

FEMA ESF-6

Green River Basin Howard Hansen Dam Construction

Photos Courtesy of King County Archives



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Green River Diverted For Start On Hanson Dam



New Route For Waters

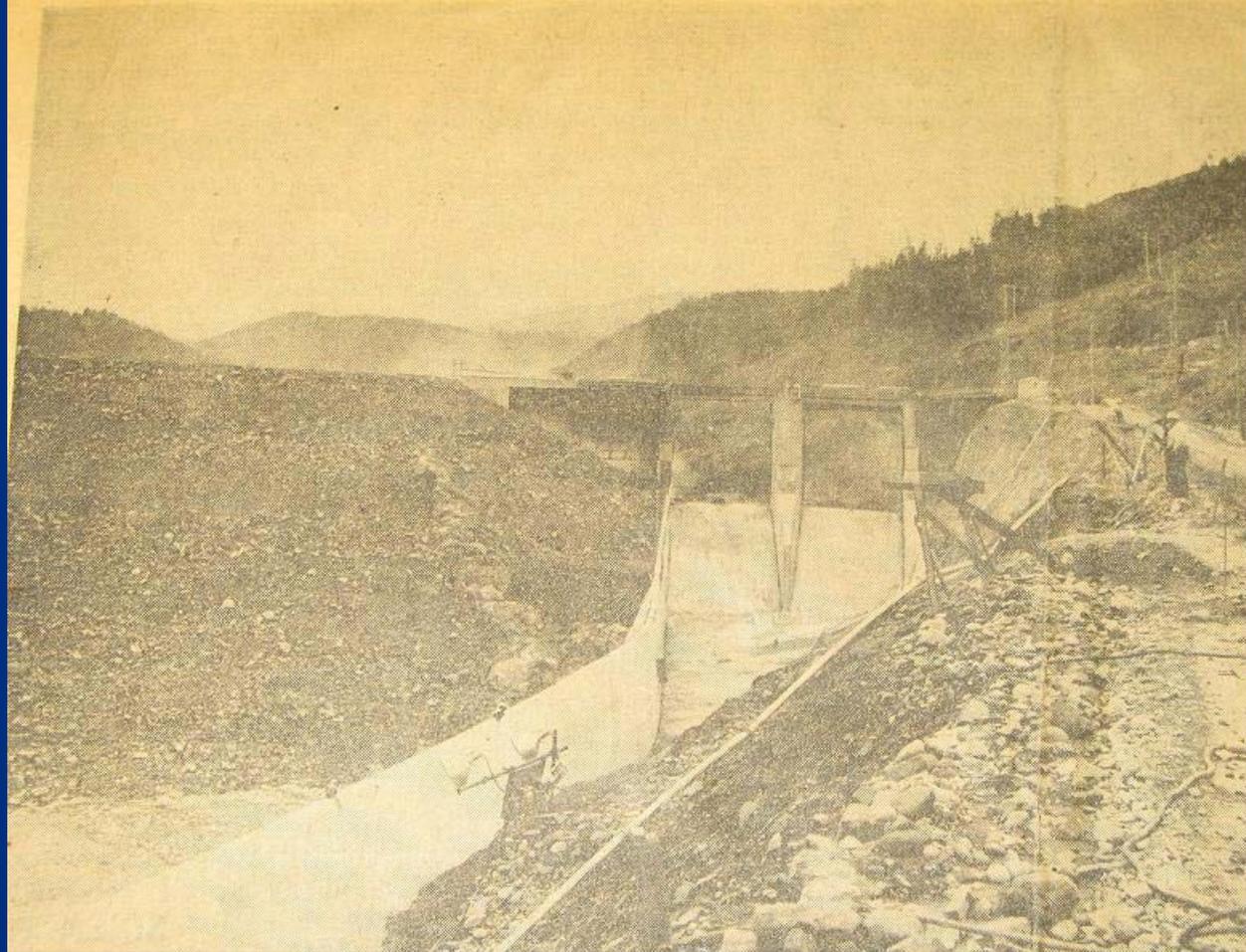
COMPLETED COFFEDDAM at Howard A. Hanson Dam site sends the Green River into a new route through the intake gate (at left) into a diversion tunnel which will be in operation until the new dam itself is built. The cof-

ferdam will be merged into the main dam, on which construction is to start May 15, when the \$38 million project is finished. Canyon which was once river's route is in background.



