

## New Power System Underway

# Jordan River Enters Fourth Boom

## Plant to Fill Peak Power Period

By HARRY YOUNG  
Business Editor

The sleepy little community of Jordan River on the northern shores of the turbulent Juan de Fuca Strait is entering its fourth boom in more than 60 years.

The cause, this time, is the reconstruction of the Jordan River hydro-electric generation system, a multi-million dollar project now being undertaken by B.C. Hydro and Power Authority.

During the next two years the community will buzz as up to 350 workers are employed on the development. Three new camps are being prepared to house the workers, who include hard rock miners, heavy equipment operators, steel workers, and electricians.

### Logging Boom

Strangely enough Jordan River first came into prominence when the original hydro-electric plant was installed there just before the First World War — from 1909 to 1911.

Then came a logging boom, in which most of the accessible big timber of the area was felled by the Puget Sound Lumber Company and others,

once the construction workers left it relapsed to its outpost quiet. Will it do the same again in 1971 when the Hydro's new job is completed?

What B.C. Hydro is doing at Jordan River is to increase the generating capacity of the 1911 station nearly six times. Its new peak will be 150,000 kilowatts by single turbine generation. The old plant's capacity was 26,400 kilowatts — a mere drop in the bucket so far as present electricity standards are concerned.

### Secondary Energy

The new plant will be used to provide power for peak use periods and will be a source of secondary energy whenever surplus water is available. But the volume of water available is not sufficient to keep it going for prolonged periods.

What is most important, however, to Victoria and Vancouver Island as a whole is that the new source of energy will raise the Island generating capacity to a level that will keep most of the Island in supply even if, in an emergency, the supply from the mainland grid via the Gulf of Georgia submarine cable becomes unavailable for short

danger for the larger part of the Island.

Work is already well under way at Jordan River. The main contractor is Emil Anderson of Hope, which holds two contracts worth over \$17,000,000.

### Tunnel Drilled

One of these is for a three-and-a-half mile tunnel which is now being drilled through solid rock from just above the generating plant to the new Elliott about one mile south of the main reservoirs.

This contract is for \$7,497,578.

The other Anderson contract worth \$9,547,957 is for the construction of the new powerhouse, the Elliott Dam itself, the penstocks and the tail-race.

Two Japanese firms are providing the electrical equipment. The turbine and governor is being supplied by Nissho-Iwai for \$864,000 and the generator by Mitsubishi for \$911,251.

Apart from the two gathering dams, the earth filled Bear Creek dam, and the concrete diversion dam on the Jordan River, all the old operation will disappear when the new power comes on-stream in 1971.



View from the mouth of the new tunnel looking down towards a construction camp at Jordan River. The penstocks will be laid down the excavated slope to the new power house site.—(B.C. Hydro)

valley is to disappear completely. for the railway and its equipment from operators of

years worked at the Jordan River plant, and was for 22 of those years the plant superintendent, as well as a leading citizen of the Jordan River community.

The work force on the Jordan River development will probably reach its peak next summer when it is estimated there will be 350 persons employed on the various phases of construction.

Some of them will be locals — including some thrown idle when the copper mine and mill operation on the other side of the river was closed — but most will be imports who will live in one of the three construction camps.

These are the Powerhouse camp on tidewater that houses 150; the Tunnel camp at the top of the penstock hill housing 125, and one at Elliott dam now being assembled.

The hard-rock miners are presently working from the south end of the new tunnel, but later crews will start drilling from the north end to speed up the process.

### Project Manager

Project manager for B.C. Hydro is one of the world's experts on hydro construction projects.

He is Sam Walker, who was top man on the spot for the Duncan and Arrow Dams on the Columbia River which B.C. Hydro completed well in advance of schedule.

Walker, before joining B.C.

Walker was born in Regina and received his higher education at Queen's University at Kingston.

Although the old installation is now out of date and pigmy in its size, it was regarded as a major engineering achievement when put into production in 1911.

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It was built under very trying physical circumstances, and it may be of some interest that the first non-Indian lady to go into the new community as a bride still lives in Sooke.

Tina MacVicar, wife of the first superintendent of the plant, probably knows more than anyone living of the early days of the community when the only access to the rest of the world was by horseback trail or boat.

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Then came a logging boom, in which most of the accessible big timber of the area was felled by the Puget Sound Lumber Company and others, and then came the bonanza — unhappily a short one — of the Cowichan Copper mining operations at Sunro.

In all these periods Jordan River bustled and fussed as only a pioneer town does, but

that will keep most of the Island in supply even if, in an emergency, the supply from the mainland grid via the Gulf of Georgia submarine cable becomes unavailable for short periods.

Added to the generating capacity at other B.C. Hydro stations on the Island — Campbell River, Puntledge and Ash — it removes much of the emergency black-out

concrete diversion dam on the Jordan River, all the old operation will disappear when the new power comes on-stream in 1971.

### Railway Disappears

The narrow gauge railway which ran from the Fore Bay Dam above the power house for 5½ miles to the diversion dam up the Jordan River

slope to the new power house site.—(B.C. Hydro)

valley is to disappear completely.

Like so many of these spur lines to industrial development, the railway is outmoded and has already been replaced by roads.

