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PROJECT WILL OPEN UP VAST EMPIRE

Oregon's Largest Irrigation Project Will Open 300,000 Acres of Fertile Land to the Home-Seekers—Organization Is Perfected

By Clay C. Clark, President of the John Day Irrigation District.

The Gazette Times, Heppner, Oregon, Gentlemen,

Your letter of recent date asking me to write an article for your Christmas number for the Gazette Times on irrigation more particularly the John Day Project, is at hand.

I wish first to make it plain to you that I am not qualified to do so as I have not kept the required data to write intelligently on the John Day Project. Although living in the north part of Gilliam county since 1885, I have taken more or less interest in all development work in Eastern Oregon, especially in bringing into cultivation the land lying below the proposed canal of the John Day Project Irrigation District. First I want to impress on the readers of the Gazette Times, the importance of their co-operation in one of the most important irrigation projects in the Northwest.

Lying as it does below the eight hundred and fifty foot contour it is possible to grow any grasses and grains that are grown in the Central West. Oregon today is in need of grains suitable for mixing with our alfalfa and other forage that grows on the higher levels. With this vast area of land brought under cultivation by irrigation it would produce annually many million dollars worth of corn and ensilage and would add to the taxable property of the state of Oregon many million of dollars and at the same time would increase the value of the dry farming area lying above the eight hundred and fifty foot contour at least twenty dollars per acre. Bringing this three or four hundred thousand acres of undeveloped land into cultivation would practically do away with the "hot winds" that some years are very disastrous to the grain crops of the John Day Dry Farming District.

The question has been asked me many times why we did not apply our dry farming methods upon the land lying under the John Day Project. In answer to this question I wish to say that starting at the timber line to the Columbia river of this vast inland empire the soil changes from a heavy volcanic ash to a light volcanic ash and today if it were not for the prevailing heavy west winds which drifts the soil this whole project would be under cultivation under dry farming methods. The closer the land lies to the Columbia river, the more drought resisting is the soil, providing that you can cultivate it so as to retain the moisture and the only way that this can be brought about is through irrigation.

Many states besides Oregon have brought many acres of land under irrigation through the reclamation service and private corporations. It seems to have been the rule that the state that could bring about the most pressure and political pull upon the heads of the reclamation service have advanced more rapidly than others states justly entitled to a bigger percentage of the reclamation money than they really received and it is asserted by men that claim to know that Oregon has suffered to a considerable extent in this way.

A few years prior to 1916 there was a general movement in Oregon as well as other states to bring before Congress and the people the necessity of reclaiming large areas of dry irrigable land. Consequently the Department of the Interior through the Reclamation Service and the State of Oregon surveyed a great deal of land in Eastern Oregon and one of these areas was the "John Day Project."

The report was compiled by John T. Whistler, engineer of the United States Reclamation Service and John H. Lewis State Engineer for Oregon and presented to the Public in February 1916. This certainly is a most valuable report and shows up the wonderful resources of the John Day Project as well as all other projects in Eastern Oregon. But in reading this report carefully when first gotten out that the main object of this report was to tell us people in Eastern Oregon that the time had not yet arrived for us to expect anything in the way of development on the John Day Project on the account of the heavy cost. I, myself accepted it at that time as a closed subject. The rapid change of events in the last five years have taught the people of the United States especially of the West that things which seemed prohibited previous to that time is a matter of small consequence now.

We as patriotic citizens of Oregon, as well as all other citizens of the United States performed any task that was asked of us by the United States Government and were only too glad of the opportunity to help the government in every way during the

Ice Bricks Are More Popular Now Than Gold Bricks

MINNEAPOLIS, KAN.—Gallileo Grab, head of the Aurora Borealis Ice Company, is on his way to the North Pole to fasten a scoop on Dr. Cook's new discovery. He took with him \$30,000 invested by Homer Hogarth, a farmer here, in the Aurora Borealis Ice Company, according to Hogarth, who asked for a warrant.

