

Floating Barn Owned By Suislaw Farmer

At this time of the year when a man goes out where the water runs fast one can expect a large number of fish stories.

Lane County Surveyor Percy Lane County has been thinking for some time about the old ones as he made a road check trip along the south bank of the Suislaw this week with Commissioner Walt Holland.

As he rolled (with only a few bumps) along the year-old county road that runs from Lawson Creek to Mapleton, he admits he glanced out once in a while and wondered how they were biting.

And maybe Walt, as he is known in the courthouse, told Morse about the first trout that got away.

But the floating barn, he saw as he glanced toward the river, topped that one. And it was true claims the surveyor.

"I saw it and Walt saw it," he said Saturday to a somewhat skeptical audience in the courthouse after the noon whistle.

Whether the two teamed up, as was accused, to bring back a bigger and better fish story about a "floating barn" was not certain but here's the way Percy tells it: Solves Problem

Walter C. Waite has land along both sides of the river. With his cattle enclosed down river about three-quarters of a mile and

across from his fields, he had to find some way of getting feed to them.

So the ingenious rancher built a large log raft and on it placed a 30 by 40 barn.

When he needs hay, Waite floats the barn with the tide (Morse says the sea is so close the tide rises up to five feet just east of Cushman) and helped by a small outboard motor boat to the hay field, loads the feed aboard and heads back to the hungry cattle.

At high tide he pulls the barn into shore and forks the hay to the cattle where his herd eats and thrives.

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