then proceeds down Grand Coulee to the dam project. (Photo by Charles A. Libby & Son.)

Spokane chronicle; 1936-01-29



(By United	Press)	
Here is how Grand Coulee Dam v	vill compare with B	oulder Dam
THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF	Grand Coulee	Boulder
Height, feet	500	730
Length at crest, feet	4,300	1,180
Thickness at base, feet	500	650
Concrete, cubic yards	11.200.000	3,200,000
Total rated horsepower	2,550,000	1,835,000
Ry DONALD F	CASWELL	

By DONALD F. CASWELL

GRAND CULLEE, Wn., May 7—Sunny weather means capacity crews and top-speed construction at Grand Coulee Dam, where nearly 5000 men are working to corral the second largest river in the United States.

Every Saturday sees another all-time employment record broken when workmen line up at the payroll wickets.

In 1930 the mighty Columbia was sliding listlessly past Grand Coulee, a sleepy little village at the bottom of the gorge cut into the payrile by the river.

By 1940 the government hones to have the content of the con

Coulee, a sleepy little village at the bottom of the gorge cut into the partie by the river.

By 1940 the government hopes to have thrown across the valley, at a cost of 168 million dollars, the only structure ever to surpass in bulk the Great Pyramid of Egypt.

The big concrete block will shackle a total rated capacity of \$2,50,000 horsepower—three times that of Muscle Shoals, and 50 per gent more than Boulder Dam.

Power is only part of the project.

The river will be forced back to the level of the land it long ago deserted and made barren. The surface will be raised 355 feet, filling the 50-mile-long reservoir of the dry Grand Coulee itself, high above he present river bottom, gouged out of the top of the plateau by floods and lava. The man-made mediterranean sea will lie at right-angles to the flow of the riyer.

Bringing the river back to land level will enable the government to reclaim 1,200,000 acres of land by irrigation—fertile farms for 30,000 American families.

The dam and Columbia River irrigation project together will equive an original outlay of 393 million dollars. In 1933 President Roosevelt backed the allocation by PWA of 68 million dollars to start the foundation dam, and construction is approximately 25 per cent ahead of schedule.

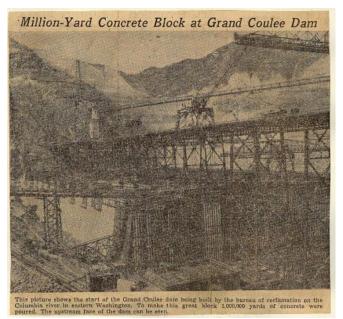
The U. S. Reclamation Bureau with a \$250,000 grant, is working on a survey of the empire that is to be brought from wastelands with water, plotting future roads, future townsites, and fields and canalt of the irrigation project.

Moscow daily news review; 1936-05-07



Spokesman-review; 1936-07-05

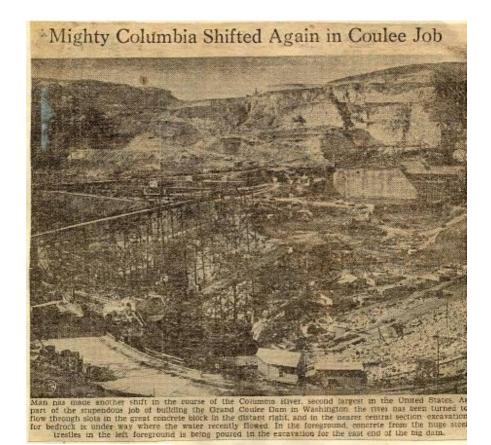




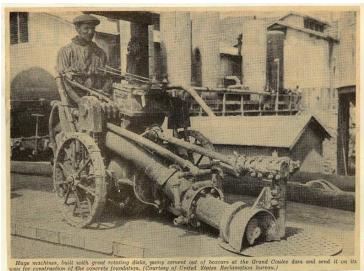
Coeur d'Alene Press ; 1936-05-02

Oregonian; 1936-10-09

Defying death at <u>Grand Coulee. - All</u> the <u>rigors</u> and <u>risks</u>, and <u>none</u> of the <u>pleasures</u>, of <u>mountain climbing</u> are the <u>lot</u> of these <u>American workers</u>, as they <u>go imperturabably about</u>their <u>task</u> of <u>carving</u> a <u>steep bluff</u> in the <u>colossal \$393, 000, 000 Grand Coulee Dam project.</u>



Coeur d'Alene Press ; 1937-04-20



Spokesman-review; 1937-07-25

### Pumps Lift Cement Out of Boxcars at Grand Coulee

Among the most important cogs in the construction of the Grand Coulee dam, and of increasing importance as the rate of concrete placement goes up, is the unloading plant at the top of the hill where all cement for the dam is taken s

from boxcars.

An average of 51 cars of cement are unloaded every day now, and at the peak of concrete placement it is estimated about 72 cars a day will be needed. Cars contain between 200 and 250 barrels of coment each, and require from an hour and a half to two hours to unload.

with a 40-horse power motor, are stationed at the unloading point, with a 40-horse power motor, are stationed at the unloading point, and the stationed at the unloading point, and the stationed at the stationed

\*The large stationary pum working on the same principle, etcept that a hopper is substitute for the rotating disk, transfers efor the rotating disk, transfers emixing plant at the dam. In similar service there is used, als a machine of a different type, cosisting of two chambers, each is which, after being filled with coment, has the cement forced on through the delivery line by mean of compressed air while the other tank is filling. That machine is known as the Fluxo pump and is made by the F. L. Schmidt com-

The pumps are built to hand! If the hand is provided in the stops and breakdowns cut the actual amount handled. Two me are used on each car, one thandle the controls of the machine and the other as a helper to clear up the car as the pump goes along. From the storage silos, screen conveyors bring the material int

pression chambers, each with a caacity of 50 barrels of cement. They are filled, air pressure built pto 100 pounds per square inch, and the cement released into the pipeline carrying it to the mixing plants below. A special motor and numy were installed to send mateial direct to the westmix, utilizing one of the 200-horse power motors.

