

at Withstand Man's Needs?

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Butte Ravaged by Rock Hauls

VALE -- Progress is making inroads on the silent sentinel of the Malheur River Valley. Once again rock is being hauled from a well-known landmark, the Malheur Butte.

This year, the rock and dirt from the easily accessible west side of the old volcanic cone is being used to provide fill material for the new approaches to the bridge under construction at the foot of the butte.

Last year, the county was using the material to improve a nearby county road.

It is true, the Malheur Butte's rock is handy and easily loaded. The dozer trails visible on the cone's flank attest to that.

Privately owned, the county has little control over what happens to the geographic landmark, but perhaps the citizens of the county care enough to do something about the situation.

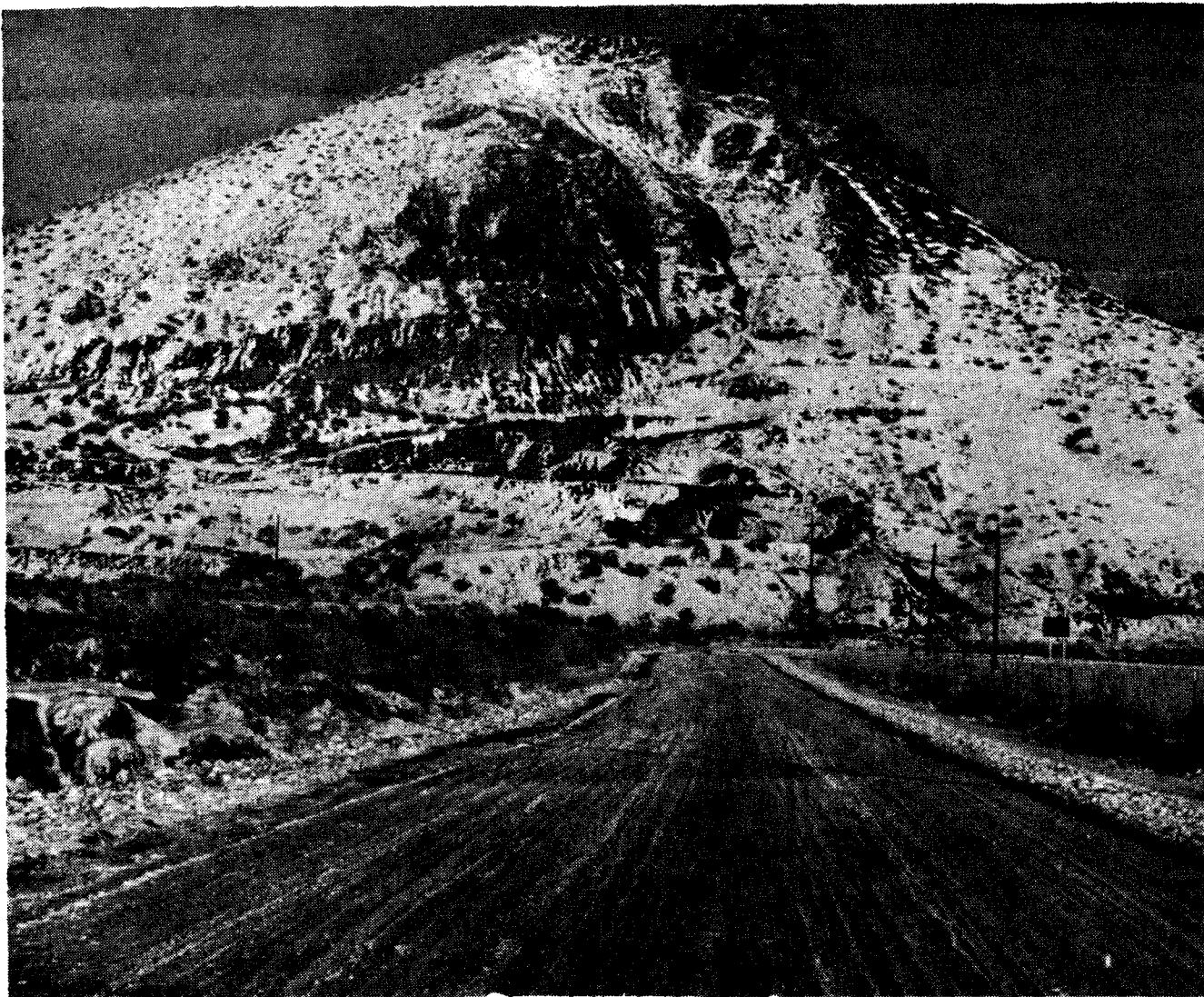
The old volcanic butte, rearing its lava cap high above the

valley, is a challenge to climbers and offers a magnificent view of the area for those with the fortitude to climb it. Its crumbling rocky face has claimed the lives of several, but the north side is a safe climb, though a strenuous hike.

The nearly inaccessible pinacles provide a refuge for the golden eagles who nest there -- although they, too, are feeling the harassment of man and his machinery.

Indians are said to have used the butte for a look-out and often hid in the rocks of the eroded crater to watch as wagon trains made their way up the valley on the trek to western Oregon. Later it was used by Indians as they kept a watch on the white men in what later became known as White Settlement.

Some local citizens hope to find a way to protect the Malheur Butte from further deprivations of man and expect to present a proposal to the Malheur Country Historical Society at its next meeting Feb. 10.



Butte Easy Source for Construction Material

MALHEUR BUTTE, long a landmark in this valley, is slowly losing part of its western face. Rock and dirt are periodically

removed from the ancient volcanic plug for use as road construction and fill material. See story above.