

The Maupin Times

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An Open Letter

As this letter goes to press September 15th rolls into history which marks the close of the irrigation season for 1923, after September 15th stock water will be delivered, according to statement made by the water master of Wasco county.

During the four months just past the management has collected data and good information

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concerning the company's needs and the needs of the farmers that may be considered at this time for our mutual benefit.

Some delay, at the opening date, May 15th, was due to main canal washout during the great floods of last winter which did a lot of damage to their parts of the state as well. It is a difficult task to repair such washouts in time to make delivery of water by May 15th, on account of the deep snow drifts that block the mountain highways and trails in the spring.

Much credit is due to the farmers who aided the company in repairing the great break at Station 25 this spring and at Webergg farm also.

To avoid these washouts we need ample spillways in upper main canal at the junction of each large draw or canyon to prevent the flood waters from going down the canal forcing slush and ice down this, breaking the canal banks.

This is very important.

If cooperation in this is had, prompt delivery in 1924 is made possible.

It was found that after the upper canal capacity was used that low places in swails on the farm plains prevented us from getting full action or benefit of the water to all parts of the plains, thus difficulty arose that must be overcome before the 1924 season rolls around. These low bank swails are not long or very many, but are like the weak link in the strong chain and must be raised. Cooperation here will quickly solve the problem and do us all a lot of good.

It was also found that tardy delivery in spring made natural rotation impossible for a prolonged period due to the dryness of the land and the keen demand of all users on the same day.

It has been urged by the water

users' board of commissioners that 7 to 14 days' earlier delivery might be made in order to relieve this difficulty and the management is favorable to this plan as spring water supply is wasted and would serve much better if delivered early. This can no doubt be worked out.

It was found also that a number of water users had built gates in their fence lines to permit ditch walkers a way to readily pass along the canal lines. This is a good move in the right direction but the job is only half done. The company has constructed many land gates which are donated free to any farmer who is ready to help out in this way in saving time adding to the efficiency of distribution.

Some farmers neglected to clean out their own private ditches, from the winter mud, tumble weeds and other stoppage. This all adds to the problem of good delivery, and cooperation along this line is sought.

Up to date about half of the 1923 maintenance funds have been received by the company with some of 1922 and earlier years back unpaid. This condition makes it difficult if not impossible for the company to do the annual repair work and to employ ditch walkers for the plains and mountains.

The company has arranged to take six months notes for maintenance fee from farmers that need this credit to allow for returns on crops grown, thus the strain is lessened a little along this line.

During the closing weeks of irrigation season 1922 and 1923 the company had arranged for the purchase of extra water from the Pacific Light & Power Co. after the flow of White river measured more than 250 second feet. This water must be paid for in order to make such good arrangements possible, within 30 days after delivery. This demands all notes and checks for 1923 maintenance be paid now.

The water users' board of commissioners suggested that volunteer crews be sent in to mountain camps to raise the upper canal banks in a few places marked by W. B. Keen in order to allow the extra delivery of 8 to 12 inches more water. Such a camp was provided for and the tools and provisions placed on the ground, but the notice was too short, so the flow did not carry, but the need exists and the program mapped out by the farmers' board is good and before 1924 it should be carried out.

In September, 1922 the water board's decree was filed. Much of the decree was of great value to Wapinitia plains farmers, as the storage of 1800 acre feet at Clear lake was granted and confirmed. Also other good storage Natural flow of Elk creek, Frog creek, Clear creek and McCubbin's gulch was also granted—for the whole year, except when the whole White river water shed fell below 250 second feet.

This provides water in full amount for all contract needs if some canal work is done, except in low late season; last year the company purchased water for eight days, in 1923 for 15 days. Thus the great scare cloud that many poorly informed folk are very apt to magnify has not ruined the farms or destroyed the company's large water right holdings which date back for 20 years and today stand undisputed as established.

Judge Wilson of the circuit court in his decree of August 28, 1923, confirmed the 1922 decree of the water which confirms the rights of the company in every point except during the low season.

The dispute between the power company and the Wapinitia Irrigation Co over this low season flow will be finally settled by the supreme court at Salem.

