

Cottage Grove Sentinel

COTTAGE GROVE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1948

NUMBER 51

Possibilities Of Irrigation In Cottage Grove-Creswell Area Outlined

Irrigation possibilities of the Cottage Grove area were outlined in a letter from the U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation from the Salem planning office. The letter containing the highlights of the plan written to a local resident on July 20, will no doubt be one of interest and follows:

Cottage Grove Project is located in Lane County, Oregon. The project lands are scattered

along both sides of the Coast Fork of Willamette River in a narrow, broken strip some 18 miles long, beginning about 2 miles south of Cottage Grove. U.S. Highway 99E traverses the project in a general north-south direction. The main towns within the project area are Cottage Grove and Creswell. In respect to the department of Interior, Columbia River Basin Report, the project is the upper part of the Willamette River sub-

basin, in "Lower Columbia" subdivision.

The purpose of the project is to provide irrigation and drainage to the project lands.

The gross irrigable areas are: classes 1 and 2, 6,600 acres; pasture class, 2,100 acres.

Irrigation at present is practiced on a few small tracts by pumping from sloughs and wells. Old valley filling soils predominate. Most of these soils are about equally divided between the well drained and poorly drained groups.

Water for the projects would be diverted both by gravity and pumping from Row River and Coast Fork, with storage provided in Dorena and Cottage Grove Reservoirs. The proposed gravity diversions are from the Coast Fork 2 miles below the Dorena Reservoir. Two pumping plants may be substituted for siphons crossing the river, after relative costs have been determined. Drainage ditches would be provided where needed.

Alternate plans are diversion by gravity, diversion by pump, distribution by canals, distribution by pipe line with sprinkler application.

Irrigation possibilities in the Willamette Valley were investigated by the War Department in connection with flood control projects. Two reports have been published; House Document No. 544 75th Congress, 3rd session, dated March 16, 1930. A "Review of Survey Report, Willamette River and Tributaries, Oregon," is now under preparation and has been submitted to other agencies for review.

The present investigation by the Bureau of Reclamation was undertaken in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers to investigate multiple use of reservoirs above the project lands. The project was first covered by a general reconnaissance survey, and a reconnaissance report was prepared in June 1940.

Strip topography of canal location and detail topography of diversion, pump and siphon sites were taken during April to June 1942. The strip topography is on acetate overlay sheets on aerial photographs with a scale of 1:12,000 and a contour interval of 2 feet. The detail topography was planetable on two sheets, scale of 1:1,200, and 5 sheets, scale 1:600.

The field work is sufficient to prepare preliminary estimates on the main canals, pumping plants, and diversion sites, but more topography may be needed to lay out laterals and a drainage system.

Canals, pump sites, and diversion sites are plotted on original field sheets. No estimates were started.

Hydrologic computations for supporting data have been made. These studies cover water rights, runoff records, and quantity of water available for diversion. Studies in water requirements include temperature studies, determination of effective precipitation, conveyance losses, and diversion.

A semidetalled land classification was made in 1942. This survey was made on Corps of Engineers aerial photographs on a scale of 1:12,000. Descriptive notes and soil profiles are on the backs of these photographs. This survey covers the entire project area.

Land classification areas are computed and tabulated by sections. The first draft of the land classification appendix report is about 50 percent completed.

During October 1942, data from Lane County Offices on ownership, tillable areas, tax data, mortgages, livestock, and crops were collected.

No field work by other agencies was made in connection with the present investigation.

On February 7, 1941, Hebron Grange No. 845 at Cottage Grove, Oregon, petitioned the Bureau of Reclamation to make a survey of irrigation possibilities in the Cottage Grove area. Investigation of the Cottage Grove project was started as a result of this petition, but was later dropped. Of 16,400

acres of land classified, only 6,600 acres of class 1 and 2, and all of this is class 2 except for 36 acres. The lands are all in private ownership, and the better lands have been under cultivation for many years. The poorer lands were largely cultivated in former years but now have been reverted to native pasture and brush.

The development of this project would be beneficial to the area as it would increase the yield of cash crops, support a larger population, and increase crop adaptability.

It is estimated that only 80 per-

cent of the area class 1 and 2 lands would be irrigated as some maturing crops would not require irrigation. This would leave 5,300 acres that would have to carry the construction and operation and maintenance costs in any one year.

Further studies are required to determine the feasibility of this project. These studies should include preliminary designs and estimates and comparative costs of alternate plans. The land classification study will have to be revised and a complete economic

field and office study will be required. The cost of this investigation is estimated at \$25,000, of which \$2,706 was spent prior to November 1947.

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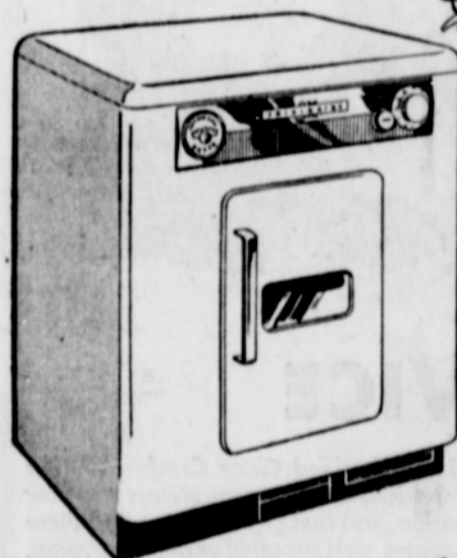
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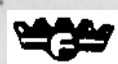
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By "Shorty" Smith



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The more we consider the mosquito, the better we like the house fly.

The mosquito really has the biggest kick about the new long skirts.

He's different than the doctor, though. He presents his bill before he goes to work.

He seems to enjoy camp life as much as any one.

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Grape Fruit 2 for 25c
No. 2 Cans
Asparagus 39c
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Diamond A Corn 2 for 35c

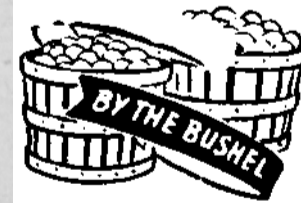
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