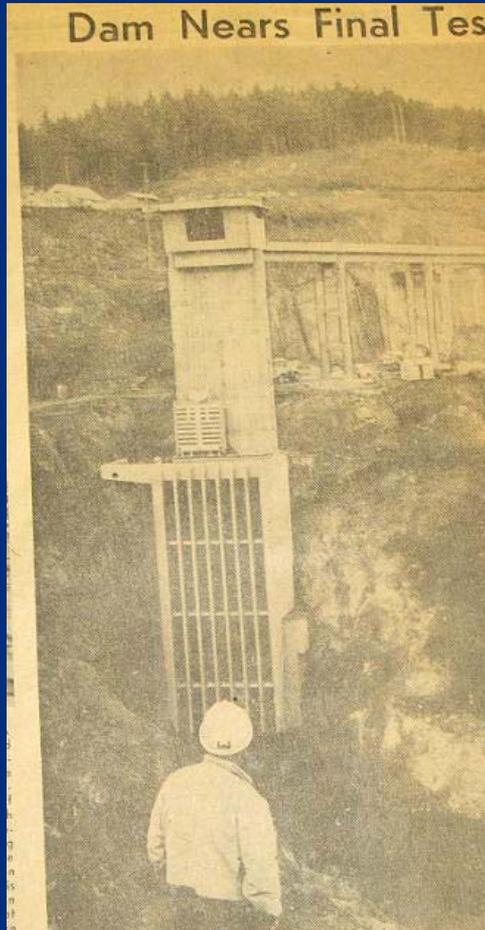
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Green River Tamed



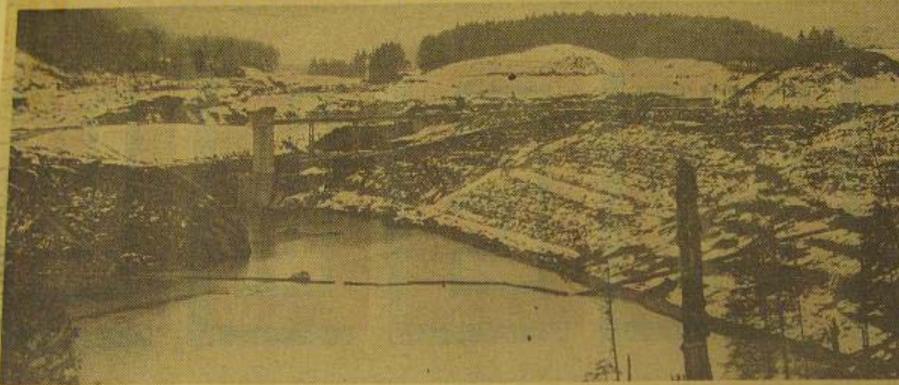
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Dam Nears Final Test



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Lake Behind Hanson Dam Now 3.5 Miles Long



LAKE BEHIND THE HOWARD A. HANSON DAM AT EAGLE GORGE
Reservoir formed as engineers conducted a flood-control testing operation

By ROBERT A. BARR

EAGLE GORGE, December 26.—A new lake was being born here today and was growing fast as the riotous Green River, posing a flood threat to the valley below, was tamed for the first time in history.

The taming began early this month when flood gates of the Howard A. Hanson Dam were closed and water began to form a lake behind the dam.

The steadily lengthening lake has backed up the valley about 3.5 miles toward the little town of Lester.

It was estimated that about 25,000 acre-feet of water that would have boiled down the river in the past several weeks now has been impounded.

ARMY ENGINEERS SAID it has not been ascertained whether the water actually would have caused a flood but that it might have created near-flood conditions in the valley around Kent, Auburn and Renton.

The total storage capacity when the lake is about seven miles long is estimated at 106,000 acre-feet.

James Grafton, resident engineer on the project, said the gates were closed primarily as a testing operation, which will be completed in about two weeks.

THEN THE GATES WILL BE OPENED SLOWLY to increase the flow of the river and to allow lake water to escape at a controlled rate.

Most of the work on the huge spillway gates has been completed by the contracting combine of Kaiser-Raymond, the Engineers said.

They said that when the reservoir is completely drained later this winter, the gates will be left open until spring, unless a flood threat develops. Then they will be closed to conserve water for the Tacoma Water Department farther downstream and the fisheries.



