



Doing surveys on the North Cross-State Highway in 1966, the crew was challenged by the terrain. "The trail was on one side of the creek, our survey was on the other," Paul Anderson recalled, "so we used this old miner's cable car to get across."

The Great "North Cross" Bear Hunt

A Postcard from an Earlier Era

During the early 1960's, retiree **Paul Anderson** was working on a construction project on the North Cross-State Highway near Newhalem, Washington. "The town had an open garbage dump," he said. "It was very remote, and bears would come into the dump and scavenge through it." On a regular basis, the dump operator would set the dump on fire to burn the garbage. "That sent the bears scavenging into town or into the camps."

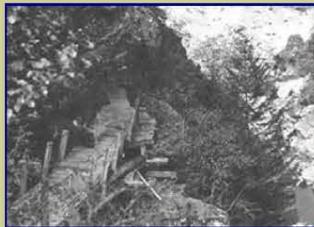
Paul came out one morning and found a pair of muddy paw prints on the side of his trailer. "The bear had been standing there, looking right in my bedroom window."

If that wasn't brazen enough, on another occasion the bears came ambling right through the children's play area in the middle of the afternoon. After that, if a bear came into camp, "the project engineer decided it was time to shoot it on sight."

WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY
DIVISION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

610 East Fifth Street
Vancouver, Washington 98661

wfl.newsletter@dot.gov



Above and front banner: Devil's Elbow



One night they heard something rattling around outside. Several of the men got up, took rifles in hand, and crept out to investigate the noise. "More rattling," Paul said. "We shone a light toward the noise – then we heard the response: 'Meow?'"

Paul's other stories about "Life in the Camps: the North Cross-State Highway, 1966" can be found at <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/about/history/documents/article-46.pdf> (Part I) and <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/about/history/documents/article-47.pdf> (Part II).