One blazing hot day last July, Gallileo, dark, and excitable, and wearing an impressive black beard, appeared on Hogarth's farm with a surveyor's instrument, pointing it towards the skies. He seemed pre-occupied for hours, as if calculating some abstruse problem in mathematics. Hogarth was watching him.

Finally, he exclaimed excitedly, "This is the spot—the very spot." According to Hogarth, Gallileo tried to buy his farm, offering him a fabulous sum, but after a fourth visit, revealed that his calculations proved Hogarth's farm to be the point where an unending flow of ice would fall were a scoop attached to the North Pole, which Gallileo described as a steel girder projecting from the center of the earth. Gallileo said he had seen it, as he had been with Peary.

He then told Hogarth his plan for the Aurora Borealis Ice Company, taking \$30,000 from Hogarth as a partnership fee, the farmer says, leaving Hogarth on the farm to take care of the ice while he made a second trip to the pole to attach the scoop. His theory was that a scoop attached to the pole would tear loose billions of tons of ice as the earth revolved, and would gradually tip, flinging its contents on Hogarth's farm.

Cyrus Stronghead, whose farm adjoins Hogarth's, went to the bank when he heard of his neighbor's loss to see if his Liberty Bonds were still there. They were.

So were his war Saving Stamps.

Gilliam County Joins With Morrow in Fight on Rabbits

County agent L. A. Hunt returned Monday from a trip into Gilliam county, where he spent several days helping farmers to put out poison for the destruction of rabbits. Mr. Hunt says the Gilliam county people are entering enthusiastically into the campaign and have raised \$3000 to defray expenses. Mr. Hunt says he has purchased thus far, 2200 ounces of strychnine for use in the campaign.

A. HENRIKSEN BUYS 1600 ACRE RANCH

A. Henriksen, Cecil farmer and stock man, has purchased the Hamilton ranch, situated south of Heppner on the headwaters of Rhea creek, from Ralph Weeks. We understand the price paid was \$25,000. There are 1600 acres in the Hamilton ranch, and with the sale goes the leasing rights to an additional 1800 acres, giving Mr. Henriksen in all, a total of 6000 acres of mountain range.

The Hamilton ranch is one of the best improved places in that section, having produced annually about 400 tons of hay.

Mr. Henriksen also has bought from J. S. Carter, the later's homestead of 290 acres. The Carter place joins Mr. Henriksen's newly acquired possession, the Hamilton ranch. Mr. Henriksen contemplates extensive improvements.

The war which so plainly taught us our mistakes in the development of our agricultural resources and now as it is over it is no more than right that our National Congress should appropriate money to develop and bring into cultivation our vast areas of dry irrigable land.

Our Senators and Representatives as well as all other Senators and representatives of the west should present all pet schemes to further small projects in their respective districts and get behind one broad comprehensive movement that would settle for all time to come the matter of reclaiming the lands in the west, by irrigation.

In the last few months the people of northern Gilliam, Morrow and the western part of Umatilla counties under the law of the state of Oregon have voted to district themselves into a District Irrigation Project known as the "John Day Project." The boundaries are designated in the petitions that have been advertised and can be changed by the petition of persons owning irrigable land in or adjoining the proposed district.

GOOD OL' SANTA CLAUS



MRS. WHETSTONE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN HERE

Eliza Jane Mitchell, the eldest daughter of Wm. and Judy Mitchell, was born in Umatilla County Ore., near the present site of Stanfield, Feb. 23rd, 1860. She died at her home in this town Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1919, about noon, being at the time of her death 59 years, nine months and 16 days old.

She was the first white child born in all the region between the Cascade Mountains and Walla Walla.

At eleven years she moved with her parents to Hinton Creek near Heppner, near which place she has spent the greater part of her life.

At eighteen years of age she was married to William Gideon Boyer, to which union four children were born—one dying in infancy.

After fifteen years of wedded life Mr. Boyer died leaving his widow and three children, they forming a constant companionship for each other.

After five years of widowhood, Mrs. Boyer was married to Newton S. Whetstone of Heppner to whom she was a most faithful wife to the day she passed away.

