

Naturalist Decries Fate Of Sweet Home Area

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Plan to Submerge Prosperous Area Invites Protest

After making two trips up the south fork of the Santiam river, talking with farmers and business men, visiting the salmon hatchery above Foster, and several of the lumber plants at Sweet Home, William L. Finley, well known naturalist, agrees with the many residents of Sweet Home valley that this area should not be destroyed by building a high dam on the river just below the town of Sweet Home.

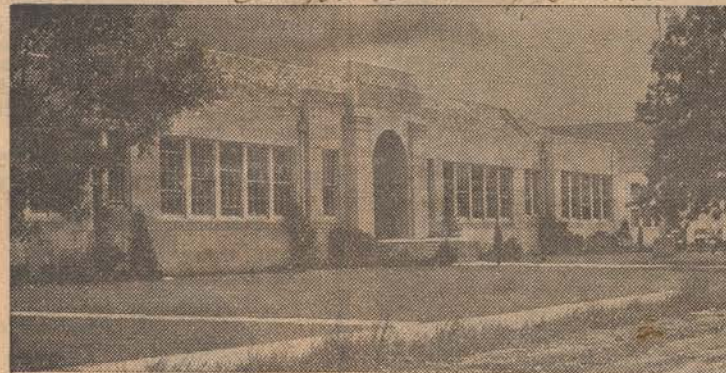
Opposed to Destruction

"I am not opposed to some of the proposed plans of the Willamette basin project," said Finley. "On the other hand, the proposed high dams on both forks of the Santiam, the McKenzie and the Upper Willamette will drown out some of the most beautiful and valuable areas in the state of Oregon. The plan to submerge these areas is advanced for the purpose of flood control to benefit certain residents on the lower stretches of the rivers. This is considered flood destruction by many who will have their property and homes destroyed in the upper valleys.

"Some engineers feel that the flooding of farm land in the Willamette valley can be controlled by revetments and bank-protection works. Some of the farmers along the Willamette lose soil by floods. Others prefer to see a yearly overflow of their lands, which kills rodents and insects and deposits a rich silt fertilizer for the summer crops.

Losses Considered

"Since the rivers of the states and the nation are public property, and can be used in a variety of ways, this has opened up the channel for vast spending of the taxpayers' money during the last few years. While we have pressure groups in every part of the nation, who are working for local projects and private gain, we have lacked local and national investigation and study so as to know who is benefited and who is injured. In many places, when one individual may gain a thousand dollars, another may be robbed of two thousand. Where one town may profit, another may be completely destroyed."



PROJECT SOUNDS DOOM

Substantial structures in Sweet Home, Or., Linn county town that would be inundated by high dam on Santiam river, a feature of proposed Willamette Basin project. Here shown from top to bottom are \$125,000 high school, hospital, residences and lumber mill.