

SOIL LOSS PREVENTION, RIVER NAVIGATION VITAL TO MORROW FARMS

(Editor's Note:—This is the second article in a series by a man whose journalistic career had its roots in Morrow county's soil, and who is giving glimpses of the national picture through which the local picture may be more clearly viewed.)

By GARFIELD CRAWFORD

Morrow county land owners, collectively, are losing millions of dollars worth of good top soil from their farms annually. This terrific loss through erosion has been going on since the first day a plow slashed the virgin sod on the hill lands between the timber line and Columbia's shores.

Surveys made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture have recorded the sad story of waste similar to this in almost every hill county in the United States, especially in those counties where the laws of nature have been ignored. The forests, nature's greatest moisture conservator, have been ravished by man. Steep hillsides, better suited to grazing than farming, have been pulverized by plow and harrow to fall a victim of rain and wind. These elements roll the soil from the denuded forests and hills into the valley to be carried down stream to the ocean.

Far seeing individuals have been plugging to stop this waste over a long period of years, but not until 1936 did they do much more than scratch pay dirt. Previous congresses had taken notice after a fashion, but in 1936 the Omnibus Flood Control Act, authorizing for the first time in history of the country, a coordinated land and water program for flood control.

The bill declares that flood control on navigable waters or their tributaries is a proper Federal activity in cooperation with the states and their political subdivisions, and that flood control requires not only the improvement of rivers and other waterways, but, also, the treatment of lands that shed water.

Congress very wisely specified that the responsibility for the improvement of rivers and waterways should rest with the War department, but investigations and measures for run-off and waterflow retardation, and for the prevention of soil erosion on watersheds, should be under the department of Agriculture, unless otherwise provided for by prior acts of Congress.

The act is brief and direct. It instructs the war department to make examinations and surveys of waterways and the department of agriculture to busy itself with the land and small streams within the watersheds.

Such streams as Willow and Rhea creeks come under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture because they are minor tributaries to the Columbia and part of its watershed. The Columbia, however, comes under the eye of the war department for the reason that it is navigable and a carrier of commerce.

Under the act residents along and adjacent to or within the drainage area of Willow and Rhea creeks, or other such creeks, may organize into groups and petition the assistance of the department for the inauguration and maintenance of a soil conservation program applied to their immediate domain.

Government reports show that the Federal Soil Conservation service now conducts a soil and water conservation program in 43 states. In cooperation with literally thousands of farmers the service is demonstrating effective methods of erosion control and run-off retardation in nearly 600 small watershed areas. It cooperates with the State Extension services in teaching farmers the best methods of conservation, and with the State Experiment stations in developing improved control practices adapted specifically to different soil types.

Morrow county's top soil is an easy victim to erosion. It is light, of volcanic ash base, pulverizes easily and because of this responds readily to quick movement by either wind or water. This reminds me of an incident that happened in Heppner many years ago and which illustrates the point I have in mind.

The late Wallace Smead, who often served Heppner as its postmaster, was a top hand wool grader. For years, season after season, he stood in the grading pit at the old Henry Heppner warehouse sampling and testing the clips from the interior banked there for storage and sale.

In the summer of 1903, a few days after the fateful flood that took the lives of so many splendid pioneers and wrecked the city, Mr. Smead was in the pit tossing fleeces fast and furiously to the different bins. A high wind rolled up from the Columbia driving before it a heavy blanket of fine dust from the plowed hills below town. The wool grader mopped his forehead, which was rather high, and intermittently wiped his eyes. Finally, in exasperation, he cried out:

"Damn such a country. One day God sends a flood to wash it away. The next day He sends a wind to blow it back."

But in all the years the "blow back" has not in any way compensated for the "wash away." And, because of this difference in the pranks of nature Morrow county land owners are being penalized by the millions of dollars annually. Hundreds of thousands of tons of their best top soil escapes.

But soil protection is not the only possible benefit the Omnibus act of 1936 seeks to bring about. It also provides for the development of streams that they may be made serviceable as traffic bearers. The Inland farmers of eastern Oregon and Washington can obtain a double service and benefit from this source.