Those who survive her beside her husband, are a daughter, Mrs. Ethel McKinley of Portland, two sons, Glen and Guy Boyer, and two grandsons, Donald & Philip Boyer of Heppner. Mrs. Whetstone and the three children were at the bedside when death came.

For over two years Mrs. Whetstone had been a constant sufferer from cancer, during which time she underwent three operations, the last of which was skillful. Mayo Bros. relief seemed only temporary, and in August of this year she was suddenly stricken with severe pain which later developed to be the old trouble in a more malignant form, although her husband and other loved ones did everything that love and money could do, she suffered countless deaths during the past four months.

Mrs. Whetstone was a lady of unusual natural and domestic ability. She was a never-failing friend, loving mother and a kind and devoted wife. She was as patient a sufferer as ever lived, always trying to comfort the loved ones by telling them she would soon be well. Nothing has been spared in trying to bring about her recovery and the broken hearted husband and children had the sympathy of their hosts of friends.

Mrs. Whetstone was a member of the First Christian Church of this place from where the funeral service was conducted on Thursday, Dec. 11th, by Rev. Worcester of Lexington. The Rebekah Lodge, of which she was a faithful member attended the service in a body.

14TH CENSUS WILL BE MOST COMPLETE

The Fourteenth Decennial Census, to which President Wilson has called the attention of the nation in his proclamation, is to be the biggest, best and most complete census of the United States ever taken if plans of the Census Bureau do not go awry.

Supervisor of the Census, W. A. Terrell of Wasco, Ore., has announced that everything will be in readiness to start the canvassing campaign during the month of January, 1920. It will cover every mansion, every cottage, and every hut in the Second District. Two hundred thirty eight enumerators will be engaged in making the count. Every person will be enumerated and the names, ages, birthplaces and occupations of all will be set down and forwarded to Washington.

Many other questions concerning home tenure, citizenship, marital status, literacy, sex, color and race are contained in the population schedule which enumerators will fill out from the answers given.

Farm Questions Important

Farmers also will be asked the questions contained in the agriculture schedule relating to their farms. These questions cover tenure, farm products, values of farm lands, buildings, implements and improvements, field crops, garden products, farm ex. pensure, live-stock, poultry, bees, dairy products, improved and unimproved land, farm drainage and irrigation—in fact, all phases of the farming industry are covered.

Questions as to telephone and electric light, gas and water plants also are included in the group of inquiries which fall under the general heading of "farm facilities," the purpose of the government in collecting information of this character being to show the modern improvements installed on farms during the present decade.

Information Confidential

The information gathered in the Census is for general statistical purposes only and such information cannot be used as a basis for taxation. Nor can such information be used to harm any person in any way. This is pointed out in the President's proclamation.

As a matter of fact the identity of the individuals is lost as soon as the filled-out schedules are received at Washington. For upon reaching there the information is transferred from the sheets to cards. This is done by machinery and names are discarded entirely. Moreover, every person connected with the taking of the census is prohibited by Federal law from divulging any information given them in the performance of their duties.

Enumerators Wanted Here

HEPPNER RANKS 21ST IN BANK DEPOSITS

Surpasses Many Larger Towns in Amount of Money in Banks and Jumps Rapidly Forward—Reflects Prosperity

Heppner ranks twenty-first in the State of Oregon in the amount of money on deposit in its two banks. This is a very creditable showing, and especially when one stops to consider that there are a number of towns larger in population which stand away below on the list.

Heppner has been in the million dollar class for a number of years and probably if a statement of her two banks were given out today, we would find that we are now in the two million dollar class. In the last five weeks Heppner has jumped from 24th to 21st place and surpassed such towns as Grants Pass and Ontario, Vale and Enterprise.

The secret of Heppner's enviable banking record is reflected in the country itself. Situated in such a diversified country where hogs, cattle and sheep view with hay and grain, prosperity cannot help but result. The combined deposits of the banks of Morrow county as shown by the statements of the respective institutions on November 17, revealed the fact that there were on deposit nearly two and one-half millions of dollars. This would give a per capita wealth of \$600. Where can you beat it?