Movement of the boxcars after hey have been unloaded is accomplished by gravity. Brakes are reeased and the empty cars roil town an inclined track, past an automatic switch, and up to the end of a steep grade. From there it gain rolls back and onto the main ine, where it is taken away by the witch engine. A "mule," or engine nounted on a flatear, and equipped tith cables, pulls loaded cars into

position.

Workmen around the cement are required to use respirators, for the air is filled with dust that is harmful to breathe. Cement burns are also found occasionally, when the powder gets into an open wound or sore. Housewives also have plenty of difficulty in washing the work in the clothes of the men who work in the

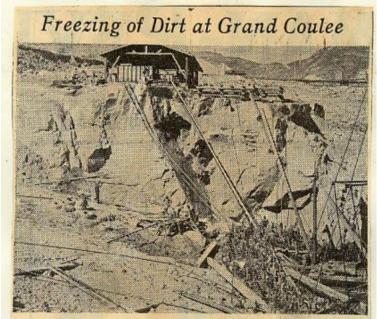


Hammerhead cranes on the trestle from which concrete is placed in the Grand Coulee dam, under construction by the bureau of reclamation on the Columbia river in eastern Washington. This equipment has placed a maximum of more than 8000 cubic yards of concrete a day. About 1,750,000 cubic yards of concrete has been placed in the west section of the dam. Note that the forms here are approaching the maximum height of the placing trestle.

Oregonian; 1937-01-15

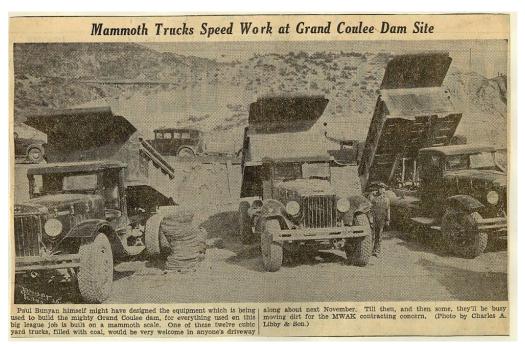


Spokane chronicle; 1936-06-18

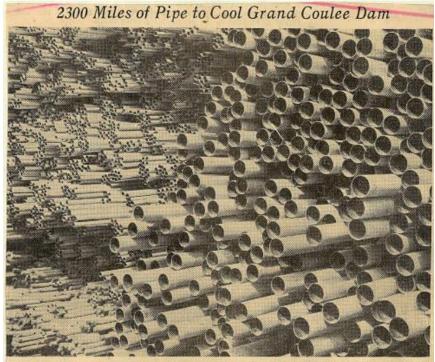


The largest actual freezing operation for construction work in history, a unique procedure, is shown above. The MWAK company is freezing an arch dam, 100 feet long, 30 feet thick and about 50 feet deep at the "toe" of the slid. area on the east side of the river at the Grand Coulee dam site. The finely ground clay has been sliding into

Spokesman-review; 1936-09-19



Spokane chronicle; 1935-05-01



Steel pipe, 2300 miles of it, is going into the construction of the Grand Coulee dam, being built by the buseau of reclamation on the Columbia river in eastern Washington. The pipe is imbedded in the concrete and old water circulated through it to remove the heat generated while curing. That prevents cracking through hanges in volume such as would occur over a long period of years if the concrete were allowed to heat and cool naturally. (United States bureau of reclamation photo.)

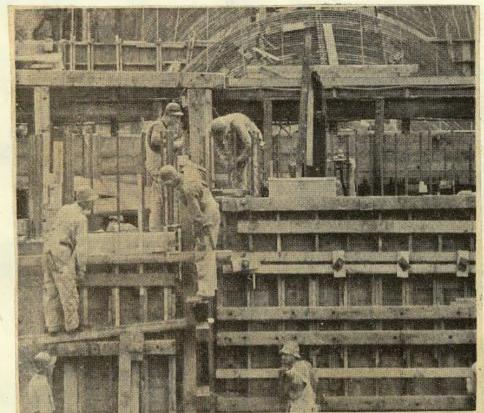
Spokesman-review; 1936-08-15



Wenatchee daily world; 1936-02-29



Spokane chronicle; 1938-04-05



No burlesque performers are these strippers on the Grand Coulee dam. Their job is to loosen bolts and timbers on the frame forms enclosing concrete slabs so that they can be raised and be made ready for more pouring. It is hazardous work, calling for catwalking and the agility of a trapeze artist. Framework for one of the large penstocks appears at the top of the picture.

Spokesman-review; 1937-08-22



Spokesman-review; 1934-04-29

Jimmy had entered school two months before on September 2, 1941 in the Center Building in Grand Coulee. His classmates during his stay in Grand Coulee were Robert Platt, Albert Strickert, Marguerite Bogovich, Lois Carroll, Olamae Jones, Ruby McClain & Nancy Schaefer, Maxine Caltharpe, Joan Crane, Barbara Guyer, Donna Marie Hallen, Mary Tate. Plus there were eleven 5th graders and it appears that both grades were taught in the same room by the same teacher. He was present in class 56 days and missed 4 days for the year 1941-1942. He took & his grade was: Deportment (B), Arithmetic(C -), Geography (C), History (C), Language (C), Health (B-), Music (S), Reading (C), Spelling (B), Penmanship (C) & Art (S) and was Promoted.

Here is a Daily Program during the Year 1941-1942:

9:00 Opening Exercises

9:10 Arithmetic 6

9:40 Arithmetic 5

10:00 Health

10:12 1/2 Recess

10:30 Geography 6

11:00 Geography 5

11:25 Language 5-6

Noon

12:45 Opening Exercises M.W.

Music T. Th. Library F.