In the mean time in order to maintain real independence and

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to do business as a cooperative body of well posted farmers—it is of first importance to build a dam at Clear lake in order to have a good—ample supply of water through the season.

Much has been written and told about the cost of a dam at Clear lake.

Many farmers here have gone up there to see the dam site and all these are boosters for the dam.

A good dam engineer has just constructed a dam below W. H. Staats' cottage on the creek at Maupin, about 12 feet high. This dam is of 3 ply dressed plank bolted and brace with angle iron braces—all set in concrete, at a cost of not more than \$2000. If we construct a dam of like material or of earth like the Ochocho or Tumalo dams, say 15 or 20 feet high it can be done for safely \$10,000.

This then is the main problem that confronts us. Can 200 farmers owning 72000 acres on Wapinitia plains construct such a dam at approximately \$10000 and can they do the repair work on the plains where needed and in the mountains where W. B. Keen has marked the low spots or must we all fold our tent and let the conditions swallow us up and take over \$1,000,000 worth of water rights while we say we can't do the job?

I'd rather see our children picking four leafed clovers in the lawn of our front yards, than to see them walking through tumble weeds while the creditors squat on our valuable natural water rights, that date back for 20 years.

One thousand acre feet of water sold on cash and credit terms will provide the means for paying all current bills for building the dam at Clear lake, for raising the canal banks and for snatching the water rights out of the hands of the creditors and no one need donate a cent, but we must boost and not knock each other or the company if this fair possibility is to be realized. Since Fen Batty has been on the scene he went to Clear lake and took a look. He now stands ready to head the list with \$1000 to build the dam. He gets the vision—the whole towns of Maupin and Wapinitia are talking it and others are talking it and it must be done or we are not up to the needs and ability that exist.

If we have difficulties and complaints, let's try to solve them and then press on to final success. A mass meeting of water users for Saturday September 15, at Wapinitia to meet the water users' board of commissioners and the company's representative is called. It will be an open meeting—out of doors on the Harman machinery lot, near the store. One o'clock p. m. It is more important to attend this meeting than to do any of the needed tasks that confront each one of us.

One o'clock p. m., Wapinitia. N. G. Hedlin.

Notice—A representative and student of the Chicago Engineering Works school of electricity is in Maupin. Any man wishing to get better pay—from \$10 to \$30 per day—should correspond with him. It costs nothing to investigate. Address Box 85, Maupin.

Wapinitia

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not damaged. Pete Olsen and family of Shaniko visited at the L. M. Woodside home Sunday.

Mrs. Davis who has been here this summer returned Monday to her home at Estacada.

Walter Woodside who has been ill is reported able to sit up.

Lou McCoy came out from the mountains Monday, bringing a fine lot of venison with him which he so generously shared with his neighbors. He had killed a five pointer buck.

Cash buyers waiting. If you want to sell let me hear your proposition—H. L. Morris

Portland Painless Dentist, 305 Second St., The Dalles, Oregon, over Linquist Jewelry Store. Rooms 1, 2, 3.

Wamic News

Among Dalles visitors from this section last week were Jim Kistner, Mrs. Orange Brittain, Mrs. John Illingsworth and son, Herman Gesh and family, J. H. Eubanks and wife, John Shively and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Morris went to The Dalles Tuesday from Maupin, taking Miss Erma who was operated on Wednesday morning for chronic appendicitis.

Mrs. Joe Wing and children and Miss Lena Wing were in The Dalles Wednesday. Jim Wing accompanied the latter here from Kelso, Wn.

Mrs. and Mrs. F. M. Driver returned Wednesday from Hood River. Mrs. W. E. Woodcock and here mother accompanied them from The Dalles.

Dr. Elwood was called here Tuesday to attend little Emery Crofoot.

A party of young people charavaired Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Chastain Thursday night at the home of Mrs. Emma Chastain.

Dr. Duke, Arthur Duke and Ben Olsen came here on their return from Maupin Tuesday. Mrs. Duke and Winston Lake accompanied them to Portland. Winston remained until Thursday. "Dad" Coale was here Thursday. Dr. Elwood took John Cervin

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I. O. O. F.

