

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## MUCH ACTIVITY ON BAKER RIVER PROJECT

Activity at the site of the wrecked Baker Rover power station was progressing in several directions during the past week. Mud from the slide has been removed up to power house, permitting entry to the building. A big drag-line scoop has been clearing slide debris from the river, a 170-foot crane was put into action to retrieve twisted metal parts from the river and to start the work of removing the girders from the damaged building, preparatory to wrecking it.

On the hillside above, the big trucks and shovels begin to remove earth from the slide area, first cutting a road across the slope. To do this they found it necessary to use Lake Shannon for a preliminary dumping ground, and have been using crushed rock from the Long Star quarry as road ballast. As the road was completed, trucks began hauling off the hill to the south.

The road up the hill is being widened and curves filled with the earth from the slide. The plan is to stabilize the hill by hauling a good portion of the overburden away so that work can proceed without danger on the power house below.

First work on the power house was to cover the new generator, which was only partially buried in the slide, to protect it with heavy timber against any further damage that might occur while the building is being battered down.

Once the building is leveled, the job of digging out the rest of the power house equipment will begin. At present there is no way of knowing how much damage was done

to the turbines and generators in the original building.

### Line Changes Necessary

Not all the emergency work was being done here. In order to replace the loss of power from the lower Baker plant, a heavier line had to be installed between Renton and Sedro-Woolley to transmit the needed kilowatts for this area from Rocky Reach dam.

This work is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$53,000 and is to be completed by October.

Soil experts are studying the hill from which the slide emerged and their opinion is that the 20-acre mass of loose earth is sitting in a sloping bowl of rock. It was felt that the earthquake possibly could have changed the position of the mass to set off the sliding.

Findings of the experts will determine whether or not the power house will be rebuilt in the same location or a complete new installation erected either upstream or down. At any rate it is expected it will be at least two years before the Lake Shannon water is again producing electric power.