12:55 Penmanship

1:15 History 6

1:40 History 5

2:00 Recess

2:15 Spelling 6

2:30 Spelling 5

2:45: Reading 6 M W. Th.

3:15 Reading 5 M. T. W. Th.

2:45: Art

Grand Coulee Center School was held for 9 months, and there were 9 boys and 20 girls with a total of 29 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The students who were part Indian were called White and Red. Among the items in the class room were: teacher's desk & chair, waste basket, clock, blackboards, thermometer, fire extinguisher, pencil sharpener, set of shelves, table, chairs, children's desks, maps, flag, small erasers & large eraser. Mary R. Cummings was the teacher and she earned \$1320.00 a year.

The family lived in a least three different houses in Grand Coulee during their stay there. One house was part of a cluster of houses in one big yard, among the little houses lived at one time or another, Pete and Rebecca Jamison, Joe and Florence Ashley and Tommy and Regina Plouffe. The Williams family at that time lived up the street in a duplex.

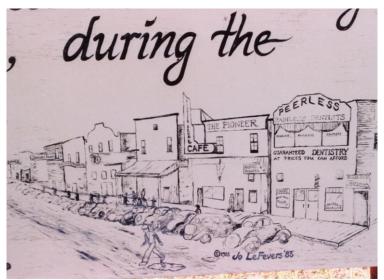
"There are four towns adjacent to the Grand Coulee Dam. The city of Grand Coulee is above the dam. Electric City is two miles west of Grand Coulee. These two

municipalities are located in Grant County. To the north, the town of Coulee Dam is directly below the dam. Coulee Dam – divided by the river – lies with three counties: Okanogan County on the east side of the river, and Douglas County and a tiny portion of Grant County on the west side of the river. The town of Elmer City, less than two miles north of Coulee Dam, also is in Okanogan County. The Colville Indian Reservation begins in the middle of the Columbia River Bridge in Coulee Dam and extends north to Omak. The east side of Coulee Dam and the town of Elmer City are within the boundaries of the reservation." From "Grand Coulee Dam Area Visitor's Guide 2003-2004, page 5, a supplement to the Star." "Banks Lake is the 31-mile reservoir, which was filled by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950s to provide irrigation water to the Columbia Basin. The reservoir starts just east of the city of Grand Coulee and extends to Coulee City", & "as a geological term, coulee means a ravine or deep gully, usually dry, which has been cut by water." ibid. page 29. In front of the dam is 130-mile long Lake Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

A description of the some cabins is found in "From Pioneers To Power – Historical Sketches of the Grand Coulee Dam Area" put out in 1976 by the Grand Coulee Dam Bicentennial Association and the article "Grand Coulee – From The Boom Town To Home Town" (pages 13 to 19) by Doris Angell. "Two room cabin courts sprang up everywhere. ..... Families lived in these two rooms and at time additional relatives too. These cabins rented for a prohibitive price but were always filled. The work went on 24 hours a day and the taverns and some stores never closed. There were two shifts at school and many people had children going to both morning and afternoon sessions and men working on all shifts so meals at all hours were the order of the day."



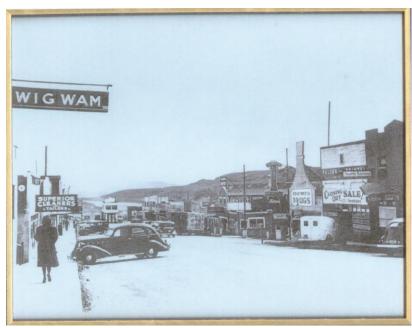
Grand Coulee in 1937 looking up the highway, B Street is out of sight to the right of the road that the men on standing in. The railroad tracks no longer exist along the road. Taken from the newspaper by a friend of Leonard Williams, Gordon Larson.



I took this picture from a historical marker on B Street



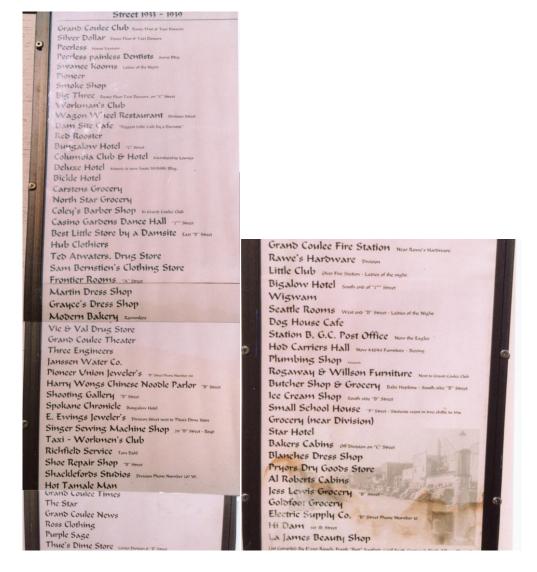
Looking up B Street in Grand Coulee, Washington (photo courtesy of Leonard Williams)



Looking down B Street in Grand Coulee, Leonard said he shined shoes outside of the Wigwam on the concrete sidewalk. Once a drunk came out several times and Leonard shined his shoes each time! The Courchane's lived in B Street's residential area. (photo courtesy of Leonard Williams)



Another view of the present-day B Street, which I took in 2003.



The businesses of Grand Coulee, I took this photo from a historical marker on B Street in 2003.



B Street burned down twice, in 1937 and 1938, by 1958 it was a ghost town of empty buildings. Today (2003) it looks as above.