Heppner Girl Is Bride of Wyoming Man

From Shoshoni Wyo. Enterprise.

A wedding of much interest to Shoshoni folks took place on Thursday of this week when Miss Genevieve McFerrin was united in marriage to Mr. William Tracy, Jr. The ceremony took place at six o'clock in the evening at Thermopolis, Wyo., to which place the bride and groom were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Woodard. The wedding took place at the home of Mr. Woodard's mother, Mrs. Bogard, and was performed by Justice J. A. Thompson. The groom is the eldest son of Mayor and Mrs. Wm. Tracy of Shoshoni, and is one of the best known and most highly respected young men of our community; possessing character, industry and sterling qualities. He has spent most of his life at Shoshoni; the Tracys being among the earliest settlers here. They located at this little place some 15 years ago, and have since that time, been important factors in the upbuilding of the community.

Heppner Big Shipper of Wheat, Wool, Stock

Heppner maintained her record during the year 1919 as a big shipper of livestock, wool and wheat. From the local yards of the O.W.R. & N. Co., were shipped 164 carloads of cattle, or a total of 4,428 head, 13 carloads of horses and mules, or 325 head; 201 carloads of wheat and 49 carloads of wool. The weight of the wool was 1,254,839 pounds and had a value of approximately \$600,000. Wheat shipments from Heppner during the year 1919, had an estimated value of approximately \$640,000.

Imports for the year were small. Five cars of cattle, or a total of 135 head were shipped in. There were also shipped in 27,250 head of sheep, but this number is probably accounted for in the fact that several bands were taken out to summer range by train and returned again in the same manner, seventy-five head of horses were imported during the year.

Took Sheep to Cecil.

Minor & Matlock passed through Heppner the last of the week with 4500 head of sheep, which they were trailing to Cecil for winter feeding. They made rapid progress through the snow, as Mr. Matlock went on ahead with a four horse team and crowder and broke the trail. The sheep are in fine condition and should go through the winter in good shape.

Do Byns Gets Big Bunch of Skins

Harold Do Byns, who traps in the Butter Creek region, got 19 coyotes, three wild cats, 11 mink, 30 muskrats and 11 badgers during the month of November. He gets a salary of \$100 from Butter Creek stockmen, and with money derived from the sale of the skins, will clear \$600 for the month's work. Coyotes sell for \$15 each besides bounty.

State News

KLAMATH FALLS.—Attempt to thaw out a frozen pipe with a blow torch at the White Pelican garage, resulted in partial destruction of that building by fire. The loss to building and equipment is estimated at \$30,000 while cars stored there damaged an additional \$15,000.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank all those who so kindly gave us their assistance and sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved wife and mother. We are thankful for all the orders of beautiful flowers, even though we were unable to use them.

N. S. Whetstone.
Mrs. Ethel McKinley.
Glen Boyer.

Elevator Company Relieves Fuel Situation—Slab Wood

The serious fuel situation in Heppner, which gave promise of growing worse each day, was greatly relieved the past week, when the Farmers Elevator Company turned over some 50 cords of excellent slab wood which they happened to have on hand and for which they did not have immediate use. Their action undoubtedly resulted in saving off actual suffering on the part of a number of families whose fuel supply had run out, or was rapidly diminishing.

Episcopal Sunday School Will Give Christmas Program

The following program will be presented by the Sunday school of the Episcopal church, Wednesday, December 24, at 7:30 p. m.

Song—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.—Pollyanna Class.

Prayer.

The spirit of Christmas—Carol.—Velma Class.

Play—The Top of the World.—Flower Garden Class.

Dialogue—Watching for Santa—Butterfly Class.

Recitation Writing to Santa—Betty Irwin.

Solo—Mrs. Bean.

Song—Pollyanna class.

Song—Joy to the World—The school.