WAPINITIA

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F. D. STUART, Secretary B. D. FRALEY, N. G.

James Chalmers

Horse Shoeing and

General Blacksmithing

Plow Share Grinding

Maupin, Ore.

to The Dalles Wednesday for an operation.

Fire destroyed the barn belonging to Geo. Woodruff Thursday night. Three horses belonging to Fred Kennison were burned and another one so badly injured that it was killed the next morning. Harness and other equipment were burned.—Tygh.

Word reached here of the marriage recently of Minnie Kinworthy to J. L. Gurrard at Hoskins, Ore.

Mt. Hood seemed to be taking an active part in the big earthquake in Japan recently, for just at that particular time it sent up huge volumes of black smoke.

George and Miss Geneveve Tillotson went to The Dalles Thursday, Geneveve going on to lone where she will teach school.

Lester Crofoot came home Saturday night from the Arthur Morris place.

Mrs. Emmitt Zumwalt and children and Lena Wing went to the Lester McCorkle place Saturday

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, August 10, 1923.

Notice is hereby given that Sarah A. Gamber,

of Maupin, Oregon, who on July 13, 1921, made Homestead Entry No. 018069, for sw1-4sw1-4, Section 31, Township 4 south, Range 15 east, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof to establish claim to the land above described, before F. D. Stuart, United States Commissioner at Maupin, Oregon, on the 25th day of September, 1923.

Claimant names as witnesses: A. T. Lindley, Maupin, Oregon, H. M. Barnum, of Tygh Valley, Oregon, B. F. Turner of Maupin, Oregon, Carl Head of Maupin, Oregon.

J. W. Donnelly, Register

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, Aug. 9, 1923.

Notice is hereby given that Thomas Kienzel,

of Wapinitia Oregon, who on May 4, 1920, made Homestead Entry No. 021060, for E1-2N1-4, NE1-4S1-4, Lot 5, section 33, NW1-4, N1-2SW1-4, W1-2NE1-4, NW1-4SE1-4, Lots 1, 2, 3, Sec. 34, Township 5 south, Range 13 east, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before F. D. Stuart, United States Commissioner, at Maupin, Oregon, on the 25th day of September 1923.

Claimant names as witnesses: A. K. Wilcox, Lewis McCoy, Frank McCoy, M. L. Arnett, all of Wapinitia, Oregon J. W. Donnelly, Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, Aug. 9, 1923.

Notice is hereby given that Arthur Locke

of Maupin, Oregon, who on Dec. 28, 1921, made Homestead Entry No. 018229 for w1-2sw1-4 sec. 14, NE1-4SE1-4, sec. 22, NW1-4, NW1-4SW1-4, Section 23, T. 6 south, Range 13 east, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before F. D. Stuart, U. S. Commissioner at Maupin, Oregon, on the 18th day of September, 1923.

Claimant names as witnesses: Anten Seifert, Geo. E. Cunningham, R. J. Muir, Lawson Maddron, all of Maupin, Oregon.

J. W. Donnelly, Register

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of the Interior U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, August 20th, 1923.

Notice is hereby given that Henry Thomas

of Criterion, Oregon, who on March 10, 1919, made Homestead Entry No. 020461 and on Oct. 19, 1922, made Additional Homestead entry No. 022643, for Lots 1, 2, section 18, T. 7 s, R 15 E, N1-2SE1-4, SW1-4SE1-4, SE1-4SW1-4, section 10, E1-2NW1-4, NE1-4SW1-4, sec. 15, SE1-2NE1-4, SE1-4NW1-4, NE1-4SW1-4, W1-2SE1-4, Section 13, Township 7 south Range 14 east, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before F. D. Stuart United States Commissioner, at Maupin, Oregon, on the 6th day of October, 1923.

Claimant names as witnesses: F. J. Kirsch, D. B. Appling, J. G. Kramer all of Criterion, Oregon, M. H. Martin of Shaniko, Oregon.

J. W. Donnelly, Register.

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