It is interesting to note B.C. Hydro has a number of offers

for the railway and its equipment from operators of outdoor museums and recreation centres for use as a special tourist attraction. Where the old railway will finally find a home is not yet certain.

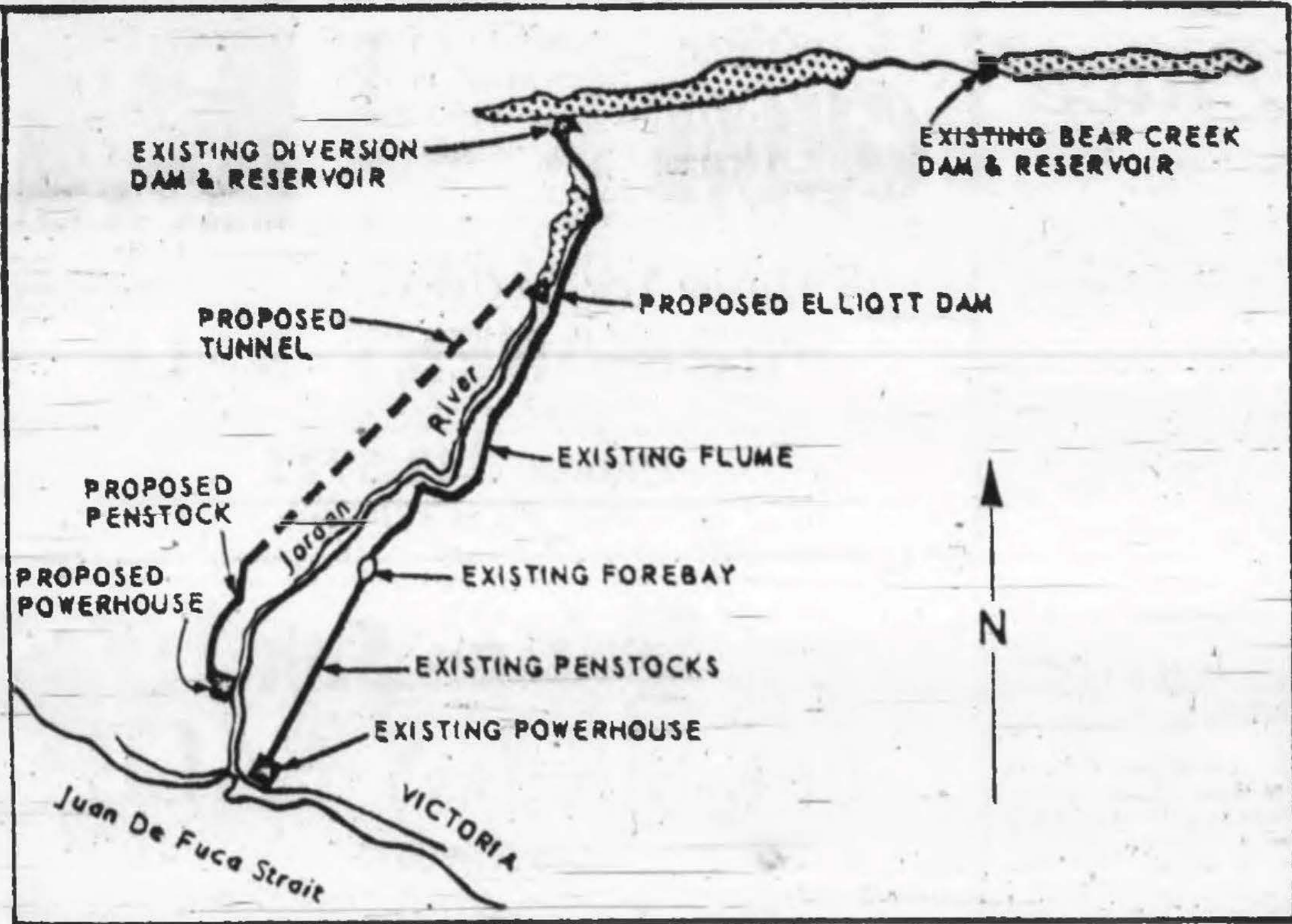
Also to disappear is the old wooden flume that carried the water from the diversion dam down the Jordan River valley to the Fore Bay dam at the railway terminus.

Leaky and decrepit, the flume will be replaced by the 16-foot diameter tunnel that will handle the greatly increased flow of water the new power house will require.

### Plant Dismantled

The old generating plant near the mouth of the Jordan River will also be dismantled.

The Elliott dam which will be 117 feet high and 430 feet long has been named after J. M. (Jack) Elliott, a now retired Victorian who for 43



Dotted line shows length of project

Duncan and Arrow Dams on the Columbia River which B.C. Hydro completed well in advance of schedule.

Walker, before joining B.C. Hydro, was with Alcan and Brascan on hydro projects in South America.

### Hijacking Admitted

VANCOUVER (CP) — A 23-year-old carpenter pleaded guilty Thursday to taking part in the hijacking Oct. 21, of about \$40,000 worth of liquor and a tractor trailer unit from the CPR terminal in downtown Vancouver.

Wesley Graham Langton also pleaded guilty to eight counts of passing phoney cheques totalling \$2,483 at banks in Vancouver, Richmond and Burnaby. He was remanded for sentence to Nov. 7.

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