Local Real Estate Man Falls Through Sky-Light

Roy V. Whiteis, local real estate dealer received severe bruises and sprains when he fell through the skylight of his office on Monday afternoon. Mr. Whiteis had gone up on the roof to sweep the snow from the skylight, and approached too near the opening, falling through the glass, to the floor below. He feels fortunate that his injuries are of not a more serious nature.

Krebs—Bennett.

A quite wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Minor in this city last Sunday when George C. Krebs claimed as his bride, Mrs. Roxie Bennett. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. A. Noyes. Both of the young people are from Cecil, where Mr. Krebs is engaged extensively in farming and stock raising. They will reside at the "Last Camp," the Cecil ranch of Minor & Krebs.

MORROW COUNTY IS 3RD IN WHEAT YIELD

In Spite of General Drought, Oregon's Wheat Production For Year of Over 20,000,000 Bushels, or an Increase Over 1918 of 4,000,000 Bushels.

Morrow County ranked third as a wheat producer in 1919, in comparison with the other 35 counties of the state. According to statistics recently furnished the Gazette-Times by F. L. Kent, field agent for the Bureau of Crop Estimates, United States Department of Agriculture, Morrow County produced the past year, 1,180,000 bushels of winter wheat and 308,450 bushels of spring wheat from a total acreage of 138,285 acres.

As usual, Umatilla County led all others with a total production of nearly 6,000,000 bushels of wheat. Sherman County was second with 2,490,000 bushels and Wasco County third in winter wheat production, although Morrow County's much larger yield of spring wheat puts her in the lead of Wasco for total production.

In his report, Mr. Kent says: "A reduction of 24.9 per cent in the acreage sown to winter wheat in the United States this fall as compared with the area sown a year ago, is the most striking feature of the government crop report for December. Advice from Washington, D. C. place the area seeded this fall at \$3,170,000 acres as compared with the revised estimate of 50,489,000 acres seeded in the fall of 1918.

"The percentage of reduction in the United States rye acreage is practically the same as in the case of winter wheat, the figures being 5,530,000 acres seeded in 1919 as compared with the revised estimate of 7,322,000 acres for 1918.

"In the state of Oregon there has been a reduction of about 8.9 per cent in winter wheat acreage, and about 2.9 per cent in the rye acreage as compared with the seeding a year ago."

The estimate gives Morrow County 92,000 acres of fall sown wheat for 1919 as against 107,800 acres for 1918.

Fords Will Arrive Here in Time for Xmas

Heppner people who had their order in for their Ford car, hoping that it would arrive in time for Christmas, will not be disappointed. Chas. H. Latourell, local dealer says that he has received word that 12 cars have been shipped to him from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and they should arrive within the next few days.

Although it is hard to make delivery of cars in quantity, so great is the demand all over the country, Mr. Latourell's sale record brought forth recognition at a meeting of Ford agents held in Portland last week, and the shipment from Milwaukee is a result. Since coming to Heppner a few months ago, Mr. Latourell has sold 35 Ford cars, some of them touring cars, some coupes, roadsters and trucks. He is carrying the largest stock of Ford accessories and supplies ever carried by a car dealer in the county.

E. F. Clark, local stockman, made a business trip to Condon and other interior points last week.

BOARDMAN NEWS NOTES

It has become necessary to discontinue construction of the new school building owing to the weather and nothing will now be done until after the holidays. It is unlikely that the building will be ready before the first of March. Plans to improve the school grounds are also in abeyance, but work will begin on the new athletic field as soon as possible.

Christmas festivities for the community include a Church Bazaar next Friday night and a treat for the kiddies on Christmas Eve. The schools will resume January 5th, having been closed since December 9th. It was planned to begin last Monday but a change in the transportation of pupils made it necessary to let new contracts for three years thus enabling Cummins and Hayden to secure new, modern trucks, satisfactory equipped and heated.

The community has suffered a slight shortage of flour, breadstuffs, and sugar. The fuel situation has not yet become acute and seems to be well in hand especially if the crisis is past as it seems. The weather has moderated slightly. Livestock has not suffered much except jackrabbits, which together with the cold weather and the poisoning campaign now going on many are meeting their Waterloo.