(photos courtesy of Leonard Williams)





(photo courtesy of Leonard Williams)

A brief word on Grand Coulee Dam's history. Dam construction began in 1933 with 63 million dollars allotted by President Franklin Roosevelt's Work Projects Administration and the actual building was supervised by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. The dam was the dream of Rufus Woods of the Wenatchee Daily World newspaper of Wenatchee. The main reason it was built is to irrigate the land from the waters of the mighty Columbia River and control the flooding of that river. Housing for the workers and their families was built at Coulee Dam in 1935. Most of these houses still stand today (2003). By the time the foundation for the dam was completed across the Columbia River 60 of the workers had been killed. By early 1941 the dam was completed with the pumping stations and generators working by its contractors WWAK, later to be formed into Consolidated Builders, Inc. It poured out 1½ million gallons a second. When World War II started the chief role of the dam was electrical power for the state's aluminum plants that were critical to the war effort. There was no irrigation for the farmers during the war. One day in 1939, 41, 900 tons of concrete was poured into huge, specially designed containers. The pour set a record that still stands. And at one time 8,000 men worked on its construction. It had

two power plants, and a third was added during 1967-1975. The dam is just short of a mile long, 550 feet high,450 feet wide at its base and consists of 12 million cubic feet of concrete. It's the third largest hydroelectric facility in the world and the first in a string of 11 dams on the Columbia River south of the Canadian border. In March of 1941 Lake Roosevelt, formed by the dam, stretches 150 miles all the way into Canada and is a major source of recreation in Washington, with more than 600 miles of shoreline." The Kettle Falls was covered over at that time. (Source: Jeff Larsen, http://seattlepi.nwsource.com) By 1941, 77 men had been killed in the construction of the dam.

Daddy worked on the tail end of construction at the Dam as a carpenter's helper (laborer) (who got 75 cents an hour in 1935), and then as a carpenter, on the graveyard shift. The days were long with a half hour for lunch but no breaks in between. It was dangerous work as the Columbia River was scary, dangerous and powerful to work near. Sassy remembered that he worked with a man named, Charlie Crowder. Unions were weak then, and all workers could work any job that was necessary. In Grand Coulee Jimmy delivered the Spokesman Review in the mornings and the Spokane Chronicle in the evenings. And also set up pins at the Silver Dollar Bowling Alley on B Street for Jack and Thelma Lewis and Ida and Whitey Shannon. Besides that he shined-shoes at the parlor and swept out the pool hall. The Courchane family was living here when World War Two broke out. Momma got a job as a barmaid at a local tavern. Sassy also worked part-time setting bowling pins at the bowling alley. They all needed to work to get the family back on its feet and to keep food on the table. All of the Courchane's seemed to adjust to the new life very well. Daddy, Uncle Jacque and the other construction workers were "froze" on their jobs because of World War II.

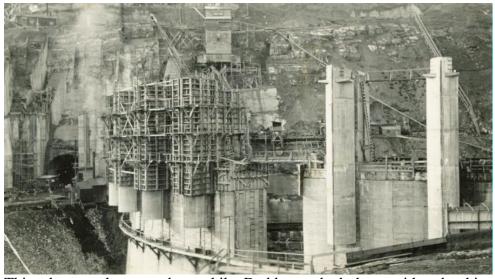
After supper each night and before Daddy went to work a game of pinochle was played by a group that included Daddy, Momma, Aunt Rosie and Uncle Jacque Williams and some of their friends. They lived on B Street, and the Williams for a time lived on A Street.

A typical holiday meal was served by Momma while the family lived here. Roast turkey with tasty mashed potatoes and gravy, salads, pickles and deviled eggs. Momma made a cranberry relish that was her specialty for her holidays settings. She took fresh cranberries and quartered oranges (peel and all) and ground them up in her heavy metal meat grinder then added spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, lemon juice, orange juice, raisins and walnuts. It was a family favorite. Her mincemeat pies were made with apples, raisins, spices and ground up deer roast. Every day fare was almost always fried potatoes, macaroni and tomato goulash, big frankfurters with milk or water.

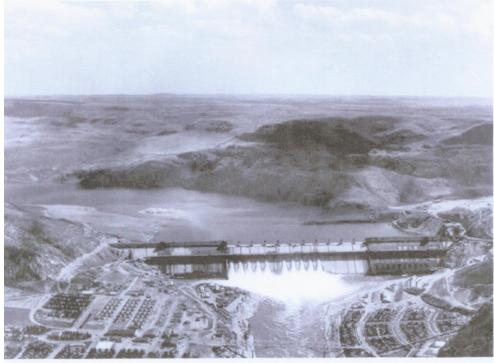
From "Grand Coulee – "The Boom Town to Home Town" Doris Angell, page 15:

".... B Street was thriving – fights were the order of the day especially on pay nights. Most of the rooms over the stores and taverns were occupied by red-light houses. Taxi dancers (women and girls who were paid for dances and also received a percentage on the drinks men brought) were in demand. It wasn't long before B Street became notorious everywhere and most of all tourists who came to view the dam went "slumming" (as they

called it) on B Street. The tourist trade accounted for much of the night life on B Street. By this time the work on the dam had been opened to everyone and thousands were employed from all over the United States." "People had come here from all parts and all walks of life. There was more talent in this small area to draw from than most large cities for all the entertainments that were put on. Card parties, assorted sales, etc. were given and enjoyed by all. It was one big happy family for awhile, as they all had money and work for the first time in years." (page17)



This photograph was taken while Daddy worked there, either by him or someone on his crew. It is the only photo of Grand Coulee Dam construction to survive in Momma's collection. What a wonderful picture!



http://users.owt.com/chubbard/gcdam/highres/build10.jpg

03/09/2003

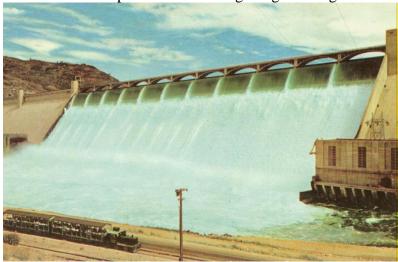
Photo Aerial view taken on June 15, 1941. "Grand Coulee Dam Photo Gallery"



Construction of Grand Coulee Dam, often dubbed "the eighth wonder of the world," provided a tremendous boost to the regional economy during the Depression years.