Upon passage of the act an appropriation of \$310,000,000 was set aside to take care of 124 navigation and control projects. Both Oregon and Washington sailed into this appropriation in a big way. The Columbia river basin, reaching far into the back country, north and south along certain streams, was a real benefactor. The folks in the upper reaches of the shed or basin failed to put in an oar, therefore their sections were overlooked.

The only recognition of the hinterlands east of The Dalles, was the appropriation of \$200,000 made for flood control on the Umatilla river at Pendleton.

At the time of passage of the act Congress appropriated an additional \$10,000,000 to make preliminary examinations and surveys for flood control of 219 proposed projects. Under this appropriation smaller streams in both Oregon and Washington are taken into consideration. They will probably come in for development sooner or later. Rivers in the wheat belt area which are up for improvement are Walla Walla, Snake and Spokane.

The farmers of the great Inland Empire should grab every advantage the act offers and at all times labor to the end that all inland waterways must remain the property of the people, free from bureau dictation and forever open to free navigation by and for all of the people.

The waterways of the nation belong to all the people, yet they may be snatched from the public unless a watchful eye is kept upon congress. Any laws seeking to regulate traffic upon inland waterways will rob the people of one of their greatest birthrights—the free usage of them.

A five-month check up of municipalities entered in the 1939 Oregon Cities Traffic Safety contest revealed that Silverton had no traffic injuries or deaths for the period from May through September in 1939 or 1938, Earl Snell, secretary of state and sponsor of the contest, reported today. Silverton is the only city in the upper three divisions of the contest to report such a record to the secretary of state.

Burns came he nearest to equaling Silverton's record with one injury during the five-months period in 1938 but none for this year and no deaths during either period. Coquille followed Burns with two injuries in the 1938 period and none in the five months this year with no deaths in either period.

Read G. T. Want Ads. You may find a bargain in something needed.

At Heppner CHURCHES

CHURCH OF CHRIST
MARTIN B. CLARK, Pastor
9:45 Bible School
11:00 Communion and Preaching
7:00 Christian Endeavor
8:00 Evening Church Service
7:30 P. M. Wednesday
..... Choir Practice
7:30 P. M. Thursday
..... Prayer Meeting

METHODIST CHURCH
REV. R. C. YOUNG, Pastor
Sunday: Bible School 9:45 A. M.
Worship Service 11:00 A. M.
Epworth League 7:00 P. M.
Evening Worship 8:00 P. M.
Tuesday: Boys' Club 7:00 P. M.
2nd Tuesday, Missionary Meeting 2:30 P. M.
Wednesday: Choir Practice 7:30 P. M.
1st Wednesday, Ladies Aid Business and Social Meeting 2:30 P. M.
All other Wednesdays: Sewing Group meets.
Thursday: Prayer Meeting 7:30 P. M.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
CLIFFORD W. NOBLE, Pastor
Sunday services:
School, 9:45 a. m.
Worship service, 11:00 a. m.
Evangelistic service, 7:30 p. m.
Widweek services:
Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 p. m.
Everybody welcome.

FFA Boys Entertain Fathers at Dinner

Boys of Heppner FFA chapter entertained fathers and invited guests at a banquet in the social hour room at the school Saturday evening. Seventy people were present, including honorary members named last year, B. C. Pinckney, F. W. Turner and R. A. Thompson. Three new honorary members were named Saturday evening, who are J. J. Wightman, A. H. Blankenship and C. N. Jones. Pins were presented the new members showing their identification as Future Farmers.

High school home economics classes prepared and served the dinner, and credit is largely due them for success of the occasion. A short program included opening ceremony of FFA, welcome speech by Bill Padberg, song by Lucille Barlow, short talk by Mr. Blankenship, saxophone duet by Clifford Fay and Richard Hayes, presentation of pins to honorary members by Guy Moore, presentation of achievement medal to Leland Edmondson, short talk by Marvin Wightman of Condon FFA, and address by Spencer Crawford, followed by closing ceremony.—L. L. Stephens, reporter.

