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Release

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BUILDING OF NEW ROAD AND BRIDGE ON THE
BANFF-JASPER HIGHWAY
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Banff-Jasper Highway, Alberta, July, 1961

The Banff-Jasper Highway links two of Canada's most beautiful National Parks - Banff and Jasper --where wild life roam in these protected areas surrounded by mountains. On this highway we find the most variations in heights --at one point the Columbia Glacier is below the level of the highway. From the divisional point at Lake Louise, it is 140 miles to Jasper. Seventy-five miles of the highway has been paved towards the Banff end, and by the end of this year 15 miles will have been completed towards the Jasper end.

Previously, the highest point on the road between Lake Louise and Jasper was at Bow Pass -- an elevation of 6,785'. With the new highway -- the subject of our story -- the highest point is now at the Columbia Icefield with an elevation of 6,810'.

Along this route at Mile 69 from Lake Louise, the new highway will cross a 150' deep canyon at Nigel Creek. At this point, a steel arch bridge is under construction and, with the arch construction, the elevation of this bridge will be approximately 205' in height from the Nigel Creek water level. The length of the bridge will be 330' and the design is a steel arch with two approach spans.

Between Mile 68 and 74 from Lake Louise is the Big Hill. Here, the new highway climbs 1,500' in six miles on an average of 5% grade. The deepest road cut on the highway is 255' and the highest fill is 120'. On completion of the job on the Big Hill section alone - 6 miles - 1,600,000 cubic yards of dirt and rocks will have been moved.

This new section of road will add to automobile traffic many more views of this beautiful section of Canada -- mountains, glaciers, canyons and waterfalls. The road is expected to be completed by the end of 1962 but tourist traffic is now going through by detouring on the old Banff-Jasper Highway.

Shot listASPHALT OVER THE TOP

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1. LS Banff-Jasper Highway with sign indicating Columbia Icefields where highway branches off from TransCanada Highway
2. LS cars on highway with mountains in background
3. LS road leading up to Bow Pass - formerly Bow Pass was the highest elevation (6,785') on Banff-Jasper Highway
4. LS travelling shot up hill to Bow Pass
5. CU Peyto Lake lookout point sign
6. LS view of Peyto Lake
7. LS Mt. Patterson and glacier
8. LS moose in lake
9. LS bear
10. LS highway with Mt. Chephron in background
11. LS bear walking
12. LS pan from Mt. Athabasca to road construction near Nigel Creek
13. LS scraper pan to bulldozer
14. MS scraper passing
15. LS bulldozer at work
16. CU earth moving downhill
17. CU men drilling rocks for blasting at Big Hill
18. LS ditto
19. LS tilt up to Weeping Wall in Cataract Canyon
20. CU man signalling at detonater
21. LS explosion
22. MS truck
23. LS scaffolding at Nigel Creek, tilt down to waterfall chasm 200' below
24. LALS scaffolding
25. MS ditto
26. HAMS working on scaffolding above falls
27. LS working on scaffolding
28. CU workman walking across plank bridge above falls
29. CU loader passing
30. LS swinging cement bucket
31. LS workmen watching
32. MS workmen grabbing cement bucket at pier top
33. CU foreman

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34. MS emptying cement
35. LS valley tilt down to bridge site
36. MS bridge scaffolding
37. MS surveyor with Mt. Cyrus in background
38. LS moose
39. LS asphaltting road
40. MS grader spreading asphalt
41. MS driver
42. CU spreading asphalt
43. LS traffic hold-up at road construction
44. LS car passing grader
45. LS Mt. Athabasca pan to glacier tongue (Columbia Icefield)
46. LS car passing glacier
47. LS rolling asphalt
48. LS car passing Department of Public Work's sign