Begun in 1933, the dam was only a year away from completion when this photograph was taken in 1941. Photo Credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation / Seattle Times

2<sup>nd</sup> Photo view of Dam (http://seattletimes.newsource.com) Jeff Larsen From http://newdeal.feri.org/images/w15.gif



Post card by the Union Oil Company (76 Union)

World War II began while the family was living in Grand Coulee, according to both Sassy Jones and Leonard Williams. Uncle Phillip Ashley was stationed at Scofield Barracks on the island of Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands. He had written home in November of 1941, saying he was okay and was probably in the safest place in the world. Of course within a month, on December 7, 1941, he found out how wrong he had been. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He was reportedly wounded in the attack. Ironically, a future son-in-law whom Momma would never meet, Basil "Bob" Matt, was also at Oahu during the attack.





Uncle Phillip Ashley is upper left

Rose Ellen Dickie Williams & Dubsy Allison.

As remembered by Sassy Courchane Jones "I was in the second or third grade when I started school in Grand Coulee, Washington. While living in Grand Coulee I worked at the bowling alley re-setting pins by hand. I also delivered newspapers on a route, and made a dollar a week as a papergirl. The dollar was a silver dollar. Boy was I proud! I also did a little babysitting for Aunt Rosie Williams and other people." They stayed here for about a year. (Leonard and Freddie Williams set pins at the Silver Dollar too, and just recently Leonard exclaimed, "Boy all us kids must have set pins there, haha!")



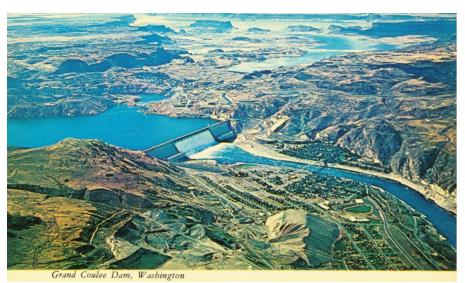
http://www.gonorthwest.com/Washington/northeast/Coulee-Dam/couleedamvisit.htm



Momma and her friend, Laura (Laura's husband's name was Ozzie)
Notice the split log siding on the house.



Rainsey, Laura & Aunt Rose Williams
Rainsey is wearing "cowboy" like boots.



Post card by Smith-Western Company, Inc., Tacoma-Portland.







Mary Bushman, Dona, Momma, Rainsey and Darlene



Grand Coulee Dam -The First 50 Years 1933-1983 ", The Wenatchee World, page A28 July 8, 1983

During their stay in Grand Coulee Uncle Phillip Ashley visited them and so did Momma's niece Helen "Dubsy" Allison. During those days it was against the law to serve American Indians any alcohol. Uncle Phillip would go to Dave Rawe's Grocery store in Grand Coulee and tell them he was French-Canadian. Dubsy would hang around the Silver Dollar and tell them she was Mexican and was called Juanita. But she didn't drink and just wanted to be able to work in Jack Lewis and Whitey Shannon's place. Becoming Juanita allowed this. Dubsy had a good singing voice and could yodel and play the guitar at little and liked to sit and play and sing.



Momma holding Rainsey, Dona with Fred & Darlene, Jacque with Dick & Rose Ellen, Jimmy & Leonard.

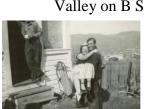


Jimmy, Momma & Dona Fred, Leonard, Darlene, Rainsey & Dick.



Momma, Jimmy Courchane, Aunt Rosie, Leonard & Dick Williams **Aunt Rosie** Darlene Courchane, Fred Williams, & Rainsey Courchane taken in Old Grand Coulee towards Pleasant Valley on B Street





Vivian Guyer & Aunt Rosie Jacque, Don & Vivian Guyer



Jacque, Rose, Leonard, Fred, Rose Ellen (Sister) & Dick Williams taken on the heights by Victory Laundry & Dry Cleaners.



Dubsy's friend (Mrs. Mitchell) Rose Ellen, Dubsy, and Leonard





Aunt Rose and Rose Ellen Williams

Uncle Jacque Williams



Uncle Jacque Williams with his children: Leonard, Dick, Rose Ellen and Fred.



Momma in front of the place she worked at. Rainsey & Darlene with a dog

Sassy remembered that Momma made hot cross buns and I thought it would be nice to include a recipe for them, that I got from the Wenatchee World (Wenatchee, WA.)



That is 1/3 cup granulated sugar, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice, 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg & 2 eggs,



Georgie Glover, Leonard & Rose Ellen Williams Leonard & Fred Williams in front of the Grand Coulee Cleaners.

STATE Bureau o 1. PLACE OF DEATH Standard O	of CLERK AND RECORDER  OF MONTANA I Vital Statistics ertificate of Death  1523 Do not write  1529 in this space 79.
County Lake R	egistered No
Township Mission	or Village
	St., W
Langth of residence in city or town where death occurred	nth occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and numb is days. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mes.
2 FULL NAME Stillborn Baby	mos
(a) Residence: No	St.,
(Usual place of abode)	(If nonresident give city or town and State
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS  3. SEX   4. COLOR OR BACEL 5. STATE MARKET WINDOWS	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DIVORCED (write the word)	21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) MST. 31/3719
Female   Ind.   Single  5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of for WIFE of	22. I HEREBY CERTIFY. That I attended deceased from 3/31/37 ,19 , to 3/31/37 ,19
(M) MAPA OI	I last saw h BT alive on X , 19 , death is
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) 7. AGE Years Months Days II LESS that 1 day. 1	rs. Onset were as follows: Date of
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, os aprimer, construction of the	detormed in hip she knee
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.	
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and pent in this occupation.	Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) St. Ignatius, mo	nt.
13. NAME John Glover  14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Fort Steele, (State or country)	Name of operation, Date of
	What test confirmed diagnosis? Was there an autopsy?  23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
15. MAIDEN NAME Lettie Ashley 16. BIRTHPLACE (day or town) St. gnatius, 1	Accident, suicide, or homicide? Date of injury 19
[State or country] St. gnatius, I	On Where did injury occur? (Specify city or town, county, and State)
17. INFORMANT Mr. J. Glover	Specify whather injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.
is. Burial Cremation, or REMOVAL Place St. Ignatius Date April 5	Manner of injury
19. UNDERTAKER M. M. Twichel	24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased?
m FRED April 510 37 M. M. Twichel	(Signed) Geo. E. Armour , M