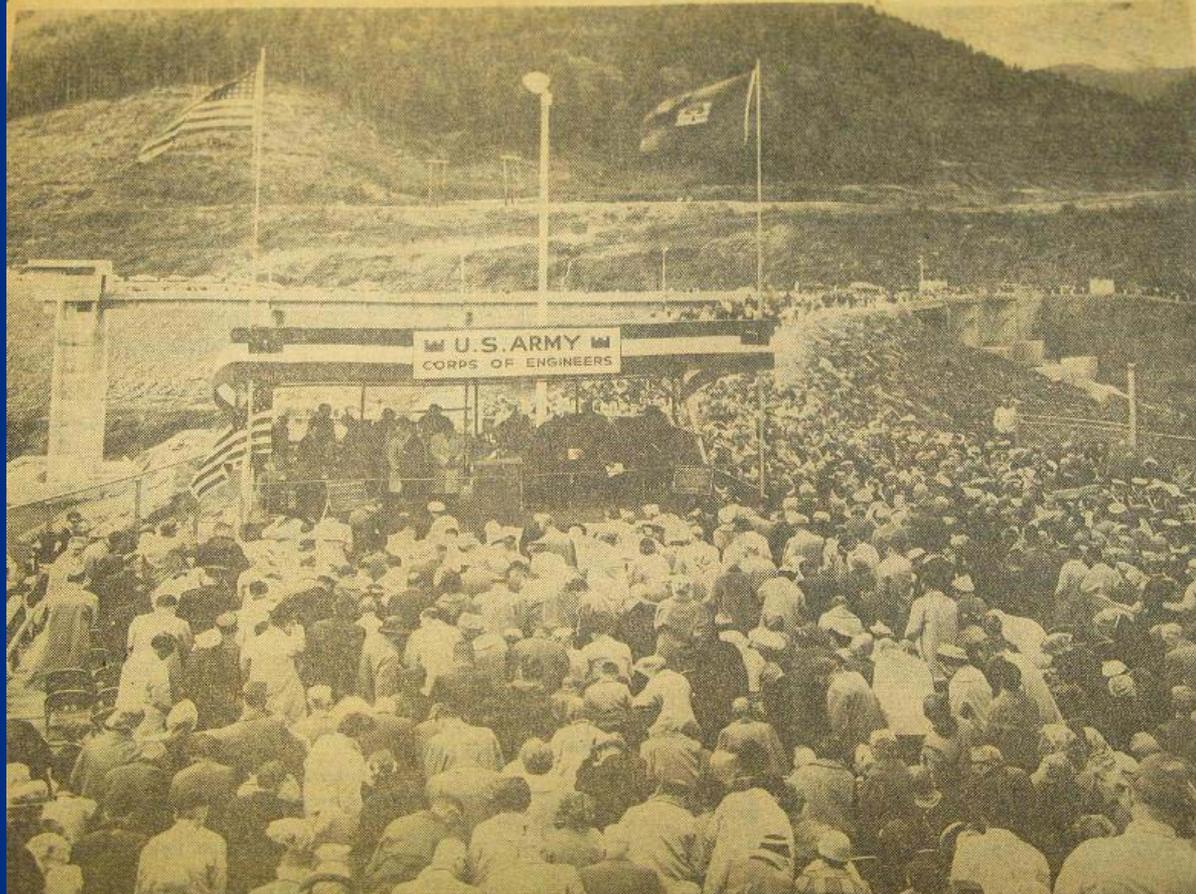
—Times staff photos by Larry Dion.
CRANE DREDGED STILLING BASIN BELOW D
Water gushed from by-pass pipe

The Seattle Times - Dec. 26, 1961

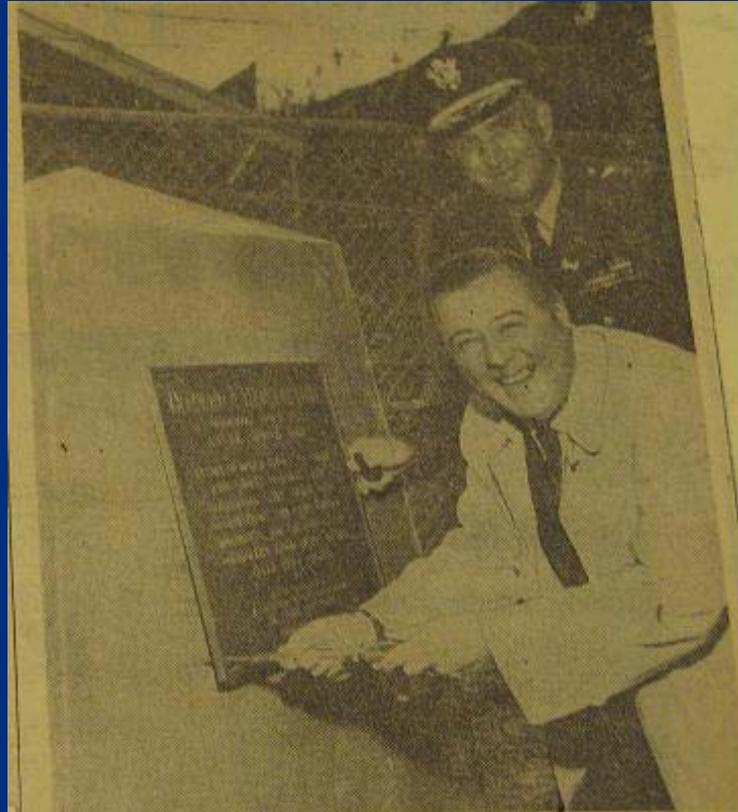


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Rein on Cruel Green River Is Cheered



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SENATOR MAGNUSON and LIEUT. GEN. WALTER K. WILSON, JR.



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“In most years, flooding causes more deaths and damage than any other hydro meteorological phenomena. In many years it is common for three-quarters of all Federally declared disaster declarations to be due, at least in part, to flooding.”

– National Weather Service



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