Good apt. for rent. Mrs. A. Q. Thomson.

ENJOY SEAFOOD

Oysters, Clams
Shell Fish
of all kinds
Fresh from the Sea

FEATURED DAILY

FOUNTAIN AND LUNCH COUNTER SERVICE
Modern Booths

Contributions Taken for CHINESE RELIEF SOCIETY and Official Receipt Given

MEALS AT ALL HOURS

Elkhorn Restaurant

ED CHINN, Prop.

Visitors in John Day Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Farley were Mr. Farley's grandmother, Mrs. Mike Kenny; parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Farley, and John and Rosetta Healy. Members of the family from here were especially interested in seeing the recently arrived son of Mr. and Mrs. Farley.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Edwards have moved their residence to town from the Sand Hollow farm.

SPECIAL SCHOOL MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal voters of School District


No. One, of Morrow County, State of Oregon, that a SPECIAL SCHOOL MEETING of said District will be held at the City Council Chambers, on the 27th day of November, 1939, at two o'clock in the afternoon, for the following objects: To elect a school district clerk to complete the un-expired term of Mrs. Eva Baldwin, resigned.

Dated this 7th day of November, 1939.

C. N. JONES,
Chairman Board of Directors.
Attest: EVA BALDWIN,
District Clerk.

SAFEWAY


Your Money-Saving Cash Grocer



Dorothy Duncan

Fancy chocolates packed in beautiful tins. Rich creams, nougats, etc.

1 1/2 LB. TIN	60c	2 LB. TIN	1.00
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CHOCOLATES	25c
***** 2 LBS.	
GUM DROPS	25c
***** 2 LBS.	
HARD MIX	25c
***** 2 LBS.	

Prices Effective Fri.-Mon.

STORE CLOSED All Day Saturday, Nov. 11, Armistice Day

LARD Armour's Star	4 LB. BAG	43c
COFFEE Airway	3 Lbs.	35c
COFFEE Nob Hill	2 Lbs.	35c
MILK Tall Federal	12 TINS	89c



EDWARDS COFFEE

If you are a true coffee lover you'll buy Edwards in this big, thrifty tin that saves you money.

4 LB. TIN	79c	2 LB. TIN	43c	1 LB. TIN	23c
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SUGAR	100 Lbs. Cane or Beet	\$6.49
WALNUTS	fancy Ore. soft shell	2 lbs. 35c
BEANS	reds or small whites	10 lbs. 59c
RAISINS	Thompson seedless	4 lb. pkg. 25c
FRUIT MIX	all kinds cut ready to go	lb. 39c
BAKING POWDER	Calumet	10-lb. tin \$1.49
BACON	Swift's Oriole	lb. 24c
Fancy whole or half		
BRAZILS	very economical	2 lbs. 29c
CORN BEEF	Cudhay's 12 oz. tin	2 for 35c
ST. BEANS	Festival No. 2 tins	3 tins 29c
SAUERKRAUT	Del Monte	2 tins 25c
No. 2 1/2 tins		
SWEET CIDER		Qt. 10c, Gal. 25c
Bring your own container		
FLOUR	Harvest Blossom	49 lb. sk. \$1.19
ALMONDS	L.X.L. paper shell	2 lbs. 45c
CORN	Highway fancy in No. 2 tins	10c
SUPURB	granulated soap	2 lge. pkgs. 35c
CURRENTS	Sunmaid	2 pkgs. 25c
MINCEMEAT	None Such	2 pkgs. 25c

APPLE SALE

JONATHANS, Fancy Reds	BOX	95c
ROMES	PER BOX	85c
DELICIOUS	85c and \$1.19	BOX

PRODUCE SAVINGS

CABBAGE	Lb. 2c	Grapefruit	Doz. 35c
Per Sack 89c			
CELERY	2 Bu. 15c	Oranges	3 Doz. 39c
Utah			
Sweet Spuds	6 Lbs. 29c	Potatoes	50 Lbs. 69c