Leonard Williams tells with a certain amount of glee the story of Nathan Goldfoot and his Mom's beans. Aunt Rosie made navy beans and French fries every Wednesday or Thursday of each week. Nathan, who came from a well to do family (his mom owned a clothing store & his Dad a meat market) was over one day when Aunt Rosie served the bean and fries meal. Uncle Jacque asked Nathan if he wanted to stay and eat with them. He said yes. He loved the meal so much that in the future he always made sure to be at the Williams home when beans and fries were served. Leonard said, "He could have steak or anything he wanted but loved Mom's beans!"

According to Leonard Williams, Aunt Letty visited them in Grand Coulee in 1946 when the Williams family lived on C Street. She was married to Kenneth Jaeck by then. Leonard said they didn't like him as he was mean to Letty and was lazy and they called him "Frog Eyes". But not to his face. Once when they had moved to Lewiston, Idaho Leonard went to stay with them. Jaeck made Aunt Letty find work even though she had diabetes and wasn't feeling well. He got them a job picking tomatoes, that is for, Aunt Letty, George Glover and, Leonard Williams, Dubsy Allison, and a girl named Thelma, but Kenneth Jaeck didn't pick tomatoes himself. Leonard said that he had pick so many tomatoes that it was years and years later before he could eat one. One day while Kenneth Jaeck was bringing them home down the small hill by Lewiston they saw a tire and wheel pass them on the road. Jaeck laughed and said, "Oh! There goes somebody's tire and wheel, someone is in trouble!" as he laughed. On getting closer to the bottom of the hill they had naturally slowed down and the car listed to one side. On getting out old Jaeck saw it was his wheel and tire that had past them! Out of his sight Leonard and Georgie laughed and laughed about it.

Aunt Letty according to Sassy went to Wenatchee to stay with Momma and Daddy. She worked at Cedergreens Processing plant while there.

Kenneth Jaeck disappeared from the family after Aunt Letta died and no ever saw him again. He is not mentioned in her obituaries. But I remember seeing his name on a probate record of sorts from the Flathead Agency, Dixon, Montana. He was listed as one of the people that their whereabouts was unknown. He died in Spokane in July of 1971. He married Aunt Letta on August 17, 1942 in Montana. He was born in June 5, 1902 in Alberta, Canada. He later lived in Montana and Washington. He was married prior to marrying Aunt Letta. He spent time in McNeil.

Bruce McCrae wrote: "As far as Jaeck is concerned, I have determined that his full given name was Kenneth Merwyn and that he had the nick name of "Cowboy Jack". He appears to have been born in Montana on June 5, 1902, but moved with his parents as a young child to Alberta, Canada. He subsequently returned to the Havre area of Montana where he was convicted of counterfeiting silver coinage in March of 1938. He was sentenced to serve "one year and day" for this crime in the McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary. On his prison internment record he listed his occupation as a machinist and it was probably the skills learned in this trade that he used to make counterfeit coins. He was released on good behavior in January of 1939. According to this same prison record, he was 5' 10" tall and weighed 205 pounds with a stout build and dark complexion. This comports with Chalky's recollection of him. He listed his closest relative as his mother so I suspect Aunt Letty was his first wife whom he married in August of 1942. As far as I know, there were no children born to this marriage. He appears to have remarried after Aunt Letty's death. He died in July 1971 in Spokane, Washington.

Notes and articles on Kenneth Jaeck:

1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta:

Kenneth Jaeck

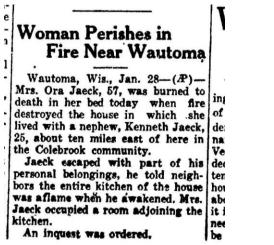
Age 6

Residence: Strathcona, Alberta

In 1911 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Renneth Myrvin Jaeck age 9 Red Deer, Alberta



Full Name: Kenneth Jaecks Alias: Kenneth M. Jaeck; K. M. Jaeck; Kenneth Jacks MSP Number: 10652 Crime: Burglary; Theft Location: Teton County; Dutton Incarceration Date: 1933 Gender: Male Descent: German Religion: Christian; Episcopalian Occupation: Truck Driver



Is this our Kenneth Jaeck?

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, Wednesday, January 28, 1931

# HAVRE MAN IS CHARGED

Havre, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Chief of Police Leon Davidson said today Kenneth (Cowboy Jack) Jack, of Havre, was being held in Hill county jail here on a charge of possession of counterfeit money.

He said Jaeck, when arrested, had in his possession \$16.25 in counterfeit quarter-dollars. A search of his living quarters, the police chief added, disclosed metal and molds allegedly used in manufacture of the coins.

O. C. Hauge, county attorney, filed charges of possession of wide.

counterfeit money against Jack in the court of Justice of the Peace E. O. Smith late today.

Sheriff R. C. Timmons said Jaeck had confessed manufacturing counterfeit nickles, quarters and dollars.

#### RULING ON HOURS

Washington, Jan. 1 .- (AP)-The Interstate Commerce commission established Friday a 60-hour weekly "on duty" limit, effective July 1, for bus and truck drivers operat ing in interstate commerce.

Delaware is the second smallest state in the Union. Its greatest length is less than 100 miles and greatest width less than 35 miles At one point, it is only nine miles

In The Helena Daily Independent, Tuesday, January 4, 1938

### HAVRE MAN HELD IN

jail here on a charge of possession of counterfeit money.

He said Jaeck, when arrested, had COIDS.

COUNTERFEIT CASE in his possession \$16.25 in counter-HAVRE. Jan. 3.—(P)—Chief of leit quarter-dollars. A search of his Police Leon Davidson said today living quarters, the police chief Kenneth (Cowboy Jack) Jack, of living quarters, the police chief Havre, was being held in Hill county added. disclosed metal and molds allegedly used in manufacture of the

Montana Standard, Tuesday Morning, January 4, 1938

#### FIVE BIRD LAW CASES TAKEN OFF " COURT CALENDAR

Havre, March 11 .- Five cases in which the defendants were charged which the defendants were charged with violation of the migratory bird law were stricken from the federal court calendar by Judge James H. Baldwin, not to be returned to the list of cases for trial without special order of the court. The defendants had been arraigned at the November term of court and available of the court and court a ordered released on their own recognizance. They were Eddy E. Bauer, Paul Brien, Thomas Pick-ett, Edward H. Smith and John St.

Pierre.
All law and motion cases and civil trials were also stricken from the calendar for the term by Judge Baldwin.

the calendar for the term by Judge Baldwin.

Sentences will be pronounced on Thursday in the following cases: Thomas Boraski, Roy Davis and Alphonse Demo, selling liquor to Indians: Leo Z. Francis, postmaster at Medicine Lake, embezlement of postoffice funds.

Alfred Crams, who admitted reentering the United States from Canada twice after having been deported as an alien, will be sentenced Friday. Kenneth M. Jacck, charged with counterfeiting, will be tried Friday, as will Leon Long Fox, charged with perjury at the last term of court in Havre.

The cases of James Brunelle, the ', ed with burglary, and that of Alvin W. Clay, charged with smuggling wool, were to be tried today, In another case in which Carl J. Bod was charged jointly with smuggling wool from Canada, a motion for a directed verdict in favor of the defendant was taken under advisement by the court. visement by the court. -----

In The Helena Daily Independent, Saturday March 12, 1938

MONEIL 18LA Merryn Jacobs.	Begister No 1351 Polor Market
rom Martan - Lane in war	Height 5. Pt. 10. In. Weight. 2005
entence / ap. 1 Day 700 A. Where Convicted Nana Must.	When and How Released from this Institution as
Where arrested Name Munt	U.S. PENITENTIARY DISCHARGED
Date of Sentence Man. 14,1938 Sentence begins Man. 14,1938	Cond Parlane
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Eligible for Perole July 14, 1938 Decupation Machanist Where Born	and and the second seco
When born 6.5-0 Y Married Circumstances More Thank	The state of the s
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1	SUMMONS
ŀ	In the District Court of the Eleventh
١	Judicial district of the State of
l	Montana, in and for the County of
ļ	Flathead.
١	MABEL JAECK,
ţ	Plaintiff
į	versus
١	KENNETH M. JAECK,
ļ	Defendant.
į	THE STATE OF MONTANA sends
ľ	geeetings to the above named De-
	fendants and to each of them:
	YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
ļ	to answer the Complaint in this ac-
į	tion, which is filed in the office of
ļ	the Clerk of this Court, a copy of
	which is herewith served upon one
	of you in each County wherein any
	of you reside, and to file your an-
	swer and serve a copy thereof upon
	the Plaintiff's Attorneys within
	twenty days after the service of this
	Summons, exclusive of the day of
	service; and in case of your failure
	to appear or answer, judgment will
	be taken against you, by default, for
	the relief demanded in the Com-
	plaint: Said action is brought for the
:	purpose of the plaintiff obtaining a
	decree of absolute divorce from the
	defendant upon the grounds of de-
	sertion.
	Witness my hand and the seal of
	said Court this 7th day of August,
	1948.
	WENDELL D. JOHNSON, Clerk of said Court.
	(SEAL)
	ROGNLIEN and MURRAY,
	Attorneys for Plaintiff:

The Daily Inter-Lake, Kalispell, Montana, Monday, August 16, 1948

## THREE ARE ARRESTED For killing beef

Chinook, Nov. 14.—First arrests in beef stealing cases, which have been engaging the attention of officers for several weeks, were made at Harlem, when three men were charged with the theft and unlawful possession of government property —seven hides and three carcasses of beef allegedly stolen from the herds on the Fort Belknap Indian reservation near Harlem.

The men are Clyde Ashe, Harlem butcher, who formerly operated a meat market in Chinook, and Kenneth M. Jaeck and Julian Perez, also of Harlem.

Ashe was released on bond of \$1,000 after a hearing at Harlem, Jaeck was lodged in the Blaine county jail in Chinook and Perez was being held at the agency jail.

The arrests were the result of investigations extending over several weeks by Otto Waddell of the special reservation police and Sheriff C. B. Reser and Undersheriff A. E. Garber of Blaine county. The officers continued their investigation after the arrest of the three, believing others might be implicated in the wholesale slaughter of beef they say has been going on in that territory.

The men will be tried in federal of court, since the stolen beef was the property of the government.

For several weeks, and particularly since cold weather set in, complaints have reached the officers of beef butchered on the range, the meat apparently having been taken out of the county by truck. Efforts to apprehend the thieves have been difficult because of the speed with which they have operated. It is believed the meat was disposed of in nearby towns.

Livestock owners north of Zurich and in other parts of the county as well as on the reservation were among those who reported losses of stock.

From Duzzie Glover no date

S



Aunt Letta and Uncle Jacque Williams

Georgie was a fighter and tough. Each day after school the school kids would bet on him in a fight and he usually won. Some kids even paid him 25 cents not to fight them

Aunt Letty ran out of insulin while visiting in Grand Coulee according to Leonard, and was too proud to ask for money to get more. She became so ill that Uncle Jacque picked her up out of bed and took her to the hospital, where she died on July 7, 1946. Auntie Ashley and Georgie came over from Montana to bring her body back to the reservation for burial. Leonard Williams recalled that Merle Fisher had a 1937 Plymouth Coup that he loaned Uncle Jacque Williams to drive to Montana for her funeral. He and Fred rode over in the big open trunk of the car. Momma and Daddy went over to the funeral from Wenatchee. After she died Georgie seemed to go to pieces and ran off into the mountains with a rifle shooting it at everything he saw. He would end up in prison for petty crimes. He spent over 35 years in and out of prison, and finally died in Walla Walla State prison in 1983. Aunt Letty had died 13 days before I (Chalk) was born.

Here are the obituaries for Aunt Letta that appeared in the newspapers:

From her obituary in The Ronan Pioneer, Thursday, July 11, 1946, p2:

"Word was received Sunday that Mrs. Letty Glover Jaeck passed away at Grand Coulee, Washington Sunday morning. Her aunt, Elizabeth Ashley and Geo. Glover left for there Sunday afternoon planning to bring the body here. Before her marriage to Kenneth Jaeck she made her home at Twin Lakes. Mrs. Wm. McClure is a cousin of Mrs. Jaeck."

From The Daily Missoulian, Friday, July 12, 1946, p7:

"Letty Ashley Glover Jaeck Funeral Today

St. Ignatius. July 11 - The body of Mrs. Letty Glover Jaeck, 33, who died suddenly at Grand Coulee, Washington, Sunday, arrived here Thursday. Graveside services will be held in the Catholic cemetery here at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon. Rev. Father Joseph Balfe will officiate. The body is at the Twichel mortuary.

She was born December 15, 1912, at St. Ignatius. Survivors include a son, George Glover, five sisters and a brother. They are Mrs. Joe Wheeler, Potomac; Mrs. Jack Williams, Grand Coulee; Mrs. Louis Courchane, Wenatchee, and Mrs. Fred Glover, Mrs. Frank Allison and the brother, Philip Ashley, all of St. Ignatius. An aunt, Elizabeth Ashley, accompanied the body here from Grand Coulee." (from Eugene Felsman's obituary collection)

From The Ronan Pioneer, Thursday, July 18, 1946, p1:

"Last Rites Friday For Mrs. Letty Jaeck

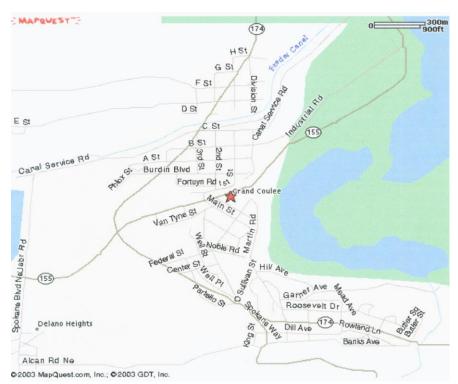
Graveside services were conducted Friday by the Twichel Funeral Home of St. Ignatius for Mrs. Letty Glover Jaeck, 33. Burial was in Catholic cemetery with Father Joseph Balfe officiating. Miss Elizabeth Ashley, an aunt went to Grand Coulee, Wash., where Mrs. Jaeck passed away July 7, to accompany the body here.

Mrs. Jaeck was born at St. Ignatius, December 15, 1912, and made her home at Twin Lakes which was her allotment before she went to Washington to work.

She is survived by one son, George, five sisters, Mrs. Joe Wheeler of Potomac. Mrs. Jack Williams of Grand Coulee. Mrs. Louie Courchane of Wenatchee, Washington, Mrs. Frank Allison, Mrs. Fred Glover and one brother, Phillip Ashley, all of St. Ignatius." (from Eugene Felsman's obituary collection)



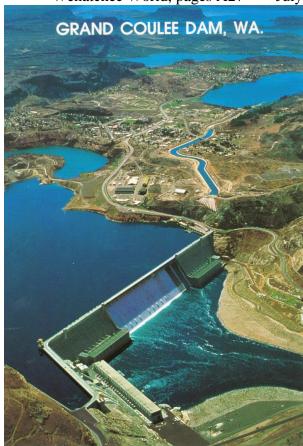
Dickie Williams, ?, Rose Ellen Williams at Electric City, Washington with Easter baskets.



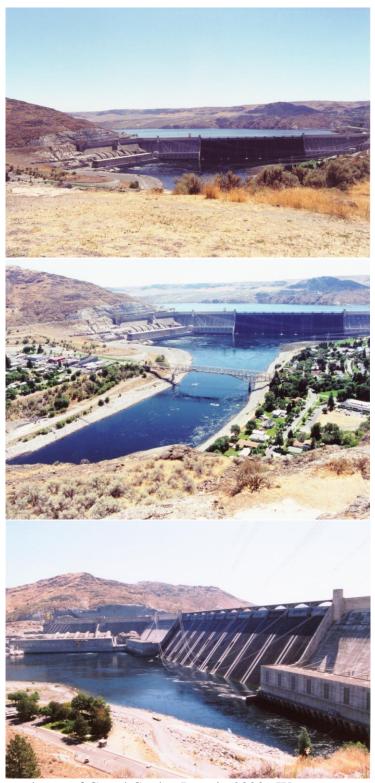
mapquest.com/maps



"The House of Magic" Grand Coulee Dam The First 50 Years 1933-1983 ", The Wenatchee World, pages A27 July 8, 1983



Post card by Smith-Western Co., P.O. Box 1573, Tacoma, WA 98401 A beautiful aerial view of the dam.



I took these three photos of Grand Coulee Dam in 2003. We were over there putting in new sidewalks on one of the streets. Today water very seldom goes over the spillway. After Banks Lake was made to irrigate the Columbia Basin farms, the spillway gates were closed. The dam stands bare